EDITORIAL...  
**Spending Our Money**

Everyday as I read the newspaper, watch television or listen to radio, I realize that the citizens of America are entrapped in a vicious circle. New laws or federal programs seem to be the only answer to the problems which require expenditures that are too critical to remain silent about any longer.

Congress is approving more and more measures which require expenditures that will exceed the tax revenue at the risk of another inflationary binge.

We need to remind ourselves of what happened in the 1965 fiscal situation when the federal budget went $2.3 billion in the red. Such lack of fiscal responsibility helped to provoke the inflation that has since eroded the value of our dollar.

In fiscal 1969, the budget picture improved with a small surplus, but the picture changed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970. The current fiscal year is expected to require the federal budget to be $2.3 billion and some expect the actual figure to be much higher.

Where are we headed in fiscal 1971? With a little help from history, predictions are for a red ink year. Again, citizens are asking for more federal "handouts" and Congress is letting them have their way. In the House of Representatives actions so far, it is estimated, have increased the projected deficit by nearly $3 billion and the actions of the Senate, which is slower at its appropriation work than the House, have boosted the projected deficit about $2.3 billion.

Assuming Congress takes no action to cut back or eliminate any federal spending programs (after all, this is an election year) and the present pace of new programs continues the 1971 federal budget may show a deficit of $10 to $12 billion.

We must also remember that new spending of one year often builds automatic spending for the following year. The results of the 1971 budget deficit will also be reflected in the 1972 fiscal results.

Congress can and must begin to correct the situation now or in 1972 we could have a repeat of 1965. They must assume their responsibility to the citizens of America and keep back the spending in line. They may have to tell some people NO — on new laws and programs. A federal budget must be balanced if we are to stop the inflationary spiral and free American Citizens from the vicious circle.

Carl P. Kentner

**FAMILY LIFE HERE TO STAY**

Will the family survive in the coming century? What a question to be asking, I can hear say.

There are some who argue that family life is "going to the dogs." The family, as an institution, is in the process of disintegration. Is yours a house divided against itself? Do your young people go their way and you another? Sitting down to eat together may be the only time you see each other. It has been said that farm families are more secure — more closely knit than others. I'll grant this, but have you noticed that distances are shorter now and how often Susie and Johnnie have to go back to town for a special activity? Who would have otherwise — we want our children to have the same advantages, experiences and opportunities of others.

Some say that the family today has few functions — we do little or no food processing (home cooking seems a lost art), do little educating (we leave it to the school) and the family sponsors but few religious activities. These functions do seem to be well performed outside the home.

Crisis then go on to take the divorce rate and juvenile delinquency statistics and thus feel they have sealed the doom of the family.

But a ray of hope was shed by Dr. John W. Riley, Jr., of the Equitable Life Insurance Society in a recent talk on the future of families. According to Dr. Riley, he sees no sign that marriage and family seem headed toward unpopularity in our culture. The proportion married and currently living with their spouses is at a relatively all-time high in our history. Ninety percent of both males and females likely will marry at some time in their lives and there will be a continuation of the tendency for increasing proportions of women to bear children.

"If the family were on the way out, would they still want homes?" Dr. Riley asks. The fact is, since World War II, the single family dwelling has enjoyed the highest demand. His conclusion is that we can expect increasing value to be placed upon family life and the idea of family in years to come. The tendency of people to develop and maintain your family environment one that is centered in love, education and Christian teaching. Shut your windows and doors occasionally to all outsiders and revitalize that special family feeling.

A crisis in our families? No — a crisis infers the ship is going to sink. In the families I know the ship is not sinking. Will the family survive? Christian couples have the answer — we can look to a new century with optimism.

North Dakota Farm Bureau News

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**The Farm Bill**

Much of this season's crop is being harvested, and out in the fields farmers are keeping their fingers crossed for favorable weather. One is never sure about the climate, but one thing is for sure, farmers must be ready to do battle with the unpredictable weather than it is with the government.

Since the farm bill was passed, the House of Representatives at its Plenary, D. C. recently, the farm outlook has indeed been dimmed and made farmers even more determined to work toward favorable weather. Government control of agriculture is a bone of contention lawmakers have yet to concede to the man on the land. Congressmen need to recognize that the federal government is not running a rescue operation for family farmers but instead is trying to manipulate the workings of our great industry down to the finest detail. This manipulation at best has been a bungled job. There was hope by the government that the Agricultural Act of 1965 would solve the farmers' problems but it is five years time it has failed to do this. Now lawmakers have taken essentially the same legislation and plan to extend it another three years to 1973, which will cost the American public an estimated ten billion dollars.

These programs haven't worked. Government's so-called cheap food policy is met with rising retail food prices at record levels. The money that government pays with taxpayers' dollars for farm subsidies is nothing more than what farmers would receive for their crops if they were raised on the farm. It is an artificial system that denies the right of Americans to utilize the free market system.

The free market system based on competitive market and the law of supply and demand has always worked when given a chance. This can be seen in the commodities that are on the free market today of which meat is one example. Meat is cheaper and fruit is yet another.

But over on the floor of Congress, this bill was hatched to a stoneboat before it began. The idea of lumping all farm legislation into one package could never hope to do more than produce a mediocre job. This cumbersome approach was designed with a concern for politics rather than sound and solid economics in the best interest of the American people.

The favorable legislation to the bill is the continuation of the wool, dairy and Public Law 490 programs. We had hoped these issues should have been treated separately and on their merits.

These few good things about the bill are far overshadowed by the continuation of government's desire to keep the farmer dependent on government. The $35,000 loan limit is an example. Farmers have always known that payment limitations such as what we would have eventually put a ceiling on farmers' opportunities.

Furthermore, the bill continues to ignore the needs of low income farmers; continues the current costly, ineffective annual land diver- sion programs; continues to propose to depress market prices for wheat, feed grains and cotton; and to keep producers dependent on compensatory payments, and continues the Commodity Credit Corporation to purchase government-owned stocks of agricultural commodities on the market at prices slightly above the government loan rate.

One of the bills passed in the Senate or referred back to the House Agriculture Committee will it be possible to get serious consideration for better alternative farm program proposals.

— Elton R. Smith
MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

September 1, 1970

THREE

B. Cross-B. Shield
How the Rate Is Determined

The rate for experience-rated groups under the Blue Cross-Blue Shield merit rating system takes three basic factors into consideration:

1. Money required by law for reserves and expenses for operating the program.

2. Basing cost of health care on inflationary factors.
   a. Hospital costs are rising at an average rate of 6% annually.
   b. Doctors costs are increasing at an 8% annual rate.

3. Utilization of benefits by group members.
   a. 68% increase in cost and the number of services utilized.
   b. Membership losses from local Blue Cross-Blue Shield subscribers over the previous year.

PUBLIC CONTROL PROTECTION

The non-profit corporations, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, were established over 30 years ago by enabling legislation by The Michigan Legislature. The corporations place them under the jurisdiction of a state agency which is the Michigan Insurance Bureau Department of Commerce. No change in benefits or rates can be made without the approval of the Michigan Insurance Bureau. The rate setting of producer, wholesale and retail prices. Michigan Farm Bureau's policy commends the dairy industry for developing and financing special promotion programs to expand the market for DAIRY products and take issue with the promotion of dairy substitutes.

The nation's farm labor force numbered 5,402,000 in July according to the latest report by the U.S. Department of Labor. Michigan ranked among the top seven states to show a gain in average farm employment.

In June, 1970, national legislation authorizing $120 million per year for the school milk program became law. This coincides with Farm Bureau's policy stating, "The National school lunch and special milk programs have proved beneficial to school children. The programs have helped to establish proper dietary habits among our young people. We recommend their continuation."

"The chief beneficiaries of the national school lunch and special milk programs are school children."
HOUSE PASSES EXTENSION OF FARM PROGRAM

The "something for everyone" omnibus farm bill passed the House of Representatives on August 5. The vote on the Poage-Hardin government farm program bill was 215 YEAS to 171 NAYS.

The bill was supported by 120 Democrats and 80 Republicans, with 88 Democrats and 80 Republicans voting against it. A switch of 21 votes would have defeated the bill and given the Congress an opportunity to give consideration to some other program than an extension of the present bankrupt farm policy approach.

The three-year extension will carry the program past the next Presidential election, thus giving the voters little chance to react to farm issues.

"Package" Creates Confusion

Some confusion resulted in the minds of Michigan's Congressional delegation and Michigan dairy farmers as a result of support for the bill by Michigan Milk Producers Association and opposition by Farm Bureau. Actually, there was no difference of opinion between the two organizations on the dairy section of the bill in which Michigan Milk Producers Association was particularly interested.

Farm Bureau supported the principles carried in the dairy section, as well as extension of the Wood Program and extension of Public Law 480, which assists in the movement of agricultural commodities in export.

The bill was created to cause exactly this kind of confusion. The principle in an omnibus bill is to put together enough "goodies" so that it will attract the necessary votes. In this case, the technique was successful.

Separate Vote Turned Down

Before the vote on passage of the bill, Congressman Teague (R-California), a member of the House Agriculture Committee, and one of the 50 sponsors of Farm Bureau's proposed Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969, offered a motion to recommit the bill to the Agriculture Committee, with instructions to report it back with all sections stricken except those providing for the dairy, wool and P.L. 480 programs. Had this motion passed, these noncontroversial programs could have been adopted. The House Committee could then have given consideration to the problems of wheat, cotton and feed grains. The cotton and wheat States did not have enough votes without adding the dairy, wool and export interests so that Teague's amendment was defeated.

If the farm program bill had been defeated, there is no doubt but that the three noncontroversial sections would have immediately been reoffered for action.

Payment Limits Are "Red Herrings"

Much of the debate on the bill centered on proposed limitations of payment. The importance of the issue was greatly exaggerated as only some 1100 farms in the Nation will be affected under present provisions. However, the idea of million dollar payments

Michigan Support for FB Proposal

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969, carrying Farm Bureau recommendations, has been introduced by 50 Members of the House and 20 Members of the Senate. Seven Michigan Congressmen—Vandergilt, Brownfield, Harvey, Hutchinson, Chamberlain, Cederberg, Brown, and one Michigan Senator, Robert Griffin, are among the introducers. The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have given little real consideration to the proposal despite the strong introducer support.
State Farm Bureau Women's Committee

THE STATE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE . . . and the State Women's Program Planning Committee jointly met in Lansing on August 10 and 11 to develop a Farm Bureau Women's State Program of Work for 1970-71. Seated left to right are Mrs. Linda Jennings, Swartz Creek, newly elected Vice Chairman of District 5; Mrs. Faye Gribbell, Engadine, newly elected Vice Chairman of District 11-East; Mrs. Daris Wicklund, Ellsworth, State Vice Chairman and Program Planning committee chairman; Mrs. Maxine Topliff, Eaton, District #1 Chairman; Mrs. Bertha Parsons, Charlevoix, District 10-West Chairman and Mrs. Alice Burandt, St. Joseph, District #1 Chairman.

Standing left to right: Mrs. Claudine Jackson, Howell, District #3 Chairman; Mrs. Betty Marquardt, Charlotte, Refiring Vice Chairman, District 5; Mrs. Nancy Geiger, South Lyon, newly elected Vice Chairman, District 5; Mrs. Mood Bristol, Durand, District 5 Chairman; Mrs. Mille Corey, Stephenson, newly elected Chairman, District 11-West; Mrs. Grace Greenho, Carson City, District 7 Chairman; Mrs. Martha Baker, Merrill, Vice Chairman, District 8; Mrs. Ruth Crouch, Grass Lake, newly elected Vice Chairman, District 1; Mrs. Eleanor Honkala, Crystal Falls, retiring Chairman, District 11-West; Mrs. Leora Smith, Hastings, District 4 Chairman; Mrs. Betty Rhoda, Schoolcraft, newly elected Vice Chairman, District 1; Mrs. Marie Swindlehurst, Mt. Pleasant, District 8 Chairman; Mrs. Evelyn Rhoodes, Clareville, Vice Chairman, District 4; Mrs. Edna Timm, Heron, District 10-East Vice Chairman; Mrs. Louise Wagner, Carson City, Vice Chairman, District 7; Mrs. Marie Pastmo, Rudyard, District 11-East Chairman; Mrs. Ruth Cooper, Manistee, District 9 Chairman; Mrs. Alice Lee, Addison, District 2 Chairman; and Mrs. Lorraine Lutz, Kaleva, newly elected Vice Chairman, District 9.

SITE OF MFB ANNUAL MEETING

The Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium — designed specifically for conventions!

Conventions large or small find the Civic Auditorium an ideal place for their activities. Its three auditoriums accommodate 5,000, 800 and 200 persons and can be used simultaneously without any conflict or disturbance. Five large adjoining conference rooms can be used separately or as one unit. The Exhibit Hall offers 44,000 sq. ft. of usable display space and has facilities for illumination, electric power, gas, water and drainage. Other facilities and equipment include banquet accommodations for 2,200 persons, a complete amplifying system, booths and several public lounges. During inclement weather, a heated, lighted underground passage from the Auditorium and those attending this event will appreciate that they can come to your county to present ideas. I do hope you will work closely with them. They are eager to be of assistance to you. They are your elected District leaders and very capable ladies.

You all know I like to cook, but here's a recipe I'd like to pass on that takes more than cooking. Think about it.

LIFE'S RECIPE

1 cup of Good Thoughts
1 cup of Consideration for others
3 cups of Forgiveness
1 cup of Kind Deeds
2 cups of Sacrifice for others
2 cups of well Beaten Faults
Mix these thoroughly and add tears of Joy and Sorrow and Sympathy for others.
Fold in 4 cups of Prayer and Faith to lighten other ingredients and raise texture to great heights of Christian-living. After pouring all this into your daily life, bake well with heat of Human Kindness. Serve with a Smile.

This recipe was written by Mrs. George Fleming of Nebraska.

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

1970 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (Tentative)

Monday, November 9, 1970
10:00-11:00 Joint Opening of the MFB, FPC, and FBS Annual Meetings. President Smith presiding.
11:00-1:00 FBS and FPC Annual Meeting
Women's Program to run from 12:00 until 4:00
1:15-3:00 Commodity Luncheon — to include finals of the Young Farmers Discussion Meet.
3:15-5:15 Individual Commodity Sessions
6:30-9:30 Annual Banquet and Program
9:30-11:30 FBS-FPC Product Show to be open

The Product Show will be in the process of being set up throughout the day of November 9. It will be open the evening of November 9 and continue through November 11.

Tuesday, November 10, 1970
8:30- General Session
10:30- Begin Resolutions
4:00- District Caucus
6:00- Young Farmer Banquet
Presidents' Banquet

Product Show open for those not involved in the Banquets.

Wednesday, November 11, 1970
8:30- General Session

Resolutions until complete
Freedom Foundation Essay Contest

One of the outstanding programs sponsored by the Farm Bureau Insurance Group is the Eighth Grade Freedoms Foundation Essay Contest.

The month-long contest begins on February 22 each year. Its purpose is to encourage eighth grade level students throughout Michigan to seriously consider what part they will play in their country's future.

Three levels of competition exist in the essay contest. The three best essays are selected from each school and the authors rewarded for their efforts. The top essay from each school is then forwarded to a panel of notable judges who select the three best essays in the State. The top 1970 Freedoms Foundation essayist in the State, Tim Endean, and his parents enjoyed a four-day three-night all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The top three essays are then forwarded to Freedoms Foundation headquarters for nationwide judging.

Through the cooperation of Freedoms Foundation, the first Essay Contest was conducted as a community project in Lansing during the Spring of 1968. This first contest was strictly a trial balloon for measuring public interest, educator accessibility, and student response. Lansing area results were favorable—seven schools and some 300 students participated.

In 1969 new promotional materials were created including radio and newspaper ads. The decision was made to expand the contest to statewide competition. The number of essayists grew to 900 from 68 schools.

The results of the 1970 contest must be considered staggering. With an expanded promotion campaign, the number of schools swelled to 304 with 3,500 essay entries.

With the help of a newspaper clipping service, the majority of printed newspaper articles about the 1970 contest were collected. There number some 120. Many articles carry most, or all of the company news releases with local photos. The Essay Contest story was also picked up by Associated Press district offices.

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Four successive dynamite blasts shook the ground as the sound of wood crackled through the crisp December air. The blasts did not destroy. They signaled the beginning of a new building...the Farm Bureau Building.

Those dynamic changes, detoured in a 48-acre field last December, heralded much more than the start of "just another building." It will become the home of some of Michigan's most dynamic organizations...the "Farm Bureau Family." Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliates will be moving to the new facilities located just off the I-96 Saginaw Highway interchange west of Lansing, sometime next spring.

The new three story structure will be the home for Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, composed of Farm Bureau Mutual, Farm Bureau Life, Community Service Insurance Company and Community Service Acceptance, Farm Bureau Services Inc., Farmers Petroleum Cooperative Inc., Michigan Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Assoc., Michigan Agriculture Services, and Farm Bureau Cooperatives.

Over 450 Lansing area employees will work in 114,000 square feet of office space...almost twice the size of the present building.

The Farm Bureau Life Company is providing the funds for the construction of this new facility. Such an investment will provide a new growth base with increased service capability for Farm Bureau.

F. B. Policyholders Share Dividends

Since September 1, 1969, Farm Bureau Insurance Group has paid 225 business operations over $41,560 in Workmen's Compensation dividends. Currently, additional Workmen's Compensation dividends estimated at almost $24,000 are being processed.

Businessmen throughout Michigan...on the farm or in the city...are learning that safety does pay in a Farm Bureau Insurance Group Participating Dividend Plan.

How much does safety pay? An Eastern Michigan mushroom farmer received a Workmen's Comp dividend check for $637.62. A construction company earned $1,124.50 in safety dividends; for a turft nursery...$1,096.04; an orchard operation...$1,355.97; a West Michigan school district earned $2,779.87; a mid-Michigan school district was awarded $2,738.48 in Workmen's Comp dividends.

How can Farm Bureau Insurance Group return so much in dividends to its policyholders? Because each Workmen's Comp policy is judged individually on safety experience for that particular policy alone. The safety experience of an individual policyholder will determine the size of his dividend, whether or not any dividend is earned at all. Farm Bureau's Participating Dividend Plan allows a larger premium discount for the policyholder and the possibility of a larger dividend.

At Farm Bureau Insurance, the integrity and responsibility of each individual is the concept behind Workmen's Compensation Participating Dividend Plan. For Farm Bureau Insurance Group and its policyholders...the idea is paying off.

Auto Dividend After October 1

The fourteenth auto dividend in 21 years will begin arriving in Farm Bureau Mutual policyholder mailboxes after October 1. In a continuing effort to encourage driver safety, the new dividend will approximate $300,000...10% of the semi-annual premium for some 35,000 Michigan auto policyholders.

Member cooperation was cited as prime reason for the dividend declaration by the Company's Executive Vice President, Nile L. Vermillion. "Individual Farm Bureau members have been very helpful in holding down the rising accident rates and claim costs through safe driving practices. We're simply returning the benefits of this cooperation."

This latest auto dividend was approved by Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Board of Directors on August 14. Since September 1, 1967, Farm Bureau Mutual has declared five consecutive auto dividends to policyholders while most insurers have been raising rates. These five dividends total nearly $15 million.

Few companies within the auto insurance industry have been able to justify a dividend or premium reduction during recent years. Spirling costs and accident rates have created a general upward trend in auto insurance premiums.
SALES TAX EXEMPTION CLARIFIED

Recently, one of the Farm Bureau Board members called my attention to a newspaper clipping from his local newspaper. The headline was "Only Full-Time Farmers Exempt From Sales Tax." The article noted that under the new law part-time farmers are not eligible for tax exemption unless they are in the market to sell.

This is not true! However, it is a good example of misinformation that is often circulated. A similar allegation was made in one area of the state during a political campaign for the primaries.

Farm Bureau members will recall that we fought a battle to maintain the sales tax exemption on farm machinery, supplies, etc. There were actually four bills involved, S. 969 and S. 971, introduced by two metropolitan area senators who wanted to eliminate the exemption. However, after these bills were introduced, they were finally referred back to committee which, in effect, killed them.

Members must remember that our exemption is still intact as it might be used part of the time for strictly agricultural production. There are many exceptions in the statute dealing with the sale of horticultural or agricultural products and there are some cases under the regulations where an item might be eligible for exemption as it might be used part of the time for strictly agricultural production. The Land Assessment Bill still hangs fire. H. 2533, the bill that can be called by various names, such as land assessment bill, green acres, green belt, open space, pollution control, or whatever, is the legislation that sets up realistic procedures for assessing farmland to serve two purposes. One, to prevent farmers land from being confiscated by unrealistic taxes resulting from speculative planning that the bill would be very costly in lost revenues. It was apparent that the land would be used by those sources had quietly been building up, and at least one legislator said that part of the behind-the-scenes opposition was coming from land developers.

Rep. Ballenger (R-Ovid) has also blasted the Tax Commission, saying that the bill "usurped administrative prerogatives." Rep. Spencer and others pointed out that the commission determines policy, and it is the duty of departments to carry out the law as it is determined. They pointed out that the Tax Commission is not capable of administering this act, all they need to do is to pass on the application, without any of the 10 states having a similar act, and ask for their procedural hearing. The bill would be very costly inasmuch as Michigan's population is growing more rapidly than other industrial states; the state is becoming acute because Michigan's resources - the soil, water, and environment problems. The land would then be used by those sources who would not have examined the proposal.

County Farm Bureau leaders from throughout the entire state were present at the Fifth Annual Statewide Policy Development Conference, designed to assist in providing up-to-date information to county leaders to help in developing policy recommendations.

William Anderson, AFBF Legislative Counsel, Washington, D. C. discussed national and international affairs. The farm program before Congress was discussed in detail. He pointed out that many of its provisions, such as the wool program, P.L. 450 program, Class I Base program, etc. were fully supported by Farm Bureau. However, under present policy, cotton, wheat and feed grains provisions were strongly opposed.

He said that the farm labor issue is such that national legislation is essential to set up the rules. Farm labor unionization was discussed, recognizing that Michigan is presently a prime target. Federal legislation is needed. Of two bills in the Congress, one would bring agriculture under NLRB, which is geared to industrial labor, and the other, supported by Farm Bureau, would set up labor regulations based on the particular problems in agriculture.

Foreign trade, both exports and imports, are presently a major issue. One out of four acres or so of agricultural production is now exported. We export twice as much as we import of commodities that are produced in this country. There are import restriction bills before Congress on 17 different commodities, including textiles, manufactured goods, etc.

Other national issues discussed included marketing legislation, national commodity checkoffs, rural development, the U.S. budget and its effect on ordinary citizens, federal highway trust funds, general federal taxation and inheritance taxes, etc. and environmental problems.

Other speakers for the day included Glenn Allen, Michigan State Budget Director, who outlined the state's budget problems and the fact that from 1965-69 costs have increased 30% per year to carry on the same programs. This results from increased population, such as more students in all school systems, increasing cost of medicare, direct relief and general inflation.

Dr. William Cooper, MSU Ecologist, spoke on environmental problems. He said in part that "the back door of cities should be hooked up to the front door of farms." He said that the U.S. is the world's greatest polluter, that with 6% of the population, we consume 45-50% of the world's natural resources. Eighty percent of the world's population does not pollute, as they still live in a balanced environment. He said that the amount of DDT presently used in agriculture is insignificant and that 80% of DDT used in the world has been to save people's lives.
Join the Jet Set to Houston

A schedule of sessions for the 1970 annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, December 6-10, in Houston has been announced by Federation officials.

The Houston Civic Center, a $40 million complex of buildings, and the Rice hotel, will be the site of general and business sessions.

Vesper services, traditional opening ceremony, will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts in the Civic Center.

First general session of the annual meeting will be held Monday morning, Dec. 7, in Sam Houston Coliseum in the Civic Center. Charles B. Shuman, president of the Federation, will address the opening session.

Monday afternoon will be devoted to conferences, including the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee, organization, marketing, natural resources, insurance, and open session of the resolutions committee. A talent program will be held at 8 p.m. and a dance at 10 p.m.

A second general session of the convention is scheduled for Tuesday morning, Dec. 8, in the Coliseum, with Roger Fleming, Federation secretary-treasurer, giving his annual report. Tuesday afternoon will be occupied by conferences including dairy, field crops, horticultural crops, livestock and poultry.

A recognition and awards program will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Coliseum.

Business sessions of the convention will be held Wednesday, Dec. 9, and Thursday morning, Dec. 10, in the grand ballroom of the Rice hotel.

Attendance at the convention of the nation's largest general farm organization with a membership of 1,865,854 families in 49 states and Puerto Rico is expected to reach 5,000.

Last year the Federation celebrated its 50th anniversary in Washington, D.C.

The 1971 annual meeting of the Federation will be held in Chicago.

New Postal Regulations Help Rural Delivery

"A new postal regulation means home mail delivery to many rural and small towns Americans for the first time," Michigan Congressman Marvin Esch said recently. The rule applies to communities with a population of less than 2,500 persons which have a first, second or third class post office.

"In rural or sparsely populated areas of Michigan, this means an added number of people in communities such as Fowlerville, Pinckney, Clinton, Ousted, Britton, Carleton, Dexter and hundreds of others of their size, can get home delivery."

Under previous rules, only persons who lived at least a half mile from post offices in such sized communities were eligible for rural delivery service. Residents who lived less than a half mile away had to pick up their own mail at the post office. Now, the minimum distance for home delivery has been cut from half a mile to a quarter mile.

Esch said, "For the past three years we have been concerned with this problem. Many Michigan Congressmen have worked in an effort to bring this new ruling around to better serve our constituents. We are particularly pleased because many people who had found it a hardship to travel back and forth to the post office, can now receive their mail directly at home. All persons who do not now have this home delivery but who believe they qualify, should contact their local postmaster. He will make the necessary arrangements."
AAMA Seeks $185 Per Ton for Concord Grapes

A minimum price of $185.00 per ton has been recommended by the American Agricultural Association for the 1970 crop of Concord grapes. This price is per U.S. No. 1 10 degree brix grapes, plus or minus seven percent for each degree brix below or above 10 degree brix (sugar-acid ratio), was recommended for Concord grapes grown by members of Farm Bureau marketing associations in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington. AAMA is common marketing agent for these associations.

The AAMA recommendation was based on reports of a strong demand for Concord grapes in 1970. Prices for Concorde in the Lake States in 1969 ranged from $145 to $185 per ton.

All trade sources indicate that inventories of Concord grape juice and processed products are practically non-existent, according to AAMA reports, and demand for juice to be used in concentrate, jellies, jams, wines, and other products is at an ever-increasing level. Expanding population increased disposable income, and consumer preference for the unique Concord flavor have helped swell the demand for Concord grapes and grape products, AAMA said.

Grape growers who serve on the AAMA grape advisory committee reported the need for an increase in price in order to cover the rapidly increasing cost of producing grapes. Grower production records verify that costs of labor, capital, machinery, real estate, and management have nearly doubled in the last 10 years.

MACMA Recommends Grape Base Prices

Michigan's MACMA Grape Marketing Committee has announced a $185 Concord base plan as a result of a fully merchandised base prices, based on a 16 brix sugar, or on a flat price basis, where grapes are received on a no sugar test basis; Concorde, $185 per ton; Delaware's, $180 and Niagara, $170 per ton.

The AAMA Grape advisory committee recommended a sugar test basis, a sugar pay-out of 5% per degree brix on the $185 Concord base plan was also recommended by the Committee.

The Michigan grape crop was estimated on August 1 to run 65,000 tons but the Grape Marketing Committee believes that as much as 100,000 tons more will be harvested. New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are estimated to be below the recent five-year average (Michigan's was 45,800 tons) while Washington's estimate was reduced to 2,000 tons.

LIVESTOCK MARKETING - personnel representing 12 State Farm Bureau marketing associations participated in a special feeder cattle workshop held by the American Agricultural Marketing Association, July 22-23. One of the purposes of the workshop was to achieve uniform understanding of USDA grade standards on feeder cattle so that marketing associations in the various states may accurately communicate regarding livestock offered for sale or in demand. The present membership represents over 1,000 cows; they are expected to double their membership by early October.

The Division members recently met and elected a five-member producer marketing committee (picture below). Their responsibilities are to make price recommendations, membership acquisition, and guidance operations of the program.

Bob McCrory, newly elected chairman of the MACMA Feeder Cattle Marketing Committee, reports that two assembly dates are scheduled for October 15 and November 5. On these dates, feeder cattle will arrive between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. The cattle are unloaded, sorted by sex, and identified. They are then graded and penned according to grade and weight. Grading will be done by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Price orders for these cattle are then confirmed, and the cattle are moved to the feedlots by early evening.

The private treaty approach to merchandizing the feeder cattle and utilize the full service package of production and management assistance of his cattle operation.

Cattle feeders have indicated strong support for this approach to marketing feeder cattle, which should develop a supply of fresher, healthier calves with a minimum of handling.

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Bob McCrory, newly elected chairman of the MACMA Feeder Cattle Marketing Committee, reports that two assembly dates are scheduled for October 15 and November 5. On these dates, feeder cattle will arrive between 6:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. The cattle are unloaded, sorted by sex, and identified. They are then graded and penned according to grade and weight. Grading will be done by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Price orders for these cattle are then confirmed, and the cattle are moved to the feedlots by early evening.

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TODAY'S YOUTH...TOMORROW'S LEADERS
185 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
HEAR "WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT"

A common theme, "Americanism," was carried out at Michigan Farm Bureau's Seventh Young People's Citizenship Seminar recently conducted at Central Michigan University. One hundred eighty-five high school junior and senior students attended.

"OUR HERITAGE"

"Americanism"...what it is, what it means, and why it keeps it going...in this young, energetic country, America, was discussed by several outstanding speakers.

Dr. Clifton Ganus, president of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas, reminded the youth and the 18 counselors that "if we understand that everyone is born equal and not what they might oppose us, we have one foot in the door of communication." He said, "We're human beings and bound to have imperfections; we are what we are taught to be. When we take God out of our lives, what is left? Without God...there is no restraining force...anything can develop and this is proven by the increasing crime rate, due in part to the lack of moral responsibility and foundation." Dr. Ganus continued, "If the facts you measure are accurate? We measure it by the service, dedication and morals of our youth in America, because they are goods which have a cause. Because people are good, when people cease to be good, America will cease to be good."

Another speaker, Dr. Arthur Mauch, professor of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University, pointed out, "What Makes Our Economy Tick" in a day lecture. Dr. Mauch discussed the "Corner Stones of our Economic Progress," listing first, the desire of a free man and a free society, a higher standard of living; second, that monopoly, whether by government, industry, labor or agriculture, is that government should operate impartially in the interest of all.

However, finally, we must not overlook the fact that our economic system rests in other areas as well. Development must take place in the physical, moral and area in the social area as well."

"Four Dreams of Man," "Let's Join the Human Race" and "Count-Down for Tomorrow" were three of the lecture-topics delivered by Dr. John Furbay at the Seminar. Dr. Furbay stated that the first dream of man is for peace, the second dream, to feed the hungry people of the world, third, to rule oneself and the fourth dream, human dignity for everyone.

Dr. Furbay told the students, "No one ever wins a war, but then again, no one ever completely loses either. Wouldn't it be nice if we could invent a civilized way to end all wars and nations could take out of their frustations some other way? Your generation's job is to make the United Nations more effective."

"THE HUMAN RACE"

"Forget the color of one's skin. We've all one color. The color to the equator your ancestors were born-the browner the skin apt to be and they'd live in Greenland or far away from the equator, the lighter their skin will be," Dr. Furbay said. "We're all in a shade of tan—who ever saw a completely white person? The Indian isn't a red man—he's a rich shade of brown; Look at the Asian—he isn't yellow—he's a medium shade of brown and the African isn't black—he's a beautiful shade of dark brown. Put a white man against a pure white sheet and you'll see—he'll be a real light tan. So you see—we're all one race—really—all part of the Human Race."

"POLITICAL ACTION"

Since the August 6 Primary Election, it is a rare thing that the 1970 student groups have joined with all former students in appreciating how much time and effort goes into being elected to a political job.

Larry Ewing, Manager of the Michigan Farm Bureau Development Division, led the 185 soon-to-be-voters on a run-down on being politicians, into joining a party and one's choice. Conducting political conventions and into their primary and general elections. States of candidates to be elected included senators, representatives, prosecuting attorneys, a sheriff and precinct delegates. Directions on the correct procedures for filing petitions (stressing the importance of the proper signature) and registering to vote plus voting for the candidate of their choice were given by Mr. Ewing.

"CHOOSING YOUR 'ISM""

How does an interested citizen measure the differences and similarities which exist among the three economic systems—Capitalism—Socialism and Communism? All the speakers at the Seminar gave five yardsticks—


Dr. Mauch, co-editor of a paper on "A Comparison of Economic Systems," Dr. Furbay and Mr. Ewing clearly proved the benefits of living under the American Capitalist system.

Ray Monsalvatge, Georgia born economist and sales training specialist, wound up the five day Seminar with a presentation on "Who Cares," Mr. Monsalvatge combined tricks of magic, words of wisdom, humor, facts and love of God, Country and Self into an hour-packed talk that had the audience feeling God's love. It was a wonderful experience and I learned so much more than words can express. Thank you for being interested in the youth of America."

Last week was a total experience that I will not soon forget. I was honored to represent my school and county. Thank you for the most wonderful week of my life. And there are many more plus the evaluation sheets from each student with more than 50 of them asking to be considered as junior counselors for the 1971 Seminar.

These youth—and the thousands more like them—are what America is made up of. And as long as they are the majority, America will stay great and good.

FARM BUREAU MEMBERS BELIEVE...

...in the American competitive enterprise system...
...that man's search for progress should be encouraged by maintenance of opportunity, not hindered by illusions of security...
...that a person should be rewarded in accordance with his productive contribution to society...
...that every man is entitled to own property, earn money honestly, save, invest and spend as he chooses...
...that property rights cannot be taken away without infringing on rights guaranteed by the constitution...
...that the constitution is the basic law of the land, and that its interpretation should be in accordance with the intent of its authors...
...that government should operate impartially in the interest of all...
...that government's regulatory functions should be minimal...
...that government should provide only minimum controls on law...
...that government should stimulate, not discourage, individual initiative...
...that propagandizing by government is dangerous to the maintenance of self-government...
...that monopoly, whether by government, industry, labor or agriculture, is dangerous...
...that voluntary cooperation is a part of the American system...
...that all candidates for public office should state their beliefs with respect to communism, socialism and capitalism.

A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE...from Midland presented their "Up With People" program on the second night of the Seminar. The program is patterned after the National "Up With People" singers.

Words like "The Farm Bureau 1970 Citizenship Seminar was absolutely terrific! I could go on forever telling you how much fun I had and especially on how much I learned. This was a wonderful experience and I am so proud to have been a part of it!" Another wrote "It was a wonderful experience and I learned so much more than words can express. Thank you for being interested in the youth of America."

Last week was a total experience that I will not soon forget. I was honored to represent my school and county. Thank you for the most wonderful week of my life. And there are many more plus the evaluation sheets from each student with more than 50 of them asking to be considered as junior counselors for the 1971 Seminar.

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KENNETH CHEATHAM...AFBF representative, was one of the key speakers of the Upper Peninsula Young People's Seminar held in June. More than 80 attended this Seminar. Dave Cook, Hugo Kivi and Larry Ewing also participated.

D. JOHN FURBAY... (left) proved once more that he is one of the most popular speakers at the Citizenship Seminars. Even away from the stage, he can hold a small audience spell-bound.

Dave Cook, Chairman of the Seminar Committee, and committee members have received several "thank yous" from students.
Emphasis ... Cooperative Education

The theme, "Emphasis: Cooperative Education," spotlighted the American Institute of Cooperatives' 42nd Annual Farm Business Conference held at Ohio State University in August.

The Institute featured the expanding role of cooperatives in dealing with rural development, community affairs and environmental problems.

Several key note speakers addressed the youth who were special guests at the convention, including Stephen E. Zumbach, National FFA Vice President from Iowa, a regular visitor to Michigan (in his national area) who helped lead the discussion: "Cooperatives. The In Thing In My Community," The conference draws nearly 1000 youths from across the country who learn about the better business methods on marketing their farm products and how to better purchase necessary farm services and supplies.

L. A. Cheney, Executive Secretary of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, MAFG, (with offices in the Farm Bureau Center, Lansing) was re-elected to the National American Cooperative Board of Trustees.

Others attending from Michigan were Tom Walton, 4-H Scholarship winner from Michigan, Three Oaks, sponsored by the Three Oaks Co-op; John Yount, State FFA president, Fort Austin, sponsored by Farmers Petroleum Co-op; Dennis Miller, Hopkins FFA, sponsored by Allegan Farmers Cooperative and Hach Farms, Farm Cooperative and his FFA Chapter.

STATE FFA PRESIDENT... John Young (left) (sponsored by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative) and FPC President Carl Heisler attended the 4 day event at Ohio State University.

Others attending were Stephen Chellsis, Antrim Co. Farm Bureau; Tom Leippradt, Elkton Co-op Farm Prod. Co., and Pigeon Co-op Elevator; Chuck Bollens, Fremont Cooperative; Gloria Paulus, Presque Isle Elec. Co-op., Inc., and David Wyrick, Mich. Animal Breeders Co-op.

Arlo Wason, Sales Manager, Farmers Petroleum Co-op; The Belding Parl-Pro FFA team and their advisor, Richard Bird (sponsored by the Michigan Milk Producers Association) and Mr. Cheney attended the four day conference.

The MAFC hosts the state FFA officers yearly and sponsors several other youth related activities.

The Belding FFA Parli-Pro team (sponsored by the Michigan Milk Producers Association) attended the AIC. The Belding team was the state winner in the Spring FFA contests. Front row, left to right, are John Feurstein, Joe Brechting, Tom Heffelfinger and Leroy Hubbert. Standing, left to right, Mike Roby, Advisor Richard Bird and Gordon Gasper.

In the American Institute of Cooperative Education, the Farm Bureau Services Inc. is one of the regular feature programs to assist agricultural education with its educational and institutional credit needs of Michigan farmers.
**Price Set for 1970 Peach Crop**

The Peach Operations Committee of MACMA's Multi-Fruit Division has recommended that the 1970 Michigan grower price of $2.75 per ton for processing be $87 per ton.

In arriving at the price recommendation, the committee considered crop and market factors of previous years and known factors to date for the 1970 season. These factors included:

- **Historical relationship of Michigan processing market to the local fresh market.** In the most recent 15 year period, the average processing price for fresh peaches has ranged from 45% to 65% of the average fresh market price — the percentage being in the 52-65 range, nine of fourteen years for which statistics are published.

- **Strong fresh market.** This harvest season is running 10 to 14 days earlier than last year. The tourist season is still active and creating a strong demand for peaches at roadside markets — significantly greater than a year ago according to committeemen.

- **Crop size.** The USDA estimates the Michigan crop size at 100 million pounds; the committee estimates the State crop at 75 million pounds. Historical relationships indicate that the season average fresh market price will likely range from $3.25-3.80/ton, based on these estimates. Also noted was that the USDA peach crop estimates for nearby competing states are down from one year ago. The committee felt that $87 per ton would most likely equate supply and demand.

- **Quality.** The earlier season, coupled with fewer fruits per tree will favor the development of fruit size. Good sized fruit is a quality factor which should return growers a premium in both the fresh and processing market.

- **Competing grower prices.** California clingstone peach processors are expected to pay growers $81 to $83/ton for No. 1 fruit. The California crop to date is grading 80.5%. No. 1s. The price for No. 1 peaches in Michigan generally exceeds the California price on No. 1s.

- **Ontario, Canada, peach processors will be required to pay $128/ton for 2%-4% freestone.** These prices are established by the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers Marketing Board. Peach trade is not free across the Canadian border, but some processors purchase peaches in both markets.

**Price realistically in the interest of future production.** Committeemen feel that a realistic grower price will encourage the use of Michigan peaches in processing. Growers desire to strengthen their processing peach market. This can only be done through returns which encourage upload of present orchards and reasonable plantings for future production.

The recommended price of $87/ton 2%-4% up this year is believed to be a realistic price.

The committee analyzing the peach market statistics and recommending the 1970 price for processing peaches included Robert Rider, Chairman, Peter J. Daley, Wayne Gafford, Max Koks, Hart; Robert Bender, H. L. E., Robert Hukill, Shelby; Robert Bunker, Paw Paw, Richard Krogel, Bangor; Roy Peachey, East Clare and Donald Wright, Ludington; Norman Veliquette, fruit marketing specialist for the Michigan Farm Bureau's Market Development Division is the Acting Manager of the MACMA peach marketing program.

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**Where are you now that we've passed the great divide?**

Michigan farming passed the great divide in the late fifties. Technology is now well ahead of labor when it comes to increasing agricultural output. As a result, farming as our fathers knew it, is gone forever.

Your Farm Bureau is concerned about the number of farms that still haven’t met the “output per man-hour” challenge, and has the solutions.

With Farm Bureau supply and crop marketing know-how you can get your output up and your input down. Farm Bureau Services can help you lower basic costs, get you extra discounts and net you extra dividends. It’s the only way to play today’s agri-game. Let us show you the new rules. Ask your local Farm Bureau dealer, or write: Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Lansing, Michigan 48904.

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**100-BUSHEL OAT YIELDS**

More than a half million acres of oats are planted in Michigan each year, according to Michigan State University crop scientists. New varieties, early planting and proper use of herbicides and fertilizer help farmers commonly get yields of 100 bushels per acre.

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**4-H EMBLEM**

The 4-H emblem...HEART, HANDS, HEALTH...is synonymous with responsible, capable, achievement-minded youths.

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**4-H HELPS**

4-H helps young people improve home and family living. 4-H helps promote safety, health and fitness. 4-H helps young people engage in community development.
**Promises Forgotten?**

Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest general farm organization, today accused the Nixon Administration of reneging on campaign promises by supporting what he called the Poage-Hardin farm bill.

With the government farm program bill scheduled for consideration by the House of Representatives in Washington, D. C., next week, Shuman issued the following statement:

"Farmers have viewed with amazement and disbelief the recent activities of the Nixon Administration in promoting a patched-up version of the present unsatisfactory farm program.

"As a candidate in 1968, President Nixon made several specific promises which farmers accepted in good faith and which helped swing several farm states to his support in the 1968 campaign.

"In the campaign Mr. Nixon promised to change the direction of government farm policy. In spite of this promise, the farm bill developed by President Nixon's Secretary of Agriculture, Clifford Hardin, and Bob Poage, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, is a camouflaged extension of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965.

"As a candidate, Mr. Nixon said, 'instead of having a Secretary of Agriculture who speaks for the White House to the farmers, we need a Secretary of Agriculture who speaks for agriculture to the White House.' Somehow the wires got crossed up, because the Poage-Hardin bill, which, apparently has the White House blessing, is not supported by a single major farm organization.

"If the Administration continues to support the Poage-Hardin bill it will have reneged on another specific Nixon promise. Cane '68 Nixon said: 'We will strengthen markets so more of your income comes from the market—which will give you both higher prices and greater freedom from cash flow farm affairs. I am deeply concerned that many farmers are being forced to depend on payments as a source of income—farmers deserve to receive a larger share of their income—and larger incomes—from the market.' The legislation which is now before Congress with Administration support most certainly would increase the farmer's dependence on government payments for his income.

"Another Nixon campaign statement said: 'Price the last eight years have averaged too low. Farmers deserve, must have better than that.' The parity ratio is now 74 percent! The严峻 situation is about the present farm program which, with insignificant revisions, is being pushed by Congress by President Nixon's Secretary of Agriculture.

"Still another campaign statement was presented to rural development to help low income rural people. Mr. Nixon said: 'The time has come for major improvements in the opportunities and quality of rural life.' He recognizes that more than half of our citizens below the poverty level live in rural America, farm unemployment is twice as high as city unemployment, and half the nation's inadequate housing is found in rural areas.' The Poage-Hardin bill ignores the low income problem and bums all farmers together. In contrast, the farm bill proposed by Farm Bureau has a separate program to improve opportunities and provide assistance for low income rural people.

"The apparent intention of the Nixon Administration is to tempt the purpose of the White House. The Administration cannot afford to take farmers for granted.

"For over 20 years, Farm Bureau has consistently opposed the compensatory payment concept. We knew from the beginning that payment limitations would eventually put a ceiling on farmers' opportunities.

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**IN MICHIGAN GET**

**TYLAN**

**WILDFIRE**

**IT'S IN OUR VITA-BITES**

**OPEN-LINE**

**Holds Open Discussion**

Over 250 Michigan agricultural leaders representing almost every local farm supply cooperative joined in a series of three discussion meetings sponsored by Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative on August 17-18. Described as "Open Line" meetings because they encouraged discussion and exchange of ideas, the August sessions were a follow-up to similar seminars held during the state FFA convention in March. Another series is planned early in 1971.

Ernest Smith, President of Farm Bureau Services, chaired the three meetings which he characterized as a method of improving communications between the two state-wide cooperatives and local farmer owned cooperatives.

At the conclusion of the sessions, Smith said he was impressed with the value of the idea exchange and the benefits obtained by joint discussion of current farm supply information.

Speakers at the meetings included William N. Guthrie, Executive Vice President of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative; William E. Callum, Jr., Vice President of Farm Supply Division; E. R. Powell, Vice President of Michigan Farmers Exchange, and Duane Coohee, Crude Oil Division of Farmers Petroleum.

Centuries outlined business program for the two state cooperatives and described the current study to consider improved coordination of activities of the two organizations at some future date.

Callum reported on the success of the dealer discount program which resulted in the return of more than $120,000 to local farmers and cooperatives on the basis of sales volume during the last fiscal year. Callum said the program will be continued this year. Powell provided local cooperative leaders with up-to-the-minute information on the southern corn blight situation which has upset all grain markets. Guthrie described the crude oil acquisition program of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative to provide security and future supplies of Crude Oil products, benefiting Michigan customers.

During the open discussion periods, dozens of questions were answered on farm supplies, competitive pricing, supply handling, and expanding sales to large farmer producers.

**SEEK INCREASED NITROGEN FIXATION**

Nitrogen fixed by legumes has the advantages of costing nothing, being produced as the land demands nitrogen and having little or no pollution potential. Michigan State University crop scientists are trying to minimize the disadvantages, it will not be produced in large enough quantities, thus limiting yields.

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**NOW PAY 4.15% TO RETIREM**

**Higher Interest on Your Old Bond, Too!**

**Michigan Bell**
FOURTEEN

Discussion Topic

By Gary A. Kleinheinz, Director, Education and Research

No doubt you’re feeling the pinch of rising property taxes. Maybe you have a neighbor selling out because he cannot cope with the rising cost of property ownership. It’s a cinch one good reason for the high school to discover and glaring examples of the destructive force of inequitable taxes on property.

It’s not just a local problem nor just a Michigan problem, it’s nationwide and it grows from the rising demand for additional school funds to supply education to a vast student population while being harnessed with the need to stay up with inflation. But more often than not, farm income is keeping pace, folks can’t afford rising costs as reflected in the mills election after millage election which in many areas of Michigan is being voted down.

However, another slant of thought on schools imposing more and more money was presented from a national point of view when President Nixon said this year in his message on education reform to Congess, "We therefore congratulate ourselves on the progress that we have made, and even though it was voted down by the Michigan Legislature in the August session, it still may come alive in the near future, is an idea that would provide for equal support of schools by the entire public through a combination property and income tax. Aims of the state program would include equalization of educational opportunity because of differences in the wealth of various school districts. This proposal will be discussed further on.

The state legislature in turn has labored the school finance issue for the past year with few new wrinkles presented in the 1970-71 budget. In the state aid bill for education there is a marked difference. It is a $22 million allocation for the support of non-public schools. It is only a part of the record $909.5 million school aid bill — up some $30 million over last year.

School operational costs are up. Since the school year 1964-65, the state portion of the cost of K-12 education has risen from $423.9 million to $969.3 million...a jump of some $545.4 million in only five years.

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Mr. Smith cautions that this bill is still tentative and must be approved in next year’s school aid bill to pave the way for a K-12 bulk of the cost of education to the income tax.

It is true that all levels of government are concerned with the educational problem. On the national scene, President Nixon established the National Institute to study and search for solutions for all the 50 states. But traditionally schools are more a local problem than a national one. And if this tradition is to be judged by its dollar support by local people it will remain so, while national government will remain at arm’s length. Distance has been a factor through federal support of K-12 education averages 8 percent of the total; state support national average is 38 percent; local support national average is 54 percent.

In Michigan our Federal aid average was lower than from the national average. Federal aid was 3.6 percent in the 1969-69 school year, with matching contributions were about 41 percent, 8 percent of this state money went into the retirement fund. And on the local level, this same year, folks paid a total of 54.92 percent of the school bill (61.4 percent of this went to fund debt retirement, building, and site needs) while the remaining 45 percent went for operational needs.

If one were to tabulate these percentages into dollars and cents the results would be staggering. For example in 1965, the total amount of local property taxes was $2,526 million. In 1969, this totaled $1,901 billion. The grand total of state and local costs is now over $15 billion. If one adds to this a federal aid going to K-12 schools.

However, local people may not always control their local problems. Recognizing this, President Nixon said, "The principle of a real local need, the search begins for a local officialdom that will do so, and all too often in the past this search has ended in Washington."

The school officials are in a real dilemma. They must take the lead, has become more difficult with the population boom. Nationally, in the last 20 years the school population has doubled by 80 percent — from 25 million to 45 million pupils — in just two decades. Michigan jumps ahead of the national average to nearly 1.5 million pupils. In the same 20 year span the 1949-50 school population was 1,234,794. Today it has nearly doubled to 2,456,810. That’s an increase of 1,221,016 students, as reported by the Michigan Department of Education.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Another school problem linked to financing is the issue of quality education.

A related concept of quality education, and to get the most for the taxpayers dollar has been proposed by both President Nixon and Governor Milliken through a concept of "accountability." The concept of accountability is, "Any school district shall be required to collect and report information to the state department of education which shall be used in a determination of the adequacy of the educational program for the pupils served by the district."

"Accountability" is defined as being the ability of a school system to be measured. It is the socially responsible school board with courage, as defined in the 1970-71 state aid bill. It is another label for the "accountant" who will look for improved efficiency of operations and a method of measuring school productivity is needed. Six categories of information were compiled to prove the most for the taxpayers dollar. Preparing the universe of school districts is a difficult task. The major problems are in getting the most for the taxpayers dollar.

The state legislature ordered Governor Milliken to enter a project of the Department of Administration to determine those school districts that are making the most for the taxpayers dollar.

In 1969-70 the Michigan Assessment Program to determine the quality of education in the elementary and secondary schools statewide. Data was gathered from 330,000 students in approximately 4,000 schools in 600 school districts.

Brown’s school program sought information in four geographic regions (Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties; Southern Michigan; Northern Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula.)

The results of information were compiled and rated from medium school district average. The categories were: socioeconomic status; attitude toward school; percent of teachers with masters degrees, K-12 instructional expense per pupil; vocabulary and, composite achievement.

The results revealed that suburban, urban and rural areas generally spend more money but don’t necessarily achieve the best results. It is very difficult to determine the reason for this, but it is interesting to note that the fourth and seventh grades of the Upper Peninsula showed the highest composite achievement score and the lowest composite score was for the seventh grade. This was achieved even though they scored lower than other districts in overall socioeconomic status in both grades, according to this report. Attitude toward school was equally high in most other districts. Percent of teachers with masters degrees was slightly above the median.

The results is this move closer to the concept of "accountability."...
JULY DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY
Zoning, Planning Commissions and Building Codes

More than 3,400 persons participated in 332 groups that replied in the questionnaires for this subject. Results: Question, Does your township have a zoning ordinance? Yes: 174; No: 141. Q. Why not? Forty-four said there hasn't been time and 21 said it was needed. Q. If you have a zoning ordinance, do you want to change it? Yes: 196; No: 42.

Would you rather not know these 7 warning signals?

1. Unusual bleeding or discharge. 2. A change in bowel or bladder habits. 3. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing. 4. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing. 5. Change in appearance of a stool. 6. Change in personality. 7. Change in your appetite.

If a signal persists for a week, see your doctor. Because cancer is curable if detected and treated early.

American Cancer Society
It's up to you, too.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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FARM BUREAU SERVICES INC

FOOT ROT

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