

Federal "Security Reserve" Opposed

The American Farm Bureau Federation said recently that congressional proposals for a "security reserve" of agricultural commodities — advocated by President Johnson in his State of the Union message — would "put another patch" on current unsatisfactory government farm programs.

Farmers very much oppose any program — strategic reserve or otherwise — that will tend to build up stocks in government hands, or control again, John C. Lynn, AFBF legislative director, said in a statement prepared for presentation at a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee hearing.

Lynn said government-controlled reserves are "bad from the standpoint of producers, expensive from the standpoint of taxpayers, unnecessary for the protection of domestic consumers, and not necessary for exports or foreign relief."

Farmers do not want to compete with government in the market place, Lynn said. And he added:

"The idea that reserves can be isolated from the market is fallacious.

"No matter how tightly the Congress may attempt to lock reserves up market prices will be affected to some degree because the trade will always know that (1) reserves are subject to release under specific conditions, and (2) the conditions specified for the release of such reserves can be changed at any time.

"Actually, on the basis of present proposals and past experience, there is every reason to believe that any legislative effort to isolate government stocks from the market would be riddled with loopholes."

The Farm Bureau legislative director said establishment of a reserve program at this time would "change the rules" and be "most unfair"

"Many producers will already

Milk Chairman Huber, Concedes Unfair Prices Paid To Farmers

Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania probably are not getting a fair return on their milk, the chairman of the State Milk Control Commission concedes, but that does not mean the commission is a failure.

The chairman, J. Lin Huber, defended his agency Monday at a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He was

have sold their 1967 crop by the time this legislation could possibly be enacted," Lynn said.

"As a consequence, a large part of any so-called 'benefits' the proposed program might produce in terms of higher market prices for the 1967 grain crop world, of course, go to middlemen and speculators. This would not make farmers happy."

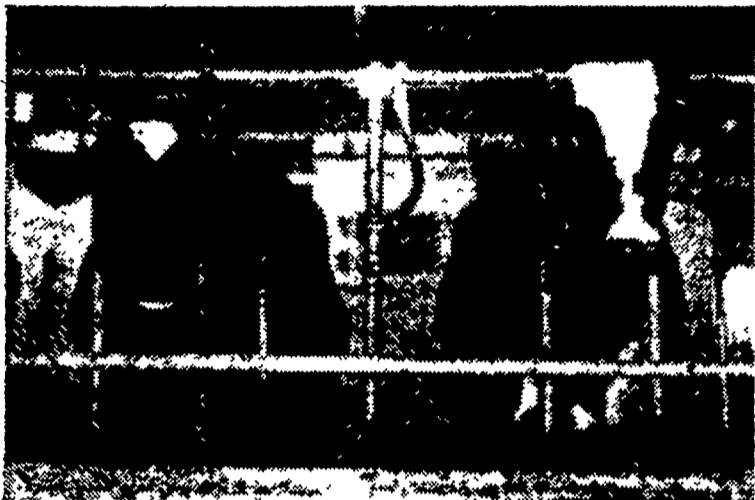
there to request \$600,000 for the commission for fiscal 1968-69.

The 31-year-old commission's effectiveness was challenged by Senate Minority Leader Ernest P. Kline

"Every evidence I have indicates you have failed in your job to bring about a healthy dairy industry in Pennsylvania," the Beaver County Democrat told Huber. "The dairy farmers are not making any money and the consumers are quarreling over the price of milk. Where have you succeeded?"

"If we increase the price to the producer, milk dealers certainly will pass that increase on to consumers," Huber shot back. "Is that what you're suggesting?"

Huber said the commission was established to "insure the inhabitants of the commonwealth an adequate supply of pure and wholesome milk by regulating all economic facets of the dairy industry with few exceptions."



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● Poultry Debate (Continued from Page 1)

be sold out of state. He said a referendum vote should be brought before the producer and let him decide. He defined a producer as the one who does the physical work of production.

In anticipation of the next speaker's comments, Berenson added, "All you have to do is simply control production."

Richard Ammon based his side of the debate on the Talmadge Bill introduced into the 90th Congress last month. Called the "Table Egg Marketing Act", it listed one of the powers conferred on the Secretary of Agriculture as "To protect the interest of consumers." Ammon told the group, "We (poultrymen) people don't count in Washington now. It is the consumer who rates."

He pointed out in another section under required terms in order where the Secretary is authorized to make regulations. "He can do anything," he said. "Don't think the producer board set up in the act would have any authority."

The proposed law also has provision where the producer must qualify to vote. And it forces producers to pay for the program through assessments.

In discrediting the proposed law, Ammon listed five reasons: —1. It gives complete government control. —2. Expenses would be higher and paid for by producer assessments. —3. Leaves little room for new people in the business. —4. Would speed up integration, and —5. Leaves a chance to cheat.

In summary, Ammon said, "I don't think this bill has a chance this year but it will be back next year."

The fourth poultry Educational meeting will be held March 13, at 7:45 in the Farm & Home Center.

● Hostetter (Continued from Page 1)

tory. We will not see extensive use of the milk-o-tester until we get better shipping methods."

Hess also discussed the once-a-day testing experiment being tried and reported there was very little difference in final results. "In fact," he said, "in some cases it has proved even more accurate than the two-times-a-day test. It might not be official for a while but it is something to look at if we want to get more out of our men (testers)," he said.