

# McGovern's bill would curb alien ag investments

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator George McGovern today introduced the Agricultural Foreign Investment Control Act of 1979 aimed at regulating and controlling what the Senator called "an alarming trend toward increased foreign investment in U.S. Agricultural farmland".

McGovern said that between January 1977 and June 1978 known foreign

investments amounted to 826,000 acres of farm and ranchland, with unusual concentrations in Oregon, Texas and Arkansas. In South Dakota the situation can not be termed "alarming", but we do know that in this period there have been 19 transfers involving 4854 acres. The Senator said that these transactions represented only the "known" transactions taken

from ASCS and Extension Service records. "Many authorities feel that "unknown" transactions — those missed in court house records or covered up through interlocking corporate transactions could easily amount to figures higher than the "known transactions".

The McGovern bill would limit foreign investments to family sized economic units

approved through applications and permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and restrict the foreign ownership to a minority interest in the ownership of the land. Further authority would vest the Secretary of Agriculture with the power to monitor acquisitions to protect the best interests of the United States.

"I don't consider the provisions of this bill to be

cast in concrete," McGovern said. "I do think that it is time to hold hearings and commence a national debate in the Congress on the broad policy question of regulating foreign investments in U.S. agriculture. Studies have shown that the U.S. is practically the only nation in the developed world which permits unrestricted investment in land. Regulations in OPEC countries and Western

European countries as well as Japan are oftentimes mild in comparison to the suggestions I am making", the Senator said.

"National press and television have already focused on this question. It is high time that priority consideration be given in the Congress to protect a national resource that in the long run could turn out to be our most valuable asset", McGovern concluded.

## AFBF rejects 'flexible parity'

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Delegates to the 60th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) have rejected the idea of "flexible parity" by an overwhelming vote.

At a session that ran late into the night, a delegate proposed replacing the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 with a plan of flexible government supports tied to production controls.

After 90 minutes of debate, the proposal was turned down by a lop-sided count of 189-46.

On other issues, the delegates agreed to urge the government to place missile sites in sparsely populated areas where few residents, farming operations and commercial interests would be affected in a national emergency.

Delegates called on Congress to refuse funds to President Carter for implementation of the Panama Canal treaty, saying that the president usurped the power and authority of the House of Representatives by the Canal give-away.

In another repudiation of White House actions, a resolution was passed calling for continued recognition of Taiwan. During earlier debate at the resolutions committee

hearings, possibilities of trade with the People's Republic of China were noted, but there was strong regret expressed over abrogation of our long standing agreements with the Republic of China.

## Pa. apple holdings up

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania apples in cold storage on December 31, 1978 totaled 223.3 million pounds or 5.3 million boxes of 42 pounds each, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

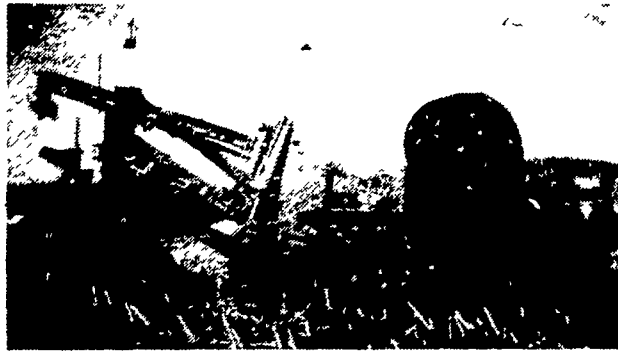
The apple holdings are up 61.4 million pounds or 44 per cent from a year ago.

More York apples are in storage in Pennsylvania

than any other variety, with 1.5 million bushels on hand, followed by Rome at 824,000 bushels.

Other varieties of apples and the amount in storage are: Golden Delicious, 797,000 bushels; Red Delicious, 537,000 bushels; Stayman, 209,000 bushels; Jonathan, 96,000 bushels; McIntosh, 28,000 bushels; and all others, 1.3 million bushels.

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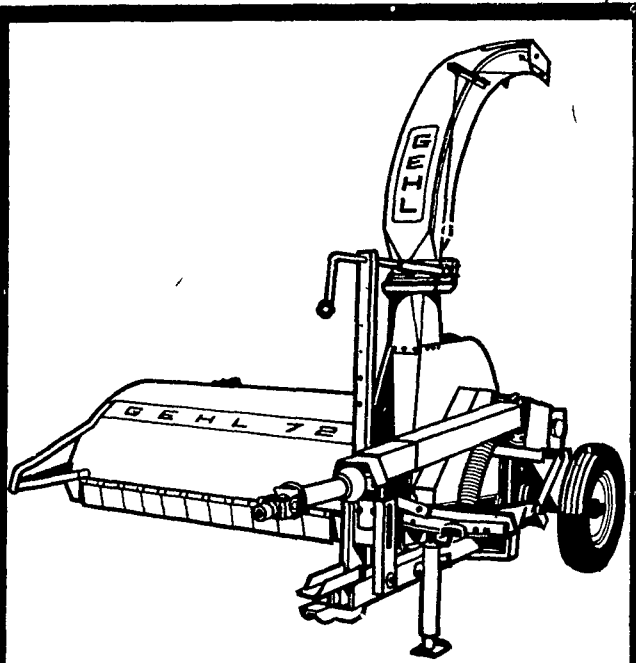
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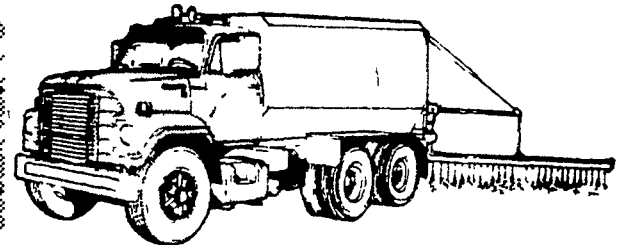
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