



Battalion photo by Bill Wilson

Say it for the camera, please

David Clodt, a newsman for Channel 13 in KTRK-TV in Houston, talks with Bobby Tucker, Texas A&M student body president. Chuck Walker films the conversation about prospects for the Future Farmers of America, which Tucker has long been active in. Clodt talked to other students during his visit last week. The TV show is scheduled for March 23.

## Bergland predicts new farm policy will make or break small farmers

United Press International  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland predicts a new U.S. farm program will be implemented by 1981, and it will either favor small farms or possibly force them out of existence.

Bergland, in Kansas City to speak before the 77th annual National Farmers Union convention, told a news conference Monday a revision in current farm policies would have to be forthcoming in the next two years.

The secretary said the government would have to decide whether small or large farms would be best suited for optimum agricultural production. He said if the decision favored small farms, farmers would benefit from tax changes including the capital gainstax, changes in loan and support programs and new homestead exemptions.

Bergland said if no decision were made, U.S. agriculture in general would suffer because current farm programs do not provide for optimum production.

In remarks to the farmers' convention, Bergland called for a national dialogue on the American farming structure to stave off control of the nation's food production system by "a handful of giant operators."

Bergland suggested government

farm, tax and credit policies may have accelerated a trend toward fewer farms and that trend will continue unless policy changes are made.

Bergland said tax laws encourage high-income non-farmers to pay more for land than its productive

worth because of the benefits of investment credits, capital gains taxes, accelerated depreciation and other tax devices.

"I, for one, do not want to see an America where a handful of giant operators own, manage and control the entire food production system," Bergland said.

"Yet that is where we are headed, if we don't act now."

The secretary said the current farm system has worked to feed Americans and the world at a reasonable cost and has been a "stabilizing influence in global politics and the world economy."

But he said "an unending trend toward larger and larger and fewer and fewer farms" may not be in the nation's longterm interest.

"Something has been lost," he said. "Something of lasting worth. And the loss is felt not only where it occurs, but also in urban America as well."

## Ag secretary plans 'routine' resignation

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland said Tuesday his plans to resign at the end of President Carter's first term would be merely a routine gesture usually taken by high officials at the end of a presidential term.

Bergland said he would submit his resignation to President Carter, adding, "I have no notion whether he'd want me back for another four years."

He noted that it was significant

that no one has resigned from Carter's original Cabinet. "It's a good team," he said.

At the Kansas City news conference, Bergland said, "I will resign in 1981" after Carter is re-elected. "That's common practice for Cabinet members."

He said he was certain Carter would be re-elected.

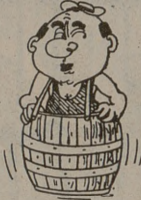
At that time, Bergland would not elaborate when asked more specific questions about his planned resignation.

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