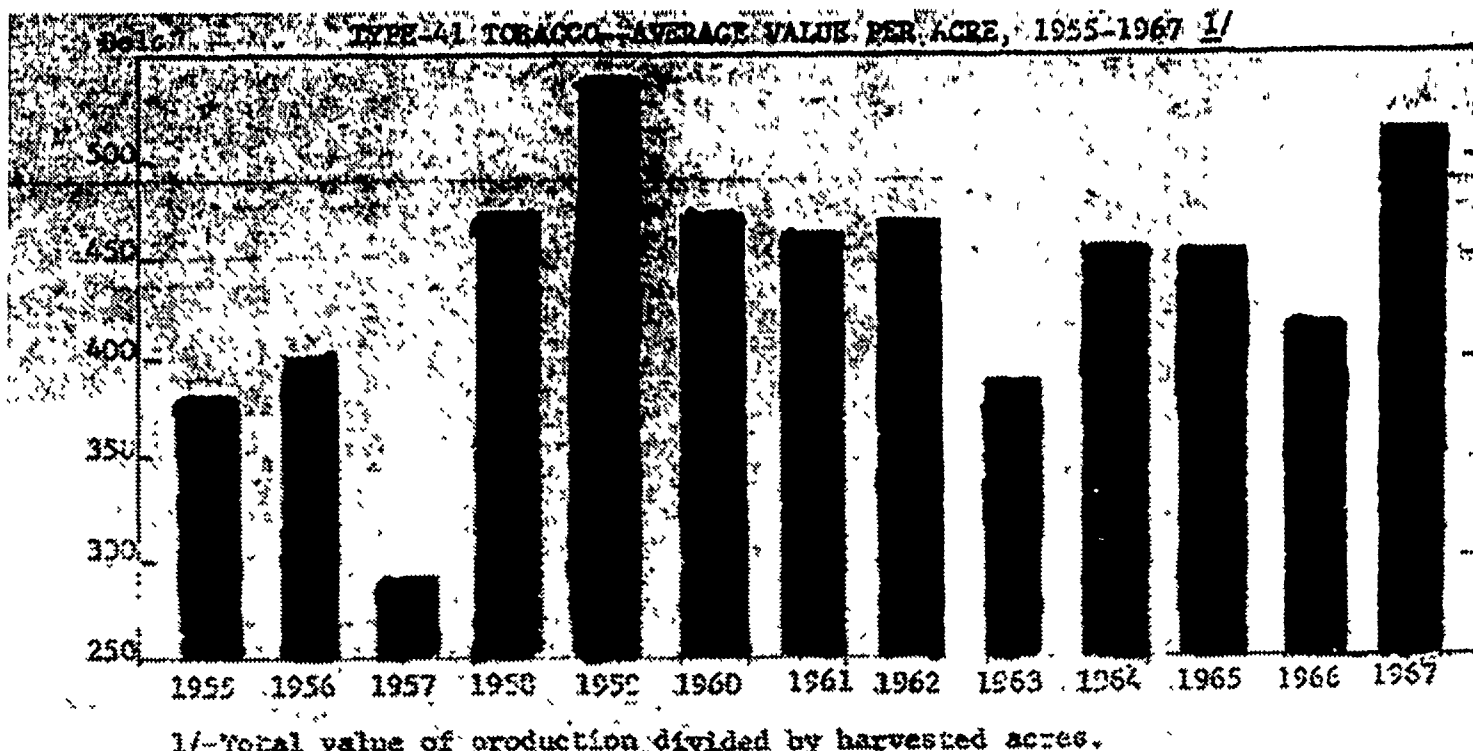


Tobacco Crop Smallest In 33 Years

Pennsylvania's 1968 tobacco production is forecast at 36 million pounds, the lightest crop in 33 years. Production from this season's 20,000 acres is expected to be 7 percent smaller than last year and more than a fourth below average.

Yield prospects are 1,800 pounds per acre, 50 pounds less than a year ago and 25 pounds less than the 1962-66 average.

Harvest of this year's crop,



1/- Total value of production divided by harvested acres.

over by October 1, is slightly later than a year ago but about normal. Beneficial rains occurred the second week of September and promoted growth on the small late tobacco plants. Nearly all plants were harvested, despite earlier fears that late fields would not be worth cutting.

Low humidity, plenty of sunshine and adequate air movement during September created ideal curing conditions, and the

curing process is well advanced for October 1. Very little of the crop was damaged by hail, and quality and color appear to be excellent.

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Nixon Aid Proposes "Foreign Food Corps" In Address To NEPPCO

Dr. Robert R. Spitzer, a prominently mentioned candidate for the post of Agriculture Secretary in a Nixon cabinet, last week proposed a "Foreign Food Corps" which would be dedicated to increasing the agricultural efficiency of farmers overseas.

Speaking before a large audience at the 31st exposition of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council in the Farm Show Building, Spitzer blasted Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman as "unqualified for his job" and called on American farmers to "get involved in politics" and to help "bring this

country an administration which cares about and will fight for the American farmer"

Noting that he has become personally involved as the chairman of Republican presidential candidate Richard Nixon's National Agriculture and Food Committee, Spitzer alluded to indications he might succeed Freeman in the event of a Republican victory at the polls next month.

"I have no personal ambitions," the Wisconsin corporation president said. "I don't know what would happen if I were asked to serve in some capacity, but I know I am going

to do all I can to aid the agricultural industry in this country"

The Foreign Food Corps which Spitzer proposed "would be a far better answer to the problems of other countries than the giveaway programs we have involved ourselves in over the last several years," he said.

The son of a Wisconsin dairy farmer, Spitzer said he is well acquainted with the plight of the farmer in this country today.

"Agriculture is our nation's largest single industry, with a value in excess of \$270 billion," he said. "But the fact that only six percent of our population is today actively involved in some kind of farming has greatly reduced consideration for the

farmer at the national political level."

Spitzer, the keynote speaker for this three-day exposition and convention of poultrymen and equipment manufacturers from 14 northeastern states, wound up his address with a call for new national leadership.

Rural Electrification Administration borrowers, mostly co-operatives, checked the outflow of cash from the Federal Treasury by approximately \$142.8 million during fiscal year 1968. They used \$97 million of their own renewal and replacement funds to help finance necessary construction and deposited \$45.8 million in the Treasury from their reserve funds as advance loan repayments.

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