

Philosophy of Plenty Rules New Long-Range Farm Law; New Parity Formula Fixed

By ROBERT E. GEIGER

WASHINGTON—Department of Agriculture officials say the new long-range farm law, approved in the closing hours of Congress, moves toward a philosophy of plenty. The law, known as the Agricultural Act of 1948, works this way:

It continues, with some changes, the present high wartime price supports through 1949. Then the long-range plan, with lower price support, goes into effect. After 1949 the more abundant the crop, the less support the farmer will receive. The government may provide this support by making loans, purchasing crops or other means.

Department spokesmen say the purpose is to give some support to abundant crops, but not so much support that the man who has to buy food has to pay prices too high for his pocketbook. If prices start sliding downward because of an oversupply, the federal aid money to farmers will be increased. This may encourage them not to cut crops too sharply. This ties in price support with the law of supply and demand. The experts hope it will create abundance without waste. They say this is the first time there has been such an arrangement covering major crops.

Parity Method Changed
The new law has a new method of figuring parity prices. The parity formula attempts to define the buying power of farm products during a period of fair farm profits. Then it attempts to in-

sure the farmer the same buying power today. (As an instance, if two bushels of wheat, in a given period, bought a pair of shoes, today's price for wheat would be set so that two bushels would be sufficient to buy a pair of shoes, although in dollars the price is twice as high. More than 900 items the farmer buys are used in determining the price he should receive for products he sells.)

The new parity will be based on prices in the 1910-14 period. But in addition it will attempt to take into consideration changes that have taken place in farming practices and demand for farm products since then. For instance, it costs less to produce grain today than it did in 1910-14, because grain planting and harvesting machines have been invented, reducing farm labor. Also the demand for grain has changed. The new law averages prices for all farm commodities during a recent 10-year period. Then this average is used, at one stage of figuring, to establish a "modern" relationship among the crops and the profits they bring.

Farm officials say in general this will tend to reduce grain prices and increase prices for livestock and dairy products.

Abundance Determines Level
The law spells out the way the secretary of agriculture may support prices of the "basic" commodities—corn, wheat, cotton, peanuts, rice and tobacco. He may support other products at his discretion. The tobacco price will be set at 90 per cent of parity indefinitely. The other five basic commodities may be supported at from 60 to 90 per cent of parity. The level will be determined by the abundance of any commodity. The price may be set at 90 per cent of parity when the size of the crop is 70 per cent of normal but it may be reduced as low as 60 per cent of parity if the size of the crop reaches 130 per cent of normal. In the case of tobacco the price will be 90 per cent of parity whenever marketing quotas are in effect to control the size of the crop.

Wool prices will be supported at 90 per cent of parity until production reaches 360,000,000 pounds a year. At present it is 300,000,000. White potatoes will be supported at from 60 to 90 per cent of parity. Other farm products, including poultry, may be supported at from zero to 90 per cent of parity.

The secretary of agriculture may establish marketing restrictions on the basic commodities when supply is 115 per cent of normal or prices are below 70 per cent of parity and supply is less than normal. When the secretary establishes marketing quotas for a basic crop, farmers may vote upon it. If more than one-third of the votes are against the quota, the support level will be reduced to 50 per cent of parity.

Ponders Democratic Possibilities



(NEA Telephone) Potential Democratic Presidential candidate, William O. Douglas, associate justice, U. S. Supreme Court, vacations high in the Willowa mountains, 50 miles east of La Grande, Ore. Known as "Bill" to the natives, he fishes, hikes, and studies Supreme Court cases sent to him from Washington. Douglas' companion here is known as "Rusty."

Further Retreat From Soviet May Destroy Confidence in U. S. Power

By S. BURTON HEATH

It is obvious that the Anglo-American-French entente must do something about Russia's attempt to push us out of Berlin by brute force. It is not so obvious just what we should do. Maybe that is why we have been so patient.

Gen. Lucius Clay has said that nothing short of war will force us to get out. Our moral, ethical and legal right to remain is unchallengeable. Yet there are some who fear that Clay may be forced, by orders from on high, to eat his words. That would be fatal. Large, important segments of the world are resisting Soviet aggression only because they think—or at least they hope—that the United States, with backing from Great Britain and maybe from France, is strong enough and courageous enough to act as a buffer against the Soviet Union.

If it should prove that we are not strong or courageous enough to keep Russia from physically throwing us out of Berlin, then there would be no reason for any other nation to take the terrible risk of saying "No" to Stalin. If we won't fight for our own dignity and national security, surely we can't be trusted to fight for the future peace and welfare of the world at large.

Munich should have taught us the fallacy of appeasement. Yet Munich was only the most dramatic and convincing in a long line of retreats by the democratic world from authoritarian force—a long-continued program of shutting our eyes and backing away, hoping that the bully in front would get sick of the game and go home without hitting us. There were many occasions, starting at least as far back as Hitler's timid reoccupation of the Rhineland, when we had only to bare our teeth to have prevented World War II. Now, by a long series of capitulations to Stalin's expansionism, we are backing blithely down the same road that Hitler first followed us down.

This does not presuppose that the cynics are correct, and that Washington is likely to call Gen. Clay's staff out of Berlin. We don't know. We do know that such a step would not be far out of line with the record made thus far, and because it would not, we are entitled to consider the possibility and express unalterable opposition to such a backdown.

It ought to be established now, once for all, that we are going to back General Clay to the limit. It ought to be our national policy that we shall feed and supply Clay's staff if we have to do it at bayonet point. That could mean war. It would mean war only if Moscow is firmly resolved to fight. If that is the case, we might better find it out now than to let things drift while the USSR strengthens herself and maybe perfects an atomic bomb.

Many smart diplomats do not think it would mean war. They feel that, much as we hate and fear war, the Russians are even worse prepared for the ultimate struggle. They think that if we insist on our full rights, and demonstrate that we are ready to back every word with a blow in case of need, Moscow will back down. We believe that. But even if we are wrong, even

Anglers Asked To Report Catch Of Tagged Trout

A request that persons catching tagged trout in any streams of the Umpqua system report their catch was made today by Ross Newcomb, game department biologist in charge of the Umpqua river study. It is reported, Newcomb said, that several tagged fish have been caught without a report being made to the game commission.

Approximately 1,300 tagged fish have been released, Newcomb said. The purpose of tagging is to obtain information on the habits of the fish, and more particularly their movements

from the point of release. Anyone catching a tagged fish, Newcomb said, should drop a card or letter to the Game Commission, Roseburg, giving as near as possible the exact place where the fish was caught and the date. If the angler does not desire to go to the trouble of writing a card or letter, he can verbally report his catch to any state policeman, forest service employee or at any of the stores or resorts.

The majority of anglers, Newcomb said, have been very cooperative in making their reports and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

LOG KILLS MAN

McMINNVILLE, July 12—(P)—A log rolled from a truck and killed Richard T. Long, 26, McMinnville, north of here Saturday. He is survived by the widow.

Douglas Flatly Declines 2nd Place Nomination

PORTLAND, Ore., July 12—(P)—Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas told reporters today that he would not accept a vice-presidential nomination.

Confirming reports from the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia, the justice declared in a statement, "I say definitely and finally that I am not available for any public office."

Douglas said he felt that "no person, while a member of the Supreme Court, should seek political preferment."

The decision releases Oregon's delegation to the Democratic national convention from its pledge to support Douglas for the vice-presidential nomination. Douglas said he would get in contact with

the Oregon delegation to inform them.

W. C. Strang Promoted At Navy Air Force Base

Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Strang of Medford have received word that their son, William C. Strang, now stationed at Holloman Air Force base, Alamogordo (White Sands) New Mexico, has received a recent promotion to supervisor of the field service section of the aero-physics laboratory of North American Aviation, Inc., at the Los Angeles airport and the field station at Alamogordo, N. M.

Bill Strang is a former resident of Roseburg, attended the local schools before moving to Medford. He was with Douglas Aircraft, Inc., six years before joining the U. S. navy to take the Eddy course in aero-electronics.

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