

Food Requirements Committee Created

Indications Are It Will Be Headed By Secretary Of Agriculture

NEW YORK, May 21.—The establishment of an over-all Food Requirements Committee, under the War Production Board and probably headed by Secretary of Agriculture Wickard was disclosed today by WPB Chief Donald M. Nelson.

In a telegram read at a luncheon meeting of the Associated Grocery Manufacturers of America, Nelson said existing agencies cooperating with the new committee would make it unnecessary "to set up an elaborate food administration."

Nelson's telegram was read to the delegates a short time after they had been addressed by Secretary Wickard who told them that "it is still safe to say that everyone in this country can have enough nourishing food, but we can't be certain that we won't run short of some particular kinds of foods and have to make up the lack with other kinds of food."

Secretary Wickard declared that his department would be glad to assume its full responsibility in coordinating production, processing and distribution of food.

Nelson's telegram said that the new committee under the WPB would "establish the policies and programs by which America's food supply will be produced and processed during the war."

The WPB chief said that he believed the program "will help us to meet America's military and civilian food requirements during the war, and will also enable us to continue supplying our Allies with the foodstuffs they need."

"The probability is that this committee will be headed by the secretary of agriculture and will include representatives of our armed forces, the Office of Price Administration, the Board of Economic Warfare and the WPB," Nelson said.

Wickard has just told the grocery manufacturers that the nation needed a "unified national food policy to meet war demands," and warned away against a possible food shortage.

He explained that demands for food for the United Nations had increased beyond expectations.

"A year ago it seemed certain that we could meet all foreseeable lend-lease needs and have plenty of all kinds of food for other uses, and even some to spare," Wickard said.

He added that "of course, it looked as if farmers would have to produce more of some things, and processors handle more. But generally speaking it seemed that the normal methods of producing, processing and distributing food could go on as usual."

"This, Wickard said, is no longer true. Among the difficulties tending to limit food production and distribution Wickard mentioned shortages of fertilizer, farm machinery, farm labor, trucks and tires, tin and processing equipment."

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