

# Crop plan will cut back farm supplies

**United Press International**  
**WASHINGTON** — Farmers will cut back significantly on the use of fertilizer, seeds and other products because of the government's new efforts to reduce crop production, officials said Thursday.

"Farmers will use less seed, fertilizer, fuel and pesticides and will need less operating capital," J. Dawson Ahalt, acting deputy undersecretary of agriculture, told a House small business subcommittee.

"Farmers will also reduce use

of farm equipment, thus extending its life and reducing the need for repairs," he said.

He predicted an overall reduction in the use of those products ranging between 5 and 7 percent because of the new payment-in-kind program, which promises to give farmers government-owned surplus crops in exchange for idling large portions of cropland. In some industries, sales may be reduced by more than double that amount, he said.

The payment-in-kind program

is intended to use up existing surpluses and increase the prices paid to farmers for their crops.

A decision is likely by early summer on whether the program will be extended into 1984, Ahalt told the subcommittee.

Frank Swain of the Small Business Administration told the energy, environment and safety subcommittee that the payment-in-kind program may inadvertently hurt some agricultural support industries.



*Spraying it off*

staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Don Smith, a seven month employee with Texas A&M, sprays water on the freshly laid cement Thursday which will become Moses Hall's new bicycle rack. Three dorms, Moses, Moore and Davis-Gary, have received new bicycle racks. Smith is from New York.

# Derailment injures 12, disrupts train service

**United Press International**  
**CLINTON, Conn.** — Amtrak's main line from New York to Boston was closed today while crews removed four derailed cars from the Yankee Clipper and repaired 1,000 feet of track ripped up by the accident.

Twelve people were injured — none seriously — and one car was left dangling precariously over a bridge in the accident Thursday, which occurred during the Yankee Clipper's Washington-Boston run.

The accident was being investigated but federal and state officials said there was no evidence vandalism had caused the wreck.

"I heard a noise that was not quite normal when the train went by, and I ran out and saw the last three cars coming off the rails at a 45 degree angle," said Mike Brooke, who works at a gas station near the derailment site.

Kathy St. George, 30, a Boston actress who was a passenger in the first car to derail, said, "I was jolted right out of my seat and then sat right back down."

"It felt like — what is it — a scrambler at an amusement park. Oh, I wanted that car to stop."

"There really wasn't time to be scared," said Carol Kunzey, 30, who was traveling from Washington to Boston in one of the last two cars to derail. "We

did sort of have time to compensate, to brace ourselves. The train tipped and all the cushions fell on the floor. It was very strange."

The 10-car train, which had stopped in New Haven, was headed east with about 200 passengers under warm, sunny skies at about 2:30 p.m. EDT when the four cars jumped the tracks on an overpass, Amtrak officials said.

One of the four cars was left dangling over the side of the railroad trestle about 10 feet above Route 81, creating "a precarious situation," police said. The rear of the car remained anchored at one end of the trestle.

# Senators support proposal After-school prayer urged

**United Press International**  
**WASHINGTON** — Education Secretary Terrel Bell said Thursday high school students should stay late at school for Bible study and prayer groups — just as they now stay after their classes for sports or debating.

Bell spoke to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which began three days of hearings on prayer at school. Hearings today and Monday will focus on President Reagan's proposed constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayer in the classroom.

The hearing Thursday confronted milder proposals, sponsored by Sens. Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala., and Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., to permit religious meetings at school during non-class hours.

"If a public school allows students to meet before or after school to discuss or engage in politics, social activism or athletics, why should the rule change just because the students happen to be religious?" Bell asked.

The American Civil Liberties Union's argument against the proposal was made by one of its vice presidents, the Rev. W.W. Finlator of Raleigh, N.C., a 40-year Southern Baptist preacher.

Speaking emotionally, Finlator compared the proposals permitting religious meetings after class hours to legislation for tuition tax credits and requiring Bible reading in classes.

Saying he believed in the ability of churches and synagogues to teach religion, he called the proposals a means of "surreptitious entry" to get religion into the public schools.

Denton, who presided at the

lengthy hearing and was the only senator present for almost all of it, said, "I fear that a new wave of intolerance is rising and that those who avowedly speak on behalf of civil liberties are involved in a systematic effort through the courts to limit religious freedom and speech."

Reagan long has advocated an amendment that would overturn 1962 and 1963 Supreme Court decisions that prohibit prayer in the classroom. The committee will hold hearings on that amendment today and Monday.

Reagan initially made the proposal in the last Congress but it failed to get out of congressional committee. He repeated it in his State of the Union address in January, saying, "God never should have been expelled from America's classrooms."

The hearing Thursday was on two compromise proposals by Hatfield, a liberal, and Denton, a conservative. Both would permit prayer and Bible study groups in classrooms after school hours.

Hatfield's bill would apply to students at high schools only. Religious organizations already may meet on state college campuses under a 1981 Supreme Court decision.

But the Supreme Court refused to consider a ruling prohibiting the Lubbock school board from permitting high school students to hold such meetings at school during non-class hours.

Pegged to the First Amendment rights of free speech, Hatfield's bill has a broad range of support from both conservatives and liberals. Supporters said it

did not include elementary pupils because they would not be mature enough to make wise decisions about religious groups.



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