

# Senate action to benefit agricultural projects in Oregon, Hatfield says

A senate subcommittee recently approved a federal agriculture budget which included increases of some \$9.5 million for Oregon programs, Senator Mark Hatfield announced.

Hatfield, who offered funding for the projects, predicted that the increases would be approved by the full Senate. "Increases in these agricul-

tural programs were kept to those projects which will more than pay for themselves in the years ahead," Hatfield said. "These projects are a sound investment in the future strength and stability of Oregon agriculture."

Among the Oregon Projects endorsed by Hatfield which received funding above the level requested by President

Carter were:

—\$480,000 to fund three additional research positions and five additional support personnel at the Squaw Butte Experiment Station in Burns. The station is a joint federal-state effort which researches a wide range of problems related to livestock, wildlife and rangeland production techniques. The administra-

tion had proposed that the Burns station be closed down.

—an additional \$84,000, making a total of \$407,000 in the year's bill, will go toward continuing research at Oregon State University on grass seed problems and possible alternatives to field burning.

—an additional \$7.5 million above the \$10 million administration request for the fores-

try incentives program. It is the only federal program designed to stimulate timber production on private, non-industrial lands.

—an added \$20,000 above the \$96,000 requested level for research begun last year at Oregon State University toward genetic improvement of the mint plant, an increasingly important Oregon crop.

—\$80,000 for cooperative two-year study into "Chalkboard Syndrome", a disease of the leafcutting bee. The Syndrome, plaguing Northwest alfalfa crops, has resulted in crop losses in Oregon and Idaho of 40 per cent in the last two years. Oregon State University will participate in the study.

—an added \$1.5 million

above the \$8.5 million request for federal forestry research grants.

Hatfield, a member of the Senate subcommittee, pointed out that the increased figures were within congressional budget targets.

## Ullman warns

### Feds to back

### farmer contracts

Oregon Congressman Al Ullman today warned that the federal government must be made to stand behind contracts and commitments it has made over the years to farmers and others in the West who are users of water from federal reclamation projects.

Ullman issued his warning in testimony before the House Interior Sub-committee on Water and Power Resources. The Subcommittee is working on legislation that would update reclamation laws in the wake of recent court decisions and administrative interpretations that extend federal restrictions on farm development and use even after a farmer has repaid the government for his share of the construction cost of a project.

Ullman said that in Oregon, the federal government entered into contracts with farmers and irrigation districts which specifically provide that restrictions on the size of a farm "shall cease to operate when the construction charge obligation allocated to such land has been paid in full to the United States."

"In the Klamath Project alone—there are over 170 separate contracts with irrigation districts and individual entities which either contain, or have been represented to be subject to 'pay out' provisions," Ullman explained.

"It must be remembered that these (farmers) agreed to the restrictions and conditions of the reclamation contracts largely because of government assurances that the restrictions would terminate upon repayment of allocated construction costs.

"In fact, in many cases, the reclamation contract was proposed and entered into primarily to facilitate the government's own interest.

"The issue of honoring prior commitments is not merely a matter of policy to be left for future debate. The credibility of our government is at stake. The only issue is whether or not the United States does indeed intend to keep its word to the federal water users in the western United States."

Ullman noted he has introduced legislation which would ratify all contracts and written representations concerning the effect of payout on acreage limitations. He said similar language should be included in any new bill that is drafted.

## Communications

### workshop set for

Aug. 16

Dr. Robert L. Phillips of Oregon State University will conduct a one-day workshop on "improving Communication Skills" in Pendleton at the Indian Hills Motor Inn. on Wednesday, August 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This workshop is designed for managers and supervisors. The instructor uses lectures and demonstrations to give practical advice on how to improve the four basic communication skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

Enrollments are accepted in the order received, and early registration is encouraged. To register, send \$53 to Endavors for Excellence, Extension Annex, Corvallis, OR 97331. For further details call 503-745-2677.

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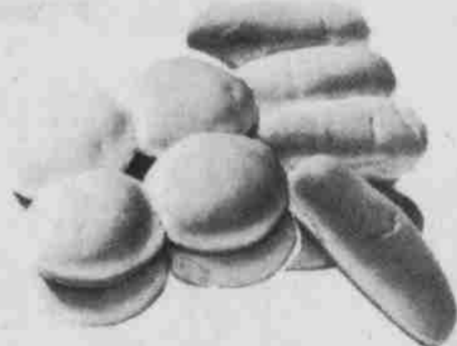


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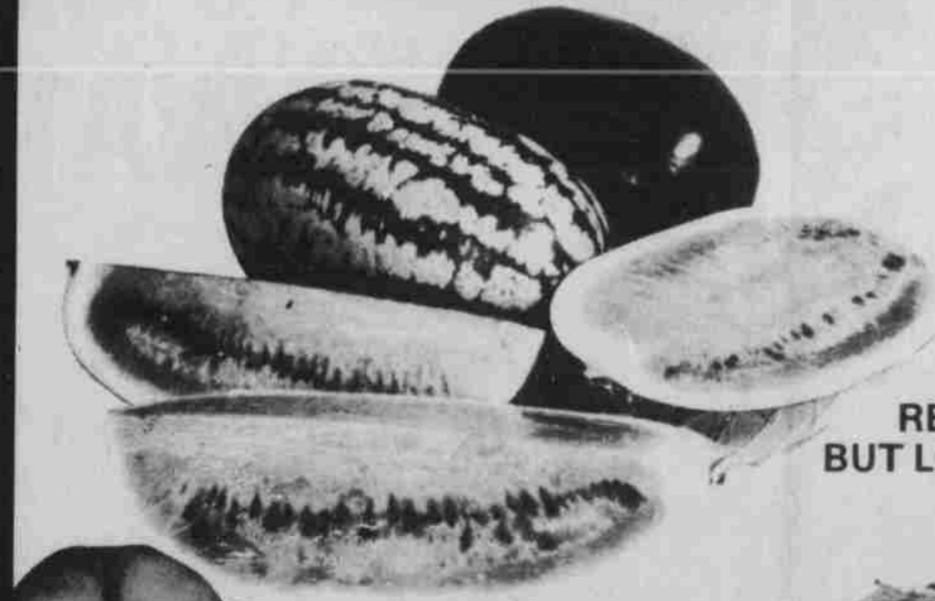
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