"It is difficult to make a man miserable while he feels he is worthy of himself and claims kindred to the great God who made him . . ." 

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it . . ."

"What constitutes the bulwark of our own liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling sea coasts, our army and our navy. These are not our reliance against tyranny. All of those may be turned against us without making us weaker for the struggle."

"Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prized liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands everywhere. Destroy this spirit and you have planted the seeds of despotism at your own doors."

"Familiarize yourselves with the chains of bondage and you prepare your own limbs to wear them. Accustomed to trample on the rights of others, you have lost the genius of your own independence and become the fit subjects of the first cunning tyrant who rises among you . . ."

Abraham Lincoln

1966 MEMBERSHIP GOAL "IN SIGHT"

Membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau for 1966 is well on its way toward the 50,000 farm-family mark, as of February 1, according to reports received from all parts of the state by the Field Services Division.

Aided in many areas by better-than-usual winter weather, volunteer workers have shrugged off the twin handicap of a late fall and a substantial increase in membership dues, to sign up their neighbors in a demonstration of willingness to build, to operate and to finance a vigorous Farm Bureau.

At county offices all over Michigan, thousands of 1966 memberships have been pouring in at the new $20 yearly rate, as farmers support the "new" Michigan Farm Bureau and the program of expanded services.

By mid-January the total of new members and renewals had topped the 50,000 mark with Baraga county reporting first to reach county goal. Baraga's victory maintained what has become an unbroken string of membership "firsts" in recent years for Upper Peninsula counties. Nearby Iron county was first to reach membership goal last year.

The announcement that the 1966 membership goal was in sight brought praise of volunteer workers from state officials who lauded those who "have given unselfishly of themselves to improve agriculture's future."

"My faith in the spirit of our members, in the spirit of our volunteer Roll-Call workers and in county leaders has been more than justified," Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith said when told of mounting membership totals. "We have stressed the need for this kind of support at this critical period in our history, and it is heartening to see."

According to Glenn Sommerfeldt, Manager of the Field Services Division and the person responsible for coordinating the state-wide Roll-Call effort, the "official" membership drive ended January 31, with special clean up county campaigns to continue in those communities which for one reason or another were unable to conclude their work earlier.

Sommerfeldt praised the Roll-Call volunteers "who have laid this solid membership foundation upon which the new Farm Bureau programs will be built. It is apparent to everyone that Michigan farmers mean business when it comes to building a business-like farm organization," Sommerfeldt said.

The month of February has been tagged "program planning month" by Farm Bureau leaders who feel that the enthusiastic show of membership strength constitutes something of a mandate on the part of farmers for moving ahead on promised action-programs.

As a result, local program planning will be a chief topic at the annual "President's Conference" scheduled for the Camp Kett Leadership Training center near Cadillac, February 14-15.

In recent years County Executive Committee members and key leaders joined the presidents as Farm Bureau faced a period of self-examination prior to endorsing an expanded program and increased dues to finance it.

Now they will again work together in planning sessions aimed at placing meaningful programs into action in every county.

FREEDOM CONFERENCE

The former president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the director of Manned Space Flight Center Development for "NASA" are among outstanding persons scheduled for the 8th annual Freedom Conference.

Sponsored by the Community Programs department of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the two-day and evening conference will be held February 16-17 in the Student Center building at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant.

Allan Kline, who served as American Farm Bureau president from 1947 to 1954, will speak several times on the first day's program, followed in the evening by Captain Robert Freitag of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Manned Space Flight Center.

The conference is open to all rural people interested in citizenship understanding and activity.
EDITORIAL

IN THE WORLD

Because they have taken pride in their inde-
pendence, Americans have been willing to
accept the costs of maintaining it - even if
some of those costs in the past have been ex-
cessive. The United States is a strong and
wealthy country, and this has allowed it to
act on the world scene with a degree of self-
determination that has not been possible for
many other countries.

However, the United States cannot always
act alone. It is important to recognize that
other countries have interests and concerns
that must be considered. The United States
must work with other nations to achieve its
goals.

In the case of defense, the United States
must consider the needs of other countries.
Many of the nations in the world are weaker
than the United States, and they may not be
able to defend themselves against aggres-
sion. The United States must be willing to
provide military aid to these nations to en-
sure their security.

In the case of economic aid, the United
States must consider the needs of other na-
tions. Many of the nations in the world are
developing nations, and they may not have
the resources to develop their economies
on their own. The United States must be
willing to provide economic aid to these na-
tions to help them develop.

In the case of international politics, the
United States must consider the needs of
other nations. Many of the nations in the
world are not as powerful as the United
States, and they may not be able to influ-
ence world events on their own. The United
States must be willing to work with other
nations to influence world events.

In conclusion, the United States must ac-
knowledge that it cannot always act alone.
It must consider the needs of other nations
when it acts on the world scene. Only in
this way can the United States achieve its
goals in a peaceful and stable world.
1966—"Year of the Voter!"

The year 1966 is an election year — farmers had best not forget this fact for surely politicians won't!

Just as the Chinese title their years "The year of the snake" or the "year of the horse" — we could well call this the year of opportunity and farmers had best not forgo it — or we might ask, what can we expect?

A good question, but first let us look back a year. Last year the Michigan Legislature, to its everlasting credit, passed and the Governor signed, a good deal of farm legislation.

Farm Bureau supported all of it and also helped develop most of it.

Statewide meat inspection, uniform dairy inspection, Bean Commission to handle many well-informed legislators to face their responsibilities in this area during an election year.

The fact that 1966 is an election year also helps to underscore the importance of these seminars, Reed indicated. He added, "An important part of the 'new look' in Farm Bureau must be supplied by concerned county leaders who build programs based on local issues."

He indicated that every member of each State Affairs committee is expected to attend the seminars and that National Affairs committee-members are strongly urged to take part.

SCHEDULE 1966 LEGISLATIVE SEMINARS

February 8
SOUTHEAST REGION — Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw, Wayne

February 9
THUMB REGION — (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, Sanilac, Tuscola, St. Clair)

February 10
SOUTHWEST REGION — (Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren)

March 1
WEST REGION — Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Ottawa

March 2
SAGINAW VALLEY — Arenac, Bay, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Midland, Saginaw, Shiawassee

March 8
NORTHEAST REGION — (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Emmet, Inosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Presque Isle, Otsego)

March 10
NORTHEAST REGION — (Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Presque Isle, Otsego)

February 8
(Tuesday)

February 9
(Wednesday)

February 10
(Thursday)

March 1
(Tuesday)

March 2
(Thursday)

March 8
(Tuesday)

March 10
(Thursday)

THE SUBJECT IS TAX REFORM and everyone is concerned. Legislative Counsel Robert E. Smith explains some of the complexities of Michigan's tax structure. To the right of Smith, facing the camera, are John and Lowell Coleman of Saginaw counties. Back to camera are (left to right): John Wessel and Carl McCormick, St. Clair county; Herbert Hennes, Emmet county, and Dan Solomon, Barry county.

Seminar Series

Michigan Farm Bureau leaders are offered an excellent chance to become better acquainted with both the legislative processes and with those persons representing them in Lansing, through another in the highly popular series of Legislative Seminars.

Sponsored by the Public Affairs Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the seminars are held by regions with the daylong meetings arranged to coincide with the end of the current "second session" of the 73rd Michigan Legislature.

Each seminar will be held in the YWCA building a scant half-block from the state Capitol building in Lansing. A get-acquainted time with coffee and rolls will welcome the travelers at 9:30 with reports of the Farm Bureau legislative programs following.

Asking as hosts for the meetings will be Michigan Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel Dan Reed and Robert Smith. At a noon luncheon, members of the legislature from the involved districts will be the guests of their constituents and will have a chance to visit before all leave for the Capitol and attendance at regular sessions of the House and Senate.

A long list of issues considered highly important to farmers will make this year's seminar-series more notable than ever before, according to Reed. "Chief among these is the matter of tax reform and the apparent reluctance on the part of many members of the legislature to face their responsibilities in this area during an election year."

STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS committee members of District and County Farm Bureaus meet with Dan F. Reed, MFB Legislative Counsel, in local church facilities of Columbus to review policies adopted by delegates at the recent Michigan Farm Bureau convention.

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March 10
NORTHEAST REGION — (Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Muskegon, Northwest, Wexford)

UPPER PENINSULA REGION — Baraga, Chippewa Delta, Houghton, Iron, Mackinac, Luce, Marquette, Alger, Menominee

February 8
(Tuesday)

February 9
(Wednesday)

February 10
(Thursday)

March 1
(Tuesday)

March 2
(Thursday)

March 8
(Tuesday)

March 10
(Thursday)
In his annual "State of the State" message to the Legislature, Governor Romney said that Michigan is well on the way to making this decade the "Soaring Sixties." He then summarized the progress that has been made in the first five years of this decade.

Michigan, as a state, is in the midst of an unprecedented boom. Personal income is up 36.5%, since 1960. Industrial expansion has reached an all-time high. Annual average unemployment is down from 6.7% to 3.5%. Employment is up 300,000 to a record of over 3,000,000. State government has moved from a deficit of $844 million in 1960 to a surplus of $136 million in 1965.

Yet during these five years state support to local schools has been increased by 87%; higher education by 70%; mental health 31%; and many other programs have been enacted or expanded.

Much of the new Constitution is being implemented and recognition of state government is nearing completion.

Governor Romney went on to draw a blueprint for "Total Michigan Progress" that should: (1) stimulate and encourage greater comprehensive list of recommendations for consideration during this year; (2) improve and strengthen local government; (3) be fully effective, inseparable. "What is the situation in western Michigan?" Rep. Eugene Colter (D-Ludington) at right, discusses feed supplies, crop damage and deer-accident accidents with Branch County farmers Don Williskin and William Hrant, in. Both men are township supervisors. Hranen is also a member of the Board of Farmers Petroleum Cooperatives. Farm Bureau is urging legislation to permit the increasing number of deer-accident accidents to be considered in regulations covering special deer seasons. At present, only crop damage and feed supplies may be considered by the Conservation Department.

What is the situation in western Michigan? Rep. Eugene Colter (D-Ludington) at right, discusses feed supplies, crop damage and deer-accident accidents with Branch County farmers Don Williskin and William Hrant, in. Both men are township supervisors. Hranen is also a member of the Board of Farmers Petroleum Cooperatives. Farm Bureau is urging legislation to permit the increasing number of deer-accident accidents to be considered in regulations covering special deer seasons. At present, only crop damage and feed supplies may be considered by the Conservation Department.

TAXES AND TAX REFORM

The 1966-67 budget requirements can be met without new taxes. However, the proposed budget will dip heavily into the expected $125 million surplus. Governor Romney strongly pointed out that our tax structure is unjust and the need for tax reform remains. He urged the Legislature to adopt the "reform elements" of the bipartisan tax program developed last year.

EDUCATION

While, because of the state's aid act passed last year, the state is again providing more than 50% of local school operating costs, the budget will recommend further substantial increases this year. (Last year's resulted in significant indirect relief on property taxes. Two and one-half mills at a state average and there have been reports of six mills or more.)

Other areas of the "state's" address included recommendations on: Water Pollution, including research and tax exemption on waste water treatment facilities; Crime and Delinquency with a "computerized" Law Information Network and changes in the handling of juveniles; Family Strengthening through amendment of the marriage, divorce and child custody statutes; Traffic Safety, including implied consent for testing drinking drivers, mandatory auto inspection and improvements in licensing and driver education; Veterans, revision of the veterans homestead tax exemption; law; Jobs, Training and Housing; Mental Health; Senior Citizens; Health Services with licensing of all health facilities; Consumer Protection through a new Uniform Food Law; Labor; Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

The Governor's over-all budget will be "well in excess of $900 million." This can continue current levels of service and meeting new programs adapted this year will require an added $96 million (The general fund budget passed in 1965 was $829 million and in 1964, $694 million). However, the savings resulting from efficiency recommendations of the Task Force on Expenditure Management now total about $3,000,000 a year.

A review of the Governor's message by Legislative Counsel Robert Smith.
The New Congress And Section 14-B

By: Legislative Counsel
Dan E. Reed

No more important issue faces Congress than the bill which would repeal Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Strongly supported by labor leaders — and mistakenly supported by some church groups, including the National Council of Churches — repeal of this section would abolish the right of the voters of a state to decide whether or not workers could be forced to pay dues to an organization in order to hold a job.

The great majority of Americans believe that union membership should be voluntary, not compulsory. Newspaper polls, public opinion surveys and Congressional polls all indicate that Americans want Section 14(b) retained. Liberal and conservative press alike support retention of 14(b).

On few issues as controversial as 14(b) repeal has so much unanimity been seen in editorial position. The liberal Washington Post says — "We do not think, moreover, that a convincing case for repeal has yet been made." And the Chicago Tribune has taken strong positions in support of retaining Section 14(b) and defeating the repealer bill.

It is expected that the debate on the bill will tie up the Senate for at least a month before Majority Leader Mansfield will attempt to limit debate through a cloture vote. Senator Dirksen vowed at the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago that the bill would receive extensive consideration and debate. He received resounding applause at the Chicago meeting for his determined effort to defeat this blow at a basic freedom.

While both Michigan Senators McNamara and Hart have announced themselves in support of repeal, many citizens and voters may want to let the Senators know how they feel about this issue.

Other farm-interest issues facing Congress, in addition to those affecting the Vietnam situation, include:

Minimum Wage

An increase in the minimum wage rates and expansion of coverage to include agriculture and other presently exempt employment. The proposed increase in the hourly rate would go from the present $1.25 to $1.75. The bill has been favorably reported by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell's House Committee on Education and Labor and is ready for floor action.

Uniform State Sales Tax

This proposal would provide for federal collection of state sales tax revenue. States would enact uniform tax levies and exemptions. Such a measure would be costly to Michigan farmers through the loss of present exemptions on many production supplies.

Unemployment Compensation

The House Ways and Means Committee has already held hearings on drastic new provisions under the federal-state unemployment compensation system. For the first time, agriculture would be subject to unemployment compensation requirements. The measure would also give union leaders a federally-controlled jobless pay system. Under the measure only employers of large numbers of farm workers would be involved. However, it is expected that, once started, requirements would be reduced to provide coverage for all, or practically all, farm employees.
A trio of well-known Farm Bureau leaders were named to Michigan State University's "Agricultural Hall of Fame" during annual Farmers' Week in February.

The three recipients of the "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" awards were: J. Stanley Sherman, manager, Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc.; Blaque Knirk, former Michigan Farm Bureau Vice President and Lester Allen, past president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau.

The citations are made annually at Farmers' Week to men who have demonstrated outstanding leadership for Michigan agriculture. A special plaque is presented to each recipient and portraits of those honored are hung in Agricultural Hall, campus headquarters for MSU's College of Agriculture.

Sherman has been general manager of Michigan Elevator Exchange since 1960, and has played a leading role in the state's grain marketing field. His career with MEE began in 1945 when he became "Patron Relations Manager" after many years of service with Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Nationally prominent in grain marketing, his efforts have added millions of dollars for both farmers and grain marketing firms of the state.

A former Vice President of the Michigan Farm Bureau and director on the board, Knirk also served on the boards of Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and as President of the Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company.

Allen is a Gratiot County livestock farmer who also serves in the state legislature from Michigan's 88th district. He operates an 800-acre farm and is known as one of the most efficient farm managers in the state. The farmer-legislator feeds out more than 300 cattle and maintains a 70-80 Angus breeding herd.

Active in many community and state activities, he is a past president of the Ithaca Rotary Club, Gratiot County Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation District. He is a director on the board of the Bank of Alma and also serves as a director for the regional Bank for Cooperatives, St. Paul.
finds studying in the quiet library of Alma College a far cry from her usual was a big asset before newspaper and television cameras. "Tomboy" Janet was a freshman. Her duties representing Michigan farmers has taken her to many important events, including the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau in Chicago. There, Janet's natural poise and also on government aid programs, including expansion of exports of both farm products and production supplies and also on government aid programs aimed at economic development abroad.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS
February 1, 1966
SEVEN

FAIRMEN IN WASHINGTON

Elton R. Smith, president, Farm Bureau Services, Inc., acted as voting delegate to the 37th annual meeting of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives held in Washington, D.C., January 18-20.

He, along with Eugene Roberts and John Converse, members of the executive committee, and M. D. Brownlee, general manager, represented Farm Bureau Services, Inc. at the national meeting. The council is a nationwide organization of farmers' marketing and purchasing cooperatives and state organizations of cooperatives, of which Farm Bureau Services is a member. The council represents some 5,700 farmer cooperatives in all parts of the nation and Puerto Rico, having a combined farm membership of nearly three million.

"Because of the necessity for farmers to gain more strength in the markets in which they buy and sell, the meeting was designed to give special attention to sound growth of farmer cooperatives," Smith said. At the same time, ways were considered to develop better means of utilizing agricultural commodities to fit the specific needs of particular markets, obtain farm supplies and services, and more effectively use credit facilities.

In view of the increasing interest in use of farm products as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy, discussions also focused on expansion of exports of both farm products and production supplies and also on government aid programs aimed at economic development abroad.

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MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU QUEEN - Pretty Janet Hill, takes a break between activities on the farm where tractor driving is a favorite job.

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"...to include all women"

THE 1966 FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S STATE COMMITTEE took a break from their two-day work schedule, January 10-11, to pose for their "official" photograph. From left to right are: Mrs. Earl Morehouse, Dist. 1; Mrs. Lavern Kramer, Dist. 2; Mrs. Robert Baker, Dist. 3; Mrs. James DeMoe, Dist. 4; Mrs. Wm. Parsons, Dist. 5; Mrs. George Southworth, Dist. 6; Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, Dist. 7; Mrs. W. H. Baker, Dist. 8; Mrs. Earl Hendricks, Dist. 9; Mrs. Richard Wiegardt, Dist. 10; Mrs. George Eberly, Dist. 11; Mrs. Elmer Peterson, Dist. 12; Mrs. Robert Baker, Dist. 11W; and Mrs. Clare Lockhart, Dist. 11E.

"...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."

This policy statement was adopted by the delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in November, 1965, and serves as a base for the Women's Program Planning Committee as they presented a slate of suggestions to the state and county Farm Bureaus for action programs in 1966.

The program suggestions as presented were later accepted by the state Farm Bureau Women's Committee and adopted by the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

The Farm Bureau Women's role in Organization, Good Government, Information and Special Projects were studied and suggested activities were presented for each of these categories.

The committee urged the Farm Bureau Women to know their organization and its affiliates, promote activities that will get more members involved, encourage county boards to appoint women to other Farm Bureau committees, surface and train leaders by providing workshops and informational materials, and encourage young farmer activities.

For their role in Good Government, the committee suggested several projects and activities in the areas of political action, legislative action and citizenship, including the Freedom Conference, Young People's Citizenship Seminar and political education programs.

Since only about 2% of our population produces the foods and fibers needed to support the whole population, it is necessary that we have the understanding and support of non-farm people on those issues vital to the future of farming," the committee said as they urged greater effort in the area of information.

Among the projects and activities suggested for this area were: 'Speakers' Bureau,' exchange tours between county and state Farm Bureau, and meetings for new Farm Bureau members. Work with the public included press relations meetings, rural-urban activities, cooperation with other organizations on projects of mutual concern, and Youthpower.

Special projects for 1966 will involve the following: auto safety, traffic safety, health, commodity promotion, and the Associated Country Women of the World.

In presenting the 1966 "program of work," the committee said, "We hope each County Farm Bureau Women's Committee will find these recommendations challenging and helpful in providing for individual participation, for strengthening the County Farm Bureau program and for satisfying the needs of the Farm Bureau Women."

Members of the Program Planning Committee were: Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Ch., Cass City; Mrs. Robert Bursadi, St. Joseph; Mrs. Leslie Olsen, Quincy; Mrs. Lawrence Koppelman, Ottawa Lake; Mrs. Gerald Smith, Hastings; Mrs. Edna Tiedeman, Gaines; Mrs. Elmer Peterson, Big Rapids; Mrs. Gordon Wilford, Jr., Gladwin; Mrs. Edward Lingg, Bear Lake; Mrs. Edley Van Wagoner, Evart; Mrs. Wm. Famous, Clare; Mrs. Waino Rajala, Sandusky; and Mrs. Chester Good, Bark River.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women are again providing an opportunity for members to visit the nation's capital and visit personally with their Congressmen and officials of the American Farm Bureau Federation during the annual Washington Legislative Air Tour, March 13-16.

It is hoped that each County Farm Bureau will give serious consideration to sponsoring one or more Farm Bureau leaders to take part in this tour. Both men and women are invited to participate, with Legislative chairmen, Legislative Affairs Committee members, boards of directors and officers of county Women's Committees especially encouraged.

Leaders who have the responsibility for being active in the legislative work of Farm Bureau will find this trip of real value and place them in a position to talk to their Congressmen on matters of concern to farmers.

The tour group will leave Detroit Metropolitan Airport in the late afternoon, Sunday, March 13, and return in the early evening, March 16. Monday will be spent visiting with officials of the AFBF to discuss current legislation. Tuesday will be the day for meeting with Michigan Congressmen and Senators, and Wednesday the group will participate in an all-day sightseeing tour of Washington.

Cost of the tour is $101.57 per person, covering tourist air transportation from Detroit to Washington and return, baggage handling, transfers, three nights at the Willard Hotel, lunch on Monday, sightseeing tour and lunch on Wednesday, tips to bellboys, etc., and dinners served by the airlines enroute to and from Washington.

February 25 is the deadline date for reservations. The Farm Bureau Women urge counties to send in their reservations early in that the modest price is based on a "tourist" ticket available to those on the first plane-load. A somewhat higher "first class" ticket is also available to late-comers.

RESERVE YOUR TICKET

Use this request form to make your reservation for the annual Farm Bureau Women's Washington Air Tour, March 13-16. Reservation deadline date is February 25.

RESERVATION REQUEST

Return by February 25 to:
Michigan Farm Bureau Women
400 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48904

Reserve places on the Farm Bureau Women's Washington Air Tour, March 13-16. Enclosed is check for ($101.57 per person; make check payable to Michigan Farm Bureau).

Name

Address

County

Telephone
WOMEN SET FOR BUSY YEAR

AN ACTION MEETING

When members of the Farm Bureau Women's state committee met in Lansing, January 10-11, they took action on several important issues, including the acceptance of a work program for 1966 and the election of a third member of the Executive Committee.

The first order of business was an official welcome to new members of the committee: Mrs. Florence Carpenter, vice-chairman; Mrs. Dorothy Kramer, Dist. 2; Mrs. Ann Campau, Dist. 4; Mrs. Doris Wieland, Dist. 10W; and Mrs. Betty Marquardt, who served as secretary for Mrs. Crystal Wheaton, Dist. 5.

The committee decided to recommend special emphasis on the following activities: encourage county boards to appoint women to serve on other Farm Bureau committees; encourage young farmer activities; study legislative issues of importance; meet with women of other women organizations; Michigan Women's Week, and traffic safety.

Mrs. Eugene DeMatteo, chairman of Dist. 10W, was elected the third member of the Executive Committee. She was also re-elected chairman of the State Safety Committee, and Mrs. Dorothy Kramer, Dist. 2, was elected to fill an unexpired term on the committee.

A report of the activities of the State Safety Committee was presented by Mrs. DeMatteo, which included recommendations to counties to promote slow-moving vehicle legislation, establishing a Driver Improvement Program, and a one-day state safety workshop.

The Farm Bureau Women were urged by President Elton Smith to be active in 1966 in the areas of political action, marketing, and legislative affairs. He also urged the women to personally contact legislators regarding Farm Bureau policies and to be active in the membership campaigns in their counties.

Arlo Wasson, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., gave a presentation for the women titled, "How does one evaluate the individual member and his participation in community groups, an opportunity for him to discuss his problems, express viewpoints, and keep rural community spirit alive — thus helping to take care of themselves."

"Well-informed farm leaders, telling agriculture's story and telling it well, are a must in a society where farmers are a minority."

"Farm Bureau has offered us training that has developed rural leadership which would have gone unrecognized except for these opportunities."

"Because I believe that every farmer has a right to proper under a competitive free enterprise system, and because I believe that Farm Bureau is dedicated to this same goal through its legislative, educational and economic programs — for these reasons, I believe Farm Bureau has meant much to the Upper Peninsula."

ESSAY CONTEST WINNER — Mrs. Cleve Lockhart, is shown giving her prize-winning talk before the crowd attending a program marking the tenth anniversary of Farm Bureau in the Upper Peninsula. The essay brought her a trip to the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau in Chicago. To the right sits Wesley Hawley, credited with much of the original U.P. organizational work. Others at the table include Clarence Pratte, Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Norwood "Bill" Eastman of the American Farm Bureau and MFB Board Director, Clayton Ford, president of Delta county.
A top concern for Michigan farmers centers on provisions of the new Workmen’s Compensation law. Coverage is scheduled to become effective May 1 of this year.

The Michigan Farm Bureau has been working closely with those members of the Legislature involved in handling legislation dealing with the Compensation Act, including members of a joint House-Senate committee appointed to look into effects of mandatory coverage on agriculture.

Unless hoped-for changes are made, farmers affected under the bill should be sure to get adequate coverage by the May date. There is a possibility of a change in the effective date as the law applies to agriculture, according to Dan E. Reed, Legislative Counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau has had many meetings with committee members and with the entire committee, and has been assured by the Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, Senator Sander Levin, that farm coverage and what it will mean, is still under study.

“We are still studying the effects of this legislation on Michigan farmers,” reports Levin, who suggests that farmers hold off in purchasing Workmen’s Compensation coverage until pending action by the Legislature early in this session.

The annual ratings of members of Congress have just been released by the national organization—Americans for Constitutional Action. The ratings are based on roll call votes on issues ranging from Medicare, repeal of Section 14(b) to rent subsidies and foreign aid.

In figuring the ratings for Senators, 29 roll call votes were used. Roll calls on 28 issues were used in rating the Representatives.

The first column gives the cumulative ratings, including 1965-1965 for the Senate, and 1957-1965 for the House. The second column gives the rating for 1965, including only the first session of the 89th Congress.

The higher a member’s rating, the greater ACA grades the member’s devotion to constitutional conservatism. In the scorings, the record of Michigan’s two U.S. Senators is unique. Michigan is the only state where both Senators are rated “0” in the 1965 session.
This is the story of a remarkable farmer cooperative—and how it grew. The Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative has, in fact, one of the most outstanding growth records held by any cooperative in Michigan.

Its very growth is the mark of the fine service it has rendered to the farmers of its area. It is also a feather in the cap of its Board of Directors and the manager, Fred Long. Without this record of top-level services no such growth could have happened.

The Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative was born of a shellcrusher and the corn-combine that made up the Eaton County Farm Bureau Cooperative, when it first began operation, stands behind the modern farm-supply store in Charlotte, Michigan. All Farm Bureau activities are centered in this modern building, which includes the offices of the Eaton County Farm Bureau.

**DIRECTOR'S INSTITUTES**

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives—working with Michigan State University—has planned a series of one-day meetings for directors of local cooperatives. The "directors only" meeting series is designed to study the future of Michigan agriculture and to develop means to use the new information in improving the operation of cooperatives.

Listed are meeting times and places for the 7 Institutes, the first four of which will be held in February:

**February 8, Chesaning, at "Naismyths", south of Saginaw on M-43.**
**February 9, Uly, Thumb Electric Cooperative.**
**February 10, Allendale, Town- ship Hall west of Grand Rapids.**
**February 22, Jackson, Schulers, east of Jackson on I-94.**

**The April series includes:**
**April 4, Saint Marie, First National Bank Community Room;**
**April 5, Escanaba, County Extension office;**
**April 6, Evon, at the American Legion Hall.**

The theme of each program is "Michigan Cooperatives in 1980" with the mornings spent on a state-wide overview presented by Karl Wright of the department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University.

Later, the "local situation" will be reviewed by District Extension Marketing Agents Quentsa Outrander, John Trocke and Wil- lard McLeod, each taking part in the meeting associated with their districts.
A GIFT FOR MARILYN — A copy of the Farm Bureau Women's "Country Kitchen Cookbook" was presented to Mrs. Marilyn Horvath (right), Home Editor of the Michigan Farmer, at a luncheon during the state Women's Committee meeting, January 11. Shown with Mrs. Horvath are Mrs. Clayton Anderson, Dist. 3 chairman, who was Marilyn's hostess at the Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting in November, and Mrs. Helen Aitken, coordinator of Women's activities.

BAY "CITY-FARMER" PROGRAM

MEET AG DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, B. Dale Ball (center), discusses the operation of the new meat inspection program which went into effect in January, with (left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Richard Godfrey, Hillsdale county, and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Ruggebracht of Tuscola county.

WOOL WINNERS

MAKE IT YOURSELF WITH WOOL contest winners Janet Ryman (left), Big Rapids, and Sally Ann Gliss, Ann Arbor, pose with their prize-winning outfits. Mrs. Ryman, first-place winner, represented Michigan at the national contest finals in Oregon in January. Over 300 girls participated in the state contest which is sponsored by the Michigan Sheep Breeders Association.

YOUNG FARMERS TOUR SERVICE POINTS

TOURS OF FARM SUPPLY AND SERVICE INSTALLATIONS were among the highlights of the three-day "Young Farmers" training sessions, January 4-5-6, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliated companies. The 84-member group is shown at the Leonard Refinery where fuels distributed by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative are produced. Here, crude oil from FPC wells in Michigan and Illinois is refined, using the very latest in catalytic cracking processes. The group saw the care exercised to ensure that Farmers Petroleum customers get the best fuels available with present know-how and equipment. The young farmers also visited the Saginaw Grain Terminal complex and the Brighton egg-packing plant of Farm Bureau Services.
Inspecting the Meat You Eat...

NEW MEAT LAW NOW IN EFFECT

It took a lot of time, understanding and effort, but after six years of hard work a state-wide, uniform meat inspection bill passed the legislature.

The bill had extensive bi-partisan support and had been strongly boosted by the Michigan Farm Bureau and the entire meat industry. Finally, January 1, 1966 the uniform meat inspection program became a reality in Michigan.

As is usual in new programs, misunderstandings occur, facts are forgotten and growing pains are experienced. Any new program has "rough edges" and in the case of the new meat inspection law, these have been charged that the legislation will put many packers out of business. Are the charges correct?

Dr. Ralph Beebe, head of the meat inspection service of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, reports that out of 328 slaughtering plants in Michigan, only 23 will not be licensed. Several were not licensed because the operator did not wish to continue the business. Another 21 plants were asked to sign a commitment to make necessary improvements before a licence would be granted.

The meat inspection law is general in nature. To start the program, detailed regulations were published by the Department of Agriculture. These regulations were drafted in cooperation with the livestock and meat industry.

The new law is now in effect. The director may waive strict compliance with this regulation if the cleanliness of the premises and the wholesomeness of the products are not adversely affected.

"At this point," said Dr. Beebe, "the most serious deficiency we find in plants is the lack of toilet and washing facilities and floors in coolers which are not washable. These items are necessary if proper sanitation is to be maintained.

Many slaughtering plants which had no inspection in the past will be operating in a similar manner for several months. This is because personnel and funds are not sufficient to expand inspection services. Additional funds are being requested from the legislature to put the program in full effect. While some hardships may be faced by the program grows, the overall benefits will outweigh these.

One benefit often forgotten is prevention of transfer of livestock diseases such as tuberculosis, to humans.

"We've tremendously pleased with the new meat inspection program from this standpoint alone," reports Dr. Ronald M. Scott, assistant veterinarian in charge of the Animal Health Div. of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Although he reports tuberculosis cases have diminished dramatically, there still are about six reactors in each 10,000 head of cattle tested. A very effective trace-back system to the farm of origin is used whenever a meat inspector finds an animal showing signs of disease.

Public confidence is one major result of the new program, and everyone benefits.

Packers will not find it necessary to pay licensees to deliver their products in many communities. Those able to compete with packers in other parts of the state. As this happens, other Michigan meat packers could well receive the benefit of the increased competition in the form of higher livestock prices.

"If over 30 other states can make meat inspection work, we can too," Dr. Beebe concluded.
FARM LABOR—1966
WHAT CAN BE DONE?

PREPARED BY THE
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

February 1, 1966
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

DISCUSSION

TOPIC

LABOR PICTURE DIM FOR STATE FARMERS

"Five little — four little — three little Indians!" The old song sets the trend that hit seasonal farm workers in 1965. Michigan growers worry about the prospects for a worker supply in the future. They look with concern on the higher price tag attached to such services.

Some see a small glow of hope in the western horizon. Reports of successful experiences in recruiting, training, and employment of youths and women. High school and college students have helped. They have found the farm work more interesting than they had anticipated.

Findings have been surprising to find that these urban youths are better workers than they had pictured them to be. Women have made up about ten per cent of the farm worker force. Many have said that they will return for the 1966 season. Perhaps this is the trend.

With employment of adult males nearing 100 per cent (Michigan's unemployment labor force is only 2 per cent), youths and women represent an area that remains to be explored.

But there are problems.

Michigan has been third in the nation in the employment of seasonal farm workers. In 1964, farms of this state used 39,400 seasonal workers, 61,000 domestic workers from other states, 83,000 from Michigan, 13,400 Mexican "braceros" and a few others from foreign sources.

Many things made for a confusing farm labor situation in 1965. Many farmers, fearing a labor shortage, cut their planted acreage (and thus their incomes). And labor was short. Many acres of pickling cucumbers turned yellow on the vines. Ten per cent of the crop was lost hanging on the trees for want of pickers.

Many workers moved from job to job. Production per worker was down. If picking thinned out, the workers moved to "better picking and better pay." Growers from other areas, mainly from out of state, "pirated" the worker crews from Michigan growers. Several orchards and fields were deserted with unharvested fruit.

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At least partial responsibility for the predicament lies at the door of the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Willard Wirtz. Secretary Wirtz appointed a Michigan Advisory Panel on Farm Labor. It consisted of professors from Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, plus representatives of labor and industry — no farmers.

This panel recommended, to the surprise of many, that Michigan be allotted 5,000 Mexican farm workers for 1965. But the Secretary of Labor disregarded the panel's recommendation. He slammed the door tight on Michigan growers — no Mexican help. He granted some other states small quotas of Mexicans to ease their troubles: Loaves to our farmers meant nothing to the Labor Secretary. Apparently, he was unimpressed by the fact that growers had spent $1 million to improve housing for the workers.

Finding sources for other workers to replace the Mexicans was not easy. Industry gathered in all the capable people. People on welfare showed little interest. Farm work was seen as strenuous, and they did not want to see their welfare checks reduced or "cut off."

New causes for concern are added to the scene for 1966. Under new laws, farm labor camps will be licensed and worker transportation becomes regulated. Workmen's Compensation takes effect on May 1. The Minimum Wage is due to increase.

Farm Bureau delegates have pointed out that the minimum wage does not fit the farm work situation in the case of seasonal workers. Hourly rates are not an equitable method of paying the workers. Piece rates should be set so that the average worker can earn the minimum wage, but should not be based on the pace of the slower workers. If set for the average, the better workers could exceed the minimum wage.

Therefore, Farm Bureau efforts, the minimum wage increase will be delayed until July 1, in an attempt to arrive at piece-work rates which meet minimum wage requirements.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION will add greatly to costs for farmers who use hired help for any considerable period of time. Labor costs in fruits and vegetables already amount to fifty per cent of all costs. Workmen's Compensation can add nearly another nine per cent, where coverage is required.

This would handicap Michigan farmers in competing with growers from other states. It can mean "red ink" in the accounts and would put some farmers out of business. Farmers cannot simply pass along added labor costs to consumers as is done by industry, because the cost to the farm worker is less than the cost of similar labor in urban areas. This is the case in the state of distressed farm incomes is already the one named "Costs."

All of these pressures accelerate the movement toward mechanized harvesting fruits and vegetables. But the need for some hand labor will continue for many years. Many crops do not lend themselves readily to mechanical harvesting — peaches for example. Farmers strongly favor increased research in mechanization.

The farm labor shortage in 1965 brought another question sharply into focus. Should Michigan Farm Bureau develop a farm labor procurement program? In their meeting in November, the Farm Bureau delegates called for a close study of the question. The idea stirs many other questions. Is the work of finding and organizing farm workers getting so complicated that farmers need help? Do enough farmers want such a program to warrant it? How will they finance it? Would such a program serve farmers better or in ways not now provided by government employment services?

Farmers must face another question. Farm workers will be organized by the Farm Bureau or by some other agent. If Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey has his way, the federal government will take over a control of all farm labor. He introduced a bill to bring about this in 1965.

Labor unions continue their efforts to organize farm workers. They seek to get their foot in the door among the workers in the grape vineyards of California. Strikes and labor agitation have marked the past months. This is not just a local affair. The goal is national.

Farmers have an opportunity to do their own organizing. They can work out a program to make qualified workers available and give good jobs to farm workers. Yes, it is only a question of as to who will run the show. It it should become a Farm Bureau program, what should it include? How would it be administered? Would it be centered locally, or would it be state-wide and inter-state in scope? These questions lack answers at the present time.

No decision has been made yet to go forward with a Farm Bureau program, although a hard-working committee is deep in the investigation of what such a farm labor recruiting program is desirable. Time grows short for this year. Next year states are also under study.

MISSING BED BOARDS — may have gone into the stove, although firewood was furnished and handy. Pictures were taken on the Alfred Erny farm near South Haven, Michigan, where Erny says that "few realize what a farmer goes through in keeping migrant worker houses in liveable condition." Many farmers are sick of this fanciful device does the entire planting job at once, plows, discs, harrows, fertilizes, weeds, reaps and uses pre-emergent weed killers. Such costly machines add to the already severe farm cost-price squeeze.

AUTOMATION IS COMING — with new "do-it-all" types of machines predicted. This fanciful device does the entire planting job at once, plows, discs, harrows, fertilizes, weeds, reaps and uses pre-emergent weed killers. Such costly machines add to the already severe farm cost-price squeeze.

"FREE THINGS" ARE MISTREATED — as shown by what happens to free housing provided migrant workers. Ones smoking cabins soon become unappealing junk pikes as most migrant view it as a place to store tools. Windows are kicked out, furniture burned — part of the reason why farmers are moving into automation.

For twenty years, the New Jersey Farm Bureau has operated such a program through an affiliated company. It places about 10,300 Puerto Ricans, 750 workers from the British West Indies and several hundred domestic workers on one thousand member farms each year — or they did before the foreign worker ban came into force.

Twelve County Farm Bureau in California have tried a pro-
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON...
with Farm Bureau Fertilizers!

HERE’S THE STORY

Despite extremely dry growing conditions, Mr. Arthur Fisher, of Route 1, Alma, Michigan, again harvested over 21 tons of sugar beets per acre. Mr. Fisher, Gratiot County’s TOP sugar beet producer in 1964, plowed down 425 lbs. of Farm Bureau 0-20-20 and used 375 lbs. of Farm Bureau 5-20-20 in the row. He also plowed down 80 lbs. of Nitrogen. Mr. Fisher’s son, “Doug”, who grew sugar beets in an F.F.A. project, harvested 27 tons per acre.

“I’VE SEEN THE RESULTS YEAR AFTER YEAR”

“I know Farm Bureau’s Corn Starter Fertilizer helps me get an earlier crop and more hard corn at the end of the season. I know, by using Corn Starter Fertilizer, I can grow a longer season corn and still have it get ripe. My corn last year did not mold in the husks like much of the corn in this area. I have used Corn Starter since it was available and I have seen the results year after year.”

ROBERT E. OSTERLE
Dietz Road
Williamston, Mich.

REduce your unit production cost with services’ cost control program—

Save when you buy . . . save as you use the product . . . get greater yields . . . save when you market . . . Farm Bureau Services quality products can help you lower your Unit Production Cost.

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Farm Bureau Services is a major component of the Michigan Farm Bureau.
Mildred and Harland Bennett won’t be retiring for several years. But when they do, they’ll have a guaranteed income to provide financial independence. They plan to spend a lot of time in Florida.

Mr. Bennett, a prominent Kalamazoo County farmer, developed his retirement plans with the help of Agent Matt Wiley and a Farm Bureau Retirement Income plan. “It’s the best way I know of to save money,” Mr. Bennett says.

The Farm Bureau Retirement Income policy is a unique insurance savings plan. It builds up cash values fast, creating a reserve fund for emergency financial needs — and provides protection for family members in case of an unexpected death. At retirement, you can choose the monthly income option which is best for you — and your financial security is guaranteed.


FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP

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