

Bill would restore Farmer-owned reserve

WASHINGTON — An amendment to the Senate farm bill that would restore a grain reserve and save the U.S. government nearly a half billion dollars on farm program costs is expected to be introduced early this month by Illinois Senator Paul Simon, Bread for the World announced today.

The Senate farm bill, S. 1714, proposes to eliminate the Farmer-Owned Grain Reserve (FOR) which was established in 1977 to ensure an adequate grain supply and prevent severe price changes in grain markets. The House has already approved farm bill legislation, H.R. 2100, that includes the FOR.

Figures recently released by the Congressional Budget Office show that elimination of the FOR would add \$240 million over the next three years and \$460 million over the next five years to the federal budget. By proposing to eliminate the FOR, the Senate farm bill would force the U.S. government to increase its ownership of grain. Increased ownership would mean increased storage costs, said John Pender, agriculture policy analyst for Bread for the World.

"Cost would increase because the government pays more to store the grain it owns than it pays farmers through the FOR program," said Pender.

Besides saving U.S. farm program costs, Pender said the Simon amendment would ensure the continued stabilization of grain prices for U.S. farmers and provide security for U.S. consumers, hungry people throughout the world, and farmers in developing countries.

"For once there is an issue that farm, consumer and antihunger

groups can agree on," said Pender.

Other organizations calling for the restoration of the FOR include: American Farmland Trust, Association for the Public Justice, Center for Rural Affairs, Community Nutrition Institute, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Interfaith Action for

Economic Justice, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., National Association of Corn Growers, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, National Farmers Union, National Grange, Public Voice for Food Health Policy, U.S. Catholic Conference, World Hunger Year and Bread for the World.

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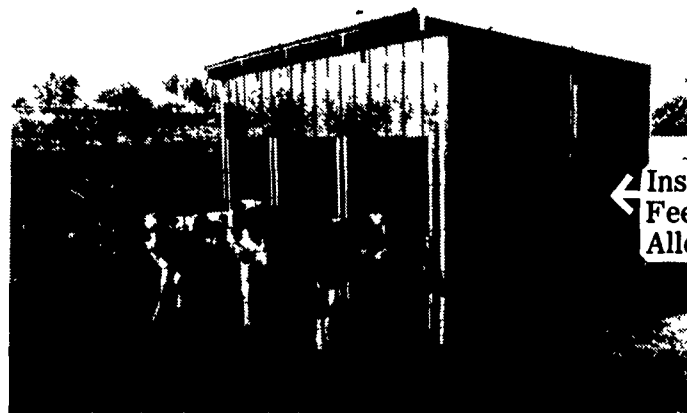
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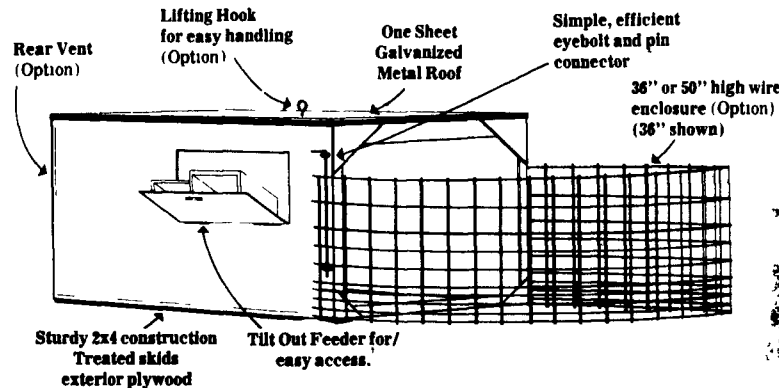
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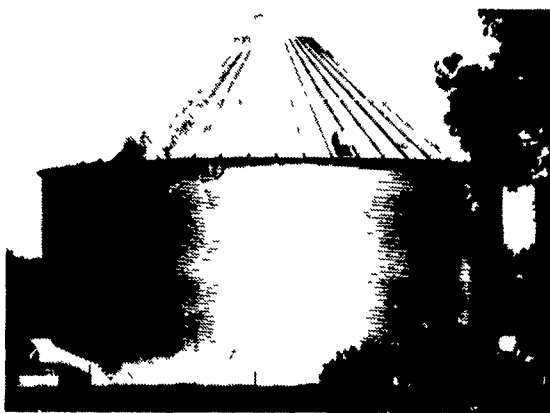
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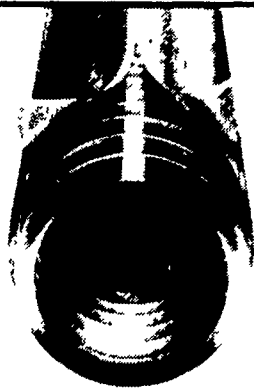
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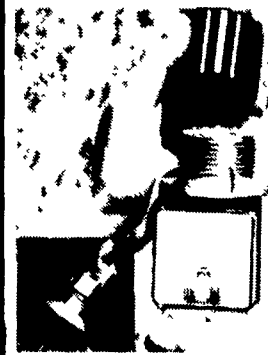
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