

USDA could be weakened

Senate committee opposes school lunch transfer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A proposal to transfer school lunch from the United States Department of Agriculture to Education programs is still under scrutiny by congress, with hearings slated to continue Monday (May 8) and May 16, 17. Hearings are open to the public.

According to information received by Lancaster Farming Thursday, the measure is still pending before the Government Affairs Committee which is chaired by Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut.

The proposal to transfer the school lunch program out of USDA is being attacked by a variety of agricultural and food lobbies. Also, all 18 members of the Senate Agriculture Committee voiced unanimous opposition to the plan last month. In writing to Senator Ribicoff, the Ag Committee members warned that the plan would lead to other "predatory raids" on functions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which now has jurisdiction over child nutrition programs, and could leave USDA an "empty shell."

Senators Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia, committee chairman; Bob Dole of Kansas, ranking Republican; and George McGovern of South Dakota, Chairman of the Nutrition Subcommittee, joined 9 other Democrats and 6 Republicans in a strongly

worded letter opposing the nutrition programs transfer.

The letter to Senator Ribicoff sponsor of the Administration-supported Department of Education bill, said:

"While many of us support the concept of a Department of Education, all of us believe that transferring the child nutrition programs to the Department of Education would be detrimental to the programs, to the children of the nation and to American agriculture. It might well jeopardize the creation of the new Department.

"The school lunch program has grown and developed within the Department of Agriculture. It makes no sense at all to transfer the child nutrition programs out of the Department of Agriculture at the very time that it is becoming increasingly clear that food, agriculture, and nutrition are interrelated."

The Senators pointed out that the school lunch commodity distribution program offers the only means by which USDA provides price and market stabilization for non-price supported farm commodities — such as meat, poultry, fruits and vegetables — through direct purchases by the Secretary of Agriculture.

"If this program is stripped from the Department of Agriculture and placed in the new and un-

tested hands of a Department of Education, this closely related and mutually beneficial ... function will be greatly weakened, if not destroyed, and the children would suffer," the Agriculture Committee members said.

The letter continued: "The proposal to shift the child nutrition programs to a new Department of Education will, if successful,

encourage further predatory raids on functions and activities of the Department of Agriculture. Indeed, such raids already are being organized. If the dismemberment of USDA is allowed to succeed, this century-old Department will become little more than an empty shell, incapable of serving either farmers or consumers.

"The role of 'food and

nutrition' in our agriculture policy has increased dramatically in recent years. This interdependence will grow in future years. It must not be divided at this critical juncture.

"In short, it is of paramount importance that the United States have a coordinated food and agriculture policy — and to accomplish that goal in these two areas must be united in

the Department of Agriculture."

In addition to Senators Talmadge, Dole and McGovern, other signatories of the letter included (Democrats) Allen, Clark, Eastland, Huddleston, Leahy, Hodges, Melcher, Stone and Zorinsky; (Republicans) Bellmon, Curtis, Helms, Lugar, Young and Hayakawa.



**BALER,
BALER,
WHO'S GOT
THE BALER?!!**

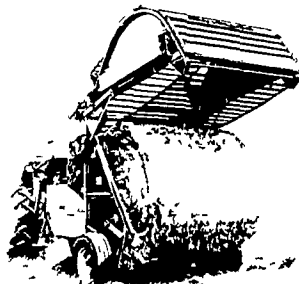
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A NEW HOLLAND,
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Q. WHERE DID YOU FIND THE BALER?

A. WE FOUND THE BALER AT WILEY'S IN QUARRYVILLE!

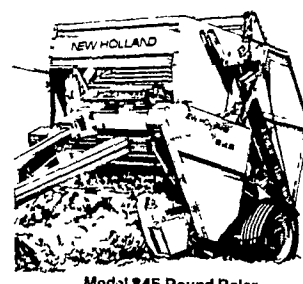
Q. WHAT DID THE BALER LOOK LIKE?

**A. ONE
WAS
BIG
AND
ROUND**

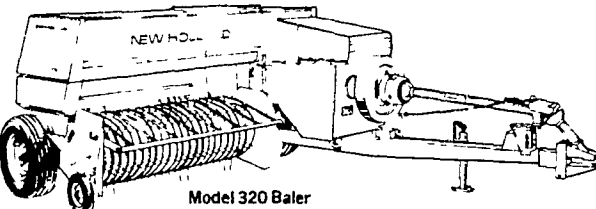


Model 850 Round Baler

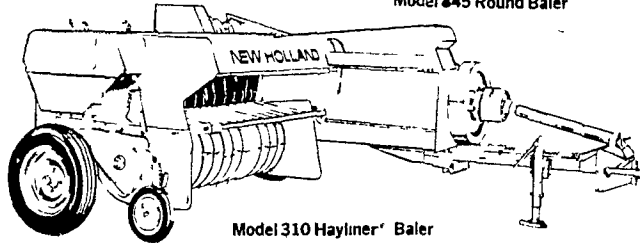
**ANOTHER
WAS
SMALL
AND
ROUND**



Model 845 Round Baler



Model 320 Baler



Model 310 Hayliner Baler

**ONE WAS BIG
& RECTANGULAR**

**ONE WAS SMALL
& RECTANGULAR**

**MY GOODNESS, I FOUND
THE BALER AT QUARRYVILLE!!**



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SOUND LIKE A
LOONEY-TUNE ...
HOWEVER,
IT'S A
SOLID
STORY!!!**

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- NH 271B w/engine
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