

Farm Bureau calls for end to Russian grain embargo

PARK RIDGE, IL. — The general farm organization end of the U.S. embargo of head of the nation's largest has called for the immediate grain to the Soviet Union on

the grounds that it is ineffective and damaging both to American agriculture and to the nation's economy.

Robert Delano, a Virginia grain producer and president of the three million member-family American Farm Bureau Federation, accused Carter and administration officials, including Secretary of Agriculture Bergland, of failing to keep faith with farmers in protecting them as promised, against price drops caused by the market intervention.

Delano noted that Bergland refused to exercise his authority to declare a paid land diversion to remove cropland equivalent to the 17 million metric tons of embargoed grain sales. He said that present depressed prices are expected to decline further this fall when new crop grain is added to the unsold carryover stocks.

The farm leader reminded Carter that Bergland promised farmers: "If you wait, we will make sure you don't take a loss."

"We have waited for three months. It is past the best time for the administration to act in keeping this promise," Delano said.

The Farm Bureau president added that "farmers are hardest hit among citizens making economic sacrifices at a

time when soaring inflation and near impossible credit conditions have caused a cash-flow crisis in rural America.

"Prices for corn, wheat, and soybeans have fallen in the country and will remain depressed as long as a large tonnage of these commodities is held by the government.

"We gave reluctant support to the boycott on the basis of national security," Delano said, adding that very little supportive security action has oc-

curred.

"These security measures should have included the severing of all business and cultural contacts and ties with the Soviet Union, other than those diplomatic contacts necessary to resolve the current situation.

"This should include cancellation of the contract to televise the 1980 Summer Olympic games; full enlistment of allies in backing expanded sanctions and public rejection of the Salt Two treaty," Delano concluded.

Emergency farm loan bill signed by President

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Jimmy Carter has signed into law legislation authorizing up to \$2 billion in additional emergency farm loans to financially strapped farmers who might otherwise be forced out of business due to sagging farm prices, tight credit, and high interest rates.

The President had earlier threatened to veto the legislation, which was authored by U.S. Congressman Tom Harkin of Iowa. The bill extends the Economic Emergency Assistance loan program, which was due to expire in May, and authorized up to an additional \$2 billion in emergency farm loans under the program.

Carter had earlier objected to Harkin's bill

because it did not raise interest rates for loans under the program to "prevailing market rates." Instead, it continued the current "cost of money to the government, plus up to one per cent rate."

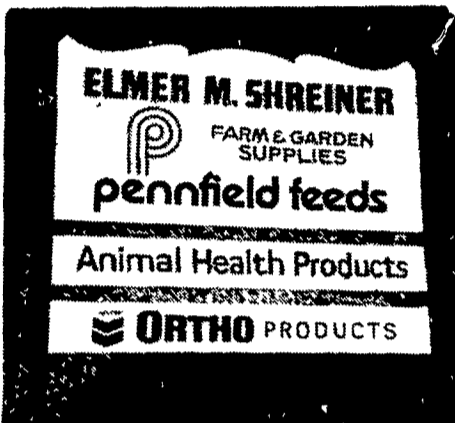
Harkin argued Congress should continue the "cost of money" rate, which is substantially below current market rates, because farmers are facing low prices, tight money supplies, and high interest rates, a combination Harkin described as "potentially disastrous" for the farm economy.

Congress voted to continue the current "cost of money" rate, and sent the bill to the President last week. The President signed it into law Sunday.

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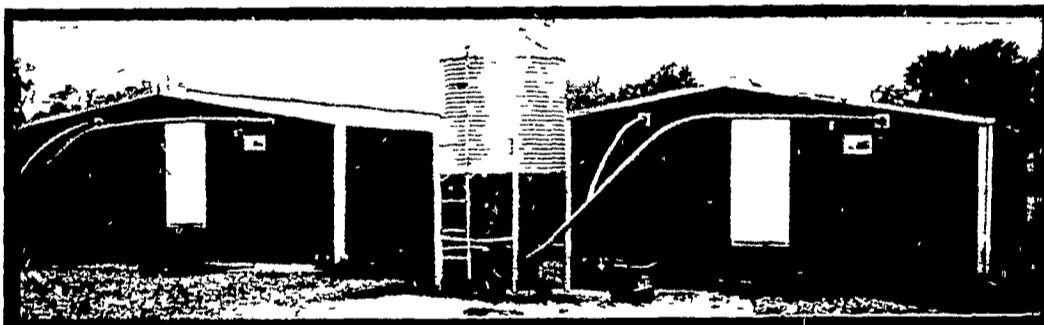
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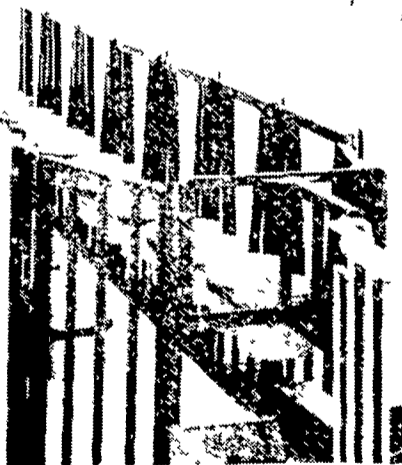
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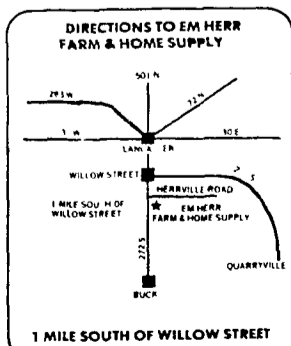


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