FLYING DIRECTOR — David Morris, District 5 Director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board, is a long-time licensed pilot and uses the plane to be on the scene in making major decisions for his beef-feeding operation near Grand Ledge, Clinton county. Morris likes to personally inspect any cattle he buys. If they are on a Kansas ranch, he is apt to board the Beechcraft Bonanza and head west. He owns the craft in partnership with three other pilots.

A TIME MACHINE — that's what he considers the airplane with its cruising speed close to 180 miles per hour. With an early morning start (common on the Morris farm) he can inspect the cattle, negotiate for price, make his decision and be home the same evening without waiting at the airport for commercial flights. Dave admits that flying is more than business with him — it's also fun. Mrs. Morris (Betty) agrees — holds her own pilot's license.
Editorial

mixed emotions

If you have pulled up roots from a place you called home most of your life and bid a fond farewell to people you called friends and relatives that have been close over the years, you can share the experience I am currently witnessing in a move, a change, a shift from the familiar to the unknown.

I was told some years ago by an official of the American Farm Bureau that a move by Farm Bureau personnel, desiring to further the education and development of the men and women who make up Farm Bureau, involved an equal opportunity to see new places, meet new people, and experience new ideas and programs. It gives the state Farm Bureaus an equal opportunity to surface new leadership, share new ideas and develop new programs.

I hope he knew what he was talking about.

After two days of orientation from Mel Woell and Dan Reed, interwoven with introductions throughout the vast Farm Bureau Center office complex, I have the feeling I am about to be propelled at 50 miles per hour on a fast and progressive journey with dedicated personnel, officers and members who have the interests of Farm Bureau at heart. I sincerely hope I am prepared to keep up.

As Information Director for the Idaho Farm Bureau, I was Chief Cook, Table Setter, and Beverage Washer for our program. As a result, we were limited in the scope of our operation.

Mr. Woell made it clear that the personnel in the Information Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau were extremely adept and professional. I have observed during the short time that I have worked with this team that Mel knows where to take us. This closely knit group handles each assignment with a pronounced ability that spells success. Each employee displays a loyalty to his work — indeed to Farm Bureau, that is radiated in the general attitude which permeates the office — and in the quality of work that leaves the office.

"Few people realize the work which goes into a monthly publication. Hours of research; days of layout planning; miles of travel to get the "just-right" pictures to help tell the story. Each is written, edited, proofread and rewritten again. It is essential that the reports you read portray the exact policy and true principles for which Farm Bureau stands.

Weekly radio programs and television newscasts don't just happen. Again, many hours of forethought, preparation and research goes into the make-up of the program before the script is final.

Why the extra effort? Because Farm Bureau employees, by and large, are determined to keep each member as informed as possible about Farm Bureau. Because . . . Farm Bureau is not judged by the things accomplished, rather it is judged by the way information about such happenings is transmitted to the general public.

This may be unfortunate, but it is true. How well farmers do now and in the future is closely tied to how well we are in a position to communicate to those who no longer farm, and indeed — who may have little idea of where their food comes from. If barnyard animals and field crops are "disappear"ed from public view, can such people imagine how confused they might be about farm economics?

It is my sincere desire to carry on a complete and practical program of education and to accurately reflect the policies of the voting delegates and membership of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

I look forward to this challenge. I particularly look ahead to a long and close association with resident staff, and officers and individual member families of this Great Lakes state.
Notes From All Over

An appeal from President Elton Smith for the formation of county Farm Bureau Freedom-to-Market committees has brought responses from 24 counties. As President Smith said in suggesting the formation of the committees, "The strength of Farm Bureau lies in the counties." The committee's prime purpose is to defend the rights of consumers to buy whatever of Farm Bureau lies in the counties. The committee's prime purpose is to defend the rights of consumers to buy whatever they wish, and they wish it at any time, in the store and supermarket of their choice. To date, the following counties and their committee chairmen have been reported: Alpena, James Cramer; Alcona, Calhoun, Larry Grandall, Battle Creek; Cass, Robert Hubbell, Gaylord; Chippewa, Mrs. Robert C. Wilson, Pickford; Clare, Warren White, Clare; Gladwin, Arthur Whisler, Beaverton; Hillsdale, Nelson Ely, Hillsdale; Ingham, Loren Spink, Mason; Kalamazoo, Mr. and Mrs. Norman French, Kalamazoo; Lapeer, Richard Bracht, Almont; MacKenzie-Luce, Faye Gribb, Engadine; Manistee, Charles Age, Bear Lake and Roy Howes, Copemish; Mecosta, Allen Schroeder, Big Rapids; Montcalm, Robert Nelson, Ely, Hillsdale; Ingham, "Remember to donate to the file, along with a bit of identification and history, if possible, we would be very grateful. We are in need of Board pictures from the years: 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1941, 1942, 1943-1944 and 1945-1946. We have those from 1946-47 on.

The Ingham County Extension Women deserve a great deal of credit plus a few words of appreciation. These ambitious ladies worked for and earned the $4,000 that bought the furnishings for the Ingham County Farm Bureau Office in Mason. Apologies extended to all.

The Lansing Farm Bureau office has several pictures of former Boards of Directors and many other historical pictures...
In his booklet "Battle for the Vineyards"—Rev. Cletus Healy devotes one chapter to the backhand maneuvers which led to a "strike vote" against grape growers of the Delano area by the United Farm Workers Association headed by Cesar Chavez, DiGiorgio's chief. Chavez, Healy outlines how pressure to stop work was especially intense on workers at the DiGiorgio's Sierra Vista ranch, and how by questioning tactics the Chavez group won the "election" with a margin of 167 votes. It is at this point Healy's report continues.

REV. CLETUS HEALY, S.J.
Former Iowa farm boy, and well-known Jesuit writer.

proposition." DiGiorgio had always lost money on table grapes - except, perhaps, one year. I was not satisfied. "Is there anything," I asked, "to the reports I have received indicating that the inefficiencies of union men and deliberate work slowdowns have groves economically intolerable to DiGiorgio?" He would not say that. But the official DiGiorgio explanation did not help at all in explaining the suddenness of DiGiorgio's decision to quit growing grapes. Why had they spent nearly $350,000 a few years ago remodeling their packing shed on Sierra Vista ranch, only to sell it this year for $40,000? Why did DiGiorgio, soon after signing with Chavez, become so acutely conscious of the economic inadvisability of growing grapes? Where were their bookings before?

In my opinion I got far more satisfaction from DiGiorgio's ex-employees and from most growers - people who know something about the economics of growing grapes, who had been on hand to see the agents DiGiorgio went through trying to get the crop harvested with union help, and who had talked to DiGiorgio management during less guarded moments.

THE REAL REASON

This is their explanation for DiGiorgio's decision: In the first place considering the enormous risks involved, the margin of profit from grapes is quite thin. Since California grapes, picked by workers getting over $2 an hour, must compete with other luxury items harvested by workers getting as low as $1.35 an hour, it is imperative that labor efficiency be maintained in the grape fields. Required delay was by supervision; a lazy worker finds it too easy to hide. It must be done by maintaining a high worker morale. Before Chavez came, workers morale was very high. This was achieved through a system of "ripping" or picking close to the crews, heard their complaints, and relayed them to the generally responsive owners. Besides workers received incentive pay. To the base pay of $1.50 an hour was added an incentive pay of 15-20-25 a 25-pound lug. But where Chavez has come, workers morale has come under severe and skilled attack. Causing worker discontent is his business; that is how he induces people to want his union. And where Chavez was won a contract he demanded a raise in the base pay to $2.50 but he eliminated the incentive. The worker who picks five lugs an hour gets the same as before. Chavez's influence is initiated. Moreover, the union on numerous occasions caused the table-grape workers to demand a work slowdown. The grape grower's margin of profit cannot tolerate such abuse. But even more critical was the fact that when Cesar Chavez signed a labor contract, he found that he could not deliver the work. The grape grower found the pickers simply would not work under Cesar Chavez. I got this from the grape growers who only reluctantly dis- pute it. When growers who signed with Chavez would ask for pickers to do their work, the grape grower simply would not work under Cesar Chavez. Instead of helping the "poor farm workers" of California, they are depriving them of a very respectable livelihood.

NEXT MONTH - Sinister Influences on Chavez

"BATTLE FOR THE VINEYARDS" - a booklet which presents the definite, hard facts of what is happening in California because of unionism. And a moral appraisal of the Cali- fornia Grape Boycott by Father Healy. S.J. (Jesuit) is available at 50¢ each from: Box 960, Lansing, Michigan

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS
GOVERNOR MILLIKEN — signs an updated version of the Hortion Trespass Act as one of the sponsors, Rep. Stanley Powell (R-Ionia), looks on. The law now includes private wildlands on as well as farmlands and applies to fishing in privately-owned waters. A new section prohibits operation of a snowmobile on private lands if they are fenced or enclosed or "posted." Permission to hunt, fish or snowmobile must be given by the owner or his agent. It is no longer required to be in written form.


county annual meetings

This year... (but not any more than in previous years) 1969 is a special year for Michigan Farm Bureau and the county Farm Bureaus in particular. Michigan Farm Bureau is marking its 50th Anniversary and many counties are observing theirs as well. In addition to special plans for the annual state meeting, county boards will also be celebrating their individual anniversaries. Top priority on all county annual meetings is the drafting of resolutions for work to be done at the local level and passed on at the State annual meeting. Meetings and dates scheduled (in all October except Iron county) are:

Alcona October 6
Allegan October 16
Alpena October 19
Antrim October 8
Arenac October 7
Baraga October 8
Barry October 4
Bay October 9
Benzie October 6
Berrien October 9
Branch October 13
Calhoun October 9
Cass October 11
Charlevoix October 9
Cheboygan October 18
Chippewa October 7
Clare October 13
Clinton October 14
Catawba October 12
Clinton October 12
Clinton October 9
Crawford October 13
Clay October 9
Cass October 11

Farm Bureau has presented its official statement concerning education, taxes and tax reform, to Governor Milliken's "blue ribbon" commission on educational reforms. As Farm Bureau Legislative Council, I am serving on the 43-member committee as an appointee representing agriculture. What follows is a general summary plus excerpts from the Farm Bureau statement:

It calls attention to the fact that no child should be a "victim of geography," that every child should have an equality of educational opportunity, regardless of where he lives. It points out that "farm youth need broad educational opportunities, including vocational skills...which also are prime requisites for rural area development." The importance of agriculture in Michigan is stressed, with such facts as "270/0 of all personal income, overall, has kept pace with school costs and also "vocational centers where the elderly." The statement further pointed out that "local property cannot be expected to assume this additional tax burden."

The educational services of the intermediate school districts were strongly supported, such as special education and other programs, that many individual districts cannot "feasibly provide for themselves. It was pointed out that in many cases, present law serves to hamper the function of the intermediate district and also that all costs for special education should be totally funded by the state, as such programs are totally regulated by the state.

It is hoped that all interested tax-paying citizens will voice their opinions to their local and state representatives, particularly those representing them in the State Legislature, regarding funding for all phases of education. Farm Bureau's position clearly states that "local property cannot be expected to assume this additional taxing burden (but they do support existing local educational units)."
FROM THE WOMEN:

School Daze

School bells ringing, pickles packed into jars, melons for lunch! Fall is upon us! Vaccinations are over and I hope that yours was a pleasant one. At this time of the year, it's always nice to go into the basement and look at the many colors of food in the jars or open the freezer and see how full it is. Do you ever say thank you to our Creator who has provided this bounty for us and the strength and ability to provide it for our families? Try it, it will make you feel good!

We have another good year in grapes (California table grapes that is). They should be a good buy in your stores, so ask for them when you shop.

Extra Measure of Protection

A new Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Group policy will be provided for all Farm Bureau members beginning January 1, 1970.

Underwritten by Community Service Acceptance, a unit of Farm Bureau Insurance Group, AD&D coverage has been expanded to include the spouses of Farm Bureau members at no extra cost. Maximum member benefits remain at $1,000. Maximum spouse benefits will be $500.

The Farm Bureau member AD&D program began late in 1966. By the end of 1967, $26,000 had been paid out in benefits. During 1968 an additional $35,000 in benefit payments were received by Michigan Farm Bureau members. Through July this year, paid benefits totaled $72,750.

This new broadened AD&D benefit program is considered an absolute member necessity in the light of significantly increased farm accidents.

In recent years, farm population accidental death rates have numbered 18.7 for every 100,000 farm people 15% higher than in 1961. The Nation's North-east region, which includes Michigan, placed a deadly second in increased accident rates. And farm accident rates, according to Farm Bureau Insurance Group records, continue to climb.

The pattern of accidents sounds a warning to all farmers. Certain age levels experience more accidents than other age groups. Fatal farm injury risk increases from childhood through the early adult years with a slight decline in risk during the late twenties. However, risk of fatal farm injury increases after age 45 with a sharp rise among those over 65, to far higher levels than at any other period of life.

It is for these persons that Michigan Farm Bureau families.

But while extending AD&D coverage to the spouses of Farm Bureau members, at no cost increase, the program's scope was narrowed slightly. Injuries or death resulting from auto accidents... unless the injured was a paying passenger in a commercial vehicle... are not covered by the new AD&D policy.

However, Farm Bureau Insurance Group auto policyholders may provide further protection in two ways against the increasing medical costs of auto accidents.

1. Policyholders in Farm Bureau Insurance Group have already received an increase of 50% in automobile medical benefits... and at no extra cost to Farm Bureau Insurance auto and truck policyholders.

2. Farm Bureau auto insurance policyholders, at a small additional cost, may choose an option accident coverage paying up to $10,000 in case of accidental death due to a traffic accident. Coverage may be extended to every family member by endorsing the automobile policy.

One new group AD&D policy will be issued to each participating County Farm Bureau; an individual certificate of insurance will be provided for each member.

So... through the facilities of Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Farm Bureau members and their spouses will receive an extra measure of protection against the growing danger of farm accidents. Another innovative example of "Everything You Need" protection from Farm Bureau Insurance.

An Occasion for Celebrating — was the Grand Opening of the Upper Peninsula Farm Bureau Insurance Office in Escanaba August 8. This is the first time that they have had an "official" office and the event drew hundreds of guests from the area.

DOOR PRIZES... REFRESHMENTS — and long-time friends met at the U.P. grand opening. Admiring many of the door prizes were (left to right), Mrs. Clayton Ford, Kenneth Sobel, Delta Co. F. B. President; Vincent Rappette, Insurance agent and Clayton Ford, U.P. Director.

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TIME FOR RELAXATION — at the Michigan Farm Bureau's 6th Annual Young People's Citizenship Seminar held at Mt. Pleasant's Central Michigan University campus this past July, was attended by more than two hundred junior and senior high school students from Michigan high schools who were given the opportunity to learn more about their country in two Michigan Farm Bureau sponsored Young People's Citizenship seminars this summer.

About 50 youth attended the Upper Peninsula seminar held in Escanaba in June and 172 students were enrolled at Central Michigan University, the site of the lower peninsula seminar, in July.

The Seminars, dedicated to understanding the principles of Americanism, Communism and American Free Enterprise, offered all those attending an opportunity to listen to outstanding speakers of varied interests and then participate in discussion groups. Highlights of both seminars were the discussions and actual county and state political party activities.

Speakers at the U.P. Seminar were Walter Lewke, Manager, Escanaba Chamber of Commerce, Dave Cook and Dale Sherwin, MFB staff members; Kenneth Cheatham, APFB staff member and Hugo Kivi, MFB Field Representative for the U.P. since 1957.

Dr. John Furby, Dr. Clifton Gunther, Elmer Cheatham, D. Hale Brake and Arthur Holst presented the program at the Central Michigan Seminar. Fourteen counselors also participated in this seminar.

THE UPPER PENINSULA — Young People's Citizenship Seminar, sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau, also allowed for time for discussion and relaxation between the students and the U.P. Regional Representative Hugo Kivi.

D.D.T. DISPOSAL Guidelines Are Set

Guidelines for disposal of DDT products by Michigan residents have been established and will be distributed throughout the state with the help of newspapers, television, radio, magazines, and a specially-prepared brochure. The guidelines were set following action by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture April 10 cancelling registration of DDT products in the state. Included are specific directions for homeowners, commercial, agricultural and municipal users of DDT.

Preparation of the guidelines was a joint project of the Michigan Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Public Health, in cooperation with Michigan State University.

HOMEOWNERS

To get rid of DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) products such as aerosol bombs, liquid sprays, powders, and dusts, bury them on your own property. If each homeowner does so, these products will be safely dispersed and will reduce dangerous concentrations of DDT and other toxic materials at public disposal sites. By law, ingredients are listed on the label.

Select a place away from trees and other desirable shrubs or plants and at least 50 feet away from any well or surface water such as a lake, stream, pond, or drain.

Dig a hole deep enough to cover the DDT products and containers with three feet of dirt. Aerosol (pressurized) cans should not be punctured but put in the hole intact.

Glass and metal containers should be opened and put in the hole tilted down to allow drainage. The glass should not be broken.

Bags and boxes should be buried intact.

The hole should not be left open. It should be filled with three feet of dirt immediately.

The only exception to the recommendations is if the water table on your property is less than five feet below the ground. (If you do not know your underground water level, call your local health department.)

NOTE: DDT and other toxic products should NOT be flushed down the toilet, poured down a drain, put in the garbage or trash can, or taken to a public dump or landfill.

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Lansing, Michigan 48904
CLARK L. BRODY was the first Secretary-Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

In the service of the farmer

SYNOPSIS

ALFRED BENTALL assumed the position as head of the Insur-

ance Department and in 1927 was relieved of all duties con-

nected with membership cam-

paigning. The department was still going to 

try 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...” (From the service of the Farmer Copyright 1959 MSU Press, Excerpts reprinted by permission.)

STABILITY AND THE DECLINE

With the waning of Hale Ten-

nant’s influence, factionalism no

longer disrupted the Michigan State Farm Bureau and we could 

wholly concern ourselves with building the farm’s wealth. The

first five years certainly could have served the Michigan farmer

more effectively had it not been

torn by internal strife. But the

Binghamites and the Tennantites

had been locked in contention,

and to lay plans for the future.

All through the twenties, the

Michigan State Farm Bureau

was hurt by foreign competition

and tariffs protected the domestic

market from what little com-

petition there was from foreign in-

terests. All through the twenties, then, the American farmer had been

living marginally. Came the de-

pression and the bottom fell out

for him. Mortgages were fore-

closed by banks at calamitous

rates while people for whom food

could have been produced stood

in bread lines. For a few years,

the American farmer became

virtually dislocated.

It was against this background

that the Michigan State Farm

Bureau worked from 1926 to

1932. As though the economic

disadvantages of the time were

not enough, a large part of the

Michigan population had become

disaffected from the Bureau,

which had promised so much and

delivered comparatively so little

in its first half dozen years. To

be able to help the farmer, we

first had to put the Bureau on a

sound financial basis. To make

the Bureau sound financially, we

had to provide the farmer with

services that no one else would

provide for him, at least at a price

he could afford to pay. To win

his support we had to obtain for

him political and economic re-

form through the government. 

And to hold that support we had

to make him see that it was to his

best interests to become enlisted

in the Bureau—to make it af-

fairs his affairs, to make it pos-

sible for him to participate in its

development.

POULTRY EXCHANGE—ELIMINATED

One of my first steps in 1926 was to eliminate the Poultry Exchange in

Detroit. It was not providing the farmer with a service he would probably have

otherwise had to do without, nor was it preventing his being ex-

ploited by the middleman.

Now, instead of the Bureau doing much business with the Poultry Exchange.

He was using it mainly as a de-

vice by which he got other dealers to raise prices to the level of those which we

were offering; and once the other dealers raised their prices, he dealt with them.

I reported to the annual meeting of delegates in 1927:

"Changed conditions are threat-

ening business at both ends of the line, cutting off both its supply

and its sales outlet.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1969

THE 1926 BOARD OF DIRECTORS — was made up of Farm Bureau members who served long and faithfully. In the picture, back row, left to right, are Watson W. Billings; Jessy Boyle; Verald F. Gormley; George McCollor; Fred J. Hargreaves; John H. O’Mealey; and Earl C. McCarty. Seated, left to right, are M. L. Noon; Clark L. Brody; M. B. McPherson; Edith M. Wagar and M. D. Buskirk.

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IN THE LATE 20's — The Farm Bureau Service's retail store was a favorite gathering place for farmers. They enjoyed the exchange of ideas and a bit of gossip along with their buying. They CAME BY HORSE-DRAWN WAGONS — cars and trucks to market their farm products before the modern rail cars, semi-trucks and individually owned farm trucks.

the setting of policy of the middle twenties. We would encourage cooperatives throughout the state to do what they could with the means they had. The federation of local cooperatives contributed strength to the parent organization, as well as to its business services. We were in the thick of it, and in setting up all future business ventures.

With the State Farm Bureau of Ohio, West Virginia, and Indiana, in 1930 we established the Farm Bureau Milling Company to mix our own feeds. Since 1923 Farm Bureau Milling Company to elsewhere.

NASH SUCCEEDS BENTAL

In 1927 I appointed Claude L. Nash, the county agent of St. Clair County, to succeed Alfred Bentall as Organization Director. Nash trained his solicitors to a fine edge and they worked hard, but farm conditions were worsening so rapidly that they could not even hold the ground they had gained the previous year. By 1928 membership had fallen to about 11,000 and by 1929 to 9,300. In 1929 the Bureau spent $29,000 on membership campaigns but took in only $17,000 in dues. By 1930 we had only 5,400 members and in 1931 we stopped all statewide membership campaigns. Neither a reduction of dues from $10 to $5 or a plan to secure $100 a year for life membership, nor coupon sales plans which would benefit the individual member, could stay the fall-off. But we knew nevertheless that individual membership was the basis on which the Bureau should be built and we determined to take up our campaigns where we had left off. Meanwhile, we took comfort in the small, loyal group of members who stayed with the Bureau through this hard time.

On the state level from 1925 to 1930, our financial position steadily improved, despite the growing loss of individual membership. Our net worth increased from $175,000 to $280,000 largely because the two county federations and I were learning our business. It was fortunate that we did, for the thirties were to put us to severe trials.

How to build up membership was a problem that plagued us continuously. We struggled with the amount of the gas tax, nor the winning of the freight rate zoning case, or the bill for known origin seeds of the gas tax, nor the winning of the freight rate zoning case, or the bill for known origin seeds. The Michigan State Farm Bureau very working successfully. The FFB and Great Lakes Food Industries soon failed.

And the Bureau supported the Michigan Wool Growers Association, requested that the Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative, with whom the Bureau had been working successfully. The FFB also set up a wool marketing agency in Ohio in direct competition with the Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative Association, with which the Bureau had been working successfully. The FFB also set up a wool marketing agency in Ohio in direct competition with the Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative Association, with which the Bureau had been working successfully. The FFB also set up a wool marketing agency in Ohio in direct competition with the Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative Association, with which the Bureau had been working successfully.

The AFFB failed in the face of mounting pressure, indeed, the one lesson that could be drawn from it was that in most instances the American farmer can do what need be done for him much more effectively than a government agency can do.

In late 1931 the Michigan State Farm Bureau felt the delayed effects of the stock market crash of two years before. Business came to a standstill. We could not pay our creditors because our debtors could not pay us. We settled some bills for as little as 25% of their original value; we were afraid that otherwise we would realize no payment at all on them. And business kept declining everywhere. President Hoover pleaded with state governments and private industry to increase their payrolls by initiating large scale building programs until hard times passed. But neither he nor anyone realized how serious and far-reaching the depression was. Some state governments, with no idea of where the funds were to come from, started public works projects in accord with Hoover's request. At the same time the railroad companies were putting on the states the populace to economize and reduce taxes. But the depression continued. The most desperate days were still to come in the bleak days of 1932.
By Gary A. Kleinhans
Director, Education and Research

Life in Cuba...

"Bread and liberty" was a Cuban revolutionary slogan and philosophy in 1939, the first year of the Castro regime, but after a decade of unkept promises the "bread" is found in ration lines in the streets. As for "liberty," an estimated 40,000 political prisoners are locked in political prisons.

There have been no elections since Castro took power and no public representative body at the national level. In other words, Castro's government is not yet formally called for a return to constitutional government, popular elections and democratic reform. The revolutionary regime betrayed its own revolution by suppressing the rekindled hopes of the Cuban people for democracy.

In Cuba today, old cars "khink" down the streets held together by numerous parts of already worn-out cars worn out by overseas and low-octane Russian gasoline. Even though money is not necessarily scarce, there is little to buy, particularly new car parts. Furthermore Cuban housewives don't expect to own washing machines for another decade, if at all. For children in Cuba, 80 to 90 percent over two years of age don't drink fresh milk.

There is little to buy, particularly new car parts. Furthermore Cuban housewives don't expect to own washing machines for another decade, if at all. For children in Cuba, 80 to 90 percent over two years of age don't drink fresh milk.

However, the hard question is whether all the frantic economic activity in Cuba will finally result in more food, clothing and other goods.

SUGAR MARKETS

The magazine "Great Decisions" states that Cuba's economy in the 1970's apparently is based on the assumption that Russia will continue buying sugar. However, an agreement has yet been signed, and furthermore sugar is a commodity Russia doesn't need and cannot resell. At the moment Russia has agreed to buy five million tons of sugar at 61.1 to the dollar, almost double the world market price. What will Russia do with all this sugar?

Under world trade agreements the Soviets cannot re-export more than 1.25 million tons. About all the Russians can do is to add most of the sugar to a stockpile already estimated at 11 million tons.

The USSR is not the only buyer of Cuban sugar. Free-world sugar buying from Cuba totals 23 percent (Russian sugar trade is at 77 percent) with such countries as the U.S., Canada, West Germany, and Japan. It is evident that the U.S. embargo of Cuba has not been completely effective.

With the additional free world sugar markets, for Cuba to sell the tremendous amount the booming world economies are doing so, the experts however is big question is still whether Russia can continue to absorb this excess Cuban production.

Whatever happens, 1970 shapes up as the most crucial economic year of the Cuban regime.

JULY TOPIC SUMMARY

372 Groups reported that 3,842 members represent 3,842 families participated in discussions on the topic: LAW AND ORDER — LAW ENFORCEMENT. Reasons mentioned most frequently by groups are causes for rise in crime are: breakdown of the family unit, too much leisure time, curbing police powers, unemployment, restrictive labor laws and working mothers. They felt they could personally help the situation by voting and knowing what candidates stand for, letting them know their concerns with a letter, vote, write to congressmen, and discuss in programming. As Groups they could provide activity and supervision for young people, conduct child labor laws and support local law enforcement agencies. Homes are failing because of a lack of discipline, schools because teachers lack dedication and authority to discipline and churches because they give more attention to social and political problems than to the spiritual needs of their congregations.

NEXT MONTH: Review of School Tax Laws
Here is a discussion exercise for those who are not now part of a Community Group ...

Cuba - 10 Years of Castro

Not everyone can be part of a Farm Bureau Community Group - but through the pages of the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS, every member can receive the same basic discussion material (opposite page) and then "voice" their opinions by sending the filled out questionnaire to Farm Bureau Center, Lansing.

There will be counted and considered equally by Farm Bureau officials with those arriving by the regular Community Group route.

A pencil, a pair of scissors, envelope and stamp are all that is needed to place your ideas into action. . . .

NON-GROUP MEMBER OPINION REPORT

The nearby discussion topic includes many differing opinions and points of view concerning the Cuban situation - to provide the broadest possible look at what has occurred over the past 10 years on that 700 mile-long Caribbean island.

Now . . . do you feel that Castro and his Communist government pose a threat to our American representative form of government? Will you explain some of your reasoning?

Economists agree to appear that there is a distinct relation between forms of government and a nation's food-production ability. Cuba, for example, is not now raising sufficient food for her people. List some reasons why you feel this is happening . . . .

Having read the discussion outline of U. S.-Cuban policy, do you approve? YES: __ NO: __

What do you feel our policy should be? . . . What should the U. S. do?

Clip and send to: Education and Research, Michigan Farm Bureau, Box 990, Lansing, Michigan 48904

NEW TOPICS ARE PICKED

The state-wide Community Group Discussion Topic committee met at Farm Bureau Center, Lansing, in mid-August. Their task was the selection of six from among hundreds of topic suggestions submitted by Farm Bureau Community Groups located in all parts of the state. During the two and one-half hours of the all-day session they heard background reports prior to picking these areas for future discussions:

- "How to tie Marketing Associations together for mutual benefit";
- "The economy of running a farm";
- "Explorations - Truth in Lending" and (6) "Review of school tax laws".

DISCUSSION TOPIC COMMITTEE - headed by Cass county Farm Bureau leader, Levi Van Tuylc, Jr. (at lectern) and assisted by Education and Research Director, Gary Kleinhenn (at board) work at paring hundreds of suggestions into a list of six topics for months ahead.

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FAR SALE


FARM EQUIPMENT


Discussion Topic Committee - headed by Cass county Farm Bureau leader, Levi Van Tuylc, Jr. (at lectern) and assisted by Education and Research Director, Gary Kleinhenn (at board)

Here is a discussion outline of U. S.-Cuban policy, do you approve? YES: __ NO: __

What do you feel our policy should be? . . . What should the U. S. do?

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