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Would Have Pushed Food Prices Back to Jan. 10 . . .

Congress Abandons Rollback

Livestock farmers here and across the country breathed a sigh of relief Wednesday when they learned that Congress would not be acting to roll off prices back to the January 10, 1973 level. House Bill 5168, drafted by the House Banking and Currency committee, bogged down in the Rules Committee Wednesday afternoon. The controversial measure was expected to be on the House floor by Thursday, and many of its backers thought its chances for passage were good.

If it had passed both the House and the Senate, prices, interest and rents would all have been rolled back to the January 10 level.

The bill was actually an extension of the President's authority to control prices. That authority expires April 30 under the present law. The House instead, by voice vote, agreed to extend the President's control authority another 60 days. If the Senate goes along with that action, the

administration would then have power to control prices until the end of June.

There is still some possibility that the bill with the rollback clause will be introduced at a later date. Most observers expect, though, that the Banking Committee will produce a bill different from this one which was heavily opposed by business and farm groups.

Livestock producers were especially concerned about the threat of a rollback because of the recent public furor over meat prices. There was some concern that prices paid to farmers would be rolled back much faster than prices paid by farmers.

Robert Walker, from Congressman Edwin Eshelman's Washington office, told LANCASTER FARMING that his boss feels, "...if we're going to roll prices back, why not roll them back to 1935, when they were really low? Congressman Eshelman doesn't agree with a roll back. It looks like a political ploy by the opposition. They want

this bill vetoed so the administration will be blamed for not lowering prices.

"The farmers who've been calling here," Walker continued, "have been saying that if a rollback does go into effect, it's going to wreck this country's food supply. They say we're going to have shortages and hungry people and black markets. And most Lancaster County livestock producers aren't worried about selling their output. They say they've got good markets for beef and grain in Europe. And Japan is buying tremendous quantities of pork. A rollback will hurt the farmers, but it'll hurt the American people even more."

Walker also pointed out that during Phase II of the administration's price controls, food prices had actually been about two percent below the prices set forth in the guidelines. Food prices went up so fast in the past few weeks not so much

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Twelve Lancaster County DHIA supervisors received awards of merit Thursday afternoon at an annual Southeast Area DHIA meeting. Shown left to right are: first row - Jay Mylin, Joan Snyder, Lee Landis; second row - Clarence

Crider, Harold Lindecamp, Harold Probst, Moses Martin; third row - Wilbur Houser, David Harnish, Jay Risser. Absent at the time the photo was taken were Owen Etter and Harold Breneman.

23 DHIA Supervisors Win Awards of Merit

Awards of Merit were presented to 23 Southeastern Area DHIA supervisors Thursday afternoon during a meeting at the Bird-in-Hand Restaurant. The awards are presented annually to qualifying supervisors on the basis of efficiency,

cooperation and completeness of work.

In order to receive the award, a supervisor must have been on the job at least two years, and he or she must be recommended by his DHIA board of directors.

Twelve of the 23 award winners

were from Lancaster County, four were from Berks, Montgomery County had three winners, and Chester and Lebanon Counties each had two winners. The winners names, and

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Food Prices - Who Pays The Piper?

By Jim Mills
Director of Communications
National Agricultural
Chemicals Assoc.

Largely overlooked in the current hassle over food prices is a series of events which have taken place since the days when the population of this country got its "store-bought" goods at Mom & Pop's old country store. Saturday was the day most everybody "went to town", a pleasant blend of necessity and socialbility. Most folks knew how to tend a garden from first-hand experience; fruits and vegetables were cold packed by the women in preparation for the long winter when little or no fresh produce was to be had. Root cellars were used for storage of some items, but spoilage was high.

Butchering day usually came on a frosty morning, not by chance, but by design to provide for quick and thorough cooling of the meat. Mechanical refrigeration was not available in those good old days.

It was a well known fact that steaks made up a very small portion of a beef carcass; most beef was canned or dried to preserve it. Bone casing knives were commonplace and people knew how to use them to prepare for stuffing sausage. Smokehouses and home curing recipes for pork products abounded, and it was an accepted fact that bacon was more fat than lean simply because that was the nature of hog bellies.

People "ate high on the hog" for a few days after butchering, but most of the animal was sugar cured, salted down, ground into

sausage which was stuffed into natural casings to be fried down and covered with lard in large crocks for storage. Cracklins were a tasty residue from the lard rendering; feet and knuckles were pickled, and gelatinous head cheese concocted. Only the squeal escaped.

That's the way it used to be. But in the past 25 years or so, most of our society has become city oriented. And in the process, they have lost touch with the realities of food production and pricing, and with the economics of agriculture.

Our nation has been committed to a plentiful food supply and is the unchallenged world leader in the production of an abundance of wholesome food. This abundance has benefitted not only our own population, but has also played a significant role in alleviating suffering in less fortunate areas of the world through aid programs, and sales have been a positive factor in our balance of trade position.

Most people would likely be surprised to learn that the farmer is powerless to set a price on his commodities, but rather has to

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Farm Calendar

Monday, April 16
7:30 p.m. - New Holland Baby Beef Club meeting, farm of David Bowman, Ronks RD1. Lancaster County FFA executive meeting.

Tuesday, April 17
FFA Co-op Careers Day, Farm and Home Center.

Friday, April 20
Good Friday.