

Nat'l. food commission proposed

WASHINGTON — Bills introduced in the House and Senate this month propose the establishment of a National Commission on Food Marketing and Pricing. Similar measures were ready to be dropped into the hopper by Rep. Joseph P. Igo (D. - Pa.) and Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D. - Minn.).

Sponsors of the proposals are hopeful that the Commission idea will be an acceptable substitute for H.R. 9182, a House bill by

Rep. Edward Mezvinsky (D. - Iowa) which proposes to require annual reports to Congress by USDA, Justice and the FTC on the make-up, competitiveness, and anti-trust implications of the food industry. Hearings on H.R. 9182 were held recently by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Monopolies and Commercial Law. This bill would provide \$1 million a year to the FTC for a five-year study on the structure of the food industry.

Opponents to the Mez-

visky bill argue that the proposal is a needless duplication of effort on the part of three federal regulatory agencies which insure to bring unwarranted hardship upon numerous

segments of the food industry.

The National Commission on Food Marketing is not a new idea. A similar Commission was active in the mid-1960's under the Johnson

Public 'meat inspectors' invited

Consumers and other interested persons are welcome to attend the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection meeting in Washington March 4.

The session will be held in Room 5221 of the USDA South Building at 14th and Independence Streets and will start at 9 a.m., according to the agency's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The agency will include discussions on net weight, nitrates, the USDA Consumer Representation Plan, technical animal fat, and the departmental study of meat, poultry and egg inspection.

Persons wishing to provide the committee with written comments may do so at any time either before or after the meeting. Additional information may be obtained from James K. Payne, Room 4349, South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 (telephone: (202) 447-6313).

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Administration. It was composed, as is the proposed one, of members of Congress and the public. The Commission would have a professional staff to assist in investigations and in public hearings, and would be authorized for only 18 months. Sponsors say another advantage of the Commission would be its objectivity. They argue that both Justice and the FTC have demonstrated clearly that they lack the objectivity, training and

competence in agricultural economics to plan, prepare and carry out such a study.

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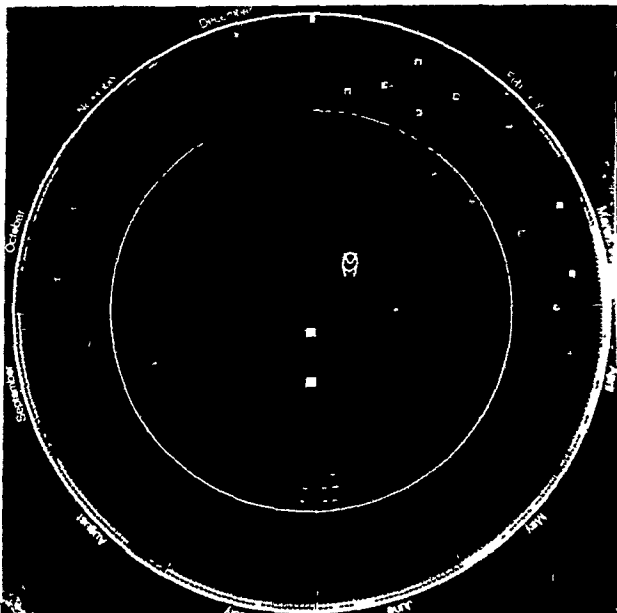
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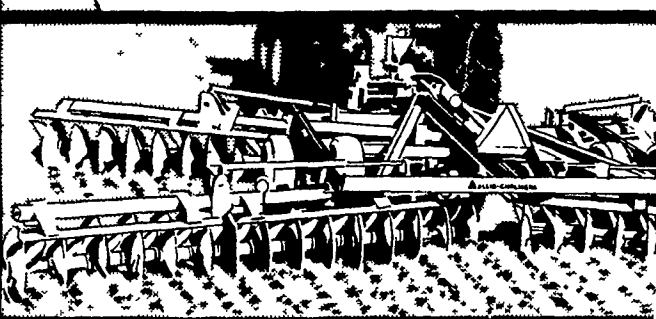


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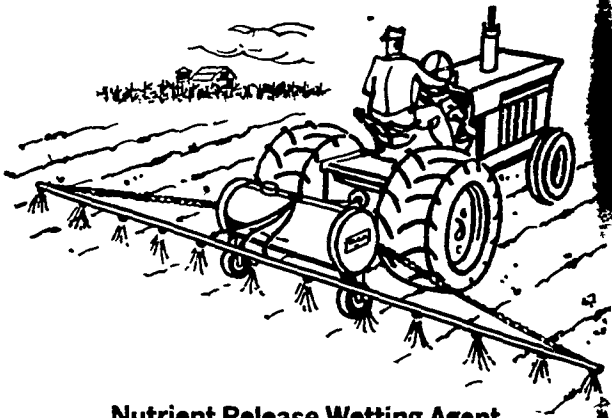
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