



Washington, D. C. THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

In the last few days the President himself has silenced administration critics of Claude Wickard, and decreed that he remain as secretary of agriculture.

The President's stand came at the height of an increasing storm brewing round the amiable Indiana corn farmer, whom everyone likes but whose all-important food program is lagging.

White House advisers have told the President that Wickard's program was inadequate, that it must be drastically revised, that there would be shocking deficiencies of food. Some have urged that Wickard be replaced.

The President, however, has defended his secretary of agriculture. But also he has appointed White House Secretary Lauchlin Currie—whose regular field is Chinese relations—to act as umpire on the farm program. Currie has given Wickard a nine-point program for re-vamping American agriculture and among other things has pointed out that England increased her food production 50 per cent with little additional manpower. Why, he asks, cannot the United States do the same?

AGRICULTURE'S PROGRAM

Here are Currie's proposals, advanced with the blessing of the White House:

- 1. The goals of agricultural production should be higher.
2. A new production program, possibly with a new budget, should be presented to congress.
3. All acreage allotments and other restrictions on production should be removed to encourage the more efficient farmers.
4. The 1,000,000 farm operators of second rate efficiency should be brought into full production with the aid of seed, fertilizer, livestock, machinery and even land.
5. Cotton and tobacco acreage should be reduced, corn acreage, allotments removed entirely, and more wheat should be fed to livestock.
6. Profiting by British example, a new "land army" should be organized, to use town and city dwellers, especially women, for farm work.
7. Truck farmers who produce such luxuries as iceberg lettuce should be converted to more essential crops.
8. Facilities for processing and drying foods should be increased.
9. Local direction of the farm program should be shifted away from Farm-bureau-minded agents, toward agents more responsive to federal direction.

WICKARD'S FARM PROGRAM

Wickard's response to this sweeping proposal was to accept part of it, reject part.

He believes the production goals are already high enough that it's too late to present a new program for 1943, that cotton goals have already been substantially lowered, and tobacco reduction would require change of the law.

He agrees to removal of acreage restrictions on most crops, but not on cotton and wheat, which still yield embarrassing surpluses.

Claude is a little touchy on the question of county agents and committeemen, insisting that federal representation is adequate.

FULL PRODUCTION

On other points, however, he agrees with the White House proposals, declaring some already are in effect. He wants to bring the 1,000,000 less efficient farmers into full production, to increase dehydration of foods, convert truck farmers from iceberg lettuce, etc., and organize a new land army from towns and cities. In fact, he already has a plan well advanced for the "land army."

Wickard, who had hardly been heard of before his elevation to Wallace's place in the cabinet, has had clear sailing for two years, thanks in part to good weather.

Now, however, he is facing just as tough a job in trying to produce more, as Wallace faced ten years ago in trying to produce less. No secretary of agriculture ever faced more opposite and more difficult problems. The average person realizes the problems confronting the secretary of agriculture. They are exceedingly complex.

Wickard knows his position is shaky. But he is on his mettle, fighting to meet the established production goals.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Monro Leaf, who wrote Ferdinand the Bull, hailed as a children's classic on pacifism, has now got himself a captain's commission in the army, and is more belligerent than any West Pointer. He even believes that it is sacrilegious to criticize anyone in the army, or anything the army does—especially the services of supply, to which he is detailed. When Postmaster General Frank Walker was shown a recent news photo of himself, he said, "Is that Herbert Hoover or me?"

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BARNESBORO, PA.

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR SUBSTITUTING UNRATEDIONED FOOD

A high-powered propaganda campaign to induce housewives to substitute unratedioned for rationed foodstuffs in the family diet is being planned by three government agencies.

The campaign, timed to coincide with point rationing of canned foods this week and of meat and fats in the near future, is being sponsored jointly by the Office of War Information, the Agricultural Department and the Office of Price Administration.

Housewives will be urged to use fresh vegetables, potatoes, fruit cereals, bread, eggs, and milk in place of commodities now rationed. Storekeepers will be asked to give prominent display to them both in their stores and advertising.

Chief media of the campaign will be newspapers, radio, motion pictures, lectures and bill boards. An OWI official said leading food advertisers recently pledged \$100,000,000 worth of advertising for foods recommended by government agencies. OWI already is supplying extensive material for women's pages of newspapers, suggesting balanced menus, and new dishes of unratedioned foodstuffs. The agricultural department is asking food retailers to feature regular so-called "victory specials" in plentiful supply. OWI also was understood to be considering production of films as part of its educational program.

processed foods started Monday of this week, OPA urged wholesalers of processed foods to release supplies freely to retailers who have only a short time left to replenish their stocks following last week's price freeze.

Marine Chief



STANDING IN FRONT OF THE U. S. Marine Corps flag is Maj. Ruth Cheney Streeter, of Morristown, N. J., director of the newly-formed women's reserve of the U.S.M.C. She has three sons in the service, is a licensed commercial pilot, and college graduate. (International)

CARS DISAPPEAR

Student operated automobiles disappeared from the campus of Pennsylvania for the duration, by strict order of the student government.

FARMERS BUY FOREST TREES AT LOWER PRICE

The State Department of Forests and Waters has entered into an agreement with the Agricultural Adjustment Agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, by which seedlings and transplants will be purchased by the Agency from the Department of Forests and Waters and then redistributed to the farmers at greatly reduced prices.

Payment will be made by the purchaser to the Community Committeeman of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency at the time the order is placed.

The AAA will contact farmers in Pennsylvania this month. As a county survey is completed the applications will be forwarded to the Department in Harrisburg where the trees will be allotted for shipment on a federal bill of lading. The payment to the Department will be covered by a Federal purchase order at the time the nursery stock applications are submitted.

W. E. Montgomery, chief of the Division of Management, pointed out that never before have the farmers been able to receive forest trees under such a program. The usual prices charged by the department are somewhat less than the actual cost of production and the Department has followed this procedure for many years in an effort to stimulate and encourage reforestation. Under the present plan the Commonwealth will receive its usual price and the reduced cost to the farmer will be borne by the AAA in accordance with its soil conservation program.

DO YOU KNOW?

A survey of luncheon trays in four leading war plants in Chicago showed that only 8 per cent of the workers chose adequate foods, 21 per cent selected food bordering on the nutrition danger line, and 71 per cent purchased totally inadequate meals. This was not for lack of money, but purely

ly lack of appreciation of a wise selection from available food and drink; for instance, doughnuts instead of a meat or cheese sandwich, sweets instead of a salad, and pop instead of milk.

Your subscription will be appreciated if you are in arrears.

BRITISH FOUR INTO TUNISIA



STILL PURSUING THE AFRIKA KORPS is the British Eighth Army. Day after day more of the Tommies under General Bernard Montgomery cross the border from Tripolitania into Tunisia. These men belong to the Highland Division. Advancing forty-five miles in two days, the Eighth Army has moved up to the fortified Mareth Line at Medanine and Fom Tatahouine inside Tunisia. (International Radiophoto)