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# US ag potential lauded, labor and government interference criticized

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The American Farm Bureau Federation, along with the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Texas Farm Bureau, on August 25, 1975, filed official charges with the National Labor Relations Board that the International Longshoremen's Association and local unions in Texas had engaged in unfair labor practices in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

"The General Counsel for the NLRB found that there was a basis for Farm Bureau's charges and petitioned the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, for a court order against the ILA and the other parties to the case from engaging in such unfair labor practices," Kuhfuss reported.

"This is when George Meany (president of the AFL-CIO) volunteered to have his men continue loading ships. It was the court order, not a willing union, that started the loading of ships," William

Kuhfuss, president of AFBF said at the Federations annual meeting, here, 10 days ago.

Hearings on the case have been postponed from time to time, Kuhfuss said, in order to permit the parties to try and work out some settlement arrangement.

"Our legal staff," Kuhfuss said, "along with outside counsel, will pursue this matter aggressively. We do not intend to permit labor unions to close our foreign markets. We are proud that farmers and ranchers stood up to the labor unions and let them know that the unions have no business in attempting to run our farming business, the State Department, the Labor Department, the Agriculture Department, or the entire federal government," Kuhfuss said.

Referring to the Ford Administration's moratorium in 1975 on U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union and Poland which followed the refusal of the maritime unions to load grain bound for the USSR,

Kuhfuss said, "never again should any Administration permit the takeover of U.S. agricultural policy by a few labor leasers. The Department of State and the Department of Labor should not use agriculture as a pawn to serve their own special interests. I know of vast majority of the 2.5 million Farm Bureau families will support every effort of the organization to thwart any reoccurrence of the 1975 hijack of farmers' grains."


American agriculture, the Federation president pointed out, in general sells more

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## N.J. funds increased

Bill Haines, Jr., New Jersey State Director of Farmers Home Administration, has been notified that an additional \$1,930,000 of farm ownership money will be available in addition to the \$500,000 allocation that New Jersey normally receives. This money can be used to start young farmers in farming or help existing farmers who have family size operations improve their farming businesses. The money is loaned at five percent interest for a period up to 40 years. I understand that up to \$100,000 per loan can be granted. Often this would be accompanied by participation by another vendor up to a limit of \$225,000 for the total loan. This kind of credit with the 40 year life can be a big help to anyone who has a good prospect for a farm. As with all FHA loans this money is only available where funds through regular credit channels would not be available.

Anyone interested in applying such FHA loans should contact our Farmers Home Administration and talk with Mr. Max Berkowitz who heads up this office in Flemington.

  
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