

Farmland Retirement Program Said Price Stabilization Aid

Washington—(UPI)—The agricultural committee of the National Planning association says that a long-term farmland retirement program—built around a government land-buying plan—could help stabilize farm prices.

It said that a soil bank type program at best can provide only temporary aid because it does not take out farmland for a long enough period to reduce significantly production of surplus crops.

The report was signed by all 26 committee members, but seven documented it with footnote commentaries objecting to the language or content of certain paragraphs.

The proposals discussed by the report are based on the theory that the market can be improved by reducing production of crops whose prices dropped because of the large supply.

Study Recommended

The report said the long-run retirement of land through government purchase or acquisition of easement rights "does not play a leading role" in current farm adjustment programs.

It recommended that it be given "consideration and study."

"This method of land retirement leads to the retirement of whole communities and major institutional adjustments on the land, as well as the conversion of land to less intensive uses," the report said.

It said the soil bank proposal, under which farmers were paid for taking land out of production but still retained the land, "has not proved successful... except for a short-run emergency situation."

The report claimed the farmers usually retired their poorest land and offset the production loss there by increasing the yield from the remainder of the better-quality acreage.

The report said expansion of the conservation reserve program to include a long-term land retirement feature can "make an important contribution" to the commercial farm adjustment problem.

Effective Method

At present, the program compensates farmers who voluntarily take acreage out of production and return it to grass or tree cover.

The report said a balanced farm price program also must have an effective method for using farm surpluses abroad

and a technique for supply adjustment in specific commodities.

Those committee members who dissented in part from the report were: Frank App, Seabrook Farming Corp.; John A. Baker, director legislative services, National Farmers Union; Robert K. Buck, Waukegan, Iowa; August Dahme, Aberdeen, S. Dakota; Joseph W. Fichter, farm consultant, Oxford, Ohio; W. E. Hamill, director of research, American Farm Bureau Federation; and Theodore W. Schultz, chairman, department of economics, University of Chicago.

Those supporting the full report were: Lauren K. Soth, committee chairman and editor of the editorial pages, Des Moines Register and Tribune; Donald R. Murphy, director of editorial research for Wallace Farmer; A. C. Hoffman, vice president, Kraft Foods; Murray R. Benedict, professor of agricultural economics, University of Minnesota; Sam Henry Bober, Newell, S.D.; Harry B. Caldwell, master of the North Carolina State Grange; Willard W. Cochrane, department of agricultural economics, University of Minnesota.

Harry W. Culbreth, vice

president of Nationwide Insurance; Arval L. Erikson, economic adviser, Oscar Meyer & Co.; Oscar Heline, Greenwood Farm, Marcus, Iowa; Frank W. Hussey, vice president of the Maine Potato Council; Arthur Moore, Washington bureau, McGraw-Hill

Publications; William H. Nicholls, chairman of the department of economics and business administration, Vanderbilt University; R. J. Odegard, O. J. Odegard Potato

Co.; Paul D. Sanders, editor of the Southern Planter; Frank J. Welch, dean of the college of agriculture, University of Kentucky; Obed A. Wyum, Rutland, N.D.; Ralph

S. Yohe, editor of the Wisconsin Agriculturist; and Gordon K. Zimmerman, executive secretary of the National Association of Soil Conservation districts.

Science Planks Said Important In Political Party Platforms

Washington—(Science Service)—Science and technology are important planks in both the Democratic and Republican party platforms.

The goals of both political parties in these areas are virtually the same, but the means by which each hopes to achieve them reflects their differences.

The Democrats promise to expand energy sources, "water, tidal, and nuclear, to supply low-cost electricity to all retail electric systems, public, private, and cooperative." The platform makes it quite

clear that these programs may not only be aided by the Federal Government, but may even be developed and managed under public administration.

Same Expansion Pledged

The Republicans pledge the same expansion but want Government to support industry in development and management. Speaking of the development of natural resources, the Republican platform states, "We endorse the contracting by Government agencies for research and urge allowance for reasonable charges for overhead and management in connection therewith."

The Republicans favor Federal "strengthening" enforcement powers in combating water pollution. But Federal grants for construction of waste-disposal plants "should be made only when they make an identifiable contribution to clearing up polluted streams."

Watershed Projects

Both parties favor community watershed projects. Again, the Republicans pledge regional encouragement without "Federal domination." The Democrats pledge a "comprehensive national water resource policy."

The Democrats promise Government machinery for managing land and mineral resources. "Charges for commercial use of public lands will be brought into line with benefits received," they pledge. Republicans promise "to study the possibility of restoring lands not needed for a Federal program."

Paraplegics Get Help by Surgery, Antibiotics

New York—(Science Service)—Persons with partial or complete paralysis of both legs (paraplegics) are being helped to normal lives today because of modern surgery, antibiotics and rehabilitation techniques.

A new Public Affairs Committee pamphlet "Paraplegia: A Head, a Heart and Two Big Wheels," released here, outlines recent "spectacular progress" in treating paraplegics. It was written by Jules Saltman in cooperation with the National Paraplegic Foundation.

Paraplegics are highly susceptible to disease, the pamphlet says. Especially their kidneys, bladders and other organs concerned with elimination may be affected.

Once a person's spine has been injured, a victim must be handled carefully on the way to the hospital. After early diagnosis, control of shock, repair of accompanying injuries, exploratory x-rays and possible traction (application of weight) in certain neck injuries, early treatment may include surgery.

Until a few years ago a paralytic had a short life. Today thousands of paraplegics are living active lives. They work, travel and drive cars with hand controls. One concern of wheelchair patients is to stop where accommodations are suitable, unimpeded by steps and with bathroom facilities not too cramped.

The family and social atmosphere for paraplegics should be one of mutual acceptance, without over-solicitude. Most paraplegics want to be treated like everyone else.

San Bernardino Fireline Built

San Bernardino, Calif.—(UPI)—Eight hundred firefighters today fashioned a long fireline in hopes of containing the only unchecked flank in a 5,500-acre blaze in San Bernardino National Forest.

Men went into rugged areas where heavy bulldozers could not operate to topple trees and clear out brush in building a three-mile long fire break between the blaze and the village of Wrightwood.

The hot spot was the unchecked flank facing the village, but firemen said the town was in no danger. Flames were about 2 1/2 miles away.

About 75 per cent of the fire was contained.

One cabin has been destroyed in the blaze which erupted Tuesday. There have been no injuries. Cause of the fire was under investigation.

Girl Scouts To Test Camping

Bend—(UPI)—Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from the United States and seven countries will begin a two-weeks experiment in wilderness camping Thursday near Bend.

The 116 campers, all between 16 and 18, will rely primarily on natural resources for their programs, and will use only basic tools and equipment.

The encampment—described as the most primitive ever sponsored by Girl Scouts of the United States—will be held in the Three Sisters Wilderness area in the Deschutes National Forest. Fifteen adults will accompany the campers.

During the camping experiment, patrols of eight girls will camp apart from the base camp for four or five-day periods. Adults will remain at the base camp, located on Todd Lake 25 miles from Bend.

Medaris To Head Toy Train Firm

New York—(UPI)—Maj. Gen. John B. Medaris, the boss of the Army's missile program from 1955 until his retirement early this year, has been elected president of the Lionel Corp., manufacturers of toy trains.

At a news conference Wednesday Medaris said he would give special attention to the company's electronics and research fields.

In addition to manufacturing electric trains and sporting equipment Lionel manufactures explosive switches for use in connection with rockets, missiles, bombs and mines.

ESTABLISH RED EMBASSY

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