

50th ANNIVERSARY

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

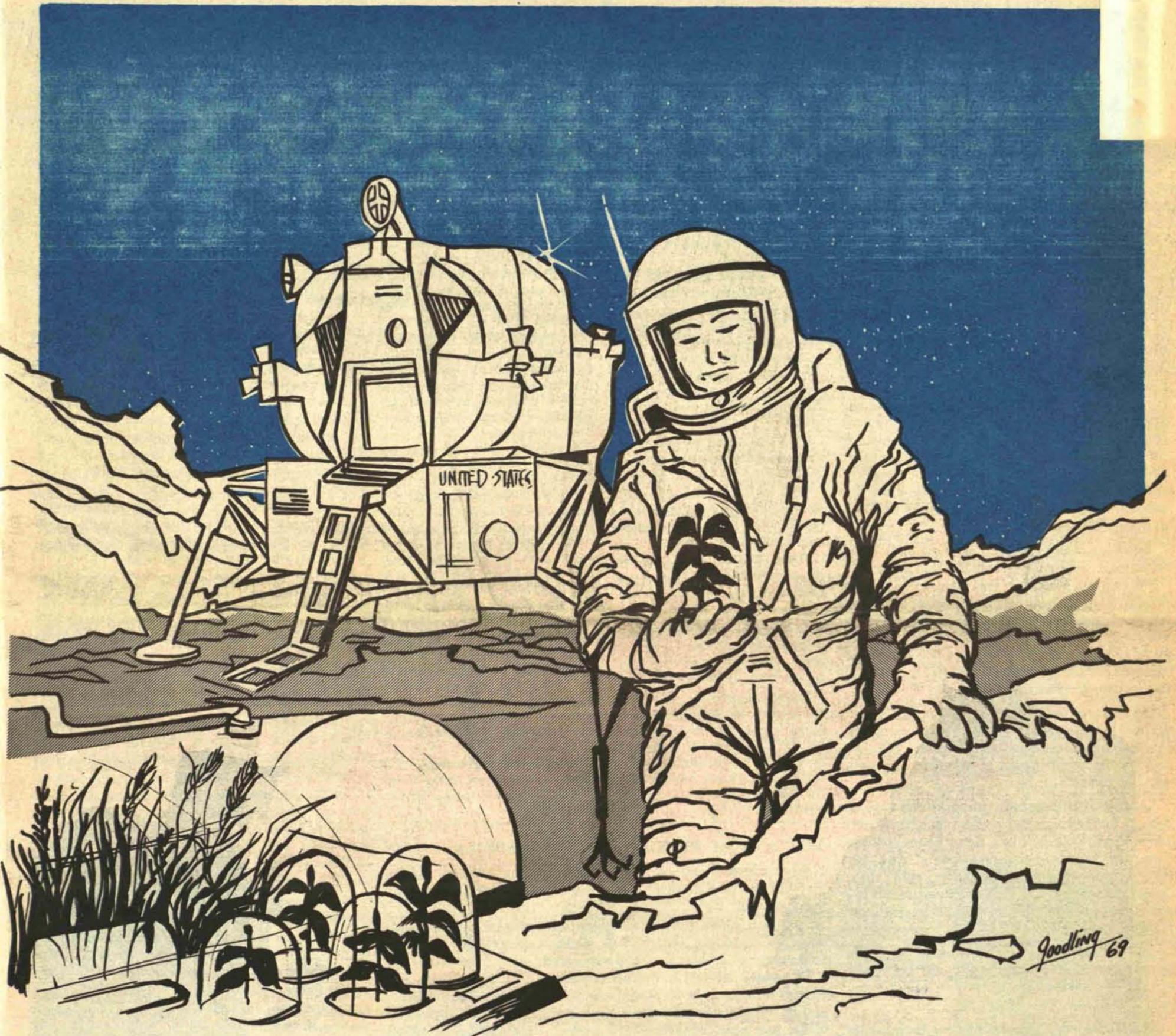


THE **ACTION** PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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—1919—50 Years of Service to Michigan Farmers—1969—

November



Is This The Future Of Agriculture?

When times seem uncertain, young people often give up the idea of preparing themselves for the future. There is a tendency to sit back and say, "What's the Use? Our plans will only have to be abandoned anyway, and so we will wait." Five years ago critics scoffed at the "lunacy of reaching the moon." Today optimistic scientists foresee space stations on the moon, with agriculture sufficient to care for the needs of the inhabitants. Artist Norm Goodling gives a brief insight of what could very

well be a reality in a few short years. Dr. Robert Parker, a scientist-astronaut with NASA, will address the annual banquet of the Michigan Farm Bureau at Lansing Civic Center, November 11. (See page 3.) It is appropriate to have a young man who is scheduled for one of the near future space flights bring us up-to-date on what can and will take place. It is also fitting, during these uncertain times, to get a report on the vital role space travel will play in the lives of each of us.

**Don't Miss Your Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting At Michigan State University...
November 10, 11 and 12, 1969**

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Editorial

Are we Thankful?

A question often asked, but seldom really answered is: "Why should we wait until Thanksgiving to give thanks for the many things we have and for the many things we do not have?"

There isn't any of us that can't travel, even a mile from our home, and find a person, or persons, in need of our help. We should be thankful for the measure of health and strength we enjoy. We should humbly but proudly admit to ourselves and others that we are thankful.

It is revealing — and relaxing — to capture the feelings and reflections of children who haven't been exposed to the confusion of world affairs or the reality of real life.

One Thanksgiving season a wise school-teacher asked her class to tell her what they, individually, would thank God for in their Thanksgiving prayer. The replies warrant repeating.

The teacher listed the children's answers into one prayer, which read: "We bow our heads and thank Thee . . . for the sound of laughter; for colored leaves that swirl and fall in the autumn; for the smell of chocolate cake in the oven; for big red garden tomatoes; for my playful kitten that gets tangled up in pink yarn; for erasers that make mistakes disappear; for the feel of wet grass on my bare feet; for the good taste of hot cherry pie; for my warm, soft bed; for my sister's smile on Christmas morning; for the boats and seagulls on the wallpaper that carry me across the sea when I look at them; for the shade of the maple trees in our yard; for windows that let me watch the world go by, and for God's care."

With so much unrest, dissent and often treasonous acts in our nation, one may ask, "Will not Thanksgiving this year be an empty farce?" Only an embittered pessimist will stifle his inner desires to be thankful. Every optimist gazes toward the dawn, and perceives there the promise of a better day. Let us be thankful for the yesterdays and the todays and the unknown tomorrows.

If you were to list the things you are thankful for how would it read? Would your list include the same things as the young people? Are we too sophisticated to vent our real feelings of thanks?

I realize it isn't popular any more to express the old fashioned belief in God, to give thanks for a "Land of the Free", or to champion the cause of private enterprise, but I dare say there are few people around who really, deep down, wouldn't shout their true thanks from the roof tops if they didn't fear reprisal or censure from their associates.

I am grateful that I am a part of a people that is governed by gentlemen and statesmen instead of by blood-thirsty tyrants and power-crazed despots.

I am thankful for friends . . . for their voices and their firm handclasps, for the unseen but powerful threads that unite their lives with my life. I am thankful that I can voice a prayer each day for their safety and comfort, wherever they are.

As we reflect on the demonstrations, riots and downright vandalism, under the guise of sincere protests against this or that, we can be doubly thankful that we are not forced to join such actions, but can show a force of strength for our country by displaying "Old Glory" as thousands upon thousands did on moratorium day. It's too bad the communications media failed to see this part of the demonstration.

I am thankful for many things. The list becomes interminable. I cannot be among those who assert that Thanksgiving is a farce. To me the day is more meaningful than ever, for in my consciousness is an abundance of reasons for gratitude — more in number than ever before. I shall pause this year to be thankful for many things.

Will you join me?

Evan Hale

EXPANSIONIST NOT PROTECTIONIST

Maurice H. Stans, U. S. Secretary of Commerce told the 10th plenary meeting of the National Export Expansion Council recently, "The fundamental trade policy of the Nixon Administration is expansionist, not protectionist. In fact, and in word, we are committed to the achievement of free trade between nations, and we are very aggressively seeking the greatest possible expansion of American exports."

The National Export Expansion Council is composed of 74 prominent business, labor, and professional leaders appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to advise him on international business policies and programs. Charles B. Shuman, president of American Farm Bureau is one of 36 new members named to the Council this year.

The Secretary told the Council of the establishment of a national export goal of \$50 billion by 1973 . . . "the first national export goal in the nation's history," he said.

"Beyond the setting of goals we are taking the practical, positive steps necessary to encourage American business to do business abroad.

"We are going to reduce the documentation requirements for exports.

"We are going to restore the American merchant marine as an effective instrument in greater world commerce.

"We are going to improve the ways and means of obtaining more credit for export financing.

"We are considering ways to help American products overcome competitive tax barriers which are being raised against them in countries around the world.

"In every country where it is appropriate to do so, particularly Japan, we are pressing vigorously for the elimination of restrictions — open or covert restrictions — against American imports and American investments," the Secretary said.

Farm Bureau

Mutual Announces Dividend

The thirteenth auto dividend in twenty years will begin arriving in Farm Bureau Mutual policyholder mailboxes after November 1. In continuing effort to encourage driver safety, the new dividend will add up to \$280,000 . . . 10% of the semi-annual premium for some 50,000 Michigan auto policyholders.

"Driver safety, that's the key," said Nile L. Vermillion, Executive Vice President of Farm Bureau Insurance Group, in announcing the dividend. "As an insurance company we have a responsibility to encourage safe driving through dividends . . . showing that safety really does pay. But ultimately, only the individual motorist can make the decision to drive carefully, defensively, safely. Farm Bureau Mutual auto policyholders have."

The latest auto dividend was approved by Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Board of Directors effective October 20. In the past three years, Farm Bureau Mutual has paid out over \$800,000 in auto dividends to policyholders while most auto insurers have been raising rates.

Vermillion also said that an insurance firm must . . . "Conscientiously serve all of the driving public. That is the need our group-rater auto program . . . the first in the Nation . . . is meeting."

Farm Bureau Insurance Group's group auto program has been adopted by 21 Michigan business, church, school and governmental units, including Farm Bureau Insurance Group and Farm Bureau Services employees. According to Vermillion these group auto plans follow basic group health and group life concepts. Group rating and administration reduce individual insurance rates while eliminating arbitrary cancellations by the insurer.

Savings and innovation . . . constant companions of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group policyholder.

AFBF ANNUAL BECKONS COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Final preparations are being made for the Fiftieth Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in our nation's capitol.

Michigan Farm Bureau members have shown a definite interest in attending this historic Golden Anniversary meeting with many reservations already received.

Of special interest is the invitation for all County Farm Bureau presidents to be in attendance at this all important meeting and to receive recognition for the outstanding accomplishments of the past year. A section of the general assembly area will be reserved for County representatives. I urge participation by every Michigan County Farm Bureau to the AFBF annual meeting. From all indications this will be the greatest annual meeting in the history of Farm Bureau.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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President's Column

Farm Bureau is Positive

So often we hear the comment "Farm Bureau is a negative organization because it is against everything, especially when it comes to legislation."

Before examining the validity of these accusations I would remind you there is definitely a "positive no". When your child is committing an error and you say "no" you aren't just against, you are for positive correction. All farm organizations created as only a protest movement barely got off the ground and have long ago fallen by the wayside.

The trend of many organizations, and of our federal government, is to build "walls of security" for every avenue of American life. The declaration of Farm Bureau policy immediately cautions us that this isn't the direction we believe in.

We believe, and we have nine score years to prove, America's progress was based on freedom and dignity of the individual. Man loses his dignity and self-initiative behind a wall of security.

Farm Bureau was founded upon, and has grown upon the philosophy of positive programs and positive thinking. We don't always do as well as we should because we are a human institution operated by humans with human weaknesses. Nonetheless, our organizational structure is not the problem. We are set up on a county, state and national basis. This structure, wherein both responsibility and authority are decentralized, is a hallmark of Farm Bureau.

I am proud to be a part of an organization that adheres to positive and progressive programs and philosophies. A portion of our Farm Bureau statement of purpose reads:

"We, as Farm Bureau members believe: In our Constitutional form of government and its division of powers.

"In freedom of speech, press and peaceful assembly.

"In separation of church and state and in the right of each individual to worship according to the dictates of his own conscience.

"That self-government is a precious heritage which can be preserved only by the active, intelligent assumption of basic citizenship responsibilities by all people.

"In the American competitive enterprise system, in which property is privately owned, privately managed, and operated for profit and individual satisfaction, and in which supply and demand are the ultimate determinants of market price.

"That farm people have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves through organizations of their choice without coercion or government intervention.

"That the powers not specifically delegated to the federal government by the Constitution are reserved to the states or to the people and that such powers cannot be pre-empted by federal statutes and must not be pre-empted by the courts."

With statements such as these, how can anyone seriously say that Farm Bureau is a negative organization. I don't find one negative statement.

The history of Farm Bureau also verifies that the membership strives to work together with other organizations in dealing with the pressing problems of the day. However, it must be noted that Farm Bureau does not sway from one side of a problem to the other. Members of other organizations have often commented on what a great advantage this is as compared to the situation prevailing in their organization, or others, where a clear-cut statement of fundamental beliefs and forthright policies are not followed.

As we start the next fifty years of growth in our organization, let's look to the future with a determination to build on the positive programs that have made Farm Bureau the largest general farm organization in Michigan and the nation.

Elton Smith

Governor Names November 9-15 Farm Bureau Week in Michigan



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS—witnessed the signing of the proclamation. Left to right are Clayton Ford, David Morris, Andrew Jackson, Dean Pridgeon, Kenneth Bull, Eugene Roberts, Governor William Milliken (seated), Calvin Lutz, Pres. Elton Smith, Lawrence Karsten, Maxine Topliff, Richard Wieland and Harvey Leuenberger. Not present was James Sayre.

PROCLAMATION

Governor Milliken has proclaimed the week of November 9-15, 1969, as Farm Bureau Week in Michigan.

The proclamation reads:

"Agriculture, Michigan's second largest industry, provides for nearly one-third of our total employment through agricultural production, processing and distribution.

"The Michigan Farm Bureau this year celebrates its golden anniversary with 50 years of outstanding accomplishment and service to Michigan agriculture.

"Farm Bureau makes significant contributions to the economic and social well-being of our state and communities, helping farmers to work together economically, legislatively and educationally. In 1969, every county Farm Bureau in Michigan has achieved significant membership growth, resulting in a total of more than 55,000 member families.

"Therefore, I, William G. Milliken, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim the week of November 9-15, 1969, as

FARM BUREAU WEEK

in Michigan, and urge recognition of the importance of agriculture in this state and of Farm Bureau."

50th ANNUAL MEETING Michigan State University November 10-12, 1969

Charter Members

Farm Bureau members are a "hearty group"—proving that farm life is a healthy life. Previously we listed 87 charter-family members—(those having been Michigan Farm Bureau members for 50 years.) Since then we have received names of 104 more. We are indeed proud to present these names of members who have contributed greatly to the success of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Family members, by county, include:

Allegan: Andrew G. Lohman, Walter Wightman, Gilbert Immink, Harvey Immink, George Koopman, James Koopman. **Branch:** Otis O. Barnes. **Calhoun:** Roy Brazee. **Charlevoix:** Lavern E. McGhan. **Clinton:** Harlen Dershem, William King Lee. **Delta:** Wesley S. Hawley. **Eaton:** Minnie Clarke, Julia O'Neil, Chester Smith, Vern Smith. **Ingham:** Floyd Rice. **Ionia:** Robert Ainsworth, Myron S. Kennedy. **Kalkaska:** Ward Rutton. **Kent:** Arthur Bowman, Ella Buttrick. **Lenawee:** Edna Beamer. **Midland:** Simon J. Murphy, Claude Oswald, Wm. Walter Mainhood. **Montcalm:** Fred Reblin.

Newaygo: E. E. Twing. **Oakland:** Herbert Baynes, Lucius E. W. Lyon. **Ottawa:** D. H. S. Rymer (Sam). **Saginaw:** Ellsworth F. Larkin, G. W. Schomaker, Peter Young, Sr. **Shiawassee:** Erle Arthur, Eugene Maiers, Clifford Arnold, Earl Baumgardner, Clifford Bristol, Ray Byington, Arthur Davis, Lila Heath, Blanche Potter, Floyd Reynolds, William Sherman, Charles Warren, Hattie White, Leon Williams. **Tuscola:** Eva Aldrich, Mary E. Bell, Clare Ill, Ewald Ill, Rinerd Knoblet, Frank Koch, John P. Newton, Edward Petzold, Fred Seitz. **Van Buren:** Rena S. Buskirk.

Washtenaw: Anna M. McCalla, Frank Geiger, Lawrence Boettner, Ralph Leland, Ray Gibbs, Angeline Hellner. **Kalamazoo:** Earl Anderson, Daphne Bailey, Clair I. Brown, Helen Buckham, Valentine Buckham, Violet Maltby, Cyril Root. **Genesee:** Gladys Bentley, Carl Brown, Laura Cooney, Roy F. Crouter, Mabyn F. Fox, George Fromwiller, Joseph Goodrich, Emma Green, Roy Hammond, Gladys B. Harris, Helen Hill, Ernest Hill, Philip Hill, Carol Hodges, Mary A. Huggins, Earl Johnson, Maude Kurtz, L. R. Lang, C. Mildred Leach, Faye C. Myers, Joseph B. Myers, Jr., Clara Perrin, Nina Pierson, Ella H. Schultheis, George A. Somers, Nettie Spillane, Earl H. Swift, Lee Taylor, William A. Tenny, Carrie L. Tiedeman, George Thompson, Eva M. Wagner, Claude Zimmerman.



Dr. R. A. Parker

Carrying out a theme—"Looking to the Future"—Dr. Robert A. Parker, Scientist-Astronaut from NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, will be the principal speaker at the 50th Anniversary MFB's annual banquet, November 11 at 6 p.m. in the Lansing Civic Center.

Dr. Parker is tentatively scheduled for a space mission in early 1970. He has degrees in Astronomy and Physics and is a member of the American and Royal Astronomical Societies and the In-

NASA Astronaut To Address Annual Banquet

ternational Astronomical Union. Prior to his selection for astronaut training, Dr. Parker was an Associate Professor of Astronomy at the University of Wisconsin. He was selected as scientist-astronaut by NASA in August, 1967, and has completed the initial academic training and a 53-week course in flight training at Williams Air Force Base.

Opening Day Session

The voting delegates will be called to order at 10 a.m. Monday. After the opening welcome, there will be a presentation of Freedoms Foundation Awards; the President's address by MFB President Elton Smith and at 11 a.m. a Veterans Day ceremony by four members of the U.S. Marine Corps, Lansing. An address by Gov. William Milliken will complete the first morning's session.

Two special luncheons will be held on Monday—The Women's luncheon at Kellogg Center in the Big Ten Room and the Commodity luncheon in the Ballroom of the Union Building.

County presidents and their wives and members of the state board and their spouses will attend the President's Banquet in

the Red Cedar Rooms A and B at Kellogg Center at 6 p.m. while the Young Farmer banquet will be held at 6:30 in the ballroom of the Union Building.

Pres. Shuman at Tues. Session

Following the Treasurer's report by William Beattie and the Secretary-Manager's report by Dan Reed, AFBF President Charles Shuman will address the general session. A special award will be presented to Michigan Farm Bureau by Michigan Milk Producers; charter members will be recognized and a challenge of the future will complete the morning session. At 1 p.m. the delegates will reconvene to consider resolutions. Delegates from Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 will recess for caucuses at 4 p.m.

Also at the 6 p.m. banquet, county Farm Bureau program awards will be presented; Distinguished Service Awards will be presented and a 1970 Farm Bureau queen will receive her crown. Directors to be Elected

The general session will open at 8:45 Wednesday morning and Directors from un-even numbered districts will be elected. Throughout the sessions, resolutions will be considered.

YF Banquet to Feature Odegard

Three hundred Young Farmers are expected to attend this year's Young Farmer banquet at the MFB Annual Meeting, Monday, November 10, at 6:30 in the ballroom of the Union Building.

Hans Odegard, "fresh" from Denmark, will be the featured speaker. The 1969 Farm Bureau Queen Diane Traver, national and state Discussion Meet winners and State Young Farmer Committee members will be in attendance. A preview of next year's planned Young Farmer activities will also be outlined at this Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee sponsored banquet.

The six semi-finalists from the District Discussion Meets will compete for the state championship during the Commodity Day luncheon Monday noon, with the state winner going on to compete for national honors at the AFBF in December. Michigan's John Nye won the National Meet last December.

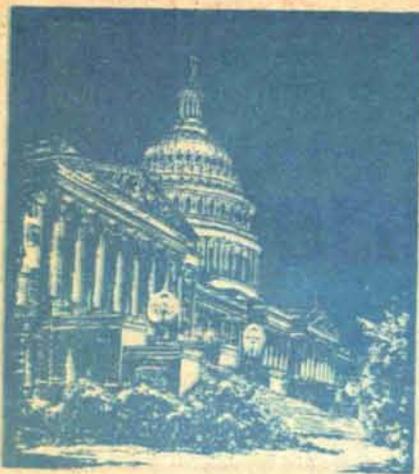
The Farm Bureau queen contest will be held Tuesday, November 11. More than 30 contestants are entered and the 1970 FB queen will receive her crown



Hans Odegard

from the 1969 Queen, Diane Traver at the banquet Tues. evening.

Don't be left behind. Get your reservations in early for the 50th Annual Meeting of AFBF to be held in Washington, D. C., December 7-10. Rooms are reserved at the Statler-Hilton with rates starting at \$12.00 per day. For transportation and room information contact: Program Development Division, Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904. (See Page 11).



capitol report

Gov. Milliken Presents Educational Reform Recommendations

by Robert E. Smith

Educational reform is the No. 1 state issue before the fall session of the Legislature, which convened October 6. On September 30, the Governor's special Commission on Educational Reform presented its report, which received wide publicity and contained broad and far-reaching recommendations.

On October 11, Governor Milliken spoke to a joint session of the Legislature and made his recommendations for educational reform. The Governor's proposals, in many areas, were different from the Commission's. There were at least 17 items that the Governor presented that were not part of the Commission's report. There were another seven or more items that the Governor expanded upon with specific recommendations. Most of the changes recommended by the Governor came closer to Farm Bureau's overall school and taxation policies.

Governor Milliken has received general commendation for the courage that he has displayed in calling for complete educational and tax reform. The program is so broad that it can be said — "it pleases everybody in some ways and, likewise, displeases everybody in other ways. Nonetheless, it recognizes the differences in school problems throughout the state and is a vehicle to be used by the Legislature in coming to final decisions. Decisions on two major parts of the program would be by the people themselves at the 1970 election.

The program would require two constitutional amendments in addition to specific legislation. Twelve bills have been introduced to carry out the recommendations. Some of the key recommendations are:

Abolition of the State Board of Education. There seems to be general agreement, that as now constituted, it has been a monumental failure. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Polley, has resigned. The man selected as temporary Superintendent resigned in less than a week. One of the leading Democrats on the Board, Marilyn Jean Kelly, has also called for abolition of the Board.

There is disagreement as to what should take its place. The governor recommends appointment of a Director of Education by the Governor, with consent of the Senate. Others suggests that a bipartisan Commission be appointed by the Governor, which, in turn, would hire the Director. Either of these ideas is in line with the methods now used in the other 18 departments of state government. However, the final decision would be made by the people through a constitutional amendment.

Intermediate school districts, (presently numbering 60), would be replaced by 10 to 15 regional offices. The regional offices would operate in much the same manner as the present intermediate districts, with additional responsibilities. Transportation would be handled by these offices, as would special education, vocational education, central purchasing, data processing and other service-type programs that local school districts cannot do themselves. There would be a Board composed of representatives of the local school boards. That Board would approve or disapprove of the hiring of the Regional Superintendent. All costs of these programs would be paid by the state. Presently, this amounts to about 1¼ to 1½ mills of property tax in most areas.

Local school district reorganization is also recommended in the report, especially those districts that do not presently have a K-12 program. There are about 126 such districts left in the entire state. Reorganization of K-12 districts is also recommended, with a suggested size of not less than 2,000 pupils, but with recognition that this cannot be achieved in every case, due to sparsity of population, distances that students would have to travel and other factors.

The reorganization would require about three years to fully carry out. The first stages would be through voluntary local initiative, with provisions for later requirement through a hearing process. This is not nearly as stringent as other legislation that has been introduced.

Local school districts would continue to be governed by elected boards of directors. They would continue to have control of hiring of teachers, curriculum decisions, supervision of personnel, educational policy decisions and all other areas of operation that presently exist. They would also determine the budget; however, the total funding of the school would come from state sources. Because of this budgeting process, there would be some limitations on teachers' salaries. This should be helpful in eliminating the present "whipsawing" by teacher organizations with which Boards of Education find themselves confronted. Teachers' organizations, generally, do not like this provision, as they recognize it as a type of control of their present negotiating tactics.

Funding of local schools would be accomplished through what is known as the "Classroom Unit System," which is now used in some form by most other states. The present admittedly inequitable school aid formula system would be eliminated.

A statewide property tax is recommended in the report. In this area, the Governor made some important changes. The Commission talked in terms of 20 mills of statewide property tax — the Governor cut this figure to 16 mills. The first proposals were "open ended" with no limit. The Governor added a limitation, saying that in future years the property tax for schools would not be permitted to exceed the "same percentage contribution to state expenditures for schools as that contributed by the 16-mill levy in the first year." It is estimated that, under present conditions, the 16 mills statewide would yield about 35% of the school operating cost. This means that the property tax revenue would not be permitted to be higher than 35% of the cost of school operation. Here again, the people would make the final decision through a constitutional amendment. The present 15-18 mill limitation would be cut to probably 7 mills in 15 mill counties and 10 mills in 18 mill counties.

There is much to consider in this proposal. It means that more than 90% of the property taxpayers would receive significant tax relief. For instance, many areas receive more than 30 mills for school operation. In many areas, school property taxes for operation could be cut in half. In a few areas, however, school taxes would rise somewhat, and in other areas there would be little change.

A statewide property tax would be administered through the existing tax structure. In addition, local districts would be permitted to raise, by vote, up to an additional three mills. However, each mill would be guaranteed at \$30. In other words, each district's mill would be worth the same as if it had an evaluation of \$30,000 per child.

Huge amounts of money are involved in shifting of taxation. The Governor recommends that part of the monies for schools could be realized with a five cent increase on the cigarette tax. In a full year, it is estimated this would provide \$45 million. Another recommendation is to eliminate the property tax credit on the state income tax. This could mean \$116 million or more. This has been difficult to administer, as it also applies to renters. The rest of the money needed to replace the decrease in property taxes and to further fund the new school proposals would come from increased income taxes. This would not need to be done until 1971. At that time, the income taxes would be increased as follows: personal — 1.5% (from the present 2.6% to 4.1%), corporations from the present 2.6% to 4.1% and financial institutions from the present 7% to 11%.

Statewide student testing is an important aspect of the recommendations. The purpose of this is to determine what is happening in the schools and whether students are receiving the kind of instruction that they need. The program would be on basic skills for all students in grades 1-2-4-7 and 10. This is in addition to the assessment program that is to start next January, which results from this year's legislation. Parents and others have a right to be concerned about the fact that many students leave high school without basic skills in reading, writing, mathematics, etc.

The Governor's program also recognizes many other needs of education, such as neighborhood education centers; community school programs, which would extend the use of school facilities; teacher incentives to encourage good teachers; vocational education; (some areas have vocational education centers and raise as much as a mill of property tax, this would be eliminated) research and development of new and better methods of instruction; educational programs for migrant children, etc.

Neither the Governor nor the Commission shirked their duty by failing to recognize the serious issue of parochial aid. They recommended that a limited amount be provided to pay a percentage of certified lay teachers' cost for teaching only non-religious subjects. This, like the other parts of the program, will be in a separate bill and will ride on its own merits. However, they also recommended that "nonpublic schools receiving state aid should be subjected to the same evaluation, accountability and quality controls as public schools."

The parochial aid issue, during the past year, has had a suffocating effect on all other types of legislation. Most informed people realize that this issue must be resolved one way or the other — either by the Legislature or through the courts. It will, no doubt, become a federal constitutional issue.

The national trend is toward state financing of local education. In several states, such as Hawaii, Alaska, Delaware and North Caro-

lina, the state support now ranges from 70% to 100%. In 21 other states, it is well over 50%. This trend is indicated by the fact that in 1940 only nine states were above the 50% support level.

The Governor made it very clear to the Legislators that his recommendations are subject to legislative debate and many probable changes. He also made it clear that constructive criticism is welcome, but with criticism must come alternative approaches. Blind criticism cannot be productive and may result in little or no change.

The program is one that requires much study. No one should jump to conclusions. The program contains all the elements of a complete school and tax reform study. The opportunity now exists to get significant property tax relief.

The 12 bills that have been introduced will be subject to much change and each will stand on its own merits. However, every individual must recognize that nearly every area of the state is different and what appeals to one area may be objectionable to another and, while most people don't like the property tax, many prefer it over the income tax, again depending on personal circumstances.

Farm Bureau's policy development process is now in progress, but in our testimony, so far, we have stated that property tax relief must come and that, while it is possible to eliminate property tax for school purposes, it is recognized that huge amounts of money are involved and that compromise will be an important part of the legislative process. Farm Bureau has insisted, however, that the property tax millage should be lowered to 10 or 12 mills, and that income tax is the fairest method of replacing the large amounts of money involved.

If the Legislature is truly concerned about educational reform and the tax reform needed to carry it out, some type of comprehensive program will have to be passed, whether it's the Governor's, the Commission's or someone else's. In any event, it is estimated that it would take three years to put a complete program into effect.

...last minute

Farm Bureau Board news...

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, in session on October 16, considered some areas of the Governor's education recommendations in light of present Farm Bureau policy. The Board commended the Governor for presentation of a complete education reform program. It is recognized that the proposals will be thoroughly considered by the Legislature. The Board acted in these areas:

1. If the State Board of Education is abolished, it should be replaced by a commission which, in turn, would appoint the Superintendent of Public Instruction. This is consistent with other governmental departments, such as Agriculture and Natural Resources.
2. In view of the fact that there are many proposals for reorganization of intermediate districts, the regional concept appears to be the most logical and would help cut property taxes.
3. A statewide testing and assessment of students progress is highly commendable.

4. True tax equity and reduced property taxes will make it possible for all remaining non-K-12 districts to become part of a high school district. Reorganization of K-12 districts should be voluntary. Required reorganization should be delayed until such time as assessment and evaluation tests give factual information as to quality education programs for students.

5. Property tax should not exceed 12 mills and should be fully protected in relation to the cost of schools.

6. The state income tax should be used to replace monies lost due to the decrease in property taxes.

The Board also pointed out that most of the Governor's proposals are already covered in present Farm Bureau policies and that the 1969 policies are now being formulated through county annual meetings, with final action to be taken at the state annual meeting in November.

Farm Bureau Women Complete Annual Meeting Plans - Nov. 10

A style show—the election of a state chairman and vice chairman—plus an address from Michigan's lady state Senator will provide an interesting full day for the more than 700 Michigan Farm Bureau Women expected to attend the 50th Annual Meeting program November 10.

Presiding will be Mrs. Jerold Topliff, Chairman, Women's Committee, Michigan Farm Bureau.

The luncheon will start at 12:30 in the Big Ten Room, Kellogg Center. Mrs. William Scramlin, Past Chairman, will give the invocation, and following the luncheon, Mrs. Clare Carpenter, Vice Chairman, will introduce the many guests.

Always of interest is an election—this year, the state's chairman and vice chairman posts are on the ballot. The only announced candidate for state chairman is Mrs. Topliff, the incumbent. Mrs. Richard Wieland and Mrs. Francis Campau have filed for the vice chairman position.

Senator N. Lorraine Beebe, 12 Dist., Michigan State Legislature, will address the ladies—talking on "Women's Role in Today's Society." Mrs. Beebe is a member of several state committees and also national chairman of the Consumer Rights Committee.

MFB President Elton Smith will visit with the guests; Mrs. Topliff will give her annual report and Helen Atwood, Coordinator, Women's Activities, will present awards to county Women's Committees for outstanding performance over the past year.

The ladies will join Don Funk, East Lansing Songster and song leader and Mrs. Louise Smith, pianist, in a group-singing session before the long-awaited Style Review.

Winners of local needlecraft contests, held in each county, will model their winning costumes in a style review while other "non-wearable" articles will be on display nearby.

As gold is the selected color for the 50th Annual Meeting, members of the State Committee are using gold color for decorations and encouraging the wearing of "something gold" in their costumes.

Senator Beebe Reports on Hawaiian Labor Laws

Michigan State Senator N. Lorraine Beebe, Chairman of the nationwide Consumers' Rights Committee, has issued the following statement:

"I have just returned from an unpublicized visit to Hawaii, the only state in the nation with a collective bargaining law for farm workers, to find out for myself how effective this law is and to determine in what measure any of its provisions or concepts could be incorporated in a national farm labor bill to solve the dilemma facing all American agriculture.

"After talking at length with legislative leaders of both parties, labor attorneys who are expert in the operation of the Hawaii act, business leaders and labor leaders—including officials of the ILWU, who have organized farm workers in Hawaii—I concluded that the great thing about the pioneering Hawaii act is that it works. The interesting thing is that everyone I talked to said the farm labor law benefits all aspects of Hawaiian agriculture—the farmer, the worker, the consumer and the unions.

"I am no labor lawyer myself and all those to whom I talked made it perfectly clear that they did not know whether the Hawaii act would serve the needs of any other state or as a model for national legislation. But, going through the provisions of the act as a lay person with Hawaiians who have to live with it, I was struck by the fact that Hawaii's law so closely parallels in so many respects the concept contained in Senator George Murphy's Consumer Agricultural Food Protection Act, on which I understand the United States Senate will shortly hold hearings.

"My visit convinced me that agriculture all over the United States would benefit from farm labor legislation, such as Senator Murphy's, that is national in scope, equitable in purpose, and designed to protect the interest of all parties concerned with the free flow of food from the farm to the consumer.

"The prime purpose of any such act must be to protect the consumer and his food supply. A necessary corollary of that is that the act must give a voice to farm workers by providing guidelines within which they may organize peacefully through secret elections, and bargain collectively.

"In this way we can hope to see the end of such destructive and discriminatory tactics as the attempted boycott of California table grapes, which are only destructive, and settle farm disputes on the farm, where they belong.

"As chairman of the Consumers' Rights Committee, which now numbers 30,000 members, I have travelled the nation seeking information on the needs of agriculture. My fact-finding tour of Hawaii has taught me that the state has pioneered well in this important area. The fact that Hawaii's act so closely parallels Senator Murphy's model convinces me that the solution is to be found in this concept."



"It's A Busy Time!"

Hello Y'all. As I sit here writing this morning I can look out the window and see "Autumn" dressed in her most beautiful yellows, reds, golds, and browns. It would be strange to live where we saw 'green' the year around, wouldn't it? Even the browns of the cornfields are a welcome sight after a summer of many long working days. For goodness sakes, do be careful around those cornpickers and combines, they are grabby things when running, whether it be ears of corn or hands and arms.

The Country Womens Council (CWC) met recently in Jackson, Miss. The meeting was scheduled for Biloxi but hurricane Camile arrived first and stirred things up too much. The ladies did some fast work and made arrangements for us to meet in Jackson instead. They were masters in hospitality too. The state president of the Home Extension and state chairman of Farm Bureau women arranged for all 190 of us to have a tour of their lovely old Governor's mansion and hosted a tea there where we had the privilege of meeting the governor's wife. The state chairman of the Mississippi Farm Bureau women is also a State Senator.

Many of you met Bert White at ACWW last fall.

Did you know that because of all the generous contributions, donated time and many hours of work by many people at Michigan State, the careful planning of the steering committee for ACWW, the work of Farm Bureau women, the Extension homemakers and Farm and Garden club people, the CWC had a balance, after all expenses, of about \$60,000? The delegates at CWC decided how to use the money—\$25,000 to be used to hold a National seminar for American Indian Women; \$12,000 for another improvement program in Central or South America (similar to Villa Maria); \$10,000 to be sent to the ACWW office to use as they see fit and the balance retained for ACWW and CWC educational programs in our member societies.

We were told that Villa Maria still needs equipment. The building is completed, but they need a stove, refrigerator, pots and pans, plastic dishes, several kinds of toys and office equipment.

An election was also part of the business of CWC and this year it was Farm Bureau's turn to nominate a treasurer. Alice

VanWert, Hampton, Iowa, who is our Midwest FB women's chairman, was elected to that position. A new vice-chairman was elected this year too. She is Mrs. F. G. Garrison of Detroit, who is a member of the Farm and Garden Club. These officers are chosen on a regular rotation basis, so that no one organization ever dominates the officers.

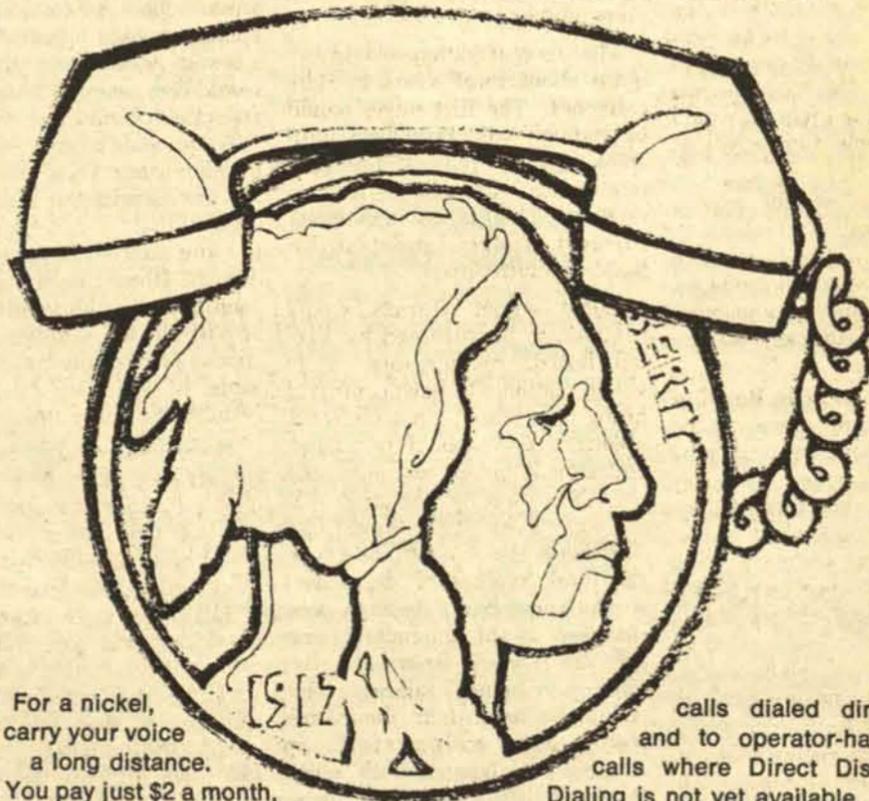
Do you want a letter friend? If so there are new forms to be filled out and sent to the CWC Secretary. These may be obtained from Helen Atwood's office.

We had a very full and interesting meeting. The speaker at the evening banquet was Dr. John H. Furbay, who has participated in our Citizenship seminars here in Michigan. His topic was "Four Dreams of Man," an interesting and challenging talk.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

Feeling a little low? Do you want a lift? Need a vacation? Then join in the fun and the inspiration of the 1969 AFBF Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C., December 7-10. Make Reservations now by writing: Program Development Div., Box 960, Lansing Michigan 48904. (See story Page 11).

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Battle for the Vineyards

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WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

Father Cletus Healy, well-known Jesuit writer tells of his visits to California vineyards to gather first hand material about the so-called Grape Strike. There he talked with Cesar Chavez about whom he writes: "He has a vested interest in troublemaking. And he loves his work—far more than any saint should . . ." Father Healy's story continues . . .

COMMUNIST GROUP ACTIVITIES

Commenting on the involvement of these groups in the Delano conflict, the California Senate 14th Report noted: "There can be no doubt that the Communist Party was eager to penetrate not only the heart of the strike itself, but also any group on its periphery."

Less active in Delano, but more significant for their position in the Communist Party were:

Saul and Mrs. Billie Wachter, who came into Delano with a UAW caravan for an over-night stay, November 6, 1965. They were both delegates to the Communist Party National Convention in New York, 1953. It was Saul's son, Douglas, who featured in the San Francisco riots of May, 1960.

Sam Kushner and Harvey Richards, feature writer and photographer, respectively, for the Communists' West Coast *People's World*, were frequent visitors to Delano. The Senate 14th Report contains a picture of Kushner sitting in the back seat of an "Official Use Only" State car. Notes the Report: "The fact that an almost constant stream of articles" on Delano appeared in the *People's World* "indicates Party interest beyond the point of mere reporting." Kushner, as noted before, "was a close associate and confidant of Larry Itliong."

It is significant also that Alexander Hoffman, an attorney who "has been involved in Leftist activities in the bay area for a number of years" and who has "made no effort to conceal his Marxist convictions" transferred his legal office to NFWA headquarters in Delano.

When Chavez set up his cooperative, the legal end of it was handled by attorneys Robert Treuhart and Doris Brin Walker—"both . . . identified as Communist Party members."

The 14th Report comments: "It is, we believe, significant that both Cesar Chavez and his union should choose a Communist sympathizer and Communist Party members, respectively, to represent and counsel them concerning strike matters."

It is significant, and the significance is not to the credit of Cesar Chavez. It is difficult to say what the precise objective of these Leftists in Delano is. Some police officers feel that their only purpose is to cause a breakdown of law and order, and of respect for law-enforcing agents. Many farmers feel it is to gain a toe-hold on the agricultural industry—of California first, then of the country.

The conscious objective of the

dupes varies from the conscious objectives of the subversives who manipulate the dupes. But the real consequences that result from the Chavez operation will not be determined by the dupes! Whether or not the subversives succeed in achieving their announced objectives, the cause of the subversive is advanced by the Delano conflict. Even without success, this conflict provides the Leftist with an excellent agitational issue, a "fight in the bank" as Alinsky would say, for all Leftist forces across the nation. It provides the "cause," the ammunition, and the battlefield in which the young radicals throughout the country can be battle-trained. It affords the excuse for a conflict in which Americans can be divided, hatreds can be increased, the "class consciousness" of the masses can be heightened, and the revolutionary tempo of socio-political activists can be raised.

The whole battle contributes to the social, political, and economic disintegration of our country, possibly to a considerable extent. Anything that so weakens the U.S. brings the subversive one step closer to his ultimate objective—the disintegration of the socio-political fabric of our country. Therefore it easily merits the attention of Soviet agents. The issues that gave rise to the conflict may not deserve our attention, but the Leftist involvement in the conflict does.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE DELANO COMMUNITY could have been spared much of its spiritual anguish had the Church been less conspicuously involved in the Chavez controversy. But for one reason or another, some priests from near Delano and many from far away have been passionately intent on identifying the Church with the cause of Cesar Chavez.

Such partisanship has been carefully avoided by the bishops of the Delano area. In fact, Bishop Willinger's failure to identify the Church with the Chavez cause earned for him the brazen criticism of one visiting priest, who publicly accused the bishop of being "frozen with fear" and of having "abandoned the sheep." At no loss for words, in a front page article in the diocesan paper the Bishop, quite unfrozen and with little evidence of fear, accused "the horn blower of Delano" and his two companions of "choosing the role of challenging defiance to dramatize their clerical presence as well as to emphasize the superrighteousness of their strike support." He called

upon superiors of such priests to keep them in tow and not allow them "to roam the country dictating individual ideologies or promoting personal schemes, invading jurisdictions over which a local Ordinary (Bishop) presides and for which he is responsible."

The Vicar General, Monsignor James G. Dowling, was quick to assure the people of the Monterey-Fresno diocese that their Bishop was quite conscious of his pastoral responsibilities to all of his flock, the poor and the non-poor. "He has been a tireless apostle among the poor," according to the Monsignor, "during thirty-two years as a priest and Bishop in Puerto Rico until 1947 when he came to be our Chief Shepherd and Pastor. . . . Like every other good and conscientious shepherd he must be mindful of the needs and problems of all members of the fold. And in this instance his fatherly consideration must be not only for the workers but for the growers."

Monsignor Dowling was even so daring as to say a kind word about the growers. While admitting that "they are human like the rest of us" and "have the faults of humans," he deplored the irresponsible criticism they have had to endure. "In all this heated discussion," he says, "there seems to be acceptance of the idea that the growers are unscrupulous taskmasters who are only too ready to squeeze the very life blood out of their employees. This is not true. For the most part they are hard working men who have changed an arid desert into a fertile valley. . . ." The observation tempts one to suggest to the campus radicals who come in to improve Delano: "Go, thou, and do likewise!"—And then, if you will, tear up your own achievement.

Bishop Timothy Manning, like his predecessor, Bishop Willinger, has tried to make clear to his flock the moral principles involved in the conflict, carefully divorcing himself from any partisan affiliation. Murray Norris, a Catholic journalist from Fresno, has studied the Bishop's statements on the Delano conflict. In his booklet, *Delano—Another Crisis For the Catholic Church*, Norris notes: "Bishop Manning merely states that the growers and farm workers have the right to organize and to strike under certain conditions. Neither the growers nor farm workers have a quarrel with the Bishop on this point."

In a joint statement of October 18, 1966, all the Bishops of California took a like position. They reiterated the traditional Catholic social principle enunciated in Vatican II regarding the right of "freely founding unions of working people." "These," the document continues, "should be able truly to represent them." They also noted that "free elections have much to recommend them as a first step in the right direction."

If I understand the mind of the Delano workers correctly, it is not the principle, as outsiders would impose it upon them, that bugs them. Why can they not have the freedom of not joining a union? Why can they not make their choice their own way: by voting if they want to, by going to work if they want to, or by striking if they want to?

They have seen the professionals at work in the DiGiorgio elections, and against these professionals, they are no match. Where were the champions of the real workers when caravans of non-workers came in from El Paso to vote them into the captivity of Cesar Chavez—and left them

the next day to their fate? Where is the Bishop who can reverse the crucifixion of Sierra Vista and bring it back to life again? Where are the national tears for their loss when they last staked their future on the brave assurance that all would be well if they would only submit to a "free" election?

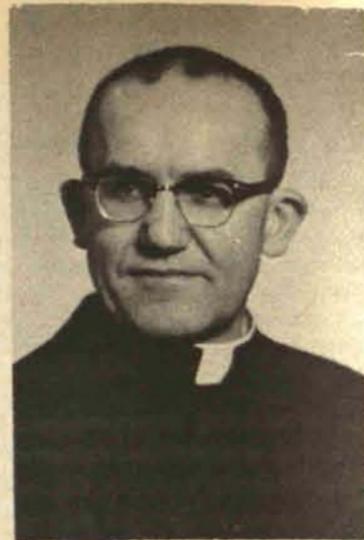
To these workers, the national boycott is merely a power play, imposed by outsiders who really care little and know less about them—a play designed to pressure them into another trap. It is clear to them, as it is to me, that they could choose Cesar Chavez to represent them any time they really want to. But they do not. All the pressure was against their staying in the fields when the pickets were there. All the pressure was for walking out. In spite of this, a vast majority of the workers voted daily, not freely but against a great deal of pressure, to go into the fields, to stay in the fields, and to reject Cesar Chavez. How could their choice be clearer?

They cannot understand how a sophisticated world cannot read their unsophisticated vote. Every ballot against Chavez is standing out in the grape field or walking around in the packing sheds. This is the only election they can handle. It takes only courage to run it, but that they have. In the other elections, professional non-workers take over. When people they do not know come in to help them mark ballots, when strangers take over the supervision of their elections, when the ballot boxes are carried off they-know-not-where, to be counted by they-know-not-whom—they end up captives. Why can they not run their own lives? Why can they not "freely" elect the ones who "truly represent them" their own way?

In one other respect the Bishops of California, Bishop Manning too, have gone beyond the mere enunciation of moral principles. They have specifically recommended that the National Labor Relations Act be extended to cover farm workers. California farmers, already paying the highest agricultural wages in the nation, have little to worry about from an equitable national farm labor law, but some of them probably feel that the Bishops have overstepped the bounds of their ecclesiastical competence when they were so specific as to recommend the NLRA.

Young John Guimarra, who gave up his budding law practice to help his family in this conflict, favors some kind of a national labor law to cover farmers and farm workers. But he believes that, just as circumstances required a different law for the railroads so do the circumstances peculiar to the agricultural industry require a special law for farm workers. Industrial laws, for example, restrain disaffected employees from destroying the property of their employer. But because of the necessity of synchronizing production operations with seasons of the year, and because of the perishable nature of their final product, any significant delay in operations would have the effect of destroying the farmer's product for the whole year.

It may not be evident to everyone, but it is painfully clear to the farmer that any law covering farm labor is going to have to recognize the fact that it is not only farm workers that need protection, but also the farmers. It is highly probable that any law that fails to give the farmer the protection he needs will turn out to be a legal instrument of enormous injustice. The working man has only his current income to pro-



REV. CLETUS HEALY, S. J.

tect; the farmer has current income and the entire accumulation of a lifetime—perhaps of several lifetimes—to protect.

It is not the bishops who have tended to alienate many of the people from the Church—not the local bishops, at least. That damage has come from other priests, nuns, and a few outside bishops who have lacked both the jurisdiction and the necessary information to make responsible decisions, but who have involved themselves in either the strike or the boycott.

One of the women workers I talked to said: "That's why it hurts me to say I'm a Catholic. I didn't send my donation this year. I didn't because our churches are supporting this boycott—and I think they're very cruel in doing it!"

It seemed to me that the alienation was more critical among the workers than among the growers. This is probably because so many of the workers are Mexican-Americans belonging to Our Lady of Guadalupe parish. This is "their" church. It was one of the priests from "their" church that was most active in the strike. After he appeared on the picket lines calling them "scabs," many of the Mexican-Americans left Our Lady of Guadalupe and went over to St. Mary's. How many parishioners had their faith so shattered that they left the Church, is not known. Some reportedly have.

Things have quieted down in Delano now. I just talked to another worker. She had left Our Lady of Guadalupe, but now she's back. She thinks many others feel the way she does. It is there, under the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, that she feels at home. Many of her friends have also returned. They feel that the other two priests are really trying to heal the wounds and to bring the people back together again. She would like to give them a chance.

DELANO— A MORAL APPRAISAL

All this time we have been talking about a conflict that should never have been. The wage structure in the California vineyards does not justify a strike. If it should, there are forty-nine other states in the Union in which the strike should have occurred first. Nor do living and working conditions in the Delano vineyards justify a major labor-management conflict.

As for the right of the farm workers to organize, the only serious tampering with that right has been effected, not by the growers, but by the Chavez union. The workers I talked to seemed to be oblivious of any pressures exerted on them by the growers not to join the union, and they were ignorant of any means the growers could take to stop them

if they wanted to join the union. But they were acutely aware of the undue pressure exerted on them by champions of Cesar Chavez.

Nevertheless the Chavez operation is presented to the world as a holy crusade for worker justice. None have contributed more spectacularly to this impression than our ecclesiastical professionals who have invaded the Delano arena or who have dominated our ecclesiastical communications media.

When I read comments by Catholic spokesmen in church bulletins, newsletters, magazines and newspapers, I was often impressed, not only by their lack of scruple in the presentation of factual information, but also by their faulty grasp of the moral principles involved in the Delano conflict. I found the socio-moral presuppositions underlying their thinking far more compatible to the socio-political prejudices of *Time* or *Newsweek* than to the valid social teachings of the Vicar of Christ.

I have in mind, particularly, the extraordinarily high priority they attached to the formation of a farm labor union. They seemed to regard a labor union as the *summum bonum*, the ultimate good — or at least an absolute necessity for securing worker justice. This is not the thinking of the Supreme Pontiff.

It is true that Pope Pius XI in his encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno* deplored the "criminal injustice" of those heads of States who denied the economically weak "the natural right to form associations . . . to defend themselves from ill treatment at the hands of the powerful." But he is intent on avoiding the hazard of organized violence. It is only under the compulsion of necessity, therefore, that he tolerates Catholics joining "secular" labor unions (i.e., non-religious oriented). This he tolerates only on condition that provision is made to imbue Catholic members with the principles of "religion and morality." A solid spiritual formation was considered necessary "so that peaceful living together and prosperity will result." (n. 32, 35.)

But the Pope does not consider the labor union the ideal. While he concedes the "natural right" of laboring men to form unions "to defend themselves" from the unscrupulous, he deplors the fact that this is even necessary, and he strongly recommends organizing along other lines less inherently oriented to conflict. This is a point that is rarely if ever sufficiently acknowledged by people who fancy themselves champions of "Catholic social thought."

In *Quadragesimo Anno*, Pope Pius comments that ". . . as the situation now stands, hiring and offering for hire in the so-called labor market separates men into two divisions, as into two battle lines, and the contest between these divisions turns the labor market itself almost into a battlefield where, face to face, the opposing lines struggle bitterly." Organization along such "battle-lines" is quite acceptable to anyone interested in promoting class conflict, but it should be quite unsatisfactory to any Christian, especially to anyone familiar with the authoritative Catholic social teaching.

"Everyone understands," continues the Pope, "that this grave evil which is plunging all human society to destruction must be remedied as soon as possible. But complete cure will not come until this opposition has been abolished and well-ordered members of the social body — Industries and Pro-

fessions—are constituted in which men may have their place, not according to the position each has in the labor market but according to the respective social functions which each performs." The Pope envisaged here organizations along the lines of the old guilds in which workers and employers worked together with Christian respect and concern for each other.

Here we have from an authoritative Catholic source, a broad outline of the organizational ideal for our economic sector.

In his encyclical, *Mater et Magistra*, Pope John XXIII reminds us that "Workers and employers should regulate their mutual relations in a spirit of human solidarity and in accordance with the bond of Christian brotherhood. For the unregulated competition which so-called liberals espouse, or the class struggle in the Marxist sense, are utterly opposed to Christian teaching and also to the very nature of man." (n. 23.)

In my opinion the organization presently realized in the grape fields of California is far closer to this Catholic ideal than is the union proposed by Cesar Chavez and his promoters.

The relationship of the growers and workers in Delano is quite close. It is true that out in the fields there is a crew boss to supervise the crews. In the presence of the boss, he represents the workers. But this does not mean that there is no communication between the boss and the worker. Beatrice Aglipay, a Delano worker's wife, said of the workers: "They can talk to their bosses anytime. They have no problem communicating, none at all!" As for the bosses: "They're out in the field every day. As I said, they can call individual men by name. . . . The majority of the growers are considerate of their workers and really have a rapport with them. . . . There's no lack of communication."

"They've had a union of their own," she added, speaking of the workers, "without signing any papers or going on a strike. All they do is just tell the boss what they want and they usually get it."

"If my help today wants to join any union of their choice," John Garabedian said, "they're free to do so. I can't stop them. I wouldn't even try." But his help, some of whom had worked for him for 25 years, were fearful that John might crumble under the pressure and sign up for the union, leaving them trapped. Not John. "I'm free to sell my freedom," he said, in an amazingly matter-of-fact way, "but I'm not going to sell the freedom of my workers." I got the distinct impression that John would go out of his hard-earned business rather than sell his workers short.

When the question of worker-grower consideration for each other comes up, I am reminded of the manifest concern DiGiorgio had for his workers, and how ecstatically appreciative his workers were for what he had done for them. I think of Dolores Mendoza referring to the "Louie" Lucas farm as "our" farm. I think especially of John Garabedian, the grower I talked to up near Fresno.

The impression I had when I left Delano was, and my more considered opinion today is, that the organization that the workers and the growers now have is adequate, quite satisfactory to both growers and workers, and is far closer to the Christian ideal than the union of Cesar Chavez promises to be.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE FARMER

— SYNOPSIS —

CLARK L. BRODY was the first Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Over a wide span of years he guided the organization through political and financial crisis, and from a fledgling organization into a powerful giant among state Farm Bureaus. His book, "In the Service of the Farmer" is a warm recounting of the turbulent times when the Bureau was still trying to find itself — to determine members' needs and practical means of meeting those needs. In last month's chapters, Brody told of good times and bad, and the hard choices between short term gains which could later become "bad long-run economics . . ." ("In the Service of the Farmer" Copyright 1959 MSU Press, Excerpts reprinted by permission.)

OUT OF THE THIRTIES AND INTO WAR

In 1936 the affairs of the Michigan State Farm Bureau took an upswing which in the main has been maintained ever since. By the end of 1941 assets had grown from \$700,000 to \$1,240,000, and net worth from \$300,000 to \$515,000. Membership increased by almost 100% to \$12,000. These five years merely pre-aged the phenomenal growth that was to occur immediately after the war.

Commissions from selling automobile insurance policies to farmers was the one largest source of income for the Bureau. The Bureau had the insurance business of Michigan farmers pretty much to itself.

By 1941 Farm Bureau Services was wholesaling to cooperatives, seed, fertilizer, feed, twine, insecticides, roofing and fence materials, petroleum, barn and electrical equipment, farm machinery, tires, stoves, and even vacuum sweepers and radios. Grain elevators, petroleum bulk stations, and warehouses had been established at twenty points around the state.

WAR AND THE TRANSITION TO PEACE

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, disagreements were forgotten as the populace rallied to the support of the government. Everyone wanted to contribute to the war effort, and labor unions, industrialist groups, and farmer organizations provided an outlet for energy and emotions.

With the onset of war, the membership of the Michigan State Farm Bureau increased fast. John Yaeger, with the assistance of Keith Tanner, and later Norwood D. Eastman, through the county and community farm bureaus, had begun to enlist members on a large scale. The threat of unfavorable ceilings on farm prices and the threat of depletion of the farm labor force inclined farmers to band together. The direct benefits of membership (patronage dividends, low cost insurance, protection against exploitation by commercial combines) also induced farmers to join.

POST-WAR EXPANSION

At the end of World War II the United States entered an era of prosperity, the like of which it had never known before, not even in the palmiest days of the nineteen-twenties. War-torn countries needed our goods and services for rebuilding. Americans, their pockets swollen with money, itched to buy all the things they had been denied during the war, but it would be some time before

industry could retool for peacetime production. With an extreme undersupply of goods and a great oversupply of money, the economy was ripe for inflation. Agricultural products alone were in plentiful supply. Hence, in lieu of having other things on which to spend money, Americans bought food in excessive quantities. Farm prices, therefore, rose more steeply than any other prices. Moreover, contrary to what most experts had predicted, the foreign demand for food, feed, and fiber continued high after the war.

The fortunes of the Michigan Farm Bureau improved with those of the farmer. In 1945 membership was 45,000 and there were more than 700 community farm bureaus. We were on the threshold of an even greater era of expansion. Our thinking about the basis of organization of the Bureau had by this time gone full circle. We decided that the major part of the money for financing our services to members should come from dues, rather than from business earnings. We believed that we could safely increase dues if the Bureau provided more and better benefits strictly for members. Hence, in 1947 dues were raised from \$5 to \$10. In one year, as anticipated, membership fell from 48,000 to 34,000; but by 1952 it grew to 50,000. In five years, then, income from dues more than doubled.

RETIREMENT AND REFLECTIONS

On August 1, 1952, the Board of Directors appointed John F. Yaeger my successor as executive secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau. The Board made me executive vice president. My duties, besides assisting Yaeger, were to direct the public affairs and legislative programs of the Bureau. Since 1949 I had been turning over additional responsibilities to Yaeger. Thus he had in effect been carrying out the duties of his new position months before his appointment was made official. We made a good team — him with his vigor and impetuosity, me with my mildness and conservatism. For my part, I welcomed relief from managerial responsibility, which I had shouldered since 1921.

Between 1952 and 1958, when ill health made John Yaeger's retirement mandatory, the Michigan Farm Bureau knew its period of greatest expansion. During his tenure, membership grew to 72,000, Junior Farm Bureau and Women's Council membership to 1200 each, and community farm bureaus to about 1700; Farm Bureau Services business increased to \$25 million, and that

of Farmers Petroleum to \$7 million annually; a second 40,000 ton fertilizer plant was constructed at Kalamazoo and an elevator at Lansing; and the number of automobile insurance policies in force rose to 58,000, and life insurance policies to 25,000.

The new main office building, erected on a 69 acre tract northwest of Lansing and dedicated on August 1, 1955, symbolizes the growth and advancement of the Michigan Farm Bureau. The dignity of its horizontal lines, which is accentuated by a continuous bank of tinted windows, its mile of fluorescent lighting, its lavish offices, each designed, carpeted and furnished to a different taste, its pastel walls, and the precisely aligned row upon row of desks, made the old quarters on Cedar Street seem like a relic. Nor were our methods any less shining new. John Yaeger employed a psychologist and a nationally known management advisory firm to analyze the personalities and work of all the 800 employees spread throughout the state, including executives, that he might better determine staff promotions and proper salary adjustments. Our multi-million dollar business was a highly competitive, complex operation, and he intended to equip us with the most capable staff possible.

From the moment when John Yaeger took over the administration of the Farm Bureau, I worked almost exclusively on national farm legislation, particularly after 1956, when my title was simplified to "counsel on public affairs." My activities brought me again in touch with Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, with whom I had become a close friend in the late thirties, when he was executive secretary of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and I was one of its directors. President Eisenhower, on December 1, 1953, appointed me a member of the Federal Farm Credit Board, which agency administers the Federal Farm Loan and Production Credit Associations and the Bank for Cooperatives. This appointment increased my influence in the Department of Agriculture, where several friends of mine — True D. Morse, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Romeo Short and John Davis, heads of Commodity Credit Corporation, James McConnell and Dr. Earle Butts, Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture, Charles Figy, Assistant to Secretary Benson — were working, and stood me in good stead in my representing the Michigan Farm Bureau in supporting the Agricultural Act of 1954.

The Agricultural Act of 1954 (con't on page 8)

IN THE SERVICE — (Con't)

replaced the rigid 90% parity with flexible supports running from 75% to 100%, as would be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. But it was too late for the mere introduction of flexible price supports to stem the tide of over-production. Indeed, there were record breaking surpluses from 1954, and how these would be liquidated, no one could then foresee. The fact is that in 1959 government investment in farm surpluses has risen to \$9 billion, three times what it was in 1953. The only figure in the national budget exceeding farm subsidies is that for national defense. It can only be anticipated that surpluses will increase still further until we stop the government from pumping excess capital into agriculture, thereby overstimulating production, as would not be the case under a free pricing system.

Economists and farm organization leaders are agreed that we need some kind of farm program to protect the farmer from hazards of nature and the peculiar economic fluctuations he is subject to. It is likely too that we shall have supports with us for some time to come, since such institutions, once they have become established, are hard to get rid of, legislators being so sensitive to the pressures of special interests as commodity groups, grain storage associations, and a few misled farm organizations. But if we must have support, then the formula must by all means be changed. Unless support formulas are based, say, on something like the market during the three immediate foregoing years, farmers will continue to produce certain crops in excess. It seems tragic that subsidization of "basic" crops — wheat, corn, rice, cotton, tobacco, and peanuts — should have a cost second only to that for national defense, especially when those "basic" crops yield only 20% of the farm income. And the excessive production of

the "basic" crops infects the rest of the agricultural economy like a disease. The surpluses are fed to poultry and livestock, stimulating over-production, or are converted into synthetics, wrecking the market for cotton, and so on. Also, there are reasons for believing government assistance has mostly benefited the people who need it least. That is, the large producers receive the biggest direct subsidies. The average farmer meanwhile is hardly able to make ends meet, if at all. Price supports, no matter how high, cannot make the small producer prosperous. To the contrary. They encourage him to put marginal land into production, and even encourage him to use land for crops not well adapted to it. For example, it is not sound economically for Michigan to have increased its wheat acreage in the last ten years, or for Vermont and New York to become wheat producing states. Some studies even show that agricultural incomes are even more disparate than they were two decades ago. The vicious cycle must somehow be broken, but that will never be accomplished with price-fixing supports. The difficulty is that what the agricultural policy of the nation ought to be bears little relation to what the public wants, or at least to what elected representatives legislate with the tacit consent of the voters. We will not have a sound agricultural policy until an informed public demands one and elects representatives who will provide it with one.

The Michigan Farm Bureau and other farm organizations have their greatest work to do in convincing the American farmer that his best future lies in his taking agriculture back into his own hands. For the rest, farm organizations can function most effectively by forwarding general prosperity while preventing the exploitation of a farmer. Once the true function of a farm organization is seen in all clarity, the better it should be able to serve the farmer. The Michigan Farm Bu-

reau almost collapsed in 1921 because so much more was expected of it than it could deliver. It took many years for the Michigan farmer to swallow his disappointment in the Michigan Farm Bureau. He had to learn that the Bureau was an agency through which he could make his efforts effective. It had no power except what the members as individuals put into it.

My retirement from the Michigan Farm Bureau became effective February 1, 1959, when I was eighty years of age. I spent my last day with my secretary of thirty-five years, Miss Gladys Stevens, clearing out my office. At a few minutes after five, I walked out of my office for the last time. The three hundred employees had left the new Farm Bureau Center for the day and the corridors were quiet. Near the entrance I studied the portraits of all past presidents of the Farm Bureau, whose mantle had fallen on Walter Wightman, each of whom I remembered so well, and to whom I bade a silent farewell. Under their forty years of leadership the Michigan Farm Bureau had emerged into the leading farm organization of the state. Aiding that emergence had been the great opportunity of my life; and my life in turn was shaped by the Bureau. I did not plan it that way; I believe that I did not drift, but that I was led. The Bureau became my life. I suffered during its travail and was gratified by its achievements. My supreme satisfaction has been working for the economic betterment and freedom of the farmer. Had I my eighty years to live through again, I would choose to spend them at the Michigan Farm Bureau, with the very people with whom I worked, the remembrance of whom I cherish so.

As I left the building, I thanked God for my having worked at the Michigan Farm Bureau these many years. Then I got in my car, pointed it toward home, and took my place in the traffic on Route 16.

NOTES FROM ALL OVER...

Sincere congratulations to Farm Bureau member Keith L. Eisenmann from Blissfield who was presented the top National FFA Award in Crop Farming at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Keith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Eisenmann.

Eisenmann was cited for using modern agricultural techniques learned in vocational agriculture which increased yields of soybeans on an average of 30 to 40 bushels per acre. His average corn yield is 125 bushels per acre.

He is currently attending Michigan State University majoring in agricultural studies.

Glenn Lake, Michigan Milk Producers Association president, has been appointed to take part in the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health. Lake will serve on a panel, studying what can be done by voluntary action of farmers and the food industry to help the poor. The conference will be held December 2-4 in Washington, D. C. Preliminary meetings of the various panels involved in the conference are also scheduled. Purpose of the conference is to lay a foundation for a national nutrition policy and to advise President Nixon on the best methods of eliminating hunger and malnutrition in the United States.

Mrs. Haven Smith, Chappell, Nebraska, chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee, has been named chairman of a Presidential Task Force on rural development. A White House announcement said the task force "will review the effectiveness of our present rural assistance programs and make recommendations as to what might be done in the private and public sectors to stimulate rural development." Clifford G. McIntire, director of AFBF's natural resources department, was named as one of the nine other members of the task force.

The plans for the 1970 Michigan Week festivities are already under way. Robert J. Hutton, general chairman for Michigan Week 1970, has named Frank T. Buchanan, Michigan Bell Telephone Company and Coordinator of Michigan Bell's 29 Junior Achievement companies and special events, to serve as deputy general chairman-at-large, working with state committees for the 17th Annual Michigan Week.

Rep. Stanley Powell's name was not listed under the picture of Gov. Milliken's signing of the proclamation naming October as "Cooperative Month." We're sorry, Rep. Powell.

We at the Michigan Farm Bureau office are still in need of some of the earlier Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors pictures. We hope to have a display of these pictures and other historical events at the 50th Annual Meeting. Please send them to the Information Division, Michigan Farm Bureau, Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904, c/o Vern M. Bullen.

We are pleased to see U. S. Congressman Ed Hutchinson, representing Michigan's 4th Congressional District, introduce Farm Bureau's Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969 in Congress. His bill is HR 14372.

Congressman Hutchinson joins 24 other House members and 20 U. S. Senators from both political parties from all regions of the nation in supporting the far reaching programs outlined in the 1969 AAA.

A long time member of the Michigan State Senate, Mr. Hutchinson also served as vice president of the Constitutional Convention in Michigan.

In announcing his support of the new Act, Congressman Hutchinson said he felt new legislation was needed to replace the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 which is scheduled to expire at the end of 1970.

We received word that an added feature at the AFBF Golden Anniversary Convention will be the appearance of the "Up With People" singing group scheduled for the Tuesday evening program December 9. Featured speakers for this historic annual meeting will include U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin, Charles Shuman, president of AFBF and Roger Fleming, secretary-treasurer, AFBF. One more speaker will be announced later. Plan now to attend this all important meeting, December 7-10 in Washington, D. C.

Commodity Day Program



Dr. A. Mauch



L. Nelson



Dr. T. Hedrick



K. VanPatten



Dr. S. Greig



Dr. D. Ricks



Dr. D. Sturt



G. Stachwick

Six Young Farmers will participate in a competitive discussion — "Can Farm Bureau Survive Another 50 Years?" — a part of the noon Commodity Day Luncheon program in MSU's Union Building. The discussion meet is a technique in leadership training wherein participants compete in a lively discussion — the finalist to compete at the national level.

Following the luncheon, Walter Frahm, Michigan Farm Bureau Field Crops Advisory Committee Chairman, will host the Field Crops program in room 31 of the Union Building. Dr. Arthur Mauch, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU and Leyton Nelson, Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences, MSU, will participate in the session beginning at 2:15.

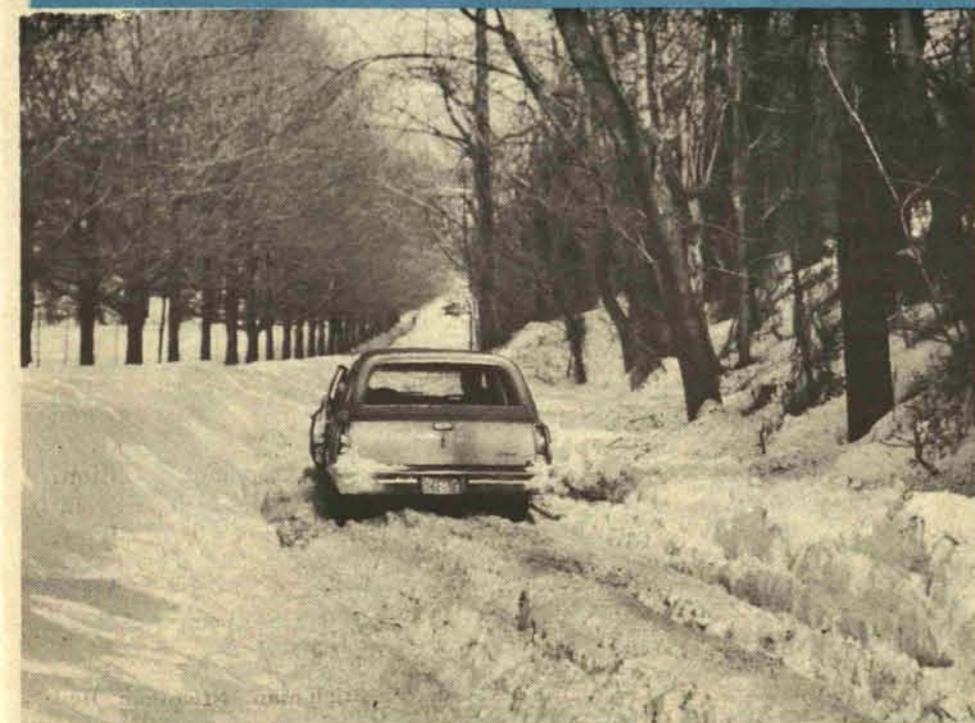
Richard Wieland, MFB Dairy Advisory Committee chairman, will have a panel discussion in room 35, Union Building — discussing the Status of Dairy Promotion and New Dairy Products. Don Carlson, American Dairy Ass'n. of Mich., Boyd Rice, Dairy Research Inc., Dr. Theodore Hedrick, MSU Food Science Dept. and Kenneth VanPatten, Mich. Dept. of Agriculture, comprise the panel.

Michigan's Fruits and Vegetables in the Market: Where Do They Stand? What Is Their Future? is the theme of the Fruit and Vegetable program, chaired by Kenneth Bull, MFB Fruit Advisory Committee in room 30 of the Union Building. Dr. Smith Greig, Dr. Donald Ricks and George Stachwick, all of MSU will participate.

David Morris, MFB Livestock Advisory Committee chairman will conduct a Livestock program in room 38 of the Union Building. Dr. John Quinn, State Veterinarian; Larry De Vuyst, Mgr., MACMA Feeder Pig Program; Don Shepard and R. H. "Ike" Walton will participate in the session.

Dr. Daniel Sturt and M. J. Buschlen will talk on the Farm Labor program. Harry Nye, MFB Farm Labor Advisory Committee chairman will lead the meeting in parlors A and B in the Union Building.

Here's a Traction TIP for Icy Roads from Farmers Petroleum!



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throughout the entire life of the tread. Both tires are suitable for front end operation in applications where four ice-grip tires are desired. As much as 75% of your car's braking effort is on the front wheels, so make your car super safe with Unico ice gripper tires on all four wheels. You'll have more control on turns, corners and hills. See your dealer now.



Studded tires may only be used on Michigan highways from Nov. 1 until May 1. Your dealer will install your studs.



FARMERS PETROLEUM

THE FARM LABOR ISSUE

UNIONIZATION

DISCUSSION TOPIC

By Gary A. Kleinhenn
Director, Education and Research

Summer is past, most migrant workers have left the state, but the threat of farm labor unionization remains.

Efforts are being made to organize farm workers in states other than Michigan. But very few successes by these organizers have been reported.

On the other hand the social conscience of many urban and some rural people has been aroused by the many unfair, one sided newspaper articles which have been written during recent months.

For example, farmers are being blamed for the plight of farm workers. Legislators and special interest groups have been accused of blocking legislation supposedly designed to help farm workers, and various agencies of the government have been accused of not properly enforcing the present laws.

The unfavorable publicity may have been politically motivated and urged on by social reform groups. However, one thing is certain, the unions have been given much free publicity to help further their movement.

Farm employers need to take part, to get involved, to guard their interests. How? By writing your congressmen, writing the newspapers and by telling both, the farmers side of the issue. A positive approach is a proven way of doing it; through news stories, demonstrating the economic value of agriculture in terms of product values, workers employed, payrolls generated, and more could very well help to soften the effects before future sessions of the legislature.

What many non-farming folks fail to realize is that farm workers definitely do have the right to bargain for pay with the farmer. Migrant labor can voluntarily organize into their own groups for bargaining power. And if they have complaints they also have the right to picket! They also have the right to withhold their labor if they are not happy. Collective bargaining is *not* new to farm workers.

Information on where Farm Bureau members stand is found in the labor policy section of the American Farm Bureau policy booklet.

AN EVOLUTION

M. J. Buchlen, Michigan Agriculture Services Association Manager capsuls the farmers situation. He said:

"In a very short period of time farmers who employ labor have been required to become *experts* in hiring practices and procedures, personnel records, payroll records, accounting procedures to properly report payroll taxes which should be collected, landlord-tenant relationships, public relations and labor management. It isn't any wonder that many farmers are confused and oftentimes resentful, as the result of such pressures."

We re-emphasize, "farmers cannot ignore the issues." Mechanization is one reason. A popular belief is that the threat of unionization will disappear with advanced planting, processing, and harvesting equip-

DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER

Participation of the Cuba topic consisted of 662 discussion groups and more than 7,200 Farm Bureau members. Results: Those who think Cuba is a threat to our representative form of government; 395 groups said it was a distinct threat; 263 groups said it was a warning but no serious threat, and seven groups indicated that Cuba could be safely ignored. On the other hand it was an overwhelming opinion that the U.S. faces a more serious threat from communism and socialism in this country presently than Cuba per se; 608 groups reported it to be a serious threat, while 14 voted it as an outdated issue.

Furthermore, 423 groups agreed with U. S. policy while 155 groups generally felt that U. S. should take a firmer stand.

ment. On the contrary—it won't leave us. An example can be taken from unionized industry with all their machinery. The skilled labor operating these machines belong to some of the strongest unions in existence. Why?—because skilled men play a more important part in the successful operation of industry. On the farm an example can be drawn from the value of the hired man to the farmer—he is much more valuable to the farmer's farm than a laborer in the field.

How farmers practice labor management now and in the future will play an extremely significant part in the well being of the farming industry. Farm Bureau is answering this need through the Michigan Agricultural Services Association. To help farmers along the road ahead on the labor scene, M.A.S.A. publishes at a minimum rate an informational newsletter. Write—M.A.S.A., 4000 N. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

FIVE PROPOSALS BEFORE CONGRESS

1. Senate 8 by Senator Williams (N. J.)—Would eliminate the present exemption of farm labor from the National Labor Relations Act.

2. American Farm Bureau Federation proposal—
a. Would enact a new National Farm Labor Relations Act modeled after NLRA.

b. Would create a National Farm Labor Relations Division in the Department of Agriculture.

c. Would exempt farmers who employ less than eight employees.

d. Would authorize only the federal courts to hear and decide all labor disputes involving farm labor.

e. Would prohibit strikes.

f. Would prohibit secondary boycotts.

g. Would include "right-to-work" features.

3. Nixon Administration Proposal—

a. Would enact a new National Farm Labor Relations Act modeled after NLRA.

b. Would create a separate Farm Labor Relations Board to hear and decide labor disputes like NLRB with review through federal courts.

c. Does not prohibit strikes but does provide for 10-day notice of intent to strike and a 30-day arbitration period during which a strike is prohibited.

d. Would continue to exempt farmers who employ labor for less than 500 man days per quarter - (a man day is one man working one hour or more in a day.)

e. Would ban secondary boycotts.

f. Would leave "right-to-work" laws in the hands of the states.

4. United Farm Workers Organizing Committee - (AFL-CIO) proposal—

Similar to S-8 except it would also eliminate the prohibition against secondary boycotts and would also eliminate the power of states to enact "right-to-work" laws.

5. Senate 2203—Consumer Agricultural Food Protection Act by Senator Murphy (California)—

a. Would enact a National Farm Labor Relations Act modeled after NLRA.

b. Would create a National Farm Labor Relations Board in Department of Agriculture, and would allow direct access to the courts in cases of strikes, boycotts and picketing.

c. Would continue to exempt farmers who employ labor for less than 500 man days per quarter.

d. Would prohibit strikes.

e. Would prohibit secondary boycotts.

f. Would leave "right-to-work" to the states.

PROS AND CONS

Those favoring (including agriculture labor) the NLRA say:

1. That this is the only piece of legislation, irrespective of its faults, which limits the activities of a labor union organization in its organizational campaigns to gain members.

2. That without the benefits of this act, an employer and his employees are without any effective legal remedy in the event of union activity to organize workers.

3. That since the unionization of farm labor is an imminent problem in today's farming operation, the farmers should not be denied the protection of this act.

4. To seek the protection of the law afforded to other employees and employers does not in any manner endorse unionization of farm workers. The National Labor Relations Act, as amended, specifically guarantees the right of employees to elect not to be represented by a union. The act provides an orderly method of employer-employee-union relationship after unionization efforts begin.

Opponents who debate that agriculture should not come under the provisions of the NLRA say:

1. Farmers producing fruits and vegetables—who hire most of the farm workers—are uniquely vulnerable to labor disputes and strikes and could suffer losses therefrom incomparable greater than those of non-farm employers.

2. Unionization of farmer workers would lend to increased costs.

3. Farmers cannot afford the legal costs that are associated with collective bargaining and employer-union relationships.

4. The enactment of the bill would adversely affect far more farm workers than would be benefited because of the potential for the substitution of capital for labor.

Proponents of separate legislation for agricultural labor problems say:

1. The National Labor Relations Act fits the relationship between workers and employers in industry. It does not fit the situation in agriculture; therefore, agriculture needs a different but possibly a similar act administered by a Farm Labor Relations Division in the Department of Agriculture.

2. The current National Labor Relations Board is already overworked with industrial problems. It has neither the time nor the expertise to deal with agricultural problems.

3. Strikes in agriculture should be prohibited because of the extreme vulnerability of the farmer. (Others claim that strikes cannot be totally prohibited but that a "cooling off" period can be provided during which the parties can arbitrate. This is proposed by the present administration.)

4. The small farmer who employs less than eight employees should not be burdened with possible unionization. His employees are so close to him that they do not need representation by a labor union and so the present act is not adequate.

OPPONENTS OF SEPARATE LEGISLATION TO DEAL ONLY WITH AGRICULTURAL LABOR PROBLEMS CLAIM THAT:

1. The procedure and rules for handling disputes are well established under the NLRB and these procedures can be adapted to agricultural labor problems. Under any new act, there would be a lengthy period of developing and getting understanding of rules and procedures before the program could be effective in resolving disputes.

2. Establishing a new act and a new administrative department only adds another agency with its employees. This would duplicate the NLRB and would be costly to taxpayers.

3. Provisions to take disputes into the courts for resolution would be much more costly and time consuming than using the services of the NLRB which provides its services to the parties of a dispute without charge.

4. The NLRA should protect all farmers without exempting those producers that hire less than eight employees. The producer with only three or four employees may be less able to deal with labor problems than a larger producer and consequently may have a greater need for the protection of a well-defined set of rules and procedures for resolving labor disputes.

Washington-Hilton AFBF Convention Site



Over 5,000 Farm Bureau members including 300 from Michigan will converge on the nation's capital December 7-10 for the 50th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The Michigan delegation will be housed in the Statler-Hilton Hotel, located about 2 miles from convention headquarters.

According to a spokesman from the American Farm Bureau, shuttle buses will be used to transport Farm Bureau members between meetings and events.

Transportation and housing have been arranged with a charter flight originating from Lansing for membership chairmen and their wives. Two flights will originate from Detroit Metro Airport, with a special bus leaving Lansing for all members desiring to leave their cars at the Farm Bureau center.

Total cost for transportation from Detroit is \$52.50. There will be a \$7.00 bus fee for the round trip from Lansing to Detroit.

An alternative plan with plane transportation direct from Lansing to Washington will cost \$79.80, it was announced by

Larry Ewing, Manager, Program Development Division. All reservations for transportation and housing should be made with Mr. Ewing before November 14.

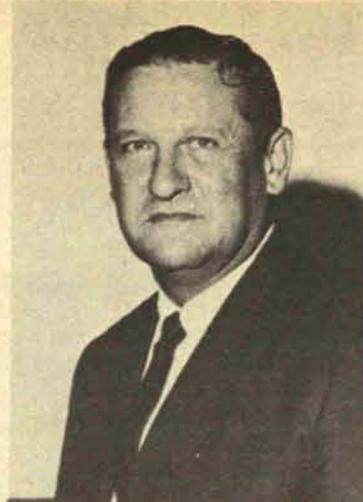
It was emphasized that room reservations at the Statler-Hilton are in the name of Michigan Farm Bureau and individual reservations must be made with Mr. Ewing by writing: Program Development Division, Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

**Michigan
Farm Bureau
AFBF Convention Tour**

**Washington-Richmond-
Williamsburg**

December 3-11, 1969

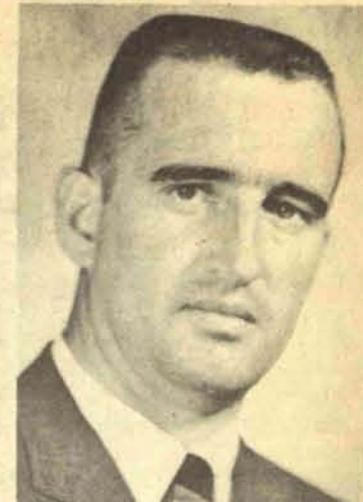
For Brochure contact
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EUGENE K. GREENAWALT, former school teacher and an active Farm Bureau member in both Indiana and Michigan, has joined the MFB staff as Southwest's Regional Representative. He is active in 4-H, his church and is a navy veteran. Mr. and Mrs. Greenawalt and their two children live in Kalamazoo.



HARRY A. FOSTER, a MACMA staff member for four years, has been appointed Red Tart Cherry Division Manager, according to MACMA Manager Robert Braden. Harry has developed and carried out a successful grape and asparagus marketing program. Rodney Bull is chairman of the MACMA Red Tart Cherry Committee.



JERRY CAMPBELL, Field Representative for the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association... MACMA... since July, 1968 in southwest Michigan, has been named Grape Division Manager for Michigan Farm Bureau. Mr. Campbell and his family live in Decatur. He replaces Harry Foster in this position.

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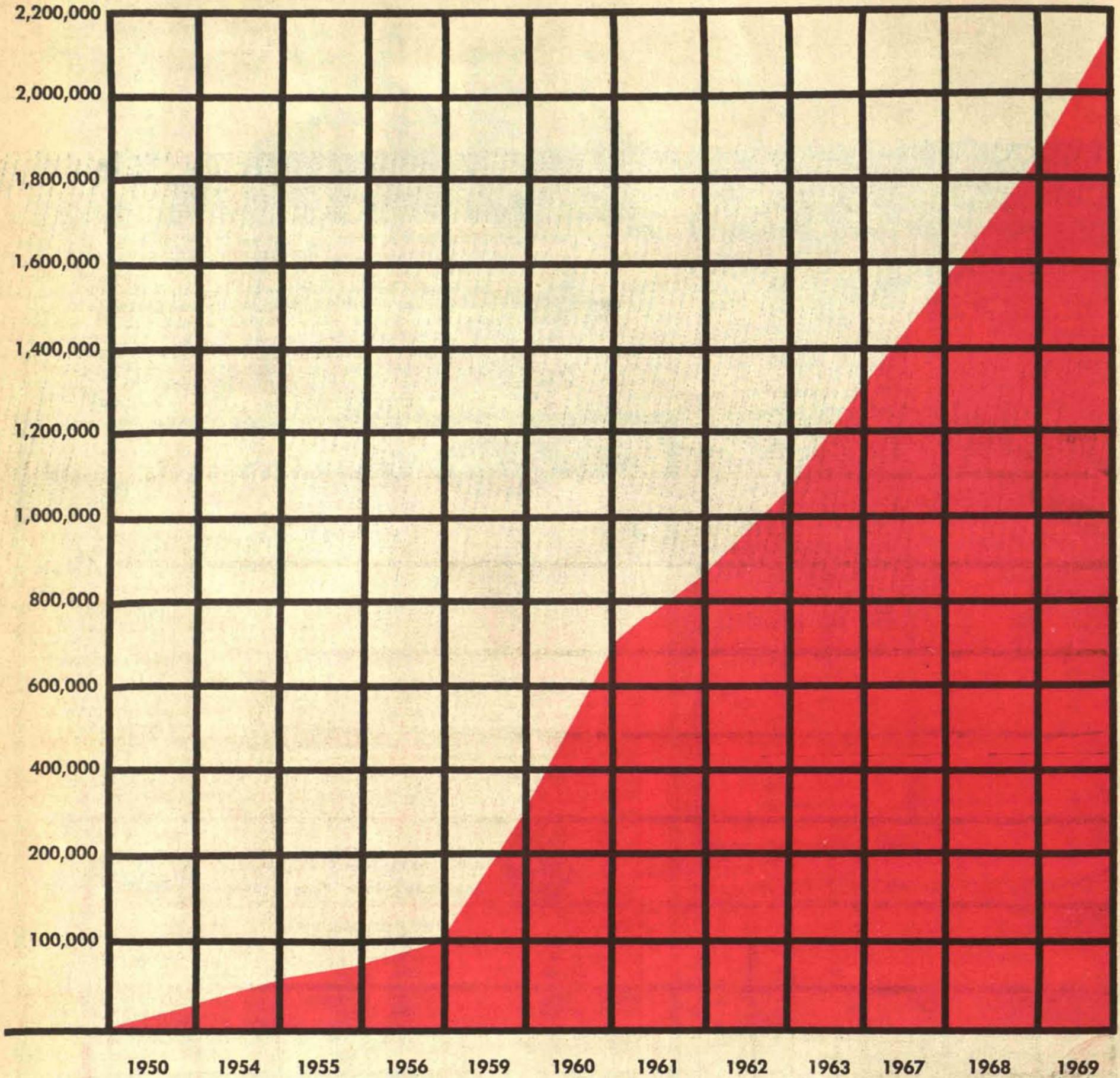
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