

# SOD PRODUCER NEWS

## FLCRA changes remain top priority

An attempt of the American Sod Producers Association and the American Association of Nurserymen to change

the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act was sidetracked late last year by the refusal of the lame-duck Congress to pass a Congressional pay increase.

The Department of Labor had interpreted the FLCRA as exempting any

nurseryman who personally engages in activity "for the purpose of supplying migrant workers for his own operation." The Department held that a corporation cannot "personally engage" and must therefore register as a Farm Labor Contractor.

During April, 1980, various agricultural associations met with the staff of the Senate Labor and Agricultural Committee to work out a solution to the problem. Since the groups involved did not agree unanimously, their effort was unsuccessful.

On December 3, Senator Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.) and Senator David Boren (D-Okla.) led an effort to attach an amendment to the Continuing Appropriations Resolution for fiscal year 1981 which would have prevented the Department of Labor from applying the FLCRA to sod producers and nurserymen. The bill was approved by the Senate 47 to 41.

During the same period, however, the House passed its own version of the Continuing Resolutions bill, which did not contain the FLCRA amendment but included a \$10,000 salary increase for members of Congress. House and Senate conferees attempted to arrive at a compromise final bill, but a deadlock arose because of the Senate's unwillingness to agree on a pay increase. The House, in turn, did not accept any of the amendments which the Senate had attached to its Continuation Resolution, including the FLCRA amendment.

Resolution of the FLCRA problem remains a top priority goal for sod growers and nurserymen during the 97th Congress.

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