

# Proposed Wheat Sale to Russia Spells Money to U.S. Farmers

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MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., (UPI)  
— Picture a freight train loaded with wheat stretching almost from New York to Chicago. Imagine one sale involving more wheat than the entire wheat-producing state of North Dakota turns out in a year. Reflect on placing possibly up to \$500 more in the hands of a typical North Central wheat grower.

which has its origins among the wheat shippers of Minneapolis-St. Paul. The \$380 million deal has not yet been completed because American government policy so far has discouraged sales to unfriendly countries. Hagglings continued over price and there were warnings that the Russians might be short of the gold and cash needed to pay for the grain. **Figure The Take** While negotiations continued, wheat men figured the take. One twin cities association figured that a 200 million bushel

sale could possibly boost the price of wheat by about 20 cents a bushel. For an average farm in the heavy wheat-growing area of Northeast North Dakota, for example, the farmer would have about 2,500 bushels of wheat to sell on the basis of 24 bushels to an acre. A 20 cent per bushel price increase would give him an extra \$500. Spread out over many farmers, the deal could give agricultural states a big boost. The sale would also be an economic shot in the arm to other

segments of the economy. For example, the grain would have to be shipped from the collection points to the ports and then to the soviet union. **Tops State Crop** If one railroad train were used to pull the wheat to a port, it would stretch 776 miles nearly the distance from New York to Chicago. An average 40-foot box car can hold about 2,000 bushels of wheat. For 200 million bushels, about 100,000 freight cars would be needed. Two hundred million bushels is more than the entire state of

North Dakota, one of the leading wheat producers, will grow this year. The state's wheat production is estimated at 1.37 million bushels. Price was a big barrier in the negotiations. If the government granted the export license to sell wheat at world prices, about \$1.90 a bushel, then American taxpayers would be paying the growers a subsidy of possibly up to 50 cents a bushel. That's the difference between the world market price and the price in this country. Russia has admitted a short-

age of wheat. Russians are bread eaters, consuming about four times as much per person as the average American. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has asked his people to use bread carefully. He told them that bad weather had led to a poor crop of wheat this year. **1958 Crop Recalled** American agriculture experts believe the soviet union has not had a really good wheat crop since the bumper year of 1958. As a result, the reserve supplies built up in 1958 have steadily dwindled, and this year's poor

crop finished off surplus stocks. Selling wheat to the Russians, pro-sale men argued, could make money for U. S. farmers and at the same time give Soviet agriculture a black eye. The United States has a surplus of wheat, presently estimated at about 1.2 billion bushels. Wheat men said this is not staggering, since it represents only about one year's supply. Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman estimates this year's crop of wheat at 1.1 billion bushels, or about 200 million bushels less than domestic and inter-

national demand. As a result, Freeman has estimated America's surplus will decline to about an even 1 billion bushels. **Private Sale Favored** Despite the surplus, exporters were nearly unanimous in feeling that any wheat sold to the Soviet Union should come from current production and not from government-owned stocks. They said a private sale would help boost the price for wheat in this country and thus help the farmer. How did the negotiations get started?

Burton Joseph, head of the I. S. Joseph Co. feed supplement firm in Minneapolis, said his firm made initial contact with the Russians in Ottawa and set up the talks. Joseph called together several other grain firms and formed an association to handle the sale of the wheat. But, several major companies, including a pair of giants in the business — Cargill and Continental — announced they would not take part in negotiations because the U. S. government had not granted its approval. The fee he also ran into for acting as broker for the sale. He said any money he would collect would be turned over to the government since a fee "might be misunderstood because of my wife's position in the party."

Mrs. Joseph in Politics Mrs. Joseph is the Democratic Committeewoman from Minnesota. Other grain merchants wanted the government to stay out of the transaction. One spokesman for this group said that when the farmers turned down the administration's wheat program last spring, government agricultural policy makers said they would have to depend on sales in the free market. "It would be very unfair for the government to take away one part of the open market by denying farmers the right to sell wheat to the Soviet Union," he said. Politics couldn't be overlooked in the wheat deal. M. W. Thatcher, general manager of Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association, predicted recently that the 1964 farm vote would be "blown into a cocked hat" in next year's presidential election. Three strong farm states—Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri — went for Kennedy in 1960. They could be pivotal next year.

OSU Professor Points To Adult Sexual Deception NEW YORK (UPI) — An Oregon State University professor said Wednesday adults "indulge in the comfortable deception" that sexual misbehavior is primarily a problem affecting America's youth. Dr. Lester A. Kirkendall, professor of family life at the university, said the traditional sexual ethic based on "fear of negative consequences" is outdated among young people because "youth simply does not scare any more."

Addressing the annual meeting of the Planned Parenthood World Population Organization here, Kirkendall declared that the "major irresponsibility" in sexual misbehavior should be held by adults. Minor Hypocrisies "The confusion of youth is only a mirror of the hypocrisies of the older generation and its studied refusal to acknowledge that a problem... exists," he said. He called for a new code of sexual responsibility, bringing sex into a "meaningful, purposeful pattern of individual and social living."

Kirkendall said that certain films dealing with sex should be discussed by church groups which, instead, have banded together in efforts to prohibit them from exhibition. After seeing the movie in question, he said, the groups should have "a searching discussion about the quality and nature of the relationships and the nature and place of sex as was portrayed in the film and as they exist in actual life. "But our irresponsible attitudes toward sex would not permit this," Kirkendall said.

Wheat Sale May Cost Taxpayers SPOKANE (UPI) — Sales of wheat to Russia may prove most costly to the American taxpayer-consumer than a lot of them realize, a grain official said today. Merrill D. Sather, executive secretary of the Pacific Northwest Grain Dealers Association, said Canadian and proposed American wheat sales to Russia already have pushed the wheat market up. "For every cent per bushel the price of wheat in the United States goes up, the cost to the American consumer is about \$15.5 - million," Sather said. "It will take only a two-cent average increase over the crop year to offset the \$30-million which the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates will be saved in a year in storage costs by reducing our surplus by 150 million bushels," he said. Sather explained the increased costs would result from higher subsidy payments on the wheat we export and higher prices on the wheat we use domestically.

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