

Ford meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

He has been an outstanding secretary of agriculture and has been asked to stay." Butz will be staying on for the near future, although it is not yet known what his plans may be after Jan. 20, 1977.

The grain inspection bill, which was passed by a 52 to 18 vote in the Senate on Monday, did not meet Ford's approval and he unhesitatingly announced that he would veto that measure if it comes to his desk as it is now. He favors a bill which would leave greater control with local and private interests.

The President expressed a similar opinion on the question of grain reserves, noting that each country should run its own program and that in the case of the United States, the matter should rest in private hands. As for grain exports, Ford said he has no intention of withholding foreign sales, not even as a way to check food prices at home. Present economic formulas are very reasonable, he added.

On the question of using

agricultural products as "pawns" in international diplomacy, Ford said he had no intentions of such moves. In short, farm exports were not to be restricted as long as he is President.

The issue of cooperatives being investigated by the FTC and Justice Department came up, but Ford declined to give an opinion on that subject since action on the matter is still pending. To do so would mean prejudgement of the matter, he explained.

The President was also questioned about labor union settlements, the swine flu, forestry programs, and his chances in the upcoming Texas primary. He considered some labor union contracts to be within "marginal" limits; noted that the vaccine for swine flu was unanimously endorsed by his panel of experts; and considered himself to be an underdog in the Texas primary.

The 35-minute visit ended just as cordially as it began, with Ford exchanging handshakes and brief remarks with surrounding reporters.



Krieg's reporting recognized

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A series of stories written by Lancaster Farming Editor, Dieter Krieg, placed second in a national contest conducted by the Newspaper Farm Editors of America. The series concerned the 1975 wheat harvest in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The recently held contest was won by Tom Ferschweiler, farm editor of the Oregon Journal, Portland, Oregon. Ferschweiler was later chosen as "Farm Editor of the Year."

Krieg, who became editor of Lancaster Farming last July, was previously farm editor of the Pennsylvania Mirror, State College, and entered agricultural journalism just two years ago.

Ag outlook

(Continued from Page 1)

Although input costs will remain stable or increase slowly, farm commodity prices have an indefinite future ahead. According to the USDA, the export market has greatly expanded for the year and with domestic market increases, prices for most farm commodities will remain relatively stable. A record high export level of \$22 billion is predicted for 1976-up one-half billion from last year.

Crop prices may be lower this summer but it is estimated that the increased markets combined with strong demands will hold cash receipts steady.

Inflation is still riddling agriculture as well as the general economy, but a feeling of stability and decreased costs is being predicted for at least the first half of this year.

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Photo by Dieter Krieg

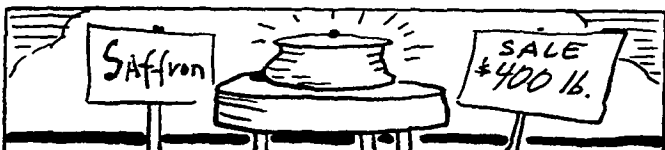
President Ford indicated Tuesday he is satisfied with Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz and that he has been asked to stay in the administration. The Secretary's plans after Jan. 20, 1977 are uncertain, however.

Commentary

(Continued from Page 10)

well in trying to convey the true dairy industry story to the public. They and individual dairymen who took time out to attend the meetings to show their concern did their part.

Dairymen and their cooperatives have made their symposium a success. Now it's up to the media people to print and broadcast the material. And, as has been said before, "let's hope consumers will read it and not forget it."



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