$6 Billion Surplus Keeps Piling Up

...SHINGTON (AP) — This ...'s mountainous farm surplus ranging from wheat to cotton is bulging in bins and warehouses. The government has had ... it over from farmers. It's ... $6,187,000,000.

...ngress last week passed a ... to let the government get rid ... billion dollars of it: 700 ...ns through sale to foreign ...ies; and 300 millions as a ...way to countries in need. ...ndance, where there's famine.

...T CAN KEEP

...will leave Uncle Sam with ...billion dollars worth of the ... still on his hands. Some of ...e cotton, can keep for years. It would come in handy in an emergency, like war. What can't keep will have to be disposed of somehow.

The government can't sell it on the open market in this country. That would ruin farm prices. The very reason for buying it from farmers and storing it is to keep prices up and save farmers from the ruin of their overproduction.

If this seems like a crazy program, it's at least long-established, and repeatedly has been approved by Congress. It's based on the theory that, when necessary, the government should step in to avert a farm depression which might soon hit the rest of the country.

This is an example of how the new sell-and-give away law, to get rid of some of the surplus, would work:

PRICE LOWERED

Some foreign country, say France, wants wheat but doesn't have enough dollars to pay for it. This country will sell France the wheat it needs — not at the high American price but at a lower foreign price — and accept French money in payment. With this French money the United States buys goods from France, perhaps raw materials, or pays the cost of an American air base in France.

Or, some other country has a famine, needs wheat, but can't pay for it. In that case the government can give away up to 300 million dollars worth of its surplus wheat.

This will give an idea of the enormous surplus the government now has on its hands:

Wheat — 889 million bushels; corn — 810 million bushels; cotton — 7,785,000,000 bales; tobacco 619 million pounds; rice — 1 million bags; peanuts — 255 million pounds; butter—364 million pounds; cheese—361 million pounds; dried milk — 656 million pounds. That's not all.

PARITY PROGRAM

The government acquired this vast surplus from the farmers because of price support laws.

These laws say a farmer should get a certain percentage—sometimes a high percentage, sometimes a low one—of parity. Parity is a price Congress has fixed as that which a farmer should get to stay on a par with nonfarmers in his ability to buy things he needs.

The parity price on wheat is now $2.48, but to simplify the illustration $1 will be used.

The government says the farmer should get $1 a bushel for his wheat. So it guarantees him he will get at least 90 per cent of parity—in this case 90 cents a bushel—if the government itself has to buy it and never use it.

SELLS TO GOVERNMENT

But so much wheat has been produced the price on the open market goes down and wheat sells for less than 90 cents a bushel. In that case the farmer can do better dealing with the government.

He gets a government loan of 90 cents a bushel for his wheat. If the price of wheat on the open market goes up above 90 cents, he sells his wheat and repays the loan. If it stays below 90 cents, he keeps the 90-cent loan and lets the government keep the wheat.

On six basic crops — wheat, corn, cotton, rice, tobacco, and peanuts—the government must, under present law, guarantee farmers 90 per cent of parity. On some other crops—still according to law—the government can fix this support price at anywhere from 75 to 90 per cent of parity or even zero to 90 per cent.

FAVORS FLEXIBILITY

The Eisenhower administration says there should be more flexibility, particularly in the case of those six basic crops which now are protected by a guarantee of 90 per cent of parity.

The theory is this: in times of surplus, the guarantee can drop as low as 75 per cent of parity to discourage production; and in time of scarcity it can be raised as high as 90 per cent to encourage production.

The House on Friday voted to let the guarantee range somewhere between 82½ and 90 per cent on the basic crops and at other figures on some other crops. This isn't final unless the Senate approves. It may not.

In One Ear...

By BOB FRAZIER

...YOU READ that down in ...alifornia the police were ...d in by a nosey neighbor ...aw a couple of boys stuff... a girl's body into the trunk ...r car? The cops came, inves...d, and reported that the ... was alive. It was just a ..., the cops said, for the ...to beat the prices at a local ...ch movie.

...ll up here in our little ...metie Valley town the boys ... more gentlemanly. They ... stuff the girls into trunks. ... according to Art Litchman ...says he's done some research ...the subject, the boys get in ... trunk themselves. Then the ...drive-in to the drive-ins.

...ere's something chivalrous ... doing it that way.

...S THE custom these summer ...ights for families to drive out ...the drive-ins of a Saturday ... and watch the movie, hop... to have to explain to the ... what the teenagers in the ... car are doing. Often, par... boast, the children go to ... and ma and pa watch the ..., eat pop-corn and drive ...kids home, where they are ...to bed without ever waking ...fore saves on baby sitters.

...t there is one family who ... it differently. Pete Cor...ia and his wife, Virginia, ... go to the drive-in with ... three children. If the ...e is unusually bad as movies ... are, Pete will say to Vir...a, "Let's go home."

...pon that the kids raise a great fuss. So Pete and Virginia go to sleep in the front seat, leaving the kids in the back seat to watch the movie. Pretty soon the kids wake up Ma and Pa Cornacchia and demand to go home. Pete drives through the empty parking lot and reflects upon the saving on baby sitters.

TWO BOOKS in the week's activity: "Sweet Thursday" by John Steinbeck and "Creep Into Thy Narrow Bed" by Leonard Bishop. The Steinbeck is a sequel to "Cannery Row," with many of the same characters still hanging around the Bear Flag Cafe and the Biological Laboratory. It is a funny book, although maybe Steinbeck sometimes tries too hard to make real "characters" out of his characters. It is called "Sweet Thursday," because that is the day after Lousy Wednesday and the day before Waiting Friday.

The Bishop book is interesting enough, but it's got about the grimiest bunch of characters you'll ever find between the covers of a book.

HERBERT HOOVER is up the McKenzie. Nobody is expecting him down Saturday for the Adlai Stevenson rally, however.

Democrats, naturally, are sorely concerned about the weather for their big Saturday blow-out. Catherine Lauris, who does their publicity, has been engaging in climatological research. She called W. M. Cook at the weather bureau and learned that only four times since 1930 has it rained on July 10.

South Sizzles; Midwest Cool

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most of the southern half of the country had hot mid-summer weather Thursday but it was a little on the chilly side in Midwest and northeast areas.

Temperatures dropped into the low 50s over Midwest sections early Thursday. The 55 reading at Chicago was near the minimum temperature record for July 8. It was cooler in other Midwest cities, with a 51 at Detroit and Madison, Wis.

The cool air extended from the northern plains eastward over the Great Lakes region and Ohio Valley to the Atlantic coast. It also was on the cool side in the far northwestern states.

But it was hot again from western Tennessee westward to Oklahoma and over the southeast desert region and along the Southern California coast. Los Angeles Wednesday had the hottest day of the year with a top of 96 degrees. Other hot spots included Oklahoma City and Little Rock, Ark., with 103 and Memphis with 101. The day's highest reading was 115 at Needles, Calif.

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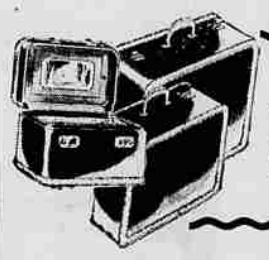

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59.95 Hoover vacuum cleaner	39.95
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1.95 3 pc. aluminum sauce pan set	1.00
2.50 Wrought iron magazine rack	1.00
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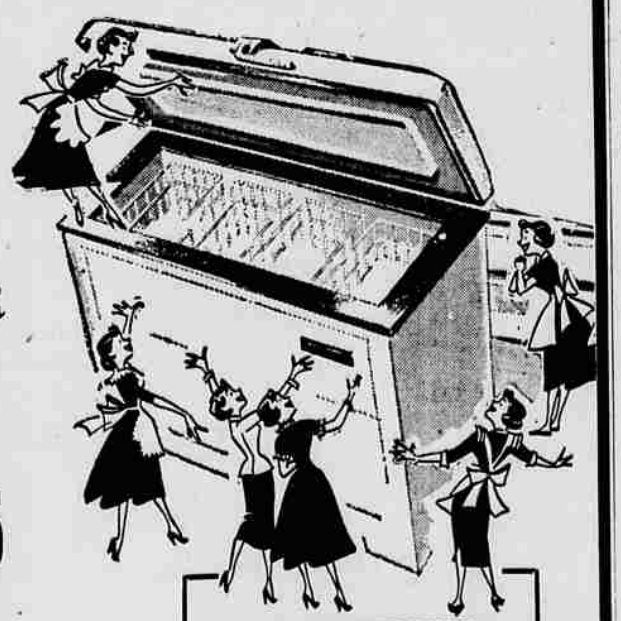

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