

# Postwar Readjustment in Farming Results in Deepening Policy Cleavages

By OVID A. MARTIN  
Associated Press Farm Reporter  
WASHINGTON (AP)—The current period of painful adjustment from lush, war-generated markets to modest peace time demands finds American agriculture a family divided into many conflicting groups.

Unlike many past periods of falling prices, shrinking markets, declining incomes and mounting surpluses, agriculture is far from united on programs to combat its troubles.

It is not now possible to point — as was the case many times during the New Deal farm programs of the early thirties — to a "powerful farm bloc" in Washington driving through legislation and federal government policies aimed at channeling a larger share of the national income into farmers' pockets.

The term "farm bloc" is applied here to a loosely designated group of private farm organizations, farm state congressmen and others drawn together by common interest in the affairs of agriculture rather than by any form of organization or other formal tieup.

Many features of present federal farm programs can be traced to efforts of these groups. Among them are price supports, crop control, crop insurance, more liberal farm loans, rural electrification, soil conservation, and broadly expanded farm research activities.

**Feuding Groups**  
But today agriculture's leaders in Washington are badly split into many feuding groups.

The bitterest division involves the issue of price supports. Some want full 100 per cent parity price floors. Others want a return of the war-born 90 per cent of parity supports for major crops.

Still others want to stick by the system of flexible supports — 75 to 90 per cent of parity for the long pull. And there are still others who believe in even lower levels.

Farm leaders are at odds on whether or not there should be government-enforced crop control programs.

They are divided, too, on the question of whether the government should engage in dumping abroad of the present record breaking surplus of farm products.

There are intra-industry squabbles over what, if anything, the government should do to help low income farmers.

**Cleavages Drawn**  
Deep cleavages have been drawn by controversies over management of soil conservation activities and farmer education through the Extension Service, farm groups are no longer united on the question of government assistance in expanding rural electric and telephone systems.

Contracting markets have contributed to the arousing of regional and commodity jealousies and differences. Charges are being hurled that some commodities are trying to "get other people's markets."

A case in point are legislative proposals which would put wheat in a position where it could compete against corn, oats and barley for the livestock feed grain market.

Then there is the still bitter struggle between butter and margarine for the housewife's favor.

A recent development in Congress has aroused enmity between those interested in cotton and wheat. Cotton state lawmakers sought to win approval of a bill that would have increased planting allotments for that crop to take care of so-called "hardship" cases under a rigid control program.

**Allotment Increase**  
But this measure went to defeat when wheat state lawmakers attached an amendment that would have boosted allotments for wheat.

There are indications that sugar may irritate old wounds and cause new ones in agriculture's leadership.

Congress must decide either this session or next on new sugar control legislation to supplant an existing law designed to stabilize prices and supplies.

Domestic producers of sugar beets and cane want a larger share of the U.S. market than is now allotted them. Any increase to them would be at the expense of Cuba and other foreign producers.

But some U.S. farming congressmen say they will fight any domestic increase because it would reduce Cuba's financial ability to buy American cotton, rice, pork, lard, dairy products and other farm items.

In 1948, the last time sugar legislation came up, this issue did

not arise. At that time, U.S. farmers were less interested in sugar production because the big post-war demand for other food gave them better opportunities. But now that markets are slipping, some producers want to go heavier into sugar.

There is some feeling of antipathy between dairy farmers, on the one hand, and growers of livestock feeds on the other. Dairy-men feel that they have got the worse of it in the way of government price supports and that the feed grain forces have not helped

as much as they should have in moves to change the situation.

These conflicts over farm policies are not limited to congressmen from agricultural states. They exist among the major farm organizations, such as the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, the National Farmers Union and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Not so many years ago, officials of these organizations made it a fairly regular practice to get together to discuss their problems and to seek common approaches. Of course, it was not always possible for them to come to a common accord. Often they did not. But nevertheless, there was a feeling of kinship among them.

But now these organizations go their separate ways. Some attack their fellow organizations more sharply than they do "enemies of the farmer."

Indeed, there is a much closer relationship between the Farmers Union and organized labor's big CIO than there is between the Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau.

It was the Farmers Union that helped lead the CIO and the AFL into appearing before the House Agriculture Committee recently to endorse high, rigid farm price supports espoused by the Farmers Union.

Claiming more members than the Grange and the Farmers Union combined, the American Farm Bureau shows no interest in joining hands with the other organizations.

These cleavages in farm leadership run across political lines as well. Both Democrats and Republicans are divided on the issue of high versus flexible price supports.

High support Democrats are led by House Speaker Rayburn of Texas, Chairman Cooley, North Carolina, of the House Agriculture

Committee, and former Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan.

Flexible support Democrats look to Senators Anderson of New Mexico and Holland of Florida for leadership.

**Division in GOP**  
President Eisenhower, Secretary of Agriculture Benson and Sen. Aiken of Vermont pace Republicans favoring flexible supports, while Rep. Hope of Kansas, and Senators Young of South Dakota and Thye of Minnesota lead GOP farm state leaders favoring high supports.

These divergent views on agriculture offer a ready answer to the question: Is there any chance of the major farm organizations merging as appears certain in the case of labor's CIO and AFL.

In a recent issue of its monthly magazine, the National Grange discussed the matter of a merger and concluded that one was "currently practically impossible." It raised the question of whether a merger was desirable.

"Strictly in the field of group force," the magazine said, "such a move might increase the organized strength of farmers."

The magazine said a major disadvantage would be the ultimate crushing of viewpoints of minority groups, areas and regions in favor of a "total policy" which, it said, might not always be the right policy.

Nevertheless, the field of cooperation is small on matters directly relating to agriculture's own economic problems.

This raises a question for the future: Will the voice of agriculture — long a dominant one in public affairs — grow weaker and weaker and finally give way to its two major competitors in the economic setup, business and labor?

Already reduced to 15 per cent of the nation's population, will the farm influence cease to be a factor to be reckoned with in future contests over political regimes and legislation?

## Angler Has Quite a Catch



PEABODY, Mass.—Donald Jelly, 13, high school freshman looks at some of the approximately \$1,000 in cash he hooked while fishing in the Ipswich river. The money, weighted with a tire chain, is spread on table in police headquarters to dry. (AP Wirephoto)

## Recovered Loot Said Not Part of Brink's Robbery

PEABODY, Mass. (AP)—The FBI and police Tuesday night discounted the possibility that nearly \$1,000 pulled from Ipswich River by a young fisherman was part of the loot of the \$1,219,000 Brink's robbery or the \$681,000 Danvers armored car robbery.

Investigators said the serial numbers of the bills did not match any of those stolen in the fabulous Brink's money transportation firm robbery of 1950 or the Danvers robbery of 1952.

The money, bound in wire and enmeshed in automobile tire chains, was pulled from the stream when the young fisherman noted a pink line tied to the bottom of a bridge.

## Editors Ask Federal Curb On News End

WASHINGTON (UP)—A group of newspaper editors Wednesday challenged recent White House and Pentagon orders restricting release of government information on security grounds.

The challenge was made in a report by the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Freedom of Information Committee to the organization's Board of Directors.

Committee Chairman J. Russell Wiggins, managing editor of the Washington Post and Times-Herald referred particularly to a directive by Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson which has slowed news from the Pentagon and to a statement by White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty on behalf of President Eisenhower.

The Wilson directive put a tight reign on release of all military information. Hagerty said a few days later that Mr. Eisenhower feels there has been too much release of technical information which could be of value to a potential enemy.

The Wiggins committee said one of the most disquieting developments in the field of information freedom has been "the recent obliteration of the line between classified material not available to the public and unclassified, technical material never classified at all or officially declassified."

"Unless this attitude is clarified, it is bound to have a profound and paralyzing effect upon the flow of information to the American public," the committee said.

McKenzie White Water Parade Set

EUGENE (AP)—The annual white water parade down the swift McKenzie River will be held Sunday.

McKenzie guides and boatmen from other rivers will take part in the five-hour parade, starting at 10 a.m. Entries are expected to total 100 or more boats.

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## State Sites in Construction Fund Request

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department listed three Oregon locations for \$2,637,000 in its construction fund request to Congress Wednesday.

Sen. Morse (D-Ore) said \$1,991,000 will go to Klamath Falls with \$992,000 earmarked for an Air Force interceptor base at the airport and \$999,000 for 72 housing units.

The Portland airport will get \$554,000 for work including pavement, utilities, storage and personnel facilities.

The Tongue Point Naval Station, Astoria, is down for \$92,000 worth of construction.

The request is for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

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