

Farm Bureau slams changing farm policy

SEATTLE, Wash. — "Off-again, on-again policy decisions by government have been a source of frustration to farmers — confusion to consumers — and (we trust) embarrassment to regulators," Robert B. Delano said last Thursday.

Delano, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, spoke at the annual convention of the International Pesticide Applicators Association.

He cited the nitrite "cancer scare," the congressionally reversed ban on saccharin and the proposal, abandoned for now, to establish pesticide application "buffer zones" around cotton fields as examples of "off-again, on-again" policy decisions.

"Most disturbing to many farmers has been the apparent shift in orientation of our U.S. Department of Agriculture in the past three years," Delano said. "The shift is towards consumerism and away from agricultural concerns."

Stressing the importance of agricultural chemicals as an essential production tool, Delano referred to a report by the National Academy of

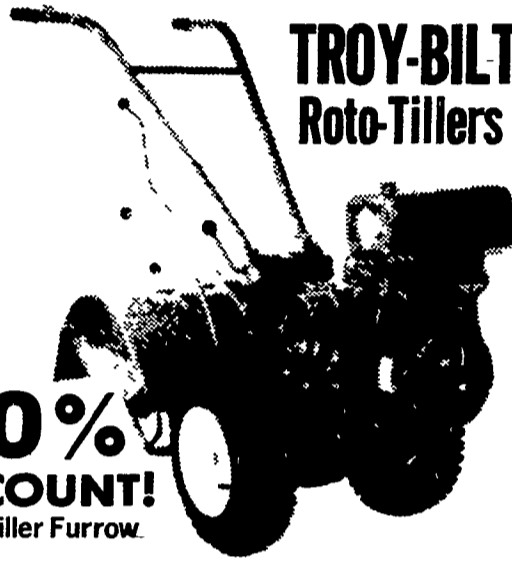
Sciences. That report said that full withdrawal of ag chemicals would reduce crop output by 30 percent; increase the price of farm products by 50 to 75 percent; eliminate farm exports which last year totaled almost 35 billion dollars; and cause everyone to spend 30 to 40 percent of disposable income for food instead of the current 17 percent.

"Without full use of our most important pesticides

and farm chemicals, American food production would no longer be the hope of a hungry world," the farm leader said, noting that the Presidential Commission on World Hunger states that the problem of world hunger grows worse...no better.

To continue producing enough food for ourselves and to help feed the world's hungry, the U.S. farmer must rely on pesticides and other chemicals, Delano concluded.

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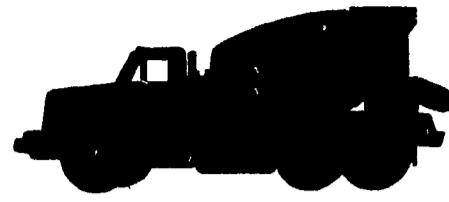
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