

Farmers Union Urges Congress To Promptly Extend Food-Ag Act

The Board of Directors of the National Farmers Union Friday urged Congress to act promptly to extend the 1965 Food and Agriculture Act, excuse Commodity Credit Corporation loan funds from the forthcoming \$6 billion budget cut, and establish a strategic reserve of storable agricultural commodities.

The Board, meeting to review current conditions in agriculture, stressed the urgency of the situation.

Tony Dechant, President of the organization, said that extension of the 1965 Act was at the top of the list of priorities. He said Farmers Union wants

the Senate and House versions of the legislation to be resolved in conference without delay. Farmers Union supports a four-year extension, which was voted by the Senate. The House voted a one-year extension.

The Farmers Union said that conferees should also resolve differences in food stamp legislation passed by both Houses. The resolution said, "We welcome consideration of the farm bill and the food stamp bill in tandem. Food stamps are an essential weapon in alleviating the pangs of poverty in our Nation, and the Farmers Union welcomes joint consideration of food

stamp and farm legislation."

Dechant said that Congressional leaders are being informed today of the Farmers Union action.

The Board urged passage of S. 3987, a bill introduced by Senator Allen Ellender (D-La.), the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, that would excuse Commodity Credit Corporation loan funds from the budget cut that was approved in connection with the surtax bill passed by the Congress. The resolution pointed out that bumper

crops have resulted in CCC loans approximately \$700 million higher than expected. It called a cut in CCC loan funds "unrealistic in the face of the need for additional funds to protect farmers' prices and income."

The Board also urged the establishment of a strategic reserve as a "basic weapon for the achievement of peace and security both at home and abroad."

The resolution said: "In order to protect America and keep it strong, it is vital that a reserve

of storable agricultural commodities such as feed grains, wheat and soybeans be created and fully insulated from the market. Such a reserve will serve as a bulwark against shortages and famine, and will protect our ability to maintain the most efficient agricultural production mechanism the world has ever known."

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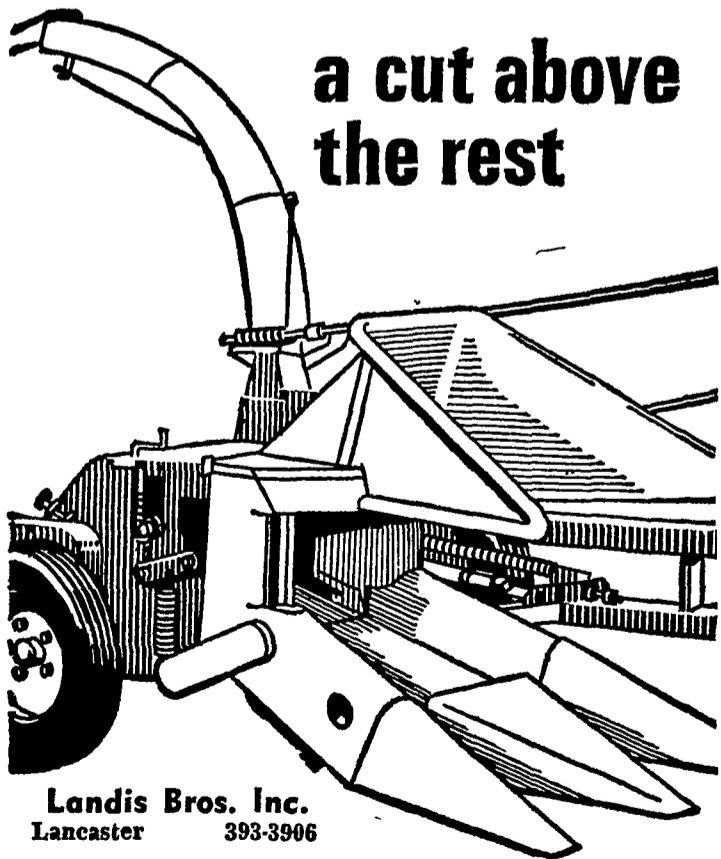
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