

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



Washington—Falling farm prices have served to focus attention on the problem that will have to be given priority attention by Congress when it convenes in January.

all measures which have been tried and recommended fall into the category of temporary measures. I am not prepared to offer any permanent solution to the problem. I am only making a few observations born of deep concern for the future of agriculture in our economy.

The Family Farm

The first observation is that the Benson program has failed to solve the problem and the Administration has not been able to present a solution to the price squeeze. The

second observation is that the family-type farm is very likely to disappear when the emphasis seems to be on a more efficient big farm operation. There are many thousands of people in North Carolina who depend on the family farm for their living, growing small acreages of cash and other crops. They have no way of passing over continuing years of lean farm prices and high costs of things they must buy. In this vast reservoir of humanity rests a storehouse of independent,

fundamental thinking, the type of people who wish to live and let live.

Rigid Supports

With the obvious fact that this is rather an artificial economy in which we find our existence today, I am convinced that the best interests of the farm people and our economy as a whole can be served by the temporary expedient of returning to rigid price supports at 90 per cent of parity on basic crops with controlled production. In fairly approaching the conclusion, it

must be considered that labor has its minimum wage laws to protect it; industry has one form or another of subsidies or protection; farmers and the so-called white collar workers seem to be the people who have felt the economic squeeze the worst.

The Future

The people of North Carolina know that this is a complex problem. The answer may be in new markets to feed the increasing population of the world, but this so-

lution is full of delicate components. There ought to be a meeting of the minds and a strong will at all levels of government to utilize the best brainpower available to solve the problem. I am glad that the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has been in the field for hearings, including hearings in North Carolina. Perhaps there will be developed some fibre of a plan for the future, a permanent solution to this question. While a solution is being sought, I

am not willing to stand idly by and let the foundation of our farm economy sink further into despair.

There Was

There once was a maiden from Siam Who said to her lover, young Kiam. "If you kiss me, of course, "You'll have to use force—" "But I'm certain you're stronger "Than I am."



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