

Block Testifies For NAWGA

FALLS CHURCH, Va.— John R. Block, president of the National-American Wholesale Grocers' Association (NAWGA) and former secretary of agriculture, testified March 21 at a hearing of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry with recommendations for the 1990 Farm Bill.

NAWGA's recommendations reflected a push for increased efforts toward market orientation and a reduced reliance on government assistance.

Said Block, "We must continue to review price and income support levels, and allow producers greater discretion in meeting the aims of farm programs." He also noted the need for continuation of such reforms if the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations prove fruitful.

NAWGA's recommendations included:

- Loan rates set with a strong market orientation, keeping American commodities from being priced out of world markets.

- Farmers should be given greater flexibility in applying farm program provisions to their operations, to improve crop rotation practices, and keep in line with market signals and prudent environmental practices.

- Avoid over-reliance on acreage reduction programs.

- Continue to adjust dairy price support levels based on estimates of federal purchases.

- Continued use of Export Enhancement Program initiatives based on its success in recapturing

some markets lost because of unfair trade practices.

- Institute fair and reasonable pesticide use policies, with special emphasis on reducing public confusion and unjustified alarmism regarding food safety.

- Extension of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) from the 1985 Farm Bill.

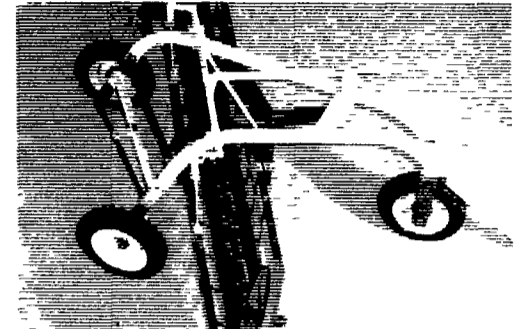
- Opposed to USDA's invasion of privacy by requiring food stamp program participating food store employees to submit social security numbers in an effort to

reduce or expose food stamp fraud.

- Expressed opposition to USDA charging a biennial reauthorization fee to food stamp program participating food stores.



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