Soil Bank Threat To Livestock Men In Area Discussed

The proposed "soil bank" farm plan, now under discussion by farm and governmental leaders, might affect southern Oregon ranchers, even though few surplus crops are grown here, livestock industry spokesmen indicated this week.

The feature of the plan with which they are concerned is the possibility that lands withdrawn from growing any of the surplus commodities might be used for livestock grazing, according to James Miller, Medford, president of the Jackson County Stockmen's association.

Some supporters of the soil bank proposal insist that withdrawn land be kept from any agricultural use, except in emergencies. But others, Miller pointed out, have advocated its possible use for growing hay crops or as grazing lands.

Competition Seen

If this latter proposal is made a part of the plan, Miller said, it would in effect subsidize midwestern farmers in the growing of livestock in competition with western ranchers, including those in southern Oregon, who raise stock with no subsidies or government assistance. It is the stockmen's fear that this would be ruinously damaging to them, particularly in view of the fact that market prices for western beef have declined by some 50 per cent in the past two years.

Miller said the stockmen are taking steps to inform Oregon's representative in congress of their feelings about the matter. As far as other aspects of the soil bank proposal are concerned, the livestock spokesman indicated, the ranchers are not in a position to take a stand one way or the other.

Better Economy Seen for Next Year

Washington—(U.P.)—Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks yesterday forecast a better economy and balanced budget in 1956.

Weeks, who appeared on the MBS radio program "Reporters' Roundup," said "industry can go on expanding" and the "economy is growing continually."

During the first six months of 1956, Weeks predicted that the nation's economy "is going to be on a somewhat higher plane than it was in '55." He added that farmers probably will benefit by the rise.

Family Adopts Unique Plan To Preserve Spirit of Christmas

By A. Robert Smith
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington—A young Washington couple, deploring the holiday commercialization that has all but trampled the religious manifestations of Christmas here in the nation's capital, has adopted a unique plan for preserving the spiritual celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas, in the home of Bob and Laurin Balkam and their four children, will be celebrated for two weeks—starting Christmas eve with the trimming of the tree and ending Jan. 6 with the celebration of Epiphany, or Three Kings day.

Presents of Clothing

Christmas morning found the four little Balkams taking down their stockings like most other American youngsters. They also received presents of clothing, which they promptly put on to go to church for the highlight of the birthday of Jesus—a worship in which thanks were offered to God for the greatest Gift to them and to all mankind.

This family centered their Christmas day, in other words, upon Him for whom it was named, rather than that jolly old pagan interloper with the red suit and whiskers.

"I remember when I was a kid," said Bob, who is a salesman, "on Christmas day we all marched into the living room to open our presents. By 11 o'clock that morning the room was full of trash that had to be cleaned up. Everything had built up to the opening of gifts, nothing more, and suddenly it was all over. We all felt that terrible letdown."

Unwrapping Stretched Out

To help avoid making gifts the focal point of Christmas day, the Balkams have deferred the gift unwrapping until after Christmas day and then stretched it out over the 12 days between Christmas and Three Kings day, which is the celebration that marks the baptism of Jesus.

With relatives sending presents to the children, the gift pile under the Balkam tree looked like it would probably hold a dozen surprises for each of the two boys and two girls. So they will be opened one a day on each of the 12 days of Christmas as the family gathers around the tree to sing the refrain and a new verse each day of the seasonal folk tune, "The 12 Days of Christmas."

The Christmas celebration will reach its climax, not with the opening of the last gift and sweeping up the debris, but with a family pageant on Jan. 6, Three Kings day, in which the family members will play out the first Christmas.

Take Faith Seriously

The Balkams, it should be reported, are perhaps an unusual family. They take their Christian faith seriously. They had some difficulty understanding how some Washington congregations could dispense with Sunday school on Christmas day in order not to interfere with the opening of gifts by the children at home. They found themselves equally out of tune with ministers who held special Christmas services the Sunday before Christmas day to accomodate churchgoers who wanted the religious aspect of this holiday, but didn't want it to interfere with their secular plans for celebrating Christmas day.

From Christmas to Three Kings day, the Balkam family plans to do its utmost to put Christ back into Christmas—and into the lives of the children—as it was in the beginning in a manger in Bethlehem.

Two Adult Classes To Start at Local High School Soon

Adult classes in school finance and rocks and minerals will start at Medford Senior High school next month. The class in school finance will start at 7 p.m. Jan. 9, and the rocks and minerals class will start Jan. 24.

Both classes are being held by the general extension division of the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

Dr. Bill A. Sampson, associate professor of education at Southern Oregon college, will instruct the school finance course, and Max Shafer, field geologist of the department of geology and mineral industry of Oregon, will instruct the rocks and minerals courses.

Major Problems

The school finance course will emphasize major problems of financing education, including principles in budget-making, school revenues, tax sources and the unit cost of education.

The rocks and minerals course will be centered around providing a study of common minerals and rocks and will consider the economically important rocks and minerals.

Registration for either course may be made at initial meetings or later by special permission of the instructor. Details on registration and other information is available from Lindsay M. Vinsel, director of vocational education for Medford public schools.

Relief Expenditures For Fiscal Year Told In Red Cross Report

Washington—(U.P.)—The American Red Cross spent $87,539,503 for relief work in the United States and overseas during the fiscal year ended last June 30.

Even though World War II ended 10 years ago, 41 per cent of the organization's funds went to the armed forces and veterans during the year, the Red Cross said.

Fifteen per cent of the total spent was for the Red Cross blood program to obtain blood needed for civilians. There now are 47 Red Cross regional blood programs operating in the United States.

There were 300 Red Cross disaster relief operations in fiscal 1954-55, compared to 318 the year before. But the severity of the disasters more than doubled the amount to eight per cent of last year's total.

In floods, hurricanes and other disasters, the Red Cross provided emergency mass care for 91,000 persons and helped rehabilitate 14,400 families in 44 states, Alaska, and two territories.

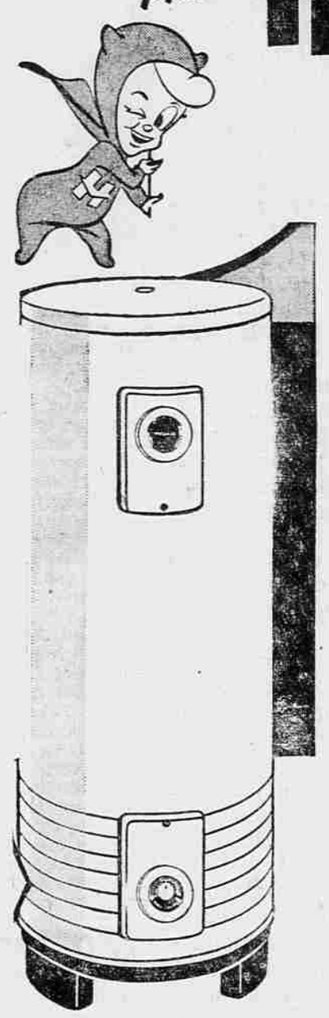
The Red Cross said $11,221,119 was spent for planning, administration, accounting and personnel services. It said $1,953,809 was spent for public information and $4,140,877 to raise funds, recruit members and train volunteer fund workers.

It said these services were provided by more than 23,000,000 Americans who contributed $1 or more to become Red Cross members, 7,650,000 Red Cross volunteers and 2,209,515 persons who donated blood through the Red Cross program.

Las Vegas—(U.P.)—Nightclub singer Sid Gary, 52, was married Sunday night to 39-year-old Dorothy Petricoda at the Hotel Riviera here.

Hotpoint Hotpoint Hotpoint

PRE- INVENTORY SALE



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HUGE REDUCTIONS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS

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- Semi-Annual Sale of Ladies Enna Jettick Shoes – Reg. $10.95 – Now....$5.85–$6.85
- Men's Oil Tanned Leather Boots
- All Ladies' Fall and Winter Coats – Prices Slashed
- Ladies' Sanforlan Wool Plaid Jackets
- Ladies' Girdles and Bras – A Real Close-out
- Large Assortment of Cannon Bath Towels
- 27" Diaper Outing Flannel – 3 Colors
- 80 Square Percales in Assorted Patterns
- 54" Wide Imported and Domestic Woolen Yardage
- 51/15 Sheer Nylon Hose – First Quality
- Purified Genuine Acrilon Bed Pillows

This is THE Dress Sale of the year. Our New York Buying office has over-loaded us on dresses. We have hundreds of dresses on the racks; in the stock-room, and even in the basement. These are all late style dresses. We just have too many, so out they go.

One Group of 5.95 and 8.95 DRESSES All Styles, Colors and Sizes Now $4.00
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- Men's Winter Weight Union Suits – Both Cotton and Nylon Mix
- Men's Sun Tan or Gray Twill Pants
- Men's 17-oz. All Wool Whipcord Pants
- Men's Gabardine Sur Coats–Quilted Rayon and Nylon Lining
- Men's All Wool Sport Coats. Prices Slashed
- Ladies' Plastic Covered Train Cases
- Boys' 8-oz. Double Knee Jeans – Sizes 4 to 12
- Men's Plaid Flannel Shirts. Sanforized Shrunk
- Men's Sport Shirts. Washable Rayons, Gabardines and Fancy Broadcloth Prints.
- Boys' Corduroy Pants. Sizes 6 to 12 in Salt and Pepper Mixes
- Many More Items in All Departments