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All But Sold Out

According to reports coming from its national convention in Seattle, Washington, the American Farm Bureau Federation has all but sold out to the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce, the two organizations that have consistently opposed the farmer and the worker.

The 72-page report by the resolutions committee could have been no stronger for the economic royalists even if it had been written by the most reactionary leaders in the NAM or U. S. Chamber groups.

According to the reports, the delegates favor flexible price supports instead of the ninety percent of parity formula.

The organization, headed by a reactionary Republican and apparently in close association with the privileged classes in industry, denounce public power, meaning it is directly or indirectly opposed to the Rural Electric Administration.

The report is on record as favoring plac-

ing tideland oil in the hands of the oil barons in several states.

The organization is out to kill all price controls, declaring controls "have no place in a coordinated attack on the inflation problem."

One of the convention's last acts was to direct a blast at labor or that group of workers who form the largest market for farm produce in this country.

A final report on the convention is not available just now, the preliminary reports seem to indicate that the organization has deserted the millions of little dirt farmers and gone over into a strange camp.

Admittedly being on the losing side in the recent national election, labor has stated its stand, declaring that it will not stand idle while its hard-earned gains are attacked. Instead of taking the initiative, agriculture has chosen to take a back seat and hold out its hand to those who have placed nothing but debt and rocks there in past years.

Worn To A Frazzle

The old charge that Chiang Kai-shek was sold down the river has been worn to a frazzle. And every time we hear or see the charge, we can see General Stilwell pleading with Chiang Kai-shek. We can see Kai-shek's brother-in-law rolling in luxuries annexed at the expense of his fellow countrymen and American taxpayers.

Possibly it was the obstinate record that Kai-shek entered in the books back yonder that caused Washington to hesitate to turn to him as an effective force. Late reports coming from Formosa tell the same old story: "Chiang Kai-shek has the men, but he needs equipment and money." Kai-shek told that same story to General Stilwell hundreds of times, and according to the General's own letters, most of the fighting done against Japan in World War II was not done by Kai-shek's forces in China.

And it is a contemptible charge to accuse anyone in this country, be he Democrat or Republican, civilian or military man, with turning China over to the Communists. Chiang Kai-shek paved the road for Communism when he allowed corruption to strangle the people to death.

The earth has grown old with its burden of care. But at Christmas it always is young.—Phillips Brooks.

The Letter-Box

LIBRARY SERVICE

It would indeed be quite interesting to know just how many people in our state are acquainted with the service rendered by the Beaufort-Hyde-Martin regional library or bookmobile.

To my mind, it is a most valuable one. It places good literature within easy reach of all who are interested and without charge.

This fact should be advertised more extensively than heretofore so that every one should know and have an opportunity to avail themselves of its benefits.

More power to the bookmobile John Swinson, Jamesville, N. C.

Says Child Labor Being Exploited

The National Child Labor Committee reported recently that more than 100,000 children between fourteen and fifteen years of age are out of school and employed. Another 603,000, in the sixteen and seventeen year old group, have cut short their schooling for employment. The Committee warned that excessive work by school children must be brought under stricter regulation if exploitation of child labor is to be checked.

By excessive work, the Committee means work which requires more than off-school hour time and work which requires children to quit school altogether. The Committee's study shows that about ten percent of 33,000 establishments investigated by the Federal Wage-Hour Division last year were employing minors in violation of the Federal Child Labor Law.

The industries which seem to contain the largest percentage of violations were the logging and agricultural industries. The highest percentage of under-age children found working were in logging operations, in which the legal minimum age is 18 years. The legal age minimum in the agricultural field is 16 years and there are many indications that this law is widely violated.

The Committee's report charged that the "worst child labor abuses occur in agriculture, with the children of migrant workers suffering most of all." Farm accidents, it is said, are also often caused by the immaturity of children operating heavy machinery. As an example, the Committee listed fifteen child deaths in Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin in the last harvesting season—all involving farm machinery and children.

The Committee believes one of the reason violations are so widespread is the inadequacy of inspection staffs provided for the enforcement of state laws. It indicates that the states must clean up this situation, for the most part, if substantial progress is to be made, it was pointed out.

Business Picking Up At Post Office

Santa Claus' assistants, the post office employes, are no busier this year than they were in 1951—an indication that the volume of Christmas mail will be about the same this year as last.

Three temporary carriers and one extra clerk have been placed on duty to help out as the mailed matter mounts for Christmas. Other help will not be necessary, W. E. Dunn, postmaster pointed out because two employes who have been in service have recently returned to duty.

The Williamston postmaster explained that packages going out of town should have been mailed by Monday to assure delivery and that local packages should be in the mail no later than December 21. Air parcel post is recommended for gifts mailed out of town if the deadline was not met.

To help procrastinating citizens with their belated mailing, the post office windows will be kept open all day Saturday, December 20 instead of closing at noon, Mr. Dunn reported. He added that no other special services are planned during the Christmas rush.

"You can help expedite your Christmas cards if you will separate those for local delivery from those for out-of-town delivery," Mr. Dunn said. "Arranging them so the addresses all face one way is another tremendous time-saver."

He added that special labels reading "All for Local Delivery" and "All for Out of Town Delivery" are available at the post office and may be placed on top of each bundle to indicate whether or not local delivery is involved. Mail addressed to Williamston rural routes is for local delivery, he explained.

Jaycees Making Ready For Party

Santa Claus has set up an extension division in Williamston with the Jaycees as his field representatives.

Assuming responsibility for many Christmas activities, members of the civic organization have been busy for a month with background work on their annual program which includes a party for Martin County children.

Chief Mangum, Worth Mobley, and Edgar Gurganus are eligible of the program that teaches its climax Friday night at the party at the Woman's Club for underprivileged children.

A toy collections committee headed by Cecil Lilley and John Miller aided by Billy Biggs, Cecil Batts, James Bulluck, Ed Rowland, James Vann, Buddy Weir, Clarence Forbes, and J. C. Coltrain has gathered broken and discarded toys to be repaired for distribution at the children's party.

Following the toy collection drives, a repair and assembly committee headed by Harvey Baggett and Pete Rogers has been working each night in Santa's special workshop set up in the municipal water plant to make necessary repairs, prepare, wrap and label packages. They also will provide Donner and Blitzen service for the packages to the party scene, the Woman's Club building, on the night of the party.

Others on this committee are James Wellons, Bernard Harrison, Benny Goodwin, Bruce Roebuck, Wheeler M. Manning, Blue Manning, Bill Urquhart, Exum Ward and Frank Weaver.

Jack Sullivan, J. D. Baldrice and Al Sweatt, the treat committeemen, are preparing for the party and have arranged for all refreshments.

Santa's personal appearance at the party as well as the music and games will be under the direction of Pete Austin, Edgar Gurganus, and Hoke Roberson, while decorations will be planned and arranged by Tim Malone, Dan Peele and George Corey. Ernest Mears and John H. Gurganus are helping Santa check his list of children and are in charge of transportation to and from the party.

Dick Bender and Edgar Gurganus are in charge of the spread-the-good-word committee and have kept club and committee members as well as the public

He urged patrons to use twine and tie their packages of Christmas cards both ways.

Appealing for help in guarding against unnecessary waste of time and money, the postmaster said, "May I urge you to be sure every piece of your mail is addressed completely with street and number, post office box number, or rural route and box number. Also, your complete return address is most important."

As for the rest welcomed by mail-weary employes, Mr. Dunn reported the post office will be closed on Christmas day but that he is waiting for word from Washington in regard to any further holiday.

Farm Lubricants Causing Disease

Crankcase oil, tractor grease and other farm lubricants can cause "X" disease in cattle, recent experiments have demonstrated.

Research at the University of Tennessee has revealed that chlorinated naphthalenes are one source of the disease. The naphthalenes are added to lubricants to improve their load-carrying qualities.

A report in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association regarding the experiment said: "X" disease, also known as hyperkeratosis, was produced by chlorinated crankcase oil to the back of a cow.

As a result, farmers were cautioned against using crankcase oil to kill lice and mange on hogs and cattle. Tractors, combines and other farm equipment using lubricants should be stored where they are inaccessible to cattle, the report said.

Oil drippings, grease cans and lubricant buckets also provide a possible source of the disease if precautions are not taken, the report added.

Veterinary medical authorities said hyperkeratosis is a slow, chronic disease marked by a watery discharge from the eyes and a discharge from the nostrils. Marked drooping and scours also may appear. The animal gradually wastes away and dies. As the disease progresses, parts of the cow's skin become hard and dry and wrinkles develop along the sides of the neck and withers. The lips and tongue may show wartlike growths.

Research veterinarians also said the disease has been caused by certain wood preservatives.

Egg Production Is Higher This Year

Egg production on North Carolina farms this year has been greater to date than it was during the same period last year, and production last month showed an increase of a million eggs over November, 1951.

The State-Federal Crop Reporting Service says that there were 84 million eggs produced in the State during last month as compared with 83 million eggs in November of 1951. The figure represents a decrease from the 83 million eggs produced in October, 1952. For the year (January through November) there were 1.2 million eggs produced this year as compared with 1.1 million during the same period of 1951.

The Crop Service attributed the increase in November to higher production per 100 layers. It pointed out that there were 3,896,000 layers on hand in November 1951 compared with only 3,809,000 on hand last month but added that the number of eggs per 100 layers was 954 last month compared with 936 last November.

Egg production for the United States at 4.5 billion in November followed the same trends as that informed on their Christmas activities.

for North Carolina and compares with 4.4 billion eggs produced in October of this year and 4.3 billion produced in November, 1951.

Growers of Maryland, Pennsylvania Seedleaf, and cigar filler and binder tobaccos will not receive price supports on their 1952 crops because quotas were disappointed in the referendum held in 1951.

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