

Kuhfuss wants moratorium lifted

WASHINGTON, At a news conference following a 45-minute meeting with President Ford at the White House, American Farm Bureau Federation President William J. Kuhfuss Monday issued the following statement:

"The American Farm Bureau Federation has asked President Ford to give definite assurance that the moratorium on U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union be lifted immediately and not reinstated.

"By mid-October the nation's corn harvest will be in full swing. If the maritime unions resume their secondary boycotts at the ports, the orderly flow of exports will be jeopardized.

There have been sporadic work stoppages of several days' duration at the Texas ports since August 7. The uncertainties created by these stoppages have caused serious disruptions of major proportions.

"In all stoppages, the longshoremen have been forced to resume ship loadings under court order.

"The resumption of work by the unions has not been voluntary. Instead, the current agreements between the Administration and the unions is a face - savings gesture to divert public attention from the court action.

"The American Farm Bureau Federation, on

August 25, filed secondary boycott charges against the International Longshoremen's Association and its Texas locals to stop the union's interference with grain shipments to Russia. This action was taken against work stoppages by the I.L.A. at the Houston port. Action on the complaint is still pending.

It is essential that the public understand that the motive of the union leaders in ordering this boycott is not concern for food prices in the United States but an insistence on a maritime cargo preference agreement with increased maritime subsidies to be paid by American taxpayers.

"Secondly, in wheat - producing sections of the South and Southwest, farmers are planting their 1976 crop. If farmers feel they cannot count on normal - export sales, inevitably they will seriously consider cutting back on their production to offset the high costs of production caused by excessive government spending and the monopoly

power of the labor union.

"I am certain that most farmers feel that they are being used as political and diplomatic pawns by the maritime unions, the AFL - CIO, and the U.S. State Department, in the negotiations being carried on with the Soviet Union

"The decision to send a trade mission to the Soviet Union, headed by Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Charles Robinson, was reached in a meeting that included labor leaders, but excluded representatives of agriculture and other business interests. This is a gross insult to the farmers who have produced record crops - supported by the Administration's promise of expanded world markets. This pattern of government management of business has been the cause of economic collapse in Great Britain.

"The labor unions do not produce any grain. The State Department does not produce any grain. The U.S. government does not have any grain in storage. These

facts should be made known to the president of the AFL - CIO, who has repeatedly referred to 'our grain' in promoting the union ban on sales to the Soviet Union.

"Farmers and ranchers demand to be represented when policy decisions affecting farm exports are made. They have a primary interest in this area and through their organizations have expended many years of effort and considerable investment in expanding markets for their record productivity. The U.S. cannot manage - or even monitor - the world market.

"We vigorously oppose the

trend toward state trading, or government - to - government dealing in commodities, as evidenced in the current U.S. negotiations with the Soviet Union. Such efforts are nothing more than attempts to establish food cartels based on political, not economic, considerations - which can only lead to an erosion of the traditional functions of market operations in international trade. It would be a serious error to supplant the efficiencies of the profit - oriented market system with the inefficiencies of government trading."



Ray Kerstetter (center) deputy secretary of agriculture for Pa. was on hand Wednesday afternoon at the Lebanon Fairgrounds, to present a check for \$15,345 to the Lebanon Fair officials. Senator Clarence Manbeck, (right) received the check from Kerstetter and forwarded it to the president of the fair, Jerome Hutter. The check represents 90 percent of the fair's funding.

Colonial Plowman Was First Custom Operator

Custom operators — those who perform a specialized service for others in farming — are not a new development in American agriculture

In fact, as far back as early Colonial days, there were custom operators at work in the settlements of the New England and Mid-Atlantic areas

The original custom operator was the community plowman

Although they were the most basic of farming implements plows were very scarce in the Colonies. The Plymouth Colony did without plows for more than 12 years and farmers depended entirely on hoes and mattocks for breaking the soil

Likewise the Swedish Colony along the Delaware had few plows. But these implements were in greater supply on the farms of Massachusetts Bay and around Philadelphia

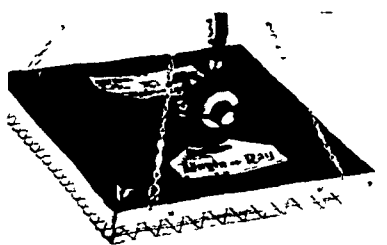
Due to their scarcity a plow soon became a sign of agricultural distinction. The services of a plowman were in great demand

Many towns paid bounties to farmers who had plows and kept them in operating condition. These farmers performed

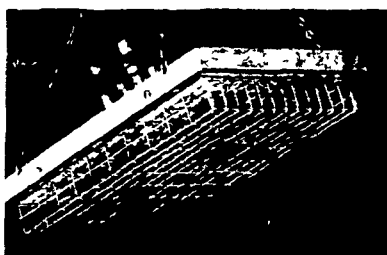
a vital service for the entire community. Plowing was still quite rudimentary

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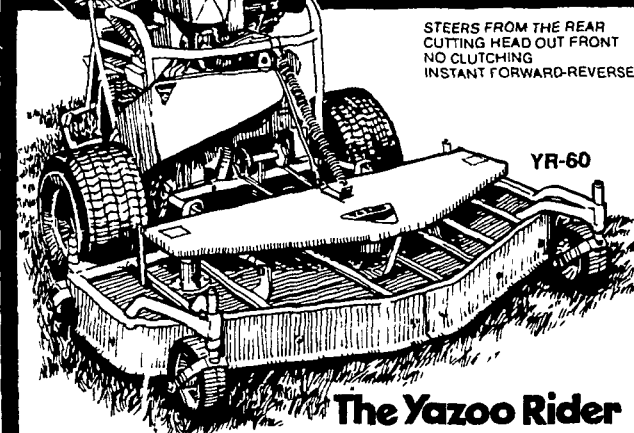
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