Home Front Writers Describe Farm Parity Formula Problems

GEORGE ZIELKE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—(AP)—Favorite word in the congressional dictionary these days is "parity."

What does it mean?

Well, farm parity, as applied to farm prices, means a yardstick set up by congress in 1933 with the idea of putting agriculture on a level of economic equality with business, industry and labor in getting a fair share of national income.

It's a formula for figuring farm prices on the basis of prices which farmers have to pay for the things they need. It's used in comparison with prices during a "base" period—usually the pre-World War I years of 1909-14, a period of relative agricultural prosperity.

Farm state lawmakers say the yardstick now isn't long enough—that farm labor costs should be added onto it.

At present the agriculture department has a "floor"—a minimum—under farm prices at generally speaking, 90 per cent of parity (not figuring in benefit payments).

The administration is opposing any change in the parity formula.

Its idea, as expressed by Economic Stabilizer James F. Byrnes, is to keep the yardstick the same, but provide "incentive pyaments" to farmers during wartime to give them additional money needed to increase production of crops which are scarce (money for additional equipment, for instance) — thus keeping the price of food to the consumer unchanged. (Of course, the taxpayer would foot the bill eventually in terms of taxes.)

Figuring the prices under the parity formula is done by the agriculture department's bureau of agricultural economics. Its practice has been to send questionnaires every month to 20,000 volunteers, considered representative farmers and merchants, throughout the country, asking the current prices for farm products and for 174 typical articles and services which farmers buy.

These include items used for family living—such as food, clothing, fuel, soap, furniture and furnishings; items used for production—such as feed, machinery, trucks and tractors, seed, fertilizer, insecticides, equipment and supplies like harness, twine and containers; items used for both — automobiles, gasoline, tires and oil; taxes and interest charges on farm real estate debts.

The figures are averaged up for the nation and then compared with those of the base period to get the farmers' comparative buying power.

How much the proposed change in formula would raise the nation's grocery bill is the subject of considerable speculation. Some estimates are 10 to 15 per cent.

The first test of sentiment in the new congress on parity revision vs. incentive payments came yesterday when a house appropriations subcommittee turned down a request by the president for $100,000,000 for certain proposed incentive payments.

Nelson Asks—

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shifted to make scheduling of the output of munitions and the items that go into munitions "the over all job of first importance that must be pushed.

"And because the total war program has become more closely integrated, it follows that the man in charge of production cannot discharge his duties adequately unless he also controls the flow of materials into production channels."

A WPB spokesman said Nelson had called Eberstadt into his office earlier today and told him of the decision.

"That was all—they separated," the spokesman said, adding that he did not know whether Eberstadt actually had submitted a resignation.

Nelson expects shortly to get Eberstadt's staff together, including the division heads and chief executive officials, and explain to them the necessity for the action, the spokesman said.

Nelson's statement did not amplify his reference to "jurisdictional questions," but the spokesman, who cannot be identified by name, said that as matters stood Nelson had "two strong people under him on an equal level of authority, Wilson doing a production scheduling job, Eberstadt a materials allocation job."

"They saw things differently at times, as you all know," the spokesman said. "Mr. Nelson had to make a choice and he chose the production man."

Meanwhile, there were indications that Nelson's own position at the head of WPB was being subjected to assault.

It was reported reliably that friends of Eberstadt, representing the armed services, had gone to the White House urging that Nelson himself be removed and replaced by Bernard Baruch, production chief in the first World War, or by some other figure.

Nelson has not taken an appeal to President Roosevelt, but reliable officials who could not be quoted by name said he had determined on Eberstadt's ouster to bring about harmony within his shop and assert once and for all the dominance of civilian control over munitions production.

The conflict has grown instead of diminished in intensity in the past fortnight since Nelson increased the power of his production vice-chairman, Charles E. Wilson, and transferred seven important WPB divisions from Eberstadt to Wilson, former president of General Electric company.

At last week's meeting of WPB, it was learned, Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Ralph A. Bard, assistant secretary of the navy, said they could not approve the shift of divisions. Nelson told them bluntly he had not asked approval.

There appeared to be no question that Nelson's place at the head of WPB was jeopardized by the flare-up because the White House was faced with the task of choosing between Nelson and the armed services.

It appeared likely the dispute would end—if it has not already ended—Nelson's close relationship with Baruch, who was responsible in part for Eberstadt, a New York investment banker, joining the war effort. It was thought unlikely, however, that Baruch would take the chairmanship of WPB, since he has refused to take a government position in this war. Baruch was not consulted in the shift of power from Eberstadt to Wilson.

Bomber Purchases Must Be Earmarked 'For The Firebird'

County citizens who buy war bonds during February and early March, to be applied on purchase of the Lane "Firebird" bomber, should signify that their money is to go into the Firebird fund.

Gordon Orput, county vice chairman of war bond sales, pointed this out Tuesday. He said that, unless the seller is told that price of the bond is to go to the bomber fund, the money will go into the "regular quota" fund.

Bond sales to buy the Firebird are being stimulated in Lane by Rotary's Captain Jack, the banty who will appear Tuesday at 6:30 p. m. at the Lions club meeting in Junction City high school. The auction stars at 7:30, and those who would like to call in purchases may do so.

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High School Boy Sells $8000 Worth Of U. S. War Bonds

Dale Winther

Among Eugene young people doing their part to boost sales of war bonds and stamps is Dale Winther, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Winther, 244 North Grand street.

In less than a year he has sold $8000 worth in bonds and stamps. Dale is a freshman in St. Mary's Catholic high school. He started his work of selling stamps and bonds while carrier for the Register-Guard, accounting for about $3000 while on his route. A sum of $5000 has been sold since then, including one $1000 bond.

U. S. Airman Destroys Jap Bomber Under Noses Of Zero Pilots

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—(AP)—First Lieutenant Rex T. Barber of Culver, Ore., has been credited by the war department with destroying a Japanese bomber near Guadalcanal without any interference from 11 enemy Zero fighters nearby

Barber, the report said, was shielded by a cloud from the Zeros just above him when he and his wing man, flying at about 8,000 feet, spotted a Mitsubishi below them. The two did not see the Zeroes above and dived their Airacobras at the heavy bomber. A direct hit from Barber's guns set the enemy plane afire and it crashed into the sea a few hundred feet off shore.

The Zeros failed to note the combat and by the time antiaircraft fire from their base brought them to the alert, Barber and his mate were streaking for their home base.

IP DRIVE SUCCESSFUL

PORTLAND, Feb. 16. — (U.P.) — Oregon's tenth annual anti-infantile paralysis campaign is expected to exceed $85,000 and to date has been the most successful drive of the entire series, Dr. E. T. Hedlund, state campaign chairman, said today.

MEETING IN EVENING

Loyal Star of America lodge will meet at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday instead of the afternoon as announced previously.

You can whip our cream, but you can't beat our milk. Echo Hollow Dairy. Phone 2935-J-2.

15 Jap Warships—

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ing into the Solomons and an unusually heavy concentration of enemy aircraft was discovered at all bases in the northwestern section of that area.

The Japanese, however, declined to accept decisive battle and the communique said that subsequent events showed the enemy was concerned only with removing troops from Guadalcanal and with interfering with the delivery of American troops to that island, shortly before enemy resistance completely collapsed there.

A summary of losses showed these results of the seven days of battle:

AMERICAN LOSSES — One cruiser and one destroyer sunk; three motor torpedo boats lost; six fighter planes, four torpedo torpedo planes, two bombers, ten miscellaneous types, a total of 22 planes.

JAPANESE—Two destroyers sunk; 28 or 29 Zero planes destroyed, 12 torpedo planes destroyed, 20 miscellaneous planes destroyed, a total of 60 or 61; four destroyers and seven zero fighters probably destroyed; six destroyers, one corvette and two cargo ships damaged.

The series of actions developed fully on the evening of January 29 with a torpedo plane attack on the American cruiser-destroyer force protecting the troop convoy at Guadalcanal. After the Chicago was damaged, she was taken in tow by another cruiser but was later turned over to a tug for towing.

On the afternoon of January 30 while the tug was proceeding toward a safe haven with the Chicago, the crippled cruiser was again attacked, this time by the 13 enemy torpedo planes.

The navy said that United States aircraft destroyed 12 of the 13 planes, "but not in time to ward off the attack on the Chicago."

On January 31, the widespread maneuvers of opposing forces developed an attack by American bombers and fighters on an enemy formation of one destroyer, one corvette and one large cargo vessel in the Vella gulf, in the northwestern Solomons. These three enemy ships were left burning, listing and dead in the water.

The following day American planes again carried the battle to the enemy, attacking with dive bombers, torpedo planes and fighters, a formation of four destroyers in the northern Solomons area. Two of the warships were "believed sunk," the navy said, and a third was left burning.

About the same time United States aircraft, on operations unspecified in the communique, were attacked by ten Zeros. Two Zeros were shot down and two U. S. fighter planes were lost.

The communique said that elsewhere in air combat on February 1 at least 20 Japanese planes were destroyed and ten U. S. planes were lost. The locale of these losses was fixed as the Guadalcanal area.

On the afternoon of February 1 the American destroyer was sunk. It had been attacked by a force of enemy dive bombers, with Zero fighter escort, and apparently went down quickly in the narrow strip of water between Cape Esperance on Guadalcanal and Savo island.

On the night of February 1, and apparently continuing into the morning of February 2, American motor torpedo boats fought an enemy force of about 20 destroyers off Guadalcanal. This enemy group presumably was engaged in evacuation work.

At least one of the destroyers was sunk, and two others are believed to have been sunk. The three torpedo boats were lost at that time.

Later on February 2 a force of American Dauntless dive bombers and Avenger torpedo planes assaulted a group of 16 enemy destroyers northeast of Kolombangara island in the central Solomons. The planes scored one bomb hit on an enemy destroyer and one near hit on another vessel, while one of the torpedo carriers was damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

During the evening of February 2 Flying Fortresses with Lightning and Warhawk escort, scored bomb hits on a large enemy cargo ship off Shortland island. The vessel was set afire and left burning and listing. The American attack was counter-attacked by 20 enemy fighters and 9 or possibly 10 enemy planes were shot down while all American planes survived.

On the last day of the widespread fighting, February 4, United States torpedo planes, dive bombers, and fighters attacked 20 Japanese destroyers about 200 miles northwest of Guadalcanal. One of the destroyers was sunk and another was badly damaged. The communique said that later an enemy destroyer was observed to be burning.

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Germany, Belgium Bombed By RAF

LONDON, Feb. 16.—(U.P.) — ish long-range bombers bombed western Germany and central Belgium last night and returned without the loss of a single plane.

Specific targets were not disclosed.

RAF night fighters joined the offensive, the air ministry announced, with "intruder" patrols over north France, during which they attacked railway targets and shot down a bomber over an enemy field.

Eleven freight locomotives and trains were damaged by the bombers and fighter-bombers, who were aided by bright moonlight. The enemy bomber, a Dornier 217, was shot down over Lelux and came in for a landing.

The night raids followed daylight raids yesterday by British and American bombers on Dunkirk, north France, and by American middle-eastern bombers on Naples, Italy's second port.

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