

Where Do We Go From Here on a

## FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM?

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One hundred and eighty-five million Americans are living in a land flowing hip-pocket and wallet deep in milk and honey — and wheat — and corn — and cotton — and sorghum grain — and al-

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most everything else grown on the farms and ranches of the United States of America.

The technological revolution in agriculture continues to produce more and more farm products with less and less land and labor. Our farmers' ability to produce more than our people and foreign markets can profitably absorb will continue as far into the future as we can safely predict.

### Consumer is the Winner

These increased efficiencies in farming have benefitted consumers more than the

producers. Farmers' net incomes have gone down while consumers spend less of their income on food. A typical family in the United States spends less than 20 per cent of their income on food; the western European spends between 30 and 50 per cent of their income on food; the western Russian uses 60 per cent of his income for food — of much lower quality.

We are unique in the world in that our "farm problem" is one of surplus and overproduction and not of starvation and scarcity. It is nevertheless a problem, and a costly one for the American taxpayer.

Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman said that the government cannot defend, and the public will not accept, continuation of multi-billion dollar price and income support programs which waste natural resources on production for which there is no need or market. The present administration proposes strict governmental controls over production of those commodities in surplus. These controls would cut back production enough to bring supply in balance with, or even below, current demand.

## "WANNA SWAP FARM PROBLEMS"



— Ellinwood in The Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)

### Cut Back and Land Diversions

Secretary Freeman has outlined two courses of action for balancing production with demand:

First, an immediate cut back in production of wheat, feed grains, and milk. These account for about 90 per cent of present price support costs.

Second, an immediate start on conversion of up to 50 million acres of crop land into parks, fish and wildlife preserves, trees and recreational facilities.

Secretary Freeman expressed the blunt opinion that the choice is not between continuation of present programs and those proposed by the Kennedy administration, but rather the choice is between what the administration offers and no programs at all.

### But Congress Decides

Considering such strong statements from the secretary of agriculture, it is well to remember that while the administration can *propose* agricultural programs it is the Congress of the United States that makes laws that determine what agricultural programs will or will not be put into effect.

Congress, at least for this year, may very well decide that farmers *do* have a choice between present programs and what the administration proposes.

Do the millions of mothers in our cities realize that the lunches which their children receive at school are charged, in part, to the farm program?