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Bedell says CCC loan delay

'kicks farmers in teeth'

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Berkley Bedell, said that the Administration's procrastination in asking Congress for additional money for Commodity Credit Corporation loans to farmers is another example of this Administration trying to "kick farmers in the teeth."

"For the Administration to wait until they are completely out of funds, and three days before Congressional recess, before coming to Congress for emergency funds is another case of the complete lack of concern for the farm community. I wonder what they will find to do next," Bedell said.

The Commodity Credit Corporation notified its local offices that they could not make additional price-support loans to farmers because the money has ran out. President Reagan on Tuesday (Feb. 4) asked Congress for an additional \$8 billion for the program, but the request was not made until after CCC was out of funds. Farmers coming to their local offices expecting to receive their check for their CCC loan are

being told that the money is not available until additional funding is approved.

"This is just a disastrous situation," Bedell said. "If the Commodity Credit Corporation can't continue making loans, we effectively have no price support program. This problem could have been avoided if the Administration had made a responsible budget request in the first place. Since the Administration didn't do that, officials should have at least come to us in a reasonable amount of time to approve more funding before the money ran out."

The Appropriations subcommittee for agriculture was scheduled to meet Wednesday afternoon to consider the President's request for additional funds. It was not clear how long it would take for Congress to approve the money.

"I hope that we can move quickly," Bedell said. "I have talked with Jamie Whitten, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and urged that this matter become an immediate priority."

Maryland publishes export directory

ANNAPOLIS, MD. — Maryland firms processing and dealing in food and agricultural products are invited to list themselves and their product lines in a new export directory being compiled by the Marketing Services Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

The listings will be at no charge to the firms according to Thomas L. Butler who is compiling the information.

The main purpose of the directory will be to assist in export trade efforts which are being stepped up by MDA and the Maryland Department of Economic and Community Development. Copies of the directory will be sent to the U.S. agricultural attaches stationed at

our embassies around the world.

The directory will also be distributed at a number of international trade shows in the upcoming months.

Starting the ball rolling for a listing is easy. All it involves is a toll-free call to MDA at 1-800-638-2209. This line is answered automatically, 24 hours a day. When the tone sounds, the caller should give his firm's name, his name and a telephone number where he can be reached during regular business hours.

Mr. Butler will then contact the firm and take the listing information for the directory. Deadline for listing submissions is March 5th. For more information, contact Thomas Butler at (301) 841-5770.

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