

Both Sides Have Ample Arsenal in Dispute on Farmers

Income Figure Cited To Support Desperation Claim

Editor's note: How had off is the American farmer? The following dispatch, by the veteran United Press reporter who covers the Agriculture Department in Washington, gives facts and figures on both sides of the hot political battle over the farm situation.

By GAYLORD P. GODWIN
United Press Correspondent

Washington—(U.P.)—Just how serious is the "farm situation" that the politicians are talking about?

Democratic critics of the administration's farm policies say the farmer is really hurting in the pocketbook. But Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson says American agriculture is basically "in a sound financial condition."

Both sides have ample arsenals of statistical ammunition.

Those who picture the farm situation as pretty desperate cite the farm income figure. This is the figure that shows what the farmer in the country have left over each year, as net earnings, after deducting their production costs from their crop and livestock sales.

This figure has dropped from more than \$14,000,000,000 in 1952 to a rate of \$10,500,000,000 for 1955. That's a decrease of 27 per cent. And it has come at a time when the rest of the nation's economy is enjoying boom-time prosperity.

The Agriculture department reported Friday that a further decline in farm earnings is in prospect for 1956.

Benson and his supporters note that the number of people living on farms also has decreased since 1952. If you look at farm income on a per capita basis—that is, total income divided by the total farm population of men, women and children—you find that it hasn't dropped so sharply after all.

Per capita farm income, from all sources, was \$949 in 1952 and \$913 in 1954. That's a drop of less than four per cent. The 1955 figure won't be available until the year ends, but doubtless it will be a little lower.

Politicians and economists who take a gloom view of the farm situation point to the "cut-price squeeze" on the farmer. What they mean is that the prices of farm-produced goods have been going down fairly steadily, while the farmers' costs have held steady or gone up. For example, a bushel of corn brought \$1.51 in 1952, but only \$1.14 last month. Whereas a tractor that sold for \$980 in 1952 was tagged at \$2020 last month.

The government has a complicated formula for measuring the prices a farmer receives against the costs he has to pay. It's called "parity." When costs and prices are in the same balance they were in the period 1910-1914, the parity ratio is 100. It so happens that in 1952, the parity level also was exactly 100.

It's been sliding downward ever since and so far this year the average is 85 per cent. Considering last month, alone, it was 82 per cent.

Economist Don Parriberg, an assistant to Benson, says present farm price relationships are "about midway" between the post-war boom when parity shot up to 115 per cent and the depression of the thirties when it sank to 58 per cent.

"Present price relationships for agriculture . . . may be somewhere near normal for modern day periods of peacetime full employment, taking into account our heavy government stocks," Parriberg says.

In discussing farm finances,

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PRETTY, TOO—Egyptian-born Tina Cadeaux, 24, secretary to Democratic Rep. B. F. Sisk of California, spruces up after winning the Capitol's popularity contest. She won out over employees of the House, Senate and Library of Congress in contest sponsored by Roll Call, a bi-weekly newspaper for members of Congress and their employees.

Morse Will Introduce Bill for Access Roads

Portland—(U.P.)—Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) yesterday told a joint congressional interior subcommittee he plans to introduce a bill in the next Congress calling for greater funds to be appropriated for construction of access roads.

One of the main points

Benson often quotes the old saying that "Price times volume equals income." He's calling attention to the fact that, even if prices are down, production is high. Farmers may be getting less per bushel for their corn, but they're growing an awful lot of corn. This year's total harvest of all crops is expected to equal—and may surpass—the all-time record of 1948.

The dark side of the production picture is that huge surpluses are piling up in government warehouses, and these exert a depressing effect on farm markets. The hoard of surplus farm commodities which the government has taken in under price support operations has passed the seven billion dollar mark, and is still growing despite stringent controls on planting.

Some Facts

Here are some other facts and figures which might be added to the debit and credit sides of the farm balance sheet:

Debit: American farms are mortgaged for \$8,200,000,000. That's a seven per cent rise in farm mortgages since last year.

Credit: Farm real estate values are up five per cent since 1954. Farmers seem reluctant to sell their land, and those farms that are sold are usually snapped up at a good price.

Debit: The farmer's share of every dollar that a housewife spends for food has shrunk from 47 cents in 1952 to 41 cents this year, and is still going down. Middlemen, processors, haulers, retailers and the like—get the rest.

Credit: The continuing rise in the U. S. population is steadily enlarging the demand for farm products. Research and new sales techniques also are opening up new markets for farm goods.

Sessions Aimed at Breaking UN Deadlock

United Nations, N. Y. — (U.P.)—The Big Four United Nations ambassador called a series of sessions yesterday aimed at breaking a year-long deadlock on membership in the world body.

The top delegates of the United States, Britain, France and Russia held "consultations and conversations" at the UN headquarters seeking agreement on the admission of 18 new members to the United Nations.

No Big Four meeting was planned informed sources said, but the delegates met in smaller meetings to try to reach some agreement—which then could be presented to the top representatives of their delegations.

The General Assembly studied a new proposal by the United States, Britain, Canada, and three other nations to establish a committee of 60 nations to discuss possibilities and time and place for a conference on charter review.

New York — (U.P.)—For the teen-aged set: a new, heavy knit cotton sock that features a pocket on the cuff for holding combs, keys, lipstick, or change. The sock has a thick ribbed top that can be rolled either to expose the pocket or cover it. It is washable, but don't forget to empty the pocket before the sock hits the suds.

Estacada Youth Hurt When Run Over by Car

Oregon City — (U.P.)—Toney Eden Warre, 19, of Estacada, was in satisfactory condition today after being thrown from his auto and run over by the speeding vehicle Saturday.

Clackamas county sheriff's officers said Warre fell out of a partially open door and was dragged 50 feet before being run over by a rear wheel.

George Hull, 16, a passenger remained in the driverless vehicle as it went off the road, ripped through 50 feet of hedge and stopped on the porch of a house. He was not hurt.

Yvonne De Carlo Marries Stunt Man

Hollywood — (U.P.)—Actress Yvonne De Carlo, 33, for years Hollywood's most glamorous spinster, married actor Robert Morgan in a surprise ceremony at Reno yesterday, her studio announced.

The film Queen and Morgan, a stunt man and supporting player whom she's known for five years, eloped to the gambling city after finishing a picture at Universal-International studio, "Raw Edge."

Roy Calhoun, her co-star in "Raw Edge," gave the bride away at the ceremony in the Reno Episcopal chapel.

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Prince of Monaco Plans Visit To US

Monte Carlo, Monaco—(U.P.)—Bachelor Prince Rainier III of Monaco intends to start on his long-delayed visit to the United States early next month, members of his entourage said today.

Palace sources said Rainier plans to devote much of his time studying automobile production.

These sources said the handsome 32-year-old prince's trip was not a wife-hunting expedition. The prince recently admitted in an unusual broadcast to the citizens of his tiny principality that the question of getting married has been causing him some concern.

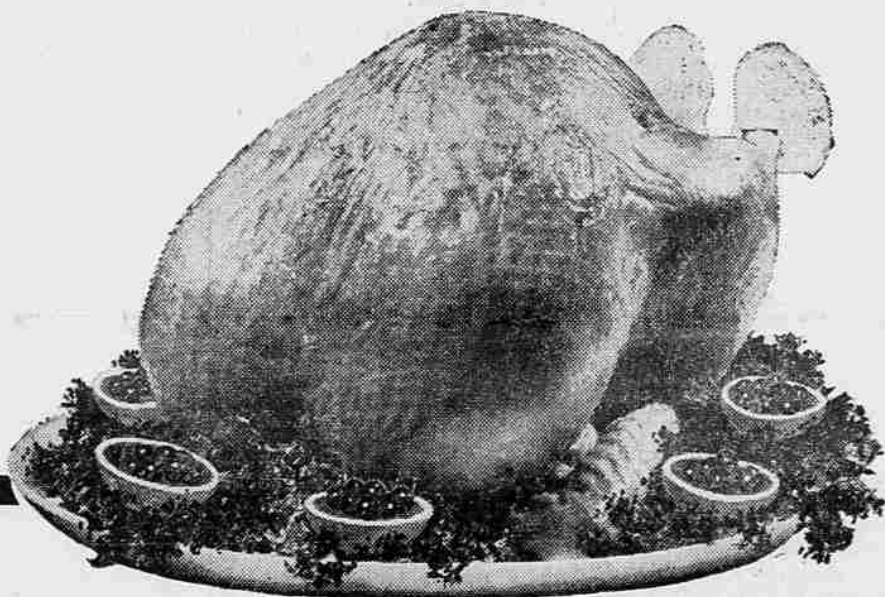
Prospect Lions Club Files Incorporation

Articles of incorporation for the Prospect Lions club were filed Nov. 19 at the Jackson county clerk's office.

The articles stated the club was formed from a cross-section of people in Prospect and surrounding areas. The purpose was to promote good citizenship, government, better understanding, and to aid civic and industrial betterment. The articles provided for by-laws and the election of officers.

The articles of incorporation were signed by George A. Hubbard, Lowell W. Ash, and Paul J. Pearson, all of Prospect.

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