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Washington, D. C., Mar. 3.—Blocked by the Big Four farm organizations, the Bankhead bill skyrocketed through the Senate 73-3 on Thursday. The vote indicated a compromise on the part of the Administration, according to informed observers. Final passage of the measure would nullify that part of President Roosevelt's stabilization order of last October which requires deduction of government benefit payments in establishing farm price ceilings.

Majority Leader Alben Barkley (Dem. Ky.) supported the legislation with "some trepidation." He expressed the hope that it would not raise farm prices to a point which would contribute to "runaway inflation."

It is believed here in Washington that a "deal" is taking definite shape behind the scenes. In exchange for such concessions as passage of the Bankhead bill, the Administration's so-called incentive payment or subsidy program would be gunned through Congress against the wishes of the major farm groups. At the same time, the Pace Bill, making the inclusion of the cost of all farm labor a part of the basic parity formula, would be side-tracked. In turn, OPA Chief ex-Senator Prentiss Brown has intimated that

he would give a liberal interpretation to the Alken amendment to the Price Control Act of October 2, 1942. This amendment called for the weighing of the cost of farm labor for the purpose of fixing price ceilings on farm products. It would not change the basic parity formula.

Wickard Offers Program

Whether all this maneuvering would result in prices for farm products necessary to secure production of the food and fiber essential to prevent hunger here on the agricultural front. Meanwhile, USDA Secretary Wickard has called upon Congress for a mandate under which he may conduct a definite farm program which he outlined as:

- (1) Government support of prices of all farm products needed in the war effort.
- (2) A government offer to purchase certain products—such as soy beans, peanuts, flax seed, canned vegetables, sugar beets and perhaps others—and resell them to processors and distributors at prices in line with OPA price ceilings.
- (3) An offer to farmers of incentive payments on needed war crops to enable the producers to meet increased costs without raising consumer prices.

Wickard admitted frankly that one way of enabling farmers to receive the returns necessary to cover their increasing costs of production would be by raising prices. He did not believe this to be the preferable way, however.

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He contended that substantial increases in farm prices would inevitably lead to increases in prices and costs all along the line and might result in an inflation which would be even more ruinous to farmers than to others. This approach to the inflation problem has been hotly assailed by such farm leaders as Albert S. Gosa of the Grange, Charles Teague of the National Council and Ed O'Neal of the Farm Bureau.

Leaders See Evil Day

These men, heavily backed by many farm Senators and Congressmen, assert that the Wickard program will bring on evil day of reckoning. They believe that it is better for highly paid industrial workers to meet their food bill directly while the boom is on, rather than to pile up government borrowing for subsidy payments, and then be faced with a tremendous federal debt and crashing prices when the boom ends.

These differences of opinion were approaching a head-on collision at week-end. Economic Stabilizer Byrnes admitted that time-and-a-half for overtime in industry was inflationary, but opposed further farm price rises. A day later, Wickard came out with what seemed to many a rather modest understanding when he said that "if the 48 hour week means a 30 per cent wage increase it will tend to cause inflation."

A story was wafting round town that the President had reassured Wickard of his support, and had appointed White House Secretary Lauchlin Currie, whose occupation is Chinese relations, to act as umpire of the agricultural program. Currie, it said, immediately popped up with a 9-point plan, most striking feature of which was that "logical direction of the farm program be shifted from farm Bureau-minded people, towards that one responsive to Federal directions."

Price Ceilings Ordered

On the floor of the Senate, Lee O'Daniel (Dem. Tex.) demanded that "we 'ern' capital bureaucrats prevent famine." He said farm price ceilings should be ended. Countering this came a recommendation from OPA Brown that price ceilings be placed on cattle and hogs. Pointing that trend, after one of the bitterest sessions on record, price ceilings were clamped on a number of fresh fruits and vegetables. This brought an angry blast from the Commissioner of Agriculture of Florida. He barked, "The people who are doing this to us never saw a patch of growing beans in their lives." Over in New York, Market Commissioner Wooley asked a cut in food being shipped abroad on "Red-Lease. Butter was absent 10 per cent of Gotham's grocery stores, and the black market in meats was allegedly flourishing.

Before Sen. Gillette's (Dem. Iowa) rubber investigating committee appeared a number of witnesses who wanted to know why WPB was refusing to allow farmer cooperatives the necessary materials to construct alcohol conversion plants to utilize wheat, corn and sorghums in the synthetic rubber program. Accusations that vested interests, with key men in WPB, were conspiring to thwart alcohol-rubber output and retain control of the entire rubber program were tossed about. Sen. Gillette expressed his concurrence in such a belief. When Ezra T. Benson, Ex. Secy. of the National Council, told the Iowa Senator that he thought the cooperatives had been "given somewhat the run around by WPB", Gillette rejoined, "I move to strike out the word 'somewhat'." Benson agreed.

McNutt Faces Trouble

Over at the War Manpower Commission, Czar McNutt was facing trouble. Congress, via a sub-committee, refused to appropriate funds for the former Indiana Governor's latest manpower project; and many were seeing a fade-out for McNutt. The confusion over the matter of calling troops to pick cotton in Arizona didn't help the situation any for the silvery-haired Hoosier. With contradictory orders on the troops situation coming out on practically an hourly basis, it appeared to be a case of "In again, out again, home again, Finnegan."

Suspension of the curbs on wheat (removal of penalty of approximately 60c per bu. for production above allotment) seemed long over-due according to feed experts. They are facing a rapidly deteriorating condition in the feed market with few gleams of hope to be seen. This move, it was felt, might take off some pressure; but complications over price and procedure were still to be ironed out.

Free Speech Threatened

Secretary Wickard accused an unnamed author of making alarming and inflammatory statements concerning the possibility of hunger in America. The Secretary said, "... from irresponsible sources, statements are being made which apparently are intended to destroy morale and create food panic. ... These statements serve no purpose other than to destroy the confidence

of our own people and to comfort the Axis."

On the preceding day, Captain Edward Robertson, who has actually faced enemy bullets on many of our far-flung battle lines, was telling the New York State Legislature: "The Nazis and Fascists long ago showed us the way to discourage free speech. Strongly it by wrapping it in the flag. Smear it to death by crying loud that it ... gives aid and comfort to the enemy."

This week in Washington saw many shoe repair shops closed because of TOO MUCH WORK. Signs reading, "No work promised within one week," and "No work taken for two weeks, call for work between 5 and 7" were reminders that Washingtonians were flooding the shoe repair men with shoes to be repaired. Many shops are now operating on two shifts. Shoes are stacked ceiling high and the shoe men wears a very harassed look.

Wheat Marketing Quotas "Lifted" For Two Seasons

Action of Secretary of Agriculture Wickard in suspending marketing quotas on wheat for the remainder of the 1942-43 marketing year and for 1943-44 will permit farmers of Wilkes county to sell wheat without regard to quotas during this period, according to S. L. Turner, secretary of the Count AAA.

The secretary's action was taken under authority of the emergency provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act and released at once for feed or market any wheat which has been stored off the market because of marketing quotas, he said.

"It has been a general practice to store wheat produced in excess of farm marketing quotas and sell it in some subsequent year when acreages were underplanted," Mr. Turner said. "This wheat now may be marketed or used for feed."

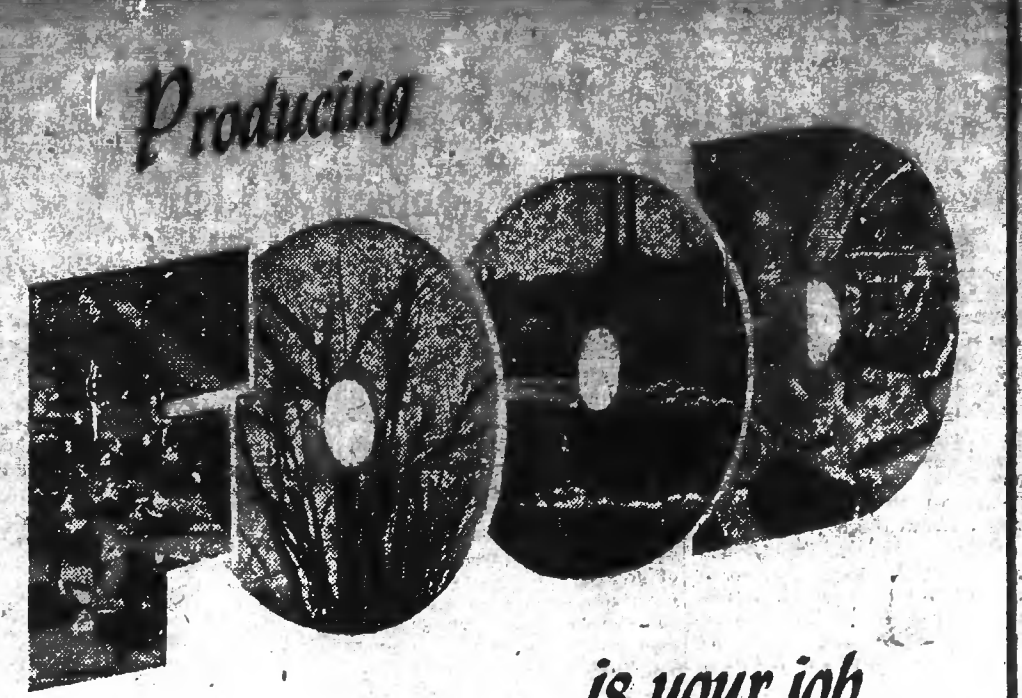
In suspending quotas, Secretary Wickard also announced that wheat farmers who in 1943 met 90 per cent or more of their farm war crop goals will be eligible for AAA wheat payments and wheat loans, even though they exceed their wheat acreage allotments. The secretary, however, urged farmers to maintain careful farming practices so as not to jeopardize future wheat crops. He pointed out, also, that water erosion and resultant low yields have allowed excessive wheat acreage increases in the past.

"With three good wheat years behind us, our wheat supplies at present are the largest in our history," Wickard said in announcing the suspension. "In view of the tremendous increase in the number of livestock, however, additional feed reserves are a safeguard for the future. We entered the present marketing year with a total wheat supply of 1,613,000,000 bushels. At the same time, this year, wheat consumption, including moderate exports, promises to be the largest since 1920. Livestock feeding has accounted for the bulk of the current increase in wheat consumption."

The 1942-43 marketing quota became effective following approval of wheat growers in a referendum on May 2, 1942. The 1943-44 quota was proclaimed on August 6, 1943, and the referendum which was to have been held this year was cancelled by the secretary's action, Mr. Turner, said.

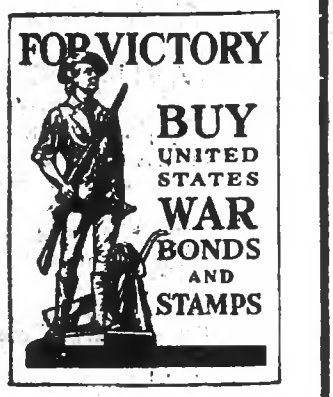
NOTICE

In the District Court of the United States for the Middle District of North Carolina, Wilkesboro Division, United States of America vs. One .38 caliber Smith & Wesson Revolver, Serial No. 565; One .22 caliber Remington Automatic Rifle, Model 241. Serial No. 14690; One 16-gauge L. C. Smith Double Barrel Shot Gun, Serial No. FW-73570; One .22 caliber Smith & Wesson Revolver, Serial No. 675223. In obedience to a Warrant of Seizure to me directed, in the above entitled cause, I have seized and taken into my possession the following described property: One .38 caliber Smith & Wesson Revolver, Serial No. 565; One .22 caliber Remington Automatic Rifle, Model 241, Serial No. 41680; One 16-gauge L. C. Smith Double Barrel Shot Gun, Serial No. FW-73570; One .22 caliber Smith & Wesson Revolver, Serial No. 675223. For the causes set forth in the libel now pending in the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, at Wilkesboro, I hereby give notice to all persons claiming the said property, or knowing or having anything to say why the same should not be condemned and forfeited and the proceeds thereof distributed according to the prayer of the libel, that they be and appear before the said Court, to be held in and for the Middle District of North Carolina, at the United States Courtroom, in the City of Wilkesboro, on the 15th day of March, 1943, at 10:00 A. M., if the same be a day of jurisdiction, otherwise on the next day of jurisdiction thereafter, then and there to interpose a claim for the same, and to make their allegations in that behalf. Wm. T. Dew, United States Marshal for the Middle District of N. C.



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