

Soil Bank, Surplus Disposal Key Features of Ike's Farm Plan

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(Story on Page One.)
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower's recommendations for improving the administration's farm programs included, in brief:
Soil Bank—Payments in cash and commodities—cotton, wheat and, possibly other crops—estimated at one billion dollars this year for taking a part of the crop land out of production and putting it to conservation use. This program is designed to help cut size of the nation's over expanded farm plant and to put surpluses to use.
Surplus Disposal—would seek

Critics Claim Ike Skips Fast Farm Relief

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower's farm program promptly ran into one point of criticism in congress Monday. There were both Republicans and Democrats who said it lacked needed immediate relief to farmers from their price-cost squeeze.
 This note ran through comments from many legislators who found much to praise in longer-range aspects of the program.
House Speaker Rayburn (D-Tex) by inference checked to the senate the question of first action on Eisenhower's recommendations. Noting the house passed last year legislation for a return to price supports at 90 per cent of parity, Rayburn said the senate could study the President's proposals in connection with consideration of this bill.
Chairman Cooley (D-NC) of the House Agriculture Committee summoned the group to meet tomorrow, and said it would consider "every part and parcel" of the Eisenhower program.
Cooley told the house "my purpose is and has been to keep partisan politics out of agricultural considerations."
Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, the Democratic leader said the farm problem "is too serious to be handled in a partisan manner," promised the Democrats would give "sober consideration" to the President's recommendations.
Cost-Price Squeeze
Johnson said the President had presented "many meretricious proposals" but that it appeared to him the principle ones would "do very little to meet the cost-price squeeze which is pressing so cruelly on family-sized farms."
 One of the Republicans who said the recommendation did not go far enough toward meeting the immediate situation was **Rep. Hope** (R-Kan), top party member on the house Agriculture Committee and former chairman of that group.
Better Farm Prices
Hope said that reducing surpluses as the President proposed "may be reflected in better farm prices in future years," but added:
 "I am sorry that there is nothing in the message which holds out any hope of increased farm income for 1956 when the farmers need it so badly. Likewise, I regret the failure to include in the message a realistic statement with respect to the problems confronting wheat producers together with constructive proposals for their solution."
Rep. Jensen (R-Iowa) said of the program: "Pretty good over the long pull but it doesn't answer the immediate need."
Sen. George (D-Ga) said the message seemed to regard the crop surplus as "a plague and a curse, whereas, without it, the housewife would lose a final safeguard against exorbitant prices on nearly everything used in the home". He added: But, insofar as it goes, the message is a very good approach. It sounds like some agricultural fellow might have had something to do with it—maybe his brother, Milton."
Narrow Wide Gap
Sen. Aiken of Vermont, top Republican on the Agriculture Committee, said: "The immediate effect of bringing supplies more into line with requirements should be to narrow the wide gap now existing between farmer and consumer prices, to raise prices of many commodities, and to generally improve farm income."
Sen. Kefauver of Tennessee, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, said, "I shall cooperate in enacting some of the proposals which may be of long range benefit... but what the farmer needs now is something to bolster his markets and his income. Immediate relief would be obtained by re-enactment of the 90 per cent parity program and this should be one of Congress' first orders of business."
 Other comment:
House Republican leader Martin (Mass): "One of the most far-reaching and beneficial agricultural programs ever issued by a chief executive... the recommendations strike at the root of bad planning which has led to declining incomes and mounting surpluses."
Rep. Abernethy (D-Miss): "The

to move present surpluses into use at home and abroad by (A) authorizing sale to Iron Curtain countries for foreign currencies as well as presently authorized friendly countries; and (B) permitting sale of surpluses in domestic markets at lower prices than farm law now allows.
Corn—put corn under soil bank along with cotton and wheat, or eliminate present acreage control allotments on the grain. Under the soil bank plan, growers would get payments for underplanting allotments. If allotments were eliminated instead, growers would be free to plant all they wanted and the grain would be removed from the 75 to 90 per cent parity; flexible price supports and government would be free to set supports from zero to 90 per cent of parity, except in times of shortages when it could be even higher.
Wheat—free from marketing quotas farmers who use on their farms all the wheat they produce. Permit annual sale of limited quantities of government surplus wheat for livestock feed. Remove more of the smaller producing states from wheat production controls. Lift controls from durum wheat for another year because of short supplies of this type.
Cotton—a crop the president said is especially well-suited to his acreage reserve program. Eisenhower noted that cutting acreage didn't bring a corresponding cut in production (farmers up the yield per acre by using more fertilizer and insecticides). So he proposed that Congress consider "quantity allotments" beginning in 1957 instead of acreage allotments. He also proposed that the average grade and quality of the crop be used as a basis for parity and price support calculations.

Present law designates midding 3/4-inch cotton as the standard for the calculations although 85 per cent of production is of better grade.
Rice—as in the case of corn, put under soil bank or remove controls. If controls are to be removed, lower price supports should be allowed.
Peanuts—eliminate minimum national acreage planting allotment which now bars, the President said, stabilization of supplies and prices.
Sugar—renew sugar control act of 1948 as amended for stabilizing prices and supplies.
Livestock—soil bank plan, by reducing grain production, would be designed to eliminate stimulus for over production and consequent depressed prices of livestock. Vigorous government buying of meats was promised when market glut appears.
Price Supports—recommended consideration of a dollar limit on size of price support loans to any one individual or farming unit to void government underwriting of large farm enterprises.
Rural Development Program—urged congressional approval of a program—recommended last year—to help low income farmers become more efficient or to learn other skills.
Great Plains Program—promised to submit to Congress later a long range program designed to help stabilize agriculture in the drought plagued Great Plains.
Research—an appropriations of 100 million dollars—an increase of 25 per cent—will be recommended for research to find new

crop uses and new markets for farmers.
Gasoline Tax—recommended that farmers be relieved of federal gasoline taxes now paid on gasoline used for farm purposes.
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'Lucky' Wants To See Adonis

NAPLES, Italy (AP)—Joe Adonis may not want to see Lucky Luciano, but Lucky wants to see him.
 "I shall certainly look him up," ex-gang king Luciano said when a reporter told him his old colleague was arriving in Naples Jan. 17 as a voluntary deportee.
 Lucky didn't say anything more—he was too busy talking to two inquiring Italian tax agents.
 Adonis remarked before sailing from New York that he didn't want to see Luciano or have anything to do with him here.
 Italian authorities have said Adonis will be questioned on arrival at Naples and may be ordered to live in Montemarano, his birthplace some 35 airline miles from here, in an impoverished hill district.

Acreage Put Into Ponds Can Bring Wheat Land Pay

WASHINGTON (AP)—Assuming Congress passes legislation for an acreage retirement program as proposed Monday by President Eisenhower, farmers could qualify for wheat land payments this year by plowing up acreage already seeded to winter wheat.
 Acreage put into ponds would qualify for payments under the soil reserve program.
 Eisenhower administration is admitting its farm policies of the past three years have been a failure... no immediate relief can come from this program. It is too little and too late.

Plan Criticized

WASHINGTON (AP)—James G. Patton of the National Farmers Union, said Monday President Eisenhower's farm message "does not propose a single thing to raise farmer's incomes above the present depression level."
 "Even under the most optimistic construction his proposals aim at best only to maintain farm prices and farmers incomes at the present level," Patton said in a statement.

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