

## U.S. Agriculture Secretary announces resignation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture Secretary John R. Block, who has presided over the most difficult times for American farmers since the Depression, announced Tuesday he will resign next month.

Block said he had accomplished his foremost goal: pushing through Congress a five-year farm bill aimed at linking agriculture more closely to market and less to federal subsidies.

"I've done a great deal. I've made a difference," a relaxed Block, his wife

Sue at his side, told a room packed with reporters and department officials. "I believe that today, now, is the time to leave."

Block, 50, said he planned to leave his \$86,200-a-year job by mid-February, but he specified no date.

Sources said Richard Lyng, a former deputy to Block, was his likely successor.

Throughout his five-year tenure, Block has been a controversial figure as he carried the Reagan administration's free-

market banner and alienated many farmers, and as he himself dealt with financial problems on his large Illinois hog farm.

"These have been stressful times for our farmers," Block said, adding that his own farm was now doing better under the management of his son. He said he did not plan to return to the farm, but said he had made no final decision on what he will do.

Speculation has been that Block plans to take a job with a Washington organiza-

tion in the food and agriculture area.

"I do believe we are starting to turn the corner," Block said of the farm economy, which has been in a serious slide nearly since he first took office in 1981.

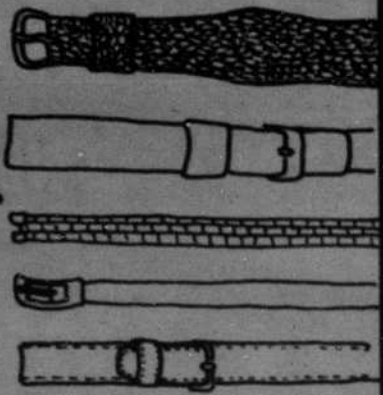
Block declined to talk about who his successor would be, saying he would discuss that only with President Reagan. But he said he believed a decision would be made soon to avoid disruption of farm programs.

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### Parents to fight for son's right to die

BOSTON (AP) — Three months ago, Lynn and Jack Bellingham thought they would do anything to save their deformed newborn son Ricky.

But after approving 13 surgical procedures at a cost of \$1 million, the couple is now preparing to go to court to demand that Children's Hospital relinquish control of the infant and let him "die in peace, not pain."

"Enough is enough," said Mrs. Bellingham, 26. "My question to the hospital is, 'What do they consider life?' The baby has a right to be at peace like any other human being."

Ricky has been in intensive care since his birth Sept. 24, five weeks premature. He has a deformed esophagus and trachea, a liver infection, internal bleeding, blot clotting problems, an enlarged gall bladder and a hernia. He is sedated with morphine, connected to an artificial respirator and fed through a tube to his stomach.

Doctors told the Bellinghams their son would need at least two more operations in the near future, and that his prognosis was uncertain.

"Because of the infections, he has a decreased brain capacity, but we don't know

how much," said Mrs. Bellingham.

Last week, the couple asked the hospital not to perform any further surgery and to remove intravenous feeding tubes. Mrs. Bellingham said the hospital told her it was considering a court petition to gain custody of the boy in order to continue medical treatment.

"We said, 'No surgery,' and the hospital told us to get a lawyer," she added. "We will fight it. It's a matter of principle. We had a right to bring a child into the world, and no one should have the right to tell us what's best."

The Bellinghams said they are ready to file suit against the hospital as soon as it orders more surgery.

Hospital officials refuse to discuss the case, citing the infant's right to privacy, but spokeswoman Nancy Collins said Tuesday that, in general, doctors make every effort to preserve life, even when hope is sparse.

"We do not make decisions to preserve or terminate life based on social, economic or lifestyle reasons," Collins said. "It is hard to know when to stop treating a patient because in some cases, especially in pediatrics, things change for the better."

### Hand grenade remains examined

BOSTON (AP) — Remnants of a live hand grenade found at the Boston Garden just before Soviet hockey players arrived for a game were sent to an FBI laboratory for evaluation Tues-

day, a spokesman for the agency said.

The fragments remaining after police blew up the grenade on an uninhabited island in

Boston Harbor Monday night were shipped to the lab in Washington, D.C., said FBI Special Agent Jack Cloherty.

He said no one claimed responsibility for placing the grenade in a trash can at the sports arena 20 minutes before the Moscow Dynamo squad arrived to play the Boston Bruins in a National Hockey League-sponsored exhibition game Monday night.

The explosive, described by Police Lt. Joseph Ferrullo as "a live grenade taped to an alarm clock," was removed and no one was injured.

Both Boston police and FBI agents refused to say whether an alarm clock hooked to the grenade was set to go off. They declined to release details of the investigation.

"We don't want to tip off the perpetrator about what we know," said police spokeswoman Nancy Sterling-Gleason.

Bruins' spokesman Nate Greenberg said neither the explosive nor the protest by more than 100 demonstrators Monday would deter players from meeting Soviet teams again.

Nearly every year since 1972, the NHL has participated in tournaments with Soviet teams, and U.S. players have learned much from these games, said Dan Leary, director of NHL publicity at New York headquarters.

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