

HOOVER SEES FURTHER FOOD SUPPLY DROP

NEW YORK, June 9 (AP)—Predicting that American cities will have less food next year, Herbert Hoover advocates a nine-point war food program calling for reorganization of the country's food control system with the secretary of agriculture as administrator.

The former president, who was World War I food administrator, said last night that his program offered the "only one course which will clear up this muddle of uncontrolled food prices, local famines, profiteering, black markets and stifled farm production."

Speaking before the American Farm Bureau Federation, he declared that "We will not starve" but if the European war ended within a year, America would have "no consequential food supplies with which to meet three or four hundred millions of starving people."

"Remedy for the 1943 harvest year is now too late, as the planting is mostly done," he said. "We must begin to build up the harvest of a year from now. We still have time to redeem the situation."

Program Given
His program included: Consolidation of authority over food production and distribution under "one single responsible administrator" who, he said, should be the secretary of agriculture; decentralization of work under state, municipal and county administrators; increased farm manpower; machinery and the planting of "40 or 50 million more acres in 1944."

Abolition of retail and wholesale price ceilings so that price fixing would begin "as near as possible to the farmer"; simplification of rationing by "decreasing the number and variety of articles rationed," avoidance of subsidies which, he called "delayed aggravation" which would not stop inflation, and establishment of a farmers' war price committee and abandonment of "so-called parities."

One-Man Job
Hoover said that the first necessity in his program was to consolidate all food authority in one man.

"There are too many cooks for too little food," he said. "Control of food is now divided nine ways over the department of agriculture, the OPA, the lend-lease, the board of economic warfare, the army, the navy, the manpower commission and the WPB."

"The recent addition of the ninth wheel, even through so able a man as Chester Davis, does not make a food administration."

Hoover said the present system of price ceilings begins at the wrong end, and that price-fixing in a great food-producing country like the United States should "begin as nearly as possible to the farmer," with controls proceeding from there on by regulation of the trades against profiteering, as was done in World War I.

"The present price system is stifling farm production," he said. "It is not stopping inflation."

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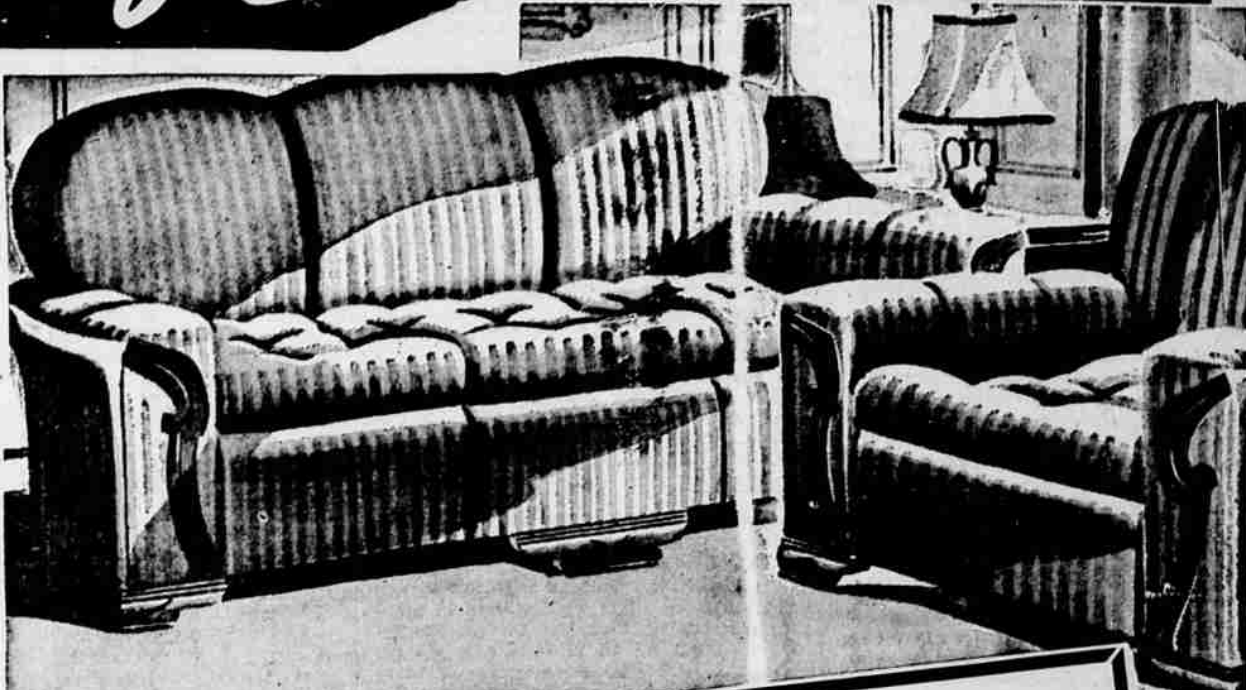
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