

# 'Witch's Brew' Being Stirred To Get Farm Vote, Benson Claims

Chicago — (U.P.) — Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson accused Democratic "presidential hopefuls" today of stirring up a "witch's brew" in an attempt to harvest votes from the farm problem.

Benson delivered a biting attack on Democratic critics of his farm program, singing out Adlai E. Stevenson and New York Gov. Averell Harriman for special censure.

In a breakfast meeting speech

before the Republican National committee, Benson charged that the Democrats are making demonstrably false statements and offering "quack remedies and discarded nostrums" in a campaign to make political capital out of falling farm prices.

**Promises To Farmers**  
Stevenson an avowed candidate for the presidential nomination and Harriman, an "inactive" prospect have reached ludicrous proportions with their

promises to the farmers, Benson said.

"When Adlai Stevenson recently flip-flopped back to rigid, 90 per cent price supports and then threw in his version of the Brannan plan for good measure, I watched with some interest to see if Averell Harriman could top that," Benson told the Republicans.

"He did. He even chided Adlai for being too 'moderate,'" Benson's counter-attack on the Democrats was the most fighting speech so far at the two-day GOP pow pow here.

However, Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks and Labor Secretary James Mitchell were still to deliver their defenses of Eisenhower administration policies. And GOP National Chairman Leonard W. Hall was scheduled to relay a personal message from the President.

**Others To Speak**  
Also on the schedule of today's windup session were reports from three committees on plans for the party's 1956 convention in San Francisco. Their recommendations were expected to include boosting the number of delegates, but spokesmen said

there were no proposals to abandon earlier plans for a quick-snappy convention.

Hopes that President Eisenhower will run for the presidency again dominated the meeting and were boosted late yesterday by statements from Hall and Vice-President Richard M. Nixon.

Hall said it wouldn't matter if Mr. Eisenhower delays an announcement of his political plans until next March, the latest date yet mentioned for such an announcement.

Nixon, meanwhile, started the

GOP leaders buzzing with a message that the people in 1956 will choose the same "leadership" that has been provided by President Eisenhower. Republicans attached significance to the fact that Nixon used the word "leadership" instead of "policies."

**Further Praise**  
Henry Cabot Lodge, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, continued the praise of the Eisenhower administration in a speech last night.

Lodge said Eisenhower policies have raised America's standing in the world to its

highest point in history. He urged Republicans to keep foreign policy bi-partisan, to take "honest pride" in it, and not to let it become a political issue.

## Southern Oregon Chambers Planning Workshop Meeting

Plans are being made for a meeting of Southern Oregon Chambers of Commerce to acquaint new committee chairmen, members, presidents and board members with the organizational structure and activity programs. The meeting will be held in January, 1956.

The workshop meeting is to better acquaint new officials with tasks in Chamber of Commerce work and with the overall activity of Chambers in Southern Oregon.

Among subjects which will be considered are the Chambers' purpose, financing programs, successful retail events, industrial payroll, travel development in Southern Oregon, the Oregon tax problem, committee structure and action and how to develop a Chamber program.

**Chambers Invited**  
About 12 Chambers from Southern Oregon and Northern California will be invited to participate in the meeting, which will be held in Medford.

Members of the committee which was appointed to organize the meeting are Frank Tucker, manager of the Klamath Falls Chamber; L. C. Hansen, manager of the Grants Pass Chamber; Ron Gande, a director, and Don McNeil, manager of the Jackson county chamber.

The committee will be expanded with additional members from the Medford area to consider initial details at the committee's first meeting Dec. 10.

**A DOG'S FRIEND**  
Grand Island, Neb. — (U.P.) — City dog pound officials have noted for several years that someone has been climbing the pound fence and taking likeable dogs. The culprit, whose name is still unknown to officials, is a pretty girl who drives by at intervals and when she sees a dog that strikes her fancy, scales the fence and gives it a boost to freedom.

## Wallsa Walla Warden Suspends Four Guards

Walla Walla — (U.P.) — Lawrence Delmore Jr., warden of the state penitentiary, last night suspended four guards on charges of neglect of duty following the escape of two inmates early in the day.

The four guards were on duty in seven wing Tuesday night when John Russell, 25, and Edward Lincoln Burkholder, 23, broke out. Delmore said the guards had five days in which to answer the charge.

## Miss Krouse Elected 4-H Council President

Francis Krouse, Applegate, Jackson county 4-H council Tuesday night. David Woolfolk, Antelope, was named vice-president; Linda Malloroy, Antelope, secretary; Dale Smith, Central Point, treasurer; and Carolyn Tieg, Valley View, reporter.

The council made plans for a holiday party Dec. 29 at Bigham hall at 8 p.m., with each person attending to bring an article of clothing, canned goods, and child's toy.

## Farm Bureau Favors Land Ownership For School Bond Voting

A study to determine if the present method of voting school bonds can be declared unconstitutional is under consideration by Farm Bureaus of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas and Coos counties, according to Dave Blair, Rogue River, president of the Jackson County Farm bureau.

If the proposed study is favorable to members of the four counties, funds will be solicited and a Portland law firm retained to do research, Blair told the county Farm Bureau board of directors recently.

Blair said the bureau should know whether or not the study would be conducted after the next meetings of county bureaus.

**May Test the Law**  
If legal research indicates there can be a reversal of the present law, the Oregon Farm Bureau will be asked by the county bureaus to test the constitutionality of the law. The law allows any registered voter to cast a ballot in bond issues. Blair pointed out that the Oregon Farm Bureau federation's policy is that "property ownership should be one of the qualifications for persons voting on bond issues."

During the 1955 Oregon legislature, the Farm Bureau urged passage of a bill which provided for a constitutional amendment to prohibit non-property owners from voting on school bonds.

Blair said. The bill was defeated in committee, but another bill which would require 15 per cent of the registered voters to cast a ballot in school bond elections before the issue became effective was defeated in the senate, Blair pointed out.

**Favors Sales Tax**  
The OFBF, Blair said, still favors a retail sales tax. The position, he said, was reaffirmed at the recent convention in Salem. A resolution there favored a sales tax with revenue "earmarked for educational purposes and property tax off-set." The bureau also resolved that if such a tax were enacted "that agriculture be defined in the statutes as manufacturer and/or producer, in order to eliminate duplicate or pyramiding taxation."

The original recommendation for the sales tax policy originated in Jackson county, Blair said.

The federal plan initiative to amend the state constitution to give each county in Oregon a seat in the state senate also is favored by the bureau, Blair said.

Blair noted that "under the present population plan of apportionment, rural Oregon is losing out to the metropolitan areas. We feel that area resources and wealth as well as population should be considered in the apportionment of legislative representation."

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