

Farmers say production of wheat controls needed

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mid-western grain farmers say if the Carter administration abandons wheat production controls, "fence-row-to-fence-row" planting could become widespread and likely initiate a price crash to rival that of the mid-1970s.

"Just look at past history," said farmer Gary Henderson of Anthony, Kan.

"Farmers have obligations to their landlords, themselves and to their banks (to plant as much wheat as possible). You can't shut the door."

The Senate, apparently concerned about possible wheat surpluses and a collapse of prices, passed a resolution Monday urging

the Carter administration to offer farmers price supports in exchange for a voluntary 5 percent wheat set-aside program.

The 20 percent voluntary wheat set-aside has been in effect since 1978, and many farmers credit the program with helping boost farm prices.

But with prices this month reaching their highest levels in five years, there has been pressure within the administration to chop the wheat program altogether. Since there has been little hope of saving the present 20 percent set-aside, farm organizations have been shooting for only 5 percent.

Even at that, officials acknowledge there is a good chance there will be no set-aside come Aug. 15.

The wheat set-aside established a wheat reserve, which kept the grain off the free market until prices hit a specific target. Combined with a tremendous growth in export demand this summer, wheat prices hit their highest prices since 1974-75.

But many farmers fear history will repeat itself. A set aside program in the early 1970s was discontinued in 1973 when prices hit record levels. Without any restraint on production, prices plummeted downward, reaching lows in 1977.

And many farmers fear their neighbors "have not learned their lesson."

"There would be some individuals who would increase their acreage," said Wendell Ebright, president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, and a farmer himself in Hutchinson, Kan.

"We may work our way back in to the same sort of quandary that we just worked out of. It would take a tremendous export demand to support an increased crop," Ebright said.

Jim Allison, executive assistant for the Texas Wheat Producers, said the impact of the loss of a set-aside program could be tremendous.

"If you put all those acres back into wheat production which have been taken out the last couple of years, you could bring another 500 million bushels back into the supply, sitting on top of what already you got," he said.

However, Jack D. Craig, commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, said farmers might have learned their lesson.

Opponents espouse 'propaganda'

Physicist says nuclear power needed to protect democracy

United Press International
NEW YORK — Physicist Dr. Edward Teller said in a two-page advertisement published Tuesday that despite the "propaganda" by opponents such as Jane Fonda and Ralph Nader, both the H-bomb and nuclear power are needed to safeguard democracy.

In a two page ad published in the Wall Street Journal, underwritten by Dresser Industries of Dallas, Teller insisted that nuclear reactors were not dangerous and that nuclear power was the main answer to the nation's energy shortages.

Teller, the so-called "father of the H-bomb," said he had worked both on the hydrogen bomb and the safety of nuclear reactors and "I did both for the same reasons. Both are needed for the survival of a free society."

Americans are just beginning to feel the impact of the energy shortage, Teller said, but the irritation caused by long gasoline lines, brownouts and escalating prices were mild compared to what could happen in the future.

"In a struggle for survival, politics, law and even humanity may be forgotten. When the objective is to stay alive, the end may seem to justify the means. In that event the world may indeed return to the 'simple life' of the past, but millions of us will not be alive to discover its disadvantages," Teller said.

In a point-by-point reply to questions raised by anti-nuclear forces

Teller said:

— "It is absolutely impossible for a nuclear power plant to explode. For this to happen, the laws of nature would have to be repealed."

— The chances of being hurt by a nuclear accident for people living within 50 miles of a reactor were "about the same as being hit by a falling meteor."

— Ways exist to dispose of nuclear wastes. "What we have is a decision by our government on which way to go. Waste disposal is a political problem, not a technical problem."

— Terrorists can find ways to terrorize the nation in ways safer than using plutonium. "The answer is not to get rid of the reactors — let's get rid of the terrorists."

Teller said that although the accident at Three-Mile Island had cost \$500 million, not a single life was lost and no one was injured.

"We must pay for safety," he said, "and even after we have paid it, nuclear energy is the cheapest source of electrical power."

"When our existence is at stake," he said, "we cannot afford to put our backs on any source of energy. We need them all."

Teller said that a few weeks after the accident at Three-Mile Island he was in Washington. "I was there to refute some of the propaganda that Ralph Nader, Jane Fonda and their kind are spreading to the media in their attempt to frighten people away from nuclear power."

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House overwhelmingly passes resolution of censure against Diggs

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The House voted overwhelmingly Tuesday in favor of a resolution of censure of Rep. Charles Diggs Jr., D-Mich., Congress' senior black member, for padding his payroll and taking kickbacks from his staff in the mid-1970s.

The vote was 414-0 with four members voting "present."

Reps. Parren Mitchell, D-Md., and Robert Garcia, D-N.Y., voted "nay" but changed their votes to "present." Also voting "present" were Rep. Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., and Diggs himself.

After the vote, Diggs stood in the well of the House while Speaker Thomas O'Neill Jr. read, slowly and solemnly, a resolution of censure approved by the House Ethics Committee.

When O'Neill finished reading, several members joined Diggs in the well. One patted him on the

shoulder. O'Neill called for the next House business and ordered the well cleared.

The House resumed its usual noisiness and the censure of Diggs became a matter of history.

Diggs, now in his 13th House term, became the second member to be censured in this century. Rep. Thomas Blanton of Texas was censured in 1921 for causing improper language to be printed in the Congressional Record.

During a solemn debate in which no orator opposed the censure resolution, Diggs — wearing matching suit, necktie and shirt of light blue, sat on a front row with a brief case in his lap. He occasionally took notes.

The strongest point made against Diggs was a statement by Richard Cheney, R-Wyo., that he believed the Michigan congressman, already stripped of committee and subcommittee chairmanships, should have resigned long ago.

"Resignation is the only honorable course of action," Cheney said. "I believe he should have resigned long ago and should consider doing so now."

But Cheney joined other debaters in saying the committee's recommendation of censure was appropriate.

The debate was brief and O'Neill called the House to order to "short circuit" the House's tisan disciplinary procedure and relies heavily on investigation of its Ethics Committee. O'Neill said he was surprised the move had passed by a narrow margin of 235-1 Monday.

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Manufacturer issues warning on Darvon

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Eli Lilly Co. will issue a pamphlet soon to consumers explaining how dangerous the pain killer Darvon can be if it is abused.

The Food and Drug Administration said Monday that Indianapolis-based company would distribute a leaflet warning against mixing Darvon with alcohol or other drugs or taking too much of it. "Severe weakness, difficulty in breathing, confusion, anxiety, more severe drowsiness and dizziness."

In some cases, the warning says, "extreme overdosage may lead to unconsciousness and death."

Acting FDA Administrator Sherwin Gardner emphasized that used properly, Darvon, known generically as propoxyphene, is safe. Critics had asked for a ban on the drug, and charged there are as many as 4,000 deaths a year related to it.

But outgoing Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano said earlier research has revealed no need for a ban.

Gardner said the FDA will ask other propoxyphene makers to take similar steps to warn users about potential hazards.

700 New Yorkers land jobs in Texas

United Press International
NEW YORK — The 700 American Airlines employees leaving New York for the company's new corporate headquarters at Dallas-Fort Worth airport feel a range of emotions from "ecstasy" to "regret" about the move.

The personnel involved in the move, now in its second week, will join another 300 American employees who are transferring from other parts of the country, says Gene Overbeck, senior vice president, who is overseeing the move.

While some employees have not yet made a decision, about 350 opted not to make the move, mostly "secretaries and clerical workers who could not leave for personal reasons. Spouse employment was the big one," Overbeck said.

Those employees not moving will be placed "within the American system where suitable." Those who cannot be absorbed will help in finding jobs, he said.

When American Chairman V. Casey announced American plans last November, the move drew outraged comment from other city officials and threatened a boycott of American by business and companies in this area.

A spokesman for one New York-based firm that had said it could not do business with American said "I think maybe we've been faded away. I'd rather mention us by name in connection with any boycott."

The threatened boycott had a "noticeable effect" on American business Overbeck said. The idea of a boycott was pushed by Overbeck pointed out that American still will have a "substantial involvement in New York in excess of 7,000 employees, executive and clerical levels in the region's airports. Both the eastern region headquarters and the can's hotel subsidiary offices are in New York at new offices in Chrysler building.

Lewis Rudin, chairman of the association for a Better New York who was critical of the move in November but disapproved the boycott as "not productive," still thinks American made a mistake.

Rudin said the energy crisis resulting gasoline shortage makes it more imperative for companies to think twice about moving to ban or rural areas — and Fort Worth Airport can be as in a rural area."

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