

Issues 1960

Brandow Foresees Lasting Farm Issue

By CAROL KUNKLEMAN

(This is the third of a series — "Issues 1960" — on the stands of the presidential candidates with interpretation by University professors.)

What do the positions taken on farm policy by the Presidential candidates mean to farmers?

The farm problem will persist despite the outcome of the election, according to George E. Brandow, professor of agricultural economics.

"Basically, the rival candidates and their platforms agree on a list of actions that do not strike directly at overproduction and surpluses," Brandow said.

If Kennedy were to take office, his party would probably follow a liberal, more ambitious program, while Nixon would be conservative and cut down on farm aid, Brandow said.

As the party platforms stand, both Nixon and Kennedy would push hard to expand outlets for farm products. Each endorses food-for-peace, distribution of food to the needy at home, school lunch and special milk programs and research to find new uses for farm crops.

Nixon's plan to deal with the surplus consists of two stages. First, Nixon would continue to support prices for not longer than four years, cut some acreage allotment and have a conservation reserve in which farmers could put some but not all of their farmland. Payments for compulsory crop reduction would be given to the landowners.

In the second stage, controls would be gradually lifted; the growing population is counted upon to increase demand so that agriculture would be left in a prosperous state.

"Nixon doesn't take into consideration the fact that there is a surplus now or that there will always be a persistent one," Brandow said.

In the end, Brandow said Nixon would probably spend more money because he would find that

his surplus would not be cut in the conservation reserves.

Kennedy's program assumes that controls will be necessary indefinitely, Brandow said. His approach to the problem is to employ the quota system under which the farmer would be given direct payment not to farm and a stipulation would be placed on the quantity he did farm.

"Quota plans require a number of decisions about how they should operate and producers in different regions can be affected by how details are worked out," Brandow said.

For example, if national milk quotas were in effect and a new dairy product reduced Pennsylvania's price advantage over the midwest, the quotas probably would slow down production changes that otherwise would take place between the two areas, he said.

Kennedy is optimistic about his plan, Brandow said. "But farmers are slow to change and they would probably resist indefinite control."

Under either administration, problems would still remain, Brandow said.

"What about the middle-aged farmer on a poor farm?" Brandow asked. "He won't be helped by either policy because both candidates consider mostly the family farm group which is prosperous, or reasonably so, now."

Competition among regions and commodities is also a question that will be left unanswered, he said.

H. S. Students Taken on Tour Of University

Fifty-eight high school students from the Harrisburg area visited the University this week under the college caravan program.

According to Red Ferguson, director of University relations, the trip was sponsored by the American Association of University Women in Harrisburg. The students were on campus from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday.

Ferguson said, the program began with the movie, "Introduction to Penn State," in the Hetzel Union assembly room. Following the movie, there were talks by representatives from the different colleges and a representative from the admissions office.

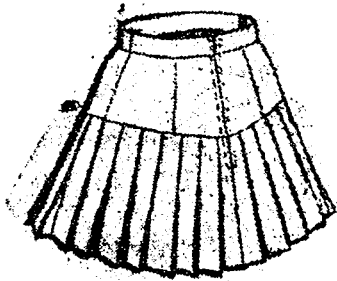
The group had lunch in the HUB cafeteria and then took a walking tour which included the Library, the Mineral Industries Museum and the Creamery Sales Room. A bus tour of campus concluded the students' day.

IFC Sing--

(Continued from page four) haps in their pride they will be encouraged to try harder next time. Collegian ought to do likewise.

Thom Rittenbaugh '62 (Editor's Note: The Daily Collegian is a newspaper. A newspaper attempts to record facts and, on its editorial page, comments on these facts. A newspaper is not a psychiatrist, but it does attempt through critical analysis to open the issue to the public eye so that corrective action may be taken.)

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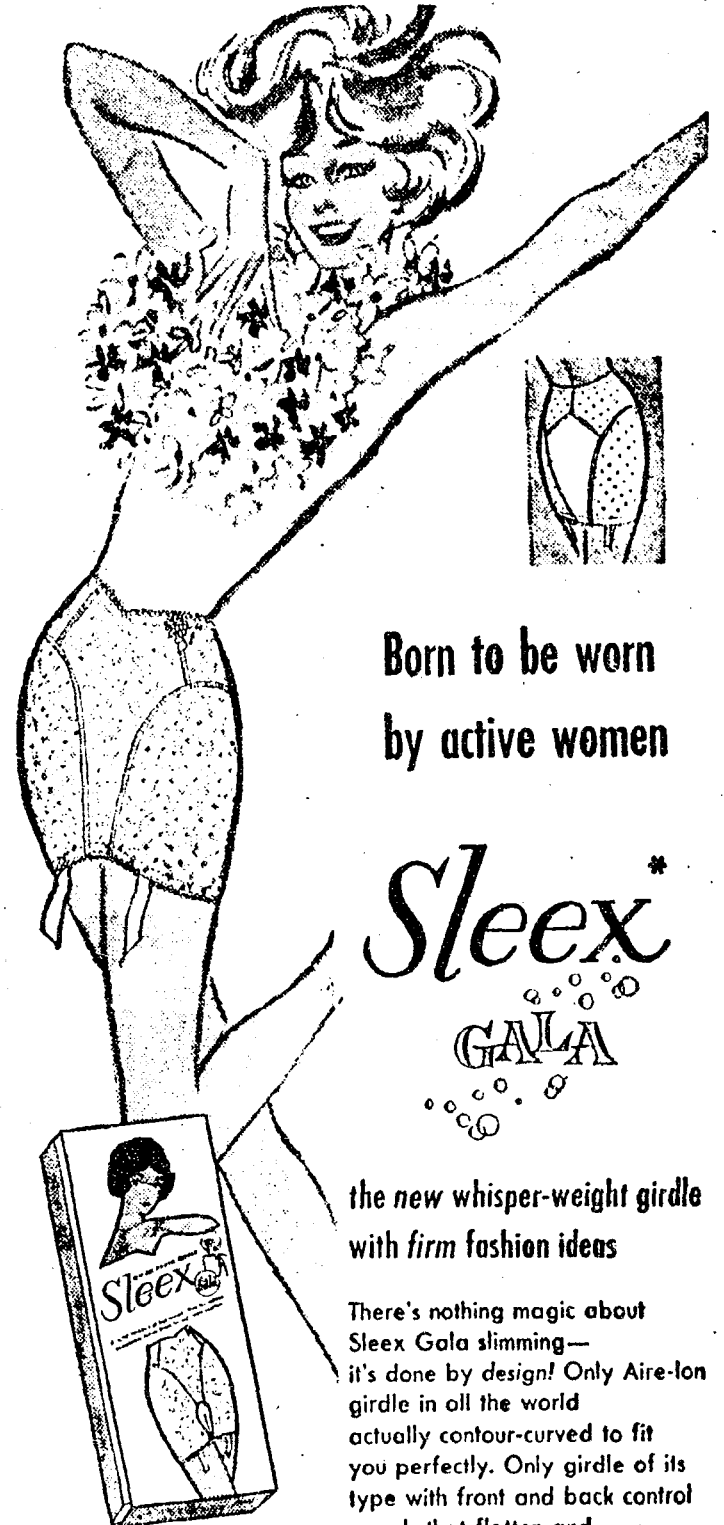
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