

50th ANNIVERSARY

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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

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

October



GOOD THINGS TO EAT DO GROW IN MICHIGAN — and right up at the top of the list are the many fruits. Apples . . . more than 12 million bushels harvested in 1968; cherries, (both red tart and sweets and leading our nation in production); more than 23,000 tons of grapes harvested in 1968; nearly \$3 million worth of peaches picked from Michigan trees during the past season. Add to this bountiful fruit harvest, the pear and prune-plum crop. Take into consideration the black and red raspberries, the acres of blueberries, melons and almost 27 million pounds of strawberries . . . and figures will prove that it's not only great to live in Michigan, but exceedingly healthy as well.

ELLIS GILSON, RETIRED FRUIT GROWER . . . and Farm Bureau member, Sparta, lived on a centennial farm on Peach Ridge. He has been an annual participant in the Peach Ridge Apple Smorgasbord and this year was more than happy to demonstrate his 100 year old apple corer and peeler to the more than 600 guests that attended the September 9 event. John Bull homesteaded his farm near Bailey where today stands huge apple storage facilities. His sons and grandsons have taken over the many-faceted operation allowing 'Dad' to tend to his personal grape vinyard. Red Tart cherries are among the "number one" products in Michigan. Most orchardists use mechanical harvesters but the sweets are still hand picked as this young man did in an Empire orchard.

Order Your Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Tickets from YOUR County Farm Bureau Secretary. Deadline--Oct. 31

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Editorial

A Quiet Revolution

When we look at U.S. agriculture over an extended period, we can see the big picture of the great changes that have taken place.

Using 1957-59 as an index base of 100, output of our farms and ranches has almost doubled between 1939 and 1969 . . . from 69 to 117. This indicates that the great period of agricultural output growth was in the period of years during World War II and after.

In terms of agricultural productivity, (still using 1957-59 as the index base of 100) the increase was not quite so dramatic, from 73 in 1939 to 109 in 1969.

What makes the agricultural output and agricultural productivity indexes so amazing is the fact that these increases were achieved in the face of declining farm numbers and fewer people on the farms of the nation. These facts, of course, have been repeated frequently in recent years, but the amazing changes in agriculture are most apparent by comparing the span of thirty years. The number of farms (including ranches) has declined by more than half . . . from 6,535,000 in 1939 to 3,200,000 in 1969 (approx.). Even more dramatic is the decline in the number of people working in agriculture . . . from 11,978,000 in the 30's to only 4,903,000 today, a disappearance of two out of three people working there in 1937.

The average size of farms more than doubled in the 30 year period. It was about 163 acres in 1939 and is a little over 360 acres today.

When labor moves out of an industry there obviously has to be a replacement to account for continuing output and productivity as is true in agriculture. This is evidenced in an increase fourfold in the use of tractors in the thirty years . . . up from 1,657,000 in 1939 to over 5,500,000 in 1969. Irrigation more than doubled in that same period, from 18,116,000 (in 1940) to over 38,000,000 acres today. There was likewise a similar even-more dramatic increase in commercial fertilizer usage, with 1,178,000 tons indicated in 1940 to over 12,000,000 tons now . . . a tenfold increase.

It might readily be assumed that on the basis of such quiet revolutionary changes in American agriculture over a period of three decades there is not much room left for improvement. The fact is that by 1980 agriculture will have to expand its abilities in production and output to feed a national population projected to be 235 million people. This will be done in the face of a continuing increase in the size of farms and the continuing decline in the number of workers on those farms. It will require more irrigation and use of increasing volumes of commercial fertilizer.

The inescapable conclusion is that with farmers solving their price and marketing problems through their own abilities and without outside interferences, agriculture has prospects for becoming more prosperous for those able to meet the challenge of a continuing quiet revolution. The change from 1969 to 1980 will be even more dramatic than the changes listed here; and by the year 2000, changes in agriculture will be almost beyond our wildest dreams. Are we preparing ourselves?

Evan J. Hale

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IS LOCATED
JUST ABOVE
YOUR EARS!

USE IT!

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau will be held November 10, 11, and 12, 1969 at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. The meeting of the Voting Delegates will convene at 10:00 a.m. Monday, November 10, in the Auditorium and will continue through November 12. The Annual Banquet will be held in the Civic Center, Lansing, Tuesday evening, November 11.

The purposes of the meeting include:

- (1) Election of Members of the Board of Directors. Odd-numbered Districts will elect Directors for two-year terms. Also to be elected for a two-year term will be one Director-at-large and one Director representing Farm Bureau Women. One Director representing Farm Bureau Young Farmers will be elected for a one-year term.
- (2) Reports of officers.
- (3) Consideration and action on the recommendations of the Policy Development Committee to determine action policies of Michigan Farm Bureau for the coming year.
- (4) Consideration of proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

The President's address will be given Monday morning, November 10. The afternoon will be devoted to Commodity Conferences and the Farm Bureau Women's meeting. The County President's banquet will be held Monday evening. The Policy Development Committee (Resolutions) will be in Special Session the first day of the Annual Meeting . . . November 10 . . . following the Commodity Conferences. Any Michigan Farm Bureau member is welcome to appear before the Committee on any issue. The Farm Bureau Young Farmer's banquet will be held Monday evening, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Kellogg Center. The Voting Delegates will again be in session Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dan E. Reed, Secretary-Manager

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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October 1, 1969

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(Signed) Evan Hale, Editor

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau: President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; Vice President, Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, R-1; Secretary-Manager, Dan E. Reed, Lansing.

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President's Column

Needed: Farm Program

For as long as I can remember we've had one farm program or another, all designed to try and give the farmer an opportunity to make a better living. Each one has fallen far short of the goal . . . in fact government farm programs constitute one of the greatest obstacles to farmers' efforts to develop effective production and marketing programs.

We, in Farm Bureau, vigorously opposed the original enactment of the major provisions of the 1965 Act. We are even more convinced today that the programs authorized by this Act are not in the long-time best interests of producers, consumers or taxpayers.

Twenty-two members of the U. S. House of Representatives and 20 U. S. Senators have introduced legislation with Farm Bureau's recommendations concerning the costly and ineffective farm program.

Farm Bureau's proposal calls for enactment by Congress of a broad-based program to help individual farmers make needed adjustments, increase prices, expand markets, cut costs and thus provide the basis for increased net farm income.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969 would provide for a five-year transition period during which acreage controls, base acreages, marketing quotas, processing taxes, and direct payments for wheat, feed grains and cotton would be phased out. It would also provide government price support loans for wheat, feed grains, cotton and soybeans at not more than 85 per cent of the previous three-year-average price beginning with the 1971 crop.

It would prohibit the sale of government stocks of farm commodities at less than 150 per cent of the current loan rate plus carrying charges, except when sales are offset by equivalent purchases in the open market.

The Farm Bureau proposal would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to offer a special transitional program to any farmer who has had average gross annual sales of farm products of not more than \$5,000 and off-farm income of not more than \$2,000 per year for husband and wife for the immediate preceding three years. These farmers would be eligible to receive compensation for acreage allotments and base acreages surrendered to the secretary for permanent cancellation; land retirement payments under the Cropland Adjustment Program; retraining grants; adjustment assistance, and loans under existing credit programs.

I hasten to point out that the transition to the market system would be gradual. Substantial payments would be made during the transition period to help farmers make needed adjustments. The cost of wheat certificates, for example, to processors would be phased out at the same rate as payments to farmers.

The acreage retired from production under the Cropland Adjustment Program would be increased as existing programs are phased out. Increases in the acreage retired under this program would tend to offset reductions in the acreage diverted under annual diversion programs. We must keep in mind that much of the land now being diverted under the current annual retirement program is NOT top quality land. Also, present programs that divert acreage on a part-time basis encourage the heavy use of fertilizer and other "land substitutes" and thus guarantee increased per acre yields. We feel the retirement of whole farms under an expanded Cropland Adjustment Program would be a far more effective means of bringing about needed adjustment in land use.

At the end of the proposed phase-out of acreage allotments, marketing quotas, base acreages, certificates and government payments for feed grains, wheat and cotton, each producer would be free to plan his wheat, feed grain, cotton and soybean production so as to make the best use of his resources in the light of the market outlook. Thus, the way would be clear for farmers to earn and get higher incomes in the marketplace.

Elton Smith

1919 — 50 YEARS OF PROGRESS — 1969



Charles B. Shuman, President American Farm Bureau Federation

Farm Bureau celebrates its 50th year of service to the farm and ranch families in America in 1969. (Michigan Farm Bureau members will have a double reason to celebrate . . . we also are celebrating Michigan Farm Bureau's 50th Anniversary.) During this half century, American Agriculture has become the model of productivity and efficiency to which all the world looks.

dant and high-quality food supply at the lowest cost, in terms of purchasing power, in history. At the same time and despite a difficult cost-price squeeze, the farmers of our nation have earned a higher standard of living for their families than have any other agricultural people.

All of this indicates progress . . . and Farm Bureau has been an important factor in building the road to progress.

Farm Bureau is the largest farm organization in America. It is organized at local, state and national levels with nearly 1,800,000 member-families in 2,812 counties in 49 states and Puerto Rico. Farm Bureau actively represents farm families in the public policy and legislative fields through contacts and presentations to county, state and national legislative bodies and administrative agencies.

Farm Bureau policy decisions are made by the members through an extensive policy development program that reaches into practically every rural community.

Farm Bureau service programs and activities are designed to meet the needs of farm and ranch families and to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement."

Michigan Farm Bureau Members Celebrate Double

Michigan Farm Bureau's 50th Annual Meeting November 10-12 at Michigan State University will carry the theme "Looking Forward to Another 50 Years."

Michigan Farm Bureau can point with pride to the many outstanding achievements over the past 50 years and will hear of plans and ideas that are on the 'hoped-for-list' in 1970 and on into the next 50 years.

The Golden Anniversary theme will be accentuated during the 3 day session. At the opening session on Monday (November 10), Governor William Milliken will greet the assembled delegates. Other activities scheduled for the opening day will be the Commodity Conference; the Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting; the Young Farmers program and banquet and the President's banquet. Monday will also be the first session of the Policy Development (Resolutions) committee.

AFBF President Charles Shuman will open the Tuesday morning session at 8:30. The Resolutions Committee will make their report and the annual banquet will climax the full day at the Lansing Civic Center.

At the annual banquet Charter Members, past state presidents, board members and secretaries will be recognized. Following a full day of judging by a selected team of judges, the 1970 Farm Bureau queen will accept her crown from the 1969 Queen Diane Traver.

All of the banquet festivities will take place in an "Outer Space" setting, acknowledging the fact that Farm Bureau members, like all other Americans, are looking forward, and still, remembering the past.

Wednesday's session will conclude the 3-day meeting with the Resolutions committee continuing their report to the delegate body.

MFB Board of Directors Annual Meeting committee is headed by David Morris. Other members are Maxine Topliff, Richard Weiland and Clayton Ford.

Staff Annual Meeting committee members are Charles Burkett, chairman; Robert Smith, Noel Stuckman and Carl Kentner.

Further details regarding the Annual Meeting will be in the November Farm News.

Fifty years ago the majority of the population of the United States lived on farms. The culture of the nation was as rural as it was urban. Political influence was fairly balanced between farm and city.

During this fifty year period American agriculture has advanced more than in all prior years of our history. Experts tell us the next fifty years will produce even more inventions with new technology that is hard for the average person to comprehend.

With new ideas and new methods of doing things will come new challenges in Farm Bureau. Today's sound legislative work within the framework of Farm Bureau has set a solid pattern of legislative protection for farmers of the future.

Farm Bureau marketing programs have opened doors to allow future farmers to better follow their products through the gates of the market and into truly effective dealings with processors and distributors.

Michigan Farm Bureau members join their county farm bureaus for the same reason that farmers do all over the United States.



Elton R. Smith Pres. Mich. Farm Bureau

Our 55,000 Michigan Farm Bureau families are proud to be a part of this Golden Anniversary Meeting. We welcome all of you to participate and look forward to another 50 years of 'togetherness.'

The challenge that faces our organization is big, but can certainly be met with dedicated volunteers and staff. We are on the threshold of bigger and better programs.

We are prepared for the future!

Women's Luncheon Speaker Sen. N. Lorraine Beebe

Senator N. Lorraine Beebe, representative of the 12th District, Wayne County, will be the keynote speaker at the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's luncheon November 10 in the Big 10 Room at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University. The luncheon is a major part of the Women's activities during the MFB's annual meeting, November 10-12.

Mrs. Beebe, a native of Kalamazoo, was elected to the State Senate in 1966, the third woman in the history of the Senate to be so honored, and the only one at the present time. She is a former teacher and counsellor in Kalamazoo and Dearborn public schools and at Dearborn Community College.

Senator Beebe is a member of the following Standing Committees: Assistant Majority Leader; Chairman: Health, Social Services and Retirement Committees and vice-chairman of the Highways Committee. Interim study committees include: Chairman: Mental Health, Community Health, Venereal Diseases, Narcotics, Human Transplants and Juvenile Delinquency. She is also a member of the Crime and Abortion Committees and coordinator of



Senator Lorraine Beebe

Michigan Women's Action Against Crime programs. Senator Beebe has been actively interested in the Right To Work and Freedom to Market issues and has addressed several groups on all subjects.

Her topic, "War on Crime" will further enlighten MFB Women on the many problems of this prevalent issue.

Mrs. Beebe has two children, a son, Peter, attending Yale Divinity school, and a daughter, Anne, at the University of Michigan.

Gov. William G. Milliken to Address State Annual



Governor William Milliken

Governor William G. Milliken has accepted an invitation to address the Michigan Farm Bureau's opening session November 10 at Kellogg Center.

Governor Milliken, a native of Traverse City, was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1964, was re-elected in 1966, after having served four years in the State Senate. He became Michigan's governor January 22, 1969, upon the resignation of Governor Romney.

The Governor is a graduate of Yale University and has received

honorary Doctor of Law degrees from the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University and from the Detroit Institute of Technology. He is a member of the Board of Counselors of Smith College, Northampton, Mass., and served for three years as a trustee of Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City.

Governor Milliken was a gunner in World War II and holds the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters and the European Ribbon with 3 battle stars.

Governor Milliken is a past president of Scenic Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America and the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce; is a member of the Board of Directors, Greater Michigan, Inc., and was chairman of the Grand Traverse County Republican Committee for six years. He was appointed to the Michigan Waterways Commission by former Governor Kim Sigler and served on this commission from 1947 to 1955. He is also a member of the Rotary club.

The Millikens (Mrs. Milliken is the former Helen Wallbank of Colorado) have two children, Bill, Jr., and Elaine.

Charter Members Add Prestige —

Michigan Farm Bureau is justly proud of its charter members. These members have been an important part of Farm Bureau . . . not only on the county level but at the state and national levels as well.

As of September 25, nearly 100 family memberships have been reported as having been Farm Bureau members since its inception in 1919.

Members, under the head-of-family names and by county are: Barry: Harry B. Babcock, Ralph C. Pennock and Fred A. Smith; Berrien: Russell C. File and Adolph H. Knott; Branch: Otto O. Barnes; Calhoun: Seth Berklund, Charles Crandall, Fred Fase and Glen Moore; Charlevoix: Clinton Blanchard and Joseph Leu; Clinton: Ione C. Anderson, James

Campbell, C. S. Langdon, Anna Simcox and Elmer Swigart.

Ingham county: George Frost, Edith Rainey, Harold Spink and Clifford Ward.; Ionia: A. J. Chamberlain, C. J. Cook, James McDowell, Iril Shilton and Mark Westbrook; Kent: Ellis Peck and Clarence Ulberg; Mason: Emery A. Kinney, Sr.; Midland: Simon J. Murphy and Claude Oswald; Muskegon: John Bull; Oceana: Pearl Ackley, Forrest Dunham, George Fleming, Leslie Flood, Ward Hillihand, Loren Goodrich, Bertha Heer, Claus Johnson, Robert Jones, Roy McCarty and Gerald Rouse; Ottawa: William Berter, Alex Kooster and Clarence Umlor; Saginaw: Carl F. Abraham, Elsa Frahm, Clarence Miller and Martin Winterstein; Sanilac: Ward G. Hodge, Lewis

Klaty, Wesley J. Mahaffy and Paul Schroeder; St. Clair: Muriel L. Clyne, William Hildebrand, Irene Hitchings, Wesley Ledebuhr, Katheryn G. Parsons, George Pohl, Clarence J. Reid, Howard A. Smith, Sr. and Glenn Sutton.

Shiawassee: Philip Holzhauser, Sr.; Tuscola: Milton Bender, Ethel Bender, Rudolph C. Humm, Wylie Kird, Mary Alice Lane, Bessie Monte and Adolph Woelfle; Van Buren: Zard Bachelder, J. Bernard Begeman, Stanley R. Cornish, Dean L. Foster, John S. Fritz, Ward Hood, Grace McGowan, Earl Morehouse, Miller Overton, Elizabeth Robinson, Lawrence Spencer, Earl A. Thomas, Leua R. Webster, Lowell A. Williams, David Woodman and John G. Woodman.

As other names come into the office, they will be printed in the November issues of Farm News.





capitol report

Governor Milliken signs 326 Bills!

by Robert E. Smith

After one of the longest legislative sessions on record, 337 bills were passed. Of these, Governor Milliken has signed into law 326. The Governor vetoed 11 bills, plus two other vetoes on line items within a bill, and one bill became law without his signature.

Farm Bureau works closely with the Legislature, but a great deal of time is also spent in working with various departments of government, such as Agriculture, Revenue, Tax Commission, Health, Labor, etc. Very often, there are more issues affecting farmers that are of a "regulatory" nature than there are issues of a "legislative" nature.

EDUCATION

This year's state aid for schools was increased by \$89 million, making a total of \$847.7 million. In general, the formula is simple to previous years; however, it is now a two-part formula instead of the previous four-part formula. Poorer districts will receive more money.

An effort was made to reform financing of education. The "Spencer Program," supported by Farm Bureau, came very close to Farm Bureau's policy as determined by the voting delegates. It is still alive in the committee and is presently the only comprehensive program before the Legislature.

The Legislature returns on October 6 to spend full time on educational reform, including financing. At that time, the Governor's Education Reform Commission's recommendations will be considered. Farm Bureau has presented various materials to the Commission based on present policies and is also representing agriculture on the 43-member Advisory Committee.

There were many education bills. Expansion of Vocational Education was given a boost by permitting Intermediate Districts to own and operate Vo-Ed facilities if approved by the constituents districts. Nothing passed the Legislature on education issues contrary to Farm Bureau policies.

TAXATION

Some important taxation passed in line with Farm Bureau policies. H. 2210, requires that notice be given to the property owner of any assessment increase and it must advise him of the time of the Board of Review meeting, so that he has full opportunity to appeal. The bill had a lot of opposition. An amendment that was put on at the last minute eliminates this requirement if 30% or more of the property valuations in the assessing district are increased. This became Farm Bureau policy through the recommendation of the Alcona County Farm Bureau. In many areas, property owners' assessments were

increased without their knowledge and when the tax statement came it was too late to appeal. Another similar bill passed, requires the State Tax Commission to notify the local unit of any actions which result in changes in assessments.

Another important bill that finally passed should help in proper assessment of farm lands. H. 3582, as finally passed, requires the assessor to consider "zoning, existing use, and present economic income of structures."

The land assessment bill, H. 2533, which would cut farm land assessment in half, if zoned exclusively for agriculture, and provide for a three-year rollback at the time of the sale of the property, passed the House by a slim three-vote margin and is still alive in the Senate Taxation Committee. An amendment was placed on it in the House that will require considerable work on the bill in order for it to finally pass.

Several undesirable tax bills stayed in committee, including one removing the agricultural sales tax exemption. This continues to be a problem, not only in the Legislature, but also in the regulations and interpretations of the Revenue Department. Farm Bureau is involved in at least two cases — one which is now before the Tax Court of Appeals. Should this case be lost, several items of farm equipment would no doubt become liable to the sales tax.

All tax exemptions are being scrutinized by the Senate Taxation Committee. Included is the exemption on fruit trees, vines, bushes, farm crops such as wheat, hay, etc. It is claimed that \$100 million of valuation is lost due to this one exemption. The exemption on farm personal property is also under study. It is claimed that \$450 million of valuation, or \$10-\$20 million of tax, is lost in this case and also that another \$15 million of sales tax is lost due to the agricultural exemption.

Most of the undesirable labor bills either remained in committee, were returned to the committee or laid on the table until the Legislature returns. H. 2943, which would have increased the Commission on Agricultural Labor from seven to nine members, giving complete control to non-farm people — was defeated in the House.

A bill passed that will affect farm employers, H. 2297 brings agricultural, domestic and public employers under the law requiring the payment of wages at least every two weeks (e.g. wages earned from the first through fifteenth of the month must be paid by the first day of the following month). An itemized statement of deductions must also be furnished to the employee. The law does not apply to workers paid daily on a piece rate basis. If an employee leaves his job he must

be paid the wages earned and due at the time of leaving within three days after demand. This should not create any problem for farmers, as other existing laws, both state and federal, have many of the same requirements.

Several workmen's compensation and minimum wage bills were introduced, some would have created a serious burden on farmers. One workmen's compensation bill passed, which was merely a rewrite and clarification of legal language. The bill was 83 pages long, but no specific changes of consequence were involved.

Minimum wage legislation, together with other labor bills, are still alive and no doubt will be major issues in the session beginning in January, especially since some newspapers have been publishing a series of articles regarding migrant labor. In most cases these articles have not been objective, and are often misleading.

Some labor legislation that is still alive would be in the best interest of all employers. For instance, one bill would place a three-year statute of limitations on workmen's compensation. There is presently no limit. In other words, an employee claim for injury would have to be made within three years after its occurrence. The limitation would not apply to certain lung diseases or radiation illnesses.

Other pending legislation would be more restrictive on wages, hours, workmen's compensation, seasonal worker housing, etc.

AGRICULTURE

All of the strictly agricultural bills supported by Farm Bureau passed and have become law. These include a substantial increased indemnity for cattle with tuberculosis or brucellosis. In the case of tuberculous cattle, the indemnity payment was increased for grade animals from \$25 up to \$100 payment over salvage value and purebred animals were increased from \$50 up to \$150 indemnity above salvage value. In the case of Bangs Disease, the indemnity payment was increased from \$12.50 up to \$50 for a grade animal and from \$25 up to \$100 for a purebred animal. Another bill would not permit indemnity on animals brought into the state that have been "exposed to the disease."

Various minor dairy bills passed — involving licensing of milk fat testers; rules and regulations on container volumes and also on definition of low-fat milk; another redefines low-fat cottage cheese, eggnog and related foods.

The Apiary Inspection Law was updated on registration provisions. The pesticide bill to require licensing of "indoor applicators" passed one house and is still alive. Another pesticide bill which Farm

Bureau fought strenuously a year ago was again introduced but remained in committee.

Two meat inspection bills pertaining to the financing of meat inspection and the inspection of meat processors were supported by Farm Bureau but remained in the Appropriations Committee. Unless these bills or similar legislation are passed, the entire meat inspection program can be taken over by the federal government.

The three marketing bills which were introduced at Farm Bureau's request — requiring price announcement by processors of fruits and vegetables; the deduction of marketing fees for marketing organizations and a third requiring payment to the producer for fruits and vegetables within 60 days of delivery, are still alive in committee. H. 3332, requiring payment for produce within 60 days, finally passed the House; however, it became an extremely controversial issue. The Senate Committee reported it out, but a fight developed on the floor regarding the type of penalty and it was returned to committee. It is still alive.

Farm Bureau successfully opposed a bill that would have removed the triangular shape restrictions on oleo. The purpose of this law is to make it possible for the consumer to know whether he is served butter or oleo.

At least two resolutions were introduced in the House supporting the California grape boycott. So far, they have remained in committee; however, there was one strong attempt to report them out.

The processors lost in their effort to exempt raw, in-process and processed farm products from the personal property tax. The bill was returned to committee and is still alive. This legislation indirectly is in the best interests of agriculture.

The expiration date for licensing of CA storage for fruits and vegetables was changed from August 31 to November 1 of each year.

Many important agricultural research projects supported by Farm Bureau were maintained, others were added. Such projects now include bean plant research, vegetable and fruit research, pesticide research, mastitis in dairy cattle, beef cattle forage, soft white winter wheat, sod production, mechanization of harvesting, extending peach tree life, cattle and swine infertility and fruit and vegetable weather adaptability. This totals \$5,344,260. These are carried on by the Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU. In addition, Farm Bureau supported the important appropriations for the Agricultural Department.

Another bill important to Michigan wineries, and also indirectly affecting grape growers, passed to

extend the time that wineries have to apply for tax refunds on wine grapes. This is a continuation of previous years' legislation designed to help Farm Bureau's grape marketing program.

OTHER LEGISLATION

Legislation passed requiring the reflectorization of license plates. The Farm Bureau Women's Committee was active in support of this legislation as a safety measure. States having reflectorized license plates show a considerable decrease in nighttime accidents. This has also proved true with the Farm Bureau-supported slow-moving vehicle emblem. Statistics show that accidents involving rear-end collision on farm implements have dropped over 32%.

Considerable work was done by Farm Bureau in amending bills that define "public waters" and also defining private ponds and the size of dams. As originally written, these pieces of legislation would have seriously hampered the water rights of farmers and would have placed undue restrictions on dams used for irrigation ponds, etc.

The farmers' old friend, the "Horton Trespass Act" was amended extending its provisions to fishing, snowmobiling and privately-owned, fenced wild lands.

Several amendments were made to the election laws, many of which attempt to clarify the obvious weaknesses of the laws as shown by the Daylight Saving Time recount. Farm Bureau members that worked on this project will recall many obvious weaknesses. One law will require the County Board of Canvassers to examine and approve ballot boxes used in elections. Another provides specific methods of processing absent voters' ballots. Other bills amended the recount procedures. For instance, one new law provides for an automatic recount in elections where results vary by 2000 votes or less. Still another law requires the state to furnish proper devices for locking and sealing ballot boxes. Another important election change requires that any issue on the ballot must be so worded that a "yes" vote is a vote in favor of the proposition.

Another new bill that will be useful to all householders permits the recipient of unsolicited goods through the mail to consider the goods as an unconditional gift or may refuse delivery, but, in any event, is not obliged to return them and may use or dispose of them in any way.

Several safety bills passed, including a requirement of gun training for juveniles before a license is permitted and the requirement of wearing a helmet on motorcycles.



Golden Spotlight on Farm Bureau Women

The Michigan Farm Bureau Women's State Annual meeting in November promises to have many highlights . . . maybe a few more than in previous years . . . when the golden spotlight hits this active group of ladies as they observe Michigan Farm Bureau's 50th Anniversary.

According to Helen Atwood, Coordinator, Women's Activities, Senator N. Lorraine Beebe, Michigan State Legislature, will be the keynote speaker at the noon luncheon to be held in the Big 10 Room at Kellogg Center November 10. In addition to this highlight, a State Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be elected and adding more golden glamour to this occasion . . . a state style review by the ladies will have a place of prominence.

Months of planning have gone into this program. Just as in every other phase of the 50th Anniversary celebration . . . the Women, as usual, have come through with many worthwhile parts of this 3-day meeting.

In addition to Senator Beebe's address on War On Crime, the current Women's chairman, Mrs. Maxine Topliff, will give her annual report; awards will be presented to county women's committees for outstanding achievement over the past year and there will be some group singing.

The Style Review . . . a result of a year long program . . . will be put on by county participants. These ladies have been participating in a needlecraft contest within their counties, and winning contestants will model their award-winning clothing. A special display of other needlework will be set up.

Tickets for the luncheon are to be obtained from respective County Farm Bureau Secretaries.

Further and more detailed plans will be announced in the November Farm News and through your newsletter.

Program of Work

Michigan Farm Bureau Women have developed a full program of work for 1970.

These program recommendations are the result of hours of planning by the State Women's Committee and promises "to involve more Farm Bureau Women in County Farm Bureau activities to strengthen Farm Bureau as an organization, and through it, make a better life morally, socially and economically."

Recommended are activities that will include participation in the membership campaign, community group promotion and developing and activating Farm Bureau policies.

The Women also hope to be come active in "local affairs" . . . such as working with local government officials on such matters as taxes, fire and police protection, welfare, schools, health and safety projects and to study their schools' curriculum. The promotion of Michigan's agricultural commodities, it is hoped, will also be a F. B. Women's project and the promotion of rural-urban activities was included in this coming year's Program of Work.

Plans are also being completed for the Washington Legislative Seminar, sponsored annually by Michigan Farm Bureau Women. It is scheduled for March 16-19, 1970.



Maxine Topliff, (Mrs. Jerold), is completing her first two year term as State Committee Women's Chairman. She is the only announced candidate for this position. Maxine and her husband farm in Eaton Rapids and also process maple syrup. They have three children . . . two of them, Carolin and Donald . . . are completing their educational degrees in colleges and Mary Ellen is in high school. Maxine attended Michigan State University, taught one year and has held leadership positions in her county, district and state Farm Bureau Women's activities. She also works with 4-H, Eastern Star and in her church and school.



Doris Wieland of Ellsworth, is a candidate for MFB Women's State Committee Vice-chairmanship. Doris is the wife of Richard Wieland, MFB Board of Director and the mother of four children, two daughters, Kathy and Suzanne and two sons, Dan and Lind. Doris has served on many local and state Women's Committees and is active in 4-H, her school and church and a number of conservation study groups. The Wieland's have a 700 acre dairy farm, in partnership with Mr. Wieland's brother.



Ann Campau, (Mrs. Francis), is seeking the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee vice-chairmanship, following up on a recommendation from Evelyn Rogers, Kent County Women's chairman. Ann is Women's Representative of the Snow Farm Bureau Committee and chairman of District 4 Farm Bureau Women's Committee. She has been active in election and jury duties, her church, 4-H, her political party and other women's organizations. Ann and her family live on a dairy farm in Alto and have 3 children, Robert, Susan and John.

Pause for Reflections

"Been a-fishin'". Had a good time too . . . even caught some fish in our favorite lake in Canada. Fishing can teach some very good practices for everyday use. In order to catch fish, one has to be persistent and patient. I can't think of a single thing we learn to do, that doesn't require persistence and patience, can you?

Being out on a beautiful lake makes one realize more than ever, how wonderful our "Creator" is.

Your State Farm Bureau Women's Committee has spent a great deal of time in doing some serious planning and thinking on ways that we can be more effective in strengthening and reinforcing action programs in our county Farm Bureaus. I do hope you will think seriously on the suggestions given you as you consider your programs and projects for the coming year. Stretch your imagination on some new worthwhile project.

Schools back in session and we must be alert in the morning for the young people going to meet their buses. Don (our son) is back at Michigan Tech and Carolin (our daughter) and her Mike have returned to Utah State where they are completing their Master's degrees. It's been a fun and busy summer!

From summer, to fall and now a thought for winter! With all those zippers 'coming up' soon, rub a little soap on them to keep them going up smoothly!

Have a little personality test for you. Have you noticed any unfriendly people lately? If so, take a long look into the mirror. Study yourself. Do you see enthusiasm and a look of well-being? Try a ready smile. Stand up straight and put a little spring in your step. Soon you will notice that everyone is friendly. Maybe you just hadn't taken time to notice them or yourself. SMILE!

Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

District Meetings

Michigan Farm Bureau's 50th Anniversary has been one of the main topics of interest at all Farm Bureau Women's meetings this year. The same subject is sure to be further discussed at their district meetings, along with the many other topics on their agenda.

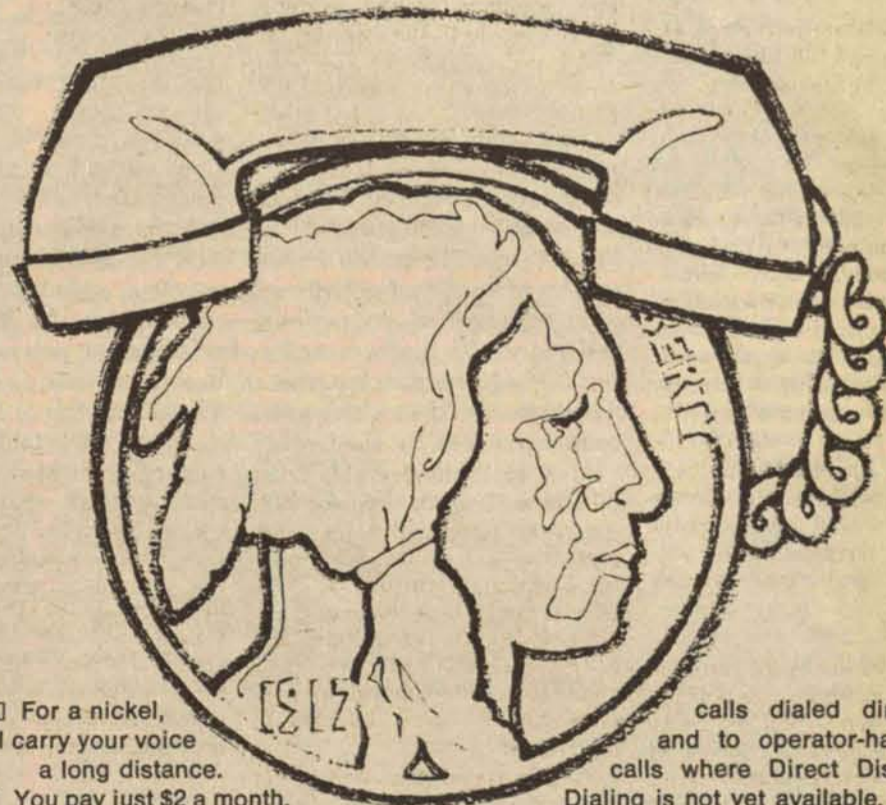
District meetings scheduled are: October 2, District 9; October 7, District 7; October 8, District 8; October 9, District 3; October 15, District 4; October 20, District 5; October 21, District 6; October 22, District 10-W; October 28, District 2 and October 30, District 1.

Leaders in Farm Bureau Women's activities have also been named to state committees. Mrs. Margaret Wilke, Lapeer, Mrs. Bessie DeGroot, Bellevue and Mrs. Martha Baker, Merrill, were elected to the State Safety Committee. Mrs. Margaret Kartes, West Branch, will continue to serve as chairman and Mrs. Alice Burandt, St. Joseph, as a committee member.

Mrs. Leora Smith, Hastings; Mrs. Claudine Jackson, Howell and Mrs. Kartes are members of the State Scholarship committee. Mrs. Smith is the newly elected member. The State Women's chairman is an ex-officio member.

Mrs. Maxine Swindlehurst, Mt. Pleasant and Mrs. Maud Bristol, Durand, are newly elected members of the State U & I (Understanding and Information) committee. Other members are Mrs. Doris Wieland, Ellsworth, chairman; Mrs. Ann Campau, Alto and the vice-chairman of the State Women's committee.

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- You can call your kids away at school, relatives across the state, or friends living anywhere in Michigan.
- Nickel-a-Minute service applies only to station-to-station

calls dialed direct, and to operator-handled calls where Direct Distance Dialing is not yet available.

Call our Business Office and ask for Nickel-a-Minute service. It's a nice way to get out of town in a hurry.



October is Cooperative Month



GOV. MILLIKEN SIGNED . . . a Proclamation Sept. 23 naming October Michigan Cooperative Month. Looking on were (l. to r.) Alfred Roberts, Gen. Mgr., Mich. Elevator Exchange; MFB President Elton Smith; MAFC Chr. Eugene Erskine and L. A. Cheney, Exec. Sec. MAFC.

Tax Reform—How? What?

There are two provisions of the "Tax Reform Act of 1969" that should be of particular concern to farmers: 1. The elimination of the 7% Investment Credit; and 2. Punitive provision changing the requirements for farm cooperative patronage payments.

Placing our attention at this time on the cooperative patronage payments, the bill requires cooperatives to increase the percentage of patronage allowance to be paid in cash from 20% to 50%. The increase is to be phased in over a 10-year period starting in 1970. The percentage over 20% that must be paid in cash is: 1970—3%; 1971—6%; 1972—9%, etc. until 1979 and thereafter when it is 30% making a total of 50% to be paid in cash.

The non-cash portion of patronage refunds allocated, beginning with 1970, must be retired with cash within fifteen years.

Kenneth Naden, Executive Vice President of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives said, "Aside from raising havoc with the financing plans of many small farmer cooperatives, the bill breaks new ground in permitting government to set policies that ordinarily are entrusted to a farmer-elected board of directors."

L. A. Cheney, Executive Secretary of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives said, "The proposed legislation would seriously impair the ability of farmers to finance their cooperatives under present basic cooperative structure and philosophy."

"The financial status of our local cooperatives would be seriously affected with the tight money situation. The patronage refunds left with cooperatives provide the organizations with investment capital that otherwise would be difficult to obtain. It would change member equity to debt status making it more difficult for cooperatives to finance their operations. Michigan cooperatives would be forced to pay dividends and finance its operation as prescribed by Congress."

Proposed tax reform legislation provides no added revenue for the federal government.

It is obvious that this unscheduled and hasty action by the committee to cripple farmer cooperatives was engineered by the foes of farmer cooperatives, including the National Tax Equality Association.

Cherries—What Will the Industry Decide?

The 1969 cherry season is now history! It was, to say the least, a frustrating year for all concerned.

Final deliveries did not come up to earlier expectations. The pack figures reflected only 12 million pounds above last year. Yet the grower price reflected only a small portion of last year's income.

This would point up the need to take a careful look at the problems of the cherry industry to see what might be the solution to improve the situation for the future.

The major concern or problem seems to be in the wide fluctuation of market supply. For example, from 500 million pounds in 1964 to less than 180 million pounds in 1967 shows a fluctuation of 200%-300%. This compares to apples with only a 5%-15% range in production between short and long crops.

Along with the fluctuation of the market supply and much to the chagrin of growers and processors alike, we find the price range to follow the same pattern. Grower price of 4.8¢ in 1965 to 18¢ in 1967. Frozen cherries from 10.5¢ in 1965 to 30¢ in 1967.

This information points out the following major problems: (1) Short crops hamper development of new products and expansion of markets; (2) Large crops reflect low prices.

The fluctuating supply is caused by several factors of which weather seems to be the major point. Spring freezes, winter kill, pollination, wind and disease all contribute to an uneven supply, plus, most of the tart cherry production is located in the lake state area which usually has the same weather conditions throughout.

The fluctuating supply reflects an impact on the cherry industry because it (1) hampers development and introduction of new products on a national scale; (2) reduces the number of cherry products for sale; (3) causes consumer and institutional buyers to get out of the buying habit for cherry products; (4) restricts promotional activities by retailers, restaurants, etc.; (5) reduces budget of promotional organizations; (6) limits retail shelf space; (7) limits incentive for sufficient processing facilities; (8) hampers development of foreign markets; and (9) lends to high overhead in short years. These are only a few of the problems caused by fluctuating supply of marketable fruit.

Since fluctuating supply seems to be the problem, what are the alternatives to reduce the uneven supply? (1) Frost protection with orchard heaters, wind machines, etc. (2) Development of new varieties or strains that are more resistant to frost or that bloom and ripen over an extended period. (3) Reduce frost damage with protectant sprays, growth regulators, nutritional adjustments, etc. (4) Storage, set aside, carry-over from large crops to small crop years by (a) individual processors, growers, or others; (b) by industry wide co-ops or corporations; (c) Marketing order. (5) Diversion to secondary uses or non-harvest in large crop years.

The objectives of the alternatives would be to (1) raise income of growers and processors; (2) assure reasonable return on investment, labor and management; (3) facilitate future growth of the industry; (4) improve the efficiency of processing and marketing; (5) maintain a high degree of individual decision making for growers and processors; and (6) reduce short run risk by eliminating the wide fluctuation of volume and price.

The alternatives can be grouped into two main categories.

- A. Action to stabilize or manage production
- B. Action to stabilize or manage supply available

The question is—What is the future of the industry? Which alternative will growers and processors accept? The industry is

Farm Bureau On The Air Accent Agriculture—



WCCW's Jerry Meyer

Listeners in the Traverse City area can catch an abbreviated version of ACCENT AGRICULTURE on WCCW's "Community Comment" feature. As we get the story from Jerry Meyer, WCCW's early morning man, the double A shortie is heard on Fridays at 6:35 a.m., 8:35 a.m., 1:35 p.m., and 10:45 p.m. WCCW opens their telephone lines so listeners can comment on what they heard on the air. Over in Alma, WFYC listeners are tuning in ACCENT AGRICULTURE at 6:45 a.m., Saturdays. Gary Randall, the station's program director, says that they have a large country-oriented audience thanks to the work of their farm editor, Gil Thomas, and that the Farm Bureau radio show is one more feature their audience appreciates.



WFYC Gary Randall

Farm Bureau's weekly radio show ACCENT AGRICULTURE, now on 55 stations around the state, has an October that should make interesting listening for everyone. One show is titled "The World Of The Supermarket" and highlights shopper attitudes, the question "When are groceries, groceries?", the ups and downs of food pricing, inflation at the restaurant, and a look inside the market basket. Other shows in

Adrian; Dial 1490	.....	WABJ
Albion; Dial 1260	.....	WALM
Alma; Dial 1280	.....	WFYC
Ann Arbor; Dial 1050	.....	WPAG
Battle Creek; Dial 1400	.....	WKFR
Battle Creek; Dial 1500	.....	WVOC
Bay City; Dial 1250	.....	WXOX
Benton Harbor;		
Dial 1060	.....	WHFB
Big Rapids; Dial 1460	.....	WBRN
Cadillac; Dial 1370	.....	WWAM
92.9	.....	WWAM-TV
Caro; Dial 1360	.....	WKYO
Charlotte; Dial 1390	.....	WCER
Cheboygan; Dial 1240	.....	WCBY
Chicago, Illinois;		
Dial 720	.....	WGN
Coldwater; Dial 1590	.....	WTVB
Detroit; Dial 950	.....	WWJ
Dowagiac; Dial 1440	.....	WDOW
Flint; Dial 910	.....	WFDF
Gaylord; Dial 900	.....	WATC
Grand Rapids;		
Dial 1570	.....	WFUR
Grand Rapids;		
Dial 1410	.....	WGRD
Hancock; Dial 920	.....	WMPL
Hillsdale; Dial 1340	.....	WCSR
Holland; Dial 1450	.....	WHTC
Houghton Lake;		
Dial 1290	.....	WHGR
Ionia; Dial 1430	.....	WION
Iron River; Dial 1230	.....	WIKB
Ishpeming; Dial 1240	.....	WJPD
Kalamazoo; Dial 1360	.....	WKMI
Kalamazoo; Dial 1420	.....	WKPR
Lapeer; Dial 1230	.....	WMPC
Lapeer; Dial 1530	.....	WTHM
Ludington; Dial 1450	.....	WKLA
Marine City; Dial 1590	.....	WSMA
Marinette, Wisconsin;		
Dial 570	.....	WMAM
Menominee; Dial 1340	.....	WAGN
Midland; Dial 1490	.....	WMDN
Munising; Dial 1400	.....	WGON
Niles; Dial 1290	.....	WNIL
Owosso; Dial 1080	.....	WOAP
Rockford; Dial 810	.....	WJPW
Rogers City; Dial 960	.....	WHAK
Saginaw; Dial 1210	.....	WKNX
Sandusky; Dial 1560	.....	WMIC
Sault Ste. Marie;		
Dial 1230	.....	WSOO
Southfield; Dial 1270	.....	WXYZ
Sturgis; Dial 1230	.....	WSTR
Three Rivers; Dial 1510	.....	WKLM
Traverse City;		
Dial 1310	.....	WCCW

October will feature Mary Beck, one-time candidate for mayor of Detroit, discussing law and order; a Cuban telling about life under Castro; an interesting way to keep unwanted hunters off your land; and WJR personality Bud Guest on the subject of pot-bellied stoves. For an interesting October on radio, be sure to listen to ACCENT AGRICULTURE.

at a crossroads and cannot avoid a decision. Grower leaders believe there is a solution that will be acceptable and in the best long-run interests of the industry.

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association Red Tart Cherry Division has taken the initiative to develop a program acceptable to the total cherry industry. Chairman Rodney Bull of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association Red Tart Cherry committee appointed a sub committee of growers and related industry people headed by Pete Morrison to develop a possible solution of stabilizing the supply of cherries to the market as opposed to stabilizing actual production.

The development of a program is intended to improve the industry position by implementing an orderly marketing program in place of the present hap-hazard effort.

Understanding and participation by all members of the cherry industry will surely help in solving the complex problems which face cherry people today.

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION —PICTORIAL REPORT



MORE THAN 35 TONS — of red tart, semi-frozen cherries in 30 # tins, were sold in 7 counties in July as part of a sales promotion by MFB. The sale supported the theory that cherries can be sold at the right price.



"YOU KNOW . . . I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A FARM —" said J. P. McCarthy (left) when he talked with Jim Sayre, (right) Wayne County farmer and new Michigan Farm Bureau Board member, on WJR's FOCUS show recently. J. P. found that Jim is a true 20th Century farmer and top-caliber business man . . . as any farmer needs to be in this era.



OVERSEES FARM PROGRAMS — The newly-appointed executive director of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service Programs in Michigan, Dorn Diehl, (left) briefs U. S. Senator Robert P. Griffin on farm problems in the state. Diehl said inflation and steadily rising farming costs hurt farm families the most.



JOHN K BULL (center), 87 years young — begins his 51st year as a Farm Bureau member in Muskegon county. He gave his check for dues to his son, Kenneth Bull (right) MFB Board of Directors member. Looking on is Ken's son, Tim, a senior horticulture student at MSU.



ONE OF THE BILLS SIGNED — by Gov. William Milliken was of importance to Michigan wineries and to Farm Bureau grape growers. The bill extends the time that wineries have to apply for tax refunds on wine grapes. Looking on are MFB legislative counsels, Bob Smith, Dale Sherwin and Leo Bolen, Pres. Mich. Wine Institute and Frank Koval, Exec. Sec. Mich. Wine Inst.



A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE — was installed near the east entrance of the Chicago LaSalle hotel September 10, recognizing the founding of the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF President Charles Shuman (left) and Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith attended the event.



THE PEACH RIDGE FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION — comprised of more than 200 members and their wives were hosts to almost 600 guests at the 20th Apple Smorgasbord September 9. Dozens of dishes . . . all featuring apples in some form . . . were served from gay red and white checkered tablecloths in the storage facility and on the lawn of the Franklin Reister and Sons Farms in Ottawa county.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE FARMER

—SYNOPSIS—

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

THE DEPRESSION

By 1932 the depression had taken its toll in every American city and town, and in nearly every home. No day lacked its companies going bankrupt or its bank failures. Businesses that stayed open layed off employees right and left. Lined up outside every employment office, vying with unskilled laborers and even bums and hoboos for jobs as ditch-diggers, nightwatchmen, janitors, and messengers, were men who still dressed like corporation presidents, architects, advertising executives, and civil engineers. Those who weren't hired sought out the bread and soup line instead, which by then was an ugly, omnipresent, everyday fact, or panhandled, or sold apples along the street, or returned to a park bench to brood. Life had reduced itself to its most basic element, survival.

And the depression was a time of indignity and shame. Parents kept children with shabby clothes at home rather than broadcast their poverty. Pride also kept people from applying for the dole. Moreover, relief was then mainly distributed by local authorities, few of whom were trained for such work. They were likely to regard the poor as wards of the public, as they did chronic drunkards and the feeble-minded, and to handle the poor as such. For as in earlier days in this country, when forests were being cleared and land broken for the first time — when there was a shortage of men and not jobs — idleness was still considered sinful. An unemployed person was either shiftless or not looking hard enough for work. The moral fiber of men would be seriously weakened if relief was too easily available; they might then prefer not to work. Relief should be granted only when all other resources had been exhausted, and only after the applicant had been required to reveal most ignominiously the reasons for his needing the dole. The depression had to reach its greatest depths — unemployment had to become long-term as well as widespread — before a working majority of the populace would concede that there were reasons other than shiftlessness that idled men. Indeed, the naive notion that idleness is sinful per se has not yet wholly vanished from our society.

Individuals who were fortunate enough to hold onto their jobs felt insecure. They might be let go the next day; if they were re-

tained, their wages might be cut deeply again and again. But they were working at the moment, and that was all that mattered. Even so, it was a distressing thing to have a friend come begging for a job, any kind of job, or for a promise of work so he could get his credit extended, or at least get a loan to tide him over until something turned up.

Things were as bad on the farm, as many young couples who returned home to live with their parents were to learn. Farm prices had been halved since 1929; farm income was only one-third of what it had been three years before. When creditors began to foreclose and dispossess the farmer, he lost the one advantage, that of being able to grow his own food, that he might have had over city folk. Resentment grew. Farmers gathered at auctions of a neighbor's farming equipment and personal possessions and they would hold the bidding down. They would bid five cents for a hay loader, one cent for a set of chairs, three cents for a piano, promptly returning the owner's possessions to him. As foreclosures increased legislatures enacted emergency laws postponing payment, but the farmer saw his whole world collapsing, and he was close to violence. He resisted evictions, sometimes by arms, and armed pickets set up road blocks to stop produce from being shipped to market. In January, 1933, Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, warned the United States Senate, that "unless something is done for the American farmer we will have a revolution in the countryside within less than twelve months."

We were at this time fighting our own desperate battles to keep the Michigan State Farm Bureau alive. In the fall of 1931, to buy seed at thirteen dollars a bushel we had obtained large loans from both the City National Bank and the Capital National Bank in Lansing, the First National of Detroit and from the Central United National Bank in Cleveland. City National closed its doors in December, 1931, after deposits in one year had shrunk from \$25 million to \$5 million. The officers of City National spent the Christmas holidays turning its affairs over to Capital National. When the selling price of seed fell to six dollars a bushel retail, Capital National got edgy, and no wonder, for our loans from it now totalled \$184,000. In November, 1932, Capital National failed. It

was taken over by the Union Guardian Trust Company of Detroit.

Mr. Charles Bryan came in December to Lansing with instructions from Guardian Trust to force the payment of all loans, and none more so than loans to the Bureau. Accordingly, when our first seed note fell due, Bryan refused to renew it. Though I assured him that given time the Bureau would be able to repay the loan in full, he remained adamant. At my persistent urging, he agreed to examine the records of the Bureau. Louis Thomas, Manager of the Farm Bureau Services, and I spent several hours with Bryan. We hammered away at the fact that if our assets were liquidated to settle the loan, that Guardian Trust would lose \$80,000 to \$100,000. Bryan eventually said he would go along with us. If anyone at the collection window gave us any trouble, we were to see him.

Hardly had we finished with Bryan before the Central United Bank of Cleveland sent an overseer to our warehouse, who was to be kept there at our expense. Not a single bag of seed was moved without his express permission. This made it impossible for us to assemble orders for delivery, even from seed inventories covered by loans from other banks. We resented this action of Central United, which a year before had gone to such pains to solicit a loan which we had virtually arranged to make from a Lansing bank. Now Central United was our most impatient and distrustful creditor.

Thomas and I took a train to Cleveland to see the panicky young man who had been assigned to our loan. We elicited no information from him other than that the position of the bank was inflexible. No leniency whatever was to be shown the Bureau. Thomas and I insisted on seeing the boss, who, when he did deign to see us, greeted us coldly. Without preliminaries, he said that the bank's position was firm. We hung on. We told him that unless we were allowed to dispose of the seed through our regular sales outlets, the bank would lose at least half its loan and, moreover, that if their custodian would not permit us to move the seed as orders came in, the seed which was already deteriorating rapidly, would become unsalable. Our worries would then be his, for the bank, not us, would be in the seed business. He then agreed to let us

work our own way out of our difficulties.

Once back in Lansing, Thomas and I, with the help of Gifford Patch, Extension Specialist in Marketing at Michigan State College, worked out a custodian agreement with the Lansing National Bank. All returns from sales of seed would be turned over to Lansing National, which would then pay the other banks in proportion to the size of their loans to the Bureau. The loans were paid off in full in eighteen months, mainly from insurance commissions.

We had of course slashed expenses at the Bureau. Salaries had been cut 10% twice in 1931; in 1932 heads of departments were cut another 25%. The Traffic Department was discontinued and the *Farm Bureau News* was published only once instead of twice each month. Every employee took on additional responsibilities as the staff was drastically reduced. Some paydays we met only half the payroll, paying the balance in preferred stock of the Farm Bureau Services. Commissions from insurance sales alone kept us solvent. State Farm Mutual was enough impressed by our prospects to take over a \$25,000 mortgage on the Farm Bureau Building, for the redemption of which we were being pressed. Though more than \$35,000 on deposit in banks had been lost to us, at the end of 1932 the net worth of the Bureau still stood at \$234,000.

MONEY NEEDED

But the new year bode to be as disastrous as the old. It seemed that the downward turn of business would never stop. Gifford Patch and I went to Chicago to see Paul Kelly, manager of the seed department of the Farmers National Grain Corporation, which had been established by the Department of Agriculture to provide farmers with a membership on the Chicago Board of Trade.

We desperately needed funds. We had a market (farmers were keeping their money in socks) if we could get hold of some seed. The National Grain Corporation had seed but few outlets for it. We arranged for the Bureau to be a sales outlet and purchasing agency for National Grain. The Bureau would be advanced \$10,000, with which it might meet payrolls. One-third of the commissions of the Bureau earned would be applied to repayment of the loan.

The attorney for the National Grain Corporation was Benjamin V. Cohen. Patch and I suggested the Michigan Surety Company of Lansing as guarantor of our performance. Cohen insisted that a surety company from the east be given the contract. We deferred to him, but before the company of his choice could guarantee the bond, it failed. He named a second company from the east, which also failed. The third company of his choice was able to issue the bond.



John F. Yaeger

While these negotiations were taking place, Patch and I became most agreeably acquainted with Cohen. He was a tall, soft-spoken man, I would judge in his late thirties. One word would describe him: brilliant. Yet, unlike so many intellectuals, he accommodated himself most capably to the practical side of things. He worked his way through the technicalities of the loan with meteoric speed. Nor was he without humor. He bore up under our joshing him that after his well of choices ran dry, the Michigan Surety Company would be standing by, ready to guarantee our performance. Only after Benjamin Cohen became one of President Roosevelt's brain-trusters did I truly appreciate the measure of the man.

Late in February, 1933, I went to Chicago to sign the final papers and collect the advance of \$10,000 from the Farmers National Grain Corporation. Governor William Comstock, newly installed in office, had just placed a moratorium on bank operations throughout the state in an effort to preclude a general financial collapse. Banks in Chicago were shaky, but still open. I wanted to convert the check into cash in Chicago and then to send the \$10,000 to Lansing by express.

The check was placed in my hands on a Thursday, just before three o'clock, bank closing time. I rushed out on the narrow sidewalk and hurried to the Continental Illinois National Bank, where the Michigan State Farm Bureau maintained a checking account in connection with its feed business. I'm afraid I jostled several people rudely on my way to the bank. Once a policeman took me by the arm to slow me down. I slipped through the iron gates of the bank as they were being closed. I shoved my hand through window 37 as it was falling. The teller obligingly raised the window, and being satisfied that I had the authority to endorse the check, he promised to ship the cash by express that night to Lansing.

The pleasure I felt at having got the money left me during my walk to the railroad station that evening to catch the sleeper back to Lansing. The weather was cold and windy, as it can be only in Chicago. It seemed that the people I saw, shivering in whatever clothes they were wearing, were walking the streets because they had no place to go to get warm. Those who were hanging around the railroad station to get warm resembled vagrants under the ghostly half-light and were likely to be picked up by the police as such at the urging of the railroad. Not that the railroad did not have its problems. The railroad could not afford to let the station shelter the vagrant part of the population of Chicago. Someone had to house the homeless. But I could not help but be concerned with wondering who would take on the responsibility.



B. F. Hennink

The newsboys were crying that Chicago banks would not close, not on the morrow, anyhow. That eased me. Yet on my getting to Lansing in the morning, the big news was that Chicago banks had not opened. The \$10,000 might be frozen in the Continental Illinois National Bank. I would have to wait. To my inexpressible comfort the money arrived the next day, on a Saturday, in a very tidy, surprisingly small package. I carried the package directly to the Bank of Lansing, where James Wilford, the executive vice-president, opened the side door for me, and put the money in a vault for safe keeping over the weekend.

On Monday morning, Gilbert Griswold, assistant treasurer of the Bureau, informed me that enough cash had been collected from accounts receivable to meet half the semi-monthly payroll, which is all I had expected to do with the \$10,000. The other half of salaries we would continue to pay in preferred stock of the Bureau. Farmers were keeping their money at home now, in tin cans, mattresses, and socks, instead of banking it, and were paying bills in cash. (In fact, farmers preferred to do anything with their money to keep from putting it in banks, as we learned later in 1933, when the Bureau sold 7% preferred stock to finance the building of a bulk petroleum station at Eau Claire. Subscriptions ranging from \$100 to \$3,500 quickly exhausted the issue.) Since we could remain operative by pressing local coops to pay their accounts in currency, Assistant Treasurer Gilbert Griswold kept the \$10,000 in the Farm Bureau vault until the direct emergency arose. In 1934 it was placed in our checking account and used to pay current bills.

Meanwhile an economic revolution was taking place in the country. Prices continued their sickening decline in the first months of 1933. The value of the dollar as measured against goods climbed and climbed. Bank after bank failed and money got scarcer and scarcer. Most people attributed money trouble to the mismanagement of the bankers, who, in general, were cursed in very round terms. The Michigan State Farm Bureau, with several other state and national organizations, went so far as to propose that the control of money and credit be placed in government-owned central banks, "which would be operated solely in the interest of the public." If more money were not put in circulation to raise prices, it appeared that deflation would be the ruin of everyone and everything. The Emergency Banking Act, passed by Congress during the national bank moratorium in March, 1933, was an encouraging sign, as the abandonment of the gold standard was to be in April. The Emergency Banking Act permitted the federal government to issue money against the gold bullion and gold currency it bought up, and the subsequent lowering of the gold content of the dollar meant that more money could be issued against the gold the government had at hand.

The passage of the National Recovery Act in June fired the whole nation with hope. Under NRA, industries would voluntarily set up codes of employment and establish "fair" prices, thereby eliminating sweat shops and price cutting, both of which were intensifying deflationary trends. By midsummer nation-wide codes and price agreements were introduced into many industries. Industrial prices began to rise immediately.



THE 1935 MFB BOARD OF DIRECTORS . . . had their problems . . . mostly about money. Members of the Board were, front row, left to right, J. J. Jakway, Clark L. Brody, W. E. Phillips, W. W. Billings, Mrs. Edith Wagar and M. B. MacPherson. Second row, left to right, C. S. Langdon, O. R. Gale, Chas. Woodruff, J. T. Bussey, G. S. Coffman and William Bristow. Back row, left to right, H. S. Sanford, Sidney Hodgson, Paul Begick, E. T. Leipprandt and Clarence J. Reid.

Nor was the welfare of the farmer being overlooked. In May the Agricultural Adjustment Act had been passed by Congress. The first thing to be done was to reduce production to raise prices, of course. But farm prices not only had to be raised in absolute terms; they had to be raised in proportion to the prices the farmer paid for industrial goods. The AAA tried to accomplish this end by paying farmers to kill little pigs and cows, to plow under land (every third row of cotton) already planted, and to withhold fields from cultivation. Payment would come from the taxes imposed on the processing of farm products. The proposed scale of payment would bring the greatest benefit to farmers who acceded to the government's wishes. A second part the AAA established rescue loans for second mortgages, and provided for marketing loans and credits to cooperatives. A third part of the Act further liberalized the monetary policies of the federal government.

Enthusiasm for AAA made speculators active and farm prices rose in June and July. But by December a decline set in again. The difficulty was that the AAA had been passed too late in the year to affect farm prices before 1934. On the other hand, the NRA had taken effect immediately. The farmer, therefore, was in a worse position than ever. In November the Michigan State Farm Bureau declared that the NRA "has been oppressive, rather than helpful." On the state front the Bureau was meanwhile fighting a sales tax that discriminated unfairly against the farmer. The state sales tax was collected on retail sales. The Board of Tax Administration maintained that a "component part," such as a bolt used in the manufacture of an automobile, which was still recognizable as such when the automobile was sold at retail, was exempt from the sales tax. Feed, seed, and fertilizer lost identity during production and therefore did not qualify as "component parts." Not until 1935, by which time Michigan farmers had been paying \$1,000,000 a year through this tax, was a favorable ruling to be made on feed, seed, and fertilizer.

By December, 1933, the Bureau was at its lowest ebb. Membership had plummeted to 1,500 and our net worth was only \$120,000.

By the middle of 1934 the beneficent effects of the AAA began to be felt. Injustices were committed under the name of AAA, to be sure, but there was no denying that it quickly brought the farmer some relief and hope for more. The AAA was to cause difficulty

in future years because, though it was drawn up as a short term measure to meet the desperate needs of the day, our lawmakers have regarded it as if it were the ultimate word in agricultural legislation, as if the farmer could forever rely upon government supports for his income. It is indeed remarkable that a quarter of a century later, when the state of the economy is so utterly different, that most of the basic features of the AAA are still in effect. Our farms still over-produce, we still remunerate farmers for withdrawing land from cultivation, we don't yet know what to do with surpluses. It is no exaggeration to say that if a farmer is content to forego using his initiative and to live on a small income, he can exist by not farming his land. That is to say, it will pay him not to engage in any sort of productive enterprise.

Surely this is a far cry from what the men who conceived the AAA had in mind. In the thirties, the intent was to restore self-respect to men by making it possible for them to work. And the legislative pussy-footing continues — this, despite the fact that the parts of our agricultural economy, such as livestock, which were allowed to operate without controls or subsidy once the crises past, are the only healthy parts. Had succeeding government planners shown the imagination in meeting the needs of the time that were shown in 1933, American agriculture would not be in its present plight.

BETTER TIMES

1934 and 1935 were years of considerable achievement. Except for an ill-chosen venture into the selling of farm machinery and equipment, the Bureau suffered hardly a set-back. Our insurance sales continued to increase at a phenomenal rate. We merged eleven Michigan cooperative creameries, which had operated at a profit even in 1932 and 1933, with those of the Indiana Farm Bureau, thereby forming the Midwest Producers' Creameries. Headquarters were established at South Bend because that city was central to the two states. In conjunction with other organizations, such as the Michigan Education Association, the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Diamond Crystal Salt Company, the Michigan Railroad Association, the General Motors Corporation, and timber and mining interests in the state, the Michigan State Farm Bureau inaugurated the Michigan Industrial Conference to bring into harmony divergent urban and rural viewpoints. Under the direction of Ben Hennink, a former teacher of vocational

agriculture at Charlotte, we established the Junior Farm Bureau Department for people of 19 to 26 years, who are too old for 4-H Club and vocational work, but who are likely to be farming their own land soon.

When cooperatives in Michigan found themselves short of capital in 1934 and 1935, the Michigan State Farm Bureau turned to the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives for aid for them. The St. Paul Bank was reluctant to lend the money unconditionally. Some cooperatives had not been well managed. The Michigan State Farm Bureau therefore agreed to supervise the management of each borrowing cooperative; in return, the Bureau demanded that the cooperatives handle only products of the Bureau. The St. Paul Bank never lost a cent on any of these loans. The cooperatives became major outlets for Bureau products, while retaining control of their own policies.

In the summer of 1935 a meeting of all power companies and farm organizations, as well as interested farmers, was called to deal with rural electrification. A committee, one member of which was Melville B. McPherson of Kent County, a Director of the Michigan State Farm Bureau, was appointed to make recommendations to the Michigan Public Utilities Commission. The Commission eventually ordered power companies to construct lines wherever there were five customers per mile who would guarantee a revenue of \$2.50 a month each. The power companies deemed \$150 per mile per year as a reasonable return on investment and cooperated to the fullest extent. Today, 98% of Michigan farms have electricity, as opposed to 27% before 1935. About that time Rural Electrification Administration came into Michigan to serve thousands of farm customers.

Bureau activities in 1935 were highlighted by a visit to Michigan by Henry A. Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture. The sugar beet acreage had just been cut. Michigan farmers were upset because the sugar quotas from Cuba had been raised. Secretary Wallace agreed to address a meeting at Lapeer on the sugar beet question. The meeting promised to be lively for other reasons as well. Most farm organizations in the thirties stood for high tariffs; Wallace was advocating reciprocal trade agreements. Moreover, farmers had had almost two years to observe the workings of AAA, and there were aspects of it they didn't like.

After I introduced Secretary Wallace, he sauntered to the left

side of the platform and leaned against a projecting sidewall. His hair was ruffled, as it always is in his photographs, a few strands constantly threatening to cascade down over his forehead. He spoke the language of farmers, informal and rather colloquial, spread with homely imagery.

Secretary Wallace temporized not at all with his audience. He maintained that sugar could only be grown economically in warmer climates, that other crops could be grown to better advantage in Michigan, beans for example. But even so, because of the depression, the present acreage allotment exceeded the average of the five years preceding 1933. He defended sugar imports from Cuba. Diminishing imports would hurt the nation because exports would be diminished by the same amount. More reciprocal trade agreements, and ultimately free international trade, would determine what each nation could produce most economically, and each could supply the other with its needs.

Chester Gray, legislative counsel of the American Farm Bureau Federation followed Secretary Wallace on the program, and he reflected the sentiments of the Michigan State Farm Bureau in opposing reciprocal trade agreements. But in the twenty some years that followed, the wheel went full circle. The Bureau today strongly supports reciprocal trade agreements, and the consensus is that each agricultural region should grow what it is best suited to grow. If we don't buy goods from other nations, they will lack funds with which to buy our goods. Again I must note how bold were the theorizing and planning, and how courageous was the activity of the government in the thirties. It was for agriculture an era of innovation, and failing innovation, improvisation. As I have said, it met the needs of the era. Had sound economic adjustments rather than political expediency guided succeeding congresses, today we might not be facing the identical problems of surpluses, price supports, and subsidies.

In 1934 and 1935 the Bureau suffered two grievous losses in personnel. M. L. Noon, president, died on his farm near Jackson in 1934. In 1935, Watson W. Billings of Genesee County, who succeeded Mike as president, also died in office. Perhaps no man is indispensable; certainly the business of the world can and must go on without him. But some of us — Mike Noon and Watson Billings, for instance — are more indispensable than others. Certainly without them things went harder and slower than they might have otherwise. Their passing was a severe personal loss to me.

One other change of moment in personnel occurred at this time. John F. Yaeger was appointed organization director in 1935. Yaeger, a graduate of Michigan State College, had been a Smith-Hughes teacher and, most recently, assistant editor of the *Lapeer County Press*. Under his direction membership jumped more than 50% in one year. The membership has climbed steadily ever since. Yaeger was to display such outstanding administrative talents that he would periodically be given positions of increased responsibility. He would one day become general manager of the Michigan State Farm Bureau.

Next Month —

The Thirties — Post-War Expansion



Battle for the Vineyards

I asked Father Healy to write a series of articles on the grape strike in California because he is so experienced in just this kind of research . . . Raised on a farm in Iowa, he was able to understand the problems of the grape picker and the grower . . . We consider Father Healy's articles the best yet written on the controversy . . . They are a distinct contribution to the cause of Catholic teaching, as applied to the grape strike in California and the futile and ill-considered boycott across the nation.

—Daniel Lyons, S.J. — Editor, Twin Circle
The National Catholic Press

OUTSIDE INFLUENCES

When one reflects on the refusal of the California grape pickers to join the union of Cesar Chavez, and, on the other hand, the cruel willingness of Chavez to call for a national boycott to impose his will upon these workers, one wonders: What is Chavez's real concern? From his operation it would seem that only harm can come — harm to everyone involved in the table-grape industry.

To this prospect the Chavez forces seem to be amazingly callous. Even if the evidence were far less abundant, one would be inclined to suspect a subversive influence. The subversive is interested only in looking like a reformer; at heart, he is a revolutionary. He is genuinely interested, not in repairing our society, but in destroying it.

It is time, therefore, that we directed our attention to the question of subversive or Communist influences in the Chavez movement. We are quite aware of the fact that this is a difficult subject to handle. Thanks largely to the skillful manipulation of subversives themselves, most Americans have developed an acute hypersensitivity to the issue of Communism. Their first inclination is to deny the evidence of Communist involvement. Their second is to admit the involvement but to deny its significance. "All right, the Communists are in the movement — so what?" is their attitude.

The significance of Communists on the Delano (or any other) scene lies, not in their numbers, but in their professional skill. In the psychopolitical battlefields, where political power is the prize, ordinary Americans compare with the Communists like 8th-graders to Ph.D.'s. The Communists' skill consists precisely in their ability to take over Cuba with gullible Cubans, Czechoslovakia with unwary Czechoslovakians, America with misguided Americans.

The evidence of Communist concern and influence in the Chavez movement is both manifest and abundant. In summarizing its study, the California Senate Factfinding Committee on Un-American Activities had to be sufficiently reserved to gain the unanimous approval of the Committee. The Report said: "The evidence shows that the Delano grape strike was of exceptional interest to the Communist Party and the Leftists who supported it. We have not said that the strike was directed by Communists, but it was turned into a civil rights 'movement' and operated as a cause, not a labor dispute. This view is amply supported by the activity of known members of the

Communist Party who were on the scene and aiding the strike almost from its inception. . . ."

The Committee "did not say" that the Communists directed the Chavez operation, neither did it say that it was not directed by the Communists. It merely asserted Communist influence. On the degree of influence, the Committee kept silent.

The Communist concern in the Chavez movement has certainly been considerable. The July 3, 1966, issue of *The Worker* noted that the Communist delegates at their national convention had collected over \$400 for Chavez. More money was requested. The comrades were admonished that the "Farm Workers" who had just brought Schenley to its knees "deserve the unstinting support of all labor and progressive forces." (That means "Communist" forces.)

It is evident that the top brass of the Communist Party made the judgment that "unstinting support" of Chavez will advance the Communist cause. It was for making such judgment that they got their Ph.D.'s. Amateurs, take note!

When one turns to specifics, the first problem one faces is this: what is the relationship between Cesar Chavez and Saul Alinsky. Many sources contend that Alinsky trained Chavez. Chavez is very touchy on this subject. He lost about 98 percent of his composure when I asked him point blank about the Leftist influence in his movement. He explicitly denied being trained by Alinsky. He had never been in Chicago until 1966. It was all a smear!

Alinsky himself helped me most in reconciling the two stories. Chavez got his training under Fred Ross, an influence Chavez admits — "with regular conferences at intervals with me." The training was in California, not Chicago. Ross, it should be noted, was one of Alinsky's prize pupils.

From studying the two men, it is evident that the Alinsky influence on Cesar Chavez has been considerable. But is it Communist? There is more than enough evidence to warrant the question, but most people have fallen short of calling Alinsky a Communist. After watching Alinsky's recent performance at Syracuse University, however, the Mayor of Syracuse complained that Alinsky's function in their War On Poverty program seemed to be to "train agitators" and to teach Marxist doctrines of class conflict. I read Alinsky's *Reville for Radicals*. I saw nothing in the book that would contradict the Mayor's analysis. I saw much that would corroborate it — very much. In my opinion, there is much about

Chavez's conduct to betray an Alinsky influence.

In his *Reville for Radicals*, a handbook for agitators, Alinsky does not permit himself to be tied down to any one objective. He accepts the "overwhelming fact that all problems are related and that they are all the progeny of certain fundamental causes." What he perceives these fundamental causes to be remains shrouded in mystery. His commitment is "not to one goal, but to a direction" — a direction which always seems to be Leftist! His open-ended commitment to no defined goal certainly leaves the door wide open for endless agitation. This is convenient — for the professional agitator. It is inconvenient for those who think they can get the agitators off their necks by yielding to their demands. In making demands the revolutionary is insatiable. Much of his professional skill consists in his ability to invent, fabricate, and embellish agitational issues.

Chavez's objective is as ambiguous as Alinsky's. I asked him what precisely he considered "la causa" to be. Was it wages? Living conditions? Union recognition? Civil rights? Or what? Cesar got lost in a fog. "Well, that varies. To students it means one thing . . . etc., etc." Maybe he did not mean to lose me, but we ended up on another subject. My tape-recorder, too, missed the answer.

Alinsky makes it very clear that a "People's Organization" is not to be "a philanthropic plaything. . . . It is a deep, hard-driving force . . . It is to be 'dedicated to an eternal war.'" To this end, his disciples are counseled to "precipitate the social crisis by action — by using power." He even advises his organizers to have "a fight in the bank" — an agitational issue that they can draw out anytime they need one!

The reason the war must be eternal is that the objective is "social surgery . . . not . . . cosmetic cover-ups." "Ultimate success" consists in "victory over all evils." Whether or not Alinsky is here enjoying that panoramic illusion of Karl Marx he does not tell. What is to be done with opposition? "If the People's Organization is stronger than the opposition, the answer is simple: you just crush the opposition."

Cesar Chavez nurtures a vision similar to that of Alinsky. Apparently he enjoys a similar lack of scruple in trying to realize his dream. His is not a union, but "a combination between a union and a community service group," having a much broader objective than an ordinary union. One would have thought that the sustained refusal of the grape workers to join his "community service group" would have been accepted as final. But it was not. Chavez may have at his disposal the raw force needed to "crush" them into submission! And, if ignorance prevails, he just may!

That is why he is at present calling on Leftist-dominated "People's Organizations" throughout the country to pressure others (especially large retailers) to boycott the table-grape industry. His opposition has a livelihood to lose; he has nothing. Therefore, the gauntlet is down. His ultimatum to workers and growers alike is: surrender, or die!

Two years ago Chavez envisaged this larger contest. Then he wrote in *Ramparts*: "If this spirit grows within the farm labor movement, one day we can use the force that we have to help correct a lot of things that are wrong with this society."

Whether or not Chavez has diagnosed the disease of "this society" and envisages the same solution as the Marxists is not clear. Apparently the Communists think he has. I have a lot of respect for their judgment. This is an area where their competence is superior. Eighth-graders who insist on remaining in the same arena are likely to end up feeding the lions for the Ph.D.'s. They did in Cuba, and in Czechoslovakia.
*July, 1966.

INVASION FROM THE LEFT

The California Senate Factfinding Committee found that the Communists had shown an "exceptional interest" in the operation of Cesar Chavez. Most indicative of their interest was the flood of Leftists that invaded Delano to lend their support to the Chavez forces.

It is not idle curiosity that induces us to focus attention on this invasion. As late as 1967, the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee noted: "The Communist Party, U.S.A., has been a pawn of Soviet subversion operating within the United States and an essential cog in the cold war which the Soviet Communist Party is conducting against the United States. This has been demonstrated repeatedly beyond controversy."

These agents are professionals in the art of political sabotage. Their enthusiasm for Chavez is manifest evidence that they expect his operation, in the long run, to be beneficial to Soviet interests. It is not in our interest to ignore this prospect.

Other Leftists, though less dangerous, also deserve our attention. They bode ill for the country, not only in their own right, but even more because of the contribution they make to the over-all objective of the subversive Left — a contribution the Communist Party values very highly. In treating this subject, I will merely highlight some of the people involved, and indicate some of the published evidence against them. From the information you can form your own conclusions.

In analyzing the evidence it is important to note that we are here trying to identify masters of deceit. The subversive efficiency of an enemy agent is greatly reduced if he can be clearly identified as a subversive. Therefore, we cannot expect to find a lot of conclusive evidence against the more active and consciously subversive agents. On the other hand, a little evidence against this caliber of agent can reasonably be presumed to be significant. We will list the more active members of the Chavez operation first:

Larry Itliong, head of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, the union that first called the strike against DiGiorgio: It was alleged by one source that the Philippine Immigration service refused to permit his return home because of his affiliation with the Communist Party in Seattle and San Francisco. The California Senate 14th Report noted that Sam Kushner, prominent feature writer of the Communists' West Coast *People's World* was "a close associate and confidant of Larry Itliong."

Dolores Huerta, vice president of the Chavez Union: She was an Alinsky trainee. She was chosen to give the victory speech following the Long March into Sacramento. In it she seemed to betray a Marxist infection in her own thinking. Among other things, she said: "The difference between



Rev. Cletus Healy, S.J.

1959 and 1966 . . . is revolution! . . . Workers are on the rise!" She also threatened "a general strike to paralyze the State's agricultural economy."

Wendy Goepel, secretary of the NFWA: Speech writer for Chavez. She participated in the Communist-controlled Youth Festival in Helsinki, Finland, in 1962.

Donna Sue Haber, office manager of the NFWA headquarters: She was one of the founders of the DuBois Clubs of America. She gave as her Berkeley address: 1919 Oregon Street, which is the same as that of Communist Party National Committee member Roscoe Proctor.

Luis Valdez, a propaganda specialist, chosen to head the traveling Farm Workers' Theater during the Long March: in 1964, a year before the March, Valdez had been a month-long guest of Castro. He was accompanied to Cuba by several other students, mostly of the Maoist Progressive Labor Party.

Besides these individuals, unhealthy waves of student activists would descend from time to time upon Delano from the West Coast campuses. Among these were members of SNCC, DuBois Clubs, SDS, Black Panthers, Brown Berets, the Progressive Labor Party, the Vietnam Day Committee, Trotskyite groups, and other groups especially formed to support the Chavez movement.

Concerning the first three, the U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, in a report of October 22, 1965, noted: "The role of these current new left organizations has been summed up by Gus Hall of the Communist Party: 'Fronts are a thing of the past. We don't need them. We have got the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Students for a Democratic Society going for us, but they are not 'fronts' in the usual sense of the word. They're just a part of the 'responsible left' — that portion of American youth that realizes society is sick.'"

When Gus Hall, secretary of the Communist Party, U.S.A., calls these students a part of the "responsible" Left, it means they have diagnosed our social "disease" very much the same way as the Communists have and are participating in programs very conducive to Communist objectives.

NEXT MONTH —

Climax
Communist Group
Activities
Involvement of the
Catholic Church
Delano — A Moral
Appraisal



Notes From All Over

Twenty dedicated Farm Bureau members are serving on the 1969 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development committee. Members-at-large include Dean Pridgeon, Rt. 1, Montgomery, Branch county, who serves as chairman; Franklin Schmidt, Coopersville, Ottawa county, vice chairman; Leslie Dowd, Lawrence, Van Buren; Alton Brooks, Onsted, Lenawee; Glenn Hanson, Howell, Livingston and Henry Jennings, Swartz Creek, Genesee.

Other members are Kenneth Wadsworth, Deckerville, Sanilac; Robert Eggle, Tustin, Osceola; Dirk Maxwell, Hope, Midland; Donald Nugent, Frankfort, Benzie; Donald C. Cordes, Hillman, Montmorency and Otto Flatt, Engadine, Mac-Luce. Representing the Young Farmers are Lawrence Karsten, Rogers City, Presque Isle; David Diehl, Dansville, Ingham and William Middleton, Oakland county. Farm Bureau Women are represented by Mrs. Charles Leipprandt, Pigeon, Huron; Mrs. Robert Squanda, Saginaw, Saginaw and Mrs. Rock Ebers, Sparta, Kent county. Other members-at-large are Eugene Roberts, Lake City, Missaukee county and Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, Antrim county.

FEEDLOTS FILLED WITH MICHIGAN GROWN CALVES — (like those shown above), have the potential for great expansion. Michigan is a beef-deficit state, exporting considerable amounts of corn yet importing thousands of tons of beef from other states and countries.

Michigan Farm Bureau Will Conduct Beef-Marketing Study

Production of beef cattle is an important part of Michigan agriculture. Nearly every county in the state has Farm Bureau members who produce feeder calves or slaughter cattle. The industry has the potential of expanding greatly due to the consumer demand for beef and the ready availability of grain and forage throughout the state. This potential is the basis for the recent decision of a meat packing firm to build a large slaughter facility and feed lot in the state.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Livestock Advisory Committee has urged the Michigan Farm Bureau to explore ways that Farm Bureau can be of service to members in this changing cattle marketing situation. Cow-calf producers indicate a need for more marketing information and for alternative means of selling feeder calves, particularly on a year-round basis. Cattle feeders indicate that they are looking for sources of quality calves in quantity on a year-round basis.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors has decided to study the possibility of providing feeder calf information and marketing services to both cow-calf producers and cattle feeders. Every county Farm Bureau has been asked to participate in this state-wide study. The first step for each cooperating county will be to appoint a Beef Cattle Marketing Advisory committee.

The County Farm Bureau beef cattle committee will have the responsibility of determining the extent of producer interest and

need for new marketing services. The committees will survey members to determine the numbers and types of cattle produced in counties and the names of producers. Following the completion of studies in the counties, the committees will recommend to the county Farm Bureaus, and in turn to the Michigan Farm Bureau, activities needed in beef cattle marketing.

George Good, Livestock Marketing Specialist in the Market Development Division, will be working closely with the county committees in the study. County beef cattle committees will be meeting for the first time in October. District or multi-county meetings for county committeemen will be held in many areas in the state.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Livestock Advisory Committee traveled to Illinois last July to confer with officials of the Interstate Producers Livestock Association about their livestock marketing activities and to view some of their operations. Interstate is a Farm Bureau affiliated marketing cooperative. Of special interest to the committee were the contract slaughter cattle marketing program and the contract feeder cattle program.

The state Livestock advisory committee has recommended that the Michigan Farm Bureau pilot test a feeder marketing service if producer-interest indicates a need. A feeder cattle listing service is being explored as a possibility. Nearly 100,000 native feeder cattle are produced annually in Mich-



GEORGE GOOD . . . an Ingham County native, has joined the staff of Market Development Division as Marketing Specialist . . . Livestock. George, a graduate of Kansas State University, has a degree in animal science and industry. He is married and has one son.

igan. Only 10% of the calves are marketed cooperatively through feeder cattle sales in northern Michigan. Some other native calves are marketed cooperatively and the rest go through dealers, auctions, or are purchased direct from producers. A large number of feeder cattle are imported into Michigan by cattle feeders on an order basis and by other means.

Some of the problems in feeder cattle procurement currently include proper description, a defined-preconditioning program, and difficulties in obtaining cattle from the west resulting from the expansion of large commercial feed lots, especially in the southwest area of the United States.



R. Reinbold

Rudolph Reinbold, lifetime farmer in the Saginaw Valley, has joined the staff of Michigan Farm Bureau as a Regional Representative in his "beloved valley." Rudy, a cash crop farmer, has been a Farm Bureau member since 1942 and has served on many Affiliate and Service Boards as well as holding many offices in his local Farm Bureau. He played semi-professional baseball for 15 years and played trumpet and drum in a concert band for 30 years. Mr. Reinbold replaces Larry DeVuyst who is now manager of the MACMA Feeder Pig Division.

A few words of apology and explanation are due to MACMA's Feeder Pig Manager Larry Vuyst. First, Larry does not live in Ithaca, but makes his home at 1585 Thunderbird Drive, Saginaw. Larry was until recently, the Regional Representative in the Saginaw Valley and to our latest knowledge, is still living in Saginaw.



Effective August 18, Gregory J. Sheffield joined Farm Bureau Services, Inc., as Manager of Marketing Services. In this position he has the responsibility for marketing research, public relations, advertising and company communications. Greg comes to Farm Bureau Services from the Sander Allen Advertising Company, Chicago, where he held the position of Vice-President and Creative Director. Prior to that he was with Agrico Chemical, Geigy Agricultural Chemicals and Allied Chemical Corporation in advertising and promotional assignments. He has his B.S. and Masters degrees in Agriculture from the University of Florida and worked as a professional Entomologist for both the University and the State of Florida after graduation. He has operated and still owns a farm in New York state. Mr. Sheffield's appointment was made by W. N. Guthrie, Services' Executive Vice President.

Larry Ewing is Manager of the Program Development Division. This includes Farm Bureau Women's activities; Young Farmer activities; Community Farm Bureau program and special programs and activities. He will be responsible for developing programs such as Presidents Conference; MFB Institutes; training conferences; educational activities; staff improvement conferences, etc.

Chuck Burkett is Manager of the Field Operations Division, including the activities of the Regional Representatives and the Coordinator of County Farm Bureau offices. He will also be supervising building management at Farm Bureau center and is Chairman of the MFB 1969 Staff Committee for the Annual Meeting November 10-12 at Michigan State University.

Representative J. Irving Whalley, (R), Pennsylvania, has become the 43rd member of Congress to introduce the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969. His bill is H.R. 13550. Whalley, who represents 9 counties in Pennsylvania, is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The 1969 AAA provides for the type of government farm programs for wheat feed grains and cotton recommended by Farm Bureau.

Plant Explosion Necessitates Change in Supply for Feeds

Investigation continues in the tragic explosion and fire at the Farm Bureau Saginaw Feed Processing Plant at Zilwaukee.

Damage, estimated at \$500,000 put the Zilwaukee facility completely out of commission, according to William Guthrie, Executive Vice President of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Guthrie said that the new feed plant at Battle Creek will supply all dealer and farmer requirements in the Northern part of the state until further notice.

Three employees died. Three others are recovering from burns and injuries as a result of the explosion. Alex P. Csutora, manager of the plant, passed away September 21. The 46 year old manager had served with Farm Bu-

reau Services since 1942. He was named manager of the Zilwaukee facility in 1966.

Also killed were Clarence Bullock, 61, materials handler, and Lowell Sabraw, 24.

The injured are James C. Hanson, 30, heavy truck driver; Donald Waugh, 18, and Danial Csutora, 17. Csutora is the son of the late plant manager.

The Saginaw plant had been in operation since 1954 and was noted for its huge capacity and efficiency in feed production. Guthrie said the explosion and fire was confined to the 110 foot tall feed processing plant located at the Northeast corner of the Farm Bureau complex near the Saginaw river.

HERITAGE TOUR

South Pacific Holiday

November 1-29, 1969

Michigan Farm Bureau AFBF Convention Tour

Washington-Richmond-Williamsburg

December 3-11, 1969

For Brochure contact

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Tour Service

P.O. Box 960

Lansing, Mich. 48904

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

Alcona — Oct. 6.
 Allegan — Oct. 16, 7 p.m., Griswold Auditorium, potluck dinner, 50th Anniv. celebration.
 Alpena — Oct. 19.
 Antrim — Oct. 8, 8 p.m., Bellaire High School.
 Arenac — Oct. 7, 7 p.m., Co. Court House, Standish, potluck dinner.
 Baraga — Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m., Covington Twp. Hall, dinner, 50th Anniv. program, prizes.
 Barry — Oct. 14, 7 p.m., Community Bldg., Hastings, 50th Anniv. celebration.
 Bay — Oct. 9, 8:30 p.m., Monitor Twp. Hall, Bay City.
 Benzie — Oct. 6, 8 p.m., St. Phillips Episcopal Church (N. of Beulah on U.S. 31).
 Berrien — Oct. 15, 8 p.m., Farm Bureau Center.
 Branch — Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., 4-H Cabin, Fairgrounds, Coldwater.
 Calhoun — Oct. 9, 7 p.m., smorgasbord, entertainment, B. E. Henry Community Bldg.
 Cass — Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m., Gregorek Memorial Hall, dinner, speaker.
 Charlevoix — Oct. 1, East Jordan School.
 Cheboygan — Oct. 16.
 Chippewa — Oct. 7, 8 p.m., 4-H Bldg., Kenross, 50th Anniv. program, lunch, prizes.
 Clare — Oct. 13, 8 p.m., Hamilton Twp. Hall, citizenship students.
 Clinton — Oct. 14.
 Delta — Oct. 2, 8 p.m., Rapid River School, 50th Anniv. program, lunch, prizes.
 Eaton — Oct. 9.
 Emmet — Oct. 7.
 Genesee — Oct. 13.
 Gladwin — Oct. 14.
 Gratiot — Oct. 8.
 Hillsdale — Oct. 6, 4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds, Hillsdale.
 Houghton — Oct. 9, 8 p.m., Eldred Lange res., Houghton, 50th Aniv. program, lunch, prizes.
 Huron — Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m., FB Center, Bad Axe, dinner, speaker, M. J. Buschlen.
 Ingham — Oct. 8.
 Ionia — Oct. 13, 7 p.m., Rather School, Ionia, potluck dinner, 50th Anniv. program.
 Iosco — Oct. 14.
 Iron — Sept. 30, 8 p.m., Crystal Falls Twp. Hall, lunch, prizes.
 Isabella — Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m., St. Leo's Church, Winn, dinner, citizenship students.
 Jackson — Oct. 7, 7:30, Concord, speaker.
 Kalamazoo — Oct. 14, FB Center, speaker—Dean Pridgeon.
 Kalkaska — Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., Kalkaska High School.
 Kent — Oct. 6, 7 p.m., dinner at Schensuls, Eastbrook, Anniv. program, queen crowning.
 Lapeer — Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m., Lapeer Center Bldg., dinner, speaker—Bud Guest.
 Lenawee — Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., Madison School, Adrian.
 Livingston — Oct. 2.
 Mackinac-Luce — Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m., Garfield Twp. Hall, Engadine, dinner, 50th Anniv. program.
 Macomb — Oct. 15, 7 p.m., Emanuel Lutheran School, Waldenburg, dinner.
 Manistee — Oct. 2, 8 p.m., Farr Center, Onekema.
 Marquette-Alger — Oct. 1, 8 p.m., Chatham Town Hall, 50th Anniv. program, lunch, prizes.
 Mason — Oct. 15, 8 p.m., Amber Twp. Hall, speakers—Robert Braden and Robert Smith, citizenship students.
 Mecosta — Oct. 18, 11 a.m., Stanwood High School, noon dinner, Dr. LeRoy Augustein, speaker.
 Menominee — Oct. 10, 8 p.m., Bank of Stephenson, 50th Anniv. program, lunch prizes.
 Midland — Oct. 13.
 Missaukee — Oct. 7, 8 p.m., Fal-mouth School.
 Monroe — Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m., Holy Ghost Lutheran School, Monroe.
 Montcalm — Oct. 8, 8 p.m., Central Montcalm High School.
 Montmorency — Oct. 2.
 Muskegon — Oct. 9, 7 p.m., Wolf Lake Youth Bldg., queen selection.
 Newaygo — Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m., Fremont, Potluck supper, citizenship students.
 N. W. Mich. — Oct. 9, 7 p.m., Twin Lakes 4-H Camp, dinner.
 Oakland — Oct. 1.
 Oceana — Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m., Congregational Church, Hart, potluck supper, citizenship students.
 Ogemaw — Oct. 13.
 Osceola — Oct. 9, 8 p.m., Lincoln Twp. Hall, citizenship students.
 Otsego — Oct. 15.
 Ottawa — Oct. 7, 8 p.m., Allendale Twp. Hall, Anniv. program.
 Presque Isle — Oct. 8.
 Saginaw — Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m., Sveden House, Saginaw, dinner, 50th Anniv. program.
 Sanilac — Oct. 6, 6 p.m., Co. Farm Bureau, Sandusky, dinner, queen crowning, citizenship students.
 Shiawassee — Oct. 7.
 St. Clair — Oct. 14, 7 p.m., Goodells Community Bldg., potluck dinner, citizenship students.
 St. Joseph — Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m., Community Bldg., citizenship students.
 Tuscola — Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Millington High School, dinner, speaker, AFBF's Bill Eastman.
 Van Buren — Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m., Co. Farm Bureau office, dinner.

Washtenaw — Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m., Farm Council Grounds, Ann Arbor.
 Wayne — Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds, Belleville.
 Wexford — Oct. 14, 8 p.m., Cadillac School.

1970 Membership Goal Set

County leaders participating in a series of meetings during August and September have set a membership target of 55,560 Farm Bureau members for 1970.

By averaging the bids submitted by each County Farm Bureau, the 1970 goal was determined. The 485 member increase over 1969 will be prorated back to each County based on the counties remaining potential.

Plans and preparations are shaping up across the state for another successful membership campaign.



GOOD NEWS FROM THE COUNTIES . . . brings a happy smile to all faces . . . especially to Dan Reed, Chuck Burkett and Larry Ewing, when they learned that Berrien county had made goal . . . making it the first time in the history of MFB that all counties had made gain in membership.

Blue Cross Drug Program Explained

Recently Blue Shield Insurance announced a prepaid prescription drug program starting October 1, 1969. Please Note: This program is not being offered at the present time to subscribers in the Michigan Farm Bureau Group.

A study will be made by the Michigan Farm Bureau on the advisability of offering this program to Farm Bureau subscribers. For good, prepaid health care protection, keep your Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage in force.

RENEW YOUR FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP NOW.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

by Larry R. Ewing, Mgr.,
 Program Development Division

August 28, 1969 was indeed a Red Letter Day for Michigan Farm Bureau. At 11:30 a.m. that day, word was received that Berrien County had increased membership over last year . . . meaning that every county Farm Bureau had increased membership in 1969.

Your state president, Elton Smith . . . the secretary-manager, Dan Reed . . . all members of the Board of Directors . . . in fact, everyone with any relationship to Farm Bureau . . . are all mighty proud and we say "Good Job . . . Well Done!!"

What it means is this . . . Michigan showed a membership gain in every county and we have 64 Goal Counties!! What a way to celebrate our 50th Anniversary! And that's only part of the story . . .

Records were smashed in the 1969 Farm Bureau year. For the first time in ten years, Michigan reached its AFBF membership goal. Sixty-four counties making goal in an accomplishment never reached before. The increase in membership in every county marks the first time that this has been done in many years. Maybe the first time ever!

And then there's that horse's tail trophy. With a gain of over 2,000 members, the trophy has sprouted wings and will fly to Ohio. While Ohio has gained about 1,400 members, it just isn't enough to beat Michigan.

Well, that's a lot of glory, but who does it belong to? To YOU . . . our members. Members of the state's largest Farm organization! This year every member pitched right in and did an excellent job on membership work. Insurance agents . . . other affiliate company personnel . . . everyone gave a great deal of assistance. This cooperation is greatly appreciated. Farm Bureau is stronger for it.

One amazing fact came to light with the close of the 1969 membership drive. Only 5% of the members failed to renew their membership in 1969. This includes deaths, moving out of state, leaving the farm and those who were disappointed in some way. Many voluntary organizations expect to experience over 10% cancellation. This accomplishment indicates that Farm Bureau members have faith in their organization.

Yes . . . the 50th Year has been a great one. Now its time to start thinking and making plans for the 51st year, the 60th year and the 100th year. We promise that as we step into our second 50 years, we'll continue the successes enjoyed in 1969.

Congratulations for a job well done and we'll see you all at your moment of glory when you are recognized for an outstanding job, at the State Annual Meeting . . . November 10, 11 and 12.

Michigan Livestock Exchange Approves Keogh Plan

A Keogh Retirement Plan developed through the facilities of Farm Bureau Insurance Group was approved by the Michigan Live Stock Exchange (MLSE) Board on September 6. Some 20,000 MLSE members are eligible for this tax-free retirement plan.

MLSE is the second leading agricultural organization to adopt this unique retirement package. Michigan Milk Producers Association initiated a membership retirement program last December.

The Keogh Retirement Plan allows any MLSE member (as a self-employed person) to set aside 10% of his net farm profit up to a maximum of \$2,500. The amount is tax-deductible as a business expense.

Payments are made directly to the Bank of Lansing on an annual or semi-annual basis. Under terms designed by each MLSE member, funds may be invested in three ways:

1. Full investment in life insurance and annuity contracts. Farm Bureau Insurance Group will provide the facility for contract arrangements, guaranteeing the investment.
2. Full investment in a portfolio of selected securities (principally common stocks) through the facilities of the Bank of Lansing, with both the risks and possibility of reward that such investments entail.
3. Contributions can be divided. A portion of the funds can be used to purchase guaranteed security of life insurance and annuities, the remainder going into the portfolio of selected securities.

MLSE members will be contacted by one of 60 specially trained Farm Bureau Insurance Group representatives assigned to service their organization.

ATTEND YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING!

Jacket Jubilee



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your
feed!

Booking your feed according to plan makes good business sense. Plan your profits, take advantage of our prices, get your jacket. *Assured booking* gets you the best in service and livestock nutrition.

The jacket? That's an extra to keep you warm and comfortable this winter . . . even in cold weather. It's water repellant, 100% cotton poplin with acrylic fiber insulation and sturdy zipper . . . rugged enough to wear anywhere. Order yours in small, medium, large or extra large sizes.

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Services
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LANSING 4, MICHIGAN

**DISCUSSION
TOPIC**

**Review of School
Tax Laws**

By Gary A. Kleinhenn
Director, Education and Research

Michigan farmers probably know as much or more about the tax workings of state and local governments because of their long relationship with the land and the property tax programs. Tax reform is a long, tedious, complex process and major changes will not come overnight.

Farm Bureau policy on tax reform can be found in the 1969 Policy Booklet, pages 6, 7, and 8. Other tax reform policies were published in the June Discussion Topic column of the Michigan Farm News.

Education is complex. The school "marm" of yesterday who taught all eight grades in one room has been replaced by an army of teachers which demand more than 75 per cent of the more than 1.2 billion dollar operating budget alone, for the 1967-68 school year (most up-to-date figures available).

Local government picked up over half of the tab for the total (including the operation budget of \$1.2 billion) which stretches upwards to 1.8 billion dollars in Michigan. The state paid nearly half. About 5 per cent of the budget was paid by the federal government.

If one can imagine 1.8 billion dollars — it all goes to support the 521 public high school districts and 126 non-high school districts comprising the 647 school districts in the 83 counties of the state.

Four levels of government; federal, state, county and local school districts, provide funds by several methods of taxation for education. The major sources of state money for schools are: the sales tax, liquor excise tax and cigarette taxes. The local share comes mainly from the property tax.

The income tax is used indirectly and is not a major source of revenue.

School taxes are levied for three purposes in maintaining education in the state: (1) Operations — salaries for all employees, utilities, teaching supplies and equipment, furnishings; (2) Buildings and sites — property purchases and building construction; (3) Special programs — supplementary funds for intensive programs, Head-Start, Special Education and Vocational Education, along with many other programs.

REVENUE FROM LOCAL SOURCES

Local financial support for public elementary and secondary school systems is obtained primarily from a single source . . . property taxation. Property taxation is dependent upon two factors: (1) Value of property and (2) The rate of taxation or millage.

A maximum of 15 mills can be levied for county, township and school purposes without voter approval. A one mill tax rate is equal to one dollar of taxes for each \$1,000 of assessed property valuation.

State Equalized Valuation for the purpose of property tax is not more than one-half the actual value of your property from which the assessed valuation is determined.

Unfortunately the 15 mill levy is not enough to adequately support county and township government and public schools combined. Thus the local school district must turn to the voters of their district for any additional millage exceeding the counties 15 mill limit.

More than 90 per cent of Michigan school districts in 1968-69 were levying voted-operation millages in addition to the original millage allocated to them under the 15 mill limitation.

The distribution of millage to school districts within a county is the decision of the County Allocation Board. This board is a representative body of groups which receive allocated money. The sole purpose of this board is to determine the distribution of the 15 mills. Local school boards submit their budgets to this board to aid (or make more difficult) its decision.

ESTABLISHING LOCAL TAXES

In Michigan the local assessor or township supervisor judges the market value of property for tax purposes.

The County Board of Supervisors acts as the County Equalization Board. It reviews the total



I JUST DON'T SEE ANY REASON WHY YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND — YOUNG MAN!!!

assessment of all assessed property in the county for the purpose of equalizing assessments between local townships or cities in the county. It cannot change the assessment of an individual's property except as its judgments affect the total assessed value of the township or city.

If the taxpayer feels he has been wrongly assessed he has the right to appeal to the local Board of Review. If satisfaction is not gained from the local board, an appeal can be made to the State Tax Commission, by letter stating the objection.

Each taxpayer is able to ascertain whether the assessment of his property is or is not approximately the 50 per cent of the true cash value as printed on his tax statement by comparing his property to its market value.

STATE AND COUNTY RELATIONSHIP

The state Tax Commission is basically responsible to oversee that uniform assessment is accomplished among all 83 counties of the state in a manner similar to the County Equalization Board which determines the State Equalization Valuation (S.E.V.) within each county.

STATE AID

The state's financial help to school districts, (\$672 million 1967-68) nearly half of the total budget for elementary and secondary public education, is funneled directly to school districts. State financial assistance comes from the School Aid Fund as provided for by the 1963 state constitution.

But all money needs may not be met from the general fund. Special programs may not be backed 100 per cent. When this occurs local school districts are forced to borrow money and may later attempt to raise local millage to make up for the deficit.

Where the local government must depend almost solely on the property tax the state government has greater tax resources to utilize for education through the State Aid Fund and the General Fund of Michigan.

Money for the School Aid Fund is earmarked from one-half of the sales tax, cigarette tax and the liquor excise tax. For the 1967-68 school year this fund provided \$387.3 million for elementary and secondary public education.

However, the School Aid Fund does not meet all financial needs of public education paid by the state. In addition to the School Aid Fund, dollars from the state's General Fund are also appropriated by the legislature to help meet the money needs.

COMPUTATION OF STATE AID

Money for schools is a partnership with local, state and federal government. For our purposes the local and state government relationship will be discussed.

What the local school districts spend for education purposes is determined by (1) State Equalized Valuation of taxable property, (2) Student population and (3) Rate of taxation or millage in the local school district. With these facts the state's decision as to the amount of money to be distributed to local districts is adapted to a formula to insure the equalization of dollar distribution according to need. Deter-

mining a school districts need is judged by the amount of the district's tax base per pupil.

Formula	School District SEV Per Pupil	Gross Allowance	Deductible Millage
a.	\$12,864.00 or more	408.00	9.00
b.	\$12,864.00 or less	549.50	20.00

The problem is to find how many dollars actually go to pay for a pupil's education. This is done by multiplying the S.E.V. per pupil by the deductible millage. The total equals what the district is paying for each student. This total is subtracted from the Gross Allowance. The remainder is what the state will pay per student for education.

For example: If a district's S.E.V. is \$20,000 per pupil, and deductible millage is 9 mills then 9 x \$20,000 equals \$180.00 being paid by the local school district for each pupil. This figure (\$180.00) is then subtracted from the Gross Allowance. In this case \$408.00. The remainder is \$228.00 which becomes the states commitment to aid a school district for each student enrolled in the elementary and secondary public schools.

A criticism of this method of taxation is that it is unfair to the individual taxpayer because the tax is determined on the State Equalized Valuation of an entire district. Individuals with little income such as farmers, retirees and pensioners pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes and therefore carry a heavier burden in support of government institutions than fellow citizens who have been able to keep up with the inflationary spiral of the times.

GRANTS FOR EDUCATION

State assistance is also given in the form of grants to school districts. The state grants authorize spending of money in specific areas of education for: school districts experiencing financial hardships; underprivileged children programs; to county school districts; and grants for employees retirement — one for Detroit employees and another for greater Michigan public employees.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARY
FOR AUGUST**

Nearly 4,000 people participated in the 314 community discussion groups held for the August topic: *The Farmer and His Image*. Tabulation of returned questionnaires indicate that 187 of the participating groups believe they have a fair to very good image with non-farmers, while 74 believe it to be bad to very bad. All agreed that it needs to be improved through rural-urban meetings, and greater use of the mass media. In general, the most positive reports came from community groups taking active part in community activities such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Jaycees and Chambers of Commerce.

NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC: Unionization on the Farm.

3-BEDROOM, CONTEMPRI SECTIONAL HOMES



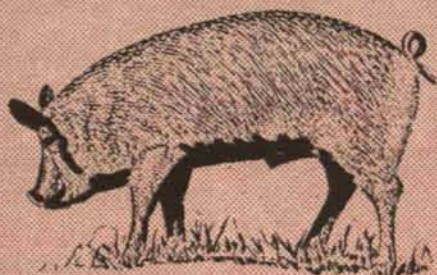
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Schedule of Sales

Oct. 6	Bruce Crossing	Yearlings and Calves	750
Oct. 7	Rapid River	Yearlings and Calves	1200
Oct. 9	Gaylord	Yearlings and Calves	2500
Oct. 10	Baldwin	Yearlings and Calves	1400
Oct. 14	Alpena	Yearlings and Calves	1200
Oct. 15	West Branch	Yearlings and Calves	2300

All sales start at 12:00 Noon

Cattle are graded by U.S.D.A. Standards and will be sold in lots of uniform grade, weight, sex and breed.

Brochure available with description of cattle in each sale.

MICHIGAN FEEDER CATTLE PRODUCERS COUNCIL
POSEN, MICHIGAN 49776

Agriculture Important to Michigan — Gov. Milliken

Agriculture is immensely important to Michigan, and what Michigan produces is very important to the rest of our nation. Most of the country thinks of Michigan as the capital of the auto industry.

Michigan farmers can be proud of the quantities they produce. We lead the nation in dry, edible beans, cucumbers for pickles, hot-house rhubarb, blueberries, and red, tart cherries. And we are second in plums, third in apples and sweet corn for the fresh market.

Michigan can also take pride in the quality of its products. Our apples, our potatoes, our cherries, and many other things we grow are known around the country for their excellence.

None of you needs to be reminded how important food is. Without food, a man dies. With-

out enough food and food of the right kind, men become weakened, their spirit flags, and their judgment and intellectual capacity are impaired. Men can never realize their full potential as human beings and children of their Creator if they are ill-fed or starving.

I hope also that you think about hunger in America — the fact that millions of Americans are not getting enough to eat in a country which produces more food than any other nation in the world.

This is a crime and a tragedy. For years, we have concerned ourselves with hunger in other lands, shipping millions of tons of food abroad. This was right and proper; our abundance is so great that we can well-afford to share it with others. But in the

process of doing this, we seem to have forgotten the blight of hunger in our own land.

Not long after he took office, President Nixon directed the Nation's attention to this tragedy and took vigorous steps to eliminate hunger in America. Strong leadership of the kind he displayed is a step toward correcting the problem, but the government cannot do the job alone.

We must help the hungry people of our country, whoever they are — not just because it is in our national interest to do so, but because of the common ties of humanity that bind people together everywhere. We must reach out as one human being to another to help those who cannot help themselves. We must reach out, because they are our brothers, and they need our help.

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Hastings, Michigan

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
Hart, Michigan

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
Kalamazoo, Michigan

KENT CITY FARM BUREAU
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6 DOGS

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14 FOR SALE

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36 MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH IS WEALTH — Read AMERICAN VEGETARIAN-HYGIENIST magazine. Abundant Health through Natural Living. Sample copy 50¢. Write: RPH, P.O. Box 113, Plymouth, Michigan 48170. (9-2t-25p) 36

PART TIME SALESMAN — to sell complete line of Dairy Barn Equipment from Midwest warehouse of a large Eastern manufacturer. Write for details. Standard Equipment, Inc., Department MFN, Bel Air, Maryland 21014 (10-2t-30b) 18

OVERSEAS JOBS — Australia, Europe, South America, Far East, etc. Openings in all trades and professions. \$400 to \$2,500 monthly, free information. Write: Foreign Employment Mart, Box 2235 A.M.F., Miami, Florida 33159. (10-1t-31p) 36

36 MISCELLANEOUS

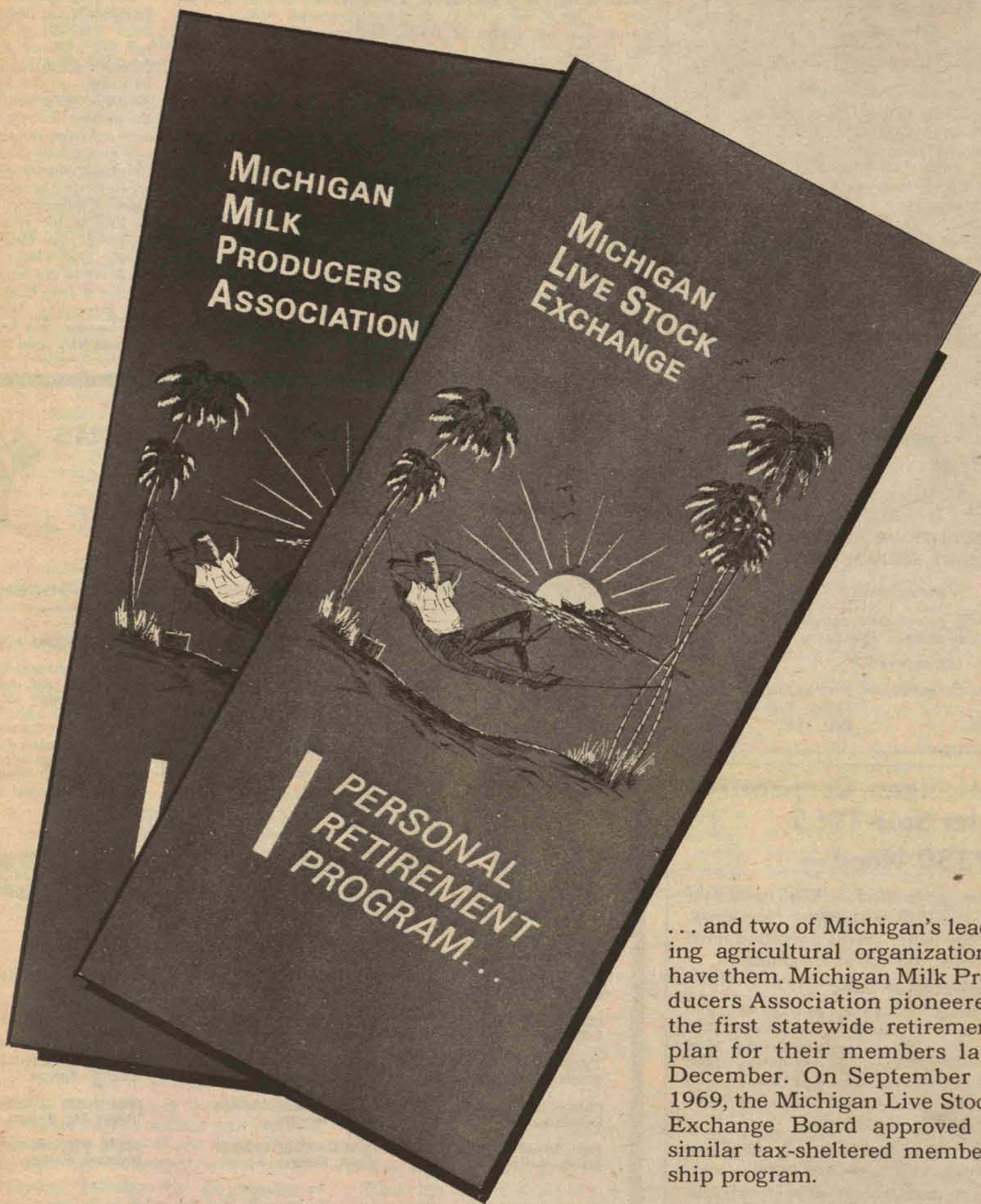
WANTED: Allis Round Baler, also like new McCormick Power Corn Binder. Contact: Alfred Roeder, Seneca, Kansas. (9-2t-15p) 36

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TAX-FREE RETIREMENT PLANS ARE HERE...



... and two of Michigan's leading agricultural organizations have them. Michigan Milk Producers Association pioneered the first statewide retirement plan for their members last December. On September 6, 1969, the Michigan Live Stock Exchange Board approved a similar tax-sheltered membership program.

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