

Brunner is FmHA assoc. administrator

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Michael E. Brunner, U. S. Department of Agriculture legislative officer and former congressional aide, last Monday was appointed associate administrator of the Farmers Home Administration by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

FmHA is the rural credit agency of USDA that provides credit assistance to rural residents unable to obtain commercial credit.

As associate administrator, Brunner will help direct the activities of about 8,500 full-time

employees in the national office in Washington, D.C., and in 344 state and district offices and more than 1,950 county offices.

As a USDA legislative officer, Brunner specialized in marketing and inspection services for seven agencies under Assistant Secretary C. W. McMillan.

Before joining USDA in April 1981, he was director of congressional relations for the American Meat Institute in Washington. Previously, he served as legislative assistant to Rep. Garry Brown (R.-Mich.) from 1975 to 1977, and to Rep. Orval Hansen (R.-Idaho) from 1973 to 1975.

In 1972 and 1973, Brunner was assistant director of administrative services for the Education Commission of the States, Denver, Colo., and served on the audit staff of the CPA firm of Ernst and Ernst in Denver from 1970 to 1972.

As an army captain, he was detachment commander of a preventative medicine unit in Korat, Thailand, from 1968 to 1969.

He also was an accounting instructor on the faculties of the University of Indiana and Bowling Green State University.

Brunner, 38, is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, where he received his bachelor of science and master of business administration degrees. He also earned a master of public administration degree at George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Arlington, Va., with their 11-year-old twin sons, Alan and Jeff. Brunner is active in community activities, serving as deacon of the Little Falls Presbyterian Church and as a member of the Arlington County School Board.

USDA charges Eastern packer with P&S violations

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has charged ITT Continental Baking Co., Rye, N.Y., with violating fair trade requirements of the Packers and Stockyards Act through the operations of the Gwaltney meat packing division in 1978, 1979 and 1980.

ITT no longer owns the Gwaltney meat packing operation, according to B.H. Jones, administrator of USDA's Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Gwaltney is a major meat packer in the Eastern seaboard marketing area. In 1979, it was among the four largest firms that accounted for 40 percent of the total hog slaughter in Eastern seaboard states, and over 75 percent in the areas of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

Jones said USDA has charged ITT Continental, through the operation of Gwaltney, with engaging in unfair trade practices during 1978, 1979 and 1980 by:

— Paying for various "customer outings" to vacation and sporting sites for selected retail food chain store employees who were responsible for buying meat for their firms;

— Making discriminatory "distribution" or "stocking

allowance" payments to four separate retail food store chains, while not making similar payments available on proportionately equal terms to all of its retail food store customers which competed with the four chains;

— Conducting a cooperative advertising program with some of its retail food store chains, while not offering similar programs to all competing customers on a proportionately equal basis;

— Making payments to certain food store chains on the basis of a flat amount for advertising Gwaltney meat products rather than for the actual cost of the advertising; and

— Making advertising payments to certain food store chains which exceeded the actual cost of the advertising.

"Filing of the complaint doesn't prove ITT Continental has violated the Packers and Stockyards Act through Gwaltney's operations," Jones said. "The firm has a right to a hearing to determine if the evidence supports the charges.

"If the charges are proven, the firm would be placed under a cease and desist order," he said. "It could also be ordered to pay a civil penalty.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practices law. It is designed to promote fair and open competition in the marketing of livestock, poultry and meat.

Special thanks to our devoted friends. May your Christmas be filled with love.

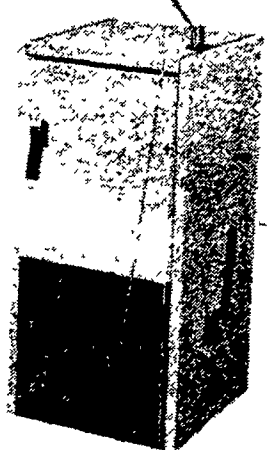


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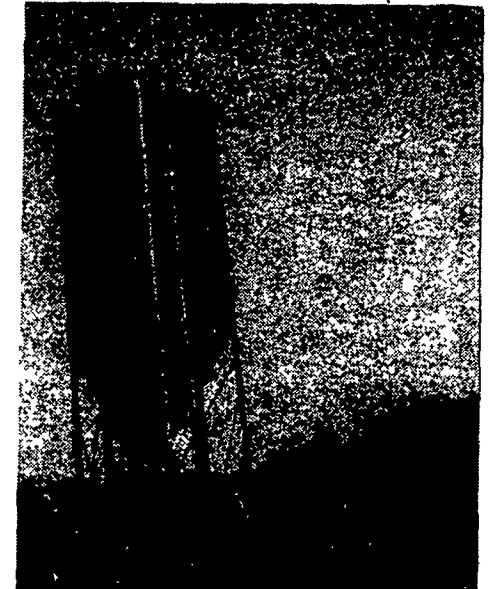
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