

Secretary Benson Sees Farm Problem as American Plight

The so-called farm problem is not just a farm problem—it is an American problem.

That is the view of Secretary of Agriculture Benson, expressed at a recent Farmer-Businessman dinner in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And his point is one he has often made before—that "this problem cannot be solved by continuing the old outmoded price support, acreage con-

trol program" — and that "to achieve and maintain a prosperous, expanding, and free agriculture, we MUST solve the farm problem."

The Secretary cites various facets of the problem—and they add up to an ominously impressive list. Vast supplies of a few commodities exert a depressing influence in the market. Farm people are caught in a cost-price squeeze, and half our farms have a gross income of only \$2,500 a year. The cost to the taxpayers of maintaining farm programs is at an all-time high, and is still rising. We have \$9 billion tied up in the surpluses, most of it in corn, wheat and cotton. Storage, interest and handling charges alone now come to \$1 billion a year. On top of all this, in Mr. Benson's words: "Proposals are now being made which, if adopted, would go far to socialize agriculture—to make farmers depend for much of their income on direct payments from the U. S. Treasury. This threatens not only the freedom of agriculture — it threatens the free American economic system in general."

The Secretary finds no merit in the premise on which the old price support program was built — the premise "that production can be effectively controlled through acreage allotments and marketing quotas." Long, hard and costly experience has proven that simply is not true. He also finds, citing a recent nationwide poll made by Farm Journal, the largest agricultural magazine, that eight out of 10

farmers want greater freedom and less government interference. Moreover, the producers of important agricultural products which are not supported or controlled—livestock and fruits and vegetables among them—have growing markets. They have had and will have their ups and downs, of course, but by and large they have done well. The trouble is caused by the one-fifth of our agriculture that is not free—the supported and controlled so-called basic crops of corn, wheat, cotton, rice, peanuts and tobacco.

The wheat problem seems to have reached a point of absolute crisis. By July of 1960, the Secretary says, the carryover will be about 1½ billion bushels—enough to provide 515 loaves of bread for every man, woman and child in the country. And, at the same time, \$3.5 billion of the taxpayers' money will be tied up in wheat alone. A continuance of this trend, Mr. Benson is convinced, "could end in disaster of a magnitude such as we have not seen before in our American agriculture."

What, then, is the way out? As Mr. Benson sees it, the need is drastic change in the whole idea of the farm programs — not just changes of detail. To quote him once more: "The evidence of 25 years says that we cannot balance supply and demand by means of present acreage controls. The economics of the farm problem are simple—we need less government in farming. We must quit trying to fix prices unrealistically. This is the source of the twin evils of production for government warehouses and government control over farmers. We must emphasize markets, increased efficiency, and competitive selling. We must eliminate government's strangle-hold on agriculture."

"Until this is done, agriculture will be burdened with too much government, too much politics, and too little common sense."

KEHOE STARTING TODAY



COMMAND PERFORMANCE . . . By order of King Brian, Monach of the Leprechauns, Darby O'Gill (Albert Sharpe) plays a lively Irish tune in Walt Disney's "Darby O'Gill and the Little People." The production stars Sharpe, Janet Munro, Sean Connery and Jimmy O'Dea.

Give Your Favorite Furniture a New Lease on Life. FREE ESTIMATES PICK-UP & DELIVERY
Gray Upholstery Co.
Dial ME 7-7246

WOODROW MOORE'S
Supplying Indoor Comfort With
Carrier
Heating and Air Conditioning
Now located 318 First St.

FOR COMPLETE REDECORATING
Some of the world's finest Wall Coverings in various types and textures. Paint colored to match or blend each pattern. Free estimates.
Dial ME 7-5510
HARRELL'S PAPER SHOP

ELECTRIC MOTOR REBUILDERS
24-Hour Service
ACE ELECTRICAL CO.
318 S. Front St. Dial ME 7-7350

Don't Forget Your Week-End Special
PACKAGED TO GO
Barbecue, Bread and Slaw for Two \$1.00
Barbecue, Bread and Slaw for Four . . . \$2.00
SUPER SPECIAL FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
Half Barbecue Chicken with all the trimmings to eat on the premises or take out (listen), just \$1.00
The best in seafoods and regular dinners served with Foleys Famous home cooked pies, fresh daily. You can get your barbecue fine or coarse cleaver cut.
For Your Convenience When We Are Closed, Pick Up Our Barbecue Next Door at Hayes Food Center.
MOORE'S BARBECUE
Phone ME 7-2276 1216 Broad Street

Kehoe — Fri. thru Wed.
WALT DISNEY SPINS MOTION PICTURE MAGIC
WALT DISNEY'S Darby O'Gill and the Little People
Technicolor.
ALBERT SHARPE - JANET MUNRO - SEAN CONNERY - JIMMY O'DEA
with KENNETH BRIDGES - ESTELLE WINWOOD - WALTER FITZGERALD
Directed by ROBERT STEVENSON • Screen by LAWRENCE CROWNE WARDEN
Suggested by the "Darby O'Gill" stories by N. T. SHERWOOD
Regular Prices for Adults
Children 25¢, All Shows

GARDEN TIME
By M. E. GARDNER
N. C. State College
There are very few garden soils that can't be improved by the addition of organic matter. It aerates the soil—an important factor often overlooked—and helps the growth of bacteria and other vital soil micro-organisms.
It must be understood that the use of organic matter is not a substitute for plant food; however, at the same time, neither is plant food a substitute for organic matter. This is a common mistake

\$50.00
Allowance for Your Old Range
Regardless of Age or Condition on a New
COMPLETELY AUTOMATIC PYROFAX GAS RANGE
Low Down Payment
Easy Terms
Pyrofax
Quality Control
Service and Service
Craven County Gas Co.

among gardeners. Most forms of organic matter have no nutrient value at all. In cases where some small nutrient value is present, it becomes very slowly available to the plants. If the organic matter is not at least partly decomposed, it has a reverse action—starving the plants.

In order to be of use, bacteria must have a supply of nitrogen. Bacteria feed on, and thus decompose, organic matter. Some excellent foods for bacteria are straw, fresh sawdust, chopped corn cobs or shredded bark. When bacteria are in the process of decomposing this matter, they draw nitrogen from the soil—before the plants have a chance to do so. Thus, the plants may become starved for nitrogen.

Commercial fertilizers all contain nitrogen. You can see how important it is to feed plants which are mulched.

For the gardener who must watch his budget, sawdust is a very satisfactory mulch and is fine worked into the soil to provide organic matter. If it is fresh, be sure to add extra nitrogen

For the best in wheel balancing, wheel alignment, motor tune-up, brake, generator, starter repairs, Harvey Moore.
Ballard's Service Station
Bridgeton, N. C. Dial ME 7-3662

COASTAL CAB
ME 7-6131

VITA-VAR PAINTS
at
MITCHELL'S HARDWARE
315 S. Front ME 7-3100

Efficiency and Economy Go Hand in Hand when You Rely on Experts to Satisfy Your Building Needs.
Never Settle for the Next Best Thing. It's Bound to Be a Bad Bargain.
NO DOWN PAYMENT — 36 MONTHS TO PAY
B & B Supply Co.
Highway 17 South Phones: ME 7-3040—ME 7-5710