

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1954

The President's 'New' Farm Plan

THE President's long-awaited "new" farm program is not really very new, but it represents the maximum he could optimistically expect from an evenly divided Congress sensitive to the farm vote in a critical election year.

The President proposes:

1. To "freeze" two and a half billion dollars worth of the stored up surplus commodities, partially nullifying their depressing effect upon current market prices.
2. To shift storable commodities, now protected by fixed prices, over to flexible supports which would vary between 75 and 90 per cent of parity.
3. To complete the transition from the old parity formula to a more modern formula that makes allowance for greater farm productivity, and hence averages about 10 per cent lower.
4. To use production payments to wool producers, permitting domestic wool to find its own market price.
5. To develop new and expanded foreign markets for U. S. farm production.

If you accept the basic premise that the farmer, because of the wide fluctuations in farm prices caused by forces beyond his control, is entitled to price support "insurance", the Eisenhower program makes a good deal of sense.

It was inevitable that something would have to be done with a part of the whopping surplus built up after fixed high supports were retained after the outbreak of the Korean War. It would be criminally wasteful to permit the surplus commodities to deteriorate when they can be used for school lunchrooms, disaster relief here and abroad, and as a stockpile for war or a national emergency. They can be put to use in both without disturbing normal trade patterns and price levels. This would represent a net loss to the taxpayers, but the loss

may be largely offset by better production control in the future.

Most unexpected was the President's suggestion that production payments to wool producers be given a try. The holy-controversial Brannan Plan, denounced by Republican orators as "socialism", was based on production payments, although Secretary Brannan wanted to use them for all basic crops, including perishables. Under the plan, the price of domestic wool would be permitted to drop to its natural level and producers would be paid the difference between that price and 90 per cent of parity. If Congress approves the proposal, it will at least test the workability of the Brannan Plan without committing the whole agricultural program.

Finally, we hope that Congress will approve the President's request to substitute flexible support prices for fixed supports. Flexible support prices would work like this. In times of undersupply of a basic commodity, the support price would be moved higher, encouraging farmers to produce more. In times of over-supply, the support would be lowered, encouraging greater consumption. Flexible support prices were provided in the 1948 act to take effect in 1951, but because of the Korean War the time limit was set back to the end of 1954. They have never been used, and they deserve a trial.

The President's message is a complete and detailed report on the result of a year-long study by a special commission which collected information and opinion from every section of the country. It appears to be an intelligent, sincere effort to improve a basic policy to which both political parties are committed. And it challenges the Congress to rise above party to political considerations and give the proposals bipartisan support.

'I've Been Waiting At That Other Door For 30 Years'



**Oblique Attack On Administration
McCarthy Dules Fight Likely**

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON
IT IS a reasonably good bet that the roughest and toughest row in what promises to be a rough, tough session of Congress will not directly concern any item in the President's program. It is likely to be, instead, the second round in the battle between the Eisenhower administration and Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy.

It is almost universally believed on Capitol Hill that sooner or later McCarthy will renew the attack started with the famous "perjured notes" speech. McCarthy is, after all, a political carnivore—he lives by attacking. He cannot submit indefinitely on the corpse of the Truman administration.

What is more, it is not clear that the Republican extremists are bitter about President Eisenhower's refusal to go back to McKinley, or even to Hoover. After the President's State of the Union message there was much muttering in the cloak rooms about "the damn New Dealer" and "White House." By no means do all the mutterers love and admire McCarthy. But McCarthy is nevertheless a political leader and rallying point, and to hold this position he must maintain the offensive.

TAILOR-MADE ISSUE
It is very generally believed on Capitol Hill that the McCarthy attack will again be oblique, rather than frontal, as in the case of Eisenhower through Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. For this purpose, the China trade issue is tailor-made for McCarthy. It has the necessary anti-communist overtones, but it is also in the foreign policy field, thus giving McCarthy a chance to adopt a statesmanlike pose. It is essentially a phony issue, but the reasons why this is so are complicated and difficult to explain. It also has some real factual basis, plus a simple emotion which will carry it.

McCarthy is therefore expected to attack a rider to the foreign aid bill denying or limiting aid to any nation which has any trade at all with China. He tried the same thing in the last session, and collected 24 votes. But this previous move was more or less casual, without much prior build-up. This time there has been an

Bigger Federal Role In Labor Requested By Ike

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON
PRESIDENT Eisenhower and the government will be a lot deeper in labor-management relations if Congress approves his proposals for amending the Taft-Hartley labor relations act.

Two prime examples among the President's 14 proposals: a fact-finding board to make recommendations on a national emergency dispute; and a government-conducted vote in the case of any strike.

Under the law now, when the President finds the national welfare is threatened by a strike, he appoints a board to investigate and report back with the facts.

Eisenhower asked that this be changed so that such a board would make recommendations on what the settlement should be. Since the President handles the board, his recommendations become, in effect, his own.

Neither the company nor the union would have to accept the recommendations.

At present workers faced with a decision on a walkout can vote among themselves on whether they want to strike; they may leave it up to a selected group of their union officials.

Eisenhower urges more federal say on this. He said it should be written into law that the government must conduct a vote among the employees on whether they want a strike.

He didn't say, in his message to Congress, whether the vote should be taken before or after a strike started. He said: " . . . Nothing so vitally affects the individual employee as the loss of his job when he is called on to strike. He didn't say . . . called on to strike."

Almost at once Sen. Alexander Smith (R.N.J.), chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, produced a bill calling for a vote after a strike had started.

There may have been confusion in the administration ranks on this. Secretary of Labor Mitchell told newsman he thought Smith's bill was going to call for a vote before a strike.

Under a special World War II law from 1943 to 1945—the government had to take a vote among

workers before a strike could be called in a war plant or one connected with the war.

Strike votes were taken among about 2,100 groups of employees. In about 1,800 cases the vote was to strike, although only a small percentage actually went out. About 300 voted against a strike.

Eisenhower also proposed that the mediation service should step into a labor dispute where an injunction had been obtained and the government did better after



SEN. H. ALEXANDER SMITH

guards for welfare funds; and that employers must take an anti-Communist oath, as union leaders now must.

Those points would all require the government to have more say in union or company affairs or both.

No one could predict whether government control, both federal and state, would be increased as a result of Eisenhower's suggestion for a study to find a way to avoid conflicts of jurisdiction between the two. He urged clearing the way for states to handle what they consider statewide emergencies.

Union leaders and company managers may argue whether Eisenhower's proposed changes do more for one of them than the other, but the net effect seems certain to be a bigger role for government in labor disputes.

Quote, Unquote

Most people get a big boost out of a brand-new automobile, says a dealer. Is he talking about price? — Laurel (Miss.) Leader, Call.

Queen Bee lays as many as 3,000 eggs daily. If she were crossed with a hen, taxpayers would get broke supporting the price of eggs. — Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat.

An old timer is one who can remember back when a person with an ailment could call a number and get a doctor instead of an appointment. — Omega (Ga.) News.

There is a bright side to everything. It is the postal rates go up, maybe we won't get so many of those "having a wonderful time, wish you were here," cards this summer. — St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A beautiful time in summer is the hour of evening, with the stars, the lightning bugs and the moon. "no vacancy" signs all flashing on at once. — Asheville (N. C.) Citizen.

What the nation really needs is a short form for introducing speakers. — Greensboro (Ga.) Herald-Journal.

They Just Pile 'Em Up In Charlotte

THE more we study the parking problem the stranger it seems that more midtown merchants are actively advocating offstreet parking facilities.

For it is the midtown merchant who suffers most from Charlotte's traffic snarls. It is he who would increase sales handsomely if shoppers could get to his store more conveniently.

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce, after analyzing detailed studies of the relationship between parking space and retail sales, estimated that each parking space was worth about \$20,000 in retail sales.

This means \$20,000 in sales over and above those to customers who come in by bus, hood it from a distant parking lot, or try to beat the traffic.

It means \$20,000 in sales from customers in outlying districts who would otherwise trade in smaller community stores.

A survey in San Bernardino, Calif. pointed up the financial value of parking facilities. One department store

had a 1,000-stall parking lot next to it. Another department store, very similar and competitive in every line, had no parking facilities. The volume of sales, per square foot of sales area, was about two and one-half times greater at the store with the parking lot.

Curb parking of course can decrease sales because it may hamper more prospective customers than it helps. But progressive communities are getting busy on off-street parking.

In Washington, D. C. the "stack 'em up" technique has been inaugurated—Washington has the country's only fully automatic garage.

Silver Spring, Md. credits much of its spectacular rise in midtown property values to the "spread 'em out" parking system. That city planned and provided for its future by laying out several thousand off-street parking facilities.

But Charlotte, North Carolina bumps along with what the parking engineers could call the "pile 'em up" technique.

For Jeffersonian Experts, A Quest

THE OTHER DAY, with that absence of mind so frequently a trait of the editorial writer, we tapped out the familiar line—"that government is best which governs least"—and attributed it to Thomas Jefferson—without checking.

It ran through one editor before anyone bothered to check the quote against the standard reference works without which no Ivory Tower could hope to function. No such quote—not from Tom Jefferson, at least.

There was W. H. Channing's line: "The less of government the better. If society be kept in peace and prosperity."

And another by Austin Phelps: "Other things being equal, that is the best government which most liberally lets its subject or citizen alone. . . . Through

the whole range of authority, he governs best who governs least."

And one by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "The less government we have the better."

A hurried call to the Charlotte Public Library's Charlie Brockman, who never before had failed us in a quest of that type, got us nowhere. Mr. Brockman said none of his reference works listed the quote, though he—like the editorial writer, the linotype operator, and the proofreader—had always assumed it was Jeffersonian.

And so, making the page over, we substituted Emerson's version for the rest of the day's run of papers.

But the thing still annoys us, dang it. Any Jeffersonian experts around who want to do some further research?

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
Democratic senators in an off-the-record meeting of the other evening that South Korean President Syngman Rhee will not start war again in Korea.

"I am not worried about Rhee using aggressive tactics, the vice president said, commenting upon Rhee's threat to renew the Korean War on Jan. 27. He will make a lot of fuss, but he will cooperate with the United States," Nixon spoke affectionately of the wrinkled, little South Korean leader with the appalled eyes, and pook-pood the notion that Rhee isn't strong in his own country.

"Syngman Rhee is South Korea," he declared. "Don't think for a moment that Rhee doesn't have those people behind him."

At one point, when he was giving a flattering report on another Asiatic strong man, Chiang Kai-shek, the vice president was challenged by Sen. Russ Long of Louisiana.

"A miracle has been performed in Formosa," Nixon claimed. "Chiang Kai-shek has 600,000 well-equipped, ready-to-go troops."

"Are you sure of that 600,000 figure?" interrupted Long. "I am a member of the Armed Services Committee. At the last briefing I attended, the figure was given as less than 200,000 troops, and some of them didn't even have shoes."

"That's the figure that is bat-

Crucial Indochina

Nixon replied that the other countries "Don't I didn't count them," Nixon replied.

He acknowledged that Chiang Kai-shek could not invade the Chinese mainland without U. S. aid.

Standing in front of the Kefauver fireplace, Nixon pointed out his travels on a map of Asia and gave a detailed, country-by-country report. He warned in advance, however, that he would present no conclusions.

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Washington Pipeline

The most powerful U. S. senator, Democrat Dick Russell of Georgia, was not qualified to go into "I didn't let At. Gen. Brownell's remarks about President Truman's tough talk" but was just playing politics. But Gen. Dewey's speech in Hartford really got under my skin. Why, that man, he should, I think, show the shoes of a Democrat."

Idaho's Republican Sen. Herndon Walker has never spoken so openly as he did in his remarks. Manfield since he came to Washington. From Manfield's viewpoint the feeling is mutual.

Democrat Sam Rayburn, who regretted during his 20th birthday party was that he couldn't find room for an increased defense with his shoes off.

Rhee And Chiang Impressed Nixon

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SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

THERE'S nothing new under the sun; but there is something new under the water in Tennessee. What couldn't be done, has been done. Folks used to believe you couldn't stop decay in pine logs. They now are doing it in Tennessee, keeping logs fresh and ready for use.

Pine logs stacked on the ground decay fast, after about 30 days.

Companies using quantities of pine-log paper mills, for instance—couldn't keep sufficient stock piles. They stacked logs high when wood came in freely, but they couldn't keep it for the off-season. The supply dwindled and work slowed down, sometimes stopped entirely.

Officials of the Bowaters Southern Paper Corporation, now building its plant on the banks of the Hiwassee 50 miles northeast of Chattanooga, were worried about maintaining steady production without steady supply of raw ma-

terial. Something had to be done about it.

The mill's general manager, Karl O. Elderkin, thought and he figured and he wondered a bit—and he came up with an idea.

Pine logs won't float. They become water-heavy and they sink.

Since they keep themselves under water, and since decay halts when wood is immersed, Mr. Elderkin said he'd build a huge pond, dump the logs in and keep them there until needed.

So he built the pond and it will store 30,000 cords of wood, enough to run the mill for six weeks and assure continuous production. Knowledge of the wood and imagination about the pond—and another problem was solved: Join those two, knowledge and imagination, and they'll march through a lot of other roadblocks in industry. They'll enable us to do many things that now we believe can't be done.