

# American Farmer No Longer Political Power Of Former Years in Presidential Election

By LYLE C. WILSON  
United Press Correspondent  
Washington—(U.P.)—The American farm and the American farmer are basic in the nation's economy and no one denies that. But the American farmer is not now the political power he used to be in a presidential election.

There aren't enough of him. The Commerce Department keeps tabs on farmers and others. There were in 1930 about 10,160,000 persons 14 years old and over engaged in farm work in the United States.

The number had dropped to about 6,840,000 in 1950. The 1930 farmers represented 21 per cent of the gainfully occupied

national labor force. The 1950 farmers were only 11.6 per cent of that force.

**Total Declining**  
Latest Commerce Department figures are for 1954 when 6,500,000 persons 40 or over were working on farms. The number of Americans engaged in agriculture steadily has diminished since the government began to keep tabs more than 100 years ago. The young United States of 1920 had a population over 10 years old of about 6,487,000, of whom just more than 2,000,000 were agricultural workers.

There are somewhat more than three times as many farm workers now than in 1820, but population has doubled and redoubled many times over. The civilian labor force alone was estimated in 1954 to be nearly 64,500,000. Farmers represented about 10 per cent of it.

Ten per cent of the working population is a sound and lusty minority. But there are other minority groups which far out-

number American farmers. The Commerce Department, for example, estimates the U.S. Negro population at more than 15,000,000.

Membership of the newly merged American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations is estimated in the neighborhood of 16,000,000. The southern Baptist convention of the U. S. numbers nearly 8,000,000. The Methodist church counts somewhat more than that. The Roman Catholic church has nearly 31,500,000 members. Jewish congregations trail the farmers with an estimated membership of 5,000,000.

**Four Major Conventions**  
There are four major Baptist conventions in the United States. They add up to about 15,575,000. All of these are pressure groups or potential pressure groups. Baptists and Methodists applied much of the pressure which obtained the 18th Amendment to the Constitution and the experiment of national prohibition.

The pressure of Negro voters, transplanted in the past 40 years to industrial northern states, has been the biggest factor in obtaining civil rights legislation and spreading integration of the races at all levels.

Compared to some of the others, the American farmer is a small minority, widely scattered but with large areas in which he has no representation at all. These minus areas are in the large, consuming cities and industrial areas. Walter P. Reuther, however, and other top labor leaders are moving aggressively for a farmer-labor voting combination. That would be a real power house in United States politics.

## Plane Bombing Jury Selection Proceeds

Denver—(U.P.)—Selection of jurors resumed today in the murder trial of John Gilbert Graham at a pace which should allow the state to begin its case late this week against the accused killer of 44 persons in an airliner bomb plot.

Prosecution and defense attorneys made surprisingly rapid progress in initial questioning of prospective jurors yesterday. It had been thought it would require up to 10 days to name a jury, but Friday should find a complete panel.

Graham, 24, confessed to FBI agents on his arrest, Nov. 14, that he made and planted a dynamite bomb in his mother's luggage before she boarded a United Air Lines DC6B airplane at Denver. He is charged with the insurance murder of his mother, Mrs. Daise King, 55, one of the 44 persons killed when the plane exploded in flight and crashed near Longmont, Colo., Nov. 1.

Area of the Azores totals about 880 square miles.

## Great Eads Show in Prospect Thursday

Prospect — The Great Eads, magician, will present his magic show at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 19 in the high school gymnasium.

Proceeds will go to the visual education department of the school.

## Flu, Measles Are Most Diseases Listed

Influenza and measles were the most prevalent communicable disease in Jackson county during the week ending April 14, according to a report by the county health department.

Medford reported 24 influenza cases during the week, Phoenix four and Shady Cove three. Twenty-two cases of measles were reported in Medford and three in Phoenix.

Other communicable diseases were scarlet fever, 1 Central Point; pneumonia, 1 Talent, 2 Medford; mumps, 3 Medford; trench mouth, 1 Gold Hill, 2 Ashland; pink eye, 3 Medford; chicken pox, 1 Ashland, 1 Medford, 7 Rogue River and 1 Gold Hill; strep throat, 2 Ashland, 1 Rogue River and 2 Medford.

## Snake River Bridge Opened To Traffic

Nyssa—(U.P.)—Idaho and Oregon highway crews last night reopened the Snake river bridge here which had been closed throughout the day to all but one-at-a-time passenger car traffic.

A temporary bridge section at the Idaho side of the river, built to replace a collapsed span, sagged when two tension bars broke Sunday night.

The work crews finished repairs to the structure late yesterday. A contract for a new steel bridge at the site has been let. The new span is to be completed within 18 months.

Tuesday, April 17, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—NINE



NATHAN DOUTHIT Wins Two Awards

## Douthit Wins Two Firsts in Eugene

Nathan Douthit, Crater High school student, took two first places last weekend at the 49th annual Oregon high school speech league's state tournament at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Douthit placed first in persuasive and extemporaneous speaking. He was the only one of the tournament participants to win two first place awards.

Joseph Burns of Medford placed first in after dinner speaking and Tim Keating, Ashland high school, placed first in impromptu speaking. Pat Bickel of Crater high was a finalist in the humorous reading division.

A total of 167 students from 43 Oregon high schools participated. There were 25 winners of first, second or third place awards.

Geographic center of North America is in North Dakota.

## Communists Dissolve Information Bureau

Moscow—(U.P.)—A top Soviet leader tonight announced the dissolution of the Communist Information Bureau, known to the world as the Cominform.

Dmitri Shepilov, editor of Pravda and an alternate member of the Communist party Presidium, told reporters that the nine-year-old Cominform was being dissolved.

"Each Communist party can get along without the Cominform now," he said.

## VA Distributes \$45 Million in State

The Veterans Administration distributed \$45,646,473 in cash and services to veterans and their families in Oregon during fiscal year 1955, according to Charles Langdon, manager of the Portland regional VA office.

Disability compensation payments totaled \$20,501,885; death compensation and pension, \$8,016,671; GI insurance and indemnity payments, \$3,692,528; Korean veteran vocational rehabilitation, \$363,040; World War II veteran training, \$997,618 and miscellaneous veterans benefits, \$9,458,085.

## Use Tribune Want Ads QUICK and EASY!

Buy At Builders Supply

QUALITY BLOCKS  
Bricks Flues  
Drain Tile  
127  
W. McAndrews  
Phone 2-4107

Washington—(U.P.) Rep. Walter Norblad (R-Ore.) said he has nominated Stanley R. Allyn of Depoe Bay, Ore., for appointment to the Advisory Committee of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

Dries in 20 minutes!



PAINT WITH Treasure Tones VINYL LATEX MIST

Wonderful Flat Wall Finish

One coat covers—needs no special primer  
Easy to apply—brush or roller  
Smooth non-glare flat finish.  
No paint odor  
Scrubable—resists dirt and scuffs  
No mess—clean equipment with water  
Ready to use new colors



ONE GALLON DOES THE AVERAGE SIZE BEDROOM

## MEDFORD PAINT & WALLPAPER STORE

Corner 6th & Holly, Diagonally Across From the Post Office  
We Give S&H Green Stamps  
PHONE 2-9321

## Neuberger Defends Morse Vote Record

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D-Ore.) today defended the voting performance of his Democratic colleague, Sen. Wayne Morse, whose record of support of the Eisenhower administration has come under frequent attack from Phil Hitchcock of Portland.

Hitchcock, candidate for the Republican nomination for senator, has called Morse's record of support for the Eisenhower program one of the worst in Congress.

Neuberger said today that, according to the Congressional Quarterly, Morse backed Eisenhower on issues 56 per cent of the time during the first session of the 84th Congress.

The Senator contrasted that record with the voting of Sens. Malone of Nevada and Welker of Idaho who, he said, supported the President only 46 per cent of the time though both are Republicans.

Neuberger said both Malone and Welker spoke in Portland during the 1954 campaign with Hitchcock's blessing. The Portland Democrat added that his own record of support for the Eisenhower program was better than that of any of Oregon's three Republican congressmen.

## Disaster Car Dance Tickets Available

Tickets for the Jackson County Disaster Car anniversary dance Thursday at the Rogue Valley ballroom are still available from sponsoring Disabled American Veteran members of the Disaster Car organization.

The dance is being held to raise funds for the purchase of needed Disaster Car equipment and to commemorate the first year of the organization in Jackson county.

Proceeds will be used to purchase such items as fire and rescue equipment, first-aid supplies, surgical equipment, ropes, tools and other emergency gear. The unit, when completely equipped and staffed, will operate on a round-the-clock basis to aid in emergency work, the organization announced.

Music for the dance will be by Bob Roberts' western swing band by courtesy of the Medford Musicians union. Use of the ballroom is being donated by the owners, Buck and Sonny Smith.

## First Parent, Son FFA Banquet Slated

Eagle Point—The first annual parent and son banquet of the Eagle Point Future Farmers of America will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday in the high school gym. Nat R. Etzel is instructor of the four FFA classes of about 44 boys. Some 150 persons are expected at the banquet.

Kenneth Bigham, Rogue-Umpqua district vice-president, FFA, will speak on the value of FFA activities and Gale Friend, Eagle Point senior and president of the chapter, will preside.

A movie on the 25th annual convention at Kansas City will be shown. Ron Hansen and Jim Bunker will report on the state convention and several awards will be made, including naming of the chapter star farmer. Several honorary degrees also will be conferred.

Home economic students of Mrs. Esther Hopper will serve the dinner.

## Babs Hutton's Aide Denies Divorce Rumor

Paris—(U.P.)—Barbara Hutton's secretary said today there was "absolutely nothing" to a report from Mexico saying the American heiress and her husband of five months, Baron Gottfried von Cramm, were getting a divorce.

"If only the newspapers would leave them alone, everything would be all right," the secretary said.



RON MALCOLM SHOW—Color films, "This is Alaska" and "Tundra Haven," will be shown at the Medford High school auditorium at 8 p.m. April 19-21. The show is being sponsored by the Medford Fire Fighters association. Ron Malcolm, Alaskan sportsman, will narrate the films. Malcolm spent six years in Alaska gathering the material for the films. Scenes of a bull moose fight, and killing wolves with a shotgun from a low-flying plane are included in the show.

OPEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT TILL 9:00 P.M.

# WANTED

## YOUR OLD DAVENPORT AND CHAIR - OR BEDROOM AND DININGROOM SUITE...

We NEED Your Old Furniture for Our USED STORE!

KROEHLER DAVENPORT And CHAIR

Only \$249<sup>95</sup> LESS BIG TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE

YOUR OLD FURNITURE WILL MORE THAN MAKE YOUR DOWN PAYMENT ON NEW FURNITURE - EXCEPTIONAL BUYS ON OLD

Complete - BEDROOM GROUPS

for Western Living

ADVERTISED Special

PRICED FROM \$199<sup>95</sup> And Up LESS BIG TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE!

# MEDFORD FURNITURE

ALSO AT SAVING CENTER—Only One Block from Main Store — Phone 3-5981

6th & BARTLETT  
PHONE 3-4573