

### Congressman Fountain Still Nibbling on Raw Cheese Deal

Rep. L. H. Fountain, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations, said today that a Federal court ruling that three companies must pay the government \$253,000 was "another forward step" in a 2 1/2 year fight by the Subcommittee to recover more than \$2 million paid out by the Department of Agriculture in 1954 cheese and butter "purchase-resale" transactions.

In the transactions, the Department's Commodity Credit Corporation "purchased" approximately 85 million pounds of cheese and 5 million pounds of butter which was simultaneously "resold" at a lower price to the original owners. The cheese and butter was never moved from the warehouse in which it was stored, but CCC paid the owners the difference between the "purchase" and "resale" prices.

Hearings on the unusual transactions were held by the Subcommittee in June and July, 1955. Congressman Fountain then asked the Comptroller General for a ruling on the legality of the transactions. On August 15, 1955, on the basis of evidence brought out in the Subcommittee hearings, the Comptroller General ruled the transactions to be "unauthorized and improper". After some 8 months of study, the Justice Department informed the Subcommittee on April 27, 1956, that it would bring legal action for return of the unauthorized payments, and a series of lawsuits were subsequently filed for this purpose. The Department of Agriculture has continued to maintain that the transactions were proper, and employees of the Department have appeared in court as witnesses for the defendants.

In a decision handed down on July 3, Chief Judge Roszel C. Thomsen of the U. S. District Court for Maryland ordered \$109,572 repaid by the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, \$108,693 by the National Biscuit Company and \$34,665 by Swift & Company, together with interest at 6% from the date of judgment. Judge Thomsen declared in his opinion that the evidence indicated that "inventory protection and reimbursement to processors were major objectives" of the purchase-resale program,

rather than the support of prices paid to farmers for their milk and butterfat. The Judge also concluded that action taken by CCC at the request of the industry had "a depressing effect on the price of milk and butterfat." The entire record of the Subcommittee's hearings was admitted in evidence and Judge Thomsen referred to the hearings frequently in his 34 page decision, giving particular attention to admissions obtained by the Sub-

mittee that the "purchase-resale" operations were simply "paper transactions".

In addition to Congressman Fountain, members of the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee are: Robert E. Jones (D-Ala.), Henry S. Reuss (D-Wis.), Overton Brooks (D-La.), Chet Holifield (D-Calif.), Florence P. Dwyer (R-N.J.), Robert H. Michel (R-Ill.), Edwin H. May, Jr. (R-Conn.), Representatives William L. Dawson (D-Ill.), Chairman of the full committee, and Clare E. Hoffman (R-Mich.) are ex officio members.



Of all the methods used in the preservation of fruits and vegetables, quick freezing probably preserves the fresh flavor and nutritive value better than any of the other methods. And what is more important, your family can enjoy tree and vine fresh fruits and vegetables twelve months in the year.

One important factor, which is frequently over-looked, is the degree of ripeness for freezing. Peaches should be tree ripe and suitable for eating out-of-hand, while vegetables should be tender and never allowed to over-mature. Beans become stringy and tough while sweet corn loses much of its tenderness and eating quality.

According to our notes, a number of peach varieties will be available in July and August. The dates I am giving are based on the indicated beginning ripening dates for the Sandhills. Nearer the coast would be a few days earlier and in the upper Piedmont a few days later. In the mountains the varieties would ripen as much as a week or more later, depending upon the altitude: Hiley Belle, July 5; Hale Haven, July 5; Sunhigh, July 7; Georgia Belle, July 15; Efberta, July 15; and Lizzie and Shipper's Late Red, August 5. If you want peaches for freezing, contact your closest grower and arrange to get tree ripened fruit. Some growers will have other varieties but you can check with him.

In some sections of the state the dewberry harvest has been completed. If you have plants, they should be pruned after harvest. If you live in the Piedmont or Eastern Carolina, prune out all canes,

both old and new, close to the ground. If you live in the Mountains, remove only the canes which fruited this summer.

Keep the weeds out of your strawberries. Examine, regularly, your fruit, vegetable, flower and ornamental plants for insect and disease pests. Use appropriate sprays or dusts. Examine your shade trees and mark limbs which are in the way and should be re-

moved this fall. This can best be done while they are in full leaf.

QUESTION: Must I vote in my own township?

ANSWER: No. You may vote wherever it is most convenient for you to vote. However, you will be asked to sign an election roster where you vote so as to avoid duplicate ballots.

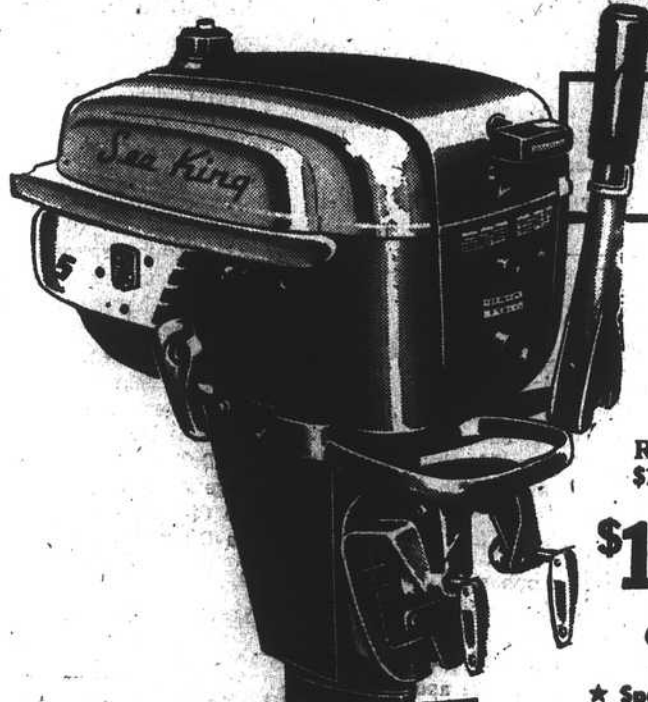
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