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## Oregon Farm Bureau Winds Up Membership Study Meet; Shy Over Tax-Paid Programs

The mid-summer resolutions conference of the Oregon Farm Bureau finished discussion on proposed resolutions for membership study at Bend, August 1. Results of the organization's study committees showed a general scepticism for government programs involving use of tax money and proposed increases in taxes.

The committee on transportation suggested the following change in the present Farm Bureau stand on the highway use tax. "Although the matching funds program for highway construction proposed by the federal government sounds attractive, we feel that it would be inequitable to increase the gas tax or use tax to raise additional money. We feel that there is a possible source of money available if our highway department was streamlined or made more efficient."

One committee member voiced the tenure of the meeting when he said, "It doesn't seem right to ask the public to finance increased costs in highway construction while a small segment of the people are raising the price of highway construction." The referral of the small segment was directed at the construction strike now in progress in Oregon.

The committee on farm labor voiced concern over the migrant labor problem in Oregon and the distortion of facts on the problem as portrayed in recent news stories. The state department of labor was also criticized for the manner in which recent surveys have been conducted. It was the consensus of the committee that farmers should be on investigating committees surveying the migrant problem in Oregon and that survey teams should receive the farmer's permission before interviewing employees on the farmer's private property. The farm labor committee reaffirmed previous resolutions in regard to health insurance for employees with the premium to be paid by employees. They also recommended that farmers carry farm comprehensive and employers liability for employees.

Oregon commodity commissions figured strongly in the commodity actions of the mid-summer Farm Bureau conference. The committee strongly recommended that Oregon Commodity Commission members be elected by the commodity producers and that terms of office be staggered with a definite limit

on the tenure of office. To facilitate elections by producers the committee recommended that a nominating committee be appointed from the parent association or associations to select nominees who are representative producers of the commodity concerned; that at least two men from each district or producing area be nominated and that producers vote only on nominees in their own district. The committee also recommended retention of the requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to form a commission.

A total of 150 farmers and 30 Oregon counties attended the mid-summer parley. The committees met to study and recommend action for membership study prior to the center and county policy making meetings this fall. Final resolutions on the many subjects discussed will be taken to the annual meeting by county voting delegates in November.

### Radioactive Water Used To Irrigate Strawberries

PEVERAGNO, Italy (UPI) — Radioactive water that is unfit to drink is growing strawberries as big as tomatoes in this northern Italian town. Two of Peveragno's strawberries weighed close to one pound.

Peveragno claims that its strawberries are so big because of highly radioactive water in the district. The water comes from a small river about two miles away and passes through the heart of a uranium lode by means of man-made tunnels.

It was only after the tunnels had been completed that experts discovered the high radioactive content of the water. Health authorities at once stopped domestic usage, but allowed the water to be used for irrigating the Peveragno strawberry beds.

The strawberries thrive on it and authorities saw no danger to health because the radioactivity disappears 48 hours after passing through the uranium.

New Zealand is encouraging farmers to grow more wheat. The idea is to grow more wheat domestically and thereby conserve foreign exchange reserves by importing less.

## Weed Control System Found

Controlling the weeds that grow alongside roads has been a tedious job—up until now.

A new method of killing roadside weeds by the use of oil-based chemical sprays is catching on fast, and hopes are high that before too long most of our roads will be as handsome and weed-free as parkways.

Naturally, appearance is important. But it isn't the only consideration in keeping road edges clear: Up to nine per cent of all traffic accidents are caused directly or indirectly by the weeds and brush that create blind corners and other visibility hazards. In areas where chemical weeding has been

used, the number of such accidents has dropped significantly.

Hay-fever sufferers will benefit too. Most of the ragweed responsible for this miserable ailment grows by our roadsides and plagues nearby residents and motorists alike.

Scientific weeding is done by specially-constructed trucks, equipped with low-pressure sprays which saturate the road-edge with oil-derived weed-killer. Farmers can grow their crops right along the roads without fear of damage from the spray. And there are fewer weeds on the farm when the roadside is clean of seed-bearing pests.

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