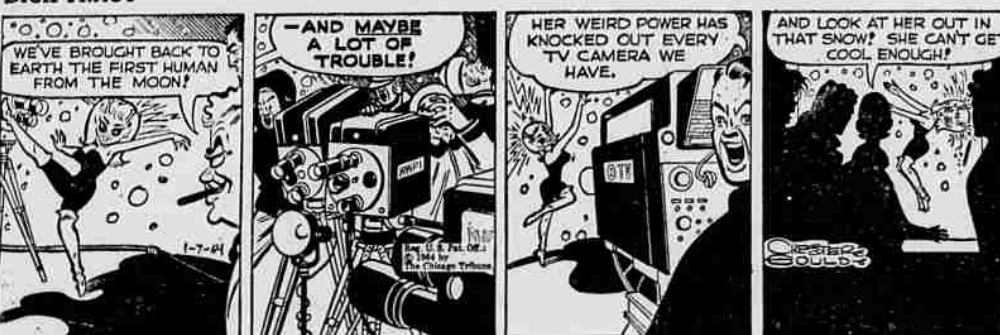




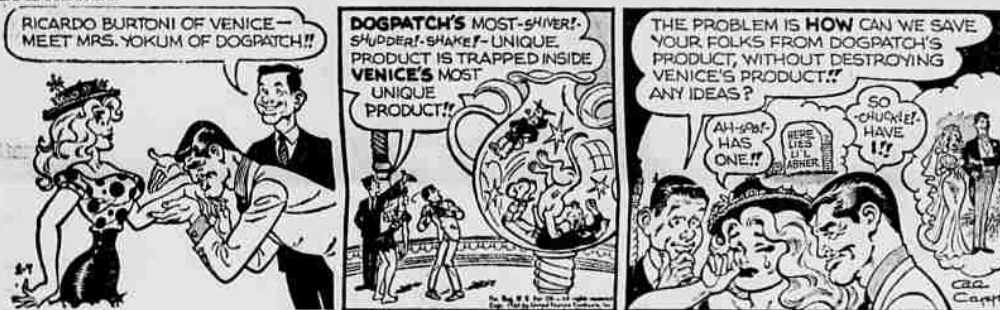
STEVE CANYON



DICK TRACY



LI'L ABNER



REX MORGAN, M.D.



CAPTAIN EASY



MARY WORTH



ALLEY OOP



Farm season may be slow, but activity brisk on political front

By Gaylord P. Godwin
UPI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI)—This may be the slow season for agriculture in the fields and barnyards, but there is no lack of activity on the political and legislative fronts.

Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman goes to Capitol Hill today to present a program for wheat in an effort to fend off a threatened drop of \$800 million in farm income because of low prices expected to result from a price support rate of \$1.25 per bushel.

Farmers turned down in a referendum last spring a proposed wheat program which would have meant higher prices in return for stringent controls on production and marketing of the breadgrain crop. The rejection left standing a program calling for price support of \$1.25 per bushel as opposed to a proposed support rate of \$2.

Freeman, acting under orders from President Johnson, will tell Congress it should enact a wheat program which would cut production and keep up farm income. Participation in the program would be voluntary. It would be put into effect without resort to a producer referendum.

Elsewhere on the agricultural front, representatives of farm organizations and key cotton producers met to discuss cotton legislation. Also meeting were members of the government's advisory committee on cotton to discuss legislation and a proposed acreage diversion program similar to the feed grain program. The legislation would deal with the price of cotton. The diversion would deal with the reduction of the carryover which appears likely to go over 13 million bales come Aug. 1.

The meeting of the farm organizations and the cotton producers, called a "cotton summit conference," was expected to come up with recommendations for cotton legislation designed to keep up farm income, encourage cotton exports, and not cost the taxpayer too much money.

Freeman will meet Wednesday with representatives of cattlemen's associations and farm organizations to discuss beef

imports and how they affect the price of U.S. beef.

Later will come recommendations to Congress on proposed new and enlarged programs to combat rural poverty. These proposals will be aimed at rural renewal, better rural housing, improved water systems, and other community facilities.

Freeman said "all these efforts, and many more, will be channeled toward bringing rural America into the mainstream of American prosperity."

A department spokesman said there had been no determination whether President Johnson would send a special farm message to Congress this year. "In any event," the spokesman said, "1964 is going to be a very active year agriculturally."

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) said world production of black and white pepper in 1963 totaled 168.5 million pounds. This was slightly above the 1962 production of 164.2 million pounds.

Production in Asia, which produces about 90 per cent of the world's pepper, was equal to that of 1962. Increases were recorded in Africa and Latin America.

India is the largest producer of pepper, with 64 million pounds. In 1963, Indonesia was second with 46 million, Sarawak third with 22 million, and Ceylon fourth with 17 million.

Red guerrillas escape trap by Vietnamese

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (UPI)—A large force of Communist guerrillas escaped a Vietnamese army trap Sunday during a day of bitter fighting. U.S. military sources reported today.

Some U.S. advisers who witnessed the fighting 30 miles southeast of Saigon blamed lack of aggressiveness by the Vietnamese soldiers for the failure to trap and wipe out the battalion-size force of Communists. They said some troops and even some armored vehicles refused to move forward in the face of enemy fire.

In another development, the ruling military junta announced a reorganization Monday that strengthened the position of its three leading men and demoted potential rivals.

U.S. officials welcomed the move to give more power to Maj. Gen. Duong Van Minh, the junta chairman, and his close comrades in arms, Maj. Gen. Ran Van Don and Maj. Gen. Le Van Kim. The three officers led the coup that deposed and slew President Ngo Dinh Diem in November.

In the reshuffle, the fourth key member of the plot against Diem, Maj. Gen. Ton That Dinh, lost his powerful 3rd Army command in Saigon, which spearheaded the coup. His supporter, Maj. Gen. Do Mau, lost his post as chief of military security.

Don became commander in chief of the armed forces in addition to his present post as defense minister. Kim was given the position of chief of the joint general staff.

Lockhart, who used another name in writing most of the 48 checks passed here, pleaded guilty last month in Superior Court. He was arrested Nov. 9 in a drugstore after a clerk recognized him as the subject of a police warning bulletin.

He also is wanted by 18 other judicial districts in Oregon and California, a probation officer said.

Lockhart was an undersheriff in Portland before joining the district attorney's office in 1954. He returned to private practice in 1955 and was arrested four years later when \$1,500 was found missing from a trust account he was administering.

Lockhart admitted embezzling the money to pay bills and was sentenced to a maximum of three years in Oregon state prison. He was put on probation after four months in custody.

Lockhart told the court he had been writing bad checks since June 1961, the last six months in this area.

CONVENTION OPENS
EUGENE (UPI)—The Oregon Dairymen's Association opened its 70th annual convention here Monday.

Television in review

Another public service report on TV rating systems offered

By Rick Du Brow
UPI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—A new year brings nostalgia, and nothing makes me more nostalgic than Congress' investigation of television ratings, an event now approaching its first anniversary, lest we forget.

So today we bring you another of our periodic public service reports on the progress of the broadcasters in the happy agonies of abolition. This, you may recall, is a required state of affairs—required by Rep. Oren Harris' subcommittee last spring when the broadcasting industry was ordered to clean up the ratings business, make it reliable, or face federal intervention.

It's not that we can tell you much with certainty about what's really happening behind all those closed doors. You know how it is—a phone call here, a press release there, a reliable source for snow, an impeccable source in reserve. Even if you're in Washington, it's hard enough to know what's going on.

Still, this is a progress report, because the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) says it is making progress. And until we hear from Congress again, with finality as to the proceedings that it is allowing every sporting chance, we must take such progress as we can find, to wit:

An NAB announcement says articles of incorporation for the new Broadcasting Rating Council Inc. have been filed in Wilmington, Del. In fact, it adds, the council, a non-profit organization, is scheduled to meet for

the first time Wednesday in New York to adopt bylaws and elect its board of directors.

Several months ago, we were told by spokesmen for the subcommittee and the NAB that things would be shaping up just about now. Originally, NAB recommendations had been expected by last September. At any rate, since the NAB is, as of now, seemingly coming through with at least some moves, and Congress is not complaining, apparently the subcommittee is currently satisfied.

Some columnists think ratings may not be having as much effect on borderline shows this season as in the past. They point to the continuance of such low-rated programs as "Espionage" and "Hootenanny." Well, optimism is nice. But no one really knows much for sure yet. Smile a while, but keep your powder dry.

The Channel Swim: ABC-TV's acclaimed documentary "1776," will be repeated Sunday. CBS-TV's "Twentieth Century" reports on World War II's invasion of Sicily Jan. 19. ABC-TV airs 17½ hours of prime-time programming about the Winter Olympics on 13 consecutive days starting Jan. 29.

Ed Sullivan's show last Sunday was to have included a boys' choir in Israel that was scheduled to perform for Pope Paul on his Holy Land visit. CBS-TV says the reason the sequence was not shown is that the tape, shot abroad, was not of broadcast quality, apparently because the facilities were not the best.

Shipley appeal turned down

SALEM (UPI)—Marion County Circuit Judge George Jones Monday turned down a post conviction relief appeal by convicted slayer Larry West Shipley, 22, McMinnville.

But he granted Shipley's lawyers another 60 days in which to file an amended petition. Shipley was convicted in Lincoln County in 1961 of the murder of his girl friend, Linda Jean Stevens, 16.



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