

Farm Bureau's Grant announces retirement

PHOENIX, Arizona — Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Monday stunned an audience of some 8000 delegates at the annual meeting of the federation with an announcement that he would not seek reelection as head of the nation's largest general farm organization.

The announcement came at the close of Grant's annual address in the convention center here.

In making his unexpected announcement that he would not seek reelection, Grant thanked the members, board of directors, and staff for the opportunity of "serving agriculture, the nation and mankind for the past four years."

Grant was elected AFBF president in January of 1976. During his four years as

president, Grant has been a world wide agricultural ambassador of good will.

The Visalia, California, rancher has traveled to Russia, China, India, North Africa, Europe, Japan and many other nations.

In making his announcement, he assured his audience that he was not retiring from service to agriculture and mankind.

"I will continue to serve agriculture and mankind in other ways," he said.

In other meeting activities the British ambassador to the United States, Sir Nicholas Henderson, told members "there is no better example of the virtues of free enterprise than the American farming industry."

Henderson said the farmers of America can "take pride in your evident

superiority in one of the oldest and most important industries in the world, namely agriculture."

He said the world acknowledges and respects America's farmers for this ability despite some of the political problems that face the United States today.

Sir Nicholas spoke of the present problems facing the U.S. internationally in Iran and Afghanistan.

"You may have your own internal arguments and hesitations," he said, "but no country in the world doubts your might and your influence."

He said there was one fundamental fact that most world leaders knew about America.

"The fact that the U.S. remains the undisputed military and economic leader of the Western

world," he said.

Sir Nicholas cited Afghanistan as a clear example that the Soviet Union leaders will use force to achieve their objectives if there is no way of achieving their ends and if they can away from it.

"The rest of the world needs reassurance and they are looking to the West and to the United States for help in an effort to deter the Russian advances," he said.

Henderson said he felt that America's commitment to a stronger NATO through the deployment of more troops and the introduction of medium range nuclear weapons.

"Your Allies are taking heart from the administration's evident intention to increase defense spending over the next five years, he noted.

Sir Nicholas said that America has shown great restraint during her difficulties with Iran and the Soviet Union.

"This restraint," he said, "is not taken as a sign of weakness by other world leaders but as a sign of firmness."

Virginia grain farmer new

Farm Bureau head

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Robert B. Delano, of Warsaw, Virginia, grain farmer, today was elected president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest general farm organization.

Delano, 55, has been AFBF vice president for the last four years and succeeds Allan Grant, Visalia, California, rancher who had announced earlier that he would not be a candidate for reelection to the post he has held for the last four years.

A native of Virginia,

Delano has been president of the Virginia Farm Bureau since 1962. He holds a BS degree in animal husbandry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has been a member of the AFBF board of directors since 1967.

Delano is a veteran of World War II and is active in numerous civic and community affairs. He is also president of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, a post he has held since 1975.

In accepting the leadership of Farm Bureau, Delano praised his predecessors and said: "The time has come for us to look inward, restructure if necessary, but above all begin to accept the organizational discipline commensurate with an organization as great as Farm Bureau."

Names as AFBF vice

president after several runoff votes, was Cecil Miller, president of the Arizona Farm Bureau and a member of the AFBF board of directors.

Miller, 53, in partnership with his brother, Duane, operates a large cattle ranch in Arizona, a 750-acre irrigated farm and a cattle feeding operation near Phoenix.

Northern Berks 4-H Club meets

LEESPORT — The Northern Berks 4-H Club held their annual 4-H Christmas Party on December 20 at the home of Tammy and Lee Schlappich. Eleven members attended. The club exchanged gifts concerning Dairy animals and refreshments were served.

The club also formed a bowling team to bowl at Laurel Lanes on Dec. 27.

They won against Leesport 4-H Club.

The next meeting will be at John and Keith Hoppe's home at 7:30 p.m. The main topic will be an election of officers. Clyde Myers from the Extension office will explain Blue Forms to the members.



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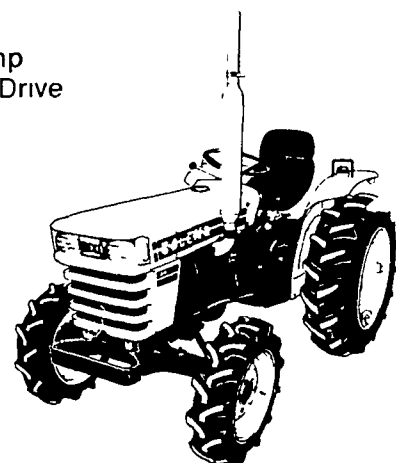
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