

Campbell Cites Value Of Growing Agriculture

The agriculture of tomorrow—an expanding agriculture aggressively seeking to help meet world needs—is being developed today in America, Under Secretary of Agriculture J. Phil Campbell said last week in Knoxville, Tenn.

"With this emphasis on an expanding agriculture, we have cut in half the rate of decline in farm numbers," Mr. Campbell said. "With an expanding agriculture, we are laying the best foundation for the sound development of rural America.

"For an expanding agriculture, we have worked hard to expand exports—and these efforts have paid off."

For the 23rd Annual Convention of the Burley and Dark Leaf Tobacco Export Association, Mr. Campbell outlined the role of the tobacco farmer in an expanding agriculture.

"Your role is to meet an increasing demand, both here and abroad, for tobacco," Mr. Campbell said. "It's as simple as that. When the world stops wanting the finest tobacco ever made, it will no longer need you. I do not foresee that time.

"On the other hand, I do not foresee an exploding demand for your product. While U. S. production of cigarettes—which absorbs 80 percent of the burley supply—is expected to increase somewhat this fiscal year, overall leaf exports may decline. However, foreign demand for burley continues to grow but an increasing share is being supplied by foreign producers, often at prices less than half the U. S. levels."

The challenges facing the American tobacco producer are tremendous, Mr. Campbell said. They include reducing the cost of production, foreign trade barriers, health concerns and the reduction of the amount of tobacco in cigarettes.

"Yet there is a demand to be filled," the Under Secretary asserted "Your initiative and propensity for hard work have helped fill that demand for more than 350 years

"We stand today as the world's largest exporter of tobacco. In fact, our exports account for about one-third of the world's tobacco trade. In fiscal year 1972 U.S. exports of tobacco and tobacco products were a record \$764 million.

"At the same time, U.S. imports of tobacco and tobacco products last year were valued at \$167 million. Thus, U.S. foreign trade in tobacco resulted in a net

favorable balance of about \$597 million.

"Our burley exports of over 44 million pounds—worth \$50 million—were up 10 percent in quantity and 20 percent in value compared to fiscal year 1971. Likewise, our exports of Kentucky-Tennessee fire-cured—at about 22 million pounds, worth \$16 million—were up 17 percent in quantity and 28 percent in value from fiscal 1971.

"To paraphrase a well-known saying: The reports of your demise have been greatly exaggerated.

"Although tobacco utilizes only three-tenths of a percent of the Nation's cropland, it is usually the fourth or fifth most valuable crop and accounts for about six percent of cash receipts from all U.S. crops."

With 600,000 U.S. farm families sharing in the proceeds from the sale of tobacco, Mr. Campbell noted, the tobacco industry plays a major role in the economy of an ever-changing, ever-growing Southland.

"The South has thrived on change," he said. "As the Agricultural Act of 1970 gave farmers more freedom to shift their cropping patterns, cotton production began a near revolutionary shift toward the most efficient production areas, such as the Mississippi Delta and the High Plains and Rolling Plains of Texas. Southern Plains producers planted more sorghums for their rapidly growing livestock industry. Midsouth producers expanded their soybean production in

response to good soybean market prospects.

"Such production shifts help make U.S. agriculture more efficient and more competitive, a vital point in an industry which depends heavily upon exports

"Similarly, the President has expanded opportunities for world trade and world peace through his visits to China and Russia as well as his removal of the requirement that 50 percent of all United States wheat and feed grain exports to the Soviet Union and certain other Communist destinations be carried in United States ships

"Also, his initiatives that resulted in adjustments in world currency rates made American agricultural commodities more competitive in price on world markets

"Such peace and trade initiatives at home and abroad are expanding the promise of American agriculture. They are good news for every aspect of agriculture and rural development

"Perhaps more than many others, the American farmer benefits from world peace and expanding trade and certainly the development of rural America depends upon a prosperous agriculture

"One of the most stable components of the South's accelerating economy is its successful tobacco industry. And the South is growing rapidly in opportunity and in many aspects of life quality.

"The South was attractive enough to have experienced a 112,000-person net immigration in the Sixties. It is industrializing at a faster rate than the rest of the country. In terms of real income, the South has almost or already reached parity with national averages.

"Yes, the policy of an expanding agriculture that puts more money in the farmer's pockets and allows them the freedom to manage their farms as they see best—that kind of agricultural policy is helping to build a better America."

Mr. Campbell said Secretary of

Agriculture Earl L. Butz has "done a great job of presenting the farmers' case to the White House and the President has backed him up in resisting pressure to put price ceilings on first-time sales of raw agricultural products, which in the long run would have been bad not only for farmers but for the Nation's consumers.


"With this kind of leadership, the breakthroughs of 1972 promise brighter horizons for American agriculture," Mr. Campbell concluded

PFA Policy Comm.Meets

The PFA Policy Development Committee met Thursday and Friday in Carlisle at the Embers Restaurant to assimilate policy suggestions for the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA). The 48-member committee will present the policy suggestions to the voting delegates at the organization's 22nd Annual Meeting November 12-15 at the Penn Harris Motel.

PFA is a general farm organization with more than 16,000 family members in the Keystone State, and it is affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation. PFA has 48 local associations throughout the state. Each County Farmers' Association has a representative on the committee.

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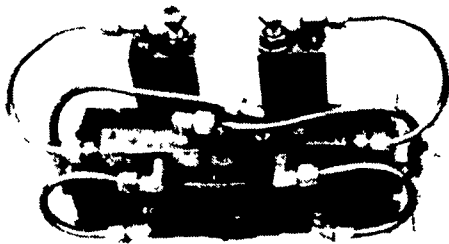
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