Shuman Calls On Congress To Enact Ag Adjustment Act

of the American Farm Bureau to the market system would be Federation, the nation's largest gradual." general farm organization, this week called on Congress to enact what he called "a broad-based be made during the transition program to help individual farm- period to help farmers make ers make needed adjustments, needed adjustments," he said. increase prices, expand markets, cut costs and thus provide the isting programs, the proposed exbasis for increased net farm in-pansion of the Cropland Adjust-

presentation at a House Agricul- land to noncrop uses." ture Committee hearing this morning. Shuman endorsed the proposed Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969. This legislation has been introduced by two members of the Agriculture Committee — Representatives Charles Teague (R, Calif.) and George Goodling (R, Penn), 19 other members of the House, and 20 Senators.

"The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 is a demonstrated failuie," the Farm Bureau president said.

"Despite the expenditure of billions of dollars, farm problems have not been solved, and farmers have not achieved a satisfactory level of net farm in-

"A completely new approach is needed, 'he declared And he

"New legislation should be enacted this year so that farmers can plan ahead The hour is already late"

Shuman said the proposed Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969 would provide for a fiveyear transition period during which acreage controls, base acteages, marketing quotas, processing taxes, and direct payments for wheat, feed grains, and cotton would be phased out It would also.

—Direct the Secretary of Agriculture to retire at least 10 million acres per year under the Cropland Adjustment Program from 1971 through 1975.

—Provide government price support loans for wheat, feed grains, cotton, and soybeans at not more than 85 percent of the previous three-year-average price beginning with the 1971 crop year.

---Prohibit the sale of governnient stock of farm commodities at less than 150 percent of the current loan rate plus carrying charges, except when sales are offset by equivalent purchases in

-Authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to offer a special transitional program to any farmei who has had average gross annual sales of farm products of not more than \$5,000 and offfarm income of not more than \$2,000 per year for husband and wife for the immediately preceding three years. Such farmers would be eligible to receive compensation for acreage allotments and base acreages surrendered to the secretary for permanent cancellation; land retirement payments under the Cropland Adjustment Program; retraining grants; adjustment assistance, and loans under existing credit programs.

This special program for low income farmers, Shuman said, "would help farmers who do not have the resources needed for a successful farming operation to make a transition to more gainful employment" He added that it would be "entirely voluntary"

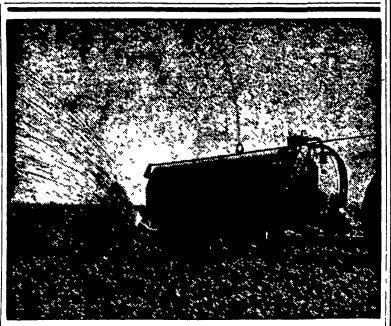
The Farm Bureau president emphasized that, under the pro-

Charles B. Shuman, president posed legislation, "the transition

He said that, in contrast to exment Program "would more of the market outlook, Thus, the economically divert surplus crop-

the same farm," he said.

phase-out of acreage allotments, "Substantial payments would marketing quotas, base acreages. certificates and government payments for feed grains, wheat, and cotton each producer would be free to plan his wheat, feed grain, cotton and soybean production so as to make the best uses of his resources in the light way would be clear for farmers to earn and get higher incomes "The retirement of whole in the marketplace."



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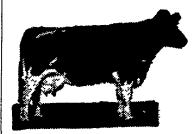
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ment of some non-land resources told the Agriculture Committee sumers," he said. and eliminate the increase in per- that Congress should encourage resources formerly used for 'di- withdraw from the International ves of farm commodities.

"Government reserves are not State Farm Bureaus.

farms would result in the retire- The Farm Bureau, president needed for the protection of con-

"They are primarily a device acre yields which results when the Nixon Administration to for holding down farm prices.' Shuman was accompanied at verted acres' are shifted to land Wheat Trade Convention so that the hearing by J. Merrill Ander-that remains in production on the depressing effect of "inverse son, Iowa; Robert Delano, Virsubsidies" can be removed from ginia; Ray Frisble, Kansas; Allan wheat prices. He also said Con. Grant. California; Floyd Haw-"At the end of the proposed gress should continue to reject kins, Arizona; William Kuhfuss, proposals to authorize the establishment of government reser- ia; Elton R. Smith, Michigan; and Boswell Stevens, Mississippi, all presidents of their respective

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