

California's Farm Work Element Gets Brown's Aid

United Press International
Gov. Edmund Brown is putting the squeeze on to help California's farm workers . . . and he may be able to do quite a lot for them.

Talking about the defeat of his minimum wage bill, Brown said he would not try to revive it this session but he would try again in

the future for a minimum wage for farm workers.

Then he said, "We will be able to make some improvements in the farm labor situation by executive action in the Department of Employment."

Asked if he could get more money for farm workers, Brown said, "No, but there are ways and means of doing it with respect to migratory labor and local labor."

Brown and State Director of Employment John Carr have had a number of conferences since then. Carr says something indeed can be done for farm workers . . . perhaps even to getting them more in wages.

Carr says . . . as a result of the meetings with Brown . . . that the lot of the farm workers can be improved in four fields . . . wages, housing, transportation and recruitment.

Carr and his assistants say that under the complicated federal formula for setting the so-called prevailing rate of pay, the state has some leeway. Sometimes this may be five to 10 cents.

Carr says his department is tending to set the prevailing rate of pay at the highest possible level. He says this tends to drag farm wages upwards a few cents.

Carr is quick to point out that California ranchers are not required to pay the prevailing rate for farm workers. But at times a rancher asks what the rate is and pays his help at that level.

What the prevailing rate set by the state affects most acutely, however, is the wages of Mexican Nationals. If no domestic workers are available and Mexican Nationals are granted to a rancher, he is required by law to pay them the prevailing wage.

Carr says his department has no control over farm worker housing, but on transportation, a move is underway to step up day hauling of workers from populated areas to the ranches and back.

Research To Up Yield Of Drug Plants

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — An Oregon State College pharmacy professor is seeking a way to increase the yield of drugs from medicinal plants used for ulcer treatment and eye diagnosis.

For the past two years, Dr. Leo Scicchetti, has applied gibberellic acid to two valuable pharmaceutical plants, *Datura stramonium* and *Atropa belladonna*. Gibberellic acid speeds the growth of plants.

Stramonium and *belladonna* yield atropine, a drug used for treatment of ulcers and diarrhea. Atropine is also used as a nerve gas antidote. In addition, *stramonium* yields hyoscyne which has some of the actions of atropine. Hyoscyne is used as a tranquilizer, motion-sickness drug, and eye dilator.

In both plants, the gibberellic acid caused elongation of the stems. The gibberellic acid was applied to the leaves in various concentrations. Results were both increases and decreases in the drug yields, depending on the concentration of gibberellic acid used.

The OSC School of Pharmacy is one of the pioneers in medicinal plant research. *Stramonium* is gathered wild in the Midwest and Eastern Seaboard. *Belladonna* comes mostly from the Balkan countries, Yugoslavia and a few Pennsylvania farms.

The OSC pharmacists plan to continue the gibberellic studies, hoping to find a concentration which will increase drug yields. Gordon M. Smith, now a Grants Pass pharmacist, assisted Dr. Scicchetti in the original research.

Paper Mill Mechanized

NORWALK, Conn. (UPI)—What probably is the world's smallest paper mill—with a working force of one man—has now been fully mechanized.

Rudolph Bozak, president of the R. T. Bozak Co., which designs and builds loudspeakers for stereophonic and hi-fi systems, operates the mill in a corner of his factory. He makes his own paper for the speaker cones.

Developed by his organization, the new machine lifts the paper to the mold that shapes the cones. Pulp, water and the other necessary ingredients are mixed in a metal trough with a rotary beater that looks like the paddle on an old sternwheeler. Chemicals and a black dye are then added to the mixture. Baking and drying completes the process.

Although the paper mill is fully mechanized, its sole employee isn't out of work. He runs the new machine.

How To Raise A Boy Into His Manhood

CHICAGO (UPI)—A veteran "foster father" has come up with five rules for guiding a boy to responsible manhood.

Cal Farley, whose 20-year-old Boys Ranch at Amarillo, Tex., has 1,500 graduates said the rules are "deceptively simple," and therefore easy to overlook.

Writing in "Today's Health," an American Medical Association publication, Farley said:

—Teach the boy to obey. A boy's own rules turn out to be no rules at all.

—Take time to be a boy's companion.

—Be specific with the boy. Uncertainty in youth leaves the door open for lifelong doubt and conflict.

—Give the boy responsibility. Let him learn early how to be part of a team.

—Love the boy. Show him that love is a kind of mutual respect, reflecting itself in one's conduct.

County Agent Reports Farm News Briefed From The County Agent Radio Programs

By WALT JENDRZEJEWSKI

Chemical seed treatments for potatoes are aimed at destruction of fungi and bacteria on the surface of tubers. These include scab, rhizoctonia and ring rot. Dips are not effective against nematode and are of no value in controlling verticillium wilt which is a soil-borne fungus.

Dips for cut seed are aimed at reducing seed piece rot by preventing entry of rot organisms.

Under proper conditions, potatoes are capable of making their own protection by forming a layer of cork cells over cut surfaces. Undipped cut seed held at 55 to 65 degree temperatures and high humidity will cork over naturally. Favorable conditions of temperature and moisture and aeration are often found in the field and freshly cut seed planted in such soil conditions corks over in the soil.

Failure to cork over results in seed piece rot. Seed piece rot occurs most frequently in cold-wet or hot-dry soil. Rapid drying of cut surfaces does not permit cork cell formation and gives no protection against rot. Truck loads of cut seed exposed to hot sun and drying winds may be protected with tarps.

A 90-minute soak in 1 to 1,000 mercuric chloride solution is one of the best methods of disinfecting whole seed. The dip is made by adding 4 ounces of mercuric chloride to 30 gallons of water. A potassium iodide test solution can be used to check strength of dip. Mercuric chloride is very poisonous.

Acidulated mercury is a very good disinfectant sometimes used on cut seed but is rather tricky because poor stands can result unless dipping is properly done and seed is planted very soon after dipping. Not recommended.

Semesan Bel at 1 pound per 10 gallons of water is a good disinfectant for cut seed. It kills bacteria as well as fungi and gives considerable protection against blackleg and ring rot. Seed should be planted as soon as possible after cutting and dipping. Dipped cut seed deteriorates sharply with storage.

Phygon is a popular dip for cut seed because the dipped seed can be held for an extended period of time. Phygon is very effective in preventing seed piece rot. It is a good fungicide but gives no protection against ring rot. Phygon should not be used on any seed lot if any ring rot infection is present. Phygon is used at 1 pound per 10 gallons of water.

Antibiotics, agrimycin and other brands are mixtures of streptomycin and terramycin. They are recommended as an additive to Phygon for the purpose of destroying ring rot and blackleg bacteria. Use of agrimycin at 200 parts per million (two 94 ounce bottles per 100 gallons of dip) is reported to reduce incidence of blackleg as well as guard against the dip becoming an inoculant suspension of ring rot bacteria.

Con Thanks Stern Judge

WICHITA, Kansas (UPI)—Robert Forre, 18, who is serving a robbery sentence of from 10 to 21 years at the Kansas State Reformatory in Hutchinson, has written a letter of appreciation to the man who sent him there.

Forre told district judge Clement Clark, who sentenced him:

"I wish to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to make something of myself. I am sorry now that you didn't send me here when I first came to court. I truly feel now I would have been better off if you had."

"I am sure you don't get many letters thanking you for sending people up, but I would like for you to know how I feel about it. I really feel this is the best thing that ever happened to me. I know I will handle my life a lot different after I get out."

We are not beating the seed disinfection drum for the average commercial potato grower. Seed disinfection is a standard recommendation for seed growers. Some dip whole seed in mercuric chloride as a general disinfection practice and use either Semesan Bel or Phygon plus antibiotics as well.

Semesan Bel is particularly suited to use in the Warren unit planter which cuts, dips and plants potatoes in units in one operation.

Phygon is more adapted to use with cutting table or cutting machine operations.

British Alter Law About Mental Health

LONDON (UPI)—The British government has moved to end the age-old fear of mental patients that they may be locked up for life.

It also has taken steps to erase the stigma from mental illness by abolishing official use of the terms "imbecile" and "idiot."

These are two major provisions of a new mental health bill prepared by the government. It has been described as the most sweeping revamping of Britain's mental legislation in more than a century.

Henceforth, mental patients will be able to obtain as much treatment as possible, both inside and outside of the hospital, on a voluntary basis.

The bill also will make it more difficult to compel anyone to be held as a mental patient.

The main provisions of the bill follow recommendations made by a royal commission set up to study mental health legislation in this country. The commission presented its report last May.

Under the bill, no one can be detained for mental reasons without an application signed by two physicians, one of whom must be a psychiatrist. Previously a certificate from one doctor was sufficient.

Special mental hospitals will be abolished. In the future, mental patients will be treated in psychiatric wards of ordinary hospitals.

The Board of Control, which at present hears all applications for release from mental hospitals, will be abolished. It will be replaced by 15 mental health review tribunals.

All mental patients will have the right to appeal to their local tribunal within six months after being detained. No mental patient can be held for more than three years at a time without his case being reviewed by one of the tribunals. The present period is five years.

The bill was expected to go through Parliament without much trouble, although there may be a long, close look at the changes in procedure for compulsory admission to mental wards.

The new legislation has been hailed by two members of Parliament who have headed parliamentary agitation for a thorough revamping of Britain's antiquated mental laws — Conservative Dr. Donald Johnson and Laborite Norman Dods. They said it could mark "the beginning of a new era in mental health."

The bill also was welcomed warmly by the British press. The conservative Daily Mail said it "ranks among the really great pieces of legislation." The conservative Daily Express described it as "the most sweeping in its field for a century."

However, there has been one note of caution. It was expressed by the liberal Manchester Guardian when it said the large number of releases of mental patients likely under the bill would throw a "munity services."

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