

Big Fight Looms Over Curtailing Of Conservation

BURLINGTON, Vt. — A big floor debate shaped up Thursday as National Grange convention committees worked over the wording of a soil conservation resolution which have opposite viewpoints.

But the decision of the Committee on Agriculture on a proposal to endorse Secretary of Agriculture Benson's order to close seven regional soil conservation offices, and the National Welfare Committee's draft of one calling for retention of the seven offices, are not expected to reach the report stage before next week.

The endorsement resolution is backed by state Grange organizations in the Pacific Northwest, where the federal government already has big flood control and hydro-electric power projects, and where the supplies of water for irrigation and other farm purposes are not a pressing problem.

From the Southwest, however, where cattlemen and other farmers have suffered heavy losses through drought conditions, there is strong support for continuation of the soil conservation program on a regional basis.

Secretary Benson has ordered the offices closed, and the 700 to 800 engineers and other employees to be shifted back to federal soil conservation offices at the state level.

Suggestion Made Invite Foreigners To H-Bomb Test

WASHINGTON — An atomic energy commissioner suggests that foreigners, presumably including Russians, should see a U. S. hydrogen bomb exploded as a sample of the destructive alternative to world peace.

The idea, expressed by Thomas E. Murray last night, came as America was readying another and probably more fierce hydrogen test blast.

Murray, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) member who recently announced the launching of the first program for harnessing nuclear power as industrial power, made his H-bomb suggestion in a speech at Pittsburgh.

He said first-hand observation of an H-bomb's thunder "is an essential qualification for future negotiators of the great survival issues in the years ahead." Such an American showing, he added, might persuade the Russians to match it with a demonstration of their own.

Murray said the AEC hasn't yet studied the idea in detail or reached a decision.

Sec. McKay Tells Oil Industry Not To Seek Favors

CHICAGO — Secretary of the Interior McKay told the petroleum industry Thursday not to seek "special favors" in the form of government curbs on oil imports.

McKay, in a talk prepared for the American Petroleum Institute's annual convention, stressed that such restrictions might weaken friendly oil-producing nations whose economies this country has been trying to strengthen.

He said the oil industry has "never asked for special favors" and added: "I'd like to see the record stand that way."

Most of the oil industry, contending that foreign crude and residual oil have been cutting into its domestic business, has urged congressional action to limit such imports. The House this year defeated a bill by Rep. Richard M. Simpson (R-Pa.) to do so. The Eisenhower administration opposed the bill, pending a broad study of foreign trade problems, but the issue seems certain to come up again next year for decision by Congress.

McKay said the United States does not have enough oil to fill its daily needs, "and we have no immediate prospect of getting enough."

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