

House Ag Committee To Be In Pendleton November 4

PENDELTON — (Special)—The S. House Committee on Agriculture will want to know what farmers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho think about present farm programs and what suggestions they have for improving farm policy when the congressional group holds a hearing here Nov. 4, according to information from Congressman Clifford R. Hope, committee chairman.

The session, to start at 10 a.m. at the Vert Auditorium, is one of a series of hearings being conducted by the committee as part of a nationwide study to determine what long-range agricultural policy farmers want.

Persons wishing to testify at the meeting should notify Oren Allison, secretary of the Pendleton chamber of commerce, who is chairman of the arrangements committee.

Allison said a meeting of the Pacific Northwest Farm Council, made up of heads of a number of farm organizations, has been scheduled for Nov. 3, the day before the committee hearing, for a preliminary discussion of Northwest farm policy.

Included in this organization are the Farm Bureau, Grange, Farmers Union, and commodity organizations of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The committee comes to the Far West after hearings in New England, the Southwest and the Midwest.

Purpose of the trip is described by Chairman Hope as twofold:

"First," he said, "we want to hear directly from farmers themselves what they think about the present and future of agriculture in America—their problems, their hopes, their criticisms and their ideas. We want to know how they feel about our present farm programs and to get from them their own ideas and proposals for improvements in these programs or solutions to the many problems of agriculture."

"Second, we want to give all the chance to get acquainted with farmers in every part of the nation. The committee deals with agriculture throughout the country and it is important that Congressman from one part of the country have the kind of intimate knowledge of agriculture in other areas that can come only from being in those areas, talking individually to farmers themselves and getting out into the fields to see personally the conditions and problems of local farming."

Hope said he believes all persons who have studied the problems agree that agricultural prices must be stabilized at levels that will allow farmers a fair share of the national income, and that "the job before us now is to adjust the farm program to the changing times with farmers themselves taking a larger part in the preparing and running of this program in the future."

He said he would like for farmers to give the committee their answers to questions like these:

1. Is there a way to support storable commodities at 90 per

- cent of the parity price without acreage allotments and marketing quotas?
2. Would a flexible price support program, ranging between 75 and 90 per cent of parity, adjust production and require less controls over the operations of farmers? Or do farmers prefer rigid supports at 90 per cent even if a lower level would mean less controls?
3. Or would producers of such storable commodities as wheat and cotton prefer to try a two-price system that would avoid restriction on production? Under such a system that part of the crop consumed in this country would get support prices based on parity and the exported part would go at the lower world prices.
4. Of the perishable farm commodities, only dairy products now are subject to mandatory price supports. In view of the difficulties of stabilizing supplies of perishable products such as fruits, vegetables and animal products, should the government attempt any other price stabilization program in this field? How can the program for the dairy industry be improved?
5. What are the cattlemen's ideas for long-range stabilization of prices for the livestock industry?
6. A large factor in the decline of farm prices has been the falling off of export of wheat, cotton, tobacco and other products. Major adjustments must be made in the production of several important crops unless export markets are expanded. What changes, if any, should be made in our foreign trade programs?
7. Congress is intensely interested in soil conservation and flood prevention. The need for better integration of all soil and water conservation activities is generally recognized. What is the best approach to this problem? What part should government payments for conservation practices play? Would government-insured loans by banks and other private lending
8. What do farmers think of federal all-risk crop insurance, now operating on an experimental basis in about 1,000 counties? Are they willing to pay for this insurance and do they want this program expanded?
9. Do farmers have adequate sources of credit, on satisfactory terms?
10. Should we encourage more research to find new uses for farm products? How much would expanded marketing research help in bringing about better prices?

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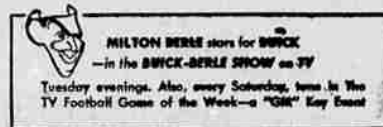
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