

Reagan's ag budget is 'realistic,' Helms says

WASHINGTON — North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, today said President Reagan's budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for fiscal year 1987 is a realistic approach to meeting the government's responsibility to agriculture while moving toward a balanced budget.

"This budget, which will reduce outlays for the Department of Agriculture by 18 percent in the next year, faces up to the harsh realities and hard choices imposed on a Congress that has insisted on borrowing against the future for

too long," said Senator Helms.

Included in the reductions is an estimated \$4.2 billion drop in the net cost of operations of the Commodity Credit Corporation, which administers commodity price and income supports and commercial export programs. Senator Helms noted, however, that this cost saving will be achieved without changes in the farm programs as determined by the 1985 farm bill and will require no further action by the Congress. The reduction of \$4.2 billion is due principally to lower loan rates authorized by the farm bill, and advanced deficiency payments for the 1986 crop.

"The President's proposal, while it certainly won't please everyone, is an honest and responsible approach to reducing the spiraling costs of the Federal agriculture programs," said Helms. "These selective cuts, applied to less

compelling functions of the Department of Agriculture, are far more desirable than the alternatives — indiscriminate, across-the-board, automatic cuts under Gramm-Rudman-Hollings or higher taxes. The President's budget pares agriculture programs with a surgeon's knife, saving it from the meat-ax approach of the Gramm-Rudman reductions. In short, there are no easy or instant solutions, and it is put-up-or-shut-up time if we are serious about reducing the awesome federal deficits that now threaten the stability of America."

According to the Administration, the proposed budget for fiscal year 1987 will reduce net outlays for the Department of Agriculture to \$44.6 billion from \$54.2 billion, a cut of \$9.6 billion.

Additional major reductions under the budget would be achieved by termination of the

Farmers Home Administration's rural housing program, cuts in lending levels and interest-rate subsidies by the Rural Electrification Administration, a phase-out of premium subsidies by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and ending school-lunch subsidies to children from families with greater than \$20,000 annual incomes.

At the same time, the budget provides for an increase to implement the new Acreage Conservation Reserve mandated in the farm bill. Additional funding is also provided for the Agricultural Research Service and farm operating loans of the Farmers Home Administration.

The budget also proposes a 60-percent reduction in Federal funding to the Cooperative Extension Service. "This compares to an earlier proposal to end all Federal funding for the Cooperative Extension Service," noted Senator Helms.

"Undoubtedly, many political voices will condemn the President's proposals. But these voices are silent when it comes to workable alternatives," Helms said. "The days of wish-list budgeting are over. If the requirements of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings are to be met, Congress and the President must prioritize Federal spending. This agriculture budget proposal reflects realistic priorities."

"The burden of proof lies with those who would criticize this budget. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings assures that spending reductions will be made. If there are those who disagree with the reductions the President has proposed, they must be willing to develop their alternative plan for the budget reductions that are now required by law. Political rhetoric is far easier come by than responsible and honest judgements. The trouble is that political rhetoric won't solve the problems."

Sale Reports

A Public Sale of farm equipment and grain bin was held February 15 by Alvin H. and Edna Martin, 100 Grumbine Rd., Myerstown, Lebanon, Pa.

Some prices were: Oliver 770 tractor \$1600, Ford 800 tractor \$2175, snow plow blade for Ford \$225, J.D. 224T baler \$1260, N.I. 5 bar rake \$425, hay wagon \$460, J.D. elevator \$220, Ford 3 pt. mower \$225, 2 bottom Ford plow \$235, Ford 2 row corn planter \$190, gravity bin wagon \$575, bin \$110, straw \$65 for 50 bale lots and Stor-More 6200 bu. grain bin and dryer \$5750.

The auctioneers were Melvin Sensenig and Lamar Sensenig.

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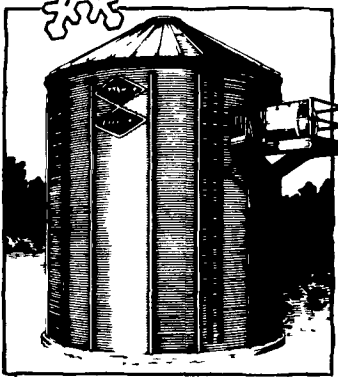
The Troxelville Auction Gallery held a sale on February 15, 4 miles from Beaver Springs, Pa.

Some prices were: 54" oak round table w/claw feet \$800, 3 pc. pink marble bedroom suite \$1850, 6 oak chairs \$100 each, 2 piece drysink \$975, 12 pane 2 pc. corner cupboard \$1000, child's chocolate set \$150, brass bed \$200, oak bed \$275, china closets \$600 & \$335, oak & brass door post office \$400, pie safes \$375 to \$450 and set of 12 place settings \$340.

Sales Manager was Joe Herman and auctioneers were C.P. Jacobs, Jr. & Roy Martin.

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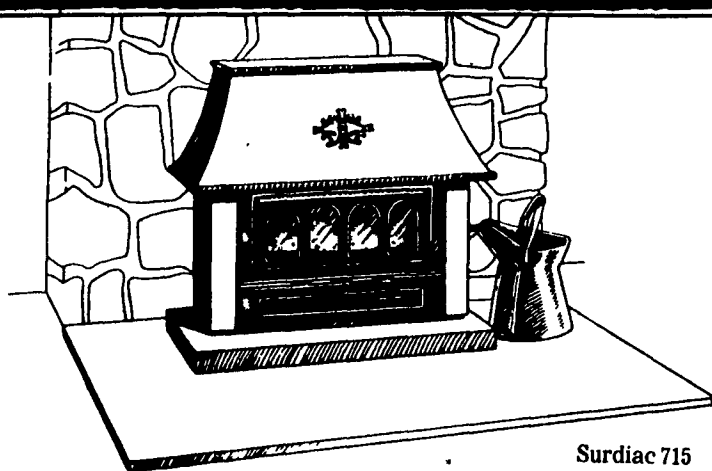


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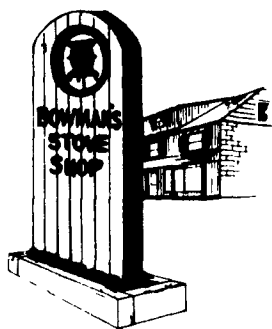
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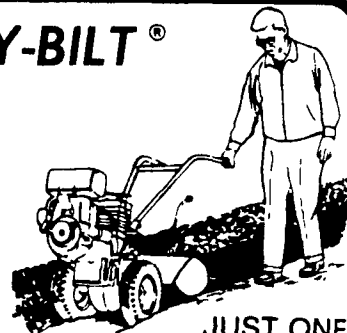
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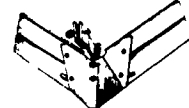
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