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Named by Indians
 The Sioux Indians called the Black Hills of South Dakota by that name because the slopes were covered with thick pine forests, which made them appear black from the plains.

Counteroffensive Against The Corporate Invasion Launched

The counteroffensive against the corporate invasion of American agriculture was launched at Des Moines recently. The Farmers Union called the forces together but it was a defensive by all of those in rural America who have something to protect and a sense of outrage at the injustice being done — churches, small businessmen, educators, labor, as well as farmers, according to the NFU Washington Newsletter.

Tony Decnant, the National

President of Farmers Union, said appropriately to the some 600 leaders from 30 states who gathered on a cold, snowy day in the Hotel Savery: "There has been a tendency to consider the 'farm problem' in a singular term—ignoring the stake in agriculture that others have. I am talking about the stake that small-town businessmen have—bankers, farm implement dealers, hardware dealers, druggists—the stake that young people have as they look to the future—the stake that pastors, teach-

ers, doctors and lawyers have—and the stake that consumers of the food and fiber products of our farms have. Farming is inseparable from the welfare of the Nation."

Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.), who keynoted the seminar, said his Monopoly Sub-committee of the Senate Small Business Committee, would press its investigation of the total effects of the corporate invasion. He said we are pressing land reform in other countries when we may be coming to the time when it will be necessary in the United States.

Msgr. Edward O'Rourke, the Executive Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, stressed the inconsistency of our national policy for agriculture that is letting the family farmer go down the drain at the very time when we are beginning to help people in ghettos and in underdeveloped countries become proprietors in order that they might exercise initiative and make decisions. "No other single institution has done so much to create initiative, self-reliance and pride in work as family farming," he said.

Senator Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) got to the heart of an important part of the problem in a discussion of the tax policy that permits non farmers to write off farm losses against taxable income from other enterprises. He told the seminar that he and at least 20 other Senators will re-introduce legislation to limit this practice.

It is likely that this was the first time that such a broadly based group of leaders came together to launch a meaningful counteroffensive against the powerful forces that now surround and dominate the agriculture establishment. Robert D Partridge, General Manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, put the REA's solidly in the battle to save family agriculture. The corporate invasion of rural electric cooperative service areas by large power companies "is part of the same problem," he said.

Interests of other segments of rural America were stated by banker Pat DuBois of Sauk Centre, Minn., labor leader Jacob Clayman of Washington, D.C., economist Paul Farris of Purdue University, and Kansas State Senator Reynolds Schultz. An action statement putting teeth in the counteroffensive was adopted. It called for enactment of the tax loss farming bill, limiting slaughter of cattle by packers that operate feedlots, long-term, low interest loans to young farmers, legislation to give farmers bargaining power as a "countervailing force to the economic power of corporations, strict enforcement of the 160 acre limitation in the Federal Reclamation Law, and enactment by state legislatures of laws to prohibit or curtail the activity of corporations in farming. Equally important, as the meeting ended plans were already being formulated for similar seminars in various states to call attention to the corporate invasion.

The seminar showed that many are disturbed. Small towns and rural communities are drying up; resources are being wasted; displaced people are moving into urban centers. As the enormity of the problem becomes apparent, the counteroffensive will grow.

"Clay's Road"

A monument to Henry Clay is located on the Cumberland, or National, Road near Wheeling, W. Va. The road was nicknamed Clay's Road because Clay fought so vigorously for the government appropriations with which it was built.

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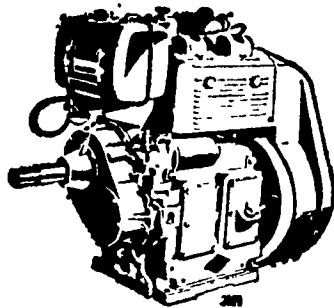


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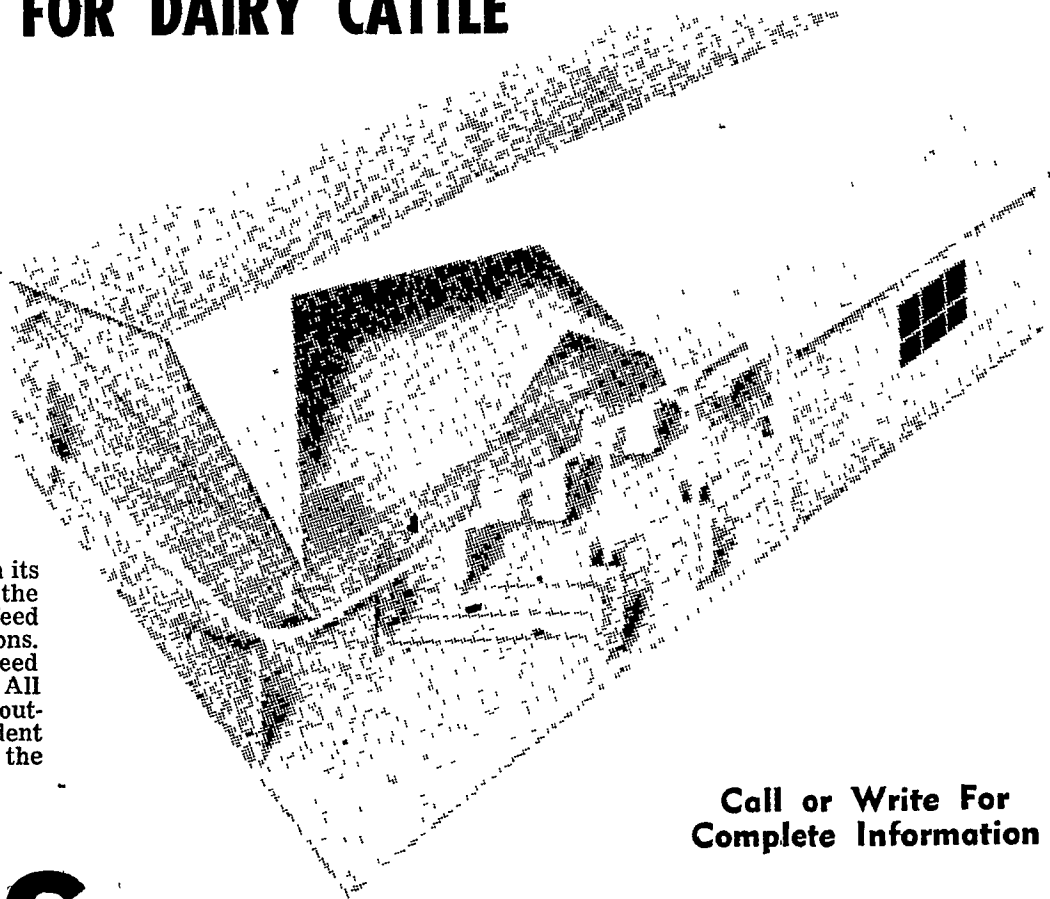
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