

Benson Faces Dilemma Over Huge U. S. Butter Surplus

By OVID A. MARTIN
AP Farm Reporter

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Benson is seeking to avoid if at all possible the use of taxpayers' money to buy back markets butter has lost to lower priced margarine and other competitive food products.

But whether he will be able to do this is a big question being posed in farm circles. Working against him is a threat of spoilage of big government surpluses.

Late in the winter, Benson announced with some enthusiasm that he would put the government's big stocks of butter on bargain counters. This butter—about 369 million pounds of it—was a part of the dairy industry's production

that consumers would not buy, at least not at the prices set under the government's price support program. These prices were about three times the price of margarine.

Weeks, and finally months, went by and the secretary kept postponing his cut-price program.

Then came his recent announcement that the whole thing was off. He said he had changed his mind because it would cost the government too much to sell the butter to consumers at reduced prices, and because, in his opinion, such a program would not solve the problem of "too much" butter in the future.

SUBSIDY PROGRAM
The secretary came to the con-

clusion there was danger that what might be billed as a "temporary" program for disposal of a current butter surplus might develop into a permanent subsidy program under which butter would be sold to consumers below cost. The government would make up the difference to producers.

Benson's evident fear was founded partly on the fact that current production is so far in excess of consumer buying that it might take a year to 18 months to work the government out of the surplus business.

Benson said there was real danger that a disposal plan could result in the government buying and selling all the butter produced in the United States—buying it at the

price difference. Again production of butter would be in excess of demand. The extra butter would move into government hands again and the government would soon find itself back where it started. Soon it would have to start a new disposal plan.

There was also the possibility—and Benson undoubtedly thought of this—that consumers and producers, having enjoyed the benefits of the subsidized price, would protest against its being ended.

Benson contends the dairy industry should make greater efforts

to sell more fluid milk. Should the government get into the business of subsidizing butter consumption, there would be little incentive to sell the surplus as milk instead of in the form of butter.

SCHOOL PROGRAM
Benson's ability to avoid a butter subsidy program will rest largely on the success of his efforts to sell the government surplus butter abroad and to move it into such noncommercial domestic uses as the school program, public institutions and relief distribution.

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"YOU CAN'T SELL old newspapers at a rummage sale!" maintains Don Boyd, (left) but Terry Hannon insists you can try — and try they will — to sell everything from rags to riches at the DeMolay rummage sale Saturday, June 12, in the Masonic Hall. Money from the sale will help defray expenses of sending officers to the state convocation. Late spring housecleaners, or anyone who has rummage for sale, may have it picked up and used in the sale by contacting Don Boyd at 9827; Terry Hannon, 7953; Rod Buskirk, 3380.

New US Road Building Era Looms

By ARTHUR MERIMS
(For Sam Dawson)

NEW YORK (AP)—Some call it "turpentine fever." Others, "toll roaditis." Symptoms vary, but the malady is highly contagious. It quickens the pulse of investment bankers, lawmakers and state highway officials and produces a rash of public demands for better roads.

So far, there is only one known cure—float a huge bond issue and begin constructing a multilane speedway of the future, with toll booths at appropriate intervals.

Tomorrow, Kentucky will auction 20½ million dollars of turnpike revenue bonds to finance a 40-mile toll road from Louisville to Elizabethtown. On June 16, the New York State Thruway Authority will come to market with 300 million dollars of similar obligations, second part of a financing venture to build a 427-mile toll road from New York City to Buffalo.

But this is only a sampling. Financial circles around Wall Street, the men whose job it is to raise money for these projects, are convinced that America is just on the verge of a new road-building era. Coupled with this conviction is the foreboding question—will land traffic financially support all the new toll roads?

There are only 840 miles of toll roads in operation in the United States, costing about 674 million dollars. That's not impressive when matched with the 37,000 miles in the U. S. highway system.

But more than a thousand miles of similar thruways are already under construction at a cost of more than a billion and a half dollars. And 5,000 additional miles of toll highways have either been authorized or proposed at a projected cost of nearly six billion dollars.

Newest speedway is slated to open Aug. 1. It's the West Virginia turnpike, an 80-mile strip through rugged mountains, it took 123 million dollars of bonds to build.

The need for superhighways becomes apparent when one realizes that 15 per cent of the nation's traffic passes over less than 1 per cent of the highways.

Vacation Bible School Planned

MALIN — Vacation Bible School will start at the Malin Community Church, Monday June 7 at 9 a.m. Classes will be from 9 to 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Children between the ages of 4 and the tenth grade of high school are invited to attend. This also includes those who were in the 9th grade before the close of school.

Bible school includes two weeks packed full of fun and worthwhile activities. For all ages there will be crafts, stories, new songs, recreation, talent sharing, a picnic and surprises.

Children under school age but 4 years or older will do easel painting, finger painting, and clay work, building with blocks, playing in the housekeeping center and enjoying picture books.

Children who were in grades 1 to 3 before the close of school, will do cutting, pasting, spatter painting, plaster of paris modeling, etc.

Those of grades 4 to 6 will be doing woodwork, for the boys, and needlework for girls in addition to other activities, including making an international clock.

Youths of grades 7 to 9 will be doing metalcraft, woodwork, and needlecraft.

There is no charge for attending or supplies. Those wishing to contribute to the school will be given an opportunity to do so at the program, which will be held on the last night of Bible school, June 18.

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CLASSES CLOSE: Thursday, July 15.

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