

Farm Legislation Too Tangled Up With Politics To Make Sense

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

Congress has finally reached agreement on what it terms a "compromise" farm bill. It accepts the principle of flexible price supports but puts off the effective date of this new system until at least 1951.

Meanwhile, supports will be maintained at the same rigid 90 per cent of parity where they have been held for several years. Parity is a price plane computed to give farmers a fair purchasing power, the theory being that they should get enough for their products to be able to buy the things they need.

A 90 per cent of parity price means that the government guarantees the farmer that figure even if the open market price sags far below such a level. Keeping this plan in effect can hardly be hailed as a show of good sense and courage on the part of Congress. It is estimated that by July, 1950, the government will have to buy more than \$2,000,000,000 worth of farm commodities at the support levels.

The system unquestionably encourages farmers to produce for the market but for what they can expect to get from the government for their crops. The result is a glut of markets that can be relieved only by government buying. Thus what was designed as a protection for farmers becomes a spur to unrestricted output. In the face of serious confusion and inequity already disrupting the farm economy, Congress has responded by postponing decisive action. With the known strength of the farm bloc in mind, who is bold enough to say that the lawmakers will stand by their "compromise" and actually introduce a sliding scale of supports some two years hence?



WAITER'S A GOOD SKATE—Your beer comes on roller skates at this tavern in the French sector of Berlin. The boys practice for eight weeks before they're entrusted with a pay load. (Photo by NEA-Acme staff correspondent Joe Schuppe.)

The compromise proposal would institute supports of 80 to 90 per cent in 1951 and thereafter a sliding 75 to 90 per cent on five major crops. Under the formula, supports would be low when production is high and would be raised when output is falling off. A complicated method for determining parity would be relied upon.

Acceptance of the sliding scale principle represents a victory of doubtful proportions for the Senate. It kills the Alken law which would have put into effect a 60 to 90 per cent scale starting next January.

Still another result is that it may have postponed indefinitely any detailed consideration of the controversial Brannan plan. That system called for outright subsidies to farmers on perishable crops, with consumers getting the benefit of real market prices. Neither Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, its author, nor

AP Service In "Five Percent" Exposure Lauded

FORT WORTH, Tex., Nov. 3. (AP)—The "five percent" exposures in Washington were wholeheartedly effective, despite administration efforts to "belittle" the accomplishments of investigation correspondent said Wednesday.

Bert Andrews, chief correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune in Washington, said the recent investigations caused this question to be asked the country-over: "Can a man be five percent a bad apple?"

Andrews, in an address prepared for delivery before the 16th annual meeting of the Associated Press Managing Editors association, named names of men whose careers, he said, were

halted or curtailed as a result of the Senate committee probe. The term "five percent" has come to be used to describe commission agents who wanted a fixed fee plus a percentage for their real or fancied influence in helping a client get government contracts.

Jack Steel, assistant chief of the Washington bureau of the New York Herald Tribune, broke the story—"one of the greatest journalistic jobs I have seen done in 25 years as a reporter."

"And the Associated Press did one of the greatest backstopping jobs ever done," Andrews added, "in immediately recognizing the importance of the story and assigning their best men to it. The AP piled right into the story immediately which is one reason for the national attention it got."

BIRTHDAY OF DAKOTAS

PIERRE, S. D., Nov. 3.—(AP)—The twin states of North Dakota and South Dakota are 60 years old today.

It was on Nov. 2, 1889, that the pen of President Benjamin Harrison sliced in two the 28-year-old Dakota territory. The twins became the 39th and 40th states admitted to the Union. No one, including the President, knew which document he signed first, since they were shuffled and covered with a newspaper.

The tundra, a vast swampy plain bordering the Arctic Ocean, has been called Arctic desert.

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<p>IVORY FLAKES LARG 28c</p>	<p>RED & WHITE</p> <p>Catsup 15c 14 oz. Bottle</p>	<p>DREFT LARG 27c</p>
<p>IVORY SNOW LARG 28c</p>	<p>PHEASANT</p> <p>Sardines 21c No. 1 Oval Cans Mustard or Tomato Sauce</p>	<p>SPIC and SPAN 25c</p>
<p>CAMAY REG. SIZE 2 for 15c</p>	<p>SUNSHINE</p> <p>Jumbo Jellies 29c 1 Lb. Pkg.</p>	<p>CRISCO 1 lb. 33c 3 lb. 89c</p>
<p>CAMAY BATH SIZE 2 for 23c</p>	<p>RED & WHITE</p> <p>Apple Sauce 35c No. 2 Can</p>	
<p>LAVA SOAP Reg. Size 10c</p>	<p>RED & WHITE</p> <p>PUMPKIN No. 2 1/2 Can 3 for 29c</p>	<p>RED & WHITE</p> <p>Deviled Meat No. 1 4 for 29c</p>

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