

nation

# Farm leaders speak out on grain crisis

United Press International  
In Iowa, where 20 percent of the nation's corn is grown and politicians now are looking for votes, farm leaders say the administration must quickly implement its offer to buy grain or farmers may be hit with a large drop in market prices.

Illinois Gov. James R. Thompson, fearing the Soviet grain embargo will endanger his state's entire economy, has offered President Carter a three-point plan he said could lessen any drop in prices due to a domestic glut.

And in Texas, farm leaders say they hope the administration will not put the grain it buys back in the marketplace in a fashion that would depress prices.

"That grain has to move every day," said Maurice Van Nostrand Monday. He is market research director of AGRI Industries, Iowa's largest marketer of export corn.

"They have to step in rapidly and do that buy grain. If there's any interruption, there's going to be a considerable decline in the market."

The offer to buy the embargoed grain was made in Washington Monday by Vice President Walter Mondale. He said the government would offer to buy the contracts held by 22 grain firms, hold it off the market and then sell it when prices strengthen.

Officials from the Iowa Farm Bureau and the Iowa Farmers Union said the government may have to reverse a fall announcement and call for a set-aside program, one in which farmers are paid to idle crop land.

## Candidate wants to make gasohol out of grain withheld from Russia

United Press International  
SAN ANGELO — A candidate for the Railroad Commission has proposed making gasohol from the grain being withheld from sale to Russia.

"I can tell you one thing: I'd rather pay American farmers \$75 a barrel for gasohol than pay the Ayatollah Khomeini a quarter a barrel for crude," Buddy Temple said Monday in a speech to Tom Green County Democrats.

Temple said grain alcohol is used for 10 percent of the content of gasohol, and that 10 percent would "just about offset the percentage of oil that Iran was supplying to the U.S. before they seized our embassy."

The president said that the government was going to spend between \$2 billion and \$3 billion stockpiling the grain. Why not put it to use in an experimental gasohol refinery operation?

"It's more than the companies need, and it is much, much more than hard-pressed Texas consumers should stand for," said Hightower, who is opposing Commissioner Jim Nugent in the May 3 Democratic primary.

Another commission candidate, Jim Hightower, issued a statement through his headquarters in Austin accusing the present three-member commission of bowing to the demands of utility companies for higher

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