

# Farmer in Middle As Brannan Plan Battled

By OVID A. MARTIN  
AF Farm Reporter

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP)—The farmer—angry over future prices and crop adjustment problems—today finds himself caught in the middle of a bitter struggle.

The conflict is between top-ranking government officials and powerful farm organizations, and involves two issues: (1) future government farm program, and (2) the question of who speaks for the farmer.

**Foes**

On the one side is Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, with strong administration support, and on the other are such farm organizations as the American Farm Bureau federation and the National Grange. Only one major farm organization—the National Farmers' union—is backing the secretary. A fourth—the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives—is expected to take sides against him at its January convention.

The battle may have far-reaching consequences for agriculture, because of the possibility that it may interfere with future congressional farm legislation.

This situation is in sharp contrast to the relatively peaceful relations existing between government labor officials and labor organizations. In general, both have the same ideas as to government policies toward organized labor.

Caught in the middle along with farmers is congress. Naturally anxious to pass legislation desired by farmers, the lawmakers will be at a loss as to which side to listen to—Brannan or the farm organizations which oppose him.

A basic difference between the secretary and his foes is the so-

called Brannan farm program. In general, the Brannan plan would support farm prices at higher levels than would the farm groups that oppose him. But, the plan would permit lower consumer prices for perishables than would the farm groups.

The secretary would use government payments to achieve the dual and apparent conflicting goals of high farm returns and low food prices. Opposing farm groups argue that the farmer is entitled to his full return at the market place.

Both the Farm Bureau federation and the National Grange adopted strong resolutions against the Brannan plan at recent conventions. Differences in views played a part in decision of farm bureau officials not to invite Brannan to its meeting. The action brought a charge from Brannan that the organization was "undemocratic." The federation reported that farmers did not need a "federal appointee" to tell them what to do.

**Who's Right?**

Perhaps as important as differences over the farm policies in the struggle is the question of who has the right to speak for farmers on problems involving their welfare.

Farm bureau officials have charged that the administration is attempting to set up the agriculture department's farmer-committee system as a competitor organization to the private farm organizations. This system was established in the early New Deal days to help administer farm programs.

Brannan and his predecessors have encouraged the farmer-committees to pass on to them ideas and desires of farmers. Each year the committees hold an annual meeting similar to those of the farm organizations to discuss problems.

At the moment, the Brannan foes appear to have the better of the situation. In power is a congress which at its last session turned thumbs down on the Brannan plan and passed legislation more in line with views of his opponents.

**In Congress**

The struggle is most likely to bob up at the coming session of congress. But it may not come to a final head until next year's congressional elections, or perhaps not until after the presidential election of 1952. President Truman has indicated he will seek eventual election of a congress committee to the Brannan proposals.

In the meantime, there is likely to be plenty of debate over declining farm prices—and responsibility for such declines.

Brannan has made clear that if prices drop to levels which bring sharp farm complaints, he will attempt to pin blame on the opposing farm organizations.

On the other hand, his critics would try to put responsibility on him on the grounds that he did not do a good enough job administratively.

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## Panhandler Works Congressmen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP)—House members are on the lookout for a panhandler who claims to be a bulldozer operator.

The man called at the office of Rep. Holmes (R-Wash) and said he needed three dollars to buy a bulldozer license so he could get a job on a Washington construction project.

He said he was from Holmes' congressional district. He got the three dollars.

Then he went to the office of a house member from Nebraska. The same story but a different congressional district. Another three dollars.

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**TRAFFIC DEATH**  
PORTLAND, Dec. 21 (AP)—Lon Carber, 69, Portland, was injured fatally yesterday when struck by a truck southwest of the city.

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## Film Fanfare

### Quotes Mirror Hollywood Minds at Work During '49

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 21 (AP)—What are the deathless quotes of the year in Hollywood?

Maybe some of these won't live into the second half-century, but they seemed out of the ordinary to me. Here are some of the bright, pointed or inane sayings that I have collected from the 1949 news:

**Robert Mitchum**, commenting on his sentence at the county detention farm: "It's an experience every taxpayer should go through."

**Laurence Olivier**, after winning the academy award: "I always did say Shakespeare was a good script writer."

**Actor Paul Valentine**, divorcing Strip Teaser Lili St. Cyr: "Everybody in the country could see more of her than I did."

**Fred Allen**, on the FCC ban on giveaway air shows: "They have taken radio back from the scaven-

gers and given it back to the entertainers."

**Milton Berle**, answering an attack on him by Allen: "Allen still has the first penny ever thrown at him."

**James Mason**, "Hollywood is filled with frustrations, but not uninhabitable."

**Claudette Colbert**, disapproving French bathing suits: "Of the many features of a woman's anatomy, one of the least attractive is the navel."

**Mae West**: "I'm still looking for the right man. My trouble is I find so many right ones it's hard to decide."

**Clifton Webb**: "There's no use pretending I'm a modest fellow... some day I shall write a song called 'I Fascinate Me.'"

**David Niven**, on the end of his Goldwyn contract: "For the first time since I was 17 years old, I

am able to do what I want. During all that time, I either was in the British army or under contract to Goldwyn."

**Bette Davis**: "Hollywood tries to combine entertainment for both kids and adults in the same picture. The result is a movie which isn't suitable for either."

**Shelley Winters**, after returning from a blustery location: "I was so cold I almost got married."

**Linda Darnell**, decrying the "boyish look" in fashions: "Why can't women look like women and men look like men. That's what makes life more interesting."

**Jimmy Durante**, telling about rubbing elbows with socialites at the opera opening: "I had to rub elbows—nobody would shake hands with me."

**Bob Thomas**, to his readers: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

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**CONFESSES**—Robert Stewart Cox, 41 (above), walked into the Los Angeles sheriff's office, and for the second time in a year, confessed to the Black Dahlia slaying. Cox, an unordained minister, was turned over to the Homicide Division, who said he would be booked on suspicion of murder.

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