

Washington Digest

Politics Seen as Key in Farm Subsidy Problem

Acceptable Compromise Lacking; Presidential Vote Forecast for Any Bill Banning Use of Economic Stimulus

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The administration is in the midst of one of its fiercest contests to "hold the line" against stabilization. It is the old question of subsidies for farmers and it looks like a fight to the death. The house agriculture committee, with Representative Dingell and others siding over to the Republican side, is backing the bill, which would remove the appropriations for the Commodity Credit Corporation and cut out the subsidies to processors, distributors and some direct cash aid to farmers. The present legislation expires in January. A presidential veto is taken for granted for any bill banning the use of subsidies. Administration supporters believe that such a veto can be sustained, but they see a tough, bitter fight ahead.

The key to the whole difficulty is violent partisanship. Successful politics in the economic living is a family, in the community, in the world—it depends on the ability to compromise. In this fight, there seems to be no one able to work out an acceptable compromise. Already the feeling is bitter.

Cost of Living

Complicating the problem is, however, the fact that the cost of living has gone up higher than statistics show, that the Little Blue formula is no longer a fair yardstick for many farmers. The decisions of the War Labor Board, plus insistence of the director of stabilization, hold down wages while the administration has not carried out its promise to roll back the living costs.

The farm organizations and the processors and the distributors oppose the roll-back. They don't put it any way. They say they oppose subsidies for rolling back consumer prices. They argue that subsidies to increase production and support prices in a free market are all right—and are hence of another color. The President has no difference. Subsidies which permit the government to buy up commodities or make loans at a minimum price when the market price dips below that figure are all right, say the farm bloc, but they claim, the "new" subsidies go further than that in that they mean payment direct to the processor and distributor and also buying and selling by the government. This, they claim, is in itself inflammatory because it means payment out of the treasury. They say they don't believe that the money will get back to the farmer, that it means "grocery bills paid by the government," with very little real saving to the consumer, and finally, which is the real rub, it means too much government control.

Stabilization and Veto

Of course, there is the point that the politicians don't like to mention anybody who depends on a vote wants to be in a position later on of having to remove those benefits. Another point, not stressed, is that stabilization to processors means that the government has a right to look into the books of private industry. But to the President, it is subsidies or inflation. At a recent press and radio conference, the President said that he got the head of the Farm Bureau into an interview. Edward O'Neill, admitted that letting prices go up in a free market, which the government says would have to be the alternative of the subsidy if the farmer was to get the incentive for increased production, would mean a little inflation. The President then told the story about the man who took just a "little" cocaine. He soon became an addict.

It was then that a woman reporter, known for her spicy questions, asked if the President didn't think that if his measure was carried out might become subsidy addicts. The President didn't seem to think so. He related that that agriculture has been getting subsidies since 1862. Whether or not there is danger in any of this and economic stimulation which the administration feels is a wartime necessity, everybody admits that money, which the government has avoided if possible. The whole complicated machinery of stabilization was created to prevent it.

The proponents of the subsidy plan say that the fight against them is

purely political. They say the Republicans severely take the farm opponents to the administration because they can win some farm votes as champions of higher prices to farmers if they take this stand. On the other hand, they believe that the anti-subsidy bill will be vetoed eventually and the Democrats say the veto will be sustained. If so, the Republicans will not be criticized for supporting a measure which is defeated. And the Democratic support in the house agriculture committee, subsidy supporters say, was "bought" by allowing the present subsidies for the products grown in districts of the congressmen who supported the bill. The administration followers say that it seems strange for the Republicans to raise a cry against subsidies when tariffs are subsidies. They mention the sugar "subsidy." As for complaint that the subsidy on agricultural products would not reach the farmer, they call attention to the milk subsidies at present in operation where the milk middlemen the cow gets the subsidy direct. Meanwhile, we know that the cost of living has already gone up. We know that we need full production of foodstuffs. We know that many farmers can't get the feed required to raise the stock or to raise the so on the most efficient weight for slaughter.

Payment of any money out by the treasury does mean more money in circulation but the subsidy proponents point to the kind of inflation we get when prices aren't controlled. The administration says it is better to control a few processors and distributors, even if these from time to time cheat, than to let that vicious spiral of prices and living costs start to mount.

Food Contribution

The other day when I stepped into the broadcasting studio just as the Farm and Home Hour had ended, I found some cooking, some Brown Betty and a meat loaf sandwich waiting. These samples had been saved from the kitchen of the station. It was good things made with very basic which had been the subject of the F & H broadcast.

I ate them with pleasure. Although the meat loaf was 20 per cent soy grits, it tasted exactly like meat to me and the cookies and the Brown Betty were excellent. Soy flour and soy grits—the bread had some soy flour in it—were both on the market ready to contribute vitamins, mineral, protein, iron and vigor to our food, reducing the consumption of sugar and most expensive products. A saving of from 30 to 50 per cent in meat and still having almost identical food values is something to be amazed at. Soy, it is pointed out, is not a substitute but a supplement to other foods and you would be surprised how many tasty dishes can be produced with it. The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics has a handy little pamphlet containing recipes, and you can get one by writing to the bureau, care of the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.

There are recipes for meat loaf, chili con carne, soup, and so on, of soy with vegetables when they are served as a main dish; soy in sauces and mixed with cereals to give a richer protein diet—many suggestions for making what you have go further and accomplish more.

A Letter

Frankly, when I get a letter that makes me feel mad, I never even mention it on the air. I shouldn't ever do it, I suppose, because I usually get a flood of sympathy which because I don't deserve but one of the best replies I ever had was from a man in Spanish, S. D., who wrote to me as follows:

"Each morning at 11 a. m. WFTS, I tune you in. Now, I may be mistaken, but it seems to me that at times you speak some of the letters you receive as 'things below the belt' which you always have considered carefully and impartially. But in a great many cases, if we don't hit below the belt we just make a bad case of it and some of the letters that I get are for me to feel that that is just one far as I am concerned that there is NOTHING above the belt to hit."

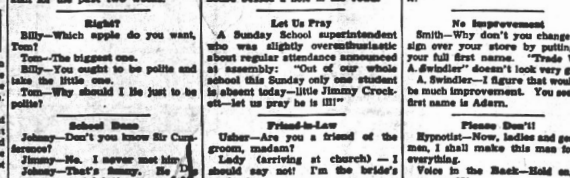
BRIEFS... by Baukhage

Near cooperation authorities in Holland have even set the Dutch harvest record for the year. The weekly report, which is published in a German language daily in Holland. The cut means a great deal to the Dutch, whose living standards have been lowered.

Collecting spider webs for precision sighting instruments is one of the duties performed by women in the British Auxiliary Territorial service.

Because corn fields are excellent hide-outs for parties, the Green minister for the interior has ordered all farmers to cut their fields by the end of this month. If they are not cut by then, they will be burned.

• OUR COMIC SECTION •



For you to make



5619

Large-Sized Vest
The older woman sometimes has difficulty in finding instructions to make a smart crocheted sleeveless vest. This one is especially designed for sizes 38-40 and 42. It is comfortable, well-fitted and can be worn in the house in our winter heat-radiated rooms and is equally comfortable for outdoor wear under a heavy coat. Make it of wool sport yarn in American, navy blue, brown or dark green.

For complete crocheting instructions for the Larger Woman's Vest (Pattern No. 5619) send 10 cents in coin, your name and address, and the pattern number.

Barbara Stanwyck
Star of Lady Hamilton, a United Artists release, is the only Hollywood star who endorsed Calox Tooth Powder. McKesson & Robbins, Inc., Richmond, Conn.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS
Hanging racks on cupboard doors are one solution to the need for additional storage space.
Water spots can often be removed from polished furniture by rubbing lightly with turpentine applied on a soft cloth. Wipe dry and re wax.
After yarn has been steamed for removing lumps, wind it on a cake rack. It is not only easier to handle that way, but can readily be hung on the line to dry.
Make a nance for cottage pudding out of left-over fruit juice by dissolving in cornstarch in cold water and adding it to the fruit juice and cooking it for a few minutes.

To dry a pair of silk stockings without creases or pin marks, clip a couple of clothes pins to a towel rack, slip the stockings over them and spread the pins apart to stretch and spread the hose smoothly.

Tropical
Vanilla
Silk taken from spiders provides the best catgut.



YOUR KITCHEN IS ON THE FIRING LINE
You're helping our troops when you save food for your kitchen and turn it in to your meat dealer. One pound of fat contains glycerine for 1.5 pounds of powder.

