

Farm Labor Union Inevitable

(Continued from Page 7) to the Health, Education and Welfare Department.

Those who are trying to trim the USDA's jurisdiction are saying that the poor could be better cared for through the negative income tax, that research can be financed through check-offs and inspection can be handled elsewhere, Huheey explained.

Citing 21 influential men in

Congress he noted that 16 of them are from states with large rural influences — but their days are numbered.

These 16 average 65 years of age and 29 years of seniority. Most of these men will be replaced in the 1970s, Huheey asserted.

"It is not likely that their replacements will feel any particular debt to agriculture," he declared.

The loss of agriculture's political influence also will be one of the factors contributing to a switch to the corporate farm structure in the next 10 years, he continued.

"The family farm is under siege," he stated. "He (the individual farmer) will hang on as long as he can but he has nothing to offer the next generation and he often has not prepared his children to do anything else."

Huheey, however, cited the family corporation as one of the

corporate structures that will dominate farming. The others are the public corporation and the investors' corporation.

All have advantages in gaining credit, can compete for advance contracts, control quality, and oversee the orderly flow of goods to market he concluded.

A diametric view to this was given by Prof. Bernard F. Stanton, Cornell University's chairman of agricultural economics,

who said the family farm will continue to dominate New York farm production and most of American farming.

He reasoned that this form of business organization is as efficient as any other alternative.

"If the day comes when large corporate organizations can do a better job than can family farms in organizing resources to produce food in the form and of the quality that consumers want, then the family farm will no longer be dominant," declared Stanton.

Farmers, as a minority group in an urban state, have greater reason than ever to recognize their interdependence and common cause with suppliers, processors and retail distributors in the food industry, Stanton said.

"The food industry as a whole and the farm production sector must accept consumer decisions about what is desirable to produce if they are to be strong competitively and to continue as a major contributor to the state's economy," he stated.

Turning to trends in land use, Stanton said the farmer finds himself critically involved in any public debate on decision making on land use.

As a user of land he is concerned about modifying tax policy because taxes are a cost of production. Water and air pollution laws and zoning regulations may strongly influence production practices, Stanton noted.

He predicted that the shift of good agricultural land into urban uses will proceed at a modest rate in the next decade or 2.

About 4 percent of all available farmland will be shifted into urban uses between now and 1985, according to estimates quoted by Stanton.

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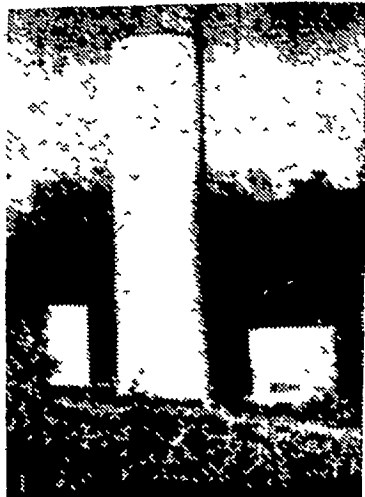


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