



# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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"MIGHTY MAC" — Michigan's famed five-mile Mackinac Bridge, symbol of summer travel and a growing tourist industry. Farm Bureau members join those who feel that present bridge tolls are excessive and that ways should be found to make the bridge avail-

able at lower cost. They were disappointed when a bill to do this failed to receive support in Senate Committee, and continue to urge action by the Legislature to provide a bridge refinance plan.

—Michigan Tourist Council Photo

## Board Votes Expanded Program

In historic action taken May 11 at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau voted to endorse a greatly expanded and strengthened Farm Bureau program.

To add emphasis to their action, the board moved to call a special delegate meeting for the purpose of considering such program expansion and necessary financing to carry it out.

Earlier, the board had received and accepted the official report of the "State Relationship Committee" which had been charged last November by Farm Bureau voting delegates to continue their year-long study of Farm Bureau finance and program structure.

At the time the delegate body asked that the committee make specific recommendations "to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors and membership" on adequate financing and program expansion.

In its prolonged study, the Re-

lationship Committee examined present Farm Bureau programs and compared them with needs reported by local members in a series of county and multi-county Farm Bureau meetings held in all parts of the state during March and April.

Hundreds of suggestions for program expansion were listed in the county reports, with such practical advice offered as, "Farm Bureau must change and grow, and must be adequately financed to do more."

The committee emphasized the need for study into different methods by which Farm Bureau can serve members through such economic services as legal advice, tax and management analysis.

Recommending an adequate dues structure to finance the proposed program expansion, the committee took into consideration a forthcoming 50¢ per member increase in American Farm Bureau membership dues.

In accepting the State Relation-

ship Committee report, the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors also accepted the recommendation that present dues be increased by eight additional dollars per year, three to be reserved for County Farm Bureau use; further, that a special meeting of the voting delegate body be called to consider these actions.

To be held in the Fairchild Theatre, M.S.U., East Lansing, this special meeting has been called for Monday, August 16, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Attending will be nearly 700 county leaders who make up the official House of Delegates of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Program advances to be considered at that time will include added services to County Farm Bureaus, strengthening the Community Group program, new moves in the fields of marketing, an enlarged legislative program and new methods of telling the story of agriculture to non-farmers.

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Appointment of the 1965 Michigan Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee has been announced by President Elton R. Smith. Following the pattern adopted two years ago by former President Walter Wightman, the appointments of new members are made for two years. Committee members serving the even-number districts were appointed in 1964 and will continue to serve in 1965.

Committee appointments made by President Smith include: Adolph Dongvillo, Jr., Berrien county, District 1; Dwain J. Dancer, Jackson county, District 2; W. Arthur Rowley, Macomb county, District 3; Gerald Waldeck, Kent county, District 4; Robert D. Zeeb, Clinton county, District 5; Alfred Goodall, Tuscola county, District 6; Lawrence Robison, Mecosta county, District 7; Harmon Williams, Arenac county, District 8; Louis Hayward, Kalkaska county, District 9; Eugene Fleming, Otsego county, District 10; and Charles Donaldson, Jr., Menominee county, District 11.

Representing Farm Bureau Women on the committee will be: Mrs. LaVern Kramer, Hillsdale county; Mrs. Jerold Topliff, Ingham county; and Mrs. William C. Lockhart, Chippewa county.

Raymond Kucharek, Chairman of the State Young People's Committee will represent young-farmer interests. Appointed to positions "At Large" are Dean Pridgeon, Eugene Roberts, and Donald Ruhlig, all members of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

ON THE INSIDE: Expanded Program  
Planned . . . Page 3

Capitol Report  
. . . Pages 4 and 5

Group Discussion  
Topic . . . Page 11

## Editorial

# On The Move . . .

*Farm Bureau is on the move in Michigan.*

At county-wide meetings in all parts of the state, busy, full-time farmers — with an eye to a future they intend to help mold — have been measuring Farm Bureau in terms of jobs they want done.

Their reports, made in "Farm Bureau of the Future" meetings, have been gathered, sorted and examined by a special statewide study committee which has been working for nearly two years, and now has made its official report to the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

That report, given in detail on the adjoining page, deserves the careful attention of every Michigan farmer. It represents many hours of time spent away from their farm homes by hard-working members of the "State Relationship Committee," made up of one Farm Bureau member from each of 11 districts, including the Upper Peninsula.

*It represents the best thinking of this group of farm leaders who had the difficult task of measuring Farm Bureau as it now exists in Michigan against the tasks they feel lie ahead for organized agriculture.*

In painstaking detail, committee members examined the structure and finances of the 71 County Farm Bureau organizations in our state. They made note of weaknesses and strengths in the Community Group program, which has been copied by many other states.

They heard reports of expanded programs and increased finances in other state Farm Bureau organizations. They compared service programs and facilities, and took special note of the responsibility Michigan farmers have in building and keeping strong a nationwide American Farm Bureau Federation.

*They examined the special problems farmers face in telling their story to a busy non-farm majority. They judged future needs against the background of legislative apportionment and a government geared more to the appeal of the majority.*

The list of past Farm Bureau accomplishments which they examined was so long that it threatened at times to blind the pathway to a future which will bring its own special needs in areas of Marketing, Legislation, Information and still unthought-of Economic Services.

Some suggested a new Farm Bureau labor recruiting program to help offset the loss of Bracero workers. Legal, tax, farm management, counseling, accounting, estate planning, county zoning, credit advice — these and many more new service areas were examined as possibilities for organized farmers.

"Why not retain more control of what we as farmers produce? Why not own and operate meat-packing facilities? — retail food store outlets? Why not handle more of the products we create instead of turning these over to others for processing and distribution?"

Some of the ideas suggested might be called "way out" by some, such as the suggestion for cooperative purchase of land for recreation, or a Farm Bureau "elevator" in Europe for grain storage and sale overseas.

Who is to judge which ideas are sound and will stand the test of time, or which ideas are the kind from which only dreams are made?

*Who, for example, could have foreseen the Farm Bureau Trade Development Corporation, or the Farm Bureau trade office at Rotterdam, The Netherlands? Who could have envisioned the tremendous growth of Farm Bureau co-operatives, or have guessed that the young Farm Bureau movement of a few years back would grow to include three out of every four organized farmers in the United States?*

Only people with vision. People with the kind of vision which built Farm Bureau in the first place 50 years ago.

People with vision reborn each generation, the kind of people who will now rise to the challenge of stretching the Michigan Farm Bureau into new shapes of the future.

M.W.



## Emblem Promotes Products

JUNE INDEED IS DAIRY MONTH.

The stylized flower-symbol of this fact is to be seen "growing" everywhere, on grocer's shelves, in dairy store windows, in restaurants and every other fertile ground for June dairy promotion.

The farmers can be proud of their part in planting the "seeds" from which it springs. The American Dairy Association has grown from an idea in the minds of dairymen to a successful nation-wide effort. June Dairy Month is just one of the promotions that has become part of the American scene.

A.D.A. has become a rallying point for the entire industry wherever dairy foods are sold and a constant reminder that farmers have come a long way since they first decided to disprove the old theory that "he travels farthest who travels alone."

By joining A.D.A. — and refusing to travel alone, dairymen have moved farther and faster than any other specialized group within agriculture. They have taught others an important lesson, that farmers themselves can be a positive force in promoting their own products — that the farmer's job does not necessarily stop at his farm gate.

Why indeed should farmers be only PRODUCERS?

Why have farmers allowed others to gain control of all other phases of the food industry except production, OFTEN THE LEAST LUCRATIVE END?

Should farmers not demand and retain the right to do more than produce, to process, transport, promote and retail their products if they so wish?

The American Dairy Association of Michigan and its counterparts in other states have shown how successful farmers can be in the promotion field. Is there any reason to think farmers would be any less successful in other areas if they set their minds to it?

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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## President's Column

# Control Authority

Farmers have talked a lot about what happened to wheat and feed grain prices during the last year. They were baffled. *Why should the Secretary of Agriculture dump wheat and feed grains on the market when prices were already near distress levels?*

In April, I attended the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Grain Cooperatives. At that meeting the Secretary gave his own answer to this question. I found it a bit shocking.

He was answering the Farm Bureau request that the Department of Agriculture be checked in this practice of dumping stocks on the open market to depress prices. Farm Bureau had asked Congress to limit this dumping of Commodity Credit Corporation stocks by raising the level for releasing them from 105% of the loan rate, to a range of 115% to 125%. *Farmers need that price protection!*

The Secretary's statement at that meeting indicated pretty clearly what he felt was the thing of main importance in his mind. It was not that farmers should be given an opportunity to make a fair income on what they produce. He felt that something else was more important!

*The Secretary's comment before the meeting was that he could not let prices go to 125% of the loan rate because, if he did, farmers would not sign up for his program. He repeated this idea in his testimony before the House Agriculture Committee regarding the 1965 wheat and feed grains bill.*

So, it seems rather clear what comes first for Secretary Freeman; — his own program and authority to control farmers.

What has happened to open market wheat prices pretty well paints the picture of how this force to compel farmers into the program has been built.

The Wheat Certificate program went into effect July 1, 1964. The first week it was in force the Secretary dumped nearly 7.5 million bushels of wheat on the market. A year before that he had dumped only 1.9 million bushels. The support rate for 1963 had been \$1.82 a bushel. But the new rate in July 1964 became \$1.30 and the Secretary dumped his July 1964 wheat at \$1.37 a bushel.

*We should take note that by dropping the support level in the 1965 law to \$1.25, he can now dump wheat at a still lower price.*

Open-market wheat prices for the year from July 1962 to June 1963 had averaged \$2.03. For the twelve months from July 1963 to June 1964, the open market prices held at an average of \$1.92 a bushel.

*But from July 1964 to March 1965, the open-market price nose-dived to an average of \$1.37.*

It is clear that the Secretary is determined that no farmer shall continue to operate outside of the fences that he has built.

*Naturally, the sign-up of farmers in the Secretary's programs has increased under this pressure. The size of the sign-up is used politically to argue that farmers "want the program." It is supposed to mean that the program is "successful." But, beyond the Secretary's Department, successful for whom?*

The new program will also bait the trap for soy-bean growers. It will allow growers to plant soybeans on part of their wheat and feed grain diverted acres. Again, why — when they are being paid to divert the land?

Soy-beans have seen rather uncertain prices on the open market. But I fear for what can happen when the glut from the new acreage hits the market.

This is bound to mean overproduction of soys, distressed prices, and farmers in distress unless soys are brought under the same certificate programs now imposed on wheat and feed grains.

*As I see it, Farm Bureau people have the most pressing need to defeat the Administrations 1965 farm bill and to get the needed limitations on the powers of the Secretary by supporting the Farm Bureau bill (S 891 and HR 4254).*

Elton Smith

# PROGRAM EXPANSION PLANNED

## Report Accepted

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau paved the way for a period of accelerated Farm Bureau growth in accepting and endorsing a report made to it by the "State Relationship Committee".

Last Fall, voting delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting charged this committee with the task of studying Farm Bureau finances and program structure and to make an action-report to the Board for its guidance.

Meeting May 10, in Lansing, the 11-member committee agreed upon contents of this report, which in its final form included a general broadening of Farm Bureau activities, within Community Groups, in County Farm Bureau programs and within the Michigan Farm Bureau itself.

In accepting the report in its regular session, May 11, the Michigan Farm Bureau board expressed confidence in the work of the committee and supported its program-expansion recommendations.

Implicit within the planned expansion is an eight-dollar membership dues adjustment needed to adequately finance the areas of growth which were first listed for the Relationship Committee by local Farm Bureau members and county Farm Bureau boards.

The need for more dues money to support this growth became evident when additional work and service areas listed by local members were interpreted by the committee in terms of dollar-costs.

Proposed program advances recommended by the committee include placing more emphasis on Farm Bureau's legislative programs, an increase in legislation, and in creating interest in local political activity and the total election process.

"More emphasis needs to be placed on marketing, with the expansion of this program into new commodity areas," the committee members reported. They backed considerable added emphasis on research for legislative, marketing and informational purposes.

They supported increased activity in areas of membership and Community Groups, in Citizenship and Young Farmers programs.

An examination of the total Farm Bureau information program pointed up a need for more broadcast activity, particularly a move into public service television programming. The committee noted that substantial offers of public service television time have made to Farm Bureau, most of which cannot be accepted with present staff and equipment. An expansion of the Farm Bureau information work into telecasting was one of the areas of advance, supported by the Relationship Committee.

As they moved to accept and work for this expanded work program, a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors summed up what appeared to be a general attitude, — "We are all impatient with present progress. It is amazing that these gains for Farm Bureau can be made by an increase in dues which in the year total only about the price of recent increases for haircuts!"



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS — of the Michigan Farm Bureau examine the report submitted to them by a delegation from the state Relationship Committee. Facing the camera at the far end of the table (center) is Committee Chairman Ed Bourns. At the left is Louis Hayward, Kalkaska, and right, Howard Erbe, Sanilac. Later the board voted to accept the report and to support its recommendations.

## Members List Program Needs

To serve farmers best, Farm Bureau must have "a positive attitude and definite goals." That is the opinion of Ionia County Farm Bureau members, who were among those from many counties of the state showing their own positive attitudes by listing goals to help shape Farm Bureau's future.

When submitted by Farm Bureau boards, these suggestions served to guide the State Relationship Committee in preparing its report dealing with future programs and finance to the board of directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

"Continue and expand work in the legislative area, especially on tax reform, to help lessen the burden of the school tax on property," was another Ionia county suggestion. Concerning Farm Bureau finances, the Ionia farmers said that any needed increase in dues should be sufficient to cover the cost of carrying program expansion for a period of years, thus eliminating the need for additional increases for some time to come.

"Farm Bureau has to change and keep changing" — was the opinion expressed by members of the Washtenaw County Farm Bu-

reau, who said that one of the main causes of failure is the lack of ability and knowledge to know when to change. Among changes recommended in the operation of Farm Bureau, the Washtenaw leaders suggested an expansion of marketing work to all farm products, with more study on the areas of price.

A similar feeling was expressed by members of the Livingston County Farm Bureau, who suggested that Farm Bureau members work together to keep government out of their business. "We need more information on hogs and feeder pig marketing, and possibly should organize a hog-marketing division similar to the processing-apple division of MACMA," they said.

"Let's inform the public on the farmer's share of the food dollar," said Farm Bureau members of Montcalm County, who felt that group study meetings to examine their organization and its direction were worthwhile and that more should be held.

Much the same sentiment was expressed in Van Buren where, at a county-wide meeting of the membership, local farmers also urged improved communications

between farmers, urban people and members of the legislature.

"As we become more of a minority, our lobbying efforts will need to improve," observed farmers of Ingham county, who added a concern for more research and information about legislative issues. Training for Community Group leaders and an improved Discussion Topic system were other suggestions, along with "more information to the general public, with special emphasis on radio and television."

Four separate meetings with an attendance of 125 people who spent their time discussing state and county Farm Bureau problems, was the record in Kent county, where emphasis was placed on Farm Bureau working with allies, with possible "guidance to help like-groups of one commodity interest to merge into one strong group — such as pulling together the many milk associations."

"More money is needed in the County Farm Bureau to help finance expansion there," was the opinion of Emmet County farmers, who added that too many volunteers have been required to give of their time and transportation without reimbursement.



STATE RELATIONSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS — study the report they prepared for consideration by the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors. Working on the report were 11 committee members, one from each Farm Bureau district. Pictured are (from left): Ed Estelle, District 10; Waino Rajala, District 11 (Upper Peninsula); Louis Hayward, District 9; and Committee Chairman, Ed Bourns, District 3.

## Policy Resolution

The State Relationship Committee has been guided in its work by a clear-cut policy resolution adopted at the last annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

In part, the resolution stated: "At the 1963 Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, the delegates called for a study of the financial and program structure of Farm Bureau. Both state and county levels were to be considered.

"The State Relationship Committee worked diligently on this matter during the year. They noted that most County Farm Bureaus are operating on an extremely close budget. With costs such as postage, supplies and repairs rising, most counties are curtailing spending on programs such as membership acquisition, information and Community Group promotion. The Michigan Farm Bureau is using some of its reserve funds accumulated after the dues increase in 1960.

"We commend the State Relationship Committee for its work. We ask that the study be continued in the coming year, and that specific recommendations be made to the Board and membership on adequate financing and program expansion for Farm Bureau."



# capitol report

## SPECIAL TO Northern Michigan

Farm Bureau members living north of the Bay City-Muskegon line including the Upper Peninsula will be pleased with the legislative progress made so far on Farm Bureau resolutions regarding State and Federal forest taxation, swampland tax, snow removal, and "Big Mac" tolls. Legislative committees recommended passage of the following bills: S. 33, Introduced by Senators Mack, Schweigert and others would increase the swampland state payments from the present 15¢ to 20¢ per acre.

H. 2970 will, if passed, change the Commercial Forest Reserve (Pearson) Act to guarantee a 25¢ per acre annual payment to local government. Yield taxes would be retained by the state. The bill was introduced by Reps. Erlandsen and Jacobetti and had not been acted on by the Conservation Committee until Farm Bureau, two days before the deadline, testified and requested that it be reported out.

H. 2024 — Introduced by Reps. Erlandsen, Jacobetti, Hellman and Constantine, would allow counties in the Upper Peninsula to contract with citizens for snow removal. Farm Bureau appeared before the committee four times and finally succeeded in getting it reported out.

Efforts to refinance "Big Mac" in order to lower the tolls failed in the committee but chances are good that something can still be accomplished this session.

### LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

Late reports prior to presstime list a number of bills supported by Farm Bureau have passed in the House of Representatives.

They include:

H. 1049 — Uniform Meat Inspection

H. 2650 — Extending the life of the Michigan Potato Council

H. 2119 — Creating a Bean Commission

H. 2165 — Prohibiting Unfair Dairy Trade practices.

Reports are that all passed by nearly unanimous votes. This victory for farmers can be made complete through active Farm Bureau member support in urging Senators to vote for these bills when they come before that body.

Let your Senator know what these measures mean to farmers. Let him know what you think about these important bills!

# TAXES! - - -



HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, — Representative George Montgomery (D. Detroit, right in photo) and Representative James Folks (R. Horton, left) —past Committee Chairman are both recognized tax experts.

## Outlook in the House

The House Taxation Committee headed by Rep. Montgomery reported out and recommended for passage a package of bills which could finance state operations for the next two years.

Included are bills to impose the 4% sales tax on nearly all services including "everything but hospital bills." About \$84 million a year would be raised and such services as haircuts, shoe repairs, auto and other repairs, dental bills, admissions, etc. would be taxed. The Business Activities tax would be changed to become a 5% tax on net income and which would increase revenues from the present \$98 million a year to about \$155 million. The tax on beer would

be reduced from \$6.61 per barrel to \$4.10 per barrel or about 7/10¢ a bottle and would cost about \$14 million.

The Committee also reported out without recommendation and laid on the table a number of taxation bills which could lead to a complete tax reform program. Eight of the bills comprise a package and were introduced by Rep. Folks and others.

A flat rate income tax is included with rates of 3% on individuals, 5% on corporations, and 7% on financial institutions. Property taxes would be cut \$5 per \$1000 (5 mills), and would repeal intangibles and business activities taxes.

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# FARMERS PETROLEUM

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# What Happened to Tax Reform?

## \$ What Next for Michigan? \$

By: Associate Legislative Counsel Robert E. Smith

Michigan is again headed toward a fiscal nightmare unless the economic "facts of life" are recognized. Complacency is the order of the day for too many people.

Governor Romney, speaking before 700 Michigan citizens attending a meeting on the state's fiscal problems, pulled no punches when he laid on the line the financial plight facing the state within three years unless fiscal reform is brought about. He indicated that an income tax will be needed to balance the tax structure and make it equitable to all citizens.

The picture at the moment appears rosy with the nearly \$100 million deficit of the late 1950's having been paid off and the pleasant prospect this year of a \$100 million or more surplus.

However, the increasing population with 50,000 or more added school children each year plus the need for expanding educational programs at every level (elementary, high school, and college) plus the growing numbers of elderly people, plus additional services by government will mean that the surplus will become a deficit by 1967.

The Governor's 1965-66 recommended budget totals \$788 million. \$94 million more than last year. However, this record budget is a cut of over \$200 million from the nearly \$1 billion requested by the various state agencies.

As this is written it appears that the Legislature will exceed the Governor's budget by at least \$22 million and perhaps as much as \$70 million. Should this be the case, Michigan could (without new revenue) be in the red \$200 million to \$300 million by 1968.

The Legislature, of course, recognizes that new revenue will be needed. The question is "Will total tax reform be tackled to ensure that every Michigan citizen pays his proper share of the costs of government or will the inequities merely be compounded by the addition of a few more patches to Michigan's fiscal cloak?"



SENATE LEADERS, — especially interested in tax reform are Senator Basil Brown, (left) Democratic Floor Leader of Highland Park, and Senator George Fitzgerald, D. Grosse Pointe Park, Chairman of the Taxation Committee. Both men have been tireless workers on behalf of tax reform.

## Tax Reform Outlook in Senate

Early in this session Senator Brown took the leadership in promoting tax reform and introduced a package of tax bills identical to Governor Romney's tax program which was considered in a special Legislative fall session in 1963. *The program died in the then Republican controlled Legislature through "bi-partisan inaction."*

Senator Brown, upon introduction of the package, urged support of the Governor's tax approach provided the voters were given an opportunity at an early election, to decide whether or not the Michigan Constitution should be changed to allow a graduated income tax.

Senator Fitzgerald is serving his first term in the Senate and has a broad experience as an attorney. *It is his position that tax reform cannot be accomplished unless the new Constitution is amended to permit a graduated or progressive income tax.*

The Senate Committee also reported out some tax bills without recommendation and laid them on the table. Included is one of particular importance to farmers, S. 177. This bill would raise the personal property exemption from

the present \$1000 to \$5000.

*It is possible that interim study will be given to tax reform measures including farm land assessments.*

### GENERAL OUTLOOK

Tax reform is still possible. It will take work, understanding and bi-partisan support. For example, bills to do the job have been reported out of the House Committee and laid on the table. A majority-vote there, can bring them up for action.

Public understanding of the need for tax reform can help. Citizen's groups throughout Michigan have been formed to promote tax reform, and most recently two state-wide women's organizations and two educational groups have combined to circulate petitions urging fiscal reform action.

### MONROE PUSHES TAX REFORM

Monroe County Farm Bureau leaders are taking an active part in a "Citizens for Tax Reform" movement which began in the county and is beginning to spread into surrounding counties.

County Farm Bureau President Frank Smith is one of the officers of the movement and reports that the 5 point program is the same as Farm Bureau's tax reform program.

In addition to contacting Legislators, the citizens group has declared that "until tax reform is accomplished they will work to defeat any extra voted millage issues."

The group is not opposed to improved schools but is insisting that property can no longer carry the load.

Action programs such as this throughout the state could result in legislative action this year. How about it?

## Growers Given Two-Day Deadline !!!

"All Michigan employers desiring to maintain foreign worker eligibility must place orders with MESC for A-Team farm workers no later than Friday, May 21."

The above information was contained in a telegram, dated May 19, 1965, which was received by the Michigan Employment Security Commission from federal agents of the Department of Labor.

In order to qualify for any possible use of Mexican workers under a bracero-type program, pickle growers and others must use all available domestic labor.

Efforts are being made to recruit "A-Teams" for use in Michigan throughout an area of some 20 states. High school principals in every Michigan school and in schools in other states have received announcements of the program, which is limited to boys 16 years and over and promises a live-in-camp experience under carefully supervised conditions — with pay of \$1.25 an hour and transportation, housing and supervision provided at the grower's expense.

by responsible adults — in most cases probably by a high school instructor, who will receive, as supervisor, \$4.00 per week for each boy in his Team. Teams may consist of from 20-31 boys.

"Employers must utilize this source of supply before certification of foreign workers will be considered." This requirement by the Labor Department undercuts the acceptance given by Secretary Wirtz in Detroit of his Michigan Farm Labor Committee's recommendation for certification of 5,000 Mexican National workers.

The rate of \$1.25 per hour is not based on the number of pickles picked, but is a straight hourly rate. It is estimated that this may nearly double the cost of picking 100 pounds of pickles.

Growers' planting decisions are tempered by the question as to how much dependence they can place on the continuing service of such "A-Teams." If Teams are secured, will the boys stay on the job throughout the pickle season, or will they leave after a week or two? If so, can Mr. Wirtz provide a back-up supply of braceros on one day's notice?

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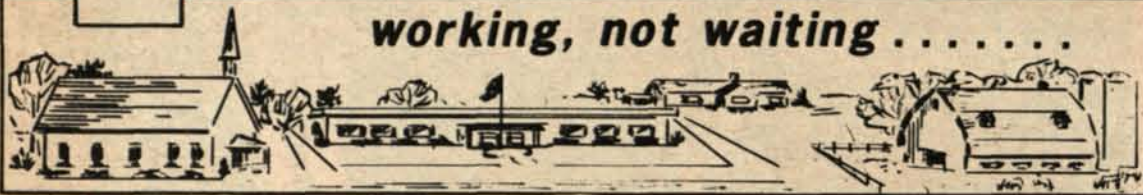
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# FARM BUREAU WOMEN

working, not waiting . . . . .



"A FARM BUREAU FAMILY AFFAIR" — that's the description of the Cooperative Cookbook planned by Farm Bureau Women. Pictured at work on the project is (left) Mrs. Jerold Topliff, vice chairman of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee assisted by Miss Helen Atwood, Coordinator of Farm Bureau Women's Work. Idea for the project came in part from a similar booklet issued in Washington state.

## "Cooperative" Cookbook

A project to promote Michigan agricultural products, while at the same time, put the name of Farm Bureau before thousands of homemakers throughout the state, has been initiated by the Farm Bureau Women, in the form of a "cooperative" cookbook.

The attractive, hard-covered recipe book will feature the "kitchen-tested" favorites of Michigan farm families, plus a short promotion and eye-appealing artwork on each product, and a resume of the activities of the state's largest farm organization.

County Women's committees have been notified to submit their choice of commodity by June 21. When commodity areas have been designated, each county will be asked to contribute six recipes using the particular commodity as the main ingredient. Deadline date: August 15.

"Editor-in-chief" of the Farm

Bureau Women's cookbook is Mrs. Jerold Topliff, vice-chairman of the state committee and well-known for her own culinary abilities. Marketing specialist, Larry Ewing, Market Development department of the Michigan Farm Bureau, is assisting the women in this commodity promotion project.

Release date for the cookbooks has been set for October 1.

The decision to publish the attractive booklet came during Michigan Week, a fitting coincidence in that promotion of Michigan farm products will be featured throughout. Such products as Michigan pea-beans, Michigan mushrooms, rhubarb, celery, Michigan cherries and other fruit, are considered "naturals" for recipe promotion.

Unusual uses of farm products will be stressed with the booklet reflecting both the personality of Michigan's products and people.

## N.W. Women Celebrate

### "Birthday"

By Mrs. Marjorie Plamondon,  
Editor

N.W.M. Farm Bureau News

More than 100 people attended the 20th birthday celebration of the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee, held recently in Traverse City.

Guests who paid tribute to the women for their 20 year record included Elton Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau; Wesley Hawley, Escanaba, regional representative of 20 years ago, and Mrs. Marjorie Karker, Michigan State Medical Society, and former Women's Coordinator for the Farm Bureau.

Praise was given to the women for their work over the past 20 years by Wesley Hawley. "I believe it was the coming of the women into Farm Bureau that allowed this organization to reach the heights it has today." He also cautioned the group that there is a great deal of work for Farm Bureau in the future, and encouraged the women to continue to play an important role.

General chairman for the event, Mrs. William Hoolihan, was cited by the present county women's chairman, Sylvia Lautner, for her work and efforts over the past 20 years. Mrs. Hoolihan was the first chairman of the Northwest Women's Committee and had continued to serve on the committee since it was organized.

Miss Lautner summarized the activities of the Women's Committee during its 20 years of service, including the founding of Camp Kett, rural-urban conferences, nursing scholarships, funds for polio and cancer research, help for the Salvation Army, and the annual Cherry-Dairy Smorgasbord.



EACH MORNING — the District 10-E Farm Bureau Women's Chairman can be found gathering eggs from the 1,000 laying hens on the DeMatio's "Shady Lane Farm." A former city girl, Lou DeMatio has adjusted well to farm life.

## Tractor Replaces Trip

By: Donna Wilber

"I was born and raised in the city — scared to death of a horse or cow. So what do I do? — *Marry a farmer!*"

This was the predicament of Mrs. Eugene DeMatio 25 years ago when she spoke her marriage vows. But love overcomes all obstacles they say and today nothing could lure "Lou" back to the city life.

Her successful and happy adjustment to farm living is evidenced in the vital enthusiasm with which Lou tackles her duties as a full-time partner in "Shady Lane Farm," home of 1,000 laying hens and headquarters for a dairy business. Even stronger evidence is the good-humored acceptance of her "trip to Hawaii" which is symbolized by the John Deere 30-20 tractor, newest addition to their 160 acre farm near West Branch.

"Whenever I look at it, I think of the trip to Hawaii that we talked about taking when we were married 25 years. Oh well, we'll get there yet," says the energetic Lou, chairman of District 10-E Farm Bureau Women.

Lou's family includes daughter Judy, who takes over when she must be away from home to attend various Farm Bureau meetings; son-in-law John, who helps on the farm; son Don, who attends Central Michigan University; and grandchildren Jeff, 5, and Julie, 3, "pride and joy" of grandpa and grandma DeMatio.

"And last, but not least, my husband Gene. Need I tell the women that without a congenial, understanding husband you cannot do your best when serving

as an officer of an organization? This is especially true in Farm Bureau," Lou added.

Her Farm Bureau activities include serving as State Safety Chairman of the Farm Bureau Women and as a representative on the board of the Michigan Rural Safety Council. She has held almost every office on the county level and is in her third year as district women's chairman.

When Lou was asked why she thought it was important to give of her time and energies to Farm Bureau activities, her answer was: "First, I believe in Farm Bureau. When we joined the organization back in 1948, our leaders sold me on Farm Bureau and the role we women must play. They set a fine example — a grass roots thinking organization with good member and leadership relations.

"I learned early in life (as a member of a family with 12 children) that if we believe in something, let's stand up and be counted. 'Faint heart never won fair lady' has always been my motto. There is a place, big or small, for all of us and we are needed to accomplish the aims and goals we have set for ourselves in Farm Bureau."

## "Safety-Wise in '65"

Representatives from 21 Farm Bureau counties met May 3 at the Embers Restaurant, Mt. Pleasant, for a Safety Conference Workshop. Farm Bureau Women safety leaders from as far away as the Upper Peninsula attended this first meeting.

"Safety Wise in '65" was the theme of the workshop, under the direction of Mrs. Eugene DeMatio, West Branch, chairman of the Farm Bureau Women's state safety committee. Mrs. DeMatio's committee includes: Mrs. Don Root, Ithaca; Mrs. Harland Welke, Mayville; Mrs. Verness Wheaton, Charlotte, and Mrs. Nelson DeGroot, Bellevue.

Featured speaker on the program was Mrs. Leota Westfall, traffic safety specialist from

Michigan State University, who presented a four-hour presentation on driver improvement with emphasis on programs that could be conducted by county leaders in their own locality.

Also on the program was Robert Bunker, Assistant Underwriting Manager, Farm Bureau Insurance. Bunker told the women of a "Save-a-Life" project being introduced by Farm Bureau Insurance, promoting the resolution as passed by voting delegates requesting an active safety campaign.

The leaders were given several ideas for local campaigns, which will require the assistance and cooperation of every member in successfully promoting a sound, working safety program in each community throughout the state.

## Clip Out and Keep . . .

In answer to a request for a short listing of important Farm Bureau actions "that we may clip out and pass along" — the Farm News this month cites highlights of the Farm Bureau Women's activities.

Safety has been a prime project of the Farm Bureau Women during the past year, with emphasis on the reduction of deaths, injuries and property damage resulting from highway accidents. The State Safety Committee has held its first statewide workshop to help initiate campaigns on the local level, and has kept county committees alerted through regular "safety newsletters."

Information and a better understanding of Farm Bureau and agriculture in general — by members and the public — is the aim of the Farm Bureau Women as they undertake such projects as press relations dinner-meetings, rural-urban and farmer-clergy conferences, and a speaker's bureau to train local leaders to tell the "Farm Bureau story."

Commodity Promotion of Michigan agricultural products through the publication and distribution of a Farm Bureau Women's cookbook will be an important upcoming project. Recipes from throughout the state will be featured, together with product promotion information, and an explanation of "What is Farm Bureau?"

# Scandinavian Co-op Tour Planned

## Air-Trip Offered By Co-op Council

Of special appeal to farm leaders throughout the state is a 23-day "Co-op Tour" to Scandinavian countries, scheduled for early fall. Sponsored by the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives in cooperation with the Information Division of Michigan Farm Bureau, the tour is designed to give a first-hand look at farming methods and the operations of farmer cooperatives in Scandinavia.

Leaving Detroit by jet on August 30, the tour group will arrive in Oslo, Norway, the following day. Visits to the famous Cathedral, the Munch Museum and the Vigeland Sculpture Park is planned during the stay at Oslo.

A visit to the Federation of Swedish Farmers' Associations will be a highlight while in Stockholm as will a tour of the A/B DeLaval's experiment farm in Hamra, and the Institute of Animal Breeding at Viad.

Four full days will be spent in Stockholm with visits to include the Swedish Cooperative Union and Wholesale Society and the cooperative insurance company, Folksam.

Helsinki, Finland, is next on the agenda with a memorable day planned for tour participants, highlighted by a four-hour sightseeing trip to the House of Parliament, the Olympic Stadium Tower, the Grave of Marshall Mannerheim, Finnish National Museum and Mannerheim Museum.

The second day in Finland will be spent meeting with representatives of the Federation of Finnish Farmers' Associations and visits to some surrounding farms.

A sightseeing tour of the Swedish seaport, Abo, will be followed by a boat trip to Stockholm. From there a chartered motorcoach will take the group through the beautiful province of Sodermanland and on to Ostergotland, an important agricultural province where a study visit will be made. Part of the tour will run along Lake Vatter, Swenden's second largest lake.



### "BEAUTIFUL COPENHAGEN"

In Denmark, visits to farms will be combined with tours of famous castles and palaces, to make this an especially exciting trip for the ladies. Four days will be spent in Copenhagen, where stops are scheduled at the well-known "Meat City" to see the amazing uniformity of Danish pork, and the "Answlaurvalget" for information about the Danish cooperative movement.

Approximate cost for the 23-

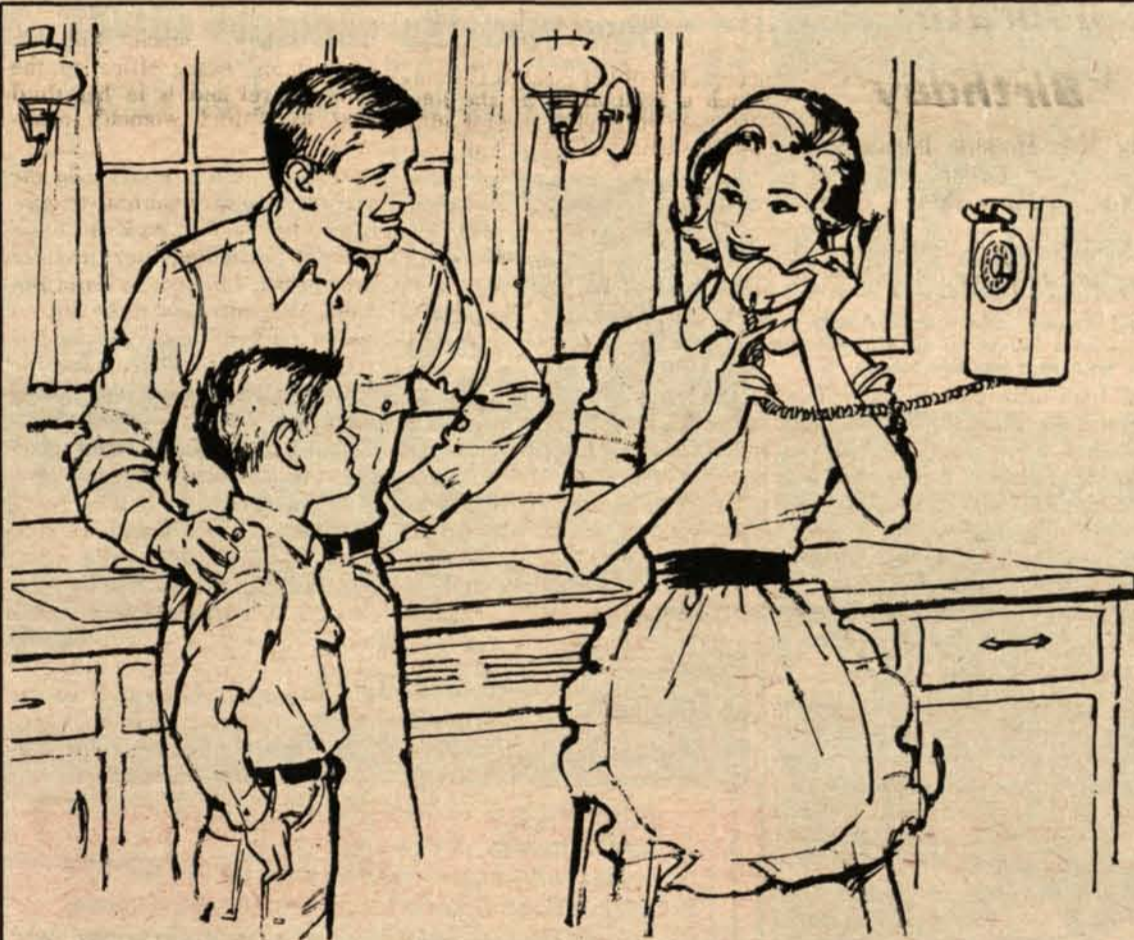
day tour is \$1,100 per person. This includes tourist jet air transportation from Detroit, all hotels, tips, sightseeing, service transportation, and two meals per day, based on the Continental breakfast and dinner plan.

L A Cheney, executive-secretary of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, will be the tour guide. His long-time experience and knowledge of farmer cooperatives will be an added asset on this tour.

Offering an opportunity for

first-hand information in an area of especial interest to farmers and cooperative leaders, plus the enjoyment of visiting memorable sites of the Old World in a setting of breath-taking beauty, the tour is an ideal "package" for the entire family.

For a detailed day-by-day itinerary of the "Co-op Tour to Scandinavia," August 30-September 21, send the tour information request coupon to the Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau.



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# Travel-LOG

## NORTHEAST CANADA AND NOVA SCOTIA

Departing July 31 — Returning August 14. By rail to Montreal for full day sightseeing, on to Moncton for 11-day comprehensive bus tour of Nova Scotia and Maritime Provinces. Cost—in the \$400+ range.

## EUROPE

Departing August 7 — Returning September 8. To England, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland, with a couple days in Paris.

## NORTHWEST CARAVAN

Departing August 19 — Returning September 1. Visiting Glacier National Park, Seattle, Victoria, Vancouver, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields and Banff. A fine scenic tour in the \$450 price range.

## WORLD'S FAIR

Six days at the fabulous New York World's Fair, leaving by rail from Detroit in late August. This tour will include visits to Chinatown and the Battery and a boat trip around Manhattan Island. Cost—approximately \$140.

Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau  
4000 North Grand River, Lansing 4, Michigan

SEND DETAILS OF TOURS AS CHECKED

July 31-August 14  
NORTHEAST CANADA AND NOVA SCOTIA

August 7-September 8  
EUROPE

August 19-September 1  
NORTHWEST CARAVAN

Late August  
WORLD'S FAIR

August 30-September 21  
"CO-OP TOUR" TO SCANDINAVIA

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County \_\_\_\_\_

# Tornado Progress Report...

## Avenue for Action

"It will be years before some of the junk scattered over Michigan farms by the Palm Sunday tornadoes is picked up — and much of it never will be . . ." That is the opinion of storm victims, many of whom gathered in early May at a meeting held in Farm Bureau Center, Lansing.

Called by the Michigan Farm Bureau as a progress report, the meeting opened by president Elton Smith asking for a county-by-county listing of damage and clean-up results. Reports were heard from 11 counties, represented by nearly 50 persons.

Two concerned members of the Michigan legislature, both representing counties in which heavy damage occurred, attended the meeting and spoke to the group. They were Representatives Frederic Marshall, Allen, and James Folks, Horton. Marshall's district contained three of the heaviest hit counties, Branch, Hillsdale and Lenawee, where a total of 1,500 buildings were destroyed.

Kenneth Saunders of the Legislative Research Council outlined tax assessment problems, pointed out some of the chain-reactions which would result in re-assessing property to give tax relief to storm victims.

The group made a blackboard listing of priority items needing immediate attention and agreed to ask for direct state appropriations from the Legislature to provide 50 per cent personal property tax relief for storm victims.

They were reminded that our form of government tends toward deliberate slowness as a built-in safeguard against rash actions, a desirable quality under most conditions, but one which can allow hardship in times of emergency.

Most of the victims confessed that the work of Farm Bureau neighbors and total strangers organized to do clean-up jobs through County Farm Bureau coordination, proved a much greater help than "all of the promised aid from the government agencies combined . . ."



BRANCH COUNTY FARMER Robert Smith, tells of tremendous damage in that area, where the toll reached ten million dollars in property lost, at least half in farm areas. Smith also told of promised help which failed to arrive, and of need for heavy equipment. Seated (center) is Eaton county president, Herbert VanAken.

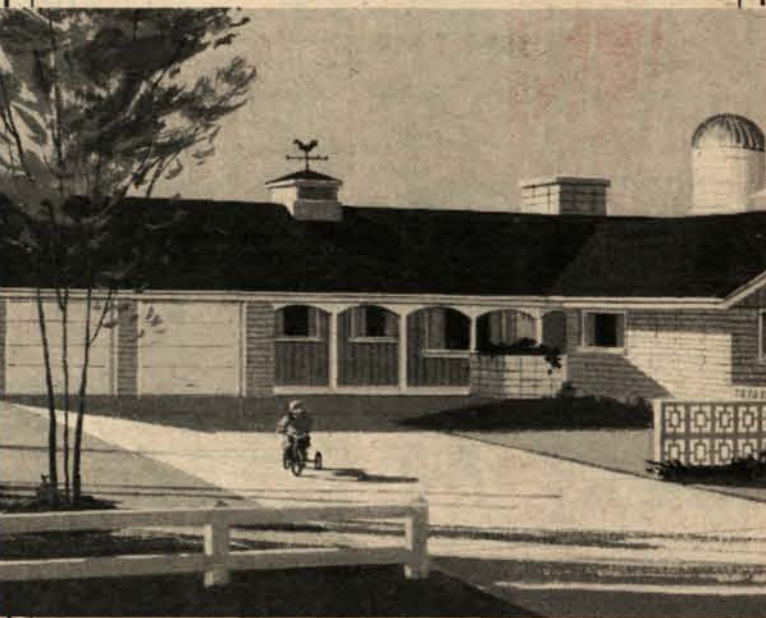


"AN AIR OF GENERAL CONFUSION" — is the impression which Dan Reed, (left) said characterized the work of state and federal agencies involved in the tornado clean-up and assistance programs. Reed, Legislative Counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau termed the tornado experience further proof of the fallacies of federal aid. To the right is president Smith.



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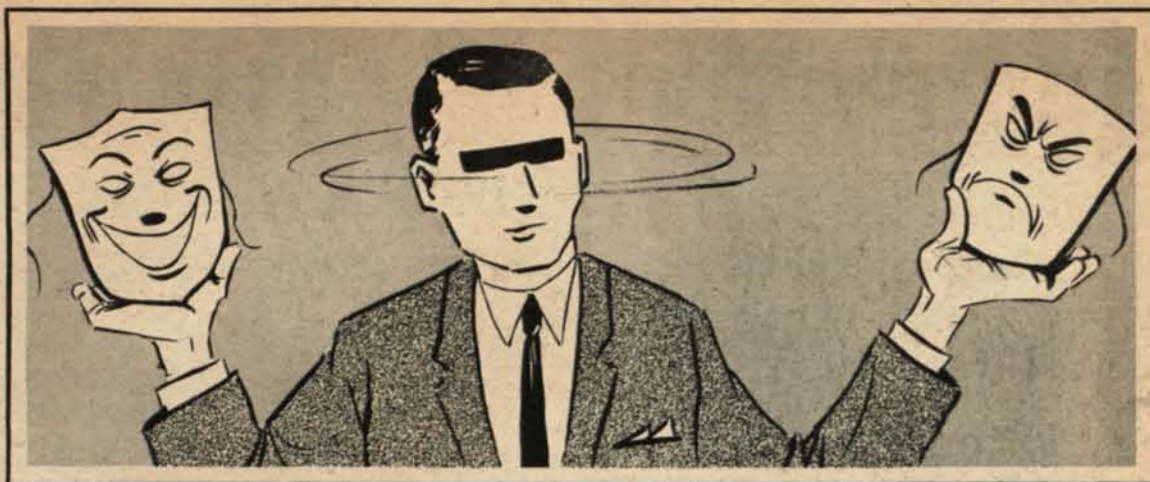






# DISCUSSION TOPIC

PREPARED BY THE  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT  
MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



## Local Governments, — and Their Future

### Changes Coming!

Take a look at me! I'm your County Government. Within a couple of years I am scheduled for a face-lifting operation. After that you may not recognize my old features. They will be remolded in a number of ways. In many local areas the operation may be painful.

In some counties the change can be quite complete — in others, less so. That can depend on how much change has taken place in the communities of the county. Some counties have grown into wide-spreading urban centers. These will see broad changes in government make-up. But all counties will have some upset of their government apperact, without doubt.

These counties that grew into highly urbanized centers had problems. Community developments did not take any recognition of township lines. Urban communities overflowed township borders and even overflowed into more than one township, in some cases.

When the new constitution was drafted, these problems were recognized. The new document provided that a county may, if the voters approve, adopt a county "Home Rule Charter" form of government. Such a charter would put the county on a similar footing to a city, with many of the same powers and privileges. It could even be true that more than one county could join to form a single county, if the people voted for such a merger.

Let it be clear that no county is forced to adopt a Home Rule charter. Some people seem to have gotten that mistaken idea. A charter county would have to be approved by a majority vote of the electors of the county.

But even where they might approve it, it could not begin operating under a charter — yet. The necessary foundation of laws has not yet been passed by the Legislature. The constitution says that counties may operate as charter units of government "as provided by the laws of the state." Laws are needed to establish the rights of such governments to levy taxes, elect their officials and pass local ordinances, etc. So, the "Green Light" for Home Rule counties still waits on the action of the Legislature.

Two bills have reached committee in the Legislature to provide this basis of law. Under both of these bills, the charter county would become the



only local unit of government. Township governments would be dissolved, except as geographic areas of a county. Some old township names might hang on.

These two bills (S 112 and S 353) are very much alike in content. One important difference exists between them. S 353 (the County Officers' bill) would require that members of the county's legislative body must be elected from districts containing "as nearly as possible, an equal number of people." That idea has become contagious, as we shall see.

S 112 (drafted by Wayne County interests) would allow a charter county to elect its legislative officers either by districts of equal population — or on an at-large basis. The voters could decide which way it would be done. It sounds very "democratic" until you look at it closely. Where's the catch?

It is quite clear that the cities and suburbs could control a majority of the votes to decide which way it would be done. Having decided that the election should be at-large, they could then, by majority vote, assure that every member of the county legislative body came from the city.

Quite clearly, the establishment of electing districts would be more considerate of the people in all areas of a county, since each area would then be assured of some representation in the county's governing body.

Now the question comes up — how is any face-lifting going to happen in counties that do not become charter governments? This puts the important finger on another development that hits at their future.

As of now, it develops that a federal government ruling is reaching down into the citizen's front yard. Much ado has been made over the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court of June 15, 1964 — and rightly. This ruling would compel all states to reapportion both houses of their legislatures "as nearly as possible" to provide an equal number of people in both their state senatorial and representative districts.

The Supreme Court took the position that its ruling was supreme over any vote of the people to apportion its legislature on any other basis. After the Court's decision, voters in Colorado approved an apportionment of their Senate on an area basis. The Court declared the vote to be "off base" — unconstitutional in its power to decide such a matter.

So, in our time, the people can no longer decide on the makeup of their state governments. All this makes it appear that state governments have been operating illegally ever since the constitution was adopted 175 years ago! The Court disregarded 175 years of interpretation contrary to its decision.

### On Our Doorstep!

Many states have been deeply stirred by the Court's ruling. It has been bitterly debated both in Congress and in state legislatures. Twenty-two state legislatures have passed resolutions asking Congress to call a national Constitutional Convention. The object is to draft an amendment permitting states to apportion their legislature according to the decision of the people — with one house on the basis of some other factor than population. It would take action by thirty-four states to require the calling of such a convention.

It is interesting to note that Michigan's already revamped legislature has asked Congress to pay no attention to the resolutions of other states bearing on this question. But if thirty-four states made the demand, it would be unconstitutional, in itself, for Congress to disregard their demand. Are we no longer a nation governed by a Constitution?

This decision has moved right onto your front doorstep. In September of 1964, Judge Fred N. Searle, of the Circuit Court of Kent County, Michigan, ruled that the U.S. Court's decision applies to representation on the County Board of Supervisors. In other words, each supervisor must represent about the same number of people and counties must be redistricted for this purpose.

Judge Searle warned that if the Michigan Legislature did not act to change the laws to conform to the ruling, he would act on his own. This implies a supreme power both over the people and over the Legislature.

The Legislature is not in a position to do this work in the 1965 session. It is already buried under 1681 bills and 48 joint resolutions. It cannot work with its usual dispatch, with a large percentage of the seats being occupied by "freshmen" lawmakers who are not familiar with the "ropes" of procedure.

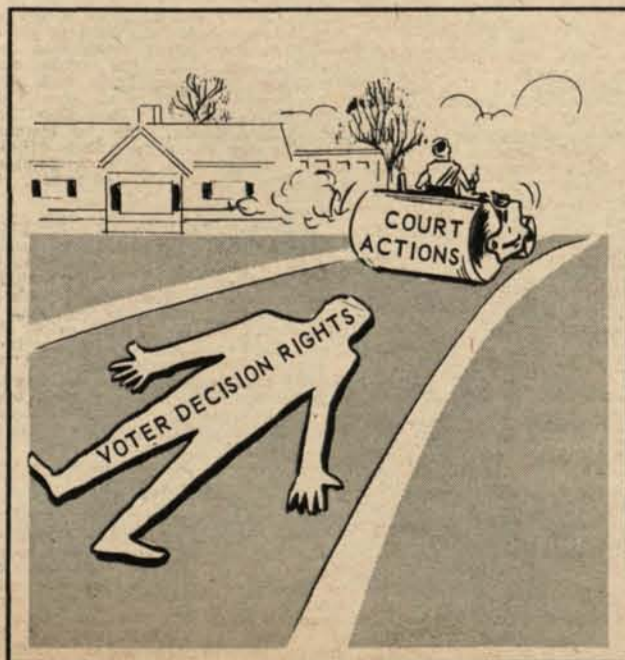
Some legislators say that it is absolutely necessary to ask Judge Searle to wait, at least until the 1966 session. A resolution is being proposed to request such a delay of action.

This resolution proposes that an interim study committee go to work on the complex body of law involved in the problem and to continue work during the 1965 session. Changes would be introduced in the session of 1966.

This makes it clear that, if all these decisions stick, no county will escape a face-lifting of its government. The national and state issue has become a local issue.

### For Discussion

1. What should our group members include in letters to our Congressmen asking for a national Constitutional Convention to assure the people the right to apportion their state and local governments according to the decisions of the people rather than of the Courts?
2. Should our group members encourage our state representatives and senators to request a delay of action in the ruling to apportion our County Boards of Supervisors by population districts?





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Matter of fact, all Life, Farmowners, and Auto contracts are being reviewed during 1965. Perhaps your agent has already contacted you. If not yet, he will before your next renewal date. Are your present insurance coverages, classifications, and options "in line" with your present needs and family circumstances? Your Farm Bureau agent will help you answer this and other questions.

This company-wide review of all Life, Farmowner, and Auto contracts is just another service provided for Farm Bureau Insurance policyholders. There's no obligation, no cost. We're doing it to make sure your insurance protection is just what you would expect — the best your money can buy.

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