

Ground Broken for Egg Center



Young and old alike enjoyed the omelet brunch served guests for the ground breaking ceremonies for Farm Bureau Services' new egg distribution and product research center.



Ground for the new egg distribution and product research center in Kent County was officially broken by Elton R. Smith, President Farm Bureau Services, by use of a farm tractor and plow.

Ground breaking ceremonies for Farm Bureau Services' new egg distribution and product research center in Cascade Township of Kent County were held Friday, June 28.

In a program that included an omelet brunch for guests, Elton Smith, Kent County farmer and President of both Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services, officially broke ground with a farm tractor and plow. Other Farm Bureau Services officials on hand to witness included Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President of the cooperative and Clyde Springer, Vice President for

the Egg Marketing Division. Stuart Cok, Executive Vice President of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, also attended, as did Howard Zindel, head of Michigan State University's Poultry Science Department, and L.E. Dawson of the MSU Food Science and Human Nutrition Department.

The \$325,000 complex, to be completed by September, is designed to replace an egg processing plant in Jenison that burned to the ground last December.

Located in the heart of Michigan's "egg basket," the distribution center will cover 15,000

square feet and will serve a good portion of the state's 40-million-dollar-a-year egg industry with assembly and shipping. The marketing system for the eggs is unique in the Midwest, in that the producers will sort, process and package eggs themselves. This kind of system serves to upgrade the economy of rural areas.

The building will be constructed on two and a half acres of ground in Kraft Commons a light industrial park developed by Foremost Realty Company of Grand Rapids. The park is one mile south of 28th and I-96 outside Grand Rapids.

What Others Think. . . .

"We Take Our Farmers For Granted"

By DAVE ROOD

There are those who view the aroma of cow manure with disfavor, and more's the pity for that.

We were struck with this profundity recently at a meeting of farmers, where they earnestly debated the problem of how to better tell their story to the 95 percent of the populace who don't know one end of a cow from the other and are acquainted with the south end of a horse going north only through the people they elect to public office.

Somehow it doesn't seem fair that the people who are involved in producing the food and fibre for all of us should be caught in a bind P.R.-wise, as they say in Washington. The most logical explanation is that they are so busy plowing and planting and cultivating and harvesting and whatever that there is very little time left for image-polishing, which leaves them at a decided disadvantage whenever the price of beans goes up ten cents a pound and the irate consumer starts looking around for someone to blame.

On the few occasions that they have used collective clout and propelled themselves into the public eye they haven't always fared too well, as consider the current flap over the milk producers and their contributions to gain political favor. It is just as unfair to blame the average dairy farmer for that flapdoodle as it is to blame the Republican precinct worker for Watergate.

One problem is that we have come to take our farmers for granted. When we go into the supermarket or corner store we automatically expect to find the shelves stocked with every kind of food imaginable, at a basic price that involves pennies. When it's not there, or the price goes up, we holler and yell and kick about how the farmer is getting rich, without attaching any blame at all to the truck driver and the food processor

and the wholesaler and whoever else manages to get their fingers into the pie in the long trek from field to marketplace.

There is a lot of shouting about \$5 wheat and 60-cent beef without equal time and consideration being given to the fact that it is costing the farmer more and more to produce these items. The farmer isn't going to get rich, for instance, if it costs him \$1.10 to raise \$1 worth of soybeans, even if soybeans are selling at a record high price. It doesn't take a college degree to figure that one out.

It should also be pointed out, somewhere along the line, that the farmer has other priorities than worrying about the consumer. He has to face up to adverse weather, the cut worm, quack grass, the lack of fertilizer and/or the high price of it when he can find some, the fuel shortage, interest costs and the spittle bug, among other things, and it takes from 12 to 16 hours during the busy season to cope with all of these. No wonder he hasn't got time for public relations.

Despite all of these problems, if I were to win the lottery some week and become independently wealthy, the thought occurs that perhaps the best thing I could do with all of that money, if there was any left after all the bills were paid, would be to buy a farm. Not because of any great ability in that line, or any great desire to work 12

to 16 hours a day, but rather because there is the feeling here that the day is fast approaching when the farmer will be properly regarded as the most important segment of society.

We are approaching a time of world food shortage, and a premium will be placed on our productive land and the people who work it, for America and its food-producing capabilities will be the last great hope of a world facing starvation. We have been prodigal with our land and indifferent to the people who till it and now a moment of great truth is upon us -- we need them both now more than ever before.

In the years to come it will be the farmer who will be the symbol of the independent and self-sufficient life that we profess to admire; it will be the farmer and his products who will not only continue to provide us with the necessities of life, but will produce the surplus food that will be the medium of exchange in the world marketplace of raw materials.

So for those who wrinkle up their nose as the pungent and heavy aroma of cow manure wafts their way, think again, take another sniff, and consider the deeper meaning, as it were. It may smell like manure to you, but it's really milk in the pitcher, beef on the table, and dollars and cents to the farmer. When you think of it that way, the smell is somehow sweeter.

(Reprinted with permission from the Escanaba Evening News.)

BC-BS Rates Reduced

Blue Cross and Blue Shield rates for many Michigan Farm Bureau subscriber-members will be reduced effective August 20, 1974. All subscriber-members have received their advance rate notification indicating the specific rate change applying to them.

Rates for under 65 members carrying regular coverage will be reduced. Actual amounts range from a minimum of six percent on a single person deductible contract to a maximum of 10 percent for full-family coverage. Members covered under the Medicare Complementary program will experience monthly increases of four percent, amounting to 24 cents for individual and 49 cents for two person contracts.

The reduction in rates for regular coverage subscriber-members can be attributed in part to several factors. Included in these was the acceptance by Blue Cross of Michigan of the Insurance Commissioner's request to reduce base rates by eight percent, effective July 1, 1974. This reduction applies to all Blue Cross groups renewing rates after this date until June 30, 1975.

The federal government also played a role with their price control program which was in effect until early this year. Health care providers were limited to increasing their charges within an annual fixed percentage level. With hospitals and doctors restricted in their charges, the reimbursement to them by Blue Cross and Blue Shield was less, thereby having the effect of holding rates at a lower level.

Finally, the cost of providing care for subscriber-members in the Farm Bureau group program was less than anticipated. These estimates are made at the beginning of a rating period, taking into consideration several varying factors including the number, type and cost of services rendered to members of the group plan. If this "experience" within the group is good, it has a favorable affect on rates for Michigan Farm Bureau members.

It is interesting to note that subscription rates for the Michigan Farm Bureau are significantly below the average rate applicable to all Blue Cross and Blue Shield groups in the state.

**VOTE
AUGUST 6!
It's Your Decision**

PRESIDENTIAL COLUMN



A Moral Responsibility

I have always been proud of the fine citizenship record of Farm Bureau members. Traditionally, they have taken their citizenship responsibilities seriously, to the extent that they are written into the basic principles of their organization.

"We believe in the representative republic form of government as provided in our Constitution; in limitations upon government power; in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of each individual to worship as he chooses; in separation of church and state; and in freedom of speech, press and peaceful assembly.

"Property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom.

"Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles."

If there was ever a time when we need to reaffirm those principles, it is now. Citizens disillusioned by corruption in government, convinced that politics is "dirty business" to be shunned, need our involvement example as never before. We have a moral responsibility to actively participate in our democratic political process and to encourage others to do the same. If we are to remain a government of the people, by the people, and for the people -- then the people must assume their citizenship responsibilities.

To get this important message across, I think we have to take every opportunity to re-define the word "politics." Today it has connotations of evil and intrigue, colored in shades of Watergate gray. We must remind ourselves and others that politics is the business of running our government, concerning OUR human dignity, OUR personal freedom, and OUR general welfare. That makes politics OUR business.

On August 6, at the primary elections, we have some important decisions to make about our business. We will be

deciding who will run for important offices in November. We must not underestimate the vital importance of voting in the primary. Selecting candidates who are well-qualified precludes the sad situation of having to vote for the "lesser of two evils." Having representatives in Lansing and Washington who are aware of issues of concern to agriculture and who share our philosophy is a "must." And the first step toward that goal is at the August 6th primary.

One of the time-worn excuses for not voting is "my little vote won't matter." It does matter, if you cast it. If you don't cast it, it also matters, by default. Many Americans do default, because of lack of understanding or because of pure laziness. People who are dissatisfied with an elected official often "exonerate" themselves by declaring, "Well, I didn't vote for him." Neither did they vote against him, so they are still accountable for that official's being in office. This matter of accountability needs to be stressed. Until more Americans realize that they are accountable for the condition of their government, we will be plagued with "Watergates."

It is easy to place the blame for any situation on something as intangible as "government," whether it's local, state or national. It relieves us of our responsibility for our actions -- or lack of action. We must remember that government is made up of people -- people we put there to represent us.

We have the power to change things for the better, if we will but use that power. Do not think for one moment that you and your vote are unimportant. So many times, we drift along in apathy, passing up chances to help change things because we think "What can one person do?" Individually, we may not be able to rock the world, but multiply our efforts by millions of U.S. citizens, and we can make history.

That fine group of young people at the recent Citizenship Seminar, during one of their evening vesper services, showed us -- symbolically -- how we can do this. You light one little candle, and pass it on

Can we, who are charged with a "moral responsibility" to help preserve freedom for future generations, do any less?

Nobody Votes in My Town

Reprinted from the July, 1964 issue of the Michigan Farm News

By #87776

It was November 27, 1963. Half of my town's 4,700 population jammed the theater. The newsreel showed the assassination of the President of the United States. Many of the townspeople applauded the scene.

Russia? Cuba? Red China? No. My town is in mid-America. Most of its inhabitants are chronic misfits. The name of my town is Southern Michigan Prison.

"He shoulda never been elected," remarked the middle-aged burglar next to me. I knew him well; he was serving his fifth term here.

"I take it you voted for Nixon," I said.

"You kiddin'? I never voted in my life. I got sense enough to know no matter who's elected, the best John Q. Public's gonna get is the worst of it. The hell with votin'!"

That's seditious philosophy, isn't it? "The hell with votin'!" means down with democracy, your country, your government and, therefore, every home (where government really begins) in the land.

Yet, I've voiced such sedition myself. Only it came out something like this: "Couldn't make it to the polls; had other things to do on election day."

The reflection lured me into deep concern and held me down with this hard and heavy fact: I was stripped of my voting privileges for many elections to come. What I felt left no room for self-esteem.

As the feature movie ran, I wondered how my fellow inmates felt about not being allowed to vote. Later, I questioned nearly 300 of them. Almost 90% indicated that they couldn't care less. 80 individuals admitted that they never voted! (Could the deeds that landed us here be germane to such disregard for democracy?)

Consider these responses to the question: Did you vote regularly when you were free?

When serving underling (age 33, serving 5-10 years): "The

organization always saw to it that I voted; even told me who to vote for."

Habitual drunk (doing 1-2 for non-support): "They'd let us off work in time to make it to the polls, all right. But I'd stop at a buddy's house to talk the election over. There'd be a bottle or two around. And somehow, before we considered all the issues and candidates and decided who'd get our vote, it was either too late or I was too drunk to care any more."

Vote fraud fall-guy (age 72, serving 1 1/2-2): "Election days was gravy days for me. I always voted. Got five bucks a ballot. Sometimes I made fifty-five, sixty dollars."

As for me--well it's occasionally difficult to face one's mirror of patriotism and like what you see. I'd often sold my vote as irrevocably as the vote fraud fall-guy had.

My sell-out inducement was a hunting or fishing trip, a lady friend who liked attention, pressing business of assorted kinds.

Indeed, I've leaped on every lame and selfish excuse in the American voters' book. But someday I'll have a chance to prove my determination never again to waste an opportunity to vote. Till then . . .

What about you? Like many other sheer blessings of America's the privilege of voting is never completely appreciated until it is lost. I know.

Therefore, I agree with the immigrant who said, "Americans don't adequately appreciate their system of government because they don't understand what it ain't."

However, our Star Spangled Banner waves best when every threat is intact. Similarly, the government it represents needs every vote.

But nobody votes in my town. Nobody may.

What could be worse, patriotically?

Only your town, where everybody may vote . . . and you don't.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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DONNA

Something Very Special

It was my privilege this year to serve as a counselor at the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar at Albion College. There were 203 students enrolled in the Seminar and they were a fantastic group. To all the handwringers who are concerned about the future of our nation in the hands of today's youth, I assure you, we have great leaders in the making.

No matter what type of conference Farm Bureau sponsors, it always seems there are participants who end up contributing more than they gain. Everyone goes home enriched simply because their lives have crossed paths with a person who gave something of himself, usually unknowingly, that was unprogrammed, personal and very special.

To pick out such a key contributor from the outstanding youth who attended the Citizenship Seminar would seem an impossible feat. But I'm sure there would be 202 seconds to my motion to nominate Bryan Graham, a personable young man from Charlevoix County, for the honor.

Bryan was born without any arms. That could be considered a handicap, especially at an action-packed conference like the Citizenship Seminar. Note-taking during lectures by the nation's top resource persons, voting by machines, recreation that included games from chess to volleyball, food fare that ranged from campus cafeteria to riverside campfire picnic. But if you have no arms, you use your feet, right? Right! Which is exactly what Bryan did, with a dexterity that put the rest of us to shame.

Bryan's presence added an extra dimension to this year's seminar. He served as a gentle reminder to all of us that the challenges we meet in daily living are small indeed, and that we should use the faculties our Maker has given us to their fullest potential. Seeing Bryan comfortably



Bryan Graham

merge into the mass of purposeful teens reminded me of a story I'd read about a bank in Arizona that contacted the local Vocational Rehabilitation Department to fill a vacancy in its operations center. The excessive noise of the bank's operations center made a deaf person the logical choice for employment among the machinery and computers that form the heart of a modern banking system. The venture proved successful, and more deaf people were hired. Soon hearing and non-hearing employees were working side by side, communicating easily, thanks to a voluntary sign language course that was offered to the non-deaf staff.

It may take a little extra effort, but when the potential of every productive segment of the United States is tapped, the great American dream of the good life becomes more than a promise. It becomes a reality for each person and a source of national strength.

Basically, that's what the Citizenship Seminar is all about. Thanks to Bryan and his sponsors, this year's Seminar participants got a little something extra--a living illustration of the stuff that built this great nation. Call it what you will--courage, fortitude, true grit, guts--it's what Bryan's got

203 Students at Citizenship Seminar

June 24-28 was a week filled with politicking for residents of Twin Towers, County of College. The entire political process—from voter registration through circulation of nominating petitions, campaigning, party conventions and rallies, primary and general elections—was packed into the five-day 1974 Young People's Citizenship Seminar.

This was the eleventh consecutive year Michigan Farm Bureau has sponsored the Seminar, but it was a year of some "firsts"—the first time held on the campus of Albion College, and the first time seminar participants had the opportunity of using voting machines in the primary and general elections. The seminar was attended by 203 students from 63 counties.

The seminar community chalked up a far better voter record than

the "outside world" with 99 percent of eligible residents registering to vote, 97% voting in the primary, and 89% voting in the general election. The students were guided in their political activities by MFB regional representative from the Thumb, Kenn Wimmer.

Other resource persons on the program included Dr. Clifton Ganus, president of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas; Dr. John Furbay, world traveler and anthropologist; Dr. John Sparks, chairman of the Division of Economics and Business Administration, Hillsdale College; and Art Holst, National Football League official.

A special, unscheduled speaker at the seminar was Arvid Perrin of Hillsdale County, who had attended the first MFB Young People's Citizenship Seminar in

1964, as a student. Now a candidate for his party's nomination to the Michigan House of Representatives in the 41st District, Perrin told the students how he had benefitted from attending the seminar.

"You will be going home from this seminar more informed than many of your elders, and even some party leaders," Perrin told the students. He urged them to find a candidate to work for in their home communities. "During this year of Watergate, people will be looking at candidates rather than at party labels," he said.

Most of the students attending the seminar were selected by their county Farm Bureaus in cooperation with their local schools. Their attendance was sponsored by county Farm Bureaus and insurance agencies,

local civic clubs and businesses. They will be sharing their experiences at the citizenship seminar with interested groups in their home communities.

The main objectives of the seminar are to develop an un-

derstanding and appreciation for the American way of life, our economic, social and political systems, and in general, to equip students with the knowledge to effectively fulfill their citizenship responsibilities.



Discussion groups following general sessions provided an opportunity for self-expression and surfacing ideas of others. Discussion leader Gene Greenawalt, MFB regional representative, held his "TILT" session in the sunshine.

State Farm Tour Set for Aug. 13

Michigan farmers will have the opportunity to visit with managers of eight farming operations in the 26th Annual Michigan State Farm Tour.

To be held in Tuscola County Aug. 13, 1974, the tour stops will include a horse farm, poultry operation, swine farm, three cash crop operations and two modern dairy farms.

The tour is divided in two segments: four in the morning with farm family interviews at 10:30 at each site; the rest at 2 p.m. at each site.

A noon luncheon at the Caro fairgrounds will feature a prominent agricultural speaker.

One of the morning stops will be at the Ernie Richardson horse farm. Richardson and his wife, Maxine, have 30 years' experience with horses. They have been at their present location eight years and have between 20 and 30 head.

Richardson raises some grain on his 80-acre operation which is geared to horse breeding only, not boarding or lessons. A counterpart is a complete tack shop.

Another morning stop is the swine farm run by Wallace and Dave Koepfendorfer. Based on 650 acres, the operation has a building capacity to finish 3,500 feeder pigs yearly.

The father-son team also produces 90 acres of sugar beets, 100 acres of pickling cucumbers, 150 acres of navy beans, 200 acres of corn, 20 acres of oats and 90 acres of wheat.

The Paul Findly cash crop operation covers 1,426 acres comprised of 400 acres of navy beans, 365 acres of corn, 160 acres of sugar beets, 170 acres of wheat and 100 acres of barley.

Findlay and his son, Michael, are working toward an eventual partnership, sharing in the purchase of land and equipment. One of the farm highlights is the custom-built storage for 50,000 bushels of grain.

The Don DeLong dairy farm is a five-way, father-son partnership based on 240 acres and 500 rented. The team handles 300 head — 150 holsteins, 50 bred heifers and 100 young cattle.

The new barn, built about a year ago, basically follows the Pennsylvania plan with four separate divisions of cattle and wide alleys for feeding and cleaning.

The 70,000-layer poultry operation of Harry Burns and Sons, is one of the afternoon attractions.

Begun in 1921, the operation was incorporated in 1965. Harry and his sons, Alfred, Norman, Lloyd and Lyle, grade and market their own eggs and start 10,000 pullets every eight weeks.

They grind and mix about 80 tons of feed a week and have storage for 400 tons of bulk ingredients.

Another afternoon attraction is the Joe and John Graham, Jr., dairy operation. The partnership, based on 500 acres, has 140 milk cows serviced by a 13-stall rotary herring-bone parlor, the only one of its kind in Michigan.

The herd averages 13,000 pounds of milk and 521 pounds of fat. The daily ration is comprised of haylage, corn silage and high-moisture corn concentrate mixture. A magnetic feeder containing high moisture corn and protein supplement is accessible to cows producing over 50 pounds of milk daily.

Arnold Krummnauer and his son, Arnold, Jr., operate 415 acres of cash crops and certified seed.

The partnership, begun in 1967, carries 75 acres of sugar beets, 340 acres of wheat, 75 acres of oats, and 180 acres of dry edible beans.

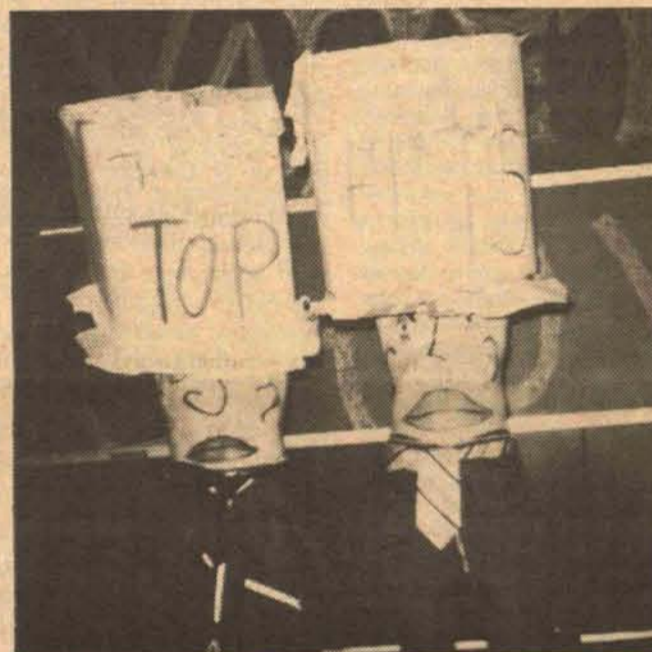
The Krummnauers are considered outstanding seed growers and processors in a county which produces 50 percent of Michigan's certified seed.

Another afternoon cash crop operation to be seen is that of Arnold Zwerk and sons Mike and Larry.

The 2,600-acre family operation is comprised of 1,400 acres of corn, 700 acres of dry edible beans, 250 acres of wheat, and 50 acres of soybeans.

The farm has a 130,000-bushel storage facility and large capacity grain dryer.

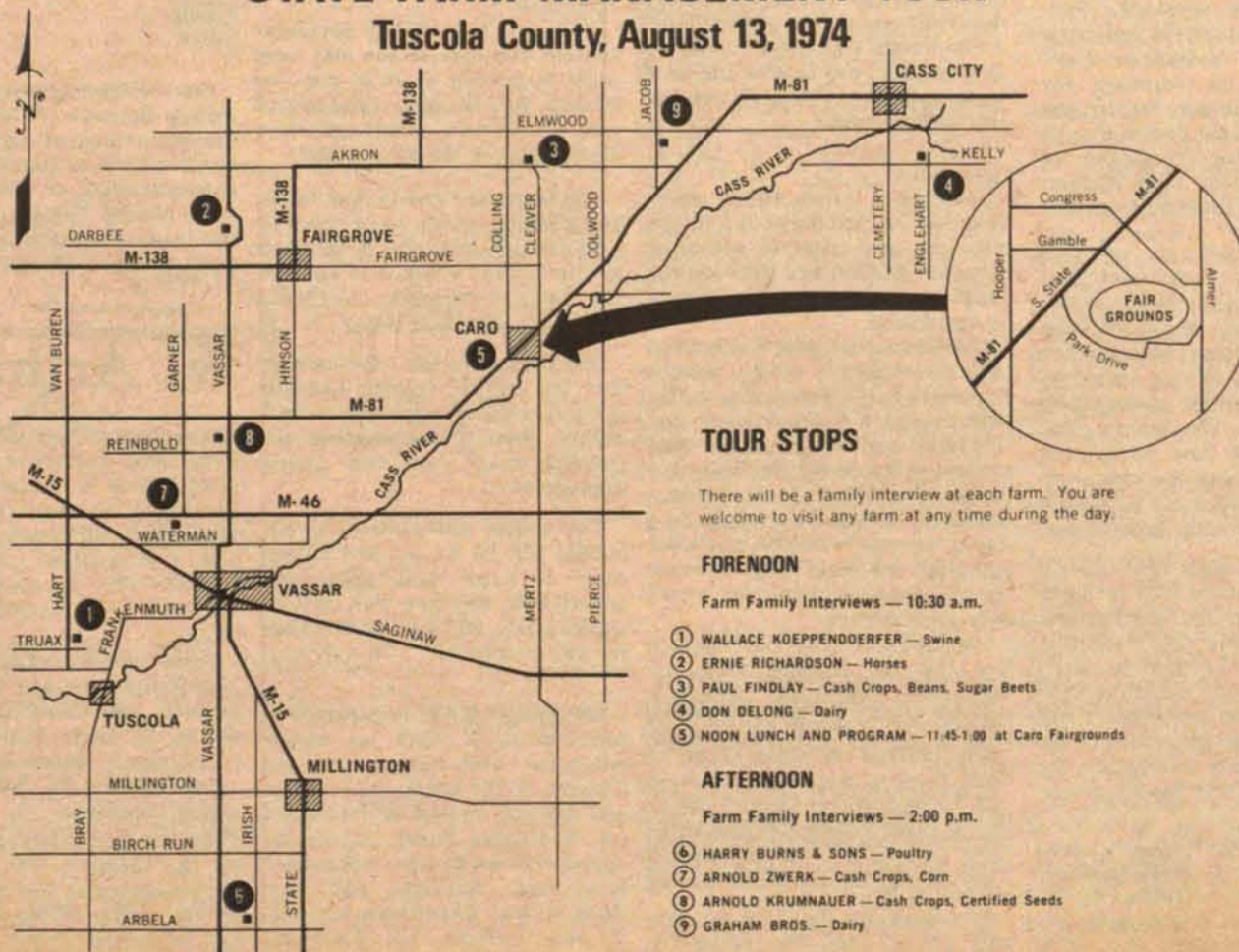
The Zwerks have adopted and developed several innovative production practices and work closely with their county extension office to develop hybrids suited to the farm soil, their production practices and the weather.



The talented Top Hats were a popular feature of the 1974 Variety Show, directed by the Junior Counselors and starring seminar students. The show received rave notices from an enthusiastic audience.

STATE FARM MANAGEMENT TOUR

Tuscola County, August 13, 1974



TOUR STOPS

There will be a family interview at each farm. You are welcome to visit any farm at any time during the day.

FORENOON

Farm Family Interviews — 10:30 a.m.

- ① WALLACE KOEPPENDORFER — Swine
- ② ERNIE RICHARDSON — Horses
- ③ PAUL FINDLAY — Cash Crops, Beans, Sugar Beets
- ④ DON DELONG — Dairy
- ⑤ NOON LUNCH AND PROGRAM — 11:45-1:00 at Caro Fairgrounds

AFTERNOON

Farm Family Interviews — 2:00 p.m.

- ⑥ HARRY BURNS & SONS — Poultry
- ⑦ ARNOLD ZWERK — Cash Crops, Corn
- ⑧ ARNOLD KRUMNAUER — Cash Crops, Certified Seeds
- ⑨ GRAHAM BROS. — Dairy

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith



It's Your Decision

Tuesday, August 6, is an important decision day for good citizens. On that day nominations will be made for many political party positions to be voted on in November. Another important purpose of the primary that few voters realize is that the control of the political parties is also determined by the election of precinct delegates. More importantly, however, in many areas that are strongly Democratic or Republican the vote on August 6 will be the final vote as to who will be elected to the Legislature or other important public positions.

The State Legislature will undergo a major change with predictions that as many as one-half of the 148 lawmakers will be replaced.

It is claimed by many political observers that the odds are strongly in favor of the Democrats, who already control the House, to also control the Senate. This may result primarily from changes in Senate district lines due to the 1972 reapportionment.

One thing is certain; at least 28 legislators will leave office. Twenty-one of these are in the 110-member House where 14 are seeking a different office and others are retiring. There are at least seven Senate vacancies.

One Senate seat was eliminated because of redistricting. Three Senators are retiring; two are seeking other offices, and one vacancy results from a recent death.

Twelve House members are candidates for the Senate. Another House member, James Damman (R-Troy) is seeking the Lt. Governorship and will run with Gov. Milliken. Another House member from Detroit is running for Congress.

Outstate Senators seeking different offices include Sen. Ballenger (R-Lansing), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, who is running for Congress. Sen. Robert Richardson is one of 11 seeking two new seats as a judge in the Third Court of Appeals District. This district covers about 67 Michigan counties.

While many people seem to be disillusioned by government, it is equally true that many legislators are disillusioned and, for that reason, are retiring. Much of the problem rests with a negative attitude that has been conveyed by various media. The fact is that legislators, with few exceptions, are dedicated, hard working, and do the best that they can within the framework of a free government.

There will be many new political faces throughout the state trying to gain a seat in the Legislature. Decisions made on Tuesday, August 6, will be final in many areas. It is in those situations that failure to vote in the primary will mean throwing away your opportunity to help determine the person who will best represent you.

VOTER ISSUES

The deadline for petition drives to put various issues on the November ballot is now past. The following is a summary of some of those efforts.

1. **Limitation to Control State Spending.** This drive failed, even though it was strongly supported by many organizations and nearly half of the Legislature.

The petition would have placed on the ballot a constitutional amendment to limit spending by the State Legislature.

While the general public seems to be concerned over the constantly increased spending on the part of state government, it appears that few were willing to circulate or sign petitions to bring this about.

Michigan Farm Bureau distributed petitions throughout the state as did such organizations as the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce and local Chambers, the Counties' Association, real estate groups, independent businessmen's groups, many township groups, homeowners' association, many legislators, and at least seven or more taxpayer groups of one type or another.

The proposal would have limited state spending to not exceed 8.3 percent of the personal income within Michigan. This would have frozen spending at approximately the present level. All state and local taxes were included in the limitation.

2. **"Double" Daylight Saving Time.** This petition drive also failed, even though it was supported by many statewide organizations. It would have placed on the ballot the question as to whether Michigan should be placed in the Central Time Zone, thus solving the problems created by the present "Double" Daylight Saving Time.

Here again, it appears that the general public is not concerned over the time issue.

S. 1253, presently in the Senate, would also put the issue on the ballot. However, because there does not seem to be a possibility of a two-thirds vote, Senator Byker (the sponsor) has carried the issue over until the November legislative session.

3. **Remove Food From Sales Tax.** The petition drive to force on the ballot the issue of removing sales tax on food and prescription drugs was the only petition drive to be successful.

It appears that this, if approved in November, will create monumental problems. The petition did not provide for any flexibility and would require that the tax removal become effective January 1, 1975. This could ruin a balanced budget and result in a loss of revenue to schools and other essential services. The revenue loss per year could amount to well over \$200 million.

The sponsors did not indicate how the lost revenue might be replaced. The only practical method would be increasing the income tax at least one or more percent.

It is interesting to note that some of the groups that supported this petition drive also generally sought other programs that require more state spending.

In any event, the final decision will be up to the voters in November.

One issue that will be on the ballot for sure is Proposal "A" resulting from legislative action on H.C.R. "LL". This will limit the diversion of gas tax monies for public transportation to not more than 1/18 of the tax.

It will be recalled that of the two-cent increase in the gas tax, one-half cent per gallon was diverted to public transportation. This money has been used in several cities, large and small, throughout the state. Counties also gained additional monies from the increased tax.

In addition to limiting the diversion, it would also prohibit the use of specific taxes on motor vehicles to finance highway enforcement patrols.

The purpose is to assure that the gas tax monies from now on will be used exclusively for highway purposes.

TRANSPORTATION BONDING

The House has passed H. 5677. It is expected that the Senate will also pass the bill, putting a \$1.1 billion transportation bonding issue on the ballot in November.

The money will be used over a period of years for transportation programs including urban transportation systems, rail systems throughout the state, airport improvements, Great Lakes port improvement projects, and money for other transportation methods.

Michigan and local governments would be able to take advantage of all federal funding. One dollar of state and local matching money can generate as much as \$4 of federal money.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS FOR SUMMER

Budgets— In a 22-hour continuous session throughout the day and night beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 12, and ending at 8:09 a.m. on Saturday, the Legislature finally passed the state budget.

The General Fund budget totals \$2.858 billion, which could result in a deficit of \$9.8 million. It has been left up to Gov. Milliken to balance the budget through executive vetoes of individual items.

One reason for the imbalance is that last minute figures indicate that expected revenues will be \$8.7 million less. The budget is 6.3 percent more than last year's appropriation.

The school aid portion of the budget will be 3.1 percent higher than a year ago. The appropriation, together with special school funds, will total \$1.29 billion for aid to schools.

One budget bill of importance to farmers is S. 1132 on higher education. This bill contains the budgets of the major universities and includes as part of the budget for Michigan State University appropriations for the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station. It also includes 4-H Club appropriations.

The Extension Service and 4-H Club budget requests were acted upon favorably.

However, several agricultural research items were in trouble. Farm Bureau was among those who worked to get the following research items properly funded: bean and beet plants, soft white winter wheat, sod, fruit and vegetable research including the development of new grape varieties, extended peach tree life, fruit and vegetable weather adaptability, beef cattle forage, cattle and swine infertility,

pesticide research, integrated control of fruit pests, calf mortality, municipal and agricultural wastes, a new program for the production of tree and nursery stock, and livestock production research that is noncompetitive with man for protein and energy.

Some of the agricultural research project appropriations had been either reduced or eliminated in the budget process.

Most outstate legislators deserve commendation for their work in helping to maintain important agricultural research programs.

Mint Farmers Gain



Gov. Milliken signs into law H. 5782 which exempts boilers used on mint farms from licensing and other costly regulations. This legislation results from Rep. Stanley Powell and Farm Bureau meeting with mint growers. Those looking on include left to right, Rep. Stanley Powell [R-Ionia]; Frank Sipkorsky, Alden Livingston, and Thomas Irrer [all mint growers]; and Rep. Douglas Trezise [R-Owosso], co-sponsor of the bill.

Livestock Disposal



Gov. Milliken presents a signed copy of H. 6115 to its chief sponsor, Quincy Hoffman [R-Applegate]. The legislation was passed to provide the Department of Agriculture with the authority to order the disposal of "livestock or livestock products containing any noxious material, contamination, or other condition caused by contaminated feeds or other causes. The Department is also "empowered to select a site for the disposal with the advice of the Water Resources Commission of the DNR." Rep. Hoffman introduced the emergency legislation.

W. Arthur Rowley Named

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz has announced the appointment of W. Arthur Rowley of Richmond, Mich., to the Michigan State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee. Mr. Rowley replaces William F. Vanderbeek of Ithaca, Mich.

Other members of the Michigan ASC Committee are Walter Wittenbach, chairman, Belding and Robert D. Zeeb, Bath. The ASC committee is responsible for state administration of federal farm action programs.

Mr. Rowley, 61 has spent most of his life farming. Dairying is his major enterprise, and he owns both the top milker in Macomb County and the second highest record cow. He owns 557 acres and rents 115. He

grows 175 acres of corn, 65 of wheat, 60 of sugarbeets and 50 of navy beans.

He graduated from Richmond High School in 1932, spent a year at Michigan State University, and in 1932 started farming at Richmond, Mich. From 1969 to 1972 he served as both a member and chairman of the Michigan State ASC Committee.

Mr. Rowley has been a member of the Macomb County Farm Bureau for the past 25 years, and has served as an officer for the past 15. He is also chairman of the Federal Land Bank Association for two counties. He has been active with the 4-H Club for more than 12 years.

Mr. Rowley is married and has five children.



Robert E. Smith



Albert A. Almy

NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Emergency Loans for Livestock Producers

LIVESTOCK LOANS

The tight cost-price squeeze facing livestock producers has resulted in legislation to authorize government-guaranteed loans to producers. The Senate has passed a bill to provide an emergency loan program for livestock producers. The bill provides that producers who could not otherwise get needed credit could get 90 percent government-guaranteed loans at prevailing interest rates from private lenders. The guarantees would be limited to \$350,000 per producer. Repayment of the loans would be over a seven-year period. The authority of such guarantees would terminate at the end of one year unless extended by Congress.

The House currently has before it a similar bill, which would authorize government guarantees of 80-percent of emergency loans from private lenders to livestock producers who could not otherwise obtain credit. The guarantees would be limited to \$350,000 per producer and the total guarantees could not exceed \$2 billion. Repayment would be over a three-year period, with a possible extension of two years. The House bill would also expire at the end of one year unless extended by Congress.

Farm Bureau recognizes the need for an adequate supply of credit to keep livestock producers operating. However, Farm Bureau has warned that care must be taken to avoid making subsidized credit available on a basis that could encourage unsound actions such as expanded livestock production under the current unfavorable conditions.

FOOD STAMPS

On June 21, the House rejected an amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill to deny food stamp eligibility to striking workers. The amendment was defeated by a 147-169 vote.

Farm Bureau supports the food stamp program as a means of assisting those families truly in need. Farm Bureau believes workers on strike should be ineligible to receive food stamps in order to avoid placing the government on one side of a labor dispute.

A similar amendment banning food stamps to strikers was approved 213-203 by the House last year during debate on general farm program legislation. However, the food stamp provision was removed during Senate consideration of the bill.

TRANSPORTATION

Several major transportation strikes have occurred in recent years, posing serious problems in the movement of agricultural commodities. Farm Bureau has given stronger support to legislation that would provide an effective means for prompt settlement of transportation strikes.

One of the major segments of the transportation industry affecting

movement of agricultural commodities is dock labor. Strikes by dock workers idle railcars moving grain to ports and ships waiting to carry the grain to export markets.

While strikes have been commonplace among dock workers, for the first time in nearly 30 years, a master labor contract agreement has been reached between the dock workers' union and shipping management without a strike. The settlement covers only the East Coast ports, but is expected to be adopted by the South Atlantic and Gulf ports, also.

WHEAT TREATY

The Senate has taken action to continue for one year the 1971 International Wheat Agreement. The approval will expire June 30, 1975 unless another extension is granted by Congress. The agreement provides for consultation among participating governments on international wheat trade matters and for continued food aid for developing nations.

A total of 47 nations, including the nine nations belonging to the European Common Market, are parties to the agreement. The part of the agreement which pledges a nation to provide set levels of food to developing countries has been signed by the European Community and eight other nations. The levels range from 1.8 million tons of food per year from the U.S. to 14,000 tons from Finland.

The wheat agreement does not have market-sharing or pricing provisions, which are opposed by Farm Bureau. However, in separate action, the Senate did approve a resolution calling on the President to seek a conference for negotiating wheat prices under the International Wheat Agreement.

FEEDLOT STANDARDS

An economic impact study designed to measure the cost of "no-discharge" standards to feedlots with less than 1,000 animal units has been received by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The study was done by a private firm in Kansas under contract to EPA.

Last February, final "no-discharge" standards were announced primarily for those feedlots with more than 1,000 animal units. The regulations clearly stated that an economic analysis of such standards upon smaller feedlots would be undertaken and regulations covering such feedlots announced at a later date.

A definite timetable for publication of the standards covering small feedlots has not been announced by EPA. However, it is still believed the standards will be published for public comment this fall.

Q: When does the new tax tribunal get underway and, will it make tax appeals easier?

A: The new Tribunal for hearing property tax appeals convened the first week of July. But new appeals cases cannot start before September 1, and transferred appeals will be heard after October 1. There is now a backlog of at least 4,000 property tax appeals before the State Tax Commission that will be transferred to the Tribunal for hearing.

One of the purposes of the new Tribunal is to remove the property tax appeals authority from the State Tax Commission. In the past the Commission, in effect, judged appeals on the very rules it formulated.

The Commission has the power to carry out the constitutional requirements and property tax laws and also to equalize the valuation of each county. Prior to the Tax Tribunal the Commission also sat in judgment of appeals from individual taxpayers, townships and counties.

Now the Tribunal will act on taxpayers' appeals, and the Tax Commission will have to prove its point the same as the appealing taxpayer.

Before appealing to the Tribunal, the taxpayer must first protest before the local board of review and then may file a written appeal within 30 days after the local decision or within 30 days after receipt of a bill for a tax he wishes to contest.

In short, the Tribunal acts as a court for any property owner, whether he is a homeowner or a corporation. There is a small claims division for properties assessed at less than \$20,000. The ordinary property owner does not need to hire a lawyer to have his case heard.

The Governor has appointed the Tribunal members according to the law, which states one must be an assessor, two attorneys, one a real estate representative, and another a certified public accountant.

The legislation creating the tribunal was passed in the 1973 legislative session with Farm Bureau support as a result of policy determined by the voting delegates at the MFB annual meeting.

Q: Legislation was enacted in 1972 requiring farmers and others engaged in activities involving earth changes to obtain a permit. When will agriculture be covered by the permit program?

A: The 1972 Legislature enacted the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Act, which was designed to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation from activities which disturb the soil. The legislation was aimed primarily at curbing soil erosion and sedimentation from housing developments, industrial developments, commercial construction and related activities. However, agriculture was specifically covered, too.

Farmers would have had until January 1, 1979 to comply with the new law. A permit would not have been required if a farmer has obtained and followed a current conservation plan for his farm from the local Soil Conservation District. If an approved current conservation plan were not obtained by January 1, 1979, a farmer would have been required to get a permit from a local enforcing agency designated by the County Board of Commissioners.

Since several thousand farms do not have a conservation plan, the Department of Agriculture estimated an additional appropriation of approximately \$1.3 million would be necessary if the Soil Conservation Districts were to prepare necessary plans by January 1, 1979. However, the 1974 Legislature was reluctant to provide the necessary funds for farmers to comply with the deadline.

This resulted in legislation being introduced to exempt agriculture from the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Act. The legislation has been passed and sent to Governor Milliken for his signature.

It is expected the Governor will sign the measure and that agriculture will be exempt from the requirements of the Act.

WHEN YOU VOTE



- you help create **LEADERS**
(instead of "bosses")
- you help **POLITICIANS** reflect
the will of the **VOTERS**
- you become a **REAL**
American citizen
- and you are an influence
for **GOOD GOVERNMENT**

Michigan Marketing Outlook

DAIRY

Milk prices have dropped -- both at the retail and farm level. There are several factors which have intensified the normal drop in consumption at this time of year. The increase in retail price and the drop in personal disposable income have had a tendency to reduce consumption of all dairy products. At the present time the cheese supply is more than adequate to meet demand, while at the same time red meat prices have dropped. Red meat and cheese compete for the consumers dollar. Cheese is still a very popular food even though consumption appears to be leveling off.

Imports of dairy products have had a negative effect. Imports in 1973 were equal to approximately 3,886 million pounds of milk equivalent while exports totaled 656 million pounds of milk equivalent. Thus the NET imports were equivalent to 2.8 percent of U.S. milk production. The impact of the imports, coming at a time when production was increasing, complicated the over-supply and reducing demand problem.

The general economic picture is relatively easily stated. The impact of the economic situation will be far reaching and serious. The results of a period of rising costs of production and dropping income may cause some producers to go out of business and expansion will be curtailed.

Hopefully by this fall consumption will again increase and production costs will stabilize. The lower retail prices should encourage greater consumption of dairy products.

PEARS

Pear crop is somewhat larger than last year in Michigan but slightly below as far as initial crop is concerned. West Coast Pear Association requesting price increase this year.

PEACHES

A larger peach crop in Michigan and nationally will be met by a ready market. Canned Peach inventory is at a low level. Cannery in California have already agreed to a \$30 to \$35 price increase over last year.

PLUMS

Michigan Plum crop is substantially down from last year. Price outlook is very good reflecting lower plum inventories and brisk demand.

GRAPE

Michigan Grape crop substantially better than last year. Grower price recommendation will be announced about mid-August.

TART CHERRIES

Red Tart Cherry crop expected to be somewhat below the official U.S.D.A. estimate. Market price for frozen cherries is tight due to increased cost of sugar, containers, credit and labor. Market for canned cherries and pie fill is much better due to low inventories.

ASPARAGUS

Asparagus harvest is complete. Production figures indicate that 22,284,080 million pounds were delivered for processing this year compared to 22,637,918 pounds delivered last year. Most processors reported that quality was considerably better than last year.

APPLES

Michigan Apple crop is substantially larger than last year but less than two years ago. Major processing apple producing states have only a slightly larger crop than a year ago. There will be good demand for all processing apples this year.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Vegetable crop acreage will be larger than last year. Weather conditions at planting time and harvest will influence the over-all production of vegetables. Vegetables not contracted this spring should sell at prices at or above prices listed in contracts.

SOYBEANS

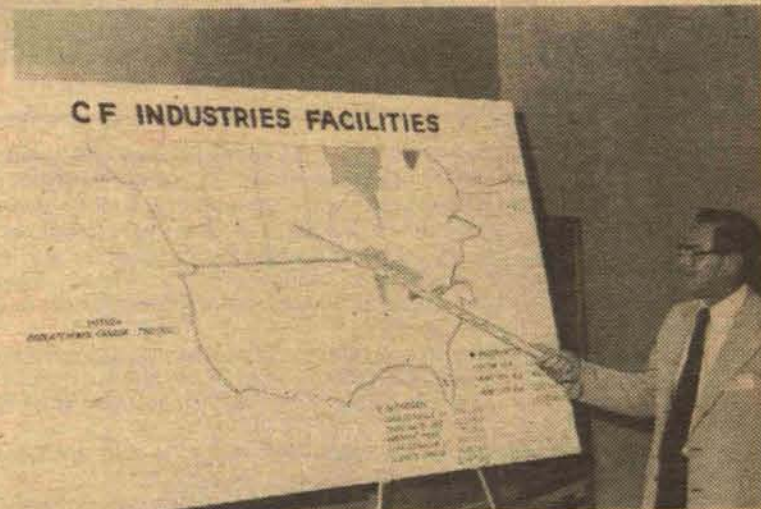
Total soybean usage for the 1974 soybean crop will be 1,470,000 to 1,510,000 bushels according to the USDA, July 1 report. They predicted 1,390,000 to 1,470,000 bushels of soys would be produced in 1974. Harvested acreage of soys was projected at 52.5 million acres or four million acres less than 1973. As a result, soybeans traded "up the limit" for three days; closing July 16 at \$6.79 per bushel. (Nov. - Chicago)

Market analysts were suggesting that soybeans be traded from the long side. This was due to forecasts that there would be a smaller carry-over of supplies than had been previously anticipated. Although production forecasts have been revised downward, supplies of oilseeds seem adequate to meet predicted usage levels--both domestic and foreign.

In Michigan, soybeans are nearly all planted with reports of some double cropping being done in southern counties. Estimated soybean planted acreage was revised downward to 620,000 acres from 700,000 planted last year. Soybeans continued to make rapid growth, with soys in central Michigan eight to twelve inches tall.

Many private sources believe the USDA corn and soybean estimates are still too high and will be cut further when the August 1, crop condition report is released. With these uncertainties, it seems the soybean market is off on a skyrocket again. Yet, no one in the trade is forecasting soy prices as high as the twelve dollar prices of 1973.

New Fertilizer Facilities



John Sexson, Manager of the Fertilizer, Chemical and Seed department, Farm Bureau Services, points out fertilizer expansion programs of CF Industries at a recent dealer seminar. CF is a huge fertilizer manufacturing and mining complex owned by Farm Bureau Services and other regional supply co-operatives across the nation. New potash mining improvements are scheduled in Canada, phosphate facilities in Florida, nitrogen facilities at several locations and the purchase of a transportation company with barge line, trucking and rail capabilities are some of the improvements now underway which will help Michigan Farmers in their ever increasing need for fertilizer products.

Ag Exports Vital to Michigan

Michigan's agricultural exports totaled \$182 million for the 1972-73 fiscal year, a \$75.4 million increase over the previous 12 months, Gov. William G. Milliken said on July 2.

The Michigan foreign sales included nearly \$3 million worth of red tart and sweet cherries, the Governor said in a statement made in connection with the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City. The Governor cancelled plans to address a festival reception in Traverse City Friday morning in order to confer in Lansing on legislative developments.

"The farmer makes an enormous contribution to Michigan's expanding economy," Milliken

said. "Michigan farm products are finding expanding markets not only in the nation, but also overseas."

He noted that about \$2 million worth of the 1973 cherry crop was sold to foreign buyers by two Traverse City companies, with more than half of that total going to Japan.

Japan, with its dense population and lack of sufficient land for agriculture, has become an important market for U.S. agriculture, and last year purchased more than \$2 billion worth of American agricultural crops.

Right now, a Japanese buyer, K. Kobayashu of Sumitomo-Shoji American, Inc., is visiting Traverse City canning companies

and food processors as a guest of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The Governor also said the Michigan Department of Agriculture's marketing division is currently assisting a Michigan corporation in negotiating a \$20 million livestock contract with Tunisia. The contract is expected to be signed in August, with shipment of cattle to begin next May, after facilities have been constructed.

Michigan bean companies have this month been asked to submit quotations on an order for 20,000 tons of navy pea beans to be shipped to North Africa and Mediterranean countries, he added.

Supply



Report

By Greg Sheffield FBS
Marketing Manager

The extent of service to farmers performed by Farm Bureau Services is indicated by record sales in supplies. In the year ending June 30, 1974 sales of over \$225 million were achieved with a final audit due to the Board of Directors at the end of this month.

FEED

Supplies are adequate and demand has been steady for all classes of livestock. Farm Bureau Services' efforts have been directed toward helping farmers through the difficulties caused by the unusual accident of a foreign chemical causing feed contamination. The feed plant is contaminant-free and busy filling demand for feed. All conceivable steps have been taken to prevent such a calamity from happening again.

FERTILIZER

Supplies have been distributed to farmers in record quantities with surprisingly few local difficulties in spite of the very real fertilizer shortage. Other parts of the country have not fared well as we have with our co-operative system. Corn got off to a slow start in the

state, but started catching up in July just as some additional supplies of anhydrous ammonia were secured. Dealers and their farmer patrons can be complimented on their co-operation through times that would have been much more difficult if they had not.

SEEDS

Adequate supplies are anticipated for seed wheat. Prices for turf grass seed are substantially reduced with new supplies expected to be adequate.

HARDWARE

Hardware items have been in great demand with calls for posts, fencing, steel siding and roofing, twine, paint and light machinery, all items being short. Farm Bureau dealers have generally been able to serve patrons by passing on their allocations equitably. Looking to harvest, farmers interested in drying and grain handling equipment should have their orders in by now because of the back-ordering. Late fall and winter hardware items should be ordered early, if the items are not now on hand, since industry is still running behind as

supplies of steel and other basic manufacturing supplies.

FUEL

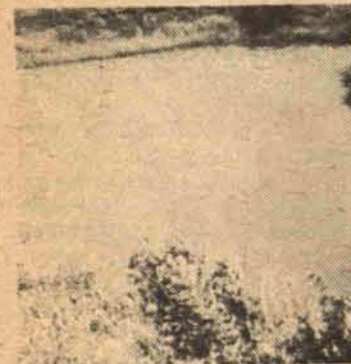
The volume of automotive fuel sold by Farmers Petroleum has been greater than last year and only slightly higher with adequate supplies on hand. Heating oil fuel sales reflect less demand due to last winter's conservation measures and the mild weather.

AUTOMOTIVE

Although the industry has been plagued by shortages, Farmers Petroleum was able to obtain and sell 6.7% more units than last year. They have passenger tires in good supply and nearly all sizes. However, farm tires, especially large and slow moving sizes, are still in poor supply with factory curing running at capacity. Farm tire tubes are critically short. Battery supplies have held up well with good demand. The filter supply situation has been improving but some popular sizes are still short. The demand for motor oil has been heavy, but all orders were filled through July, and it's expected this supply situation will improve.



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CUTRINE

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Farm Bureau
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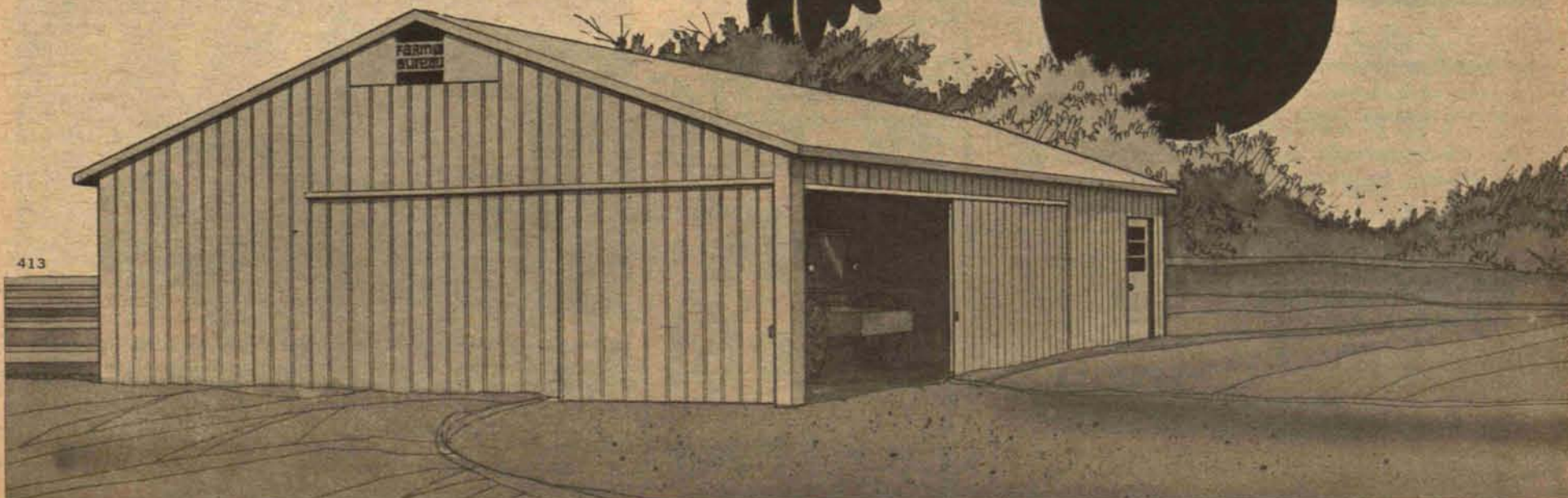
Farm Bureau Services, with building centers throughout this state, can make your new building a reality. With the help of our staff agricultural engineer, we'll assist you with initial planning and design, and pledge quality workmanship. Our completely-trained crews can erect attractive, finished structures on your site. And, for those who prefer, our building centers are stocked for do-it-yourself work. As a cooperative, with skilled purchasing people, Farm Bureau is able to provide the building services you need.

We build two basic types of structures: 1) rigid-frame buildings with either steel or aluminum siding and roofing, and 2) all-steel buildings, including the Quonset™ line. All structures can be customized to fit your specific need, whether it be a horse barn, milking parlor, machinery storage, fruit storage or utility building. The versatility, durability and economy of Farm Bureau Services' buildings make them ideal for many non-farm uses, too.

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PEOPLE**

Where Your Farm Comes First
Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.



Target: Action Programs

FB Women

A group of VIP's, representing Farm Bureau Women in Michigan, met at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing in mid-June to plan a Program of Work, based on the concerns of farm women.

Selected as a theme is "Target: Action Programs" for the 1974-75 Farm Bureau Women's plan for activities. Objectives as determined by these state women's officers, district chairmen and vice chairmen are:

T-A-P the reserves within ourselves to realize our fullest leadership potential.

T-A-P the resources of our organization through increased member-involvement.

T-A-P the reservoirs of action programs to strengthen our organization, our communities, and our industry.

Legislation, Public Relations, and Safety are the target areas these leaders selected as their biggest concerns and needing the efforts of Farm Bureau Women in Michigan. After analyzing each of these areas, they recommend women in the counties to especially consider the following activities.

Target: Action Programs in

PUBLIC RELATIONS PRODUCER-CONSUMER UNDERSTANDING--

Promote producer-consumer understanding through these action programs to reach urban people (adults and youngsters) with the story of agriculture:

- Continue and expand the Speakers' Bureau.
- Conduct commodity promotions.
- Farm tours.
- Rural-Urban activities.
- Mall Displays, Fair Exhibits, Window Displays.

MEMBER UNDERSTANDING-- Stimulate understanding, support, pride and involvement of Farm Bureau members in our organization through these action programs:

- "This is Farm Bureau" Kits to new members. (A Welcome-wagon type kit of information about Farm Bureau).
- Working with other Farm Bureau Committees on joint projects.

Target: Action Programs in

SAFETY

Promote safety and health in the rural communities through action programs such as:

- Hazard Identification -- Spot and correct safety hazards on ALL farms through use of a check-list and "THINK" stickers on hazardous areas of farm buildings and machinery.
- Tractor Lessons for Women--to learn safety features and be able to react properly in case of accident.

• First-Aid Kits and First-Aid Training -- Promote First-Aid Kits to be placed on every farm and in every farm home in Michigan. Promote first-aid training so one person in every farm family is equipped to handle emergencies.

• OSHA (Occupational Safety Health Act) -- Help keep Farm Bureau members up-to-date on OSHA information and regulations related to agriculture.

Target: Action programs in

LEGISLATION

Actively participate, year-round in Farm Bureau legislative activities through these action programs:

- Local Issues -- Become involved in solving community problems, such as land use planning.
- Policy Development and Policy Execution -- Contact Congressmen and Legislators on issues of concern to agriculture; assist in the development of policy recommendations; encourage the appointment of qualified women to Policy Development and Legislative Committees; continue to sponsor the Washington Legislative Seminar; Participate in State Legislative Seminars.
- Political Education and

Political Involvement -- Become aware and knowledgeable regarding current issues, our state and national representatives' voting records, and participate in political affairs.

This Program of Work was developed by the state leaders after two days of listening to resource people, including sub-committees of the State Women's Committee, and much analyzing and discussing.


"We know that the women members of Farm Bureau are a potent force in our organization and their efforts and activities are most important to a strong organization to solve the problems of farmers," said Helen Atwood, manager of Women's Activities.

At a series of multi-county training workshops for county and state Farm Bureau Women's leaders held in late July, the Farm Bureau Women's Program of Work for 1974-75 was announced and discussed. Contact the officers of County Women's Committees or Helen Atwood's office, Women's Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, 48904, for more details of this Program of Work.

Attending the planning meeting on June 12 and 13 were: Doris Wieland, State Women's Committee Chairman; Claudine Jackson, State Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Program Planning Committee; Jeanne Sparks, Chairman, Betty Rhoda, Vice Chairman and Dora Erny, incoming Vice Chairman, District 1; Ruth Rigg, Chairman, and Barbara Kimerer, Vice Chairman, District 2; Nancy Geiger, Chairman, Olis Hudson, Vice Chairman, District 3; Evelyn Rodgers, Chairman, Alyce Heft, Vice Chairman, District 4; Linda Jennings, Chairman, Janice McMichael, Vice Chairman and incoming Chairman, and Myra Spike, incoming Vice Chairman, District 5.

Also present were Faye Adam, Vice Chairman, District 6; Louise Wagner, Chairman, and Joan Allison, incoming Vice Chairman, District 7; Lillian Wonsey, Chairman, District 8; Kay Wagner, Vice Chairman, District 9; Goldie Chellis, Chairman, District 10-West; Doris Cordes, Chairman, District 10-East; Millie Corey, Chairman, and Mvrtle Rasner, incoming Chairman, District 11-West; Faye Gribbell, Julia Kronmeyer, Vice Chairman, District 11-East.

The district chairmen make up the State Women's Committee, and the district vice chairmen make up the Women's State Program Planning Committee.



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Labor Shortage Seen for State's Apple Crop

Michigan apple growers may have to watch their crops rot this season if they don't take serious steps now to get hand labor for apple harvest.

M.J. Buschlen, manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, said the adequate labor supply in Michigan may be deceiving growers into thinking labor will be plentiful in the fall. But Buschlen sees a very serious shortage which warrants serious action.

"And I don't think it would be too much to ask for schools to declare a two week apple picking vacation. A county in the state of Maine declares a two week potato harvest each year."

"We may have to do some of these things or we're going to lose a crop," Buschlen said.

"Workers remember last year's bad harvest and won't be so anxious to come up this year."

This year the apple crop should be up from last year to bring it close to a normal harvest. The higher price of gas is causing people in the South to hesitate to come up.

Most of the migrant labor families with children that are in Michigan now will be gone by the time apples need to be picked. Growers need to convince the other workers without small children that it is going to be worthwhile to be here for apple harvest.

"Growers should publicize that they are going to have a good crop and will need pickers."

But to make up the slack in the labor supply, Buschlen thinks growers will have to tap local labor sources. Local advertising and

contact with service clubs and schools who will pass on the word that pickers will be needed, he said. Early and constant contact with the Rural Manpower Service, he thinks, would also be advisable.

Then, there is the September school vacation idea for those growers who wish to work out the complications with school officials.

The public should be conditioned to accept such efforts for getting labor or they may oppose growers' actions.

HASTINGS FFA HONORED



The Hastings FFA Chapter was recently recognized for its outstanding contributions to the "Building Our American Communities" project. Elton R. Smith, president Michigan Farm Bureau, congratulates Jim Frohlick, while Scott Schantz, Mary Arens, Pam Webb, and the chapter's advisor George Hubka, look on. The "Building Our American Communities" project is co-sponsored by the Michigan Association of FFA, Soil Conservation Society of America, and Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies.

**VOTE
AUG 6!**
It's Your Decision



Homefront

Many community groups open their meetings with singing and the "Up and Atoms" in Tuscola County are no exception. At a recent meeting their voices blended with that of the host's fox terrier. Whether it sang alto or bass was not reported.

#

Did you ever have the pleasure of listening to yourself? The Clear Lake group in Mecosta County did and what a surprise! The hostess taped their recent meeting, unbeknownst to anyone else, and then played it so all could "enjoy."

#

Part of the worth of community groups is to provide members an opportunity to act together on local issues and areas of concern. This fact was recently demonstrated by the Whitetails, Montmorency County. They delayed their meeting until members of the groups had had an opportunity to meet with township officers regarding the proposed new fire hall.

#

Helping to gather up all the old cars in a worthwhile community project to which the members of the Manton community group, Wexford County, have pledged their time and support.

#

The ladies of Greenwoods community group, Menominee County, are proud that five of the fourteen ladies from their county at the Women's District Meeting were from their group.

#

The Atwood Community Group, Antrim County, report a most interesting and informative meeting. A member of the Planning Commission spoke to them on the solid waste problem and the erosion problems of their county.

#

The Stevensville Neighbors, Berrien County, had a chance to "walk in the steps of Marco Polo" as they viewed slides of a member's recent trip through the Mediterranean countries.

#

Many groups have had or have planned outdoor activities for the summer months. One of the most fun sounding ones reported to date was a two-day outing for the newly formed Green Harvesters of Monroe County. Eleven of the fourteen members, plus three guests, set up camp at a lake and all enjoyed land and water sports plus, of course, plenty of food.

#

A recent meeting of the Pioneer Community Group, Huron County, turned out to be quite a celebration. Two wedding anniversaries and a birthday were recognized with appropriate cakes and decorations.

#

Senior Farm Bureau, St. Clair County, is enjoying increased attendance at meetings. Credit must be given to the pioneer -- but young at heart -- members for their regular attendance. Six couples have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. The ladies also assist in making and selling doughnuts at the 4-H fair each year.

OPPOSES PAY TELEVISION

Many of the nation's 10 million rural Americans today face the prospect of a "partial eclipse" of their TV sets, AFBF sources report.

Pay-cable operators want the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to change its rules and permit movies and sports now seen on free-TV to be shifted to pay-TV.

"What the pay-cablecasters propose to do will, if successful, have a dramatic impact on most of the nation's 66 million television households -- and no group would feel it more than the country's farm and rural families," testified Vincent T. Wasilewski, president of the National Association of Broadcasters before the FCC.

Wasilewski said that there are millions still living in remote areas today who are beyond the reach of cable TV service.

The American Farm Bureau testified against pay TV at FCC

hearings in November in the person of Seely Lodwick, AFBF Director of Government Relations.

In his statement to the FCC, Lodwick noted that it was unrealistic to expect that cable service will be made generally available to rural residents in view of the high cost of cable installation.

"We oppose pay television. We favor legislation to divest the Federal Communications Commission of any power to authorize such a system," Lodwick said quoting Farm Bureau policy.

"We urge the Federal Communications Commission to adopt regulations governing community antenna systems to ensure that such systems do not impair free radio and television broadcast services to rural areas."

No further action on the matter has yet been taken by the Federal Government.

Farm Bureau to Sponsor Tour to London



Plan now to take part in Michigan Farm Bureau's tour to historic London, November 6-14, 1974.

Only 175 seats will be available on the chartered Trans World Airlines flight and interested Farm Bureau members are urged to get reservations early.

Cost for this tour is \$305.45 from Detroit.

Travelers will be able to see Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, changing of the

Dogs Trained to Detect Gypsy Moths

Scientists at Michigan State University, East Lansing, will train domestic dogs to detect gypsy moths under terms of a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Three pure-bred male German Shepherd dogs will be trained to detect, by scent, gypsy moth egg masses, larvae, pupae and living female moths.

Gypsy moths are a serious pest of forests, and it is difficult to find all insects that are on camping equipment being moved from an infested area to an uninfested one. "Moth sniffing dogs" could be an invaluable tool in preventing the spread of the pest.

The scientists, led by Dr. William E. Wallner, an entomologist at the university, will evaluate the factors affecting how easily the Shepherds can "sniff out" the insect in each of its life stages.

After training, the dogs' ability to detect gypsy moths will be field tested.

USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will provide \$5,000 for the one-year study.

guards, Buckingham Palace and other attractions in one of Europe's most important cities.

An afternoon departure is scheduled for Wednesday November 6 aboard a TWA 707 jet. Arrival in London is the next day with transfer to the conveniently located Park Plaza Hotel. In the afternoon a guided tour is planned.

November 8-13 optional tours are available or travelers can sight-see on their own. November 14, passengers will return to Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

A deposit of \$75 per person is required with the balance due

approximately six weeks prior to departure. A free color folder giving all the details is available by writing Ken Wiles, Manager Member Relations, Michigan Farm Bureau.



"HOT LINE" CHANGED

The "hot line" phone number for market information has been changed to (517) 485-4411. The service, provided by Michigan Elevator Exchange division of Farm Bureau Services, operates 24 hours daily to provide callers with grain and hog futures prices and any changes in farmers' cash prices.

Farmers outside the Lansing area may find it advantageous to call after 5 p.m. when toll rates for direct-dial calls are lower.

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VOTE AUG 6! It's Your Decision

(Editor's Note: The following article by Mr. Morris J. Markovitz, a commodity research analyst for a New York based brokerage firm, is printed with permission. The views expressed in this article are not expressions of Farm Bureau policy.)

Someday, you will have to retire. How much money will you need to support a decent standard of living when that time comes? \$7,000 for a single year? \$10,000? \$25,000? \$100,000? There is no way to know, because there is no way to know exactly how much inflation there will be. But even without exact figures, we can know that it will take many more dollars to support oneself in the future if inflation continues.

A 35-year-old man now earning \$20,000 a year may need \$200,000 a year or more by the time he retires. How can he possibly save that much? Whatever he does save will be continually eroded by inflation, with the value of his dollars being stolen away gradually over the years. And the word "stolen" is used here in a very literal sense.

Inflation has a tendency to accelerate -- to get worse and worse, and at an ever-rising rate. During the past year or so, inflation has finally reached proportions significant enough for everyone to notice its effects, though few understand its cause.

Inflation usually is "explained" in one of the following ways:

(1) Greedy businessmen, unsatisfied with "reasonable" profits, raise prices to line their own pockets at the expense of consumers. Then laborers have to ask for higher pay in order to maintain their standard of living. Businessmen, in turn, use this increased labor cost as a pretext for raising prices once more, and a vicious cycle ensues that results in spiraling inflation.

(2) Greedy labor unions, unsatisfied with "reasonable" pay scales, raise their demands in order to line their own pockets at the employer's expense. He then raises prices, passing the expense along to the consumer. The consumer, noting that his cost of living is increasing, asks for more of a wage increase. Again, the vicious cycle ensues.

These two explanations are similar from an economic point of view, but different from a political point of view. "Liberal" politicians tend to use the first explanation, laying the blame conveniently at the door of business, whereas "conservatives," just as conveniently, would lay the blame at the door of labor unions. Both explanations rely upon the same economic argument, and each is as false as the other.

Monetary Manipulation

Inflation is caused by neither business nor labor. The real cause is the government's manipulation of the monetary system. If getting a raise were simply a matter of demanding it and going out on strike, then why doesn't labor ask for 1000 per cent instead of a mere 10 per cent? And if raising prices were simply a matter of the businessman's whim, then why doesn't he raise prices by 1000 per cent instead of a mere 10 per cent? Obviously, these are extremes. But economic principles apply at the extremes as well as in the middle. It should be obvious that, in these extreme cases, it is definitely not the threat of government action that prevents the increases. Even if the government tried to encourage such huge increases, they still could not be adopted. No one would buy the exorbitantly priced goods, so business would fail. No one would hire the exorbitantly priced labor, so workers would be unemployed. Yet, even though this principle of supply and demand is obvious in the extreme case, most people tend to lose sight of it when only small amounts are involved.

In order not to lose sight of it, let us ask: Why wouldn't people buy goods priced 1000 per cent higher? Why wouldn't businessmen hire labor costing 1000 per cent more? The answer is simply that they can't afford it. They haven't got the money.

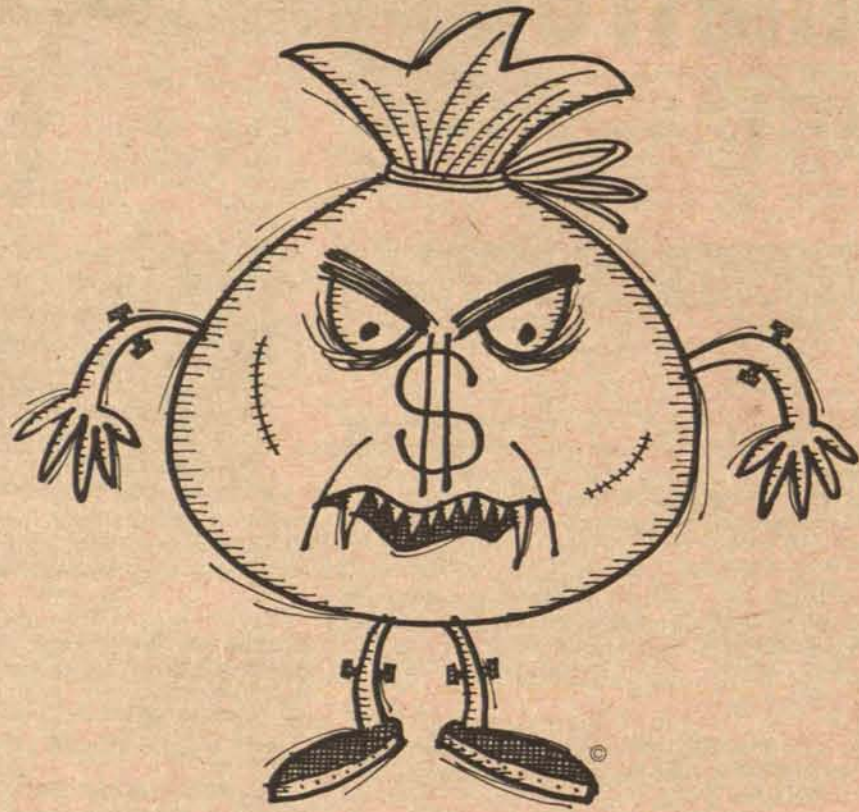
Now, let's carry this one step further. The same principle that applied to the extreme case of 1000 per cent above, also applies to the case of 10 per cent, or even the case of 1 per cent: Consumers can't pay even 1 per cent more for all their purchases unless they have 1 per cent more money. Businessmen can't pay even 1 per cent more wages unless they have 1 per cent more money.

Where does this money come from? The government prints it on pieces of green paper, calls it "legal tender," and hands it out by various means until it gradually permeates the economy. Thus, it can now be deduced that even the "ridiculous" 1000 per cent increases are not so impossible after all. If the government were to inject 1000 per cent more money into the economy, all prices would rise about 1000 per cent. Wage earners would be getting \$50 per hour, and a loaf of bread would cost \$5. The only thing that prevents this is the government's decision not to print that much money. Instead, the government prints only 5, 8, or 10 per cent more money each year, so prices rise only about 5, 8, or 10 per cent. (Note, however, that a "mere" 8 per cent annual increase amounts to over 1000 per cent in 30 years, when compounded.)

What does all this mean for the "typical" consumer? In general, it means bad things. Inflation hurts wage earners, those with savings, and those on fixed incomes such as the elderly and the handicapped. Inflation helps the sophisticated borrowers and the politicians. Inflation literally takes money out of the pockets of some and puts it into the pockets of others.

Here's how the whole scheme works: By a roundabout and complicated procedure, the Federal Reserve Bank is allowed, in essence, to print money which it "lends" to the government at interest. (This, by the way, is where most of the national debt is owed: to the banks.) This money consists of those green "Federal Reserve Notes" that everyone carries in his wallet. These pieces of paper used to be redeemable in silver. Now, all they are is a "promise" -- a promise to pay the bearer one dollar. Not

INFLATION



DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES
Manager Member Relations

one dollar in silver or gold. Just one dollar. And what is "one dollar" today? Why, it's another one of those same pieces of paper! In other words, the money people carry in their pockets is really nothing more than a promise to give a promise to give a promise . . . without ever really promising anything at all.

Legal Tender Laws - A Unique Privilege

However, the government has passed a law which gives a unique privilege to the Federal Reserve Bank (a nominally private bank). The "legal tender" law says that this bank's notes must be accepted at face value for the payment of any debts. Creditors are thus forced by law to accept payment in such paper dollars irrespective of any loss in value on the market. This is very important because it is the key element that makes inflation profitable for the banks and the government, at almost everyone else's expense.

A large part of the newly printed "legal tender" goes to the government, which then spends it to buy some of the goods in the economy, leaving fewer goods for the rest of us. Since the general public still has essentially the same amount of money it started with, this money is left to chase fewer goods, the result being higher prices.

It all boils down to the law of supply and demand, which applies to money as well as anything else: if there is more money around, its value per unit decreases. Inflation is this increase in the quantity of money, which "depreciates" the value of each dollar. In this way, inflation amounts, literally, to the theft of the earned values of people who save. It is a disguised tax -- it enables the government to take real goods out of the market apparently without anyone having to pay. Everyone does pay, but in the form of higher prices instead of an outright tax. This is particularly convenient because it enables the government to carry out its policies without being subject to the scrutiny of the citizens. For example, during the Viet Nam war, the government had the Federal Reserve print huge sums of money to pay for men and material to fight the war. The current inflation owes much to the printing spree of those years. If, instead, the government had taxed us directly, we would have known then how much it was costing us and might have reacted much

sooner. Financing the way by inflation deprived us of this choice.

Patterson's Scheme

As a matter of interest, central bank inflation was invented under circumstances of war by William Patterson, a canny Scot who founded the first Bank of England in the 1690's. Both the bank and the King benefited. The bank made fortunes in interest collected on money created out of thin air, by permission of the King. The King was allowed to continue fighting the war. The war had been very popular, but people began to lose their enthusiasm as their pocketbooks were pinched more and more by taxes. Patterson's scheme allowed reduced taxes, so citizens didn't realize that their money resources were being depleted through inflation instead. The King was relieved of the distasteful prospect of having to terminate the war, Patterson reaped immense profits from his clever scheme, the public was hoodwinked into paying for the whole thing both in money and blood, and the institution of central banking was invented that would continue to hoodwink people for hundreds of years.

Inflation has always been a problem for countries whose governments were allowed to print money without limit. For various reasons, inflation has a strong tendency to accelerate unless it is stopped altogether. Unfortunately, the usual remedy offered by governments is price controls, which cannot work in theory, have never worked in practice, and are not working today, because they do not attack the real cause of inflation: the wanton printing of paper money. Price controls simply create shortages, as is attested to by our current economic problems.

One index some economists use to predict forthcoming inflation is the Federal Reserve's holdings of government bonds. When these increase, it means that the decision was made to print more money to "pay" for them, and that inflation is on the way. The very government officials who pose as "inflation fighters" are in fact the people in society who are most responsible for the inflation in the first place.

The only way to end inflation is to end the unlimited power to print paper money. Unless the legal tender laws are abolished, there is slight prospect of a return to the kind of a hard currency traders would choose as a medium of exchange.



You and Your Snowmobile

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