

Grange Master News on Issues Challenge

Master Herschel D. Newsom of the National Grange challenged Grange members to equal the national farm-rural organization's first century of service as it embarks Dec 4th on its second century.

"Let us here and now, then, dedicate ourselves to an acceptance of the challenges that are ours," he said, "and to determination to capitalize on the opportunities for growth and service as we prepare to enter into a greater second century."

Newsom added: "With firm determination to promote membership growth, and thus give new blood and new ideas to the Grange as a basis for greater progress, let us determine that, through the Grange, we will stimulate people; we must generate opportunities for rural Americans, both in and out of agriculture, we must build the type of community life that develops human growth, increases hope and lifts aims and purposes"

He charted the following among the objectives for the Grange in his 62-page report of the delegates and members:

"It is time to make crystal clear the fundamental fact that reasonable Supply Management is as important to individual enterprise in American agriculture as it is to those entrepreneurs in any other business in the United States," he said.

Newsom explained that agricultural indebtedness (in percent of total assets) — at its highest level since 1941, has destroyed much of the gains in farm income achieved in recent years through the long-advocated Grange supply-management farm program.

He pointed out that "Not only must the Grange continue to plead the cause of just and equitable relationships between farmers and rural people on the one hand, and the remainder of the U S economy on the other; but we must, in cooperation with farm organizations in the rest of the world-working both bilaterally and multilaterally through IFAP (International Federation of Agricultural Producers) — vigorously seek to incorporate agricultural programs within the national pro-

grams of our respective countries"

He added, "We must continuously pursue the matter of incorporation of agricultural trade requirements on a just and equitable basis, into the U.S trade policy and into the international policies of the several countries of the world."

In addition, he said "The necessary machinery, fertilizer, seed and other factors, requiring capital investment, will not be developed in these countries without the incentive that can come from price stability in agriculture. Reasonable, equitable price levels and price stability are necessary ingredients to the peace of the world and for the solution of the food versus population crisis."

He warned that "To fail to recognize this fact . . . may very well result in driving many countries of the world . . . to the conclusion that capitalism and incentive cannot work in agriculture in time to meet the nutritional requirements of

their people in the World Food Crisis."

Turning to the tax increase-standstill and rising interest rates Newsom said that rates "have gone up to the point that we have now been compelled to go before the Congress and ask for a removal of the six percent ceiling on interest rates. This is an unacceptable position in which to be placed."

He concluded: "It, however, is unthinkable that we should permit the financial structure of our cooperative credit agencies to be impaired. Nor do we dare stand idly by and permit the capital structure of these agencies to be jeopardized at a time when American agriculture is still engaged in Substitution of Capital for Labor, and when the capital must be borrowed."

Newsom, Master of the National Grange for 17 years, also compared the need for "Granger laws" 100 years ago with the possible need today for some control of so-called "conglomerate" firms.

He said that the concern with post-Civil War monopolies which led to the creation of the Grange — and its revolutionary

campaign to make all corporations subject to government regulation when the public interest was endangered has "now been replaced by the necessity of great concern and of careful examination of the growth of conglomerate firms and corporations."

"Is it not possible," he said, "that we may be unwittingly condemning ourselves to a mediocrity that retards progress and diminishes the growth of prosperity?"

Did you know—That 35 State municipalities have either all or a large part of their watersheds within the State Forests, and many have water supply impounding dams within the State Forests. (Dept. of Forests and Waters)

● Cereal Leaf (Continued from Page 16)

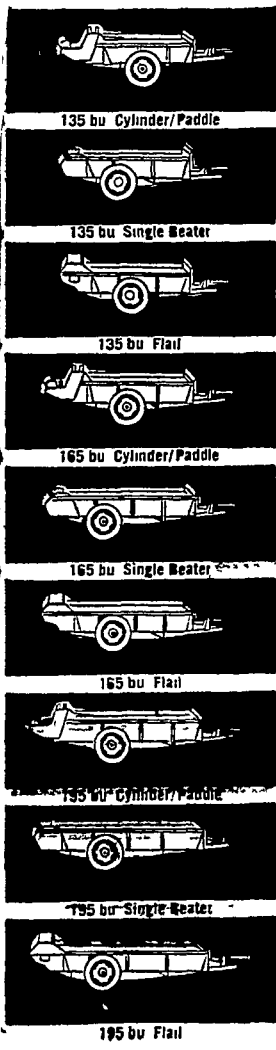
agriculture department will continue to survey various areas of the state in attempts to locate new infestation points, Nixon said. New points of infestation will be immediately added to the quarantined area.

Cereal leaf beetle was first found in the United States in 1962 on a farm in Michigan. Since then it has spread to Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The beetle is also found in most of Europe extending as far east as Siberia.

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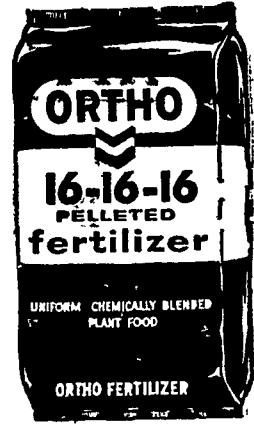
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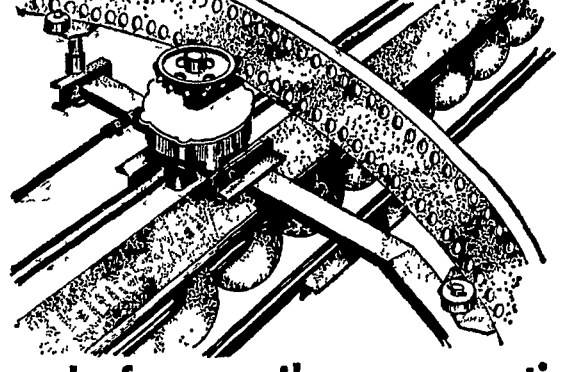
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