

Wheat Import Prosecution Plan Studied

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Agriculture Committee Wednesday recommended that the Justice Department study possible criminal prosecution of companies and individuals involved in imports of low-grade wheat from Canada into this country.

The full committee approved a report of a subcommittee which said there had been widespread conspiracies to bring into the United States wheat unfit for human consumption.

This wheat then was mixed with good grain and sold for flour in this country or exported as good quality wheat under government subsidy programs, the report said.

The subcommittee, continuing an old investigation, held hearings last fall at Galveston, Tex., and Minneapolis, Minn. Its members are Sens. Thye (R-Minn.), Young (R-ND) and Ellender (D-La.).

The senators previously had re-off-grade Canadian wheat came into this country in 1950, 1951, and 1952, and that some of it was disposed of illegally.

Wheat unfit for human consumption gets a 13 cent a bushel reduction in import duties and also is not subject to import quotas.

The report recommended that the attorney general look into possible prosecution of officials of Bunge Corp. at Minneapolis, New York and Kansas City; Kellogg Milling Co. of Minneapolis; Hallett & Carey Co. of Minneapolis; and Transit Grain Co. of Fort Worth, Tex.

The senators said that W. G. Kellogg, until July, 1952, vice-president in charge of Bunge Corp. and senior partner in Kellogg Milling Co., "conceived the idea of importing Canadian wheat, unfit for human consumption, into the United States for milling purposes." Hallett & Carey was described as a subsidiary of Bunge Corp.

In some cases, Bunge sold the grain to milling companies which made it into flour for domestic use, the report said.

In other cases, this flour was sold abroad to Germany under government subsidy aids such as the International Wheat Agreement, the report said.

It said some of the wheat was mixed with good grade United States grain and then sold to the grain trade without disclosure that the Canadian wheat was unfit for human use.

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