Public hearings slated for grain inspection

WASHINGTON - Chairman Thomas S Foley, D-Wash., of the House Agriculture Committee announced recently that the Committee would conduct public hearings September

18, 19, 22, and 23 on such changes follows recent inspections are made by trade, and 47 through private Act, all grain inspection wa legislative proposals to update and improve the grain inspection procedures under the 59-year old U.S. Grain Standards Act.

While consideration of

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scandals in inspection of grains being exported out of the United States, the Committee also plans to look into methods of handling and inspecting grains at interior or inland terminals.

"This is a matter of much concern to the Committee,' said Chairman Foley "Disclosure of irregular activities at ports where American grains were being loaded abroad ships threatens the credibility of the United States as the World's largest exporter of agricultural commodities. We are also concerned about the effectiveness and reliability of the present inspection system and weighing procedures from the farm to interior and export terminal points."

Chairman Foley, along with Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, D.-Minn., head of a Senate Agriculture and r'orestry Subcommittee on Foreign Agriculture Policy, recently asked the General Accounting Office to make an in-depth study of irregularities which were reported in grain inspection at New Orleans and other points. They noted that the U.S. last year exported \$22 billion of agricultural products, of which \$12.5 billion was in grain, and that but for these shipments the U.S. trade deficit of \$5.8 billion would have been far worse. The lawmakers asked for a final report back from the GAO by February 15,

Carried out under the 1916 Grain Standards Act, the

employees of state agencies, trade groups or private companies which have been licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are 111 officially licensed inspection agencies, 23 of which are operated by states, 41 by grain exchanges, chambers of commerce and boards of

inspection agreements. The USDA itself employs 226 supervisory type inspectors, in the Department's marketing service grain inspection branch, but they do not do original grain inlicensed inspectors and work decisions. Prior to the 1916 20515.

done by unsupervised private agencies, and lack ca uniformity of standards ove: the country led to enactmen'

of the law. Persons wishing to testify at the hearing should contac spection. They supervise the the Committee staff, Roon 1301 Longworth House Office on appeals from original Building, Washington D.C

Square dancers to appear at Long Park

The National Champion Tennessee Bicentennial Dancers will present a community performance at Long Park on Saturday, August 9.

This group of young people from the hill country of Tennessee have preserved the traditional mountain style square dances that are so much a part of Appalachia. Wearing special clog shoes and country costumes, the dance group presents a colorful, fastglimpse moving America's mountain culture. They are being sponsored in Lancaster by Sperry New Holland in a free public performance.

Formerly known as the Rutherford County Square Dancers, they have performed throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico and have represented the US. Government in Rumania. They have appeared on television with both Dinah Shore and Dean Martin and have performed with Nancy Sinatra at Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

Depicting the traditional peasant dances and games of the Appalachain region, they sing and play "Old Dan Tucker," "Skip To My Lou," and the "Pawpaw Patch" while clog dancing to old fiddle tunes like "Flopeared Down," and "Old Joe Clark." started as a 4-H activity traditional folk dances of their area.

The first members of the Center. original dance group are now married or in college. But the performing group they started continues and is now composed of students from schools in many Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, Tennessee.

The present group has reached beyond the dances of the early settlers and now also performs English Country Dancing, including Sword and Morris Dancing.

Newspapers around the country have described their as "rousing, exhuberant and done with

The square dance group gusto and sheer pleasure." As the Rutherford County when a group of 4-H club Square Dancers, the group members met at camp and made a brief stop in Lanstarted practicing the caster last summer, for a performance at the Lancaster Farm and Home

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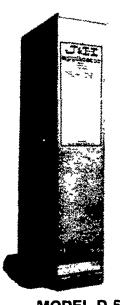
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