

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

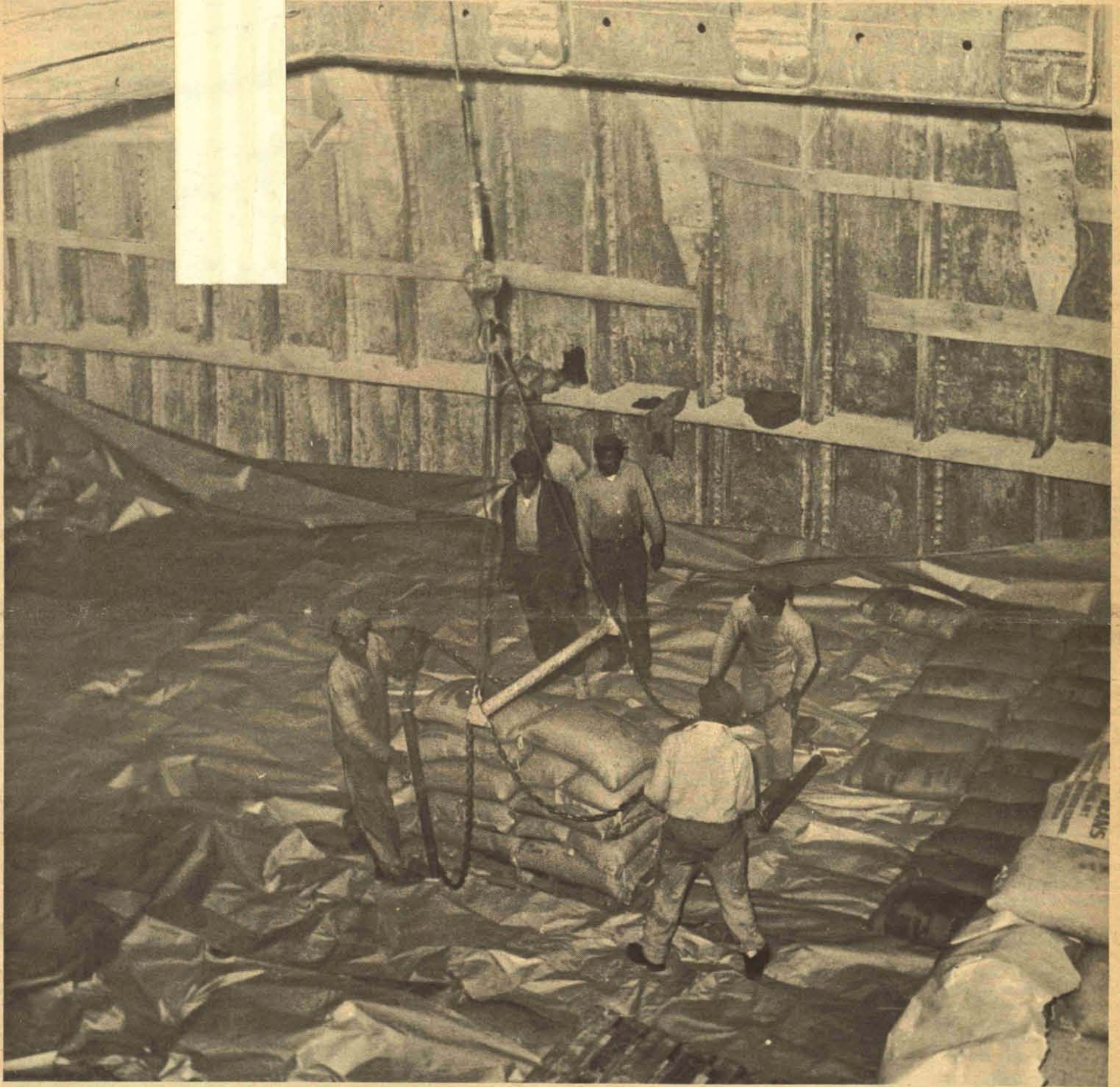


THE PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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BEANS FOR BRITAIN—6100 "long" tons of them, are shown being loaded into the hold of the Greek vessel "Heraclitos" bound for London, from Port Huron, Michigan, through the St. Lawrence Seaway. The 100-lb. bags of pea-beans were stowed into six holds, each 55 feet deep. A farm cooperative effort from grower direct to European processor, the beans were handled through local co-op elevators, assembled into ship-load lot and sold by the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services. Loading labor was supplied by Farm Bureau's new labor recruiting affiliate—MASA.

15,000 ACRES OF BEANS—with an approximate farm value of nearly \$2,000,000 are involved in the total shipment, with "Heraclitos" one of a fleet of six ships being loaded with almost 14,000 tons of Michigan beans by temporary labor provided through the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA). A severe labor shortage had threatened loss of the shipment when dockside tracks were jammed by 62 carloads of beans which Port Authorities were unable to move. At this point MASA brought in a crew of migrant farm workers which earlier had helped in Michigan's fruit harvest.

IN THIS ISSUE: *1967 Farm Bureau State Policy Resolutions*

Editorial

STATE POLICIES

This issue of the FARM NEWS contains your copy of the important *state policy resolutions* enacted by the voting delegates at the recent 47th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

May we suggest that you save it — possibly removing the center eight-pages as a unit to make your set of resolutions less cumbersome.

Omitted are national policy recommendations — which now move on to the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Las Vegas, and action there before a delegate body made up of farmers from 49 states and Puerto Rico.

"We must be ever flexible in a time when changes in agriculture occur more and more rapidly . . ." said Resolutions Committee chairman Louis Hayward, in his introduction to the resolution debate.

This flexibility was displayed in the care with which 120 widely-differing policy matters were considered in a record time. Helping temper the judgement of the 500-member delegate body were the results of the November 8 election and the realization that ten advocates of strong government farm controls serving on the House Agricultural Committee of Congress had apparently been rejected by the voters.

The changes prompted American Farm Bureau president, Charles B. Shuman, to say: "It should now be possible to obtain bipartisan cooperation in seeking economic, rather than political, answers to agriculture's problems . . ."

In a televised portion of his annual address to the membership, Michigan Farm Bureau president Elton Smith referred to the election results when he said "the so-called experts are still trying to decide what happened, or what they think has happened."

"One thing I know — politicians were unable to pin the blame for higher food prices on the farmer. They were unable to escape the fact that their own actions in Congress have caused the inflation which in turn has brought about price increases . . ."

Smith said the refusal of Congress to consider the special labor problems of agriculture has "created misfortune for everyone, the farmer, the worker, and most of all, the taxpaying consumer."

In one of their policy recommendations to the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Michigan delegates pinpointed the high cost of labor as a major contributor to both the inflated and the real cost of food.

"State and federal legislative and regulatory requirements including minimum wages, housing, transportation and the elimination of supplemental foreign workers — that have recently been imposed on agricultural employers, have had a profound effect on the cost of farm labor", they wrote.

Expressing concern about the threats of unionized labor in agriculture, they said that farmers must continue efforts to inform "the general public and lawmakers" of the many implications which interference by government and vested-interest groups have on the price of food.

The Farm Bureau leaders pointed to the serious economic losses caused by insufficient harvest labor, losses they said which increased prices to consumers as a direct result of "unwise federal labor policies."

Just how costly these short-sighted federal policies have been to growers is outlined in dramatic detail in a report on the adjoining page. *Underscored too, is the importance of all farmers working together to solve this problem.*

It is significant that at the time delegates were writing "we endorse the Michigan Agricultural Services Association's program of recruitment and placement of farm workers" — the new Farm Bureau labor-procurement affiliate had just persuaded a crew of temporary migrant workers to extend their Michigan stay to help load Michigan beans on ships bound for foreign ports.

Within such areas of farmer-organized cooperation lies the future of farming.



THAT REMINDS ME — THE NELSONS ARE GETTING A NEW BULK TANK!

WHOSE BUSINESS?

by Pete Simer

Whose business is it if wisdom takes wing, if honesty dies, if money is king? **The other guy's?**

Whose business is it if politics sour, if graft calls the plays, if greed has its hour? **L.B.J.'s?**

Whose business is it if apathy thrives, if So Whatism rules, if weirditis survives? **The schools'?**

Whose business is it if races despair, if blacks battle whites, if hate fouls the air? **The Civil Rights'?**

Whose business is it if Vandals destroy, if a mad gunman draws, if crime lures a boy? **The law's?**

Whose business is it if draft cards are burned, if some kook decries what wise men have learned? **The F.B.I.'s?**

Whose business is it if big mouths hold sway, if a ne'er-do-well damns The American Way? **Uncle Sam's?**

Whose business is it if markets grow cold, if goods beget losses, if companies fold? **The Bosses'?**

Whose business is it if Liberty's Train nonstops most stations as Peace waits in vain? **The United Nations'?**

Whose business is it — whose to open doors, whose to win or to lose —? **The concern is yours, that's whose!**

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau: President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; Secretary-Manager, Dan E. Reed, Lansing.

DIRECTORS: District 1, Francis Finch, Mattawan, R-1; District 2, Nicholas Smith, Addison, R-1; District 3, Frank Smith, Jr., Carleton, 1015 Indian Trails Rd.; District 4, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; District 5, David Morris, Grand Ledge, R-3; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City, R-3; District 7, Kenneth Bull, Bailey, R-1; District 8, Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw, R-6; District 9, Eugene Roberts, Lake City, R-1; District 10, Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1; District 11, Clayton Ford, Cornell.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Walter Frabin, Frankenmuth; Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; Robert Zeeb, Bath, R-1.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. William Scramlin, Holly; FARM BUREAU YOUNG PEOPLE: Ray Launstein, Williamston.

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President's Column

IMPRESSIONS

A "president's eye view" of a convention generally is one where individual people are swamped in a sea of faces. Yet, there was an individuality in the delegate body at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

I have seen a dozen of our Annual Meetings — three from the Auditorium stage. This year, younger voices and younger faces caught my eye and ear. You could note that certain blocs of the delegates were younger than usual.

I would not say that it amounted to a "stampede" toward youth — but there was a definite youth movement, and it held promise for Farm Bureau's future.

This impression was not mine alone. Others remarked on the "younger delegate body" this year. And — as the board elections swung around, there was definite evidence that some "youthpower" had generated strength.

Delegate bodies seem to stamp themselves with a personality all their own. This one had "zip." You could sense it in the way resolutions were handled. I started to say that they did it "with dispatch," but this suggests haste, and they were not hasty. On the contrary, they were very thorough in their discussion and consideration of the pro's and con's of the issues before them.

I think that the key word which fits is "cooperation." Cooperation made things move. The delegates "stayed with" the issues. There was less wandering afield — more attention to business. No waiting until a proposal had been beaten into a pulp. When it had been examined fairly, the delegates acted to pass it or dump it and move on. *The result was that the Annual Meeting closed on time!*

Youth had its day in the election of members to the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors. The youth movement on the board actually began last year, with the election of Bob Zeeb of Clinton County as director at-large. Bob is 34 years old. I don't think there is any record as to who might be the youngest member in Michigan Farm Bureau board history. But I doubt if anyone was ever younger than the new director for District 6 — Jack Laurie, 26 year old dairy farmer of Cass City in Tuscola County. Jack is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a degree in agricultural economics.

Then, a 32 year old dairy farmer from Hillsdale County will represent District 2 on the board of our state Farm Bureau for this two-year term. Nick Smith was a member of the 1966 state Resolutions Committee. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Hillsdale County Farm Bureau. He holds a Master's degree in agricultural economics.

Look north, to District 10 — and there another young farmer was chosen to represent his district on the state board of directors. He is Richard Wieland, 38 year old dairy farmer of Ellsworth in Antrim County. And by the time you add Ray Launstein, 27 year old livestock farmer of Williamston who represents the Farm Bureau Young People on the board, the board has grown considerably younger this year.

Before the other members of the board shoot me down for implying that they are "old," I should speak out and declare that the average age of these "incumbents" is only in the "early fifties" — and who says that's old?

But, I can assure you of one thing. These new young board members are good farmers and well trained, capable leaders. It shows that good farmers will take the time to do the leadership jobs. Three of these young men, Bob Zeeb, Nick Smith and Jack Laurie are participating in the Kellogg Farm Leadership Study Program at Michigan State University and abroad. They are known and active leaders in their community affairs.

These young men do not come to the board of directors with the need for winning the respect of the board. They have that respect now, for their leadership capacities are known.

A man can't push his age back toward youth, but a board of directors can. And isn't that fortunate!

E. S.

Secretary Wirtz Given State Farm-Labor Facts

The farm labor crisis in Michigan during this year's harvest season was officially recognized recently when Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz came to the state to get a first hand report. M.J. Buschlen, operations manager for MASA, "Michigan Agricultural Services," presented a summary of labor recruiting efforts, a documentation of efforts made to obtain permission for importation of foreign laborers to supplement other available help. Here are excerpts from Buschlen's statement:

Mr. Secretary:

Michigan Agricultural Services Association, a Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate, was organized to assist farmers in obtaining seasonal labor.

Beginning May 1st as Operations Manager, I spent my entire time actively recruiting labor for Association members. Several thousand laborers were contacted.

By mid-August, it was obvious that sufficient supply of labor would not be available during September and October to harvest fall fruit and vegetable crops.

On August 24th the Regional Director of Farm Labor Service from Cleveland came to our office in Lansing. After several hours of discussion of the labor picture, he advised that supplemental foreign workers would not be allowed in Michigan this year.

On August 29th the Director of the Employment Service Division of the M.E.S.C. came to our office in Lansing. The labor outlook was discussed in quite some detail. He advised that farmers would have to use school children and whatever drive-out help was available. He emphasized that no foreign labor would be allowed in Michigan this year.

On September 1st a meeting of grower representatives was held to assess the total situation. It was the consensus of opinion that the problem could be solved by the temporary importation of foreign workers.

Inasmuch as foreign workers had been allowed to enter and assist farmers in other states, a precedent had already been established. A formal request for a small cadre of foreign workers was filed with the Farm Labor Service of the M.E.S.C. on September 2nd. . .

Fruit and vegetable grower representatives from all areas of Michigan met October 24 and 25 to evaluate and assess the situation. They placed the loss due to outright spoilage and waste in the vegetable fields at 1/2 to 3/4 of a million dollars. The loss of tree fruit due to excessive "drop," up to that date, was estimated to be 1,600,000 bushels. A potential loss of 1,000,000 bushels still exists if cold weather strikes this area.

They also recognized an immeasurable loss, for both fruits and vegetables, in quality and nutritional value due to over-ripening or damage due to improper handling by unqualified workers.

We believe Farm Labor Service representatives were not sensitive and responsive to the needs of Michigan farmers and acted unwisely in not allowing temporary supplemental foreign workers into Michigan to harvest the crops which have gone to waste . . .

Mr. Secretary, we appreciate the opportunity to present our views to you in person. We ask that you create an atmosphere in the Farm Labor Service that will permit the use of foreign workers in the future, as needed to prevent the loss of valuable agricultural crops.

M. J. Buschlen



FARM LABOR SHORTAGE was the subject when U. S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz met in Michigan recently with a small group of fruit and vegetable growers. M. J. Buschlen, Operations Manager for Farm Bureau's new labor recruitment affiliate, presented a statement on behalf of Michigan growers. Around the table from left to right: State Senator Sarder Levin, Lewis Smith, vegetable grower from Carleton; W. L. Mainland, fruit grower from Milford; Secretary Wirtz; Congressman Billie S. Farnum; Buschlen; Robert Peabody, fruit grower from Fenton, and Paul Button, fruit grower from Farmington and vice-president of the Michigan Apple Commission. Present but not shown were Lorne Ross, fruit grower from Farmington, and Bruce Simmons, fruit grower from Northville.

VEGETABLE LOSSES STAGGERING

Forty-five acres of good Michigan farm land will produce a lot of tomatoes — more than enough in normal years, according to Alton Cousino, to provide all of the tomatoes that over 15,000 families will consume in a year.

But Cousino, a fruit and vegetable farmer near Erie, grew a "better-than-average" crop this year on 45 acres which didn't furnish a single tomato for anyone to eat. Why?

"Lack of qualified labor or at least those willing to do this kind of work," Cousino pointed out as the reason he lost not only the 45 acres of tomatoes but also 87 acres of several different kinds of squash, and some 6,000 bushels of peppers.

"We got part of the peppers picked, then later had to go out and dump the baskets back on the

ground because we were unable to get the help to haul them in and to grade and pack them," Cousino said.

Conservative estimates place Cousino's loss at nearly \$150,000 in lost sales.

Cousino is only one of the many fruit and vegetable farmers in Michigan who were hurt this year by the lack of available help: Estimates by fruit and vegetable growers from all areas of Michigan place the total dollar loss in vegetables from one-half to three-quarters of a million dollars and tree fruit losses approaching two million bushels.

The Monroe county farmer explained that he had planted only his normal acreage of vegetables this year — acreages which he had not had trouble getting labor to harvest in past years.

"I've always been able to get plenty of help out of Toledo and surrounding areas until this year," he said, "but this year I was unable to get enough help of any kind."

"We had some help picking peppers, then when we asked them to help haul them in, they refused. They absolutely refused to work by the hour because they figured they had made their day's wages piecemeal," he said. "It isn't a question of how much they can make in a day — they appear to be satisfied to make a certain amount, and that's it."


Cousino blamed a high level of industrial employment for part of his problem. "This plus the fact that this year no one in the state was able to get any foreign labor, which of course, made those local workers who were available in much greater demand."



SAD SIGHT — thousands of bushels of prime apples fallen and left to freeze under the trees — an all-too-common occurrence in labor-short Michigan. Scene is the Alfred Wardowski and Son's "Blossom Orchards" near Leslie, Michigan. Wardowski is pictured in a scene filmed by Farm Bureau television cameramen for showing in metropolitan areas.




FROZEN, WASTED SQUASH — 87 acres of it, along with 45 acres of tomatoes and 6,000 bushels of peppers, was lost by one vegetable farmer alone this year. Alton Cousino, pictured in his ruined squash field near Erie, is contemplating the economics of a year's labor lost due to lack of qualified harvest help.



FARM BUREAU WOMEN

working, not waiting



SPOTLIGHT ON TRUTH — MRS. HAVEN SMITH

By Donna Wilber

"Never before have Farm Bureau Women had so great an opportunity to improve producer-consumer understanding as we have today, when boycotting housewives have turned the spotlight of this nation on food prices," Mrs. Haven Smith, chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee, told the large crowd attending the 22nd annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women, November 9.

Speaking at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center, Mrs. Smith challenged the women to work with united strength through their organization to help the housewives in their "quest for truth," by continually telling the factual story of agriculture and bringing about a widespread understanding of the current inflationary policies of our government.

Pointing to a survey that shows that although 84% of American people are concerned about inflation, 41% have no idea who is responsible, Mrs. Smith said: "These good housewives who are picketing grocery stores simply do not understand that it is inflation, generated by excessive government spending, that is causing the rise in all prices, including food prices.

"These women are being aided and abetted by administration spokesmen who are eager to divert attention away from the real cause of rising prices," she said.

"Current administration policies have a direct bearing on the costs of many foods. For example, farmers lost all their profits and in some cases were forced out of business when vast unharvested acres of lettuce rotted in the fields because an outrageously unfair administration labor policy made it impossible to get farm labor for the harvest. This resulted in an 89% increase in the price of lettuce to the consumer."

She also told the women that their responsibility to work for good government is not "one iota less" because the election is over. "Our opportunity for effective effort in the Congress is greater than it has been for a long time. Now is no time to rest on our oars. Now is the time to work.

"Now is the time to continue to work in the political party of your own personal choice, the time to think about the next election—to encourage people who share your basic beliefs to file for public office.

"Now is the time when conservative freshmen Congressmen are going to Washington, for you to be very sure they know that you are watching, that you know what is going on, that you care, and that if they represent YOU, you will send them back.

"Now is the time . . . when we can help the farmers of America get out of the position of having our farm operations controlled and our prices manipulated by politically appointed bureaucrats," Mrs. Smith said.

Sharing the speakers' platform with Mrs. Haven Smith was the renowned lecturer, Dr. Elwood Rowsey, who told the women how to get the most out of themselves. Effectively combining humor with seriousness Dr. Rowsey gave his formula for creating a positive mental attitude which leads to inner certitude.

"The most important person in the world is YOU," Dr. Rowsey told the crowd. "You are the most important person in the universe, because if you fail and

everyone else succeeds, so far as you are concerned—the universe is a failure.

"There is only one problem in the world—it is not the problem of money, taxes or war—it is the problem of man. We have learned how to kill together—will history be able to record that we also learned how to live together?—Man is the answer."

Dr. Rowsey maintains that negative attitudes are as dangerous as poisoned food or life in a dungeon. "A lack of self-knowledge is the greatest cause of failure. In the realm of nature, we believe that corn will produce corn, wheat will produce wheat, and berries will produce berries—but in human nature, we refuse to believe that failure produces failure, and success produces success. It is easier to succeed than it is to fail."

The daughter of Ottawa County Farm Bureau members, Mr. and Mrs. William Miller, provided the entertainment for the women's meeting. The vivacious 17 year old Patricia Miller captivated her audience with "Moods from Mary Poppins," and received an especially hearty approval for "Supercalifragilistic."

Later, Pat was named winner of the Farm Bureau Young People's "talent find" and will represent Michigan at the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Las Vegas, December 4-8.

In her chairman's report, Mrs. Wm. Scramlin listed the "U. and I." committees (Understanding and Information) as a major project, which included rural-urban affairs, farm tours for school children, meetings with Extension and Federated Women's Clubs, and Michigan-Ohio-Canadian idea exchanges.

Another top project was safety with promotion of the slow-moving vehicles emblems of prime importance. She also reported on the successful sale of the Farm Bureau Women's "Country Kitchen" cookbooks with only about 500 of the original 10,000 remaining.

Mrs. Scramlin announced that counties will soon be launching the Marge Karker scholarship fund in honor of the former Women's Coordinator. Also that this year's Washington Air Tour will feature prior "legislative training."

Following adjournment of their 22nd annual meeting, the Farm Bureau Women attended a special tea in honor of Mrs. Haven Smith. Assisting Mrs. Smith in the receiving line were members of the state women's committee and former state chairmen.



MRS. HAVEN SMITH—Chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee and member of the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau, is shown speaking to nearly 500 persons who attended the Farm Bureau Women's luncheon program, November 9. Considered a highlight of the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, the program combined top speakers with activity reports and unusual talent. The session was held in Kellogg Center, Michigan State University.



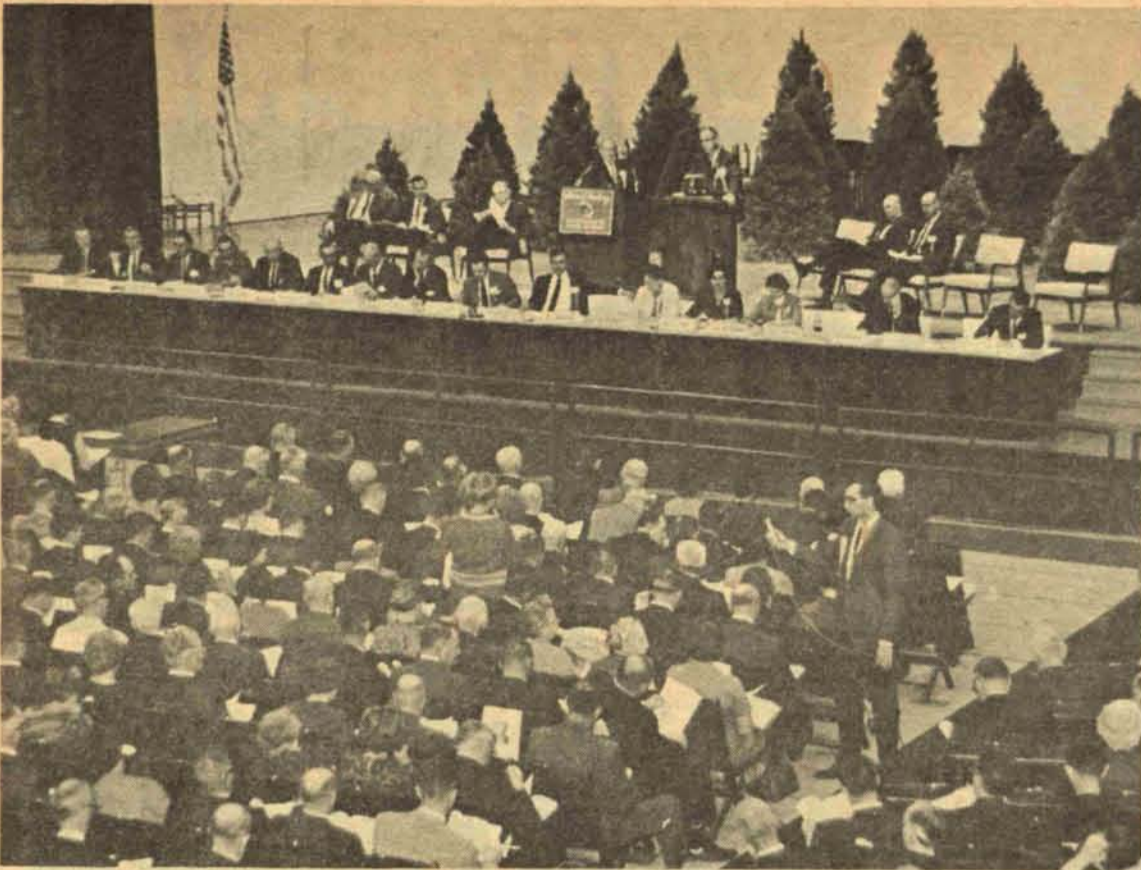
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DELEGATE SESSION — at the recent Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, centers on resolution action as a delegate voices an opinion before the state Resolutions Committee (seated at long table on stage). Committee member Eugene Roberts shares a twin lectern arrangement with president Elton Smith. Background of Christmas trees provided a rural setting.

47th ANNUAL MEETING MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

sessions well attended

Late-season farm work and threatening weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of those who attended the 47th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau. A crowd numbering 1,000 persons or more was present for the three day session, November 9-10-11.

Nearly 1,200 persons were served at the annual banquet held again this year in the Lansing Civic Center. There, they saw the crowning of Michigan's Farm Bureau "Queen" for 1967 — lovely Mrs. Charlotte Thuemmel (Mrs. David) of Port Austin, Michigan.

Sharing the spotlight with the new Queen were five other finalists selected from a field of 24 entrants. They were Carolyn Sands, Eagle; Mrs. Wayne (Carol) Bancroft, Buckley; Carol Brunger, Grand Ledge; Mary DeVooght, Marquette, and Mrs. Judith Koster, Grand Rapids. Mrs. Koster was named 1st runner-up in the contest.

The new Queen and winners in the Young People's Talent Find and Discussion-Meet, received all-expense trips to the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Winners were Myron Kokx, 17, Fremont, in the Discussion-Meet, and 17-year old Patricia Miller, Byron Center, whose "Moods from Mary Poppins" won the Talent contest.

Carroll Streeter, editor of Farm Journal Magazine, stirred the group by telling them that the world is running out of food, and that for the past six years the production of food has increased only 1.5 per cent, while world population has increased 2.2 per cent. He said that the only reason mass-starvation has been averted during the past six years is because the United States has had a surplus to share with the rest of the world.

This, Streeter said, is no longer true, and from now on the United States must utilize all the land it can keep available for the production of food, in his opinion.

Mr. Streeter, who recently spent six weeks in Viet Nam and other Asian countries, said there is some hope that mass starvation can be averted. He listed a number of areas in which he said progress is being made.

They include family planning, and a breakthrough in yield per acre. There are new wheat varieties in India, for example, which are expected to double present yields.

More than 1,000 county Farm Bureau policy recommendations were condensed into 93 resolutions and a handful of "re-affirmations" of resolutions previously passed.

Although discussion and debate was lively at times, few issues appeared to stir the convention deeply. It was a businesslike affair with little emotion evident. Still, few delegate seats went unfilled at any time. Many delegates appeared to be digesting the nation-wide election results of the day previous, and there was an apparent tempering of attitude toward some national policy recommendations in keeping with the make-up of the new Congress.

Five Directors Named to Michigan Farm Bureau Board

APPOINTMENT FILLS VACANCY

Races for vacancies on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors sparked election interest at the recent annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Four new board members were seated as a result of the election and a fifth new member has since been appointed to fill a vacancy resulting from a resignation.

Up for election were directors from "even-numbered" districts, plus two directors representing the state "at-large".

Providing an extra spark of interest was the fact that both the positions of president and vice-president were involved, with President Smith representing District 4, and vice-president Dean Pridgeon seated on the board in one of the expiring "at-large" positions. Aiding speculation was the earlier announced retirement of several directors.

Elected from District 2 was Nicholas Smith, (32) Addison, replacing Wilbur Smith, Burlington. Re-elected from District 4 was Elton Smith, Caledonia; elected from District 6 was John

Laurie, (27) Cass City, replacing Ward Hodge, Snover.

Re-elected from District 8 was Harvey Leuenberger, Saginaw. Elected from District 10 was Richard Wieland, (38) Ellsworth, replacing Edgar Diamond, Alpena.

Re-elected to the at-large positions were Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, and Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth.

Elected to represent Farm Bureau Young People on the board was Raymond Launstein, (27) Williamston, replacing Raymond Kucharek, Gaylord.

In annual re-organization sessions of the board which followed the election, the board re-named Elton Smith and Dean Pridgeon to the positions of President and Vice President, and David Morris, Grand Ledge, was renamed "third-member" of the Executive Committee.

Dan E. Reed, Lansing, was re-appointed Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Appointed to the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors

to represent District 3, is Frank Smith, Jr., President of the Monroe County Farm Bureau, and vegetable grower from Carleton.

Smith fills the board vacancy created when former director Donald Ruhlig accepted employment with the Michigan Farm Bureau as Regional Representative for the Southeast area.

Smith (46) owns and operates a 400-acre farm in partnership with brothers Louis and Joseph. They specialize in vegetables with some field crops. His family includes his wife, Mary Lou, two sons, Lawrence, 13, and Thomas, 10, and daughter Patricia, 8.

Born in Detroit, Frank lived in the big city where his father was a Ford Motor Company employee until he was 13. In the height of the depression the family moved to a 40-acre rented berry and vegetable farm.

Their operation has steadily increased in size and complexity over the years. "Last year alone our fertilizer bill came to about \$15,000" — Frank reports.

He serves as vice-president of the Michigan Vegetable Council and on the Monroe county Regional Planning Commission.



NEWLY ELECTED — to the Michigan Farm Bureau board are (standing, left) Raymond Launstein, Williamston; (seated) Nicholas Smith, Addison, and John Laurie, Cass City. Standing to the right is MFB President, Elton Smith.

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU BOARD CHANGES



Richard Wieland

ELECTED — to represent Dist. 10 on the Michigan Farm Bureau board is Richard Wieland, former president of the Antrim county Farm Bureau.



Frank Smith, Jr.

APPOINTED — to represent Dist. 3 on the Michigan Farm Bureau board is Frank Smith, Jr., president of the Monroe county Farm Bureau.



Donald Ruhlig

RESIGNED — as MFB director, to join the field staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau is Donald Ruhlig, who replaces Ed Schrader in Dist. 3.

1967 STATE POLICY RESOLUTIONS

COMPLETE TEXT IN THIS ISSUE

This page and those which follow contain the complete text of the "State Affairs" policy resolutions enacted by the 504 official voting delegates who met on the campus of Michigan State University, November 9-10-11.

National and international policy issues considered there are not included, in that they become **Michigan recommendations** to the American Farm Bureau Federation, for action at national policy sessions in Las Vegas.

FOREWORD

The Michigan Farm Bureau is a voluntary, non-governmental organization whose policy is determined by its membership. It represents 54,570 member families working together in a united effort to accomplish those goals which we have mutually agreed are essential. Service companies were established to meet our service needs.

Policy is developed annually by the members through their County and State Resolutions Committees, as well as Recommendations to the American Farm Bureau Federation on National and International Affairs.

Policy Development must reflect the problems which affect agriculture, and consider possible solutions. Changes in policy develop as problems are solved and needs change.

We must be ever flexible in a time when changes in agriculture occur more and more rapidly.

These resolutions are presented by a committee representing every segment of the State and every commodity produced. They are presented at this convention for consideration, amendment, rejection or adoption by the elected voting delegates of this the 47th Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau.

After discussion, review, amendment and adoption, these resolutions, along with those passed in recent years which are not superseded, form now our policy until action is again taken next year.

We must now diligently work to make these goals a reality and maintain the progress we have made in past years. Success or failure depends on each and every one of us and the contribution we make.

By Louis W. Hayward, Chairman
1966 MFB Resolutions Committee

APPRECIATION

Major Farm Bureau policies enacted into law during the 73rd session of the Legislature include:

1. Unified statewide meat inspection and slaughterhouse licensing.
2. Unified statewide dairy inspection.
3. Elimination of farm personal property tax.
4. Exemption of fruit trees, shrubs, vines, etc. from assessment.
5. Appropriations for cherry and vegetable research.
6. Emigrant Agent licensing law.
7. Support for Extension and Research.
8. Pesticide Research Center.
9. M.S.U. Rural Manpower Center.
10. Slow-Moving-Vehicle law.
11. Bird control appropriations.
12. Marketing program enabling legislation.
13. Bean Commission.
14. Egg law amendments.
15. Potato Act amendments.
16. Swine import requirements.
17. Improvements in laws covering regulations and sale of liming materials, commercial feeds, fertilizers and seeds.
18. Interstate insect pest compact.
19. Water well drillers filing and licensing.

We commend the Governor and the Legislature for cooperating and making effective these and several other programs which we have supported and which are important to agriculture and to our economy.

WE COMMEND

We commend the 73rd Legislature and the Governor for the passage of two tax relief bills of extreme importance to Michigan agriculture. The elimination of the burdensome tax on farm personal property and the exemption from assessment of fruit and Christmas trees, shrubs, plants, bushes and vines is an important step toward tax equity and will encourage the growth of a basic industry — agriculture — and hence the entire Michigan economy.

TAX REFORM

We commend those leaders of both political parties who have made sincere efforts to develop a bipartisan tax reform program and thus carry out the commitments of both party platforms.

Individuals and organization leaders testifying at public hearings held throughout the state gave strong support to the need for tax reform.

Farm Bureau resolutions have been concerned with tax reform in Michigan since 1958. At that time the Conlin Tax Study called attention to Michigan's inequitable tax structure.



PART OF THE CROWD — of more than 500 voting delegates who enacted the policy resolutions printed on these pages, are pictured at work. Few empty seats were noted as delegate-interest remained high throughout the 3-day convention.

In 1962 Farm Bureau initiated a study of the effect of the tax structure on farmers. The study revealed that, at that time, property was paying 47% of all state and local taxes, and from 1950 to 1961 real estate taxes had risen from 4.9% of farmers' income to 12.4%.

In 1963 U.S.D.A. reported that taxes on farm real estate had risen another 7.3% in the previous year. Also, a 13-state study revealed that Michigan had the greatest percent of property tax increase in the ten-year period of 1951-1961.

In 1965 a Kansas State University study showed that from 1950-1963 Michigan farm property taxes per acre rose far more rapidly than in other midwestern states. The rise in Michigan was 242% compared to a U.S. average of 107%.

A 1965 study by the Michigan Citizens Research Council revealed that urban families with annual incomes of \$4500 to \$18,000 pay from a high of 4.1% to a low of 2.9% of their incomes on real estate taxes. Compare this to the average of 14.4% of farmer income required to pay farm real estate taxes, according to a 1966 U.S.D.A. report. In addition, farm families pay all other taxes, including many business taxes such as the Business Activities Tax.

We call attention to the fact that no end is in sight for the continued rise in property taxation unless the Michigan tax structure is modernized. Twentieth century programs can no longer be financed with 19th century concepts of taxation. A century or more ago, property was a good measure of wealth and the ability to pay, but this is no longer true.

While some important progress has been made toward tax reform, meaningful reform must result in a balanced tax structure.

We, therefore, continue to support the following major objectives of true tax reform to ensure greater equity of taxation to individuals and business:

- Repeal of the business activities tax and the intangibles tax.
- Significant tax relief on property.
- New sources of revenue for local units of government. We believe this should include the use of the income tax by the county rather than cities.
- Cities should not be allowed to preempt the use of the income tax.
- Improved assessment and equalization procedures.
- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
- Continued improvement of State School Aid formulas to assure greater equalization.
- A Statewide broad-based tax on net income, with definite provisions to lower taxes on property. It should not be necessary to exceed the constitutional property tax limitation.
- Prohibit local income taxation on non-residents.
- Assessment of agricultural land as farm land as long as it is so used instead of on its possible potential value.

The balancing of Michigan's tax structure can no longer be delayed. It is predicted that nearly 60% of Michigan's present surplus will be used this year and the state will be faced with a serious deficit next year. While no citizen cares to pay more taxes, we believe every citizen expects to support his schools and other local and state government services through a fair and equitable tax structure.

TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

Presently mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property tax, a fee of \$3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50¢ to the township and 50¢ to the county. This fee system enacted in 1959 is no longer realistic. The increased value of trailer

homes is not reflected; nor do they contribute a proper share of the costs of schools and local government.

We urge that legislative action be taken to increase the fee to a level in relation to the property taxes paid by other home owners.

TAXATION OF FOREST RESERVES

It is interesting to note that about half of Michigan's privately-owned commercial forest lands are controlled by citizens owning small parcels, averaging about 60 acres in size.

The larger privately-owned commercial forest reserves are mostly in the Upper Peninsula.

Since 1925, owners, at their option, have been permitted, for tax purposes, to list these lands under the Commercial Forest Reserve (Pearson) Act. Certain qualifications must be met, including the requirement that such land be open to public use (hunting, fishing, etc.).

Legislation to modernize the law and increase the "in lieu of tax" income to local government passed the Michigan House of Representatives in 1965, but died in the Senate during the 1966 session.

We will continue to support legislation to achieve equitable taxation of these properties. We believe the State must recognize the "multiple-use" values, especially recreation, and at the same time eliminate the uncertainty of local government revenues in lieu of taxes.

AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENT

Many Michigan leaders are becoming increasingly concerned with the rapid disappearance of good agricultural land. Future leaders may look back at the folly of our unwise land use. A proper tax structure can be an effective method of saving the better farm land for future food needs and also meet the need for water conservation and the preservation of "open spaces" for aesthetic and recreational values.

Many other progressive state legislatures (10 or more) have taken action to allow assessment of farm land on the basis of its value for agriculture rather than for non-farm uses.



RE-ELECTED — as President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, was Elton R. Smith, Kent county dairyman. Smith represents District 4 on the board, composed of Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan and Barry counties.

YOUR COPY OF THE 1967 FARM BUREAU STATE-POLICY RESOLUTIONS

EDUCATION - LAW ENFORCEMENT

Land Assessment - - School Problems

For instance, the Maryland law states expressly that it is "in the general public interest that farming be fostered and encouraged in order to maintain a readily available source of food and dairy products close to the metropolitan areas of the state, to encourage the preservation of open spaces as an amenity necessary to human welfare and happiness, and to prevent the forced conversion of such open space to more intensive uses as a result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of land at a rate or level incompatible with the practical use of such land for farming."

This is becoming an increasingly serious problem in Michigan. We recommend legislation that will protect prime agricultural lands and require assessors to consider only agricultural factors in assessing land used for that purpose.

OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Curriculum planning in our public school system is undergoing intense study and rapid change. We recognize the importance of such study and change to keep pace with the development of new knowledge. More than 30 curriculum committees of citizens from every walk of life are working with the Department of Education, one of which is in the field of agricultural education. This indicates the concern of both educators and the public to fulfill the future demands for trained people in the complex society in which we live.

Much progress has been made during the last few years in adapting curriculum changes to fit present and future needs. We commend the hundreds of public-spirited citizens from agriculture, business, industry and labor who have been working on curriculum committees at the state and local level.

We believe in the importance of such changes. At the same time, we must preserve the traditional values of the past that are important to the system that is our heritage.

We urge that every citizen become better informed on curriculum needs and changes and work to the end that our young people will be stimulated to develop their potential to its fullest.

We believe that schools should instill in the students at all grade levels the greatness of our country, its religious principles, its Constitution and its heritage.

EQUALIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Our Legislature and Governor are to be congratulated on the adoption of a new State School Aid formula which reverses recent trends and brings the State's share of school operational costs to over the 50% level. Additional aid for Special Education was also included. Increasing state aid to schools has indirectly provided some relief to local taxpayers. Funds were also appropriated requiring the Department of Education to further study new approaches to state aid for schools.

The total problem of adequate and equitable financing of our schools is inextricably tied to the present tax structure and can only be solved by realistic tax reforms that shift much of the local school costs from the present property tax to other sources of revenue.

Until tax reform is accomplished, inequities will continue to exist. Many have been created by rapid shifts in our population. Industries, with their broad tax potential, locate in or are annexed to cities. Employees take residence in the rural suburbs and townships. The tax base in the areas receiving increased populations is often inadequate to provide for schools with a mushrooming pupil load. Farms are taxed beyond their capacity to earn. The situation becomes progressively worse each year.

We recommend that:

- Development of a new state aid formula should include consideration of factors other than property valuations alone.
- A reasonable state aid formula be developed to assist school districts in meeting the costs of building needed facilities.
- The State's share of operational costs should continue to be at least 50%.
- Sufficient funds should be appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Recently enacted legislation now makes it possible that all areas of the State can be served with vocational-technical education programs for both youth and adults. Many area studies have been completed and many others are in progress.

We urge that implementation of this program be developed through the existing types of local educational units, including community colleges, intermediate school districts and high school districts.

In areas where the need arises, two or more high school districts should be permitted to organize a cooperative program of vocational-technical education through contractual arrangements without further re-districting or the establishment of a superimposed district.

We further urge that Farm Bureau members take an active part in the organization of local programs. Such training opportunities should help answer the dropout problem and provide training for job opportunities.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

We believe that the many special education programs presently administered by intermediate school districts are of vital importance. Over 130,000 children now benefit from such programs, but this is less than one-half of those known to have particular needs. A serious teacher shortage, for the most part, prevents meeting the needs of these children.

We urge that every effort be made to encourage qualified people to enter this specialized field of education. During this critical period, school authorities should make sure that every child qualifying for special education receives as many of the benefits as possible.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges make post-high school educational opportunities available to many young people otherwise unable to further their training. We believe that further development of such institutions should be encouraged, especially those offering training for technical and semi-professional occupations.

It should be remembered, however, that property is the only source of local tax revenue for this purpose. If community colleges are to be expanded to their full potential, other sources of tax revenue must be provided.

HOT LUNCHES

The national school lunch and special milk programs have proved beneficial to school children. The programs have helped to establish proper dietary habits among our young people.

Since Federal Aid to the School Hot Lunch programs has been substantially reduced, we would strongly recommend that the state provide financial assistance to adequately maintain the Hot Lunch Program.

SHORTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

In light of the critical shortage of vocational agriculture teachers in Michigan (and the Nation) and the growing demand for agricultural education graduates, a statewide Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee for Agricultural Education has been formed this year.



COMMENDED— for distinguished service to agriculture, was D. Hale Brake (center) and Mrs. Brake, at the banquet program during the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. Emphasized was his "ardent support of local government . . ."

We commend and support the efforts of this committee in its endeavor to recruit more capable students for careers in agricultural education.

REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTIES WITH PENAL INSTITUTIONS

Under present laws, the county in which a state penal institution is located must bear the cost of court actions on behalf of inmates of the institution. If an inmate escapes or commits a felony while in prison, the county must pay for a legal defense as well as the cost of prosecution and the cost of the court as well.

Penal institutions are to protect the people of the state. When an inmate of such an institution commits an offense, it should be the responsibility of the state to pay the necessary court and related costs.

We believe that action should be taken by the state to reimburse counties for costs incurred in the prosecution of inmates of state penal institutions.

COUNTY HOME RULE

The 73rd Legislature implemented the constitutional provision permitting counties to adopt "home rule" charters in somewhat the same manner as previously provided for cities. County home rule is not mandatory upon the counties, but is only a tool to meet the needs of any county that desires to use it. The provisions of the act can be initiated by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors or by a petition of five percent of the county's voters. There are many counties in which home rule may be desirable; however, it depends upon the particular problems within the county.

We believe that the present law is too restrictive regarding the types of taxes that can be raised. The law now provides that property taxes are not to exceed ten mills for county purposes and at least one-half of that amount must come from within the 15-18 mill limitation.

We recommend that home rule counties be permitted to levy non-property taxes, including income taxes, thereby relieving the tax burden on property.

VIOLENCE AND ORDER UNDER THE LAW

The use of violence, riots and civil disorders of the mob variety have never been the effective method of solving problems within any well-ordered society. We deplore the trend which has been taken within the past two years to disregard our normal processes of law to gain political or group objectives.

Civil violence is the device of chaos and confusion which can deliver our American nation into the hands of our Marxist enemies. We call upon all citizens to uphold the dignity and spirit of our American law and our Constitution, which guarantees and protects the rights of all citizens.

SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The level of crime in this country has reached an alarming height. It is obvious that there is a lack of respect for law and law enforcement agencies by many segments of our society.

It is disturbing that, in many instances, police are hindered from doing a proper job. Courts have made it nearly impossible to apprehend, bring to trial and obtain convictions in many types of crimes. At the same time, many civilian review boards have been created which tend to bring pressure upon law enforcement agencies on behalf of special groups.

We urge that all citizens support law enforcement agencies, particularly at the local level.

JUVENILE VANDALISM

We are concerned about the extensive and malicious destruction of road signs, mail boxes and other property by young people in many communities.

Not only does it create an expense to property owners and the county, but it also reflects unfavorably on all of the young people of today.

We urge parents to teach their children responsibility and the importance of avoiding the destruction of the property of others. We recommend stronger penalties on offenders and that parents be held responsible for the damages involved in such actions.



ACTION SESSION—backstage during resolution debate, helps polish wording of the Workman's Compensation resolution. Supplying technical advice is Farm Bureau Insurance Underwriter, James Rathbun (left). Others pictured are (from left, seated) Dan E. Reed, MFB Secretary-Manager, Harry Nye, Berrien county farmer, and Robert Smith, MFB Legislative Counsel. Standing are (left) Raymond Anderson, Cheboygan farm leader, and an unidentified delegate.

HIGHWAYS - DISEASE CONTROL

ANNEXATION

We favor changes in the state annexation laws preventing the practice of cities gerrymandering parcels from adjoining areas.

WELFARE

We support remedial and preventive programs that will keep persons gainfully employed and off welfare and assistance programs insofar as possible. We believe that this might be accomplished through self-help programs of adult education designed to instruct and train welfare recipients for gainful employment.

We ask that the state legislation requiring all able-bodied welfare recipients to do a reasonable amount of work in order to qualify for assistance be fully implemented. An active job placement program should be related to the eligibility program.

Welfare should be considered as an emergency, or "last resort," program and should not be allowed to become a way of life.

HIGHWAYS

Michigan's excellent 1100-mile interstate highway system is nearing completion. Extensive use of federal funds (90% federal, 10% state), together with a bonding program, has made this possible; however, interstate roads constitute only 1% of the total. Michigan faces a serious problem of meeting the needs of the state trunkline, county road and municipal street systems.

The most recent highway needs study, covering the 20-year period 1960-1980, predicted that present sources of revenue for overall needs would be short \$3 billion. However, this estimate is no longer valid, due to the sharp increase in costs since mid-1965 (up 20-30%).

The report recommended various tax increases, including increasing the "non-user" share of costs. (Under the present tax structure, this would mean a return to property taxes for roads.)

County road commissions are responsible for 77% of all highways, roads and streets in Michigan. Nearly 40% of the county primary roads, 48% of the local roads, 60% of the local road bridges and 33% of the primary road bridges are considered inadequate.

As a result of the rapid growth of the interstate system, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system and to accommodate the increased traffic on our local roads caused by small industry, recreation users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures. The most desirable recreation areas are, in most cases, accessible only by county and local roads.

Therefore, we recommend:

-Any needed increase in revenues be met through "user taxes" rather than return to the system of taxing property to build roads. Michigan's gas tax is among the lowest in the Nation.

-Any change in the distribution formula must not mean less money to county road systems.

Increasing the weight tax is justifiable in view of the fact that, as a depression measure, it was lowered in 1934 from 55¢ per cwt. to the present 35¢ per cwt. Michigan's present weight tax is among the lowest in the Nation. Automobile owners are also fortunate that Michigan law removes motor vehicles from the personal property tax. Many other states (about 26) tax autos as personal property in addition to weight taxes.

Consideration should be given to counties with large areas of public recreation lands, not only because of the heavy financial burden placed on such counties, but adequate roads can also be part of an effective safety program.

DEDICATION OF HIGHWAY FUNDS

We reemphasize our well-established position that revenues derived from the taxation of motor vehicles and motor fuels should be used exclusively for highway purposes. Michigan's new Constitution contains an anti-diversion provision. However, it does state that highway purposes shall be "as defined by law."

The Legislature should not distort the intent of that provision by providing for the expenditure of highway revenues for any purposes which are not directly related to the construction, maintenance, or financing of modern and adequate highway facilities.

HIGHWAYS SHOULD NOT BE HEADLANDS

The practice of many farmers who use highways as headlands cannot be condoned. We recommend that every County Road Commission take steps to prosecute violators.

MACKINAC BRIDGE REFINANCING

All Michigan residents are proud of "Big Mac," which unites our two peninsulas. It is making a very important contribution to the economy of our state and to increasing our valuable tourist and resort industry.

Legislation has been passed providing for refinancing of the outstanding revenue bonds (\$99.8 million), reduction of tolls and administration by the Highway Department. This program will take some time to accomplish due to several restrictions and present high interest rates on money. We urge that all tolls be lowered as soon as possible and, in addition, special consideration on tolls (such as a season ticket) be given to regular users of the bridge.

MICHIGAN STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ACQUIRING RIGHTS OF WAY

We recommend that the Michigan State Highway Department do a more equitable job of appraising needed property for highway rights of way. We feel this would lower the Highway Department's condemnation cases.



FORMER MFB PRESIDENT — Walter Wightman, and wife Alice, receive a plaque for distinguished service to agriculture from president Elton Smith, during ceremonies at the recent Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Lansing.

TRAFFIC VIOLATION PROCEDURE

At the present time, in Michigan, some drivers are failing to appear in court to answer a summons for one or more traffic violations. To apprehend such a person requires a warrant to be issued by the court and locating the person is time-consuming and expensive.

In Illinois, a system currently exists that allows a police officer to retain the operator's license when the driver has committed a moving violation. The summons issued at that time serves as a temporary driver's license, valid only until the court date shown on the summons. When the driver appears in court, his license is returned. If he does not answer the summons, he is operating without a license. This system is dependent on a "one license concept," which means a driver would have only one operator's or chauffeur's license.

We favor enactment of legislation that would establish the "one license concept" and allow a police officer to retain the operator's license or require the posting of a cash bond when a moving violation is committed. The bond or license would be returned by the court when the driver appears to answer for the violation.

DRIVER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Driving is viewed by many people as a right. We believe that it is also a privilege, to be earned and guarded by every driver.

The degree of safety with which a person drives a vehicle depends, to a great extent, on the training he has received in the area of driver education. Mental attitude and habit also influence the way a person drives.

To assure proper driver training and attitude, we will support action that will:

1. Require the successful completion of a driver's training program as a prerequisite to obtaining a driver's license for the first time.
2. Require that a course in corrective driving must be taken by any driver when nine or more points for violations are accumulated on his record within a two-year period.

INTOXICATED DRIVERS

No operator of a motor vehicle makes our highways more hazardous than the person who drives under the influence of an intoxicant. Measures must be taken to increase the effectiveness of our laws in preventing this practice.

We request our State Legislature to enact a law whereby any motorist must sign an agreement, at the time of applying for his driver's license, consenting to the most effective medical test known to determine the degree of his intoxication whenever there is reason to believe that he has partaken of intoxicants. The exact test, to be given by a competent technician, should, if possible, be that which has been shown by medical science to be the most exact method found at the time of the test.

REFLECTORIZED LICENSE PLATES

One of the most common accidents occurring on our highways is the rear-end collision. This happens frequently when visibility is poor or when a vehicle is stalled on the highway.

Over thirty states will require reflectORIZED license plates in 1967 to add a "margin of safety" to vehicles at night. Statistics prove that where reflectORIZED license plates are used, rear-end collisions drop considerably.

We urge the Legislature to enact legislation that would require Michigan vehicle licenses to be reflectORIZED in 1968 and each year thereafter, with any extra cost being added to the cost of the plates.

MOTORBIKES AND MOTORCYCLES

The number of motorbikes and motorcycles has been increasing rapidly in recent years. Under present laws, these vehicles which are under five-rated horsepower:

1. Cannot legally carry more than one person.
2. Cannot be driven on the freeway.
3. Cannot legally exceed 35 m.p.h. on any road.
4. Can be operated by a driver who can obtain a special permit at 15 years of age.

These rules do not apply for vehicles with more than five rated horsepower. The problem exists that the horsepower cannot be determined by looking at the machine.

We believe that all motorbikes or motorcycles should carry permanent markings as to their rated horsepower and that the same information should appear on the vehicle title.

LIVESTOCK DISEASE

The goal of every livestock breeder is to maintain a herd free of brucellosis. He does this by a system of calfhood vaccination. Occasionally a vaccinated animal shows up as a reactor, but is not a carrier of the disease. In no instance has this vaccinated reactor been known to infect another animal in the herd.

In the case of one reactor, as the law now stands, the whole herd is quarantined for an indefinite period of time. We feel that this is unfair and unnecessary.

We request that action be taken so that the quarantine will be lifted as soon as the breeder disposes of the animal in question.

HOG CHOLERA ERADICATION

Michigan is now approaching the final stages of hog cholera eradication. Present law allows the use of modified live cholera virus and serum. It is desirable to do away with the use of live virus or serum since these present a threat to eradication programs.

We urge that action be taken to eliminate the specific requirements for vaccination of breeding swine and allow the Director of Agriculture to establish realistic requirements.

ANTIBIOTICS AND PESTICIDES

The production and distribution of clean wholesome dairy products is of vital concern to both consumers and producers. The instruments for the detecting of antibiotics and hydro-carbon residues can detect smaller and smaller quantities.

Since the federal government has established what is considered to be safe tolerances for residues in most foods, it should also establish realistic, safe maximum residue tolerances in dairy products.

Present-day laboratory techniques can detect traces of chemical residues which are present in only parts per billion, and far below safe tolerances. The "zero tolerance" provision is no longer realistic.

CEREAL LEAF BEETLE AND ALFALFA WEEVIL

The spread of the Cereal Leaf Beetle has continued in the past year. The entire Lower Peninsula is now under quarantine, which affects movement of agricultural commodities out of this area. It appears that a regulatory spraying program cannot be carried out on such an extensive area. Therefore, effective treatment, which could be applied by individuals, must be developed.

The Alfalfa Weevil has been found in Michigan this past year. It appears that the area of infestation may be sizable. This insect has caused devastation of alfalfa and pastures in other states. Its control is not easy.

Little work has been done in Michigan to develop ways of controlling the Alfalfa Weevil. Much effort is needed in this area.

Research for methods to control these insects is needed. Educational programs in the proper use of these control methods are also important. These jobs can best be done by the Experiment Station and the Extension Service of Michigan State University.

We are in favor of adequate funds to support this type of work by the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Stations.

RURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Emergencies on the farm are a part of our everyday existence, since farming is a hazardous occupation. On occasion, emergencies of major proportions, or near disasters, hit our farms and communities.

We should avail ourselves of every aid to be prepared to meet such emergencies. Often the lives and health of our families depend on quick and proper action.

We urge our people and our Community Farm Bureaus to avail themselves of the study programs developed at Michigan State University's Department of Rural Defense. Our people will do well to become a part of the community movements for disaster preparedness. We recommend that all communities cooperate in this work with the programs of the Cooperative Extension Service, which is the immediate agency in the community to coordinate this program.

REMOVAL OF ABANDONED VINEYARDS AND ORCHARDS

The number of abandoned vineyards and orchards is increasing each year. These abandoned vineyards and orchards spread harmful insects and disease to nearby properly cultivated vineyards and orchards. A state statute has been in existence since 1945 which permits the Michigan Department of Agriculture to remove neglected orchards and vineyards to eliminate this threat to modern fruit production. Over 1 million fruit trees and about 7,000 acres of vineyards were removed under this program until 1957. Since that time, funds have been essentially non-existent. We urge that the Michigan Legislature appropriate funds to implement this law.

BLACKBIRDS, STARLINGS AND OTHER PESTS

Blackbirds, starlings and other destructive wildlife are still on the increase and do considerable crop damage. We commend the Michigan Legislature for appropriating funds for the development of a plan of control

CONSERVATION — WATER USE



VIEW FROM STAGE — of Michigan State University auditorium, shows county delegate signs in position, and the backs of state resolution committee members seated at the long table. Newly elected District Director, Nicholas Smith, discusses a resolution from the lectern.

through the Michigan Department of Agriculture with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This action takes advantage of the matching funds available from the federal government. We urge the Legislature to appropriate continuing funds for the support of this vital service. Also, we encourage every producer having problems with blackbirds, starlings and other destructive birds to build and operate an adequate number of traps to control the population of these ruinous pests.

HUNTING PRIVILEGE — CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITY

More people want to hunt but the land available for the purpose is shrinking. This pressure increases the need for understanding and wholesome conduct by all involved — sportsmen, landowners and officials.

To minimize problems in this area of rural-urban relations, we suggest:

- All first-time hunting license applicants should have completed hunter safety training.
- All hunters should know and observe safety rules.
- All hunters should be aware of hunting laws.
- All landowners should be aware of their legal protection (Horton Hunter Trespass Act).
- All landowners should be aware of the public relations value of good farmer-sportsman contacts.
- More consideration should be given to flexible seasons in areas of unharvested crops.

RACCOON AND WOODCHUCK

Damage by raccoons and woodchucks continues to be high in some areas. We recommend that there be no restrictions on hunting raccoons and woodchucks in those areas until the excessive population of these animals has been reduced.

MANAGEMENT OF DEER HERD

We recognize the rapid increase in reports of serious crop damage. Because of the habits of deer, a few farmers, or even a single farmer, may have severe damage while neighbors only a short distance away have little or no loss. Even small areas experience different conditions.

Problems of deer herd management continue to concern Farm Bureau members. These concerns range from too few deer in some areas to too many deer in other areas.

The rapid increase of deer-car accidents in the southern part of the state is helping to increase auto insurance rates and carries a constant threat of personal injury or death. At present, the Michigan Conservation Commission does not have authority to consider deer-car accident records in establishing special seasons.

We recommend:

1. Legislation to clearly authorize the Michigan Conservation Commission to give consideration to deer-car accident rates in establishing special seasons.
2. Use of carefully adjusted special seasons to regulate the size of the herd in areas where food shortage, crop damage or deer-car accident rates warrant such action.
3. Special attention to the management of the rapidly expanding southern Michigan deer herd.
4. Practical means should be found for the assignment of special season permits to residents or resident landowners.
5. In some areas in both peninsulas there are sections where the deer herd has been drastically reduced in numbers. We therefore recommend that the Conservation Department make a more careful study before establishing special seasons in these areas.

We also ask that opinions of our members on game management problems, as expressed in the County Farm Bureau resolutions, be forwarded to the Michigan Conservation Commission for its consideration.

FOX AND COYOTE BOUNTY

The fox population is reportedly on the increase in many parts of the state. We favor the reestablishment of a suitable bounty on fox and the retention of the bounty on coyote.

We believe bounties should be uniform throughout the state and there should be adequate protection against double payment for the same animal.

HUNTING IN AREAS OF HEAVY POPULATION

Hunting in areas of heavy population presents a real danger to persons and property.

We will assist Farm Bureau members in thickly populated townships to present such problems to the Legislature for the relief which it can grant.

FOREIGN MARKET EXPANSION

Expansion of foreign markets is vital to Michigan agriculture. Michigan farmers now depend on foreign markets for sale of nearly one-half of our normal bean and wheat production. Also, large amounts of feed grains, livestock and poultry products and fruit and vegetable products are sold overseas.

We in Michigan are most fortunate to be in a favorable position to expand foreign markets. This is due to the St. Lawrence Seaway, which permits ocean-going ships to come to our ports.

We pledge our continued cooperation with other groups toward the development of programs to increase the export volume of Michigan farm products.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

We recommend any necessary move to maintain low freight rates on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The St. Lawrence Seaway is a great economic asset to the Midwest area of the United States, and we are opposed to raising rates which would be added costs to marketing agricultural products.

WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT

Water Resources and Water Rights

An adequate supply of water of good and dependable quality is becoming increasingly important for municipal, industrial, agricultural and recreational purposes.

We are pleased that legislation has been passed requiring well drillers to be licensed and to file logs of earth formations. We urge cooperation of all concerned so that needed information on underground water resources can be obtained.

There is not yet an overall plan to guide in the development, protection and use of Michigan's water resources. Unless we move to provide for such a plan and for the machinery to carry it into effect, we face the certainty of federal takeover of our responsibilities.

Governor Romney has appointed a Task Force on Water which reported that an estimated \$200,000 (one-half from state funds and one-half from federal matching funds) would be necessary to carry out the development of an adequate plan. The Legislature did not appropriate funds for the use of the Task Force but did establish a Joint House-Senate Committee, with \$100,000 at its disposal, with the expectation of an equal amount of federal matching money.

We are encouraged by the interest and activity in this field. We are concerned that our water resources not become a political football. We ask for cooperation within our state government so that this important work can proceed now. We are already late!

Successful planning in the important field of water management will require broad citizen participation. We urge the use of advisory committees representing the various water user interests.

Artesian Wells

Much water from open-flow artesian wells is wasted. We ask that proper steps be taken to curb the unnecessary loss.

Water Pollution

We commend the Water Resources Commission for its work in controlling water pollution. New legislation should result in improvements in our lakes and streams.

While we believe agriculture is not a major source of water pollution, we ask the research laboratories of our public and private institutions to assist us in minimizing leaching and runoff of plant foods and agricultural chemicals.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

We recommend that the program of cost-sharing payments to farmers for approved soil and water conservation measures be made on a more restricted basis which would confine attention to the urgent problems of conservation rather than increased production at the present time.

We do not believe it is reasonable for the government to pay a farmer for reducing production and at the same time pay for improving his land for greater productivity.

We endorse the small watershed program as an effective tool for dealing with surface water problems. Since flood control, drainage, pollution, erosion and water supply are problems affecting much more than local areas, we believe cost-sharing is justified. More emphasis should be placed on this method of water control, leaving less need or excuse for federally-directed projects.

SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources rests on all citizens, urban as well as rural. Cities are dependent on rural lands not only for food, but for most of their water supplies.

The annual increase in our population places a definite responsibility on agriculture and the nation to safeguard our needed future food production facilities. Farm owners and farm renters, as well as our urban population, must be aware of the need for intelligent use and conservation of our lands.

The Soil Conservation Districts now organized in Michigan are efficiently operated by elected farmers serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity.

We commend the Legislature for its action in providing part-time assistance to aid these volunteer officers. We favor the appropriation of adequate state funds to provide a district aide for each Soil Conservation District. The use of part-time or full-time aides would provide greater efficiency. We misuse our resources by requiring trained conservationists to do routine office paper work.

LITTERING

The new State Anti-Litter Law can help in curbing littering. The judge may not only levy a fine and costs, but may require the offender to pick up litter along a specified mileage of highway.

We recognize that it is difficult to apprehend and identify litterers. Citizens must be willing to aid police officers in this difficult job. We must not permit local political influences to hamper enforcement.

While anti-litter campaigns have greatly reduced the amount of litter on our highways, the beverage containers are still a problem. The beverage industry spends large sums of money advertising its products. Few ads are as cleverly devised as the beverage ads.

We ask the industry that helped create this problem to help solve it!

We support the efforts of Keep Michigan Beautiful in its program of education and encouragement for a clean and attractive state.

We urge strict enforcement of anti-littering laws covering highways, parks, lakes, streams and public and private property.

THROWAWAY CONTAINERS

Throwaway bottles are a public nuisance. They are a costly hazard to farm implements, motor vehicle tires, and to farm livestock and are a danger to both adults and children. Crops have been rendered unusable by broken glass picked up by harvesting equipment. Much valuable time can be lost while a tractor tire is being repaired.

Over 18,000 truckloads of bottles, cans and paper will be picked up by hand on state highways alone during the present year, the Michigan Highway Department estimates.

Surveys indicate that most road litter traces to the beverage industry. Since the throwaways have no salvage value, they are discarded where they are emptied, along highways or thrown into fields and woodlots, lakes and streams and on beaches. They are left there to be shattered and become a public hazard.

We urge the Legislature to require all bottled beverages sold in Michigan to be delivered in returnable bottles with a deposit value of at least 5¢ each to encourage their return.

SEEDLING STOCK FOR REFORESTING

An estimated two million acres of private land in Michigan will find its best use in forest growth. We believe the reforestation of land best adapted to that purpose is a public service tending to conserve our natural resources, prevent erosion, and maintain our water table.

We urge the use of available soils and woodland site information to insure planting adaptable species on all sites.

Quality planting stock of proper varieties must be available at convenient locations, at reasonable prices, and at the time needed, in order to encourage landowners to plant. We encourage private enterprise to serve this need, especially to provide stock for landscaping and Christmas tree plantings.

Plantings for timber, pulpwood, game habitat improvement, and erosion control are of great public benefit and we continue to support the few remaining Soil Conservation District nurseries and Conservation Department nurseries as sources of supply for needed planting where the demand is not being met by private nurseries.

DRAINAGE LAW

We urge that Michigan's drainage laws be recodified. We need understandable general provisions rather than specific legislation fitted to special situations.

FARM-LABOR-STATE AFFAIRS

Lands owned by public agencies, such as School Districts, the Conservation Department and the Highway Department, often receive direct benefits from drainage projects which are financed and paid for by adjoining landowners.

We support legislation to provide for assessment of drainage benefits to publicly-owned lands.

MINERAL RIGHTS

Laws affecting oil and gas rights and metallic mineral rights, when owned by other than the owner of the surface, have been passed in 1963 and 1966, respectively.

Our members who may own such rights or who may own the surface from which such rights have been separated should inform themselves as to how these new laws may affect their interests.

STRIP MINE RESTORATION

Strip mining operations leave unsightly and dangerous areas unless restored by leveling and replanting to forest or other vegetation.

It is foolish to spend millions for highway beautification while at the same time we are permitting the creation of man-made wastelands.

We urge that study of plans for the restoration and beautification of strip mining operations be included in Keep Michigan Beautiful programming.

TOWNSHIP DUMPS

New state laws governing waste disposal dumps have imposed such strict regulations that many townships are now unable to comply. This results in the closing of such dumps, which may cause many to use roadsides for disposal of cans and trash.

We urge modification of the law by the Legislature to preserve reasonable sanitation requirements, but to exempt rural areas from the necessarily more stringent regulations needed in the heavily populated areas.

ZONING

County zoning can provide protection against unwise land use. Complaints often come to light after the dump or junk yard has been established.

It is then too late to provide the safeguards which could be available through county or township zoning.

County Farm Bureaus, Community Farm Bureaus and individual members can and should be active in initiating and supporting efforts to develop acceptable zoning ordinances.

TERM OF OFFICE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND CONGRESSMEN

Recently, groups have been voicing the opinion that Congressmen and members of the State House of Representatives should be elected for a four-year term. This causes us concern, as we believe it would make these officials less responsive to the wishes of the people who elect them.

We are opposed to increasing the term of Congressmen and State Representatives to four years.

BROADCAST SUPPORT

Farmers are aware of the many parallels between farming and broadcasting, with relatively small numbers of people involved in industries of great importance to all citizens.

Free nations depend upon a free agriculture to feed and clothe them adequately. Free nations depend upon free communications to assure an informed and alert citizenry.

In Michigan, the broadcast industry is composed of a small but important group of opinion-sharing people. Through radio and television, relatively few reach millions of citizens. This is an awesome responsibility, and similar to that borne by Michigan's farmers, who as a shrinking minority bear the twin burden of efficient production, and of explaining the complex production story to the more than ninety percent non-farm citizens of our growing metropolitan areas.

Both farmers and broadcasters are hampered by federal interference in their businesses. Both are increasingly subject to government rule-making and controls.

The Michigan Farm Bureau commends broadcasters of our state for many demonstrations of growing maturity and moral responsibility. Examples include the evident common sense shown in reporting incidents of civil distress. Many stations voluntarily delayed airing reports which might have tended to incite further riot during periods of tension.

Such voluntary efforts toward high news and program standards stand as proof that the broadcast industry has earned the right to operate its own business freely and with less, not more, restraint.

Similarly, farmers feel that agriculture, through an efficiency of production which has become the envy of the world, has earned the right to make its own decisions, and call upon broadcasters for continued support in these efforts.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Since most employers of farm labor are already carrying limited hospital and medical benefits, and since our own company is already offering limited loss-of-time insurance to farm employers that is not prohibitive in cost, and since, under the present Workmen's Compensation law, agricultural employers would be required to carry insurance on persons unemployable in other industries and who are uninsurable in any insurance company in Michigan, we urge that the Work-

men's Compensation Act be amended to restore common law defenses, and to provide realistic new language that would require farm employers to carry practical hospital, medical and loss-of-time insurance for farm workers, or new legislation should be enacted under which Michigan agriculture can live.

FARM LABOR HOUSING

Facilities for housing seasonal farm workers are provided by many farm employers. The quality of this type of housing is improving rapidly due to the requirements of the state farm labor camp licensing law and the competitive aspects of attracting better workers. The building of new facilities and the improvement of existing housing has become an expensive part of the farm operation.

We urge that structures used only for the housing of seasonal farm workers and for which there is no reimbursement from the occupants be exempted from taxation.

FARM LABOR ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Governor's Migrant Labor Commission has completed its work as a commission. Most of the members are now serving on a newly-created Farm Labor Advisory Council, which serves in an advisory capacity to the Michigan Department of Labor and its Director.

Farm labor has been recently included in many labor laws for the first time. We support this effort to give consideration for the special and peculiar problems relating to farm labor in the administration of these laws. We urge that this Council be given statutory status so that it may be a continuing advisor to the appropriate department of State Government.

MINIMUM WAGE

Most Michigan fruit and vegetable growers already pay in excess of both state and federal minimum wages for farm workers. Farmers recognize that workers must be paid a living wage. But, on the other hand, consumers must recognize that in order to do this, farmers must receive increased prices for their products sufficient to pay the costs of production and leave a living wage for themselves and their families.

We commend the Michigan Legislature for delaying the effective date of the minimum wage law for agricultural piecework harvesting until May 1, 1967. This amendment to the law allows time for the Wage Deviation Board to secure earnings records on the harvesting of crops normally performed on a piecework basis and then establish piece rate scales that will be equivalent to the minimum hourly wage as it applies to a worker of average ability harvesting each particular commodity. Farm employers will be able to meet the requirements of the law and yet continue to offer employment to all people seeking work regardless of their capabilities or diligence.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Great changes have come about in the efficiency of agricultural production in the last forty years. The American housewife now purchases the highest quality food with the smallest portion of her disposable income (after taxes) in all history. Americans spend a smaller part of their incomes for food than any other people in the world, at this or any other time—less than 19%, and this includes the many built-in maid services such as packaging, pre-cooling, quick freezing and table preparation now taken for granted. The income not used for food provides the goods and services which give our nation the highest standard of living the world has ever known.

Part of the success story of American Agriculture is due to the Cooperative Extension Service. This Service has been an effective link for transmitting new and better methods from research laboratories to individual farms. The adoption of these methods by farmers has been of benefit to all society.

The Cooperative Extension Service has also provided youth with opportunities for leadership training, character-building experiences and vocational guidance. These opportunities, available to both rural and urban young people, should be expanded.

In recognizing the good that is being done by 4-H programs for our youth, we recommend that the office of 4-H Club Agent be reestablished in each county where sufficient membership warrants.

Many families in Michigan enjoy better living because of "Homemakers Activities" of the Home and Family Living Program.

We urge the Michigan Legislature to appropriate adequate funds to expand the work of the Cooperative Extension Service.

We propose that the Cooperative Extension Service be kept free from political pressure in order to promote and maintain agricultural programs best suited to the farm families in their areas.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Agricultural research is essential to maintain the efficiency of agricultural production. New problems continuously arise in the production and marketing of agricultural crops and in the field of farm management. Solution of these problems must be supplied through basic and applied research. This research can best be done by educational institutions such as Michigan State University.

Basic research is work of the scientist stimulated by the question, "What if?" Applied research is developing procedures to make practical the findings of basic research. We believe that both basic and applied agricultural research are needed if farmers are to meet the challenge of feeding the millions of hungry people in the world.

The agricultural research facilities of Michigan State University have done much for consumers as well as for farmers.

We ask the Legislature to appropriate adequate funds for the work of the Agricultural Experiment Stations.

UPPER PENINSULA EXPERIMENT STATION

Agricultural and timberland enterprises in the U.P. have progressively changed since the establishment of the Experiment Station at Chatham. The U.P. Experiment Station can continue to serve effectively the farmers and timberland owners with new methods, so they can keep current with new developments in both fields.

We need the leadership that one central experiment station in the central part of the U.P. can furnish in the competitive field of agriculture and timber management. Suggested work needed at the station under controlled conditions:

1. More test trials needed in small grains on production and disease resistance.
2. Alfalfa and trefoil variety trials.
3. Beef breeding and feeding for the U.P. conditions.
4. Field type demonstrations in potato, rutabagas and other cash crops.

Therefore, we believe that the Chatham Experiment Station should be maintained.

UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR

The State of Michigan has appropriated funds for the Upper Peninsula State Fair in the past. Many of the activities at this Fair center around 4-H activities. At the present time need exists for additional 4-H exhibit facilities.

We recommend that funds be appropriated for these improved facilities at the Upper Peninsula State Fair.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

We commend the Michigan Department of Agriculture for the progress being made in meeting the demands of the general public and the farmer.

The Department has the responsibility of enforcing many laws and regulations for the protection of the consumer and to maintain quality standards of Michigan farm products.

Additional laboratory space, staff and equipment is needed for the increased analytical testing that must be done.

We support appropriation of sufficient funds to permit this arm of State Government to effectively do its work.

DOUBLE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

The Congress has this year enacted legislation to require all clocks in the United States to be moved ahead one hour on the last Sunday in April, and moved back one hour on the last Sunday in October. For Michigan, this means *Double Daylight Saving Time*. The law provides that a state legislature may act to exempt that state from the act.

WE URGE the Michigan Legislature to take prompt action to exempt Michigan from the effect of the federal law.

Ninety-six percent of the geographical area of Michigan lies in the Central Time zone. However, since 1946 our state has been on Eastern Standard Time (the equivalent of Central Daylight Time) by action of the Michigan Legislature.

The new federal act would require us to move our clocks ahead *one more hour to Double Daylight time!*

Michigan is especially affected—because we are already an hour ahead of the sun. The sun *now* sets more than an hour later in Muskegon than it *will* in Boston after Boston's clocks are moved ahead!

On July 1, unless our Legislature acts, the sun will set at 9:27 p.m. in Muskegon and will set in Boston at 8:25 p.m.

But it is at the other end of the day that farmers would find their greatest difficulties. The sun would rise an hour later, by the clock. Harvest of grain, hay, berries and other crops could not start until ten o'clock or later because the dew would not have dried. And yet, any hired farm help wants to work the same hours which are normal in the community. This leaves a



BACKSTAGE BROADCAST — for WGN radio-television, Chicago, is conducted by Farm Director Orion Samuelson. Visiting with him are newly elected board members John Laurie (left) and Nicholas Smith (center).

COMMODITY-SERVICE PROGRAMS

very short day for work during a very busy time of the year. If the farm family works to take advantage of the sunlight until nearly 10:00 p.m., they cannot take part in social and civic activities in the community.

Children waiting for school buses would have two more months of darkness in the morning hours. The sun would not rise until 8:00 a.m., or later, much of the fall season.

Because of these and many other problems resulting from the action of the federal law, we request and urge the Michigan Legislature to act to exempt our state.

If Daylight Savings makes folks think
It's noon when it's not,
Let's call December June and then
They'll think cold weather's hot.

FARMER COOPERATIVES

Agricultural cooperatives are a vital part of our private enterprise system. Basically, they supply an economic need, by providing farmers with a means to compete effectively in the marketing of products, purchase of farm production supplies, and by providing needed services.

Farm cooperatives must be large enough to compete effectively with other enterprises. Cooperatives must have the full and loyal support of all members, and in turn cooperatives should handle all products and services available to them through cooperative suppliers. Any lessening of use of cooperative channels dissipates mutual strength.

We urge directors and members of cooperatives to make certain that their associations are soundly and adequately financed, well managed, and forward-looking enough to meet the challenges of changing economic conditions.

We urge that cooperative members exercise their responsibility by attending membership meetings to keep informed of the business affairs of their association and, further, to select and elect competent and qualified board members.

AMERICAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION

The acceptance and use of the program of the American Dairy Association by the dairy industry in Michigan and throughout the nation is a real example of what producers of farm commodities can and must do to promote the use of their products and assure themselves of a future market.

If an increase in revenue is necessary, we would favor that this revenue be collected by the present voluntary system rather than relying on a marketing order to secure necessary funds.

POULTRY AND EGG NATIONAL BOARD

The acceptance and use of the program of the Poultry and Egg National Board in the nation and in Michigan is an example of what can be done to promote poultry products, thereby assuring future markets.

We urge all egg and poultry producers to support sound public relations, educational and promotional programs for their industry.

COMMODITY PROMOTION THROUGH STATE MARKETING PROGRAMS

Enabling legislation for State Marketing Programs was enacted into law by the 1965 Michigan Legislature. Funds to support statewide commodity industry promotional programs can be collected from producers through marketing programs established by the vote of the producers. We believe that each commodity group should determine for itself whether an escape clause shall be included in the marketing program for that commodity.

RIGHT-TO-MARKET LAWS

With the ever-increasing complexity of modern marketing, it becomes apparent that farmers will be forced to increase their use of group action such as Cooperatives and Marketing Associations. These actions are sometimes opposed by processors through techniques such as refusal to purchase from members, threats of reprisals, and refusals to "recognize" marketing associations even though a large percentage of the growers of a particular commodity belong to an association.

We support state legislation to prevent discrimination by processors against producers.

CONTRACT PRICING

Some Michigan professors offer written sales and production contracts to vegetable and fruit growers without a stated sales price. Growers wanting to produce that crop and having no other market outlet are faced with no other alternative but to sign such a contract. Organizing these growers into a marketing association to negotiate a better contract is the desirable solution but seems to be extremely difficult in some areas.

We urge that MACMA and Farm Bureau work toward having processors publish contract vegetable and fruit prices prior to offering to growers.

PAYMENT FOR PRODUCE

We deplore the practice by some independent fruit and vegetable processors of operating on growers' money due to delayed payment for produce delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more. Growers must pay farm workers immediately after work is performed and are required to pay for their other costs of production within a set period of time along the standards of normal business practices.

We urge the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation that would require processors who purchase fruits and vegetables from growers to make full payment within 60 days of the date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

PROCESSOR PRICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

At times, fruit and vegetable growers have had to deliver produce to processors without the benefit of knowing what price the processor is going to pay and later finds that the prices paid by the processors are unrealistic. We urge the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation that would require fruit and vegetable processors to post prices for annual vegetables prior to planting, and fruit within a reasonable length of time prior to the beginning of the delivery date of the products for which the price would apply. The posted prices should include the date on which the prices are effective. If new prices are subsequently posted which are lower than the previous prices, the new prices should not apply to any product delivered before the posting of the new prices.

SOFT WHEAT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

We favor the formation of a Soft Wheat Growers' Association. We feel this is the best approach to solving the wheat marketing situation. This should be done with the help of neighboring states which produce soft wheat.

We therefore urge whatever steps necessary to set this project in motion.



EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE—to Michigan agriculture was cited in honoring Wesley Hawley, (standing), Escanaba, former head of the Michigan Farm Bureau membership department. Seated is Dean Pridgeon, Chairman of the Awards banquet event.

DAIRY UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES

Michigan dairy farmers will be best served in the long run by a dairy industry that remains free from unnecessary governmental economic regulations. Dairy firms should continue to compete on the basis of quality, service and price. We would like to retain a business climate wherein the adoption of new practices of processing and distribution would be encouraged.

While we believe in competition, we are disturbed by the fact that some dairy product distributors and retailers engage in practices that have the effect of destroying their competitors. Unfair trade practices are a matter of moral, ethical and economic judgments. Legislation now exists to control unfair practices in interstate commerce. Some cases are now being tried that may further clarify the situation and give direction for future actions. These may also serve as a guide for state regulations.

In the interest of controlling unfair trade practice in interstate movement of dairy products, we urge the consideration of recommendations made by the Special Subcommittee of the Select Committee of Small Business of the United States House of Representatives. The recommendations in summary are these:

- "1. Require publication of prices, discounts, rebates, allowances, commissions, loans, and gifts by all sellers.
- "2. Prohibit price discrimination which would have the effect of substantially lessening competition or tending to create a monopoly; and
- "3. Provide for process . . . for temporary injunctive relief pending issuance of final orders in litigated cases."

We would support legislation which would prohibit sales of dairy products at prices below cost and other types of unfair trade practices. Such legislation should provide for issuance of temporary restraining orders by the regulatory authority or temporary injunction by the courts pending the final disposition of litigated cases.

Any new legislation should have the effect of preserving competition to the greatest possible extent. We would oppose any legislation which would seek to fix prices, control production or restrict producers in their right to bargain.

We are opposed to additional costs in government and furthermore we believe the entire dairy industry would be served best by placing the administration of any milk marketing law in the hands of the Michigan Department of Agriculture instead of in a Milk Marketing Commission.

We are encouraged by the progress being made by Farm Bureau and other interests in the dairy industry toward solving the aforementioned problems. We endorse such activities and urge the continuation of them.

REGIONAL BARGAINING IN DAIRY MARKETING

The recent increase in the superpool premium resulted in a price of \$6.10 per hundredweight for Class I milk. This accomplishment was achieved only through hard bargaining by dairy cooperatives in the Great Lakes Milk Marketing Federation. With the increasing ease in which milk moves between markets, such regional bargaining is becoming essential.

We applaud the accomplishments of the Great Lakes Milk Marketing Federation and encourage continued efforts in the area of regional bargaining in the dairy industry.

CLASS I BASE

Base excess plans were devised many years ago for the purpose of leveling the peaks and valleys of seasonal production. In Southern Michigan this goal has been well accomplished with an average of about 10% difference between peak and low production times of the year.

The Food and Agricultural Act of 1965 makes possible the establishment of Class I bases within federal order markets. Such bases would allot a share of the Class I sales to each producer, thus permitting him to gear his production to his base and not continue the "base race" to assure himself a share of the "premium" priced sales.

We will work with other organizations representing dairy farmers desiring to develop a Class I base plan. Any plan should contain provisions for transferable bases within the order.

QUALITY DAIRY PRODUCTS

In the interests of the Michigan dairy industry and the consuming public, we urge that every effort be extended to improve the quality of manufactured dairy products offered to consumers. Only the best quality products will maintain the demand for dairy products and assure the best returns to producers.

We urge that all milk produced for human consumption be produced under the specifications of the Michigan Fluid Milk Law.

SERVICE TO MEMBER PROGRAMS

The Michigan State University survey of farmer attitudes establishes that farmers are most strongly motivated to join a farm organization through the provision of tangible economic benefits. Our Farm Bureau experience has been that strength of membership has benefitted through the offering of some benefits of this kind in the past.

We feel that it is important for the Michigan Farm Bureau to promote and develop specific new programs which will provide services to Farm Bureau members only. We must preserve to the fullest degree possible those services-to-member benefits which have been established by Farm Bureau delegate action in former years.

ACTION ON LOCAL AFFAIRS

There is no question in the minds of this delegate body that we, as citizens and as Farm Bureau members, are face to face with many problems that vitally concern our people and affect their lives right where they live—in their home counties and communities.

These are problems which no one else will solve for us. Nor can we hope that they will solve themselves if we merely turn our backs upon them. On the contrary, others will move action in directions that may very well be adverse to the interests of our people.

We have the advantage of being organized for action as a Farm Bureau body of citizens who are residents of our counties. We must use that advantage to the fullest possible extent.

Problems of growing significance include such matters as the disastrous record of accidents and deaths on our local and county roads, the option under the new Constitution to fix millage rates up to 18 mills, the issue of reorganization of our school districts under K-12, the opportunities for out-of-school youths and school dropouts, the ever-expanding problems of county zoning ordinances, County Home Rule, Reapportionment of County Boards of Supervisors, and the election of responsible people to administer our local governments.

These are local problems. They must be handled by local people. Our leadership and our responsibility before the public view is involved whether we answer the challenges of these problems or stand idly by and do nothing about them.

We challenge the boards of directors of our County Farm Bureaus to exert full leadership and the full powers of their organized membership body to meet these problems head-on with well organized programs of action under the Farm Bureau banner.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

Few things show more sharply the lack of consumer understanding of farm problems than demonstrations of housewives against so-called high food prices. When administrative policies which have brought chaos to the farm labor scene, and proposals to advance government controls over farmers and their business, is added to this, a very pressing need for farmers to advance their efforts to improve public understanding of the true farm problems and their important role in the public interest becomes evident.

We urge all County Farm Bureaus to establish active Public Information Committees and to expand their work with local public news media. We urge County Farm Bureaus to promote regular and effective use of radio and television broadcast programs prepared locally or as issued by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

OUR STATE FARM BUREAU . . .

We urge all County Farm Bureaus to keep in active communication with local news people and with the Information Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau whenever significant matters develop which have importance to agriculture's position and which constitute strong and worthwhile information to newspapers and to broadcasting stations. We feel that the combined efforts of every segment of our Farm Bureau are needed to build an effective presentation in the interest of agriculture and that the work cannot be left to the initiative of a few people. Farmers themselves should get actively into the effort to create public understanding.

We commend the Farm Bureau Women for their personal efforts through their "U and I" Committee (Understanding and Information) which has brought them into face-to-face contact with urban people in presenting the case for the American farmer.

THE STRENGTH AND GROWTH OF MEMBERSHIP

We recognize that the size of our membership is one of the most persuasive factors affecting our influence in both state and national affairs. If a farm organization is truly to represent the voice of the farmer in America, then most of the farmers must give their allegiance to it. We recognize, also, the need for strength in protecting our rights of self-determination in the management of our farm business and production operations. The need for strength is apparent in defending our local community programs against interference by government, business or labor. We must have the active support of every farmer who will willingly join us in these endeavors.

Therefore, we approve of the 1967 membership goal of 57,600 Farm Bureau families in Michigan, and we urge every County Farm Bureau to accept its allocated share and work diligently to quickly reach and exceed this goal in order that more attention can be given to developing and promoting programs to involve and benefit every member.

FARM BUREAU WOMEN

The Farm Bureau Women's Committees have represented a very active phase of our Farm Bureau program, and we commend them for this leadership.

We recommend that efforts be made to include all women of Farm Bureau families in activities, projects and programs and that the Farm Bureau Women continue to relate their efforts to the furthering of the total program of the Farm Bureau at local, county and state levels.

We would appreciate any action on the part of Farm Bureau Women which would aim at strengthening, re-enforcing and vitalizing action programs on the part of the County Farm Bureaus.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people in Farm Bureau are both a responsibility and an opportunity.

Farm Bureau's responsibilities include: assisting and working with such worthwhile groups of farm youth as 4-H, FFA, and FHA in encouraging them to take their places in the agriculture of the future—at the same time making them aware of Farm Bureau as their potential organization for farmers.

Major emphasis in Farm Bureau Young People must be given to young farm couples and younger members of Farm Bureau families.

Program emphasis should be on:

1. Making farm young people better acquainted with Farm Bureau.
2. Developing and training leadership for Farm Bureau and its affiliates.
3. Programs that will assist young farmers to better solve their own economic and social problems.

We recommend that young people should be involved in every phase of Farm Bureau and each county should have a strong program to accomplish this purpose.

FARM BUREAU AFFILIATES

Over the years, Farm Bureau has organized business affiliate companies for the purpose of better serving agriculture, and particularly Farm Bureau members. These companies have reduced the cost of agricultural inputs, increased the returns to members, and provided other valuable services.

We commend Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, Michigan Agricultural Services Association and the Farm Bureau Insurance Group for their accomplishments.

We urge the management and Boards of Directors of these companies to continue to explore new avenues of service to members and to the agriculture of Michigan. As "it pays to do business with yourself," we urge all Farm Bureau members to patronize their own service companies.

SUPPORT OF OUR SERVICE COMPANIES

We consider that it is important to the success and the progress of our Farm Bureau affiliated service companies that Farm Bureau members and farmers patronize them. Benefits from a cooperative are realized only to the degree that business volume exceeds the costs of operation.

Members and farmers cannot be expected to show greater interest in the service programs than is shown by the elected leaders themselves. The members of the Boards of Directors of our affiliated service companies should set the standard of confidence in the programs they represent.

Therefore, we feel that it is important for each board member of our Farm Bureau affiliated service companies to show his loyalty by patronizing the company of which he is a director to the fullest extent in the purchase of basic services and supplies.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

Agricultural marketing is of great concern to farmers. We recognize the need to improve our present marketing methods if we are to receive a more equitable net income.

We in Farm Bureau are proud of our efforts in the area of marketing. With the creation of the Michigan Agricultural Marketing Association (MACMA), successful marketing programs have been established for several commodities. We recommend that similar marketing programs be developed for other commodities.

Members are urged to become informed of the work being done by MACMA. We must recognize that the services of MACMA are available to any commodity group. Producers must express substantial interest and willingness before a marketing program can be developed.

MACMA programs are farmer-controlled. These must be based on sound economics, selling products at realistic prices to the best advantage of the producer. Marketing information and market expansion are also necessary parts of such a program.

We ask that marketing be given high priority in the expanded program of the Michigan Farm Bureau. This increased emphasis on marketing should be directed towards the expansion of MACMA activities.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

We endorse the Michigan Agricultural Services Association's program of recruitment and placement of farm workers. We recommend that the service be continued and expanded as rapidly as possible.

ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The employed representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated service companies represent Farm Bureau, in general, when contacting members around the state, and the public-at-large.

Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, either in answers given to questions or statements made to other people when the information involves companies other than their own. A lack of information shows a weak interest on their part toward Farm Bureau generally when inquiries are made.

We feel that all persons, employees or agents representing Farm Bureau and all of its affiliates who contact people in the field should be given intensive and regular orientation regarding philosophy, programs, services and operations of the Farm Bureau and all other affiliates.

As matters now stand, many employees and agents seriously lack the understanding needed and often show small concern for affairs other than those of their own company or organization. It should be recognized that such a shortcoming can weaken the support and loyalty of members to whom they speak.

We feel that organization-wide meetings to orient and enthuse such personnel would be worth the time and expense involved by all companies, and we request that managers of the Farm Bureau and all affiliated companies plan and hold joint meetings designed to present a well-grounded and united front by all such personnel before all people.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES

We recognize that there is value in recommendations which are submitted from Community Groups and members to the County Resolutions Committees. *Participation by members should always be encouraged.*

County Resolutions Committees often use local resource people in helping to develop sound resolutions. To further improve our policy development program, we would encourage County Farm Bureau Boards of Directors to charge the Resolutions Committees to make more use of local resource persons to bring areas of local problems to attention and to inform and discuss probable issues at meetings of the County Farm Bureau members. Where such problems are of important concern to the membership, they should be considered as possible recommendations to the County Farm Bureaus. After processing these ideas, the Resolutions Committee should be in general agreement and be prepared to defend the proposed resolutions at the County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

We believe that effective membership participation is essential for total Farm Bureau action. We believe that members are offered a better opportunity to guide and support their Farm Bureau when they participate in Community Farm Bureaus.

To make the Community Farm Bureaus more effective, we recommend:

1. That County Farm Bureau Boards support the resolution of the Michigan Farm Bureau Board to make the advancement and maintenance of Community Farm Bureaus a top priority project, and select strong committees and allocate proper budgets for the organization of new groups with special emphasis on young farmers and young farm families.

2. That County Boards set goals for advancement in group members based on the present status of these groups and the percentages of members now organized in them.

3. That the County Boards urge their Community Farm Bureaus to invite potential Farm Bureau members and non-group members to attend their meetings.

4. That Community Farm Bureaus be alerted to ways in which they can take action on problems existing in their own communities, and that they be urged to take part in programs which will meet the needs of farmers at local and county levels.

5. That County Boards keep in touch with the Community Farm Bureaus regarding programs that members think would benefit farmers when carried through by County and State Farm Bureaus.

6. That all County Farm Bureaus hold quarterly county-wide, or area, all-member meetings each year dealing with questions, local and otherwise, which are important to the membership. Such meetings would include Community Group members and be in lieu of the regular monthly group meeting normally held by Community Farm Bureaus at that time. The fourth such meeting should be the County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. These county-wide, all-member meetings should be promoted among all members to the fullest possible degree.

WE COMMEND FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE

Many of our fellow farmers are serving agriculture and our state as members of boards, commissions, committees and advisory groups on which agricultural representation is important to all of us.

Often this service is rendered without any reimbursement for time and expenses involved.

Within our own organization are also many who give of their time and talent to make Farm Bureau the effective voice for farmers.

We commend these people and recognize them for their unselfish service to agriculture.

CITIZENSHIP

Good citizenship consists of rights and responsibilities. It involves being INFORMED on issues, willingness to work and courage to act in our two-party political system of government and enterprise.

Michigan Farm Bureau will continue local training and incentive programs to encourage Farm Bureau people to become active in the political party of their choice. Members should pay particular attention to voting records of incumbents at both the state and national level, and should make every effort to support and elect candidates who will support Farm Bureau policies.

Members should also make regular contacts with their Senators and Representatives to inform them of the importance of issues which affect farmers and agriculture, and should not fail to thank them, in writing, for support which the Legislators give to agriculture's cause.

Through the years, Farm Bureau has provided opportunities for members to gain information on citizenship matters. Activities such as Legislative Seminars, Meet and Measure the Candidate Meetings, Young People's Citizenship Seminars and Freedom Conferences have been part of keeping our members informed, and should be continued.

We urge that activities be conducted at the Michigan Farm Bureau and County Farm Bureau levels to motivate members to accept their responsibilities as good citizens.

FARM BUREAU FLAG

Michigan Farm Bureau has no official flag. We feel the possibility of designing one should be made a project of Michigan Farm Bureau Women or Michigan Farm Bureau Young People. Results of their findings should be brought before an annual meeting of the delegates for further consideration.

STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later resolutions, including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other resolutions shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior resolution provides the only basis for action on a current problem.



LOVELY QUEEN—Charlotte Webb Thummel (Mrs. David) is pictured shortly after her selection at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. She is a school teaching farm wife.

F.P.C. "OPEN HOUSE"

The Grand Rapids Branch of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative held an "Open House" at their new facilities, 6535 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, October 27.

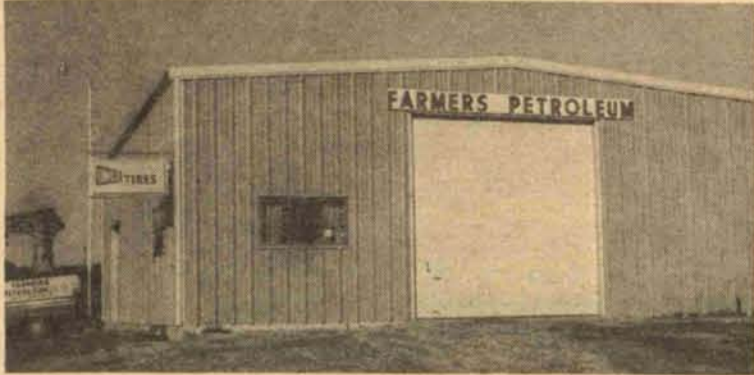
Present at the event were visitors from Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, Barry and Newaygo counties, and Farmers Petroleum Co-op staff members from Farm Bureau Center, Lansing.

On hand to greet their guests were branch personnel: *Del Sanders*, manager; *Al Kooiman*, sales representative; *Larry Parrish*, sales

representative and driver; *Marshall Wondergem*, transport driver, and *Merton DeGraw*, Warehouseman. Coffee, cider and donuts were served as the visitors inspected displays and equipment.

The William Wilson pump company display mobile unit was also available for the crowd's viewing.

The new facility includes a 40 by 60 foot all-steel warehouse, a 75,000 gallon underground storage to supply the bulk plant and a new 1,500 gallon tankwagon delivery truck.



FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP — Grand Rapids Branch — a new service facility.



75,000 GALLON underground storage supplies the new plant and tankwagon.

Staff Changes



Kenneth Wiles, 42, Van Buren County Farm Bureau's secretary since April of this year, will join the field staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau as a regional representative for the West Central area in mid-December.

He will serve the counties of Clare, Isabella, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola, former region of Raymond Askins, who recently resigned from that position.

Wiles, born and raised on a farm near Decatur until he went into the service, was discharged from the Army in 1965 after 20 years of service. Prior to joining the Army in 1945, he had been active in the Van Buren County Junior Farm Bureau.

Kenneth, his wife, Jane, and their four children, Arthur, 15; Jerry, 14; Sandra, 12, and Brian, 8, live at 206 W. Sherwood, Decatur. They plan to move to Wiles' region in the near future.



A new addition to the Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau is Dale Sherwin, 29, who joined the staff November 1 as Assistant Legislative Council.

Dale is well-known to many Farm Bureau members for his service as regional representative in the Southeast counties from September, 1962, until March of 1965, when he became the Farm Bureau Insurance Agency Manager in Lapeer.

Following his graduation from Michigan State University in 1961, Dale went into farming. He became interested in Farm Bureau through the local community group monthly potluck dinners. "I thought \$1 a month for that kind of meal was a pretty good deal," grins Dale. And so began his Farm Bureau career.

Dale, his wife, Janet and their four children: Carolyn, 8; Diana, 7; Donald, 4, and Dawn, 2, plan to move to the Lansing area from their present home in Lapeer.

"BIRCH TREE BORER"

The white birch, one of Michigan's fine native trees commonly used for landscape beautification, is dying from neglect according to Harold Davidson, Michigan State University Extension Specialist in Horticulture.

"Literally thousands of these beautiful white-barked trees died during the past year. These trees would still be providing beauty to the landscape had they been given adequate water," Davidson explained.

Dr. Davidson says the borer attacks all species of birch, poplar and willow. The small larvae mine underneath the bark, unnoticed to the human eye, destroying the transport system within the tree.

The pest can be prevented rather than eliminated. William Wallner, Extension Entomologist at MSU, says there is no known insecticidal spray which will control the larvae once it has mined beneath the bark.

Evidence of the borers' presence may be found upon close examination of the trunk and main branches of the tree. Small, pinhead-sized holes will be seen scattered at random over the white bark.

Professor Davidson says to prevent this type of injury, birch trees should be kept in good vigorous growing condition. Watering the trees during periods of low rainfall and fertilizing the tree in spring with a complete fertilizer will help. He reminds that all trees should go into the winter with "their feet wet" and late October and early November, before the fall freeze-up, is a good time to water trees and ornamental shrubs.

Season's Best Wishes

THE PEACE OF A WINTER NIGHT

Few of us can remember the quiet and peace of a ride in a cutter. All you heard was the swishing of the snow under the runners. The soft clapping of the horse's hoofs and the jingle of the sleigh bells. Yes, few of us remember but all of us wish that we could enjoy moments such as this . . . a time to reflect on the past . . . a time to be thankful for the present . . . and a time for resolutions for the future. This is a part of peace . . . this is what we, as Americans, are fighting to preserve. So be thankful for the present . . . and let's all resolve to do our part for peace in the future.

**Farmers
Petroleum**
LANSING, MICHIGAN

DISCUSSION TOPIC

PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Politicians who seek control over America's farms do not call "time out." In the past years, polls of American farmers and various referenda combine to show that farmers do not want more government in agriculture. They want to run their own farming business.

Four years ago the Willard Cochrane scheme was unveiled — the scheme to make agriculture a "public utility", with all commodities under government control. Production quotas for everything would be dished out according to government calculations of the total food needs. Since that time, each government proposal has pointed in that direction. The Report of the National Commission on Food Marketing, issued in June 1966, is cut from the same piece of cloth.

Ten members of the Commission were Congressmen — five senators and five members of the House. Five additional members were appointed by the President and were citizens at-large.

The National Commission on Food Marketing was authorized by a resolution of Congress. The charge given to the Commission was clearly that of fact-gathering to reveal the situation in the production, processing and distribution of food in the United States. Congress wanted accurate guidelines for every needed legislation affecting the food industry. The powers of the Commission stopped there.

During discussion of the resolution in the House, Representative Poage, who was floor manager of the resolution, pointed out the purpose:

"We (Congress) should have a clear understanding of the relationships which exist between the producer and the consumer of food than exists in any other business institution in the United States, because it affects more people and involves more money.

"So the purpose of this resolution is to try to get this out where there will be an intensive and exhaustive study made, where we will have real information on which we can act with assurance, rather than on guesswork which has formed the basis of so many of our conclusions in the past."

The House of Representatives had previously considered whether the Commission should develop recommendations or conclusions for programs. This part of the charge was discarded. Congress would make its own conclusions.

The Commission went ahead, nevertheless, to draft "conclusions," over the protests of some of its members. With some of the proposals, farmers might agree. With others, they are justified in making vigorous protest.

Farmers do need legislation which could protect their right to organize and bargain without buyer interference. Thus, farmers might salute the following proposal:

"We believe that specific legislation should be enacted providing that all processors, shippers and buyers of farm products, engaging in affecting interstate trade, are prohibited from obstructing the formation or operation of a producers' bargaining association or cooperative, and from influencing producers' understanding of, or voting on, marketing orders or similar programs, by disseminating false or misleading information, discriminating among producers in any manner, or using boycotts or other deceptive or coercive methods."

Farmer bargaining organizations have been faced with powerful buyers organizations who turn their backs on most farmer bargaining efforts. MACMA's bargainers have encountered some processors who apply coercive pressures to MACMA's members.

Where, then, is the point of protest? Shall we say, "On page 110 of the Report." For here is found the scheme of expansion for sweeping controls over farmers and their operations. Tie a couple of the proposals together and see how they add up. First consider this:

"We conclude that Federal marketing agreements and orders should be authorized for ANY agricultural commodity produced in a local area or regional subdivision of the United States."

That sets the stage. And if it were made law, it would reinforce a more drastic proposal which follows in the Report.

"I would not be surprised if the Johnson Administration used the consumer boycotts of supermarkets as an excuse to impose price and wage controls.

"Various devices, including encouragement of consumer boycotts and investigations into food prices and trading-stamps by government agencies, have already been used to divert attention away from the real cause of rising prices — inflation generated by excessive government spending in the non-defense sector . . ."

Charles B. Shuman,
President, American Farm Bureau

THE FARMER'S ANSWER TO FEDERAL FARM CONTROLS

It is a matter of history that where authorization for marketing agreements or orders has existed, the U.S.D.A. has used forthright methods and government resources to promote and campaign for farmer approval of proposed orders and agreements. The desire to bring the commodities under government control has been clear.

Where ANY commodity could be considered for marketing orders, the field would be clear for the government to shoot with a scatter gun at gaining control of many.

The move to full powers of control is more firmly pinned down in the next step of the Report:

"Legislation should be enacted enabling Agricultural Marketing Boards to be brought into being upon a vote of producers for the purpose of joining in the sale of products as they first enter channels of trade.

"By an Agricultural Marketing Board is meant a body having specific powers in group marketing activities in the farm sale of a particular commodity. Such activities should be in the immediate charge of an Administrator appointed by and representing the Secretary of Agriculture. Powers that may be exercised under a board include those granted under Federal marketing orders, and in addition, regulating production and marketing and negotiating prices and other terms of trade. The board should also be empowered to engage in other activities necessary to accomplish this purpose."

Power of that kind takes on a pretty full sweep!

As part of the picture — where producers vote in a referendum to consider marketing orders, a favorable two-thirds vote forces the other one-third to operate under the order. Thus, under an approved order, no producer could escape the regulations of the government-controlled board.

The proposal would tend to

displace the opportunity for or existing bargaining associations which the farmers themselves have organized.

Six members of the Commission vigorously protested against the "conclusions" and the methods used in putting them into the record.

Three of the Commission members, Mr. William M. Batten, Senator Roman L. Hruska and Senator Thurston B. Morton voice their reasons for protest:

"Most legislative ventures to benefit agriculture are devised to help farmers help themselves. Not this one. It could be used to force farmers to their knees before the Secretary of Agriculture. Commodity boards would be established under the supervision of an Administrator whom the Secretary of Agriculture would appoint . . . Individual farmers would be deprived of their freedom of decision, not only on major matters in running their farm business, but even as to whether to participate in the program.

"The boards could control production and marketing. The prices would necessarily be binding upon all producers and processors of individual products and would sharply influence consumer prices as well. And, all the while, the board's actions would be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture.

"The nation's food production and distribution system must not be turned over to any one person, especially a political appointee in any administration."

These Commission members protest that the "conclusions" of the Report are based on a view that farm surpluses will plague America for years to come. This, they say, is unrealistic in the face of an exploding population and rapidly increasing world needs for food.

Forces are at work that lead, not to more surpluses, but to overall short supply and controls to limit production under such

conditions become unnecessary and arbitrary, say these Commission members.

They also point out that the President, reacting to food shortages, has asked Congress to pass legislation that will permit the use of U.S. farm resources in a "Food for Freedom" Program. The American farmer will be asked to fill a gap in world food production. In the face of this, it is folly to strengthen the powers for control and limitation of supply.

If farmers are to fulfill the challenge of supplying the growing needs for food, they must be given the fullest freedom and flexibility of action in increasing their production efficiency, rather than being tightly bound into control straightjackets.

Batten, Hruska and Morton also attacked the methods used by the Commission in arriving at the "conclusions." They point out that the conclusions were first written as recommendations. Later they were drafted as conclusions before the factual evidence was gathered. They say that the nature of the evidence gathered was such as to support the conclusions which had already been set down for the Report.

Other protesting members of the Commission also criticized the method of the report for this "backward" approach.

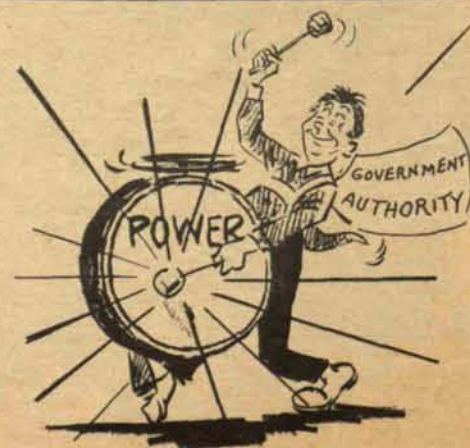
It is, and has been the position of Farm Bureau that every move to increase the powers of the Secretary of Agriculture reduces the rights of farmers to decide for themselves in matters of farm operation and their farming business.

Farm Bureau delegates have continued to call for a declaration of independence in the national farm program. They are FOR the right to earn a high, spendable net farm income.

Recent developments have proved that the government is less concerned with this goal than with control of the consumer vote on a political front.

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OUTSTANDING FARMER—is Larry Silsby, Mason, selected by Lansing Jaycees as their entrant in the State Outstanding Young Farmer program. Making the award to Mr. and Mrs. Silsby is Jaycee Duwayne Ziegler, (right) of the American Dairy Association of Michigan.

EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE

Advantages of agricultural careers have been stressed in a number of recent meetings with more emphasis to come as Michigan's energetic Jaycees once more begin their annual search for the state's most outstanding young farmers.

Junior Chamber officials have encouraged county Farm Bureau participation in this search which will climax in March at a state-wide event.

Hosts for the state award dinner and program will be the Manistee Chapter of the Jaycees.

In charge of the program will be Tom Freeman, who will serve as State OYF Chairman and help guide the selection of this year's top farmer.

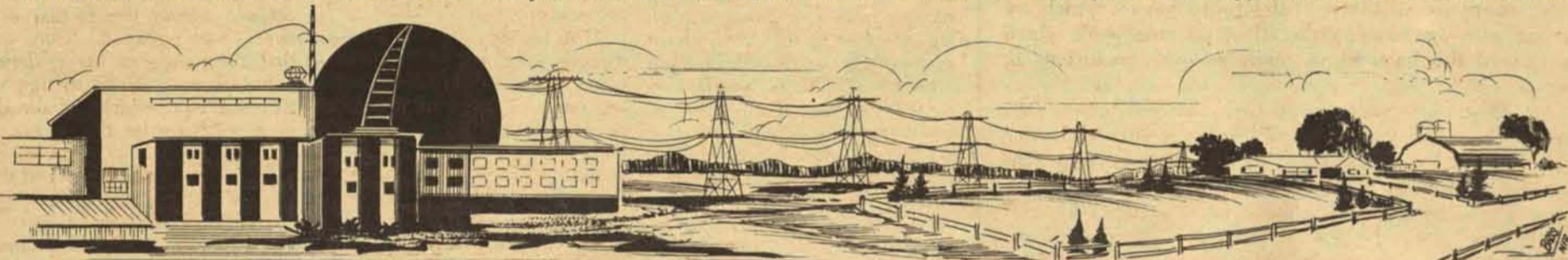
Last year's winner was Calvin Lutz of the Manistee area.



YOUNG-FARMER GROUP—listens intently as Michigan State University coordinator of student programs, Norman Brown, tells of leadership and career opportunities in agriculture and related agri-business. Nearly 150 young farmers and their wives attended the luncheon and afternoon business program which followed.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.



HELP WANTED

Rewarding position available as a Michigan Farm Bureau Regional Representative. Must be able to communicate well with farm people. Should have an agricultural background. Contact Charles Burkett, Director of Field Operations, Michigan Farm Bureau, 4000 North Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan. Phone 485-8121, Ext. 272. (12-1t-25p)

8 FARM EQUIPMENT

AGENTS—Farmers, Contractors, make extra money. Sell special farm equipment. Write Ottawa-Hitch FN321, Holland, Michigan 49423. (10-3t-16b) 8

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DAIRY EQUIPMENT—Cattle barns. Acorn stanchion stalls, comfort stalls, free stalls. Acorn 7-wing reversible gutter cleaner for smaller barns, heavy duty chain cleaner for large barns. Literature free. Write, Ottawa-Hitch, FN321, Holland, Michigan 49423. (10-3t-35b) 8

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1 AUCTIONS

MISSOURI AUCTION SCHOOL. Free catalog! 1330-50 Linwood, Kansas City, Mo. 64109. (2-Tf-10b) 1

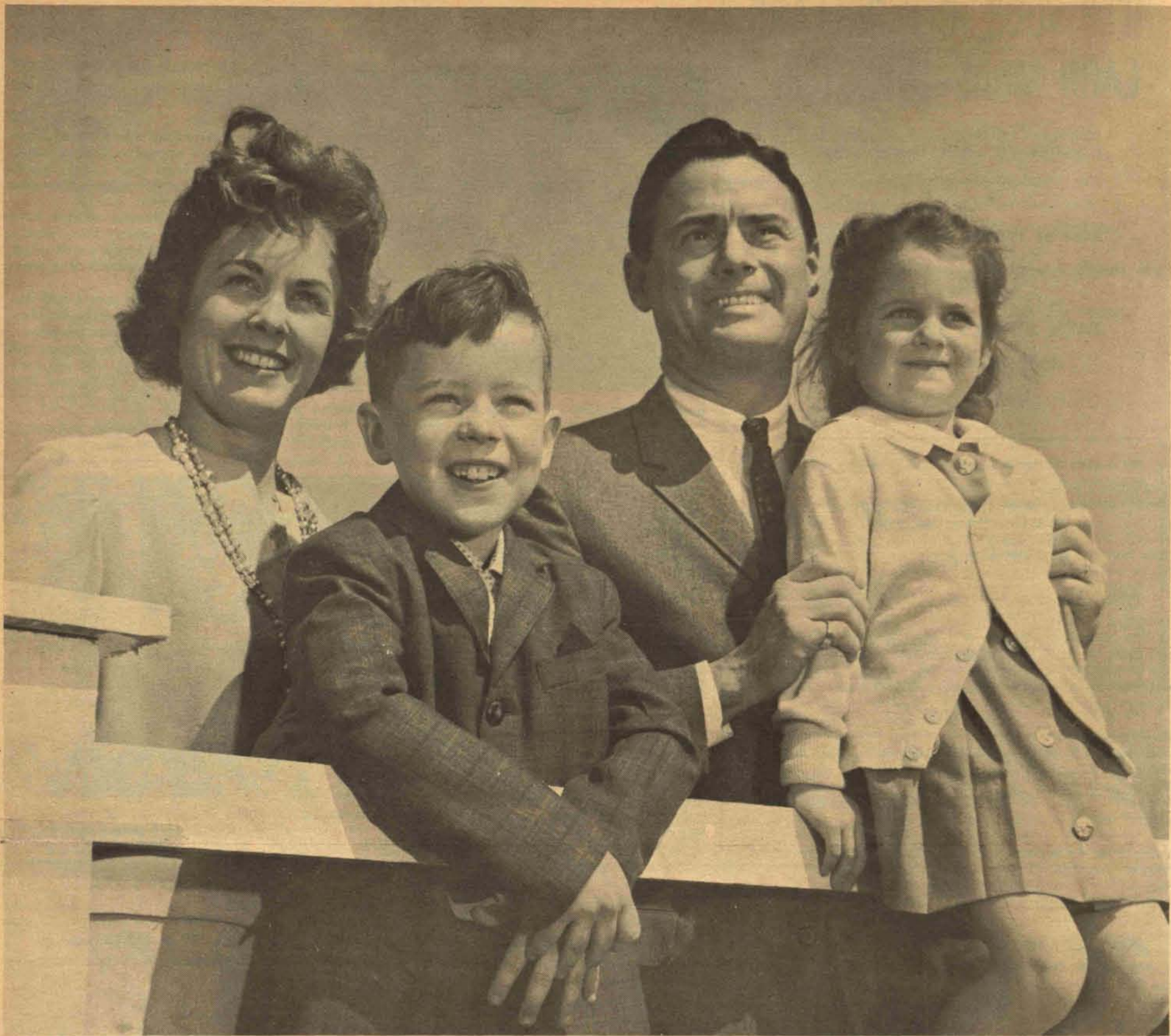
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LOOKING AHEAD... ...WITH CONFIDENCE

We all have dreams for tomorrow. We work and wait for the day we can buy the special home or farm we've always wanted — or enjoy that extended vacation — or provide a college education for our children. But because dreams are expensive, many never come true.

Thousands of Michigan families have *guaranteed their future* through a carefully planned life insurance program with Farm Bureau Insurance. They are investing in a program which builds cash values to be used in later years *for any purpose*. And, at the same time, the family is protected against the financial loss which results from an untimely death.

Each year, more and more families are discovering how we protect and help fulfill their "tomorrows." As a matter of fact, the men, women, and children of Michigan now own more than \$242 million of Farm Bureau life insurance. And, across the United States, American families own over \$5 billion of life insurance with Farm Bureau companies.

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