

# President Nixon Declares Salute to Agriculture Day May 7

A talk by President Richard M. Nixon in the White House Rose Garden was the highlight of the 1971 annual Newspaper Farm Editors of America (NFEA) Convention in Washington D.C. last week.

President Nixon spent more than a half hour with the Farm Editors. Besides the expected explanation of why Farming is vital to the national economy and how farmers have been doing more than their share in the fight against inflation, the President took the occasion to announce a special Salute to Agriculture Day on May 7.

Leaders of American agriculture will be invited to the White House for a reception and briefings on both agricultural and general national issues. Plans are to make the Agriculture Day an annual event.

The President also chatted informally with the newsmen, particularly commenting on the drought which was underway in the Texas-Oklahoma area. The President shook hands with and greeted each of the approximately 40 farm editors. This was followed by a tour of the White House by a staff aide.

Whereas the NFEA in the past had difficulty even seeing the President, the reception this year was both friendly and represented a generous amount of time from the President's busy schedule.



President Nixon Emphasizing a Point

### Secretary Hardin Speaks

Elsewhere at the NFEA convention, Clifford Hardin, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture emphasized the administration's record in getting a new high level of farm exports and increasing participation in federal food programs from 10 to 14 million persons since last year.

Commenting on the administration's recent action to increase the price support on milk

by 27 cents to a new level of \$4.93 per hundred for manufacturing milk of average test, Secretary Hardin said there is "a general feeling that the dairy industry is on the verge of major surpluses which could result in serious downward pressures on milk prices over the next year or two."

But the Secretary added that it takes a long time to expand dairy herds and there's a greater milk promotion effort under way—factors which may help head off surpluses.

On the question of chemical controls, Secretary Hardin indicated there is a trend toward making distinctions between various types of chemicals. There are some good but short-lived chemicals which are dangerous to persons handling them; it is felt that persons using these should be licensed, he said.

Hardin said farm groups need

Zane Wilson, Lancaster Farming managing editor, attended the annual convention of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America (NFEA) in Washington, D.C., last week.

The articles and pictures on these two pages are his report on that conference. They represent an attempt to capture some of the highlights of the conference and spell out for local readers some of the thinking and policies of top Washington officials which will be of importance and interest to local people.

The annual NFEA Washington convention is designed to give farm editors from across the nation an opportunity to exchange ideas and to hear top agricultural officials outline their programs and policies and to ask questions about particular issues.

It's always a special treat for the editors when the president of the United States agrees to receive them and it was an extra special treat this year when President Richard Nixon spoke at length to the group in the White House Rose Garden.

to be active politically, but he thinks farm groups sometimes "should find something that

they could come in with one voice on"

It was reported that the USDA this summer will issue weekly reports on the extent of the corn blight in an effort to cut down on "the rumor mill" and get the best possible factual information to farmers on the blight.

Hardin also said the assessment within the USDA on the blight potential in 1971 is that farmers probably will have one of two situations: either a drought without the disease or the disease without drought. This is true because the blight thrives in moist conditions and it is felt that extremely dry weather may be needed to stop the blight.

Commenting on in farm communities that the Extension service might be eliminated under (Continued On Page 2)

## Whitten Says Farmer Needs His Share of the 'Fair Advantages'

Jamie Whitten, D-Mississippi, House Appropriations Committee chairman, spoke on the need to give the farmer "fair advantage" in the U.S. economy.

Whitten described the U.S. as a country of laws to give fair advantages and he said every group wants to dictate what it considers to be fair through the law.

"How can the farmer be independent when we have all these laws to give labor and other groups a competitive advantage?" Whitten asked.

He told the Newspaper Farm Editor's of America that trying to get price by creating scarcity is dangerous and that "that's what we've been preaching."

Whitten also pointed out that a high standard of living depends on the amount of time it takes for a person to get his basics. In this country only five per cent of the people are needed to provide these basics, leaving the other 95 per cent to do other things, he said.

But there's a problem, he said, in finding politicians who will look after the five per cent.

Noting that the last depression started by breaking farm prices, Whitten emphasized the importance of the farmer as a buyer of chemicals, machinery and other products. If farm income



President Nixon talks during the meeting with Farm Editors in the Rose Gardens last week. With him is Clifford Hardin, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Looking on is S. Archie Holdridge, Farm Editor of the Hartford Courant and president of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America.



President Nixon greets Richard Orr, farm editor of the Chicago Tribune. He greeted and chatted with each of the visiting editors.

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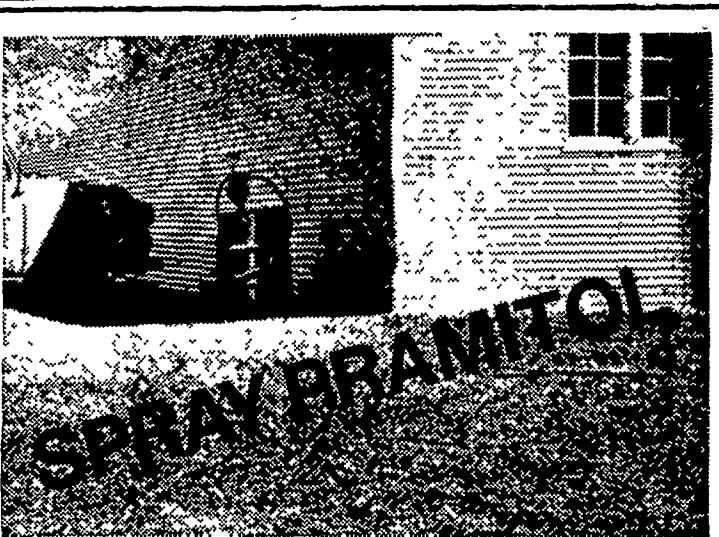
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