FARM NUMBERS DWINDLE

As federal agency grows

ON THE FARM FRONT
KReg. U.S. Pat. Off.)
By BERNARD BRENNER
UPI Farm Editor

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The number of farmers in the nation has been declining steadily in recent years. The number of employes in the Agriculture Department has been going up.

But a study of department employment figures indicates the situation is not a case of a growing number of bureaucrats concentrating on the affairs of each remaining farmer. The number of Agriculture Department personnel whose jobs are directly concerned with farm supports and controls has declined.

What the employment figures do show, however, is the growing importance of food and consumer-service programs in what once was primarily a farmer's department.

In the 1963 fiscal year, for example, the department had the equivalent of 565 full-time jobs devoted to domestic food distribution programs. In the current fiscal year, about 2,400 full-time employes will be needed for these programs — commodity donations, food stamps and child nutrition, including school lunch programs.

In farm price support and production control programs, on the other hand, total employment has gone down. Partly, at least, this has been due to adoption of computerized management systems. In the 1963 fiscal year, there were 6,740 Agriculture Department jobs for such programs as price support loans and payments, crop insurance, and handling of government surplus commodities. In the current fiscal year, employment for the same has been estimated at 5,421 full-time jobs.

Other department employment records show a similar pattern. Where programs deal directly or mainly with farmers, employment has generally risen only slightly, remained static, or declined. But where consumer and general public interests are concerned, the number of federal employes has risen.

The Soil Conservation Service, for example, which spends most of its time working with farmers and othe rural landowners had the equivalent of 10,984 full-time employes in fiscal 1963 and will have only about 10,855 this year. But the number of men and women employed in food protection and regulatory programs is nearly 30 per cent.

In fiscal 1963, the department had about 7,300 man-years of employment in such programs as meat and poultry inspection and marketing services for crops and livestock. By fiscal 1970, employment in these jobs had risen to about 10,140 man-years.

IT IS GOOD BUSINESS TO READ THE WANT ADS

The buck Ends here . . . .

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The Max Beemblossoms write from Manitowoc, Wis., that they like their new location fine, but they miss their many friends in Nebraska City. Their address is 201 Cleveland Avenue, Manitowoc, Wis., 54220.

A reader asked about our Christmas menu at Wilber, Neb.:

Yup, we had sticky dumplings, sauer kraut, ribs, duck, and chicken, twisted rolls, poppy seed rolls, a few special giant size buns, oh, too many salads, and vegetables and desserts.

New Year's resolution: I promise never to eat like that again. . . .until next year.

The Rev. Victor Ireland stood before his congregation at the First United Methodist church to accept a gift from Dr. C.C. Case, church lay leader, on behalf of the church membership.

There was a cash gift in the envelope.

In addition, there was something special for the preacher. Garry Alles walked down the church aisle carrying a new set of golf clubs and a new golf bag.

The pastor enjoys the game and said he expects to enjoy it more this summer.

He joshed with the congregation.

"If I don't show up some Sunday morning, you'll know where I am."

News - Press reporter Rich Lundgren who was assigned to cover the drawing for the new car questioned how he could be eligible.

Rich explained that since he would be at the drawing to witness and report the winners, he was not eligible to win the car or the cash.

The best we could come up with was a partnership with an eligible person. As it turned out, Rich said, "My numbers weren't even close."

We asked Clyde Stoll, City street commissioner, and he said the property north of the armory will be leased to the National Guard and will not be used for ice skating this year.

The property was not flooded last year. . .but then we had ice on the streets. Remember?

Mel Conley, a member of the park board, said skaters could use Steinhart park lake which does not have the 20-foot holes many said existed.

There was even a suggestion about skating on the swimming pool, but that was dropped by fear of deep water and the possibility of a tragedy.

Besides, the Steinhart pool could be used as a swimming pool again next summer.

Remarks by famous people have been known to wash them from prominence according to an article on this desk from Clyde Hatten.

The first and probably the one we have heard most was, "the public be damned" by Commodore Vanderbilt.

The next on this desk came in more recent years by Mr Romney then campaigning for the GOP Presidential nomination. He returned from Vietnam to report to the people of the U.S. that he had been "brainwashed" by military leaders in Vietnam.

Nebraska City voters next spring will elect their mayor, finance and street commissioner separately, in contrast to the present system of high-man-is-mayor. That system was changed at the last election when Ed Ransdell captured the most votes, but said he did not want to be mayor.

Mayor McKissick pointed out that under the new law, voters will elect a mayor for a two-year term and two commissioners for four-year terms.

Then in 1972, voters will elect only a mayor and he will take office for four years.

Rescue and ambulance service in Hamburg, Ia., will be provided by the hospital in that community. Previously, the service was provided by the Rash Funeral home.

That was one of the suggestions made in Nebraska City at the time when the emergency service was dropped by the funeral homes. Volunteers, however, felt they could do the job and they seem to be doing the good job for which they pledged themselves under the leadership of rescue Chief Austin Cutler.

A defense attorney who knows only what he read in the court records about the Darrel Parker murder case, says he is convinced Parker is innocent.

Parker is out on $5,000 bond awaiting final determination on whether he will have a new trial. He was convicted a dozen or so years ago of murdering his wife in their home in Lincoln.

The interesting point is the opinion of this lawyer, whose home is in Colorado. He wasn't around for any of the action when the murder took place or the apprehension and confession of Parker.

His information comes from the court record.

Larry Parker of the News-Press staff was on the news beat in Lincoln the day Mrs Parker was murdered and her husband was arrested. He says Parker did it.

The attorney said he doesn't think Parker will ever go back to the pen. Lifers are eligible for parole in 14 years and Parker is at that level now.

Otoe included in rural water plan

LINCOLN (UPI) — Well sites in southeastern Lancaster County and northwestern Johnson County are being considered as possible water sources for a proposed rural water district to include parts of Otoe and Lancaster counties, it was reported Friday.

The district would include all or portions of 19 townships in the two counties.

Dean H. Petersen, a project committee member, said the Lancaster and Johnson sites were being considered, but no definite selections had been made.

Dean Connett, an engineering consultant, said sites could not be picked until 80 per cent of the estimated 3,000 rural residents in the affected parts of Lancaster and Otoe counties had approved the formation of the district.

He said the approval situation "looks pretty good."

READ THE WANT ADS

Defense spending cuts are suggested

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Democratic members of a joint House-Senate Economic Committee urged President Nixon Saturday to reduce defense spending by $10 billion in the budget he submits next year.

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., called the recommendation the most controversial of five contained in a report on a series of hearings on the military budget and national economic priorities.

The joint economic committee conducted the hearings, with Proxmire, its vice chairman, presiding.

"For the next fiscal year 1971, expenditures by the department of defense should be reduced by no less than $10 billion below the level of actual expenditures during fiscal 1969," the report recommended.

"Reductions in spending should be closely monitored by the Congress so that inefficiency and waste are not fostered in the name of economy and so that balance is maintained in our overall military strenghth."

Security Factor

Sen. Len B. Jordan, R-Idaho, and Rep. Barger G. Conable, Jr., R-N.Y., concurred in general that the military budget could be cut without impairing military security.

But they said in separate views that the $10 billion figure was "plucked out of thin air" without any supporting data.

"There is no reason to settle on a $10 billion cut, rather than, say, $5 billion or $15 billion," the Republicans said.

Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., agreed. He said he did not think the committee should recommend such a cut without specific justifications when it was urging others to improve their budgeting procedures.

Proxmire acknowledged the criticism, but said the Congress had already cut $5.6 billion out of the 1970 defense budget and that with the announced Vietnam cutback there was no reason a total reduction of $10 billion could not be reached.

Waste Cited

Proxmire said that while the committee also found examples of waste and inefficiency in several civilian programs, notably mediacare and aid to higher education, "The defense program is unique and distinguished from all other federal activities in that it is in the nature of a necessary evil."

Since the principal justification for military spending is defense and to permit the country to carry out its international obligations, Proxmire said, "it is essential that we have some clear idea of the nature of the threat from any potential aggressor or enemy of the U.S. when making decisions about the size and extent of our own defense program."

But the committee found from testimony "that the Russians are not ten feet tall," he said. "In fact, based on our military outlays and economic strength, if we are six feet tall, the Russians by comparison are three feet tall and the Chinese are six inches tall."

Recommendations

Proxmire said that in view of this, a $10 billion cut in military spending was not unreasonable.

Besides the defense budget reduction, the committee also recommended:

—Full disclosure to congress of future costs consequences of new programs, both military and civilian.

—That the department of state inform Congress each year exactly what U.S. foreign commitments are and how much they would cost.

—The bureau of the budget define defense-related activities so that the true cost of defense —including Veterans' costs and payments on past military operations—may be known.

—The government accounting office (GAO) be given more authority to monitor defense spending.

Hijacked plane returned to U.S.

MIAMI (UPI)—A gunman dressed in a pin-striped, double-breasted suit and pink shirt hijacked a New York-to-Chicago jet airliner with 29 persons aboard Friday night and forced it to fly to Cuba.

It was the 59th hijacking of a commercial airliner this year, an escapade that ended safely when the plane returned to the Miami airport early today without the gunman.

The aircraft was a United Air Lines Boeing 727, a three-engined jet costing $4 million that has a capacity of 96. On Friday, however, it was carrying a crew of six and only 23 passengers because the after-Christmas slack in air travel.

After changing crews here, the plane continued with its passengers to Chicago.

United spokesmen identified the gunman only as "M. Martinez."

About 10 minutes out of New York, he pulled a snub-nosed .38 caliber revolver from a brief case and told stewardess Sheila Sneed of East Orange, N.J., "We're going to Cuba. Sit down."

"Very Nice"

Sharon Brodak of New York City, another of three stewardesses on the plane, described the hijacker, as "tall, stocky, dark-haired and very nice."

"He had a Spanish accent and appeared to be well educated," she said.

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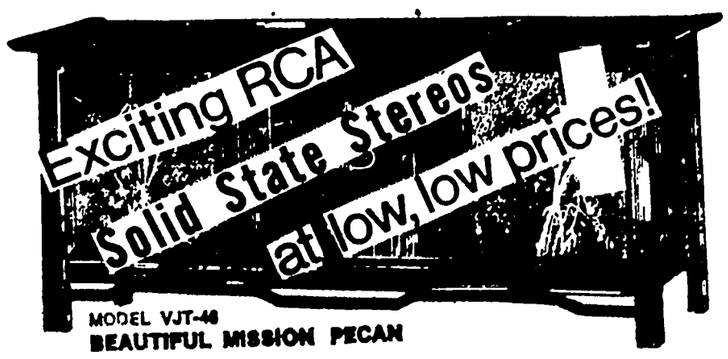
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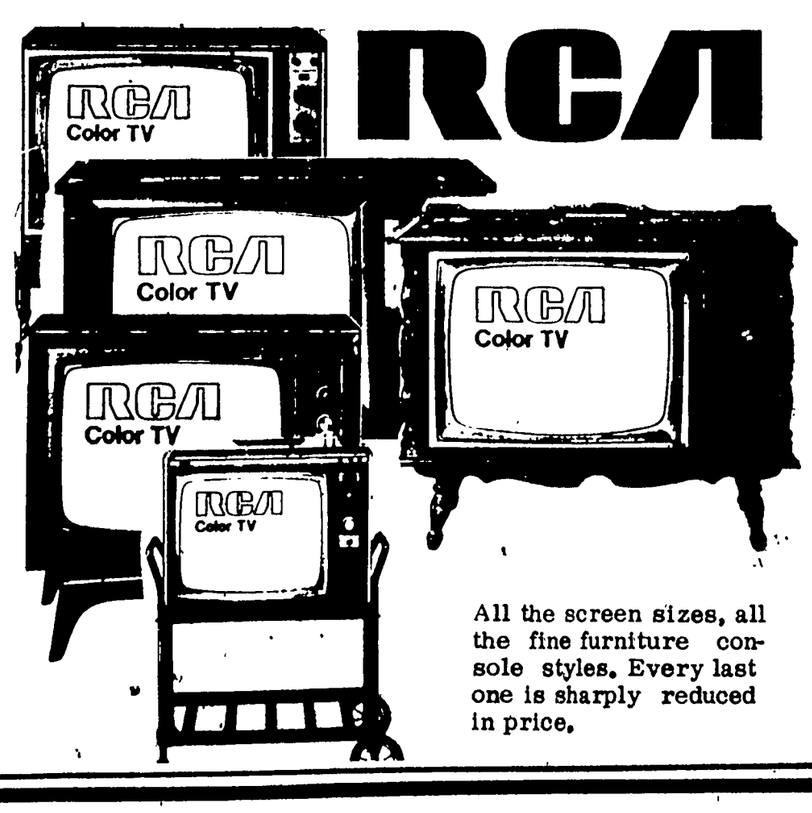
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