

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



THE PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU "THE MOVE!"



MORE STRENGTH— to do more things for Michigan farmers through Farm Bureau appears assured as substantial Roll-Call gains are totalled by members of the Field Services Division staff at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing. The new membership year opened with a spectacular 3,000 state-wide renewal gain in Farm Bureau memberships over last year at the same date. State goal is 57,600 family memberships in 1967.

ADDING THE GAINS—are (standing, left) Larry Ewing, Manager, Field Services Division, and (right) Marlie Drew, director of the Member Services Department. Seated at the adding machine is Charles Burkett, director of the Field Operations Department. Helping provide county reports are MFB Regional Field representatives. An intensive, state-wide new member drive is scheduled for the month of February.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS SOAR

The theme "On the Move" has proven prophetic for both the Michigan and American Farm Bureaus, with more farmers than ever before moving into the organization at a time when total farm numbers are dropping.

This membership "movement" in support of Farm Bureau means more effective action programs in Lansing, Washington and elsewhere.

Noting that state-wide Roll-Call renewals are a whopping 3,000 members ahead of last year at this time, Larry Ewing, Manager of the Field Services Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, feels that the only question remaining is how far above the state goal of 57,600 members Michigan will be at the close of the New-Member drive in February.

"The substantial gain already shown in membership renewals,

when added to our new-member figures will place Michigan once again in the 'Quota State' columns," he said.

Ewing feels that farmers are faced with a number of unusual opportunities this year, with world-food needs at a new high at a time when American farm surpluses are at a low point, and following an election in which farmers showed surprising strength.

"Never before have farmers had so many solid reasons for joining together to work through Farm Bureau," Ewing contends.

Meanwhile, the American Farm Bureau Federation has announced a new all-time high in Membership with 1,703,908 family members — a gain of 26,008 over last year.

This is the sixth consecutive year the American Farm Bureau

Federation has posted new highs in membership.

Besides declining farm numbers, 43 states out of the 49 and Puerto Rico which make up the American Farm Bureau Federation gained in memberships during the year, and three state organizations which raised membership dues to finance expanding programs also gained members.

Two neighboring states — Indiana and Illinois — are above the 100,000 member mark, as is Iowa, all of the Midwest Region. This year Texas joined this exclusive group.

Roger Fleming, secretary-treasurer of the American Farm Bureau, told delegates to the recent national convention that increasing numbers of farmers will join Farm Bureau because "it is in tune with the changes in American Agriculture."

Smith to AFBF Board

Elton R. Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau president, was elected to the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation by the voting delegates at the 48th annual meeting of the organization in Las Vegas on December 7.

President Smith was named to the 27-man board for a one-year term. He was one of three new members elected from the Midwest region to the board which will direct the affairs of the federation during the coming year. Also named from the Midwest Region was Frank Sollars, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation president, and Clark Robinson, president of the North Dakota Farm Bureau.

Smith and his wife, Lynde, operate a 380-acre dairy farm near Caledonia in Kent County, with a Guernsey herd which ranks as one of the best in the state. He has served as president of the Michigan Farm Bureau since 1964, and is also president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., the farm supply affiliate of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Editorial

AMAZING SIGHT

The Beatniks and "Viet-niks" on the campus of the University of California, at Berkeley, were an amazing sight to Michigan farmers.

The mild climate contributed to what, in all charity, could only be termed the "casual" dress of those accustomed to easy living, as they agitated in groups around park benches, in the public squares and embattled Sproul Hall. Bearded of face and long of hair, many were stockingless, with feet thrust into sloppy thongs and limbs into treader pants.

As the farmers stared at them, they stared back, obviously enjoying the attention as three busses loaded with touring Farm Bureau members on their way to the national convention stopped on campus.

At about the same time, a team of Navy Recruiters set up an information and enlistment booth in the Union building on the campus, triggering off another riotous demonstration on the part of the "anti-war" element who demanded the right to set up their own "Get out of Vietnam" information center.

Later, back at their hotel, the farmers read in detail of the demonstrations in local papers and discussed among themselves what they had seen. Most obviously nonsensical, in the farmer's viewpoint, was the demonstrators' rejection of social conformity even as they eagerly embraced conformity of their own design as evidenced by their uniform dress (or undress), by their pliability in the hands of professional agitators and by their attraction to regimented thinking and action.

Perhaps the Berkeley campus experience was a good background for the Farm Bureau members as they moved on to Las Vegas and to delegate sessions there at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting. In writing policy statements, they had time to contemplate the irony of a situation wherein the young people, who are the chief beneficiaries of our free-enterprise, free-market economy, have yet to understand how a government of laws provides the only possibility of individual freedom.

The Farm Bureau delegates were to consider how strange it is that in a nation which prides itself on academic freedom, little of the bread-and-butter principles of economic freedom are taught. The Berkeley "Free-Speech" movement is meaningless without a framework of economic and political freedom best provided by a representative form of government.

How many high school and college students realize that representative government cannot continue to exist in this country unless the individual retains the privilege of making his living at work of his own choosing and without regard to political considerations?

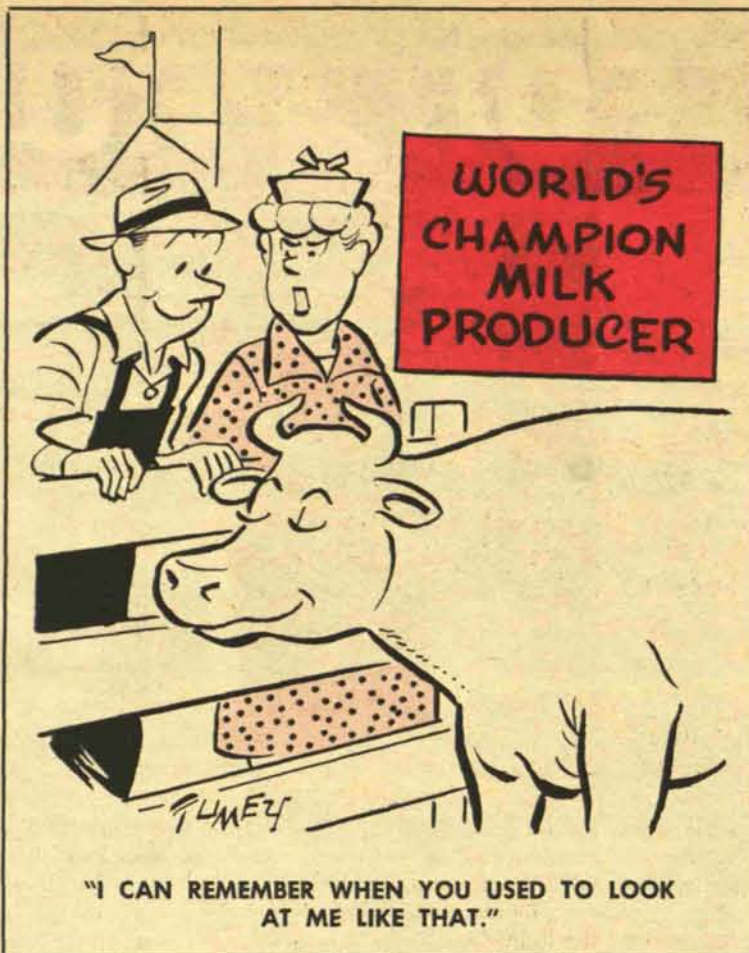
How many recognize the truth of the resolution which Farm Bureau members wrote—that America's unparalleled progress is based upon the freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts, and that these include the moral responsibility of helping to preserve freedom for future generations by active opposition to all forms of collectivism, including that branch of international communism which now threatens to engulf Vietnam?

If the principles of economics on which our nation is based were stressed more in our schools, young people would gain greater respect for our representative form of government and would acquire love for a country which gives them such freedom.

As if to purge themselves of the sight of youthful "American" citizens rioting against law and order and shouting vile epithets at representatives of our Armed Forces, the Farm Bureau delegates officially reaffirmed their support to patriotic Americans throughout the world who are working and fighting for freedom, with special gratitude expressed for those in Vietnam.

Striking at the root of the Berkeley problem, they wrote: "We recommend that the basic principles of Americanism—freedom and dignity of the individual and our private competitive enterprise system—be more effectively taught in our schools . . ."

M.W.



See You . . .

-AT FARMER'S WEEK!

In January, when you hear Michigan farmers ask "What's the good word?" the reply is "See You at Farmers' Week!"

This event takes place on January 31st to February 2, 1966. It is an event that renews the traditional relation between farmers, and their Land Grant College, Michigan State University. Each year, farmers, returning to campus, renew their place "in the university sun."

It is the only professional rally of all farmers in Michigan. Thousands of farmers flock to the campus to renew acquaintances, "hear the latest" in ideas on the farming situation and on advanced methods of the "ancient art of husbandry."

Farmers attending the program on Tuesday are greeted with a discussion of timely topics. The visitor will get a view of agriculture as it fits into the future world as well as a focus on the future of the individual farm and its inheritance by members of the family.

Dairying has long been one of Michigan's key farming industries. The program of Wednesday concentrates on the future of dairying in Michigan with emphasis on the role of group action in milk marketing. Aspects of this subject will be discussed by Dr. Glynn McBride, MSU dairy marketing specialist, Jack Barnes, General Manager of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, and Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The State's critical situation in farm labor is the subject of one section on Wednesday afternoon. Robert E. Smith, Legislative Counsel of the Michigan Farm Bureau, will discuss the effects of new labor laws on farmers and what these laws will require of them.

Dr. Paul A. Miller, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, will be the featured speaker at the Farm Management Banquet on Thursday evening, February 2nd. Dr. Miller was Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at M.S.U. in the early 1960's.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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President's Column

OUR JOB IN '67

When you hang up a new calendar, it makes you think ahead. I just hung one up above my desk, and that number "1967" hit me in the eye. I got to thinking.

In Michigan Farm Bureau we are just about to tackle the new membership job for 1967. And a lot more hangs on the outcome, on how well we all do this job, than most members realize. Maybe it can help a bit if we iron a few wrinkles out of our thinking.

I was at the American Farm Bureau convention last month. I wish you could have been there. Folks breathed enthusiasm. Practically all of the states have put so much zip in membership work that the American Farm Bureau has hit a new record high membership of 1,703,908 farm families—over 26,000 more than a year ago!

To me this means that Michigan had better make a membership gain this year or the monkey is really on our backs. Why should we want to be on exhibit as one of those birds they call the "Red-faced Tailender?" It's bad enough to have the Detroit Lions and the Red Wings in cellar positions. I'm like a lot of folks. I like to win! And winning in a membership drive is the key to a lot of things.

The secret of winning that the folks had in those other states was simple. It was just team spirit and determination combined with a bit of elbow grease. They worked at it.

One of the attitudes that our membership workers have to lick is the "sit back and fold the arms" attitude. It's the wait and see attitude. And it's a kind of "cart before the horse" thinking.

It's where farmers say they'll wait and join after they have assurance that Farm Bureau will come through with some program that they think important. No question about the program being needed. But such folks want their profits before they have invested enough to start a paying business!

This isn't a proposition like "which came first, the hen or the egg?" In Farm Bureau, memberships have to come first if there is to be enough money to finance new programs and services. You can't create them out of thin air! We need a full membership job so that we can move ahead with programs. We missed the jackpot of membership in 1966. We ought to hit it in 1967.

I was interested in a remark made by our new Farm Bureau Queen, Mrs. Charlotte Thuemmel, at the Farm Bureau Services Annual Meeting. She mentioned that she and her husband are young farmers, and what they would want from Farm Bureau is "action!"

I thoroughly agree with her. No question—action is a necessity in a modern farm organization. But let's be sure that we move the word from the passive to the active meaning.

I'm a member. Farmers on the board are members. If you belong, the Farm Bureau is your baby, too. Our action is cooperation! We move ahead together.

Yes, we did move ahead on some fronts in 1966. Members helped to build a number of marketing programs, and some gains in influence and incomes were realized. More new marketing programs are on the front burner for 1967.

We stepped out and got going in the field of farm labor recruitment and placement in 1966. Results were favorable considering the late start in recruiting and contracting with teams of workers. Up to now, stress has been given to obtaining seasonal, part-time workers in specialty crops. But our Michigan Agricultural Services Association will be making available services for placing full-time year-around farm workers for any farmer member.

Our pilot study for a Farm Record Service Program for members is being expanded in 1967, to give a fuller basis for studying costs and services. It can develop into a very valuable service for members.

Opportunity broadens when we do a good membership job.

E. S.

"DESIGN FOR PROGRESS"

FIVE CO-OPS MEET!

"Design for Progress" was the theme of a joint meeting of five cooperative organizations and a state-wide co-op clinic, November 28-29, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, Michigan Production Credit Association and the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives joined together in making plans for the future success of cooperatives. Held were F.B.S., F.P.C. AND M.A.F.C. annual meetings which featured reports and election of directors.

Named to the Farm Bureau Services board was a familiar figure to Farm Bureau people throughout the state — Marten Garn, Charlotte, former president of the farm supply company and former chairman of the MAFC Council. Garn replaces Walter Brown, Ypsilanti, on the board.

Joel Chapin, Mecosta dairy farmer and active county Farm Bureau leader, was elected to the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative board, replacing Wm. Hasenbank, III, Mason county.

Two changes occurred on the MAFC board, with John Vander-Molen, Zeeland, replacing Paul Kaechele, Middleville, and Theodore Baumann, Remus, replacing Carroll Robinson, Grant.

Keynote address for the capacity crowd was delivered by Michigan Farm Bureau secretary-manager, Dan E. Reed, who posed

the question, "Will Cooperatives Serve Farmers?"

"In looking ahead, we should first look back to see what farmers have done through their cooperatives," Reed said. "By setting a stake where we are, then setting stakes along the line we have travelled, we can project the direction we may go."

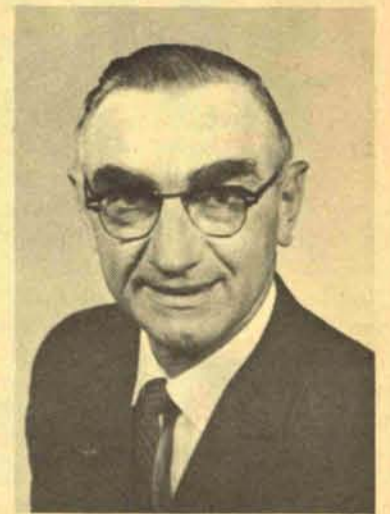
He then listed areas where farmer cooperatives have "led the way": the first commercially produced rubber-tired tractor, known-origin seed and the seed-staining law, open formula feeds, high-analysis fertilizer, direct delivery of petroleum products, farmer financing, electrical service for areas of sparse population, farm-tailored insurance coverage, Workmen's Compensation amendments, property tax relief, and sales tax exemption on farm production supplies.



DAN E. REED



JOEL CHAPIN



MARTEN GARN

"Co-ops will serve farmers in the future if we organize to meet current and future needs — not yesterday's needs," said Reed, "if we provide a flexibility to meet the individual needs of farm families and farm operators, if we base our operations on the best possible service at the best possible prices — rather than hoped-for patronage based on love, loyalty, or patterns of the past — and if they are financed with enough farmer equity to insure active interest and participation."

"If we fail to follow these general patterns and objectives, co-ops won't serve farmers in the years ahead. If we do move in this direction, with determination and a willingness to lead — not follow — the future for farmer-owned co-ops is bright," he concluded.

In his report to Farmers Petroleum Cooperative stockholders, executive vice president and general manager, Wm. Guthrie, described the past year as one characterized by progress in all areas of operation.

"It is a tribute to past management leadership and to present capable, loyal and dedicated employees that these results could be achieved in a difficult year — a year of transition in management," he said.

In outlining plans for the coming year, Guthrie said, "The objectives of Farmers Petroleum continue to be to provide better products and services to meet the needs of today's diversified and expanding farming activities."

In his president's message to Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Elton R. Smith talked about growth. "There are a number of essential characteristics of dynamic cooperatives in the areas of product, service and active philosophy," he said. He listed superior products and service, association with growing markets, successful planning, firmly established principles and objectives, and well informed and participating members as characteristics necessary for growth.

"These traits and characteristics are inherent in the Farm Bureau

Services organization, and while we feel a strong sense of achievement in the results of this past year, we look forward to meeting a future challenge which will see many new agricultural milestones established," he said.

Alfred Roberts, MAFC Council Chairman, told members that "change" is the important word today. "The challenge before us is to adjust our operations to the needs of the former five and ten years hence. We must grow with this changing industry — operate more efficiently to offer prices equal to, or more favorable than, competition. We must be able to offer the expanded services that will be necessary."

The optimistic tone of the two-day meeting can be summed up in the statement of Carl Heisler, president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative: "Our supplies and services are the best; they are competitively priced and from a company that is financially sound. With pride and confidence you can talk with your neighbors about purchasing their supplies cooperatively."



A CAPACITY CROWD attended the joint cooperative meeting at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University. Here they listen to Dan E. Reed, Michigan Farm Bureau secretary-manager, as he tells them that cooperatives will serve farmers in the future if they meet the individual needs of farm families with the best possible services and prices.



FARM BUREAU'S NEW QUEEN — Mrs. Charlotte Thuemmel, Port Austin, made her first official appearance at the joint meeting, charming the crowd with her wit and beauty. The new queen, crowned at Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting in November, is a farm wife and teacher.



YOUNGEST CO-OP LEADER — Ken Ruthig (right), Leslie, receives an appreciation award from MAFC Council chairman, Alfred Roberts. Other awards were presented by MAFC to: Michigan Rural Electric Co-op Association, Howell Co-op Company, Bath FFA Chapter, and Troy Lutz.

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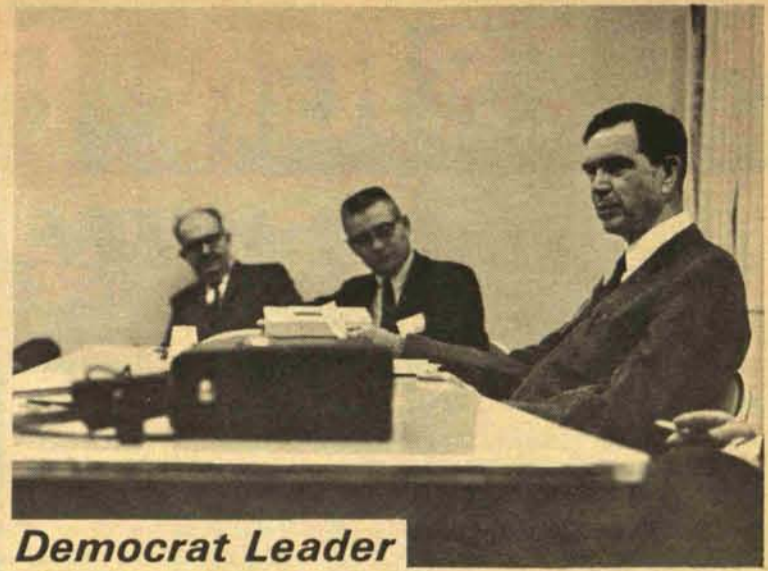
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FARM BUREAU Services INC.
LANSING MICHIGAN

capitol report



Democrat Leader Speaks for Rusk

Substituting for a main speaker on a last-minute basis is not easy, but Texas Democratic leader, Representative George Mahon, did an excellent job.

When Secretary of State Dean Rusk was called to an Asian mission by President Johnson, Mahon stepped in to fill his place on the annual meeting program of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Las Vegas, December 6.

Representative Mahon is Chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and chairman of the subcommittee on appropriations for the Armed Forces.

In listing major legislation passed in the last Congress, Mahon said repeal of section 14-b of the Taft Hartley law and the Civil Rights bill were major laws which failed to clear Congress and that he had voted against both of them.



TELEVISION AUDIENCES — throughout the United States, saw and heard American Farm Bureau convention proceedings direct from Las Vegas — courtesy of the Michigan Farm Bureau camera crew. Steve Van Slyke, Director of Broadcast Services for the Michigan Farm Bureau, is pictured interviewing MFB President, Elton Smith. Van Slyke, assisted by Charles Bailey of the Information Division, produced more than three hours of tele-film, distributed and shown on stations in all parts of the country during the convention. Besides Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau Vice President Dean Pridgeon, and state board member, Kenneth Bull, appeared in the filmed reports.

FARMERS TESTIFY ON MINIMUM WAGE

The Michigan Department of Labor called a public hearing December 7, for the purpose of considering its most recent order (effective March 1, 1967) setting rules and regulations of the "Wage Deviation Board".

Wage deviations are deductions that are allowable to employers for certain fringe benefits given to employees. In the case of farm employers, these include meals and housing.

The Michigan Minimum Wage Law originally permitted such deviations to be as much as 40% of the wage. However, last year the Legislature reduced this figure to a 25% maximum.

Due to the fact that the original date, December 7, was impossible for farm spokesmen to attend, Farm Bureau requested the Department of Labor to extend the hearing one week to give time for consideration of the proposed changes in the regulations. This request was granted.

Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel Robert Smith testified December 14, and was the only person to represent agriculture at these important hearings.

He pointed out that the Michigan Minimum Wage Law is only one of several pieces of federal and state legislation passed in the last three years that affects farmers employing labor. He said that the total impact of such legislation will be very severe and has been a major factor in increasing the cost of production for Michigan farmers. He pointed out that, unlike industry or other types of enterprises, farmers are unable to immediately pass such increased costs on to the consumer. He said that in the case of the

and the usual other fringe benefits, could find himself in non-compliance with the law if at any time during the year he hired extra help, even for a day, that would be more than three employees.

In this event, the regulations would apply to his full-time employees and he would be required to keep complete records of employment, showing the daily and weekly hours worked "computed to the nearest unit of 15 minutes," and also itemization of the value of any fringe benefits.

Farm Bureau recommended that because there appears to be a lack of sufficient data to arrive at realistic wage deviations, a study should be made by the Rural Manpower Center at Michigan State University.

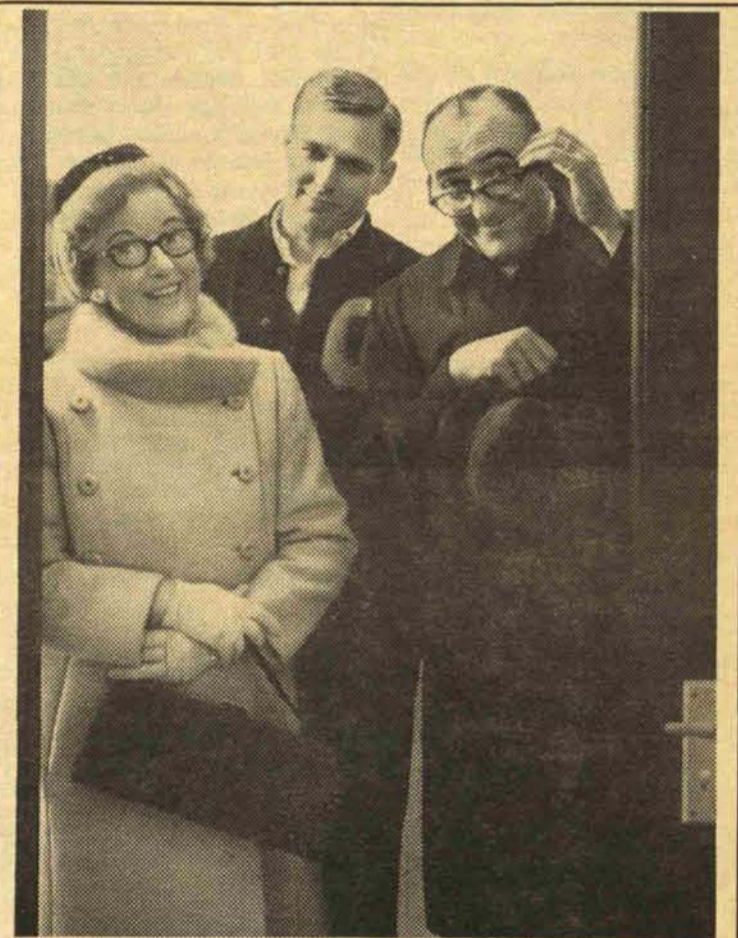
Farm Bureau also suggested to the Deviation Board that the regulations should be clarified to prevent any farmer from unknowingly being in noncompliance with the law, and, further, that farmers should not be subjected to unrealistic bookkeeping requirements.

The impact of the minimum wage legislation has not yet been felt by farmers using seasonal labor because of Farm Bureau's success in changing the law, both in the 1965 and 1966 sessions of the Legislature, requiring studies by the Manpower Center on piece rates and requiring the Department of Labor to permit piece rates to be paid that reflect the minimum wage, based on productivity of the average worker. This has been a major gain and will simplify procedures and lessen the burden on farmers.

Minimum Wage Law, farmers are presently paying the minimum wage and more, and that the allowable deductions have become, in reality, additions to the wages paid. The present critical shortage of farm labor is such that farmers are paying workers in excess of the minimum wage and, in addition, are providing many prerequisites such as housing, food, transportation, insurance, etc., etc. This fact makes the total wages that can be earned by farm labor much higher than is generally realized.

Smith pointed out that while the regulations appear to concern only seasonal labor, other types of farmers may unknowingly find themselves in noncompliance with the law.

For example, the Minimum Wage Law applies only to employers hiring more than three employees between the ages of 18 and 65. However, a dairy farmer or general farmer, or anyone hiring one or two full-time men and providing the housing



One of those days when your phone means so much

Whoops!

The folks.

And earlier than expected.

So, you call the neighbor for the roll-away bed you borrowed last time.

The butcher for a bigger roast.

The girl next door to pick up the children.

Five calls to cancel the Neighborhood Mothers' meeting.

And finally, you call your sister-in-law to tell her that they've arrived.

What else in your home does so much for you, and costs so little?



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EDITORIAL COMMENT AND VIEWPOINT

Farmers Pray— As Dice Click

From: Chicago Tribune
December 5, 1966

BY RICHARD ORR
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Las Vegas, Nev., Dec. 4—While roulette wheels whirled and dice beat a steady tattoo on green felt tables in the gambling casinos, the American Farm Bureau federation held vesper services to open its 48th annual convention here today.

About 7,000 Farm Bureau leaders from 49 states and Puerto Rico are expected to attend the five day meeting that continues thru Thursday, with headquarters in the Stardust hotel, one of the town's most opulent gambling places. That would be the biggest registration in several years for an annual meeting of the nation's leading general farm organization representing 1.7 million member families.

Amid numerous sessions on agricultural and other policies of national concern, the convention will hear former Vice President Nixon and Rep. George H. Mahon (D., Texas).

Last Minute Substitute

The latter is a last minute substitute for Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who had been scheduled to speak but canceled to leave the country on a trip to the far east.

Today Marion D. Hanks, elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon), Salt Lake City, delivered vesper service message to open the convention. Then Mrs. Haven Smith of Chappell, Neb., chairman of the federation's women's committee, led officers and board members in a "sacrament of light" candle-lighting service.

Selection of Las Vegas, the nation's gambling and "fun" center, as a convention site for the Farm Bureau caused raised eyebrows among some of its more straight laced leaders when the choice was made several months ago. Spokesmen hastened to explain that this city was selected after several western state Farm Bureau presidents had successfully pressured the federation's board to come here.

Not So Disturbed

Charles B. Shuman, federation president, who is a livestock farmer and Methodist Sunday school teacher at Sullivan, Ill., said today however he is no longer quite so disturbed as he was earlier. He pointed out that the American Medical Association has just concluded its convention here, and observed that the majority of farmers, like the doctors, probably would hold themselves aloof from the temptations of the gambling tables and flesh pots.

"Most of our members come to town with the 10 commandments in one hand and a \$50 bill in the other, and they don't break either one of them very regularly," he said. "Maybe it will prove to be a good object lesson for folks to see all this money being wasted on gambling when it could be put to so many worthwhile uses for the good of humanity.

"I've got my subject for my next Sunday's school lesson all figured out."

Biggest U.S. Competitors

One Nebraska farmer checking into the Stardust at 7 a.m. looked around in amazement at the scores of slot machines and other gambling apparatus doing a brisk business and agreed with a bystander that, "When it comes to taking it away from you, this is the biggest competitor the government has got."

In addition to the Stardust and the Las Vegas convention center, Farm Bureau convention sessions are scheduled for the Riviera and the Sahara hotels where all forms of gambling are going on around the clock activity.

Sees New Stimulus

At a news conference today Shuman expressed the view that the recent congressional elections have provided new stimulus for Farm Bureau policies of eliminating federal farm subsidies and crop controls and getting the government out of agriculture.

He pointed out that 10 Democratic advocates of government supply management in agriculture who were on the House agriculture committee were defeated and will not return, including the committee's long-time chairman, Rep. Harold Cooley (D., N.C.).

"This means that Farm Bureau policies will get more than a mere perfunctory hearing in the House in the next session of Congress," he said. "The big issue now is not whether government controls and price fixing should be continued, but how best to get rid of them."

LABOR SUFFERS RESULTS OF MIX INTO POLITICS

From: Los Angeles Times
December 4, 1966

BY RAYMOND MOLEY

The politically oriented labor leaders who so happily took seats in the pre-election omnibus now find themselves deep in the wreckage.

They should have anticipated such an outcome when, rejecting the wise policy of Samuel Gompers, they allied themselves with the Democratic Party. For many things can happen to a national party or a President which they cannot prevent; and when something happens, everyone concerned suffers.

There were many factors that contributed to the 1966 vote of no confidence in this Democratic regime—the conduct of the war, inflation, crime, backlash and L.B.J.'s personality. Anti-union sentiment was only a minor root of resentment. But the union leaders were rejected because they had made an unwise marriage long ago.

That ought to give those leaders a great deal of food for reflection. But perhaps they are too old for reflection and are living too much in the past.

For a moment let us recall that past. In 1936 John L. Lewis threw the energies and treasure of the

newly organized CIO into the service of President Roosevelt and his party. Many wise people in the labor movement regretted that break from the non-party policy of Gompers. They felt that if, some time in the future, the Republican Party should return to power, the Lewis-Roosevelt alliance would be bad for the unions.

Lewis himself in a few years seemed to regret his 1936 decision. For when Mr. Roosevelt did something he didn't like he bitterly told the President that he was an ingrate. He had, Lewis said, "supped at labor's table."

But the Reuthers and Hillmans and others plunged ahead, and after a great increase in union membership in World War II the union's political mechanism, COPE, became a major factor in Democratic affairs. It is probable that President Truman owed his election in 1948 to the work of the unions in the precincts. From then on into the late 1950's COPE operated with great efficiency. Innumerable pro-COPE state legislators were elected, and a good number of governors, senators and congressmen owed their offices to labor.

The summit of COPE's ascendancy was in 1958 when, because right-to-work was on the ballot, pro-labor Democrats swept the states of Ohio and California. Indeed, at that time many people believed that the Democratic Party had been transformed into something like the British Labor Party. In several states COPE held the balance of power for the Democrats.

But, as so often is the case in human affairs, the decline of an institution begins when it seems to be at the height of its influence and glory. In 1960 COPE still operated at every level. COPE and, through it, big unions freely violated the Taft-Hartley prohibition against using union money in politics. U.S. attorneys general after a brief and unsuccessful effort to prosecute the United Auto Workers regarded that law as a dead letter.

But after 1960 the unions' political power has declined. There were many reasons for this:

The business of social reform was taken over by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. And credit was taken by those Presidents and Congress. Since the Reuthers and others had been more interested in reform than in collective bargaining they found their occupation gone.

A new generation of workers came into the unions which, knowing little of past struggles for union recognition, paid less heed to the exhortation of the old leaders.

The leaders themselves were growing old. There was something pathetically ineffective in Gus Scholle's efforts to elect Mennen Williams in Michigan this year.

Most important, the rise in income among union workers drew them into middle-class communities. And they thought and acted in politics like their neighbors and ignored the directives of union leaders.

These factors and many more have eroded the political power of the unions. Unable to terminate their alliance with the Democratic Party, they have had to share in its misfortunes.



PALM TREE SETTING FOR FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING.

FARM PROGRAM STUDY — A MINIMUM NEED

From: The Lansing State Journal
December 9, 1966

Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said in a speech this week at the organization's 48th annual meeting in Las Vegas that the time has come "to get rid of the whole sorry mess of government farm controls, direct subsidy payments and price manipulations."

The Sullivan, Ill., grain and livestock farmer who is serving his 12th year as president of the federation, rejected as unrealistic the often proposed phasing out of government programs, saying it would be "like cutting off a dog's tail one inch at a time—far more painful."

Instead, Shuman said, the "new Congress should end all production controls, direct payments and price management authorities as rapidly as possible."

The farm leader said that with consumer demand strong and market prices generally above support levels "there never has been a better time to bring these 'temporary' programs to an end."

Shuman challenged administration predictions that removal of controls would result in farmers being drowned in a sea of surplus production.

Citing what he views as ample evidence that no such disaster would occur, the Farm Bureau president said:

"Wheat producers have not planted all the acres allotted for 1967. Many of the retired acres will never come back into production as they have been converted to other uses."

Shuman said the availability of land does not determine the production of wheat, soybeans, cotton or feed grains but that "price, the prospect for profit, and the availability of capital, are the most important determinants of production."

He suggested several protective actions that should be taken in making the transition from government manipulated prices to the market price system.

A recent incident in South Carolina probably was a prime example of the kind of government operation Shuman says should be terminated.

United Press International reported that two "farmers" who don't like to farm outmaneuvered their country cousins in harvesting a crop of Uncle Sam's give-away dollars by pitching a tent and camping out three nights so they would be sure to be the first in line when the local agricultural office began its annual ritual of contracting with farmers not to farm their land.

The two campers apparently got most of the \$12,000 the county was allotted for 1967 under the federal cropland adjustment program which is designed to take a certain portion of acreage out of production and thereby avoid surpluses. The money is handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

One of the two men who made sure they would be first in line is a dentist who retired several years ago.

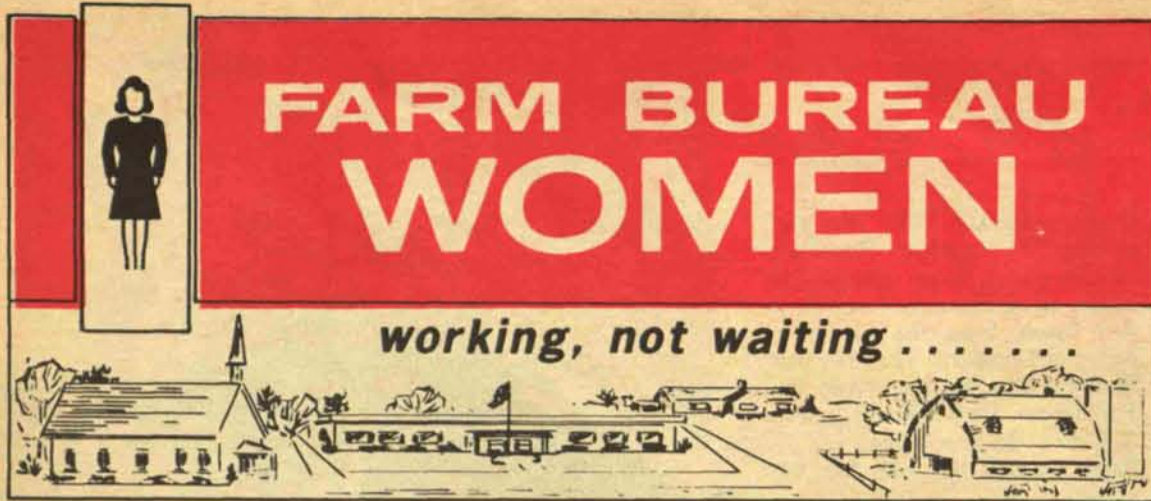
"This program is ideal for a retired person," he said.

The other said his land is just not capable of growing a good crop "and I'll do better this way."

Such strange operations of the government's complex and wide-ranging farm program are not new. And some have been far more fantastic.

Shuman's call for an end of government farm controls is certain to be a matter of heated controversy between those who support his view and the Washington bureaucracy and probably also among individual farmers.

There is, however, an obvious need for at least a careful review of the farm programs in the light of conditions that now exist and for the prompt termination of the operations that result in an unnecessary drain on the people's tax money without accomplishing any proper purpose.



**FARM BUREAU
WOMEN**

working, not waiting



PACKED AND READY FOR THE PLANE HOME are several members of the 105 member Michigan delegation to the 48th American Farm Bureau convention. Waiting for the airport bus at the entrance to the Stardust Hotel are: (left to right, front row) Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, Holly, chairman of Michigan Farm Bureau Women; Mrs. Eva Aspin, Freeland; Mrs. Dan Root, Ithaca; (back row) Frank Wolf, Saginaw; Mrs. Lavern Kramer, Reading; Mrs. Johanna Fish, Blanchard; Mrs. Velma Brown, Battle Creek; Mrs. Beatrice Uebele, Blanchard, and Mrs. Mary Edith Anderson, Fowlerville.

"Go and Grow With Farm Bureau" 1967 Women's Theme

By Helen Atwood, Coordinator
Farm Bureau Women's Activities

"Never has our land had greater need of God-loving, freedom-loving, courageous, knowledgeable, intelligent women than now," said Mrs. Haven Smith, national Women's Committee chairman, in her annual address at the women's meeting held on December 9 in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. She challenged Farm Bureau Women to mobilize through united effort to achieve the goals upon which they agree.

Mrs. Smith encouraged the women "to strengthen county Farm Bureaus, to take an active part in the government of our country, to bring more knowledgeable understanding among the segments of our society, to meet economic needs through our own efforts, and to work on all fronts to achieve the purposes of Farm Bureau."

Chairmen of the Women's Committees of the 49 state Farm Bureaus gave brief reports of their year's activities, highlighting political and legislative programs as their number-one activity.

Delegates to this Farm Bureau Women's meeting adopted a program of work for the coming year which they titled, "Go and Grow with Farm Bureau."

This program of work includes recommendations to the county and state committees of Farm Bu-

reau Women which might be carried out at the local level. Major emphasis areas recommended for 1967 include participation in membership campaigns, surfacing and developing leadership, planning programs and projects to meet the needs and interests of the membership, and to provide opportunities for membership participation.

In the areas of citizenship, major emphasis is recommended in political education, the study of such political problems as planning, zoning, local tax problems, and contacting elected representatives through letter-writing and discussions.

Mutual understanding in areas of concern to Farm Bureau members as well as other groups will be emphasized by Farm Bureau Women also. Suggested ways of doing this include rural-urban ac-

tivities, exchange programs, news media contacts, and youth programs.

The women encourage involvement of more people in Farm Bureau through a variety of projects such as activities in areas of religious life, international understanding, health and safety, marketing, education, and credit.

Representing the Michigan Farm Bureau Women as voting delegates to this national meeting were: Mrs. William Scramlin, Holly, state Farm Bureau Women's Committee chairman; Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Cass City, vice chairman; Mrs. LaVern Kramer, Reading; Mrs. Clayton Anderson, Fowlerville, and Mrs. Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, all members of the state Women's Committee.

Mrs. Haven Smith, Chapell, Nebraska, was re-elected to a two-year term as chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee. Also re-elected were Mrs. William Wilkie, Arkansas, vice chairman, and Mrs. Van Ness Wallentine, Utah, representing the Western region. Mrs. David Holt, Pennsylvania, was elected to represent the Northeastern region.

Other members serving on the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee include: Mrs. J. S. Van Wert, Iowa, Midwestern representative, and Mrs. Chester Smith, Oklahoma, Southern region's representative.

Scholarship Fund

Plans have been completed for the "Marge Karker Scholarship," according to the Farm Bureau Women's state scholarship committee. The scholarship, in honor of the woman who for 20 of her 37 years of service to Farm Bureau was the women's activities coordinator, will be for tuition at Michigan State University.

The scholarship will be available to students, from a Farm Bureau family, enrolled at M.S.U. in the field of agriculture or related fields of food science, food marketing, leadership training, agricultural journalism, food packaging or horticulture; veterinary medicine, medical technology or nursing.

Amount of the scholarship is to be applied toward the tuition for one year at Michigan State University. This can be renewed but it must be reviewed each year by the Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship, which the committee stresses is a gift — not a loan — is available to students beginning their sophomore year at M.S.U. and who show financial need.

Any individual wishing to contribute to the "Marge Karker Scholarship" is invited to do so. Checks should be made payable to the Michigan Farm Bureau, should indicate they are for the Marge Karker Scholarship, and sent to: Farm Bureau Women, Attention: Helen Atwood, 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48904.

Air Tour Set BY JET TO WASHINGTON

March 13-16 are dates set for this year's Farm Bureau Women's Washington Legislative Air Tour. Plans call for two separate groups to participate in the combined "Legislative Leaders" and "Heritage Tour."

To make the project more effective, the Women's Committee recommends that county Farm Bureaus select qualified people to serve as "Legislative Leaders" whose specific job will be to contact their Senators and Congressmen as Farm Bureau Spokesmen. This group will receive prior briefing regarding their job in Washington, what the key issues are, and how to be effective as a spokesman for Michigan agriculture. January 13 is the deadline for counties to submit the names of their "Legislative Leaders."

Because the state Women's Committee and the state board feel this is one of the most important activities of Farm Bureau, they recommend financial assistance by county Farm Bureaus or County Women's Committees for persons selected as "Legislative Leaders."

The Michigan Farm Bureau and the Women's Committee will contribute \$30 to each of the first 30 counties whose "Legislative Leaders" are selected; \$10 additional to each county which makes membership quota by February 28 — and another \$10 to each county which makes membership goal by February 28.

Both tour groups will travel from Detroit to Washington by jet together, and stay at the same hotel, but will have slightly different itineraries while in the nation's capital. The Heritage Tour will follow much the same pattern as in past years, with visits scheduled to the American Farm Bureau offices, to the Capitol to attend hearings and watch the House and Senate in action.

Cost of the tour is \$110 per person, covering tourist air transportation from Detroit to Washington and return, baggage handling, transfers, three nights hotel lodging, sightseeing tour and lunch on Thursday, tips to bellboys, etc., and dinners served by the airlines enroute to and from Washington.

February 24 is the deadline for "Heritage Tour" reservations. The modest price is based on advance sale of tourist-class tickets.

"Legislative Leader" reservations will be made by county Farm Bureaus, but those persons wishing to go on the "Heritage Tour" should use the attached reservation blank. Husbands and wives of selected "Legislative Leaders" are urged to participate in the Heritage Tour, since both groups will be together much of the time.

RESERVATION REQUEST

Return by February 24 to:
Farm Bureau Travel Service
4000 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 _____ (\$110 per person; make check payable to Hoosier Travel Service).

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
COUNTY _____ PHONE _____

Grower-Processor Conference Meets

Walter W. Wightman, Fennville fruit grower and past president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, was named chairman of the Grower-Processor Conference Committee at the committee's annual reorganization meeting in Grand Rapids, December 6.

Sponsored jointly by the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Canners' and Freezers' Association, the committee is comprised of an equal number of leading Michigan fruit and vegetable producers and processors. The committee's primary objectives are the improvement of relations between growers and processors, the promotion of horticultural crops research, and improved public relations for the industry.

Other officers elected by the ten-member committee are vice-chairman, Ron Prentice, manager of Michigan Fruit Canners Fennville plant, and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Mary Rose of the Michigan Canners' and Freezers' Association, Lansing.

Grower members of the committee, appointed by the president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, are: Don Barden, South Haven; Walter Wightman, Fennville; Gerald Stanek, Traverse City; Julius Kolosowsky, Berrien Springs, and Peter Van Single, Grant.

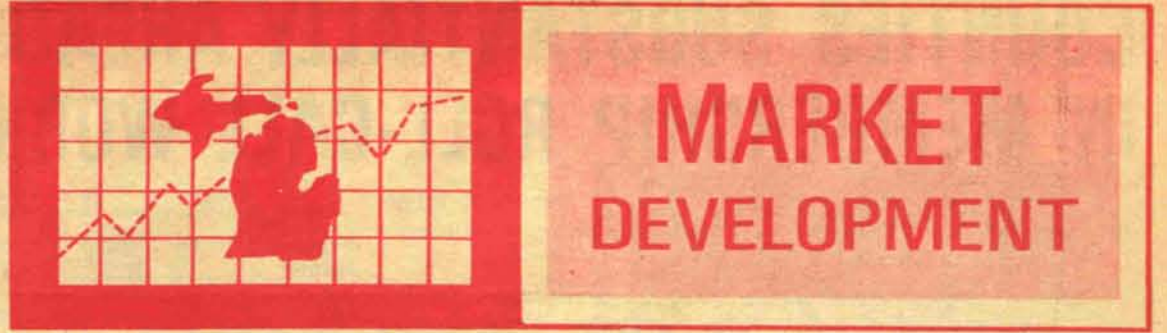
Processor members are James Brian, Smeltzer Orchard Company, Frankfort; Ron Prentice, Michigan Fruit Canners, Fennville; Mark Glendenning, Morgan-

McCool, Traverse City; William Hays, Gerber Products Company, Fremont, and E. G. Van Sickle, Oceana Canning Company, Shelby. These members are appointed by the president of the Michigan Canners' and Freezers' Association.

George McIntyre, Michigan State University; J. Lyle Littlefield, Michigan Department of Agriculture; Mary Rose, Michigan Canners' and Freezers' Association, and Noel Stuckman, Michigan Farm Bureau, work closely with the committee as associate members.

An annual "commodity day" is held to promote one of the important fruit or vegetable crops in the state. A successful "Pear Day" was held last August in the Oceana-Mason County area. A "commodity day" is presently being planned for another Michigan fruit or vegetable sometime next August.

Many topics of mutual concern to growers and processors are discussed by the committee. All growers and processors are urged to contact their nearest committee member if they have a problem needing industry-wide attention.



"LONDON, ENGLAND—for this package" explains Dale Kuenzli to Farm Bureau mailman, Clare Simmon. The Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services sent 250 of these Christmas packages of bean-samples to food editors and food-industry officials in many parts of the world. Kuenzli explains to Simmon and Carl Kentner, Farm Bureau's Director of Printing and Mailing, that this is a part of a continuous bean-promotion effort.



APPLE SHAKER—is shown in operation at the Herbert Teichman orchard near Eau Claire, Michigan. Through mechanization, Michigan growers are attempting to overcome the drastic labor shortage. Teichman was first to mechanically harvest Michigan apples for processing on a commercial scale.



MECHANICAL MOVING—of the fallen apples to the conveyor is handled hydraulically by a "rewinding sheet". Some loaders include blowers to remove leaves and trash. Many growers used mechanical harvesting this year on an experimental basis and most agree that practical systems will soon appear.

FARMER'S WEEK DAIRY PROGRAM

RESEARCH IN ACTION will be the focal point of the dairy program at the annual Farmers' Week (January 30 - February 3) held at Michigan State University. Research projects in progress at the Dairy Cattle Research Center on the campus will be on parade featuring live exhibits. Dairy researchers will man the exhibits and be available to discuss how the research results can benefit today's dairymen.

Another feature attraction will be a thorough discussion on new concepts in dairy cattle housing that are emerging. Open, covered and warm dairy housing will be discussed from the economic, engineering and management standpoints. The program speakers have been closely associated with the recent developments in dairy housing. Sound answers will be provided for the many questions on dairy housing that are being asked by dairymen today.

The annual dairy breed association meetings and luncheons in Kellogg Center will kick off dairy activities on Monday, January 30. A special ladies program will reveal how "Milk Makes the Difference," in our diet. Representatives from the Michigan Dairy Councils will demonstrate the many uses of milk, show the nutritive value of milk and how food becomes you—a prettier, slimmer, healthier "YOU."

About 400 dairymen and their wives are expected to attend the All-Breeds Dairy Banquet on Monday night. Dr. Sylvan H. Wittwer, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Michigan State University, will speak on the contributions of agricultural research towards agricultural progress. He will stress the problems and opportunities in Michigan Agriculture. Awards and recognition

will be given for the high herds and cows on the Dairy Herd Improvement Registry testing program during 1966. The recipient of the Michigan Dairyman of the Year Award will be honored. This award is given annually by the MSU Dairy Department to an outstanding dairyman in recognition of his unselfish service to the dairy industry of the state.

The all-day program on Tuesday will feature the new developments in dairy housing in this country and in Europe. Representatives from the Departments of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering and Dairy will join forces in presenting up-to-date information on dairy housing. Background material on Today's Housing Systems will be given as well as information on the effects of temperature and humidity on milk production.

Many spectacular dairy developments will be on display at the Dairy Cattle Research Center. Numerous research and educational exhibits will be shown. Research personnel in the Dairy Department and representatives from commercial concerns will be available to discuss the research in progress and the labor-saving devices on display. The latest information in all phases of dairy production will be available. Small groups and individuals will have ample opportunity to ask questions and discuss problems with the dairy scientists.

The electronic machine age will take the spotlight as dairymen will be able to observe first-hand how electronic data processing machines compute milk production records. IBM machines will be installed in the dairy barn to demonstrate how these machines can aid the dairyman in managing

his dairy operation. On the basis of only one day's milk production for each cow the machine can rank the cows in the herd according to their producing ability.

The "State Fair in Winter" will be in store for the visitors as they view the Grand Champion dairy animals from the 1966 Michigan State Fair. The champion cows of the major dairy breeds will be on display in the Hall of Champions at the Dairy Center.

The Michigan Professional Dairy Farmers will meet on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Louis P. Longo, who was recently honored as Dairyman of the Year in Connecticut, will discuss the "Business Side of Dairying."

The dollars and sense in dairy nutrition will be stressed Thursday morning. Short discussions on many timely topics will provide an abundance of information for the person that is feeding dairy cows. How much protein is needed and how can urea best be used in dairy rations? These topics will be discussed as well as brief reports on milk from molecules, maintaining normal butterfat test, grain feeding in late lactation, computerized least-cost grain rations.

Feeding problems can be discussed with dairy nutrition researchers in the afternoon at the Dairy Cattle Research Center where numerous research exhibits will be on display.

The dairy program will conclude in Kellogg Center on Friday, February 3 with the annual meeting of the American Dairy Association (ADA) of Michigan. State Representative Charles J. Davis, Onondaga, President of ADA of Michigan, will conduct the program. Mr. Gordon Reuhl, manager of the American Dairy Association of California will be the feature speaker.

COUNTIES SUBSTANTIALLY AHEAD IN MEMBERSHIP ROLL-CALL WORK

A positive, state-wide "gain" trend in Farm Bureau membership renewals is evident from early reports reaching the Michigan Farm Bureau in Lansing.

Official reports, some already greatly outdated, when coupled with more recent unofficial reports reaching Farm Bureau Center, reveal that membership renewals are a lusty 20% ahead of last year at this time, for a year-to-date gain of about 3,000 members.

A monthly tabulation is planned for each issue of the FARM NEWS during the renewal and new-member period, listing counties in order of percentage of goal attained, the membership this year, and membership of the past year at the same date.

The first such report, printed below, shows many counties off to an unusually good start in the current membership campaign, with three Upper Peninsula counties (Houghton, Menominee and Delta) all tallying more than 50% of the 1967 membership goal at this time.

Currently, Tuscola has officially reported more members than any other county. It should be noted that many counties have substantial unreported memberships which will be added to next month's figures.

County	Dec. 1 Goal	% of Goal	A Year Ago	County	Dec. 1 Goal	% of Goal	A Year Ago
Houghton	15	26	57.7	Hillsdale	403	1,121	40.0
Menominee	49	89	55.1	Midland	189	479	39.5
Delta	62	124	50.0	N. W. Michigan	395	1,003	39.4
Emmet	133	267	49.8	St. Joseph	328	842	38.9
Kalkaska	60	125	48.0	Van Buren	622	1,600	38.9
Tuscola	983	2,046	48.0	Branch	473	1,227	38.5
Wayne	305	666	45.7	Cass	272	708	38.4
Chippewa	80	178	44.9	Missaukee	181	472	38.3
Iron	31	69	44.9	Shiawassee	399	1,059	37.7
Isabella	393	878	44.8	Calhoun	485	1,293	37.5
Benzie	104	234	44.4	Macomb	415	1,108	37.5
Antrim	128	293	43.7	Arenac	158	422	37.4
Jackson	427	979	43.6	Alcona	121	327	37.0
Alpena	201	467	43.0	Marq.-Alger	33	90	36.7
Manistee	166	387	42.9	Barry	343	940	36.5
Clinton	549	1,297	42.3	Saginaw	851	2,412	35.3
Lapeer	613	1,463	41.9	Mac.-Luze	26	75	34.7
Washtenaw	732	1,751	41.8	Berrien	624	1,823	34.2
Iosco	99	244	40.6	Charlevoix	100	296	33.8
Baraga	7	15	40.0	Ottawa	406	1,236	32.8

County	Dec. 1	Goal	% of Goal	A Year Ago
Kalamazoo	301	951	31.6	453
Wexford	70	228	30.7	73
Ingham	385	1,259	30.6	542
Mason	134	440	30.5	165
Kent	395	1,304	30.3	323
Livingston	390	1,289	30.3	332
Ionia	313	1,058	29.6	261
Monroe	379	1,367	27.7	322
Otsego	26	98	26.3	—
Genesee	352	1,489	23.6	508
St. Clair	241	1,122	21.5	370
Gratiot	291	1,233	23.6	107
Gladwin	83	392	21.2	166
Osceola	99	478	20.7	1
Oakland	196	956	20.5	274
Sanilac	400	2,025	19.6	210
Allegan	231	1,344	17.2	1
Huron	320	1,913	16.7	557
Presque Isle	56	363	15.4	—
Oceana	100	663	15.1	172
Mecosta	80	598	13.4	86
Cheboygan	25	320	7.8	64
Bay	91	1,508	6.0	—
Ogemaw	7	384	1.8	24
Montcalm	14	859	1.6	20
Eaton	18	1,113	1.6	18
Lenawee	9	1,403	0.6	—
Clare	—	235	0.0	77
Montmorency	—	208	0.0	72
Muskegon	—	336	0.0	—
Nwaygo	—	533	0.0	—
Totals	16,967	57,600	29.5	13,948

MEMBERSHIP

"Membership in Farm Bureau comes first, because without it, we have no organization. Then comes the need for Community Farm Bureaus through which the member can make his wishes known . . ."

Robert Near,
Citizenship Chairman
Kent County Farm Bureau

YOU AND YOUR BLUE-CROSS

Blue Cross and Blue Shield programs remain of major importance to Michigan farm families, according to Marlie Drew—Coordinator of County Office Services for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Drew points out that both Farm Bureau and Blue Cross-Blue Shield were created by people who wanted to help themselves. Back in the early 1900's, individual American farmers were steadily losing their voice as cities grew and became more influential and big government joined big labor at the bargaining tables.

Agriculture's answer was a united farm voice through Farm Bureau, with each farmer benefitting from group-strength while maintaining individual independence.

It was then logical that farmers in Michigan, through their Farm Bureau, would join with Blue Cross-Blue Shield in working out a program providing group Blue Cross-Blue Shield benefits. Benefits which would normally be available only to large employer groups are offered to eligible individual farm families because of their Farm Bureau membership. Through the years, the newest and best available Blue Cross-Blue Shield benefits have been provided for eligible Farm Bureau members.

The Blue Cross-Blue Shield rates paid by Farm Bureau members are directly related to the amount of needed care used by all enrolled Farm Bureau members. In addition, Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage can be related to an individual farmer's income. Members may choose a Blue Cross-Blue Shield program that fits their family funds and still be assured of all the needed benefits when unexpected hospital or doctor care is required.

Although the new Medicare plan has brought with it a number of changes, Farm Bureau members over 65 are reminded that supplemental Blue-Cross-Blue Shield coverage is available through their county Farm Bureau offices.

Members are also advised to pay their Farm Bureau dues not later than January 15, 1967, to remain eligible for Blue Cross-Blue Shield through Farm Bureau.

can you afford \$20,000, \$5,000 or \$1,000 for a medical emergency?

You can . . . with a Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan through your Farm Bureau membership.

You protect yourself against the loss of your crops, your farm buildings and livestock. So why not protect yourself against the cost of unexpected hospital and doctor care.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield, through your Farm Bureau Group, can give you the health care protection you and your family need. For example, here are a few of the outstanding benefits you receive by being a member of the Farm Bureau Blue Cross and Blue Shield group plan:

Blue Cross covers your hospital bill with no dollar limit. It will pay for a full year of hospital care. The average Blue Cross payment for hospital care is about \$40 a day . . . possibly amounting to \$15,000 for a one-year stay. But your hospital stay could cost more than average. No matter. Blue Cross pays for all of the high-priced drugs and laboratory services in a hospital you need to get well.

Blue Shield pays up to \$450 for surgery, even more in complicated cases. It pays for up to a year of doctor care in the hospital when you don't need surgery, such as heart trouble or asthma.

Blue Shield covers expensive X-rays with no limit on how many. It pays for X-rays and laboratory services even when you're not in the hospital.

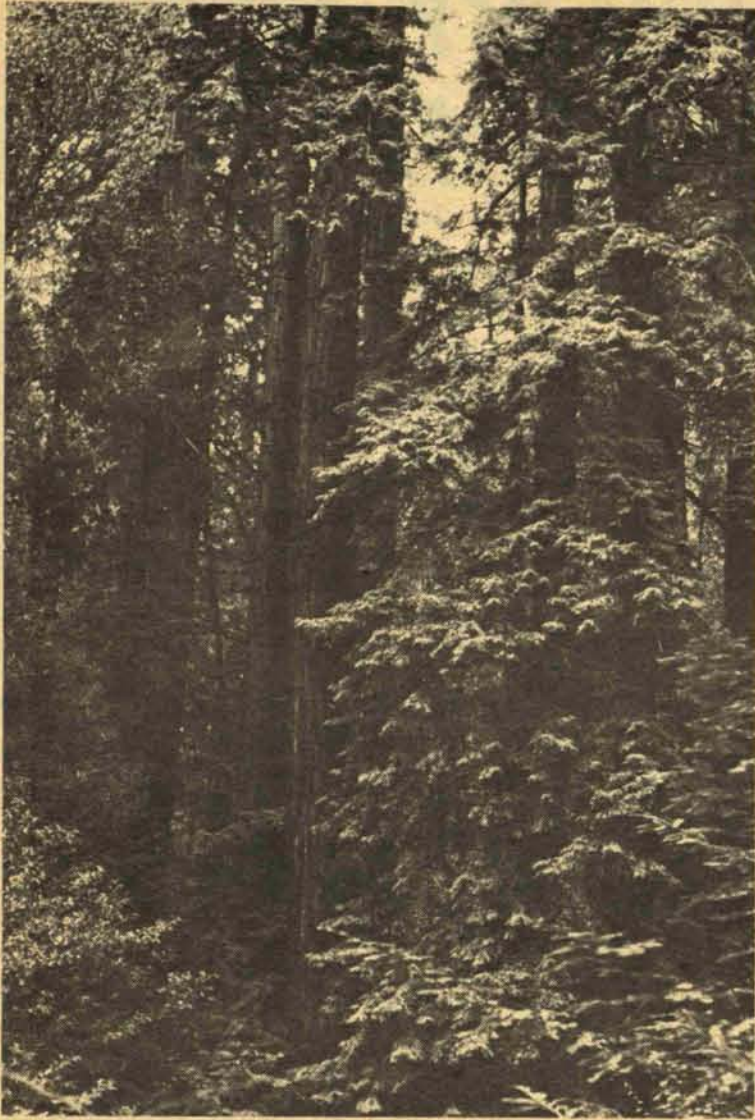
Blue Cross and Blue Shield pay for all covered services when you have a baby. They pay for hospital outpatient care and emergency first aid in a doctor's office.

One in every three families will need hospital or doctor care during the coming year. Can you afford a medical emergency? With Blue Cross and Blue Shield you can. And the best way to get the most Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage at the lowest cost is to join through your Farm Bureau group.

The deadline for Farm Bureau membership is January 15. So don't delay. Join or renew now!



AGRICULTURE IN ACTION PICTORIAL REPORT



CALIFORNIA REDWOODS—giants of height and time, are pictured as seen by Michigan Farm Bureau members in the Muir Woods National Monument near San Francisco. Found nowhere else in the world except along California and Oregon coasts, the redwood forest was a highlight of the trip which took 60 Michigan Farm Bureau members 5,000 miles as part of a convention tour.



PLANELOAD—of Michigan Farm Bureau folks, leave Lansing airport for sunny(?) California, where it rained much of the time they were on tour. But the weather was warm and green grass and palm trees helped!



TIKI ROOM—at Disneyland, was one stop for the pre-convention tour group. While rain poured down outside, the unusual animated Disney display inside concluded with a simulated but realistic jungle rainstorm!



ON STAGE—at the Las Vegas Convention Center, is pretty Patricia Miller, Michigan's entrant in the national Talent Display. Pictured as seen from the orchestra pit, Miss Miller sang selections from "Mary Poppins".



OUR QUEEN—Mrs. Charlotte Thummel (second from left) is shown onstage at the Las Vegas Convention Center where she has been escorted by Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith. The Center seats 8,000 persons.

Just One Little Candle

The flame of one little candle is the symbol of hope. Hope for the present . . . hope for the future. It signifies a desire on all our parts for better things. And, better things can be ours if we work at them just a little harder. Doing better at work, better at our home, being better citizens, and friendlier to our neighbors. So this year welcome the future, light a candle in your heart, resolve that the future holds peace and prosperity for all . . . work at it . . . if we all light just one little candle what a brighter world this would be.

Farmers Petroleum
LANSING, MICHIGAN

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Prepared by the
Education and Research Department
Michigan Farm Bureau

School Needs Doubled!

The problem of financial needs for school purposes is like the question, "How high is up?" Child-numbers increase out of all proportion to any rise in property values. Property taxes can't fill the growing bill. Yet, schools are for children!

During the years from 1955 to 1965, the number of pupils in Michigan schools (K through 12) increased from 1,315,238 to about 1,915,000. There were about 60,000 additional every year.

In the same period, school spending more than doubled, \$347 million to about \$820 million. This does not include capital outlay or money for teacher retirement programs. The per-pupil increase ran from \$263 to \$429 per year. More pupils, more cost.

The trend for half a century has been for children to spend more years in school. Fifty years ago few went to high school. In 1940, elementary education still took 90% of the school money. Now, secondary schools use 35%, colleges and universities take 20%, and the "grammar school" uses 40% of a much enlarged school budget. More pupils, more years in school, broader curricula and pupil services. Now we transport the children—forty years ago, we didn't.

This has meant unremitting pressure on property taxes for school support. Scarcely a local election goes by without a proposition to increase the local millage for schools or for some other local government purpose. Many such proposals are being rejected by the voters. Property, as a source of revenue, is being milked to the limit, and property owners have been recognizing the limit as having been reached.

The Detroit Council of Parents and Teachers say, "It is becoming increasingly clear that we can no longer rely on periodic millage elections to finance our public schools. Alternatives must be found. . . . Fiscal reform is an absolute necessity if we are to provide an adequate level of funding for education. The best opportunity to secure fiscal reform is during the next session of the State Legislature."

With this in mind, the Detroit P.T.A. Council, together with other organizations, including Farm Bureau, held a conference on Wednesday, December 14th, to work out methods for doing the job. It is encouraging to note that other organizations are responding to a need that Michigan Farm Bureau has advocated publicly for a number of years. But city budgets have been running dry.

Property has been carrying the lion's share of the costs of all government in Michigan for years. In 1964, property paid 43% of the costs. Sales and use taxes

paid 22.4%. All other taxes combined yielded only 34.6% of the funds—for all Michigan government purposes, state and local.

Until some alternatives are found to relieve property from some of the tax load, a good formula is needed to equalize the distribution of state funds for school support. The tax base today is not where the educational load is being located.

Cities gather in the giant industries—or annex them. Workers from the city factories move into suburban areas—schools become overloaded. These subdivisions mean new streets, sewers, lighting and community services also. Farmers get hit with the heaviest taxes in these newly populated areas. Farm assessments skyrocket.

Lacking any equalization of state funds for schools leaves children in low valuation districts with little to support good educational programs. One recent suggestion is that the tax base for all Michigan industries be pooled, and the revenues divided among school districts on the basis of pupil-membership. The idea stresses the need for bringing some balance into the financial picture.

But there have been formulas to help equalize school finances for some years. The Legislature determines what these formulas shall be from year to year. In the face of growing enrollments, the Michigan Legislature increased the school-aid appropriations by about \$71 million in 1965, and added another \$49 million in 1966. This gives some relief to property taxes. Some districts were able to reduce millages. Others avoided tax increases. Farm Bureau backed these moves.

How does the state aid formula help to equalize the per-child school resources for various districts? The method is not simple, but the 1966 formulas come nearer to doing the job than any we have had previously. They are not the final answer to the money and school finance problem, but they help.

The 1966 State School Aid Act provides that money is to be distributed to K-12 districts under one of two formulas. Which formula your district might use will depend on the amount of its state equalized valuation per pupil.

If a school district has a state equalized valuation per pupil of \$12,738 or more, "Formula A" is used. Formula A sets a gross-allowance per membership pupil of \$280.50, and applies a deductible millage of 5.03 mills. To be eligible for state aid under this formula, a local school district must levy at least 8 mills for operating purposes. And to receive full state aid, the district must levy 10 mills or more.

PROPERTY TAXES SWAMPED BY NEW SCHOOL DEMANDS

Formula A works as follows:

Let's assume that your district is levying 10 mills or better for operations and the state equalized valuation is more than \$12,738.

Take your gross allowance per pupil—\$280.50. Find your state equalized valuation per pupil (total valuation divided by number of pupils). Multiply the SEV per pupil by .00503. Subtract what you get from \$280.50, and finally multiply the figure you get by the number of pupils in membership. That will tell you how many dollars your district gets in state aid.

"Formula B" is used if your school district has a state equalized valuation per pupil of less than \$12,738. This formula sets a gross allowance of \$407.50 and applies a deductible millage of 15 mills.

To get full support under Formula B, a school district must levy 10 mills. If it levies less than ten but not less than 8 mills, it may figure its program under Formula A, and do the best it can. If it levies less than 8 mills, it is out of the state aid picture, entirely.

Formula B works as follows:

Again, let's assume that your district is levying 10 mills or better for operations. And here, your state equalized valuation is less than \$12,738.

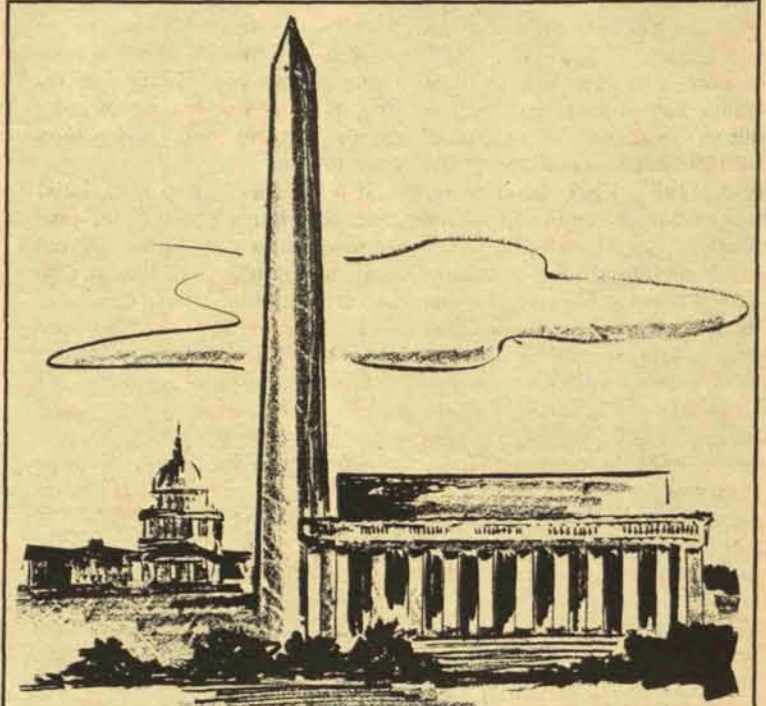
Take your gross allowance per pupil—\$407.50. Find your state equalized valuation per pupil (total valuation divided by number of pupils). Multiply the state equalized valuation per pupil by \$.015. Subtract what you get from \$407.50, and finally multiply the figure you get by the number of pupils in membership. You will then know how much your district will receive in state aid.

For a district having a state equalized valuation per pupil of more than \$12,738, Formula A will yield a better return. If the SEV per pupil is less than \$12,738, Formula B is the better.

Formula B has a larger deductible millage—but starts with a much larger gross allowance. "Deductible millage" is an equalizing device. Where a district has a high valuation per pupil and must multiply it by a certain deductible millage it receives less aid than a district which has a low valuation using the same deductible millage factor.

The whole trend of pressure against property has led to more dependence on state aid. It can mean more dependence on federal aid. Such a trend would not be necessary if local districts had some source of funds through local taxes on something else besides property.

The only real possibility would be taxes based on incomes. No other source of wealth would provide enough in revenues to do the job—or even do much real good in meeting the problem. If it were a state income tax, a goodly share would have to be allotted to local governments and school districts. But local governments might tax incomes for direct purposes, or for school support.



THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN MUST SETTLE THEIR OWN SCHOOL FINANCE PROBLEMS OR WASHINGTON WILL ENLARGE ITS INFLUENCE AND CONTROL.

THE DELEGATES SAID:

In their recent November sessions at Michigan State University, the voting delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting spent much time and effort dealing with matters of adequate school financing.

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

They wrote—"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 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."

As to taxing methods, the delegates said:

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

The delegates then called for:

"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 that this should include the use of the income tax by the county rather than cities.

"Improved assessment and equalization procedures.

"Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.

"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.

"While no citizen cares to pay taxes, we believe every citizen expects to support his schools and other local and state government services through a fair and equitable tax structure."

THE BIG QUESTION —

Will 1967 Bring TAX REFORM?

The new Michigan Legislature will be faced with the "moment of truth" in its 1967 session.

There is no question that the predictions of fiscal experts are not only going to be true, but will be more serious than first anticipated. According to the most recent published estimates, state spending for the current fiscal year 1966-67 will total approximately \$995 million. Tax income will provide about \$900 million — thus, nearly \$100 million of the \$167 million surplus on hand will be gone by July 1, 1967.

The Legislature will need to pass a budget of nearly \$100 million more next year just to keep standing still and to pay for the "built-in" increases. A deficit of \$80-\$100 million could be a reality by July, 1968, even if no new spending is approved — but indications are there will be increased spending. For instance, the Civil Service Commission has recently approved wage increases averaging seven percent to the 39,000 state employees. A six percent increase went into effect last year. Total cost of the new increase will be approximately \$21 million.

Another problem facing Michigan is the fact that the economy is probably leveling off, and what has been a rosy economic picture begins to take on some shade of gray. This, too, was to be expected, as no economy can continue indefinitely the rapid upward climb that Michigan has enjoyed for the past several years. In the face of impending red ink, it becomes apparent that increased revenues will be sought. Thus, tax reform becomes more important than ever before.

Personal income in Michigan

is at an all-time high. Taxwise, many people are paying less today, as a percent of their income, for the services they receive than ever before.

It is encouraging to note, however, that Farm Bureau's tax program continues to receive a great deal of attention. It should also be remembered that much of that program has already been achieved. Farm Bureau members will recognize that many other organizations (educational, business, etc.) are beginning to propose tax programs similar to those that have been part of Farm Bureau's policy for a number of years.

It is also encouraging to note that educational organizations are beginning to realize that instead of merely demanding more funds, they must also take on a responsibility for determining the source of those funds.

It is now generally accepted by everyone that the property tax can no longer carry the burden and must not be increased, but should be decreased.

Farm Bureau leaders have, for some time, worked with other or-

ganizations in an effort to encourage support of total tax reform. On December 14, 1966, Farm Bureau was a co-sponsor of a statewide Conference on Fiscal Reform for Quality Education, held at Cobo Hall, Detroit. Major speakers included Governor Romney; James Kelly, from Columbia University, New York; Dr. William Haber, nationally known tax expert from the U. of M.; and Dr. Harold Sponberg, President of Eastern Michigan University. Several Legislators attended and participated in the conference.

There were also nine discussion conferences — each with five leading resource people (total 45) to discuss specific areas of education and fiscal reform. Farm Bureau Legislative Counsel Bob Smith served on one of the panels.

The Conference informally adopted a resolution calling for the adoption of a basic fiscal reform program in this session of the Legislature and adequate and proper funds to meet the needs of education and that the tax burden should be allocated equitably. It was generally agreed that property can no longer carry the burden and that any tax reform program must include a personal and corporate income tax, along with adjustments of other taxes.

The Conference also decided to have a second statewide Conference on Fiscal Reform to be held in Lansing early in the 1967 legislative session.

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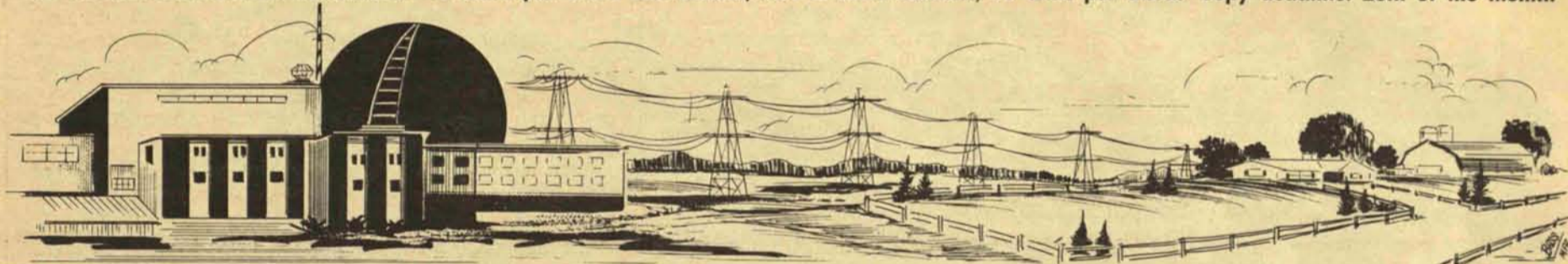
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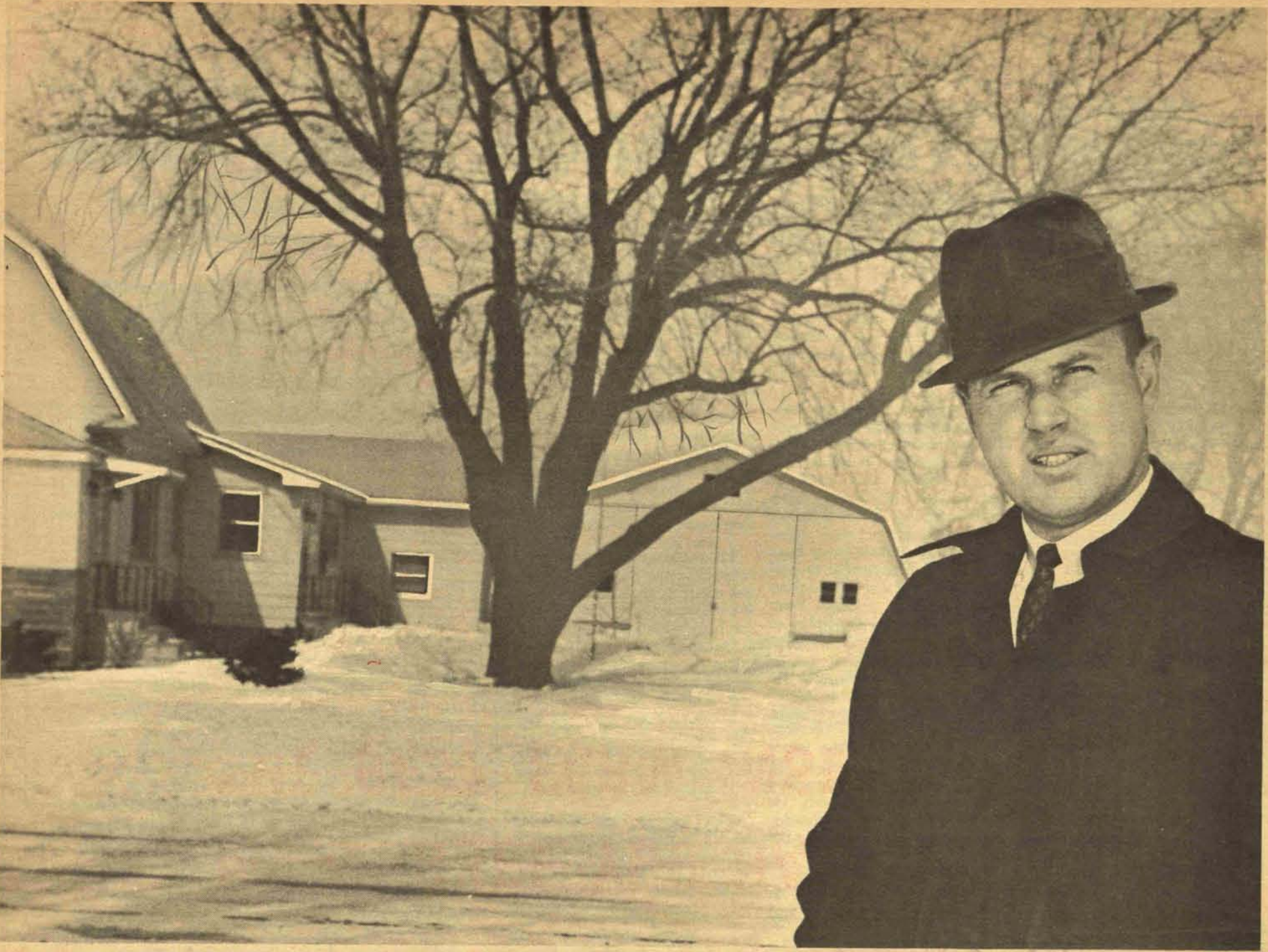
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