



STATE OFFICIALS: Left to right: Jack Cothran, Wynne, President; Odis Chapman, Scott, State Spokesman; C. W. Day, McGehee, Secretary; Deloss McKnight, Wynne, National Delegate; and Robert Williams, Brinkley, one of three vice presidents.

State AAMA Meeting Here Saturday

About 100 AAMA officers and members from across the state met Saturday evening at the Des Arc Chapter headquarters building for the October state meeting.

The group heard reports from the state president, treasurer, and other state officials in a three-hour meeting that preceded a fish supper served by the Des

Arc Chapter members.

The group discussed the need for a representative who could sell AAMA to more farmers and solicit memberships.

A suggestion that meetings be held quarterly instead of monthly, statewide, was approved with the various committees, such as soy-bean committee, rice com-

mittee, poultry committee, meeting perhaps monthly. Information from these committees would be reported to the membership at quarterly meetings.



WOMEN IN AAMA: Barbara Williams of Brinkley, president of state women's group, and Marion Waller of Heth, secretary, attending meeting here Saturday evening.



Guests treated to fish supper by Des Arc AAMA Chapter members

THE FARM BUREAU FARM BILL'S

PROJECTED PRICES FOR NEXT FOUR YEARS

	1986	1987	1988	1989
WHEAT	\$3.60	\$3.80	\$4.00	\$4.00
CORN	2.80	3.00	3.20	3.30
COTTON	62^c	64^c	65^c	66^c
RICE	3.78	3.96	4.23	4.50

SOYBEANS Farm Bureau's projections for soybeans are not available but \$7.00 per bu. for 1989 is close.

Milo runs about 10^c under corn.

Next week we will show you AAM's producer, NOT
"market" bill.

Be sure to look next week, same time, same place, for more important farm information brought to you by the Des Arc Chapter AAM.



STATE BANKING COMMISSIONER MARLIN JACKSON
'I Think The President's Farm Program Absolutely Stinks'

Bank Commissioner:

Reagan Farm Effort 'Stinks'

By JANET KESTERSON

State Banking Commissioner Marlin Jackson said Wednesday that some of the state's banks have become "hostages of agrarian economies" and warned of a crisis in the banking industry in three to five years "if somebody doesn't have the guts ... to do something to restore basic proficiency to agriculture."

Jackson told *The Sun*, however, that neither Congress nor the Reagan administration "shows any inclination at all" to address the farm problem.

He said pending farm legislation is "inadequate in every dimension" and charged that Reagan is "derelict in his duties" by ignoring the problems of farmers.

"I think the president's farm program absolutely stinks," he said.

Jackson spoke to Paragould Rotarians Wednesday and afterwards talked with a *Sun* reporter about the state of Arkansas' banking industry.

"Whether state or nationally chartered, I know of no bank in Arkansas that for economic reasons has any prospect of clos-

ing" in the next couple of years, Jackson said.

But he added that loan losses in the state have increased 500 to 600 percent during the past two years because of the state of the agricultural economy. Fortunately, he said, the one-bank towns that are hit hardest by farm losses are historically the "best-managed and best-run" of the state's banks.

"But there is an end to their viability," he said, and sooner or later those banks will have to recapitalize or face merger.

He later added that a dozen banks in the state have been recapitalized during the past year, but the communities were reluctant to supply the capital. He said he fears that those who have accumulated the wealth are "losing confidence in the system."

Jackson said four state banks were on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's "problem bank list" in 1980. The figure now stands at 43 or 44 and will be up to 50 by November due to the inability of farmers to meet loan obliga-

(See REAGAN Page 2)

Asked about pending farm legislation, Jackson said there are two basic philosophies for farm aid — rigid controls and high support prices or getting government out of the way and moving toward a free economy.

Pending farm legislation does neither, he said.

Jackson called for an "interim program (for farmers) that imposes sufficient production controls to eliminate the huge glut accumulated in every commodity ... and with that some mandatory controls and some assurances for profitability." All the time, he said, the policy's aim should be to move toward a free economy.

Jackson pointed out that history has shown there is seldom enough self-discipline to impose needed constraints until a crisis exists. And such a crisis may be necessary in this country to correct the problems of agriculture.

"Ten to 12 percent (farmers) will go bankrupt this year, 10 to 12 percent will go bankrupt next year and the next until after a while people will wake up" to the crisis and take appropriate action, he said.

"If Congress really understood how serious the depression is on the farm, then they'd do something about it. But unfortunately they seldom see beyond the produce shelves in the local supermarket."

Farmers, legislators, AAM leaders

Arkansas farmers and concerned citizens converged at Woody's Sherwood Forest Saturday, March 1, for a Farm Crisis meeting sponsored by the American Agriculture Movement. This meeting, one of some 1,000 scheduled to be held across the country in the next few months, was to inform farmers about what has been done, what is being done, and what needs to be done. The focus was on the fact that the struggle to change national agricultural policy and save the American family farm system is not something that can be accomplished overnight, and that NOW is not the

time to quit, but rather the time to regroup, help one another, and become involved. In addition, farmers were made aware that some help is available for those who find themselves in financial difficulty as well as for those who have not been financed.

Speakers for the event included Congressman Bill Alexander, Congressman Tommy Robinson, Governor Bill Clinton, and David Senter, the National Office Director of AAM in Washington, D.C., as well as Clifton Meador, the Director of Agriculture for the AIDC, and Marlin Jackson, the State Banking Commissioner. Others on the agenda were Jack Looney, the Dean of the School of Law at the University of Arkansas, Rhonda Weaver of Weaver and Associates, John Arens of Arens and Alexander Attorneys, and representatives of state FmHA and ASCS.

David Senter, AAM's national director and lobbyist, called the current farm problem a "national disgrace in this country". America, being the best fed country in the world with our farmers feeding the world, has farmers all over this land who cannot buy food for their families. Senter noted that 1985 saw the greatest loss of family farmers in the history of this nation with 399,000 farm families leaving the land, according to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau. Senter outlined emergency provisions AAM is supporting which will provide immediate help which include (1) a 50 percent advance CCC loan immediately to help get the 1986 crop planted, and (2) an amendment by Senator Ted Kennedy with provisions to allow a farmer to keep his home and 10 acres

for 5 years with the first right of refusal to buy it back at the then current market value. Other legislation AAM is working on is emergency legislation to raise loan rates for all commodities which will save \$10 billion to taxpayers and double farmer income at the same time, and a long-range national agricultural policy to establish parity loan rates and mandatory production controls through a farmer referendum with farmers making the decision to vote it down for lower prices and market-oriented agriculture if they so choose.

Senter urged all farmers to hold their politicians accountable for the votes they cast and what they have done in the past for or against production agriculture. With 1986 an election year, rural America, where 60 percent of the total votes were cast in the last election, can determine who controls the senate.

Governor Clinton, next on the agenda, addressed the group and outlined a resolution which was endorsed by all 50 of the governors at the National Governors' Association Conference. The resolution includes an interest write-down, a moratorium of foreclosures, and restructuring of farm debt. It should be noted that through the efforts of Governor Clinton, who is currently serving as chairman of the Southern Growth Policies Board and chairman-elect of the National Governors Association, and others, agricultural policies are being addressed on the national level

through the National Governors Association.

Casting the blame for the crisis in agriculture on decisions made at the national level concerning economic policy, plus unforeseen events worldwide, Clinton contends that the government owes farmers some form of bailout similar to that given to Chrysler, Lockheed, and New York City. He noted that collectively the

American farmers are "bigger than Chrysler and Lockheed".

Following the governor, both congressmen, Alexander and Robinson, spoke on the concerns of farmers and their suggestions for helping the situation. Congressman Robinson urged farmers to write their congressman and senators in Washington and personally go to Washington to lobby for their in-

Photos by Paula Skarda
Story by Maribeth McMullen

meet, talk at Sherwood Forest

terest. Robinson offered other suggestions related to the national level, such as, a cut back in defense spending and a re-ordering of our priorities in foreign aid policies. Robinson stated that he would support giving surplus commodities to countries receiving foreign aid in lieu of taxpayers dollars.

Congressman Alexander stated that the Reagan administration and his farm policies will go down in history as causing more devastation to the South than the "boll weevils in the 20's". He made note that 1985 farm income was at the lowest level since the years beginning the Great Depression in 1929, and that the 1985 Farm Bill will not help farmers because it did nothing to change the overvalued dollar and continues to lower farm income. Alexander further stated, that while this bill will not aid farmers, it will cost the American taxpayers \$80 billion, which is 16 times greater than the amount spent under the Carter administration. The

congressman emphasized that farmers need a price, not a promise, and urged farmers not to settle for less than a fair price for their products. Some legislation he is supporting which will give farmers a fair price, is an amendment to the 1985 Farm Bill, that will change it by installing provisions for farmers to produce for the domestic market and to subsidize exports.

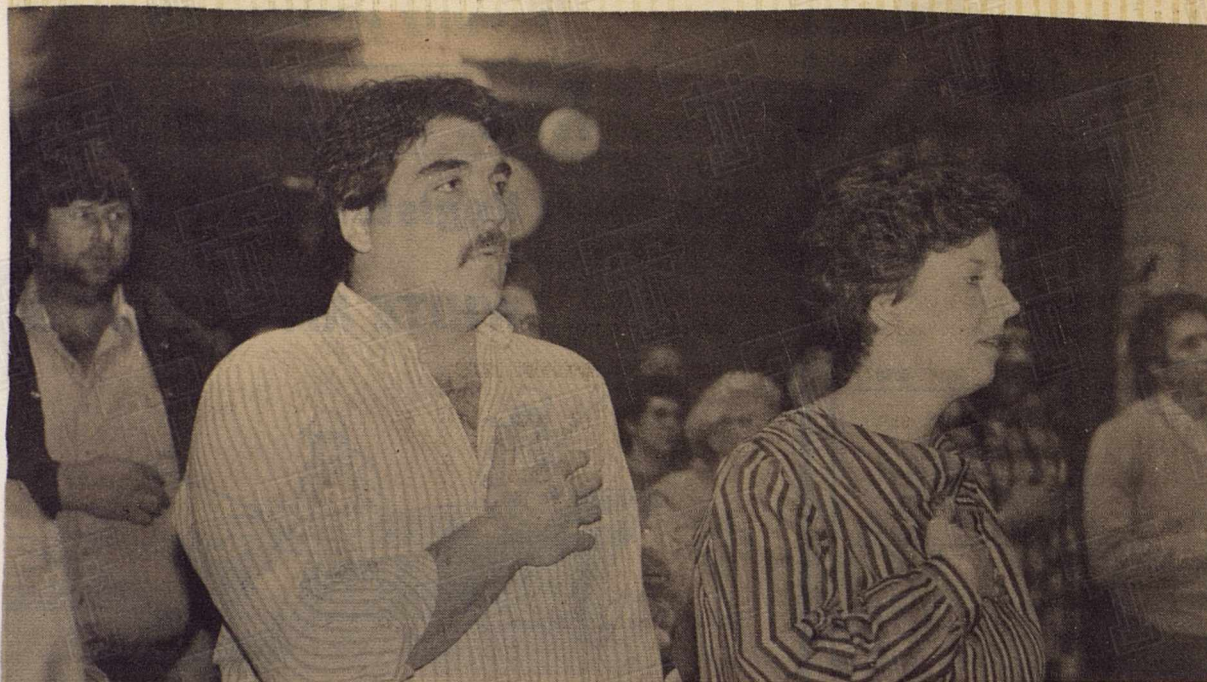
Some positive outcomes of the meeting included a willingness of bankers, politicians, and people to work together to bring about solutions to the problems facing rural America and the fact that the politicians are admitting that the 1985 Farm Bill is inadequate and will require amendments in order to help farmers. One such amendment, which is strongly supported by AAM, if passed, is the maintaining of yields to the 1985 levels in determining 1986 deficiency payments. Another change from previous farm policy that is already in the new Farm Bill is

the election of two of the members of the FmHA county committee by farmers with one appointee by the Secretary of Agriculture as opposed to three appointed committee members in past policy. The latter was also strongly advocated by AAM.

Each speaker urged farmers to speak out and welcomed their input on the farm issues. Congressman Alexander stated that "voiceless discontent is not heard in Washington", and in the words of David Senter, "the time is NOW, don't be afraid to be called a farm activist. Those who sit back don't get criticized, but they don't accomplish anything either. We are a government of the people, and they (elected officials in Washington) are supposed to represent you. It is up to us to see that they do."

Although the number attending the farm crisis meeting was down from last year, several hundred did attend, including a group from the Prairie County area.





Scott Mitchell, local farmer, and wife, Rita, join Pledge of Allegiance



Among local farmers attending, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Burrows (left and right) and Sallie and Donald DeVore (center), Des Arc

Sanner Represents Arkansas At National AAMA Meeting

Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc, represented the Arkansas Agricultural Movement at the AAMA annual national meeting in Washington, Feb. 6-7. Sanner, alternate delegate from Arkansas, attended the meeting instead of Delegate Deloss McKnight, unable to attend.

Sanner represented the Arkansas organization at the election of officers, meetings with members of the Arkansas Congressional delegation in Washington, and a meeting with AAMA's advertising and public relation firm, Martin Haley Co.

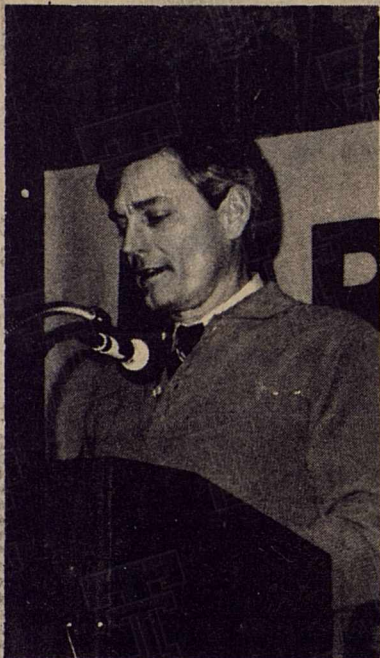
The meeting was held at the AAMA headquarters office in the Methodist Building in Washington D. C.



Best Wishes
John R. Block

"Farm problem is a national disaster," says David Senter, AAM director

About 600 persons hear politicians



U.S. Representative Bill Alexander told the group that the Reagan administration and his farm policies will go down in history as causing more devastation to the South than the "boll weevils in the 20's".

By Maribeth McMullen

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Ray Watson of Hazen (left) and Kelly Sanner of Des Arc look over AAM literature and sell paraphernalia at meeting.



Maribeth McMullen converses with U.S. Representative Bill Alexander at the meeting.

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Following the governor, both congressmen spoke on the concerns of farmers and their suggestions for helping the situation. Congressman Robinson urged farmers to write their congressmen and senators in Washington and to personally go to Washington to lobby for their interests. Other suggestions of his for the national level were to cut back on defense spending and to reorder our priorities in dealing with foreign aid. He would support giving surplus commodities to countries receiving foreign aid in lieu of taxpayers dollars.

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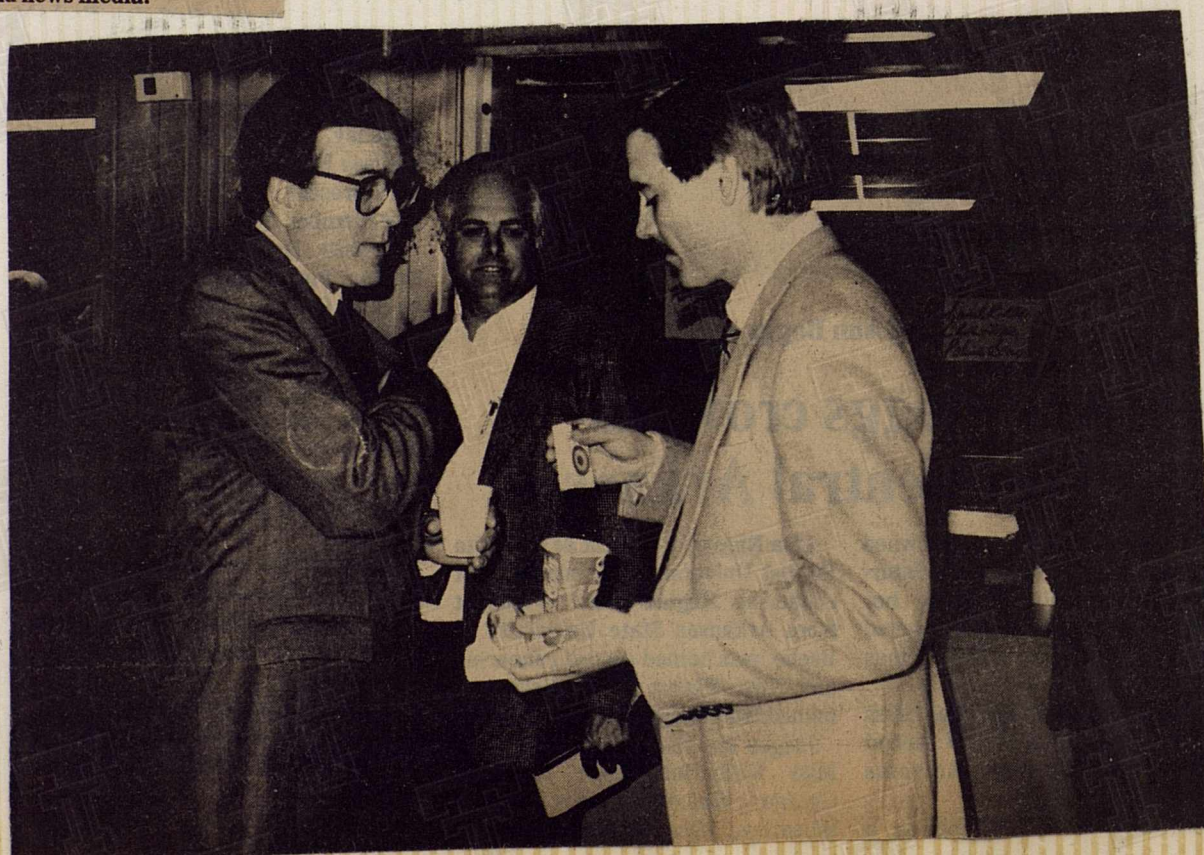
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Approximately 600 persons attended the farm crisis meeting including farmers and their wives, politicians and their aides, related business-agri persons and news media.





TALKING FARM TALK: L to R: Jack Cothren and Harvey Joe Sanner are pictured here talking to Governor Bill Clinton.

AAM sponsors "Evening with the Governor" in Little Rock

The American Agriculture Movement, Inc. of Arkansas invited a cross-section of Arkansas farmers to share an "evening with the Governor," Monday evening, July 21, at Cajun's Wharf in Little Rock. "The

evening was spent in 'farm talk,'" a spokesman said.

"There is no quick fix to the depressed farm economy," the governor told the group. Much discussion was aimed toward the present

shortfalls in state revenues in Arkansas and other farm states causing decreased revenues for state governments.

Related to farmers how reduced land values and lower commodity prices directly affect all Arkansans, the governor encouraged the farmers by assuring them that the Feed and Seed Tax Exemption would not be repealed.

Governor Clinton invited any and all farmers to share with him any ideas that would help solve the agricultural dilemma on the state level. He said he was committing himself to doing everything possible in the Southern Governors Conference to influence agricultural legislation on the national level.

Jack Cothren, Wynne, former state AAM president, and local farmers attending the event, said, "We are pleased with the honesty and intricate knowledge of agriculture and its problems displayed by the governor."

Among local farmers attending were Harvey Joe Sanner, national AAM delegate; Prairie County Judge Guyman DeVore, Leo Simmons,





AAM STATE MEETING: Members of the Des Arc AAM Chapter served as hosts for the State AAM Meeting and catfish supper, held here Saturday evening.

State AAM meeting held in Des Arc Saturday, Jan. 10

Members of the American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas, will meet in Des Arc Saturday afternoon and will be electing officers and adopting resolutions for the 1987 national convention to be held in Memphis January, 16-18.

The meeting will open at 4 p.m. with a discussion period with guest speakers, Tommy B. Willis, President of the Agricultural Movement in Tennessee; Odis Chapman, Arkansas Chapter President; and Leon Tucker, Prairie County Soil Conservation Service, District Conservationist.

According to spokesman, Harvey Joe Sanner of the Des Arc Chapter of AAM, the meeting is open to interested farmers and businessmen.

Sanner stated that the 1985 Farm Bill will be debated in 1987. Alternate proposals will range from the Harkin-Gephardt Bill that calls for mandatory production controls with a 70 percent loan rate versus the administrations plan to drastically cut target prices with lower farm prices being used to increase sales.

"There are other proposals and where we land will have more influence on the economy of Prairie County than any other factor," Sanner said.

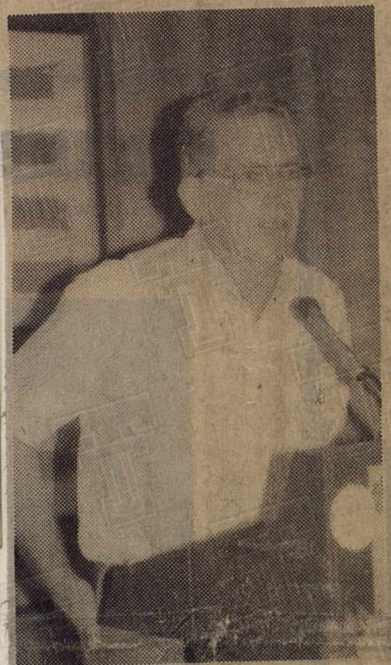
AAM urges farmers to be active participants in the legislative process. "The participating farmer is vitally important if agriculture is to have a strong voice in Washington," Sanner said.

A catfish dinner will be served, beginning at 6 p.m. "We want to extend an invitation to all interested to come out for a fish dinner, to visit and to examine farm options for the coming year," Sanner said.





TOM WILLIS
—National AAM President



ODIS CHAPMAN
—State Executive Vice President

Arkansas Chapter, American Ag, elects Harvey Sanner president

"AAM sees hope for the future"

"It's been a fight all the way and the fight must continue," the opening words of Tom Willis, Brownsville, Tennessee farmer, and national president of AAM, at the state meeting of American Agricultural Movement of Arkansas held at Des Arc last Saturday evening.

At Saturday's meeting, Arkansas AAM members elected Harvey Joe Sanner as the 1987 state President, an active member of the movement since its birth 10 years ago. Sanner also serves as a national delegate and will be going to Washington in February as congress gets back into full swing.

Sanner succeeds Arkansas president, Odis Chapman, who remains as executive vice president. Chapman was among the speakers during the meeting here.

"There are a lot of important issues coming up and now is AAM's opportunity to cash in on all its hard work the past years," Sanner commented. Sanner, no stranger to Capitol Hill, will be part of an entourage of farm lobbyists involved in policy making of future farm legislation.

Introducing the guest, Tom Willis, Sanner complimented the unselfish and untiring service of Willis in his duties as national president. "Tom has worked hard and not because he had to, he believed in the cause and has gone beyond the call of duty."

Willis offered hope to the gathered AAM members saying, "I think we have a real chance now, there is support for our ideas and we've seen a few successes."

Willis, as was Sanner, seemed optimistic for the future of farming in the hands of the newly elected Democratic Congress. "The November elections were encouraging, not only the win, but the size of the margin in Democratic wins. We see the change in control of the senate as a mandate for agriculture,"

Willis said.

Willis reminded his listeners that some of the senatorial races in question were in farm states. "I think both parties (Democrats and Republicans alike) understand now that something has to be done about agriculture. The people exercised their right to vote and plainly told Washington to get to work," Willis said.

Willis spoke of several issues of importance to farmers, in particular the changes in the tax codes. "One policy of the new tax code that is hurting farmers is the elimination of investment credit that became retroactive to January 1986. Not only did they take our tax break away but they taxed us in a higher income bracket. The idea in original form was to take away the deduction but at the same time lower taxes."

"The top issue of 1987 would have to be debate of the 1985 Farm Bill, which proves with each passing day its total lack of understanding of the farm problem. The bill is costing the government millions of dollars and does not address the major question of supply management," Willis said.

Willis commented that several proposals were being studied by AAM as a replacement or amendment to the 85 Farm Bill, such as the Harkin-Gephardt Bill which is similar to the Harkin-Alexander Bill of 1986.

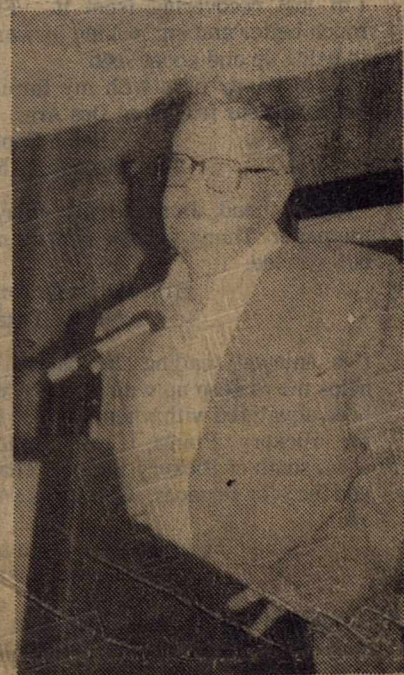
"I'm looking forward to the next two years. I'm confident that there will be a turn-around in agriculture," Willis said in closing.

Also, as part of the agenda, Leon Tucker, local director of Soil Conservation, discussed with AAM members, the new conservation programs, Sodbuster and Swampbuster, part of the 1985 Farm Bill. Tucker also explained regulations governing the tree planting program.

Following the program, a catfish and chicken dinner was served by the Des Arc Chapter of AAM.



HARVEY JOE SANNER
—Elected State President



LEON TUCKER
—Guest Speaker



MAKIN' TRACKS

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER



SENATOR PRYOR: "To the best of my knowledge this is the biggest farm meeting we've ever had in the State of Arkansas. If I had said in 1977 or 1978 that I was flying down to Jonesboro, Arkansas for a meeting with the AAM, somebody would have said you've lost your mind."

One Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

Nearly 2,000 farmers, agribusinessmen and bankers were on hand to say there is a **farm crisis**. The feeling was unanimous that what we've got is not enough, we must have a policy change with price being the priority. We have found that voting is not enough and that doing nothing only allows others to write our farm legislation.

The AAM is a proud organization and improving daily. It has created a way that farmers can help themselves through political action.

No well-informed citizen denies that there is a farm problem in America of huge and devastating proportions. There is no need for this farm problem to exist as American farmers, farmland, equipment and know-how are by far the best in the world. The only problem lies in farm policies. We represent the people of

this area who believe that the policies of the last several Administrations have been devastating to farmers and will continue to be devastating unless certain intelligent and meaningful changes are made.

Not only are basic changes needed to see that all farmers who are willing to work and do a good job are allowed to benefit from that work, but there are also day-to-day matters in Washington involving a variety of situations short of fundamental changes that also need attention. It will be very beneficial to have **your** side of all important questions ... farm credit, disaster loans, increased exports, adequate CCC loan rates, and many, many other matters that affect your financial well-being ... fought for in Washington and in state capitals throughout the nation.

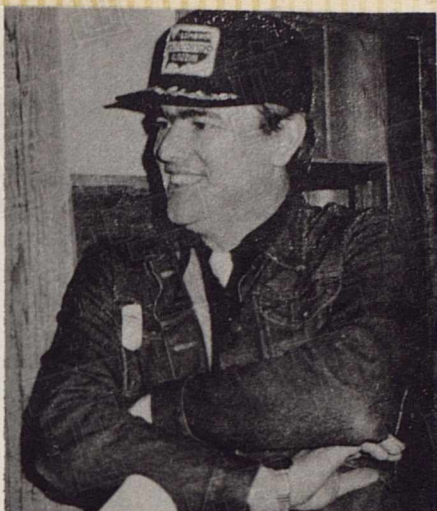
Free Market Folly Finally Being Recognized

You're hearing it everywhere from Washington to the local coffee shop, there's no such thing as a free market. There's no one that has paid a price more dear than the American Farmer. We were told, you produce it and we'll sell it, then came the embargoes, trade sanctions and other manipulations of foreign markets. Now question!! Why should farmers pay the price for incompetence in government? It seems that the shouts of those who were once considered radicals are now being heard.



SENATOR BUMPERS: "There has been an indifference to the plight of the farmer. When you come to Washington, bring your banker with you. Let the banker tell them his bank is in trouble, too. I believe that Congress is more sensitive to the plight of the farmers than they've ever been before. I believe Congress is in the mood to do something. The thing we've got to do is get commodity prices up above your costs of production so that you can make a profit."

Ar
el



Wayne Cryts said, "If the American farmer can make a profit, we'll put America back to work. The last time we had a balanced budget was in 1974 because the family farmer got 100% of parity in 1973. Any Congressman or Senator that will not support parity to the American farmers does not need to be returned to Washington, D.C."

Kelly Sanner in Washington for talks with delegation

Kelly Sanner flew from Memphis Tuesday en route to Washington where he will spend this week working in the national American Agriculture office.

Kelly, a junior major in agriculture-business at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, will be meeting with members of the Arkansas delegation and attending agriculture committee hearings. He will meet with Senator David Pryor on Wednesday and with Congressman Bill Alexander and Senator Dale Bumpers later in the week.

Sanner's trip to the nation's capitol was sponsored by several local farmers who said, "we are too busy to go ourselves, but we want to be heard at meetings and keep in constant contact with our legislators during the writing of the 1985 Farm Bill."

Harvey Joe Sanner, AAM delegate from Arkansas, will be traveling to Washington next week for a national delegates meeting. He will be leaving as his son returns from Washington on Sunday.



Pictured above (left to right) is Fred Lundgren, Texas Dept. of Agriculture, Deloss McKnight and David Senter, AAM Lobbyist. Senter said, "In 1981 farmers stood alone. Now we have bankers and business people standing shoulder to shoulder. I'm here to tell you we have a chance of winning. We have a chance of saving our farms. Congress is getting ready to do it to you or for you, the choice is ours."



Clinton makes commitment to have State Comm. of Agri. Pictures left to right is Lloyd Evans, Harvey Sanner, Linwood Wells and Governor Clinton.

Farmers: Meet gave little help

An American Agriculture Movement farm crisis meeting held Friday in Jonesboro brought a great deal of attention to the plight of the American farmer, but a few hard answers about how to solve his problems, area farmers said this week.

Most of the speakers echoed a common theme: Farm prices have been far outstripped by production costs, forcing many farmers into debt and shoving increasing numbers of them off the land forever. Speakers at the meeting included Gov. Bill Clinton, Arkansas Sens. Dale Bumpers and David Pryor, Rep. Bill Alexander, and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower.

Estimates of the turnout for the afternoon and evening meeting ranged from 800 to 1,200 people. A room for 600 was originally reserved at the Jonesboro Holiday Inn, but the size of the crowd forced the meeting to be moved to a large indoor patio area.

Farmers who came to the get-together already knew the problems -- they came to hear the answers. Speaker after speaker outlined the pro-



AAM leader Harvey Sanner or Des Arc, fielded a question from a standing member of the audience at Friday's meeting.

in Casebier's words, "too political. It was too one-sided -- sort of a Democratic rally." He and other farmers agreed, however, that the meeting did focus a great deal of attention on farm problems. Danny Clements of Harrisburg added that along with displaying the depth of

from the meeting, and what they'd like to see in any federal farm bill.

Jimmy Casebier

"I felt like the meeting was too political. It was too one-sided -- sort of a Democratic rally -- along with the American Agriculture Movement. I

need any more credit -- we've credited ourselves to the forehandles. Another goal should possibly be to do away with the target price on farm commodities and raise the loan price.

"One of the first speakers hit the nail on the head when he said the most important thing is that farmers must

Cooperation Urged At Rally

By CURT HODGES

What started out as an American Agriculture Movement membership rally here Friday turned into a full-fledged and productive meeting that could go a long way toward helping debt-laden farmers and over-taxed lending agencies come to grips with one of the nation's major problems, rally leaders stated.

More than 1,000 showed up for what was billed as a "farm crisis meeting" conducted Friday at the Holiday Inn, with rally speakers and those interested in agriculture voicing an attitude of concern and cooperation.

There was a lot of good-natured ribbing among farmers about agriculture's situation, described by Congressman Bill Alexander,

as the worst since the "Great Depression." As one audience member pointed out, it's agriculture's ability to laugh at a bad situation, its constant optimism and ability to bounce back that will see it through.

But, help has to come from other areas, speakers emphasized. Lending agencies and farm debtors need to get together and work out a plan. Governments and government agencies need to work together, speakers pointed out, be-

cause America needs agriculture, and a hungry world needs American agriculture.

"This has exceeded out wildest expectations," said Jack Cothran of Wynne, president of the Arkansas AAM, said as he addressed an overflow crowd in a meeting room reserved for the rally. "There is a problem out there" on the farm.

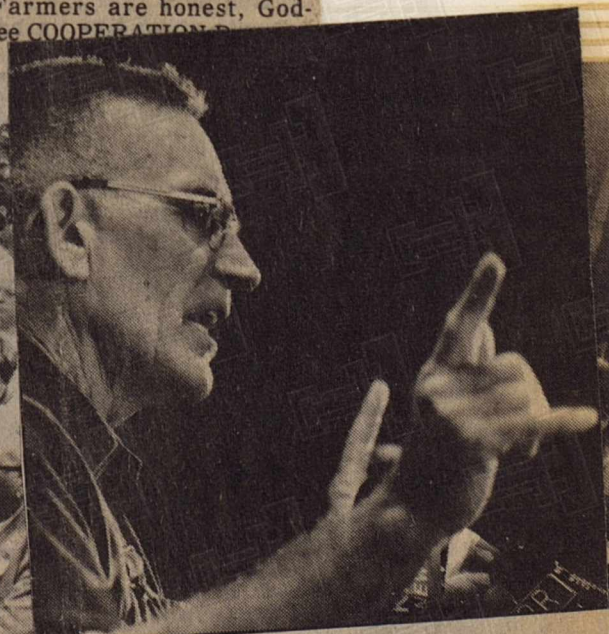
It was easy to feel the concern for a way to work out dire problems in America's basic industry, he added.

"There are no easy answers," said Marlin Jackson, chairman of the state Banking Commission.

"Your problems are my problems," said Jackson, who added he also has farm mortgages to pay "with double-digit interest."

But, Jackson reminded the farmers, the money banks lend is not owned by banks, but is money deposited by bank customers, including retired farmers.

"Farmers are honest, God-
(See COOPERATION)



Farmers rally

Farmer Odis Chapman of Scott, Ark., was one of several speakers who addressed a big crowd of farmers attending an American Agriculture Movement meeting at Jonesboro, Ark. The aim: save America's farms. (Story on Page A1)



Sanner attends farm labor rally in Kansas City

National AAM President Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc, was among the over 3,000 persons attending a "Farm Labor Rally" held in Kansas City over the weekend.

Farm leaders from several states, including seven state AAM presidents attending the rally, heard Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate Loyd Bentsen at the meeting.

During a bus ride with Bentsen, a veteran senator from Texas, Sanner was told that the "Dukakis/Bentsen" ticket "felt a responsibility to rural America and the 'Farm Family.'"

Agricultural issues and policies was the focus of the meeting.

Sanner and Otis Chapman, a Scott, Arkansas farmer and former Arkansas AAM president, will be attending a farm meeting in Woodward, Oklahoma, November 7.

Meeting With ASCS Administrator, Everett Rank

Harvey Joe Sanner, representing the Des Arc American Agriculture Chapter and Jack Cothren of Wynne, state president, attending a meeting with Everett Rank, ASCS Administrator from Wash., D. C., and other agriculture leaders.

Horace (Pete) Sickel of Tollville, state director, was among the hosts who accompanied Rank on a tour of farmland in Arkansas County.



Opportunity knocking, farmers told

By KEVIN KITTREDGE

From The Commercial Appeal
Northwest Miss. Bureau

BATESVILLE, Miss. — The national spotlight is focused, and to Des Arc, Ark., farmer Harvey Jo Sanner, it's time to put on a show. "There's probably more national media attention on farmers right now than at any time since

we put the tractorcade on the road," said Sanner, president of the Arkansas chapter of the American Agriculture Movement.

He and others, including former national AAM president Tommy Willis and Mississippi president L. A. Davidson, came to the Tallahatchie Electrical Power Auditorium here yesterday to talk

about a crisis in farming, and to plan an assault on President Reagan's 1985 farm bill.

Included on their agenda is a March 4 rally at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington from which farmers will march to the Department of Agriculture.

But the peppery Sanner — who spoke for more than an hour —

combined jokes, cajolery and even disgust in a pep talk that also urged area farmers to just get involved.

"If you don't think it's worth working on, then you aren't worth saving," said Sanner at one point, after hearing farmers talk about a financing crunch that has

(See FARM on Page B2)



GETTING THEIR HEADS TOGETHER—Senator David Pryor (left) with Harvey Joe Sanner (center) of Des Arc and office staffer Dennis Roberson (right) of Little Rock, together for an exchange of thoughts here Wednesday.



GREETING FARMERS HERE WEDNESDAY—Senator David Pryor greeted local farmers before meeting here Wednesday. Above: shaking hands with Mike Skarda.

Senator committed to finding solution

Pryor says 1985 Farm Bill will show local farmers' input

Senator David Pryor, keeping his promise to visit rural Arkansas and listen to the problems facing farmers as they struggle through the present economic crisis, met with more than 300 farmers at Des Arc Wednesday morning. The senator from Arkansas entered the American Ag building at 8:30 a. m. and spent the next 2½ hours listening to complaints, suggestions and discussions.

Pryor, in his opening remarks, told the group he did not come to make a speech but to gather information that would help in drafting the 1985 Farm Bill.

"We do not have much time" Pryor said, "in the next few weeks, the Congress will begin consideration of the 1985 farm bill, legislation which could mean the difference between survival and bankruptcy for hundreds of Arkansas farmers and thousands of farm families and farm-related businesses nationwide."

"Because agriculture accounts for 20 percent of our Gross National Product and is one of the few positive contributors to our balance of trade, a healthy agricultural economy is important not just to our rural areas but to our nation as a whole."

Currently over 30 percent of all Farmers Home Administration loans are delinquent and figures show that farmers using other sources of credit are likewise on the ropes. Recently the Administration has made some moves to ease the farm credit crunch but when asked for a show of hands of how many had been helped by FHA's programs, not a hand went up. "It takes too long for the agency to break through the red tape and bureaucracy and decide who is eligible," was the thinking.

Set-aside loans have been difficult to get due to the diversified eligibility procedures as to family size, acreage size, amount of labor provided by borrower or any family member. These have to be determined by

county committee.

"I think we all realize that credit alone is not the answer; farmers cannot continue to live on loans. They must begin to receive fair prices for their products in order to repay the loans and begin to make a profit again," agreed the farmers and the senator.

Harvey Joe Sanner, American Agriculture spokesman at Des Arc, said he could answer the problems with three words, "Price!" "Price!" "Price!" One farmer complained that "the farmer is at the bottom of the totem pole in the complex agricultural community today; someone else sets the price and sells his product and for too long he has accepted this process."

Pryor's visit to Des Arc is just one of a series of meetings he will be attending around the state. He is the only Arkansas delegate on the Senate Agricultural Committee.

Sanner told the farmers, "Senator Pryor came to listen. Our obligation is to make our needs known to government; we've been trying to do that and will continue to do that. We came here today to look for solutions to our problems. We want to Sen. Pryor some good factual information he can rely on, so he can put it together for some form solution put a profit back in agriculture."

Pryor, commenting on the 'standing room only' crowd, said, "The large turnout here today demonstrates the fear, anxiety and trouble in the agriculture sector of our state and country."

The \$56 billion debt that third world countries owe our banks in this country is about one-fourth the debt owed by farmers in America to banks, PCAs, Federal Land Banks and other lending institutions." A number of these representatives were present.

"I don't know the solution," Pryor continued, "but there is a solution to the farmer's problems. One out of every five jobs in America is created

and directly or indirectly related to agriculture. We have short term and long term problems is getting credit to you for this year's crop. And we're looking at a four-year plan the 1985 Farm Bill on which we begin drafting in two-three weeks."

Sanner challenged the group to voice their wishes. "This is our year to get a farm bill we can live with," Sanner said. Some of us can't wait four more years.

Pryor, stating that problems of the country's entire agricultural community must be recognized, said, "In drafting this Farm Bill, we must be very careful not to split our farmers in this country into 'haves' and 'have nots' and some get a good deal and some a bad deal."

One farmer commented, "If we had 'price', we wouldn't have to put up all our equity to borrow money to live on pay social security and put in a crop; if we had 'price', we could pay these and still pay state and federal income taxes."

Referring to complains about the marketing of farm products by the Chicago Board of Trade, Joe Stanley of Woodruff County, in rebuttal, said, "The Chicago Board of Trade is a viable market for us and we need to work with it, know more about it, and make use of these facilities instead of thinking about shutting it down." To which Sanner commented, "You don't have to worry; you're not going to shut that sucker down." Sanner was one of several farmers arrested while participating in a protest at the Chicago 'market place' recently.

Pryor commented, "It's a shame that we spend 40 percent of our money for defense and less than 4 percent on food."

The average for farmers in America is "56" but a number of young farmers at Wednesday's meeting expressed the problems they have getting started, "the lending agencies won't lend you any money unless

Continued on Page 12

Pryor

Continued

you have already acquired a huge debt."

Set-aside Programs

The group almost unanimously agreed that acreage set-aside imposed voluntarily in the past during the PIK program should be mandatory if it is to be effective. This brought out a question "if America cuts down production, will other countries, most of them our allies, dominate the export market?" One local farmer suggested to the senator that farmers be allowed to plant set-aside acres in grasses that would be beneficial to the idle acres thus reduce fertilizer costs.

State Ag Committee

Sanner told farmers to express to Governor Bill Clinton their views on the State Agriculture Committee promised by the governor several years ago. The governor, Sanner commented, is being pressured to make this part of the Industrial Development Commission instead of a separate agency. The AAM spokesman added, "Those people in the legislature are the dumbest bunch of folks - at least about agriculture."

The need to educate the consumer as to "where his bread and butter is coming from" has been neglected. However, that is turning around, too, Sanner said. "Newsweek, Life, and other national media were in Jonesboro last week for the farm meeting. This meeting, where 300 were expected, was attended by 2,000 people. "We expected 40-50 people here at Des Arc today," Pryor commented. Three-hundred people crammed the American Ag building at Des Arc. "This tells you something about the concern of the problem we are trying to address," Pryor emphasized.

One farmer said, "Those people in the urban areas should come to the rural communities and learn more about our problem," a farmer suggested. Pryor informed the group that the president of the Chicago Board of Trade will be in Lonoke soon for a meeting with farmers.

A farmer from Carlisle commented, "I have a sister in St. Louis and all she knows about farming is that I am one."

Senator Pryor held out two checks handed him at a recent farm meeting by a farmer in Eastern Arkansas. One cancelled check was for \$90,000 paid in income tax a few years ago and the other for over \$50,000 was for state income tax. The farmer told the senator, "I have not paid any income tax for several years because I am losing money instead of making money." The



DAVID PRYOR HANDSHAKING—Th sonally as many of the group he cam

production loan for their 1985 crops." According to Cothran, "The AAM no longer has to try to convince people that the independent farmer is facing serious trouble under the current production and marketing systems and policies. It is tragic that it took the present epidemic of family farm failures to get the point across, but people are finally asking what can be done right now."

Senator Pryor, a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee, in closing his meeting with farmers gathered here, "I assure you that I am committed to the farmers of Arkansas and supporting policies will get agriculture on the road to recovery." A farmer commented, "If the government is going to control us, it should also be ready to protect us."

Wednesday's meeting here with Senator Pryor drew a large number of farmers, implement dealers, and others in related businesses, from the local area, Prairie County, Woodruff County, White County, Lonoke County, and Arkansas County.

Senator Pryor, who has ties with Des Arc through his wife, the former Barbara Lunsford, did not have time for personal references as he listened to the many complaints and suggestions from the audience. Mrs. Pryor is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lunsford of Fayetteville. Bruce is a native of Des Arc and visits here often. The Lunsford home on Highway 11-38 is now owned and



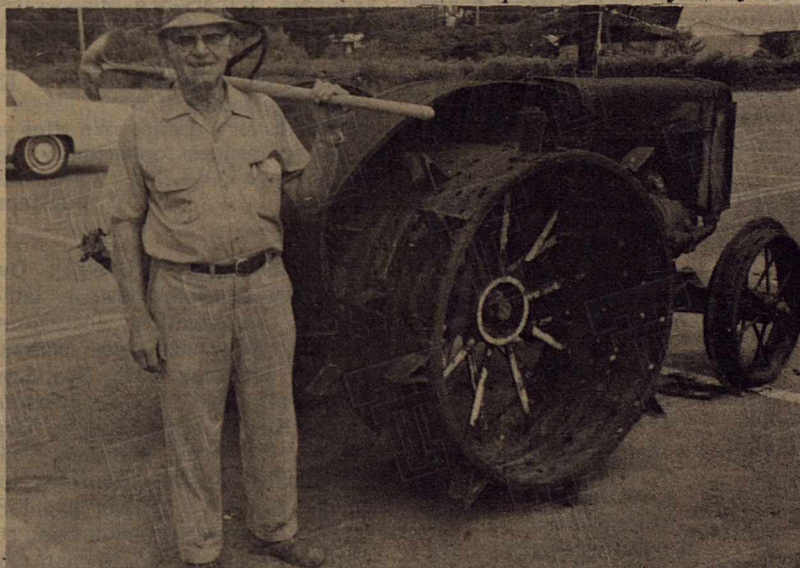
Senator Bumpers took time at farmers meeting Wednesday at Des Arc to greet people and listen to collectively.

occupied by Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Norman

The junior senator joined colleague, Senator Dale Bumpers, at a meeting of farmers and businessmen in Stuttgart Wednesday afternoon and went on to McGehee for a dinner meeting Wednesday evening. Senator Bumpers was at Hazen Wednesday for a noon meeting with the Hazen Kiwanis Club.

Pryor was accompanied by staff members, Carolyn Kegley and Dennis Roberson. Ms. Kegley is a former Prairie County resident.

Bumpers also said this week that he is vigorously seeking the repeal of the record keeping requirements for business use of automobiles recently implemented by the IRS and said, "I am optimistic that Congress will repeal or substantially modify these new requirements early this year."



OUR FIRST TRACTOR—Harold Huntsman, who owns and operates Huntsman Farm Store and Allis Chalmers dealership at Bald Knob, spoke at Wednesday's farm meeting here. He displayed pictures from his first farming days in 1937. Above is "our first tractor," a 1925 Model D John Deere bought second-hand. Huntsman, who started with the purchase of the George Jensen place at DeValls Bluff, has farming interests in White County and is associated in business with sons, Wayne and Ralph.

Agriculture Movement calls for Farmer's Parity March

The American Agriculture Movement, Inc. is calling for a Farmer's Parity March on Washington, D.C. Monday, March 4, through Friday, March 8.

All farmers, ranchers, laborers, consumers, Main Street businessmen, environmentalists, hunters, church groups and all other interested people who believe the family farm system should be saved are urged to march with the American Agriculture Movement, Inc.

"We will not get another chance. We must get parity in agriculture now!" the Agriculture Movement said. Monday, March 4, will begin a rally on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial at noon, followed by a march to the United States Department of Agriculture. Tuesday through Friday will be lobbying days. Farmers will be coming by plane, train, automobiles and who knows how else. Rumor has it some may bring equipment, tractors, trucks, etc. that Farmers Home Administration is foreclosing on. If so, it will be left for Agriculture Secretary John Block to dispose of appropriately.

AAM hopes all other farm organizations and groups will support this effort.

Local AAM News

Written By Des Arc AAM Representative

The Farm Crisis Act was killed by the House Agriculture Committee this past week. Although inadequate, it did offer a small amount of relief for farmers. The proposed legislation went down in defeat at the hands of the Administration and their processor friends, namely, the National Cotton Council, American Soybean Association, and, of course, the American Farm Bureau Federation.

We were contacted by several congressional aides and asked for our opinion of the Farm Crisis Act. They were told of how we viewed it, as inadequate and containing provisions that we directly oppose; however, any relief is much needed by farmers and we urged its passage. The paid diversion in this Act is a child of Farm Bureau and commodity organizations who had rather see farmers get a handout from the government instead of earned income through higher prices. Ever since direct government payments to farmers have been made, we have lost public sentiment and political strength. You can also correlate low net farm income with times when deficiency payments are made, because they are never sufficient to make up for the lost income due to low prices. They have been used to keeping prices low and it's a shame that leaders of some so-called farm organizations have been duped into believing that farmers can prosper under this system of direct payments.

Check this for contrast: We just want the government out of agriculture. But, we would like a handout not to

plant. This is F. B. philosophy nationwide.

The American Agriculture Movement doesn't want a handout; we want a fair price for our production out of the market place. Until we get it, the farm debt and the depressed rural and total U. S. economy will only worsen.

How much longer the farmers in these so-called farm organizations are going to let their leaders lead them down this destructive road with their free market fallacy and export your way to heaven, propaganda remains to be seen.

Their policies have failed and will continue to fail just as Ronald Reagan is doomed to failure because neither addresses the key to putting a profit into agriculture and that key is "cost of production." No business can operate without it and until cost of production plus a reasonable profit for agricultural commodities is obtained our condition will only worsen.

All the other attempts will not only fail; they tend to muddy the water and cause the loss of much manpower because it is misdirected. Such is the case with the F. B. delegation's efforts to affect tariffs in overseas countries. In a "Letter to the Editor," *White River Journal*, John Naill, the president of the Prairie County Farm Bureau, said "Clarification was needed as to F. B.'s reason for interfering in affairs in Japan. Mr. Naill said "this was not to lower prices to Japanese farming; however, news stories at the time told of thousands of Japanese farmers protesting F. B.

presence because prices would surely be lowered. The two major commodities in Arkansas are rice and soybeans; Japan does not import rice and soybeans are duty free; so, we need clarification as to how rice and soybean farmers could benefit from F. B.'s proposal. I don't think the F. B. leadership, with their threats of trade wars and intrusions into affairs of other governments, have considered the ramifications. The last time our government interfered with the Japanese supply of soybeans, with Nixon's embargo, the Japanese financed clearing the jungles in Brazil to ensure themselves a dependable supply.

We also need clarification as to the great benefit you speak of in exports; sure, we need exports, but without a price it's counter productive, we are exporting our valuable topsoil and water, plus our equity in land and machinery every time we ship a bushel of grain below our cost of production. The real sadness is the fact that the price is there; it's just going to everyone but producers.

If increased exports are the answer, we must have some clarification as to why exports are up 800 percent in the last decade while net farm income is at its lowest point since the depression.

World recession, high interest rates, poor countries, are all excuses, but they are not reasons. The reason is that we have not priced our product and the shame is that we could.

U.S.A. has 60 percent of the world's exportable grain market, combined with Canada, we export 85 percent of

all the grain exported. We can set world grain prices and it's ridiculous, and, maybe even unpatriotic, not to do so, and allow this transfer of wealth from America to foreign governments.

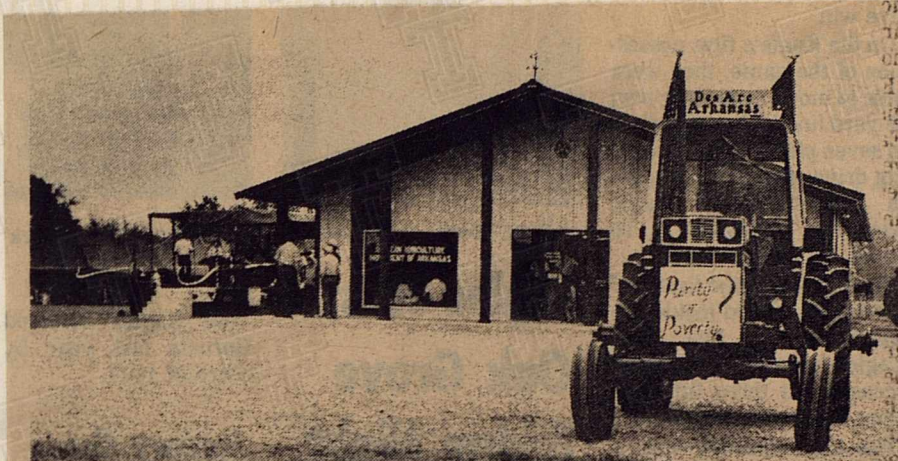
In July, the American Agriculture Movement is holding a delegate meeting in North Dakota on the Canadian border. This will be a joint meeting with the recently organized Canadian Agriculture Movement. This meeting may have more significance than anyone can imagine. Farmers from two nations coming together with common problems; both searching for solutions and ways to help themselves.

This is the type of effort we need from other farmers and their organizations. If any benefit comes from our joining hands with our Canadian farmers, we can all take pride in the fact that AAM took the first step. If not a penny is gained, we still have pride in the fact that we tried - and, we haven't failed until we quit trying.

God bless Marvin Meek in his unselfish efforts in behalf of all farmers who want to continue to farm and pass on this proud heritage to their children. If you don't support this effort, you may not get another chance. So, let's all do our part; because, we have one thing in common. AAM member or not, we know and believe America has always gotten her

STRENGTH FROM THE LAND

256-3335 256-4766 256-4620
256-3720 256-4655 256-4580



AAM Comes of Age

The Des Arc, Ark., chapter of the American Agriculture Movement, Inc., (AAM) recently cut a ribbon to open its new building. That ceremony signaled more than another "open house." It served notice to one and all that AAM has grown up. Its members are real; their concerns are real; their determination is real.

AAM did not make many friends with its early tractorcades and marches on Washington. Yet, the movement has survived. It has become more "structured," with elected officers, committees, and other features of a bona fide farm organization.

Will AAM retain its unique traits as time goes on? Will its leaders learn how to compromise and get some

political and economic goals across bit by bit? Will the group, by using ways proved effective in other movements, lose its distinctive marks and become just another farm organization?

Only time will tell. But for the moment, the Des Arc chapter has reached a milestone in erecting the nation's first AAM meeting place.

This feature on Des Arc's new AAMA headquarters building appeared in the October issue of the national publication "Progressive Farmer."

AAMA Leader Asks 'Why did Farm Bureau Attack Cryts Family'

While we are in the business of clarification, I would think Mr. Naill owes the Farm Bureau membership an explanation as to why did Farm Bureau attack the Wayne Cryts family who are members of the Farm Bureau.

The farmers in the Bureau I know support Cryts, yet the State and National leaders chose to distribute false information about the Cryts case.

Sincerely,
Harvey Joe Sanner

AAM Chairman Meek reports

Marvin Sez

Well, hello for this week. I just got back from Tennessee and I am on cloud nine with the response. Tommy Willis has developed a tremendous rapport with the bankers in Tennessee and has some of the most influential farmers in Tennessee in the AAM of Tennessee. We had 3 real good meetings with 200-350 people in attendance at the meetings. Also, there were 10-20 bankers or lenders at the meetings. We picked up a few members and a whole lot of support from the bankers of Tennessee. The bankers said that we were on the right track and over half of them said they were going to support our program in their bank.

Mr. Robert Curry with the bank in Polaski, Tennessee said in the meeting that all the farmers and all the bankers should support the program of AAM and the PAC and the Tennessee AAM because it was something that would work and turn things around for rural America. He along with 2 or 3 other banks are going to travel with Tommy to

enlist the support of the Tennessee Bank Association. While I was at one of the meetings I met with some of the leaders of Alabama Farm Bureau and many of them were going to talk with the rest of the board of the AFB and support our program. Also, they left the meeting committed to go back to Alabama and get the AAM going strong in Alabama.

The Alabama Farm Bureau was taken over by AAM farmers and they separated from the National Farm Bureau over farm policy a year ago. Their goals are identical to AAM and they have a strong force in Southeast farm politics because they have a large PAC and they said that the PAC gets results for things. Also, they saw that they must have 2 voices in Alabama saying the same thing and that is why they were going to go home and revive the Alabama AAM and make it strong again. Also I met with the NAPEC organization and they will be meeting on support of the AAM and our program. This is the organization of ASCS

farmer-elected committeemen they are in full support of our goals. I have received numerous press calls and I have been very critical of Administration policy. I know that may make some of you mad. Ha Ha! But let's face it this administration is a bunch of bedwetters and I haven't been able to sleep in a wet bed for a long time and I have already been too patient with them and now I'm going to call a spade a spade. Thanks for all your support and please do what you can for the PAC and AAM this week let's set a goal of everyone getting 1 more member a piece this week for our state organization and 1 contribution for the PAC and next week we will have some more people to help with next weeks goal. We must set goals and achieve goals weekly. So, get on the phone and lets achieve this weeks goal. This is not very much to ask you people because you are the greatest workers in the U.S.

See you next week.

May God bless
Marvin



Page 14 — White River Journal, Thursday, Thursday, October 2, 1986

Bumpers names Naill and Sanner Coordinators for campaign in County

Senator Dale Bumpers announced recently that his 1986 Re-election Campaign Coordinator for Prairie County will be John D. Naill, III, a farmer from Biscoe, Arkansas, and Harvey Joe Sanner, who farms in Des Arc.

The State Campaign Headquarters is located at 214 South Arch in Little

Rock. Senator Bumpers' Campaign Director is Archie Schaffer, III, who has served as director of the Senator's campaigns since his first race for Governor in 1970.

Senator Bumpers is seeking re-election to his third term in the U. S. Senate.



Harvey Sanner, Arkansas farmer and national lobbyist for American Agricultural

Movement, addressed a standing-room-only crowd of farmers last Wednesday in

Hillsboro.

News photo

Feb. 25, 1985

Farmers hear AAM ag lobbyists

HILLSBORO - Two agricultural lobbyists last Wednesday evening urged 96 area farmers and wives to inform their legislators about what national economic policies are doing to family-owned farms. The audience filled the Virginia Room of the Red Rooster Inn, Hillsboro, for Montgomery County's first Family Farm Survival meeting.

"This is a year of opportunity for agriculture," said Harvey Sanner, Arkansas rice and cotton farmer who represents the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) in Washington, D.C. He referred to this year's rewrite of a national farm bill to be in effect for the next four years.

Sanner blamed the federal government

for promoting a cheap food policy that keeps the cost of living down. "To keep a cheap food policy," he said, "put profit back into agriculture."

He said that since only two percent of the federal budget goes to agriculture, it's not necessarily more money that's needed, but instead that funds be wisely spent. He noted the Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program was very costly with few benefits for the average farmer.

Bill Rowe, Bethany farmer and AAM lobbyist in Springfield, described what the AAM wants in the new farm bill, including an immediate moratorium on farm foreclosures, rewrite of the credit structure, and parity legislation.

Rowe said the American farmer competes

in a world market — with a strong dollar and high interest rates — against countries that are boosting agricultural production with three-percent, 40-year U.S. loans as foreign aid.

A group of farmers from the Hillsboro, Greenville and Ramsey areas plans to go to Washington, D.C., March 3-8 to show support for AAM proposals. Anyone interested in going, or helping to support the farmers' trip in any way, can contact Al Ruppert of rural Coffeen, 534-2276, and in the Greenville area Jim Zeeb.

A video tape of Wayne Cryts' recent speech at Greenville was shown to the crowd. Anyone interested in seeing it can contact Zeeb at 618-664-2920.

Farm program tightened up

By Philip Launius
GAZETTE STAFF

Uncle Sam is ready to tighten the purse strings on government farm program payments.

The action comes after many farmers found ways to skirt the \$50,000 payment ceiling by setting up corporations and partnerships to increase the payments they get. The changes will reduce the

number of entities eligible for payments — and that means fewer federal dollars going to many Arkansas farmers.

Harvey Joe Sanner, a Des Arc farmer and national president of the American Agriculture Movement, said he didn't feel that the changes would drive many farmers out of federal programs.

"People are going to stay in," Sanner said, "because even if prices are up next spring, there is always the chance that they will fall and the risk of not being eligible for deficiency payments is just too great."

He added: "It will have some impact, but I don't believe it will be widespread."

Arkansas farmers will run head long into the new rules when they start signing up for farm programs governing wheat, feed grains, cot-

Creative corporations allowed farmers to increase government payments

Entity*	'83	'84	'85	'86 (potential)
Producer A (father)	\$50,000	50,000	50,000.00	
Corporation B (father and son)		50,000	50,000.00	50,000
Corporation C (father and son)		50,000	50,000.00	50,000
Corporation D (father and daughter)			6,729.67	50,000
Partnership G (father)				50,000
Partnership G (son)				50,000
Partnership G (son)				50,000
Total	50,000	150,000	156,729.67	300,000

*Sample: actual farm family

Source: USDA Office of Inspector General

—Staff Charts by Dan Morris

ton and rice for the 1989 crop year. The \$50,000 ceiling on farm program payments went into effect in 1979.

The move to find ways around the limit picked up speed when farm prices dropped in the 1980s.

For many farmers, it was the government payments that kept them from going bankrupt.

Under old regulations, now being replaced, there was no limit on the number of separate entities — individuals, corporations and partnerships — that would be eligible for payments, although they had to meet guidelines established by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

It was really a simple proposition: The more entities a farmer could carve out of his operation, the more money he could receive in farm program payments.

"There's no doubt that the old payment limitation rules were responsible for the proliferation of these separate entities," said Ron Chastain with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, the agency responsible for administering the payments.

With more entities qualified to receive the payments and low farm prices, the payments skyrocketed — going from \$205 million in 1984 to an estimated \$431 million in 1987.

Most of the money came in the form of deficiency payments that are based on the difference between the government-established target price for a commodity and

the higher of the commodity's average market price or its loan rate.

When prices for farm products are down, deficiency payments are up.

The Agriculture Department's Office of Inspector General conducted audits in several Arkansas counties a couple of years ago.

In many of the Arkansas cases reviewed, the federal auditors alleged that "improper entities" had been formed and that they had received or were scheduled to receive millions of dollars in improper payments for a four-year period beginning in 1982.

There were some formerly one-person farms that had spun off 10 or more different corporate entities.

The auditors concluded that "stricter enforcement of payment limitation provisions could have precluded most, if not all, of the improper payments."

Agency officials in Arkansas said they disagreed with a majority of the report's conclusions.

It was recommended by the auditors that Arkansas farmers cough up millions in farm program overpayments.

The Arkansas congressional delegation stepped in and partially short-circuited that plan, saying that farmers shouldn't be held totally responsible for the situation

since their reorganization plans had been approved by state and local ASCS officials. The delegation argued that the federal government should not attempt to collect the money unless it could prove farmers had intentionally committed fraud.

Some repayments were made.

Congress turned its attention to the problem and let it be known that, given the high cost of farm programs, the rabbit-like birth rate of new corporations and partnerships would no longer be tolerated and the new payment limitation regulations resulted.

Chastain said the major revisions included:

★ Provisions that set a limit of three on the number of entities eligible for farm program payments in a single operation and tighten up the rules for qualifying as separate entities.

★ A more severe restriction on farm program payments to foreign land owners.

The purpose "is to restrict farm program payments to those who qualify as actively engaged in farming," Chastain said.

New payment limit rules, combined with higher farm prices and lower deficiency payments, should significantly reduce the total amount of federal farm program payments, Chastain said.

National Museum of American History accepts 1979 International

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History accepted an International Harvester tractor made in 1979 from members of the American Agriculture Movement.

The tractor, a model 1486, is the most modern example of farm machinery in the museum's collections. It goes on view in the museum's Agriculture Hall on Monday, Feb. 10.

The tractor was originally owned by Gerald McCathern of Hereford, Tex., who drove it to Washington, D. C., in the National Tractorcade of 1979. McCathern served as national wagonmaster of the Tractorcade of 1979, which was organized as part of the American Agriculture Movement farm protest of that year. McCathern had used the tractor for approximately 700 hours in the field before driving it up to Washington. Donations from the AAM enabled the organization to purchase the tractor from McCathern and offer it to the museum.

The museum's Agriculture Hall, under the care of the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, contains examples of plows, tractors, steam engines, grain binders and other implements used by U. S. farmers from the late 18th century to modern times. Among the objects on view are a 1919 Avery "Bulldog" tractor, a John Deere Model D tractor, a turn-of-the-century wheat combine and a mechanical cotton harvester.

The National Museum of American History, a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution, is devoted to the collection, care, study and exhibition of objects that reflect the American experience. It also offers lectures, concerts and other programs that interpret that experience. The museum, located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue N. W., is open from 10 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free.

Sanner In Washington
For Historic Event
Harvey Joe Sanner and wife, Caro-

lyn, drove to Washington, D. C. for this historic event and to attend a national delegates meeting of the American Agriculture Movement, Inc.

"The placement of the AAM tractor in the museum should be a source of pride for not only participants in the 1979 Tractorcade, but to all farmers who are making an effort to improve the situation in agriculture," said Sanner, a national delegate from Arkansas and chairman of the Des Arc AAM Chapter.

Sanner commented, "It seems that Des Arc has a good share of the kind of folks who are willing to make that effort; I'm grateful to them for this opportunity."

**AAM Continues
Support of Parity Pricing
The American Agriculture Move-**

ment continues its support of parity pricing for all agricultural commodities and the labeling of all imports as to the country of origin. Following is the agenda for 1986:

Legislation:

1. Support the Whitten approach which immediately raises loan rates to full cost of production as a short term solution.

2. Continue to support the farm policy reform act concept which allows farmers the opportunity to vote on farm policy.

3. Continue our strong support for "Buy American," and labeling of all imported products as to point of origin.

Immediate:

1. Moratorium on eviction.
2. Allow farmers access to food

stamps.

3. Prohibit utility companies from cutting services during the November to March period.

4. Immediately change Internal Revenue Service ruling to eliminate capital gains, taxes, and ordinary income taxes due, following foreclosures or liquidations.

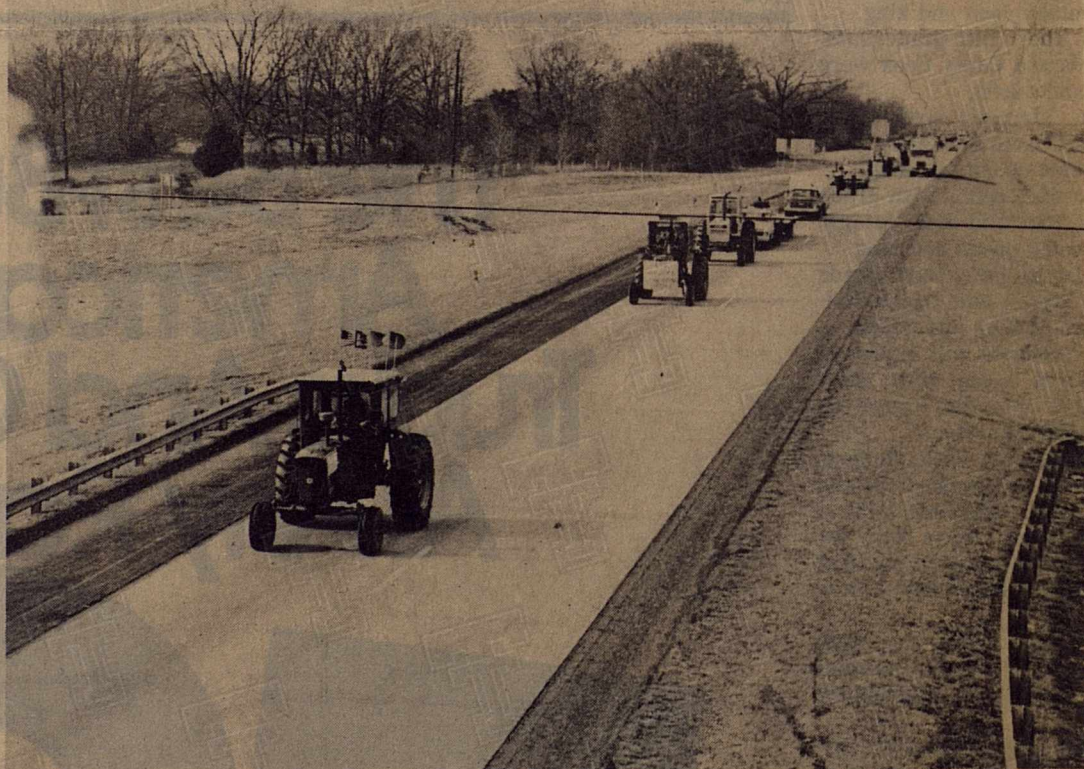
Credit:

1. Moratorium on foreclosures until commodity prices go above average cost of production.

2. FmHA accept applications new borrowers who qualify for the direct loan programs.

Political:

1. Make 1986 the year of CULTURE POLITICS.



Prairie County participants joining up with
"Wagon Train" to Washington in 1979 on I-40

(JOURNAL F



GOING DOWN IN HISTORY— This 1486 International Harvester tractor is making its way across country and will soon be on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Hazen Mayor Jerry Carter (center) hands a letter to Harvey Joe Sanner (left) to be delivered to Secretary of Agriculture John Block. Also pictured is farmer Ray Watson of Hazen. Sanner drove the tractor here from Russellville and drove it on to Tennessee where the journey will be taken over by other AAMA officials. (See story and letter on page 10.)

Tractor Enroute To Smithsonian Stops Here

A letter stating the needs of the Prairie County farmer and the dim outlook they face was presented to Harvey Joe Sanner, president of the American Agriculture Movement in Des Arc, by Mayor Jerry Carter and Ray Watson, both members of the AAM, to be delivered to Secretary of Agriculture, John Block in Washington, D.C.

The lead tractor driven in the 1978-79 AAM protest drive to Washington was in Des Arc over the holiday weekend for storage and refueling. It is on the way to Washington where it will be donated to the Smithsonian Institute and is transporting letters such as Carter's to be delivered to Secretary Block.

The tractor was delivered Tuesday to Tennessee AAM members for its drive to Nashville for the AAM Convention January 7-9. It will then make the final leg of the journey to Washington for presentation to the Smithsonian.

AAM is buying the tractor from Gerald McCathern of Hereford, Texas and is being driven by Donald DeVore and Harvey Joe Sanner to Tennessee.

The following is a copy of the letter Hazen Mayor Jerry Carter wrote December 27, 1982, to Secretary of Agriculture John Block:

Hon. John Block
Secretary of Agriculture

Dear Sir,

I feel I am wasting my time for I am sure you must be aware of the misery being visited upon all aspects of agriculture by governmental decisions. You must know that U.S.D.A. projections forecast the disastrous results under which we now suffer: over production, low prices, bankruptcies, loss of family farms and growth of corporate farms, etc. The Afghan embargo result: commodities drop 20 per-

cent or more, agriculture loses billions, Russia saves billions by buying our grain through other countries. These results were predictable. Is Washington no more than a nest of incompetents? What is going on?

I grieve when I see our local farmers lose their very heritage because of the bungling in Washington, D.C. It

causes me to wonder: Is it bungling and malfeasance or is it, in fact, the intent of Washington to destroy agriculture as we know it so that it can be reorganized into giant mega-farms with its incompetence due to lack of individual motivation. Is the Russian collective farm to be our model? Are there traitors in high places? What is going on?

We've come a long way these last few years — a long way down.

Farmers must face foes

By SANDY MILLER HAYS

Democrat Farm Editor

DES ARC — Any farmer figures he can survive one year of bad luck. Two years is tough, but he is tougher. But as farmers head into planning the third crop year in a row for which prospects are grim at best, some of them are starting to wonder why they do it.

That question looms even bigger when it seems as though everyone from Mother Nature to the U.S. government is against farmers, according to a group of farmers who met here recently to discuss their problems.

SPEAKING OF MOTHER Nature, most of them agreed that the lady is certainly less than cooperative. First she burned their crops in 1980 with a strangling drought, and then in 1981 she sent sunshine and rain indiscriminately around the world, flooding the agricultural market with goods even from those nations which, under normal circumstances, are buyers rather than sellers. And that was not the extent of her tricks.

"One thing that hurt us was it rained from mid-May until mid-June, and we had trouble getting on the fields," rice-soybean-wheat farmer George Ford of Des Arc recalled of 1981. "Then when the rain quit, it just shut off."

"In September, we had rain on the first day and, since it al-

ways rains in September, we anticipated another rain. It never rained."

Still, there was more than enough produce to fill the market and squeeze prices ever downward, the farmers said.

"Even though we had a drought in 1980 and it was a bad year for production, we still made better money than in 1981," said Kenneth Hall, who farms rice, soybeans and wheat here.

BUT THAT WAS THE weather, and although everyone talks about it, no one can do anything about it. Government, on the other hand, is not supposed to be so uncontrollable, yet the farmers felt its heavy hand in 1981, too, especially when President Reagan began talking about embargoes in December against the Soviet Union for its role in the problems of Poland.

The 1981 farm bill includes protections for farmers against the economic damages of exclusively agricultural embargoes, in fact, all but across-the-board embargoes of all American products, but that seemed to offer scant assurance to the farmers at Des Arc.

"We'd never know if it was a selective embargo or not," said Harvey Sanner, a Des Arc soybean and rice farmer. "We've got no way to police it. And the language of the protection is so vague and loose, I believe it's nothing. Agriculture is still

our biggest export, and we'd still bear the brunt of any embargo."

The most painful part of all of 1981 was the rock-bottom prices offered to farmers for their products in a time when production costs went up, up and away. Nor was there much comfort in the thought that in agriculture, as in other industries, there are always ups and downs: "I've never been in one of those ups yet," Hall said.

According to the farmers, the low prices are hurting more than just the folks who farm.

"You can just go down the street and look at the grocery stores and the implement stores," Hall said. "Everybody is hurting but the liquor stores."

"THE WHOLE COUNTRY'S hurting," said Jimmy Hamilton, who farms rice, soybeans and wheat at nearby Griffithville. "In 1981, the U.S. had a \$21 or \$22 billion deficit in foreign trade. There are thousands of different things wrong, and I don't think anybody knows what to do, although a lot of people have ideas."

One of those ideas voiced by some farmers is the revision of Secretary of Agriculture John Block's acreage reduction program for 1982 to a mandatory rather than a voluntary program. Block has said he does not have the authority to im-

before facing future

pose such a program, and does not believe the public would accept it anyway; the farmers disagreed.

"Too many people are worried about survival now," Sanner said. "I'd take a mandatory program if it would get me the prices. The goal of USDA is to lower prices, though, and we'll not get a mandatory program out of this administration."

"Out of any kind of reduction program, you just get short-term relief. If prices do get up to a reasonable amount, we won't see a set-aside (acreage reduction) program next year. The ultimate goal (of the government) is cheap food."

The farmers also laid part of the blame for their problems at the feet of high interest rates, although Hall distinguished between the interest paid on short-term loans and on long-term purchases.

"I FEEL LIKE THE MONEY people borrow to make a crop on is a very minor problem," he said. "It's the long-term interest, where you buy a piece of equipment on a five-year loan, that hurts."

"We'd be selling more overseas if it wasn't for the interest rates," said Bettis Campbell, who farms cotton, rice, soybeans and wheat at Des Arc. "They (overseas customers) could buy more if they could borrow money. The interest rates are hurting everybody,

no matter who he is."

A few of the farmers also expressed some bitterness in their feelings that their partners in the agricultural crisis, the farm implement dealers, have not thrown their economic weight behind their farming customers.

"I don't think we're going to get help out of the implement people," Sanner said. "They're so diversified, into other things like trucks, that they've realized they can make less items and turn as many dollars."

But Hall disagreed, arguing that help from the implement companies simply hasn't arrived yet.

"They will help us in the long run," he said. "It's going to have to go through a period of time when it will affect more than just us, though."

"I think we're as important to them as we think. I can't answer why they haven't helped us yet, but the economic problems are affecting them more every day. The only thing I don't know is, before they come around, how many of us will go down?"

THE FARMERS DO NOT express much hope for help from the government through proposed tax cuts, arguing that you have to make money to pay taxes on it, whereas their dollars are all tied up in expense rather than income.

"Some economists claim

that for every dollar you earn in farming, you have \$8 invested," Sanner said. "To make \$1,000 profit, you would have to have used \$8,000, and at 14 percent interest, you would have eaten up that dollar."

EVERY ONE OF THE farmers had heard horror stories about the best farmland in the county coming onto the market for sale, and most of them knew those stories to be true. And some of them described their own situations as beyond even the help of selling out.

"What else are we going to do (but farm)?" Hamilton asked. "I wish it was that simple. A lot of people are too old to get out, and couldn't get a job if they did. Besides, there are certain people who like to think they're the boss, although it's been pretty well proven the government is the boss."

And yet, it comes across clearly that many of these farmers would not get out if they could, because they see farming as their stake in the future.

"I punched a clock for 16 years," Hall said. "If I can possibly stay in farming and make a living, I'll stay in it."

And Campbell has an even more poignant reason: "I'm in it today because of my boys. They were interested in farming, so what else could I do?"

AAM Marches On Washington

The American Agriculture Movement, Inc. is having a Farmer's Parity March on Washington, D.C. Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 8.

All farmers and interested people, labor, consumers, main street businessmen, soil conservationists, hunters, church groups, and others, who believe that the family farm system must be saved will be attending.

(In a related action, the South Dakota Senate and House have passed a measure appropriating \$95,000 to send the state's 105 lawmakers to Washington. Governor Bill Janklow accompanied the lawmakers to Washington to lobby for federal help for financially strapped farmers February 25 and 26. About \$20,000 has been donated by South Dakotans to help finance the trip.)

"There will be no next time," Corky Jones, National AAM president, Wayne Cryts, Missouri AAM president, and David L. Senter, AAM National

Director, said in making the announcement, "We must get parity in agriculture now!", the three said.

Monday, March 4, the rally will begin at noon on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial. Thomas Jefferson was one of the premier agriculturalists in the nation's history. From the Jefferson Memorial, the group will go immediately to the Department of Agriculture, only a few blocks away.

Tuesday through Friday will be lobbying days for farmers' visits to the office of each member of Congress. At 11 A.M., the group plans to assemble in the foyer of the Hart Senate Office Building which, as one wag pointed out, would "hold a hellava lot of manure with room left over for three hay crops", and then visit the 100 senators.

Wednesday, the farmers plan to visit Congressmen in the Rayburn House Office Building. Thursday, the farmers will concentrate Congressmen who office in the Longworth House

Office Building.

Friday, the Farmers will continue their visits to the Representatives, by concentrating on the Cannon House Office Building.

Senter said that he had already received a number of confirmations of farmers who expected to come to town by plane, train, automobiles, and practically every other mode of transportation.

"We're not asking them to come on tractors...this time..." Senter said. "We'll hold that for later if we need it."

Some farmers are bringing equipment, tractors, trucks and other items that FmHA is foreclosing on to Washington. The plans are to cut out the middle man and deliver the foreclosed items directly to Secretary Block.

"We've begun to get the attention of Congress and the public," Jones said. "We must act now before the Congress acts and they are getting ready to move. We must make our needs known."

AAM to open first facility

DES ARC - Gov. Frank White and three members of the Arkansas Congressional delegation will be featured speakers here Saturday at the opening of the first permanent American Agriculture Movement building in the country.

U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers, U.S. Rep. Bill Alexander, both D-Ark., and U.S. Rep. Ed Bethune, R-Ark., have committed to speak at the dedication ceremonies if Congress adjourns on schedule Friday, according to Harvey Joe Sanner of the AAM office here.

Also scheduled to speak are Marvin Meek, national AAM president, and Odis Chapman, Scott farmer and frequent AAM spokesman.

Dedication ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. with entertainment, Sanner said. A picnic-style fish and chicken fry will begin at 11:30 a.m. Fee for the meal will be \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under the age of 12.

Speeches will begin at 2 p.m.

Governor asks AAM to back finance agency

BY ED KOSMAC
Democrat Staff Writer

Gov. Bill Clinton asked the American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas Saturday to support the creation of a development finance corporation that would sell tax-exempt bonds to help farmers through financial hard times.

He also made a pitch for his proposed legislation to provide for an elected Public Service Commission.

The state Housing Development Agency already sells revenue bonds to provide housing to moderate- and low-income families.

In his State of the State address, Clinton proposed expanding that agency into the state Development Finance Authority that would provide low-interest financing to farming and indus-

trial sectors as well as housing bonds.

Before addressing the subject of an elected PSC, Clinton cited an example of possible utility legislation that might directly aid financially strapped small farmers.

Clinton said farmers had told him they would rather have higher kilowatt-hour charges if they didn't have to put up with the large-service charges demanded by some utilities just to turn electricity on for pumping water out of wells.

One farmer at the meeting said the "demand" charge cost him \$700 before a drop of water hit his fields.

Clinton said such a billing structure favored big farmers with ready cash over smaller

See FARMERS, Page 6B

6B ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT • SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1983

Farmers

• Continued from Page One

farmers with modest bank accounts who found their operating capital eaten up by demand charges.

Although he hasn't yet introduced legislation to modify such billing, he said he wanted farmers to tell him what they thought of such a proposal.

Clinton also cited three criticisms leveled at his proposal to elect the utility-regulating PSC:

- Utilities will dominate the election process because politics always attracts money.

- Elected commissioners might never grant rate increases to ensure their popularity, while at the same time bankrupting utility companies.

- Rates are not too high in Arkansas, since the state ranks 21st nationwide in the cost of electricity.

When government takes money from the people, the people should have some electoral recourse over officials making the decisions about that money, Clinton said in answer to the criticism.

Government involvement in utilities arises from the franchises they enjoy in the state, and that is what makes the dif-

ference in the argument between appointed and elected officials, he said.

Also, rather than looking at the current ranking of the state in regard to utility costs, attention should be turned to how states with elected utility commissions fared in the recent era of energy shortages coupled with climbing fuel costs, he said.

Of the 11 states with elected utility commissions, eight have lower rankings nationally than they did five years ago, two have moved up the scale and one remained where it was, Clinton said.

Harvey Joe Sanner Elected To Office AAM Held National Convention January 7-9 In Nashville, Tennessee

Reported

At the National American Agriculture Convention held January 7, 8, and 9 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn., Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc, Arkansas, was elected national vice president of Planning and Deloss McKnight was elected vice president of Administration. Tommy Willis of Brownsville, Tenn., is the new national chairman.

(Comments below by DesArc Chapter spokesman spokesman)

AAM will continue an aggressive program in Washington to improve farm prices. The Political Action Committee has already proven its capability and will be very active even though this is an off election year.

As for benefits coming out of the convention, the renewed determination of producers to continue to speak for themselves through AAM was probably more important than any issue.

The need for some urgent relief is the number-one thing on everyone's mind and the sad thing is there's no quick fix to the problem caused by the free market policies. There are signs of

hope on the horizon, however; but, they have come after four years of constant battle with a serpent that has many heads: bungling bureaucrats, free marketers, processors, manipulated markets are a few of the heads that continually crop up in opposition to higher farm prices.

We are making progress and no doubt will return a profit to agriculture but it is a pitiful feeling to have fallen on farmers who have lost their very heritage and have become so debt-ridden that the health and relationship of farm families are threatened. There is no one more concerned with this problem than the leaders and members of AAM and no one feels more sadness because of it. Because of our involvement, we were aware of what was taking place before many folks thought they had a problem.

With money in the bank some thought they could farm forever but the money disappears when you keep producing below your cost. So, it doesn't matter how sound you are, no one is strong enough to withstand the concentration predicted by our government. So, we

do the best we can to change policies knowing that many won't survive; but, the effort we put forth will benefit many and the sooner we get results the more survivors there will be.

So, we carry on, knowing we have probably made mistakes; maybe we have been too critical; maybe we have been overzealous in our search for solutions; we have used tactics such as tractorcades, that many did not agree with but you can be assured that they were used for a cause that is so important that we felt almost any act was justified.

The preservation of the family farm system and our rural communities touches the heart of many people and emotions sometimes cause acts of frustration.

As we mature as an organization and conduct ourselves with more realism and less emotionalism while not allowing selfishness to become our motivation, we will be more effective and successful.

Because we believe, regardless of what USDA says

**AMERICA GETS Her
Strength from The Land**
256-4766 256-4580
256-3335 256-4620
256-4655

From Dec. 15, 1982 Issue
"Agriculture Watchdog"

You will probably start referring to me as the "angry American." None-the less, I'm still mad!

Mad about what? Well, this time it is imports; imports of automobiles, televisions, cameras, textiles, clothing, cheese, plywood, steel, electronics, oil, hams, shoes, beef, sugar, etc., etc.!

It's either made in Taiwan, Korea, Japan, or Hong Kong; manufactured in England, Germany, France, or Switzerland; grown in Poland, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, or Mexico.

What happened to the good ole U.S.A. I like that label that says "made in the United States of America; or grown and packaged in the U. S.

The reason I finally blew my top on this subject was an article in yesterday's newspaper. It seems 'a major jean manufacturer' is closing down three of its factories which manufacture clothing, putting hundreds of our people out of work. The reason, "drop in sales due to a failing economy."

However, one of the factories would be moved overseas where it would continue manufacturing the same product using cheap labor. You can be that your kids and mine will soon be wearing bright new jeans manufactured with exploited labor.

Folks, we had better wake up to what is happening in this country. I challenge you to start looking at the labels on some of the products I mentioned and see how hard it is to find a pair of shoes manufactured in the U. S. See how much of the name brand clothing is foreign made.

It is outrageous that 40 percent of the steel being used in this country is now imported and 25 percent of the automobiles that are being sold to Americans are foreign-made. I personally am getting sick of seeing the majority of television advertisements pushing items manufactured with foreign labor.

We need to realize that every time we allow one of those items to be unloaded

at our ports, we are robbing some American worker of a job. At the same time, we are exporting good old U. S. greenbacks to pay for those items. So we are not only shooting ourselves in the foot, the bullet is richshaying and hitting us in the head!

No wonder unemployment is now 11 percent! No wonder the federal treasury is going broke! No wonder Social Security is not generating enough funds to make its payments! We're shipping all of our dollars overseas!

Yes, I'm mad, and you should be, too!

"Listen, McCathern, you better shut up. Don't you realize that half of the grain and cotton grown in this country is exported? Those foreign countries might stop buying our farm products if we stop buying their manufactured items!"

Well, I tell you, friend, if they don't need my grain and cotton and they can get along without it, then I don't think we should try to force them to buy it. If they can grow it, then they should grow it!

The truth of the matter is they can't grow it. Sure, they can get a little more from Canada, a little more from Australia, and a little more from Argentina, but not near enough to feed their bellies. You see they need us and our food more than we need them and their automobiles.

Anything we can manufacture in this country to satisfy our needs and desires should not be allowed to be manufactured on foreign soil with foreign raw materials.

I am convinced that the American worker using American technology and American raw materials can manufacture virtually everything that our people need. The American farmer, using American labor, American technology and American land can grow more than enough food to feed its people!

You see we are probably the only nation in the world with this capability. We could close our ports to both imports and exports and still have a very high standard of living.

"But, what about all that

grain that we are selling to foreign buyers. What would we do with our excess?"

First of all, as a farmer, I would rather have 100 percent of a fair price by farming 50 percent of my land, than have 50 percent of a fair price on 100 percent of my land.

However, that would not be necessary. If we were to stop the imports of all agriculture products that we can grow ourselves, the beef, pork, and dairy commodities that are now flooding our nation, we would be forced to increase our animal herds and flocks so much that it would require most of the grain we are exporting to feed our own animals!

If we stopped the imports of all those automobiles, electronics, etc., and put all of our workers back to work building them ourselves, we would generate so much affluency in this nation that we would double the consumption of red meats and dairy products requiring more acres to feed the animals.

We have been hood-winked again, friends, by those folks known as internationalist and trilateralist who benefit by moving their factories to countries with abundant supply of cheap labor, and shipping their production to the nations with the highest standard of living. In order for them to do this, they must have free trade with no import or export tariffs or quotas.

Our founding fathers realized the danger of this kind of trade policy and established safeguards in the constitution to protect us. However, we have allowed that protection to be destroyed by pursuing a free trade policy, and now find much of our consumer goods being imported at the expense of unemployment for our workers, and the exportation of our dollars.

Sure, I am concerned about the economy of our friends in foreign countries. But we can not help their economies if we allow ours to be destroyed in the process.

I am not against international trade. I do believe, however, that if we can make it or grow it, don't import it!

Farm system at stake, Texas official declares

By Philip Launius
GAZETTE STAFF

JONESBORO — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower told about 1,000 farmers gathered Friday in Jonesboro for a Farm Crisis Meeting that the American family farmer was in a "death struggle" with the Reagan administration.

The present farm proposals of the administration will "yank the plug on the family farmer," Hightower said.

The issue now before the nation is whether the "present system of family farms" will continue or whether American agriculture is to become the exclusive jurisdiction of large corporations.

Hightower outlined a seven-point program that he said would go "a long way" toward solving the present money crisis many farmers are experiencing.

The program includes mandatory production controls that Hightower said would bring "supply into balance with demand."

Also contained in the program would be a minimum price floor that would be tied to the cost of production, something the American Agriculture Movement strongly supports.

Several states represented

The American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas sponsored the meeting, which brought farmers from several states.

Other features in the program would "target benefits to family farmers," Hightower said, "so the giant conglomerates don't walk off with all the benefits." It also includes a moratorium on farm foreclosures by government agencies.

"Some are calling the program radical but it is not as radical as what Ronald Reagan is proposing," Hightower said.

Farmers, he said, "should be planting, but not crops for the fall. We should be planting a new farm program."

He said farmers could not depend on Mr. Reagan; David A. Stockman,



—AP Wirephoto

JIM HIGHTOWER: Texas Agriculture commissioner has some words of criticism, some words of advice for the Reagan administration.

director of the Office of Management and Budget, or Agriculture Secretary John R. Block "because

(See RALLY on Page 17A.)

Rally

Continued from Page 1A.

they want to plant you *** six feet deep."

He said, to laughs and applause, that many of those in charge of federal agricultural policy "couldn't run a watermelon stand if you gave them the melons and had the highway patrol flag down the customers."

Some of the farm-related rhetoric coming out of Washington, Hightower said, qualified for "a black belt in dumb."

Clinton speaks

Governor Bill Clinton told the farmers that Arkansans were "willing to take their lumps" in the current round of federal budget cutting, but he said farmers and those working in "import sensitive industries" were suffering inordinately under Reagan administration policies.

Mr. Clinton said there had been a push to establish the position of agriculture commissioner and he said "I believe you will be pleased with what we do in the next month to ensure that farmers have a voice in state government."

U.S. House challenged

In introducing United States Representative Bill Alexander of Osceola, Harvey Sanner of Des Arc, national delegate from the American Agriculture Movement of Arkansas, challenged the Democratically-controlled United States House of Representatives to "pass a farm bill we can live with."

He said "if the Democratic house can't write a farm bill better than Ronald Reagan, then they all need to come home and let someone go to Washington who knows something about agriculture."

Says problems not understood

Alexander lambasted the farm policies of the Reagan administration and said the president did not understand the problems of the American farmer.

Government farm policies "have failed," Alexander said, and are presently structured so that "the



—Staff Photo

Bill Alexander: Farm policies are structured so that "the American farmer can't make a profit."

American farmer can't make a profit."

He said it would be difficult for congressmen from farm states to fight the battle for American agriculture, but he said meetings like the one in Jonesboro "will help to get the message to Washington. A thousand of you coming together here today will insure that your voices will be heard."

Sanner said there was unrest in the farming community and mentioned recent protests in Minnesota and Iowa. He said, "What was happening there may be here tomorrow and I hope our politicians get that message."



Chairman of Chicago Board of Trade to meet with Arkansas farmers

Senator David Pryor said today that Bobby Goldberg, Chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, has accepted his invitation to meet with Arkansas farmers. The meeting of Goldberg and the state's farmers will take place at 1:30 p. m. Wednesday, April 10, at the machine shed of Lonoke farmer, Jimmie Lee Wallace.

"In every meeting I've had with farmers over the last several months, they've all expressed concern about the role the Chicago Board of Trade plays in the prices that farmers receive for their commodities," Pryor said.

"This meeting will be a great opportunity for farmers to talk face to face with one of the people responsible for the operation of the Board of Trade."

Pryor said he hoped that Chairman Goldberg would leave Arkansas with

a better understanding of the concerns of Arkansas farmers and their need for a fair price for their commodities.

"I also hope that Mr. Goldberg's visit will give farmers a better understanding of not just the Board's operation and how it affects prices, but also of the possible tools it can offer farmers as far as improving their marketing options."

The Lonoke farm was chosen as the site of the meeting since it was there in October that Pryor first promised a group of 100 farmers that they would have the opportunity to meet with the Chicago Board of Trade chairman. The meeting is on Highway 31, eight miles south of Lonoke. The meeting is open to all Arkansas farmers.

The Wallace machine shed is located on Highway 31, eight miles south of Lonoke.

State AAM elects new president

DES ARC (AP) — Harvey Joe Sanner, a Des Arc farmer, has been elected president of the American Agricultural Movement of Arkansas.

It also was announced that the group has moved its offices from Wynne to Des Arc.

Other new officers are Perry Dixon of Dell (Mississippi County), first vice president; Lloyd Evans of Weiner (Poinsett County), second vice president; Ray Watson of Hazen, secretary, and Odis Chapman of Scott, executive vice president.

HARVEY JOE SANNER, national AAM delegate, who just returned from attending hearings in Washington, D. C. last weekend, was called back to testify on rice production and marketing giving input into the 1985 Farm Bill.



FARMERS in Arkansas got to question the chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade—Bobby Goldberg—when Goldberg traveled to the Jimmy Wallace farm, eight miles south of Lonoke, Wednesday afternoon and talked about practices of the Trade Board. Goldberg was introduced by Senator David Pryor, who had promised while campaigning last fall, that he would bring the Trade Board head to the state so farmers could question him about the Board's operations. In most instances, Goldberg defended practices of the Board, however, he reminded farmers that in trading there has to be a buy side and a seller side. "If you buy three million bushels of grain, you must have someone willing to sell three million" Goldberg said.

Says local farmer

Goldberg leaves knowing more than when he came

"Bobby Goldberg, chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, is a lot more enlightened now than before he came," was the comment from Harvey Joe Sanner, American Agriculture leader at Des Arc said today.

Sanner was among farmers and farm-related interest groups attending a meeting with the CBT official at Lonoke Wednesday. Goldberg made the historic visit to the Jimmy Wallace farm shed at the invitation of Senator David Pryor, D-Ark.

Pryor said Wednesday the visit was meant to defuse tensions created by the board's image with farmers.

Sanner said, "We content that the Chicago Board of Trade is wrong when it says 'we have nothing to do with setting prices'." "That's impos-

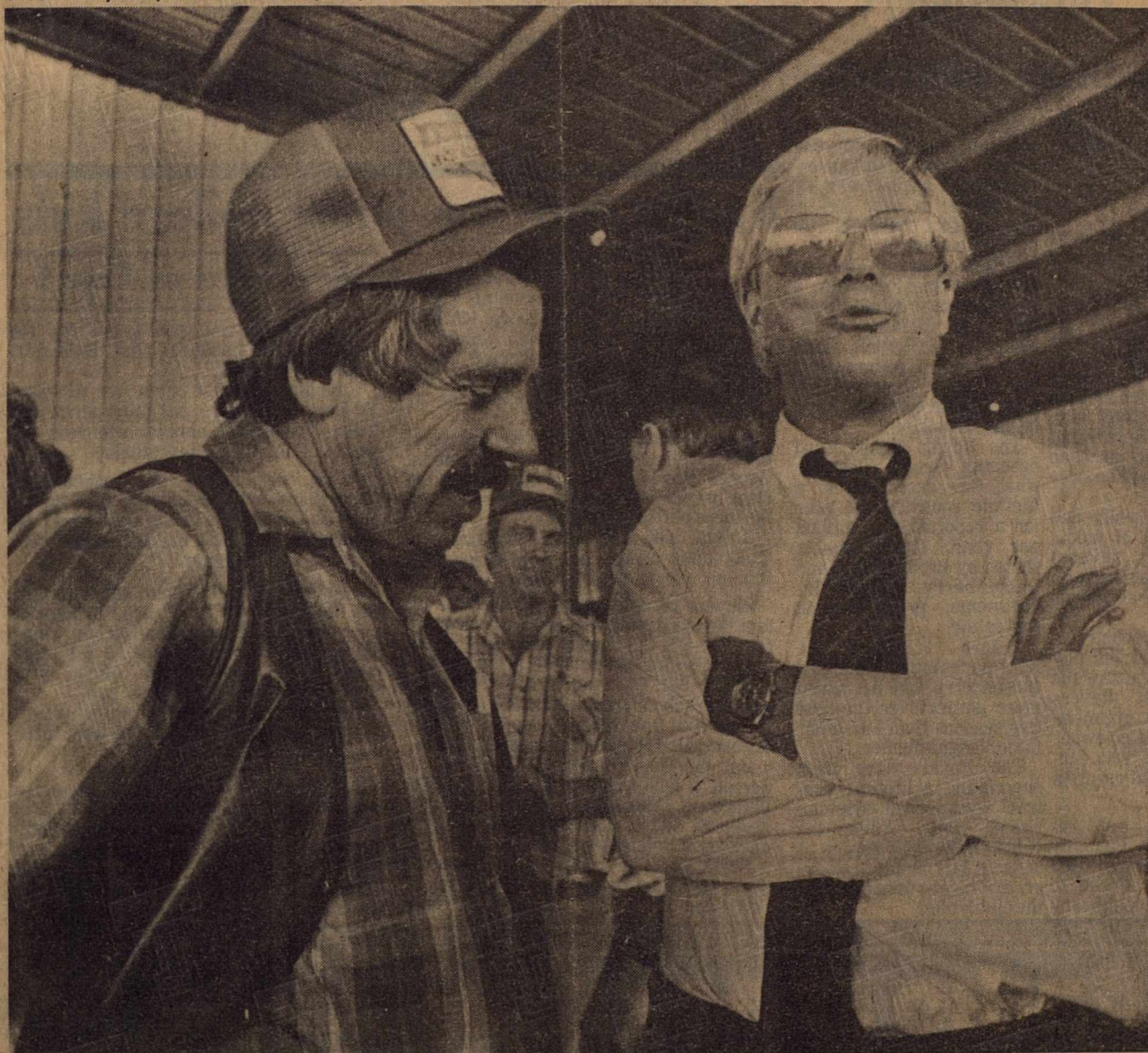
sible," Sanner contended, "when soybeans are bought and sold 38 times by the board." Corn is traded 13 times, wheat 10 times, and oats 4 times.

Russia is one of the big players in the paper market with the help of their KCB (equal to U. S. CIA). Goldberg confirmed the truth of that statement, Sanner said.

This was the first time for an official of the Chicago Board of Trade to actually meet and talk with farmers, Sanner said, and he left Arkansas knowing more about our problems.

Sanner was among farmers who protested before the Chicago Board of Trade headquarters a few months back and said, "we have their attention."

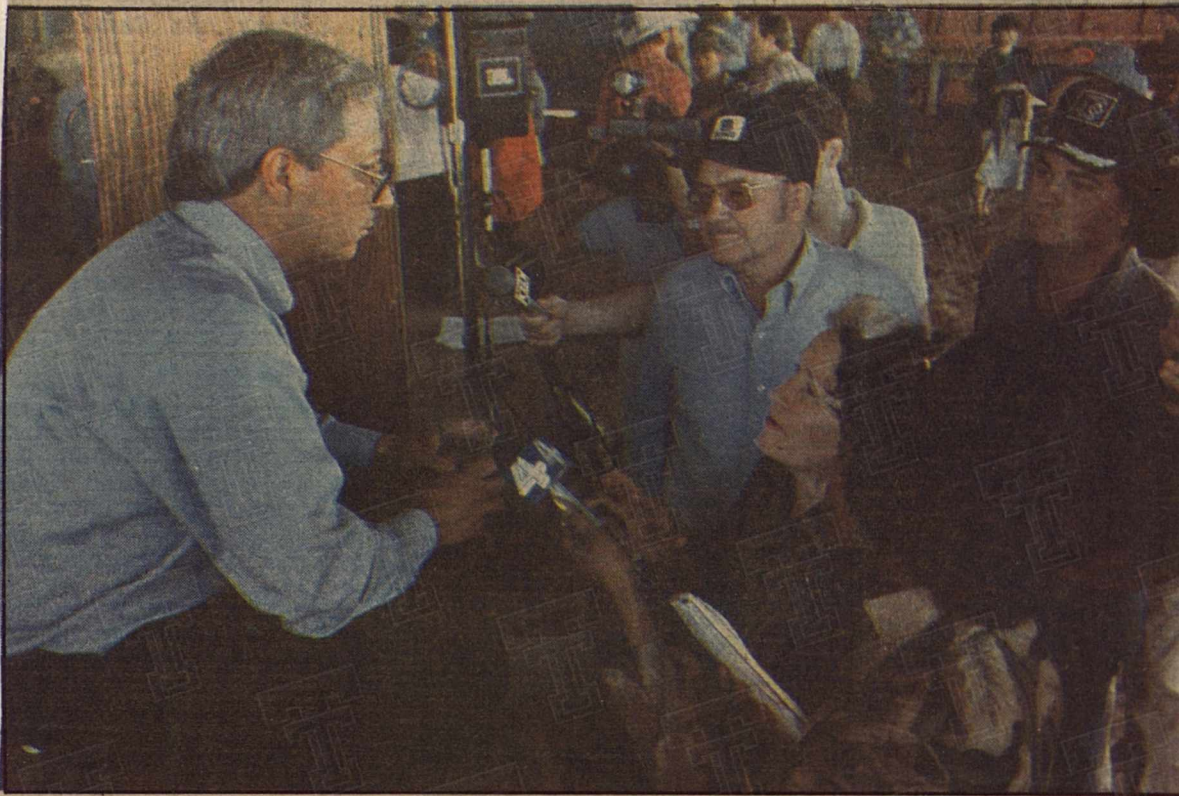
The Daily Republic; Friday, April 12, 1985



Trading words

Bobby Goldberg, chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, right, discusses farm issues with the Arkansas farmer Harvey

Joe Sanner on the Lonoke, Ark., farm of Jimmie Lee Wallace on Wednesday. (AP Laser Photo)



Arkansas Democrat/Rick Barret

STRAIGHT TALK — Bobby Goldberg (left), chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, discusses the board's

image with farmers and reporters Wednesday in a machine shed on the Jimmy Wallace farm near Lonoke.

Trade official fails to quash complaints, fears of farmers

BY SANDY MILLER HAYS
Democrat Business-Farm Editor

LONOKE — The consummation of a campaign promise made in the heat of last fall's Senate race fell flat Wednesday when the chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade failed to win over Arkansas farmers during a historic visit to explain the workings of the board.

Bobby Goldberg of Chicago visited the Jimmy Wallace farm at the invitation of Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., who reminded about 100 farmers there of his promise last October to "bring to this very spot the chairman of the Chicago Board

Related articles

Page 2B

of Trade and you can have at him for as long as you want."

Pryor said Wednesday the visit was meant to defuse tensions created by "the fear of the unknown. To many people, the Chicago Board of Trade is unknown ... I think Mr. Goldberg will make it a system we can understand."

But Goldberg, who began his career at the Board of Trade as a floor runner at age 16, apparently achieved little success in allaying the suspicions of the farmers present,

many of whom openly proclaimed their belief that the actions of CBOT traders unfairly manipulate farm commodity prices.

A particularly sensitive subject broached at the meeting was speculative trading, the buying and selling of contracts on thousands of bushels of soybeans by urban traders who neither produce any beans nor have any intention of ever delivering on the contracts.

Emotions peaked when Wallace, who farms rice, cotton and soybeans, confronted his visitor and shouted, "Damn it,

See BOARD, Page 9A

Board

• Continued from Page One

my life is out here - I'm tired of that, sick and tired of it."

"The only thing I have to say is if the bushel's in the bin, you can buy it, sell it or burn it," he told Goldberg. "But don't touch anything that's not in the bin or the dryer or government storage. Out here on the farm, we deal in reality."

But Goldberg denied that the CBOT was involved in price manipulations detrimental to farmers' interests, protesting: "Let me assure you, if I had the power to manipulate prices, I'd manipulate them up. The Board of Trade's success is directly related to volume and high prices."

"If there's one thing the Board of Trade has failed to do, it's get its marketing position out to the American farmer," he said. "We've been in business since 1848, and if we haven't gotten the point across to farmers how to use the Chicago Board of Trade, obviously we're at fault on that."

Goldberg laid the blame for low commodity prices at the

feet of high interest rates, the overvalued U.S. dollar, worldwide overproduction and demand slowed by a sluggish world economy.

But the farmers present were unwilling to absolve the CBOT so quickly, contending that entities ranging from traders to the KGB had turned the Chicago Board of Trade's workings to the disadvantage of farmers.

"You have failed, or we as farmers have failed to understand it," Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc told Goldberg. "Every farmer in my area that's tried to hedge has got his britches ripped."

Sanner charged that every bushel of soybeans produced by U.S. farmers is traded as many as 38 times on the Board of Trade, primarily by people with no involvement in the crop's production. Goldberg quickly retorted, "But they bought it back 38 times."

When Wallace claimed that CBOT market prices often are lower than the farmer's expenses in producing the crop, making farmers' use of the market pointless in terms of increasing farm profits, Goldberg countered by contending that as many as 90 percent of

CBOT traders often merely break even at the end of the day's trading.

But the farmers appeared to be unconvinced by Goldberg's arguments, and some of them at times seemed to ignore him as he continued to speak.

Their dissatisfaction with his comments was voiced by Don Chapman, a farmer from Scott, who commented, "He's very good at his job, defending his position as chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade, but I can't see where (his visit) did any help ... I think it's a cat and mouse game they're playing with us."

One positive development of the meeting was Goldberg's promise to consider the possibility of trading rice on the Chicago Board of Trade. Nor did the meeting's political possibilities go unnoticed; among those circulating in the crowd were Rep. Tommy Robinson, D-Ark., former governor Frank White and Rep. Bobby Glover of Carlisle.

But attendance at the meeting was generally described as disappointing, with many of the area's farmers taking advantage of a good day for field work.

Sanner and Bone are recipients of awards at school assembly

At its annual end of school assembly last Friday, the Des Arc High School Senior Student Council presented awards to its "Citizen of the Year" and its "Teacher of the Year" honorees.

Harvey Joe Sanner, East Side farmer and American Agriculture national delegate, was presented the "Citizen of the Year" award. The award was made "in recognition of work with the Future Farmers of America chapter at the school and work for farming interests, local and nationwide."

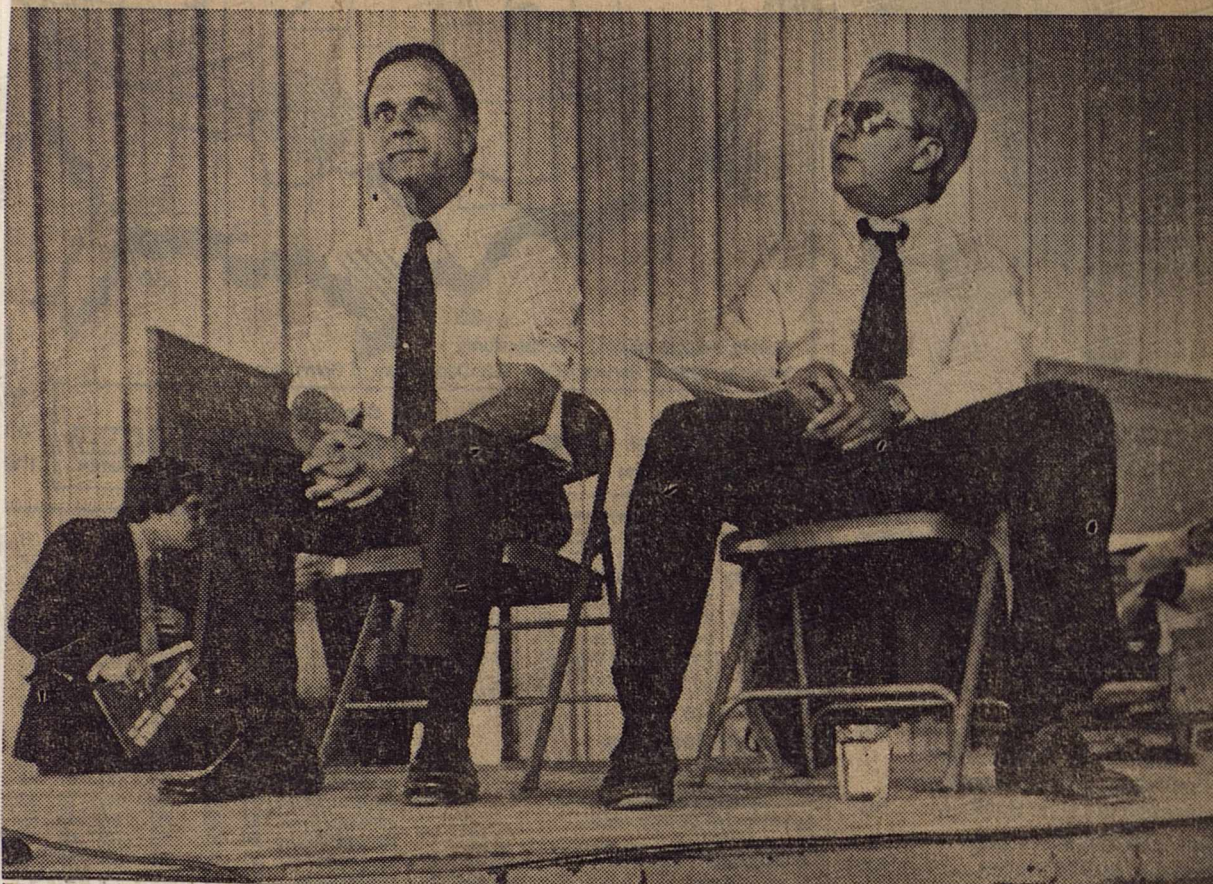
Mrs. Judy Bone, senior science teacher at Des Arc High School, was presented DAHS Teacher of the Year award.

Mrs. Bone teaches biology, botany, and zoology, and also a Gifted and Talented Class at the school. She also

sponsors the Senior Science - Social Studies Club and the Senior Student Council.

Officers of the Senior Student Council for the 1985-86 school year were inducted as follows:

Tim Owen, President
Kyle DeVore, Vice-President
Debbie Prine, Secretary
Carol Evans, Reporter



Pryor (left) waits to introduce Goldberg to farmers near Lonoke.

—Staff Photo by Steve Keesee

Board of Trade official visits state

By Philip Launius
GAZETTE STAFF

LONOKE — About 150 farmers stopped plowing their fields long enough Wednesday to plant some suggestions in the mind of Chicago Board of Trade Chairman Bob Goldberg, who met with them at the headquarters of the James M. Wallace farm near Lonoke.

Goldberg was in Arkansas at the request of United States Senator David Pryor. During Pryor's successful bid for re-election last year, he made a campaign stop at

the Wallace farm and when farmers began discussing the Board of Trade, Pryor said he would bring a Board official to meet directly with them.

Goldberg, who was introduced by Pryor and spoke to the farmers from a flatbed trailer, said he felt many producers were suspicious of the Board of Trade because they lacked accurate information about how it really worked, and he blamed the Board itself for "failing to get our message out to the American farmer."

"We have been in business since

1848 and if we haven't gotten the word out to producers through educational and public relations activities, then the Board is at fault in that aspect," Goldberg said.

The Board of Trade can "hopefully do a better job of teaching farmers how to use the Board as a marketing tool" in the future, Goldberg said.

Goldberg, who started working at the Board of Trade as a "runner" when he was 16 and was elevated to the chairmanship eight

(See GOLDBERG on Page 11A.)

Goldberg

Continued from Page 1A.

weeks ago, told the farmers that the Board's success or failure was directly linked to the economic health of the agricultural community. "What's good for you is good for us," Goldberg said. He said when farm prices were low it not only bankrupted farmers, it bankrupted commodity traders too.

A variety of causes are to be blamed for the current depressed prices for agriculture products, Goldberg said. He said those causes included high interest rates, the strong dollar and worldwide overproduction.

He said reducing the federal deficit "is the only solution I see to the problem in the long-term" since cutting the deficit "will reduce the strength of the dollar overseas and also bring interest rates down. It would allow us to export more and be more competitive in the world market."

If he did have the power to manipulate the commodity markets, Goldberg said, "let me assure you that I would manipulate them up. I would do that because it's good for the Board of Trade."

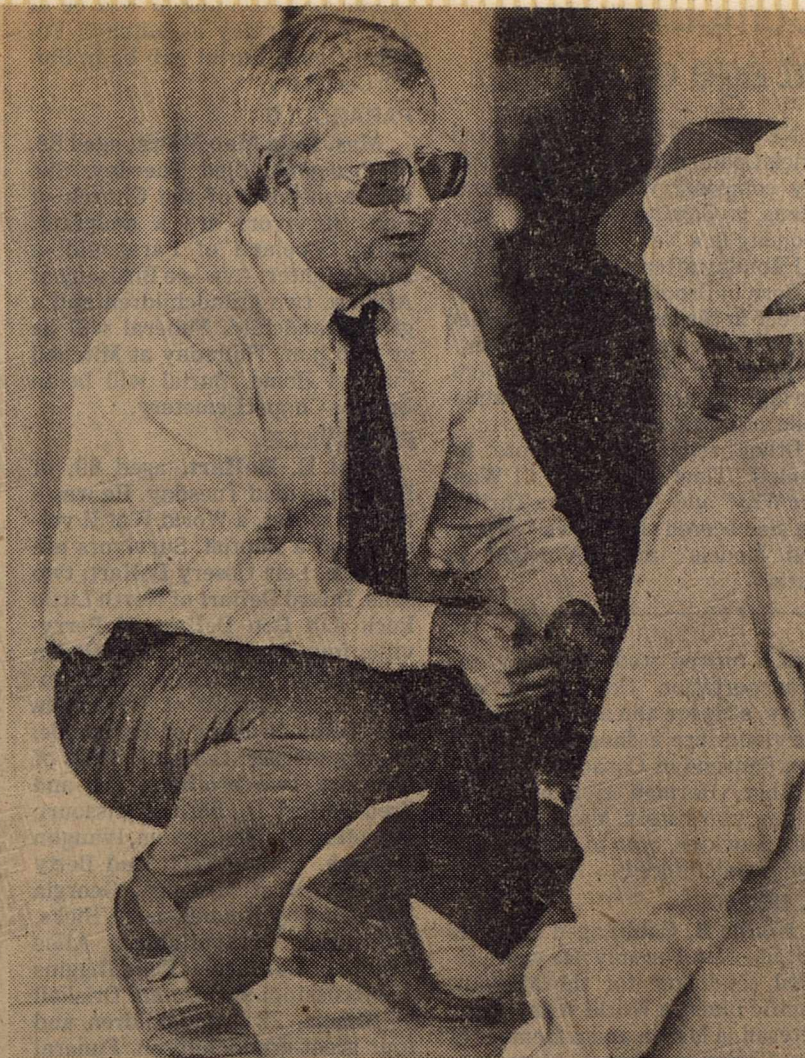
Goldberg said he sympathized with the farmers, but he said the Board of Trade shouldn't be blamed for the current financial plight of the agricultural community. "The Board itself is price neutral *** prices go up and down because of worldwide market conditions," he said.

Tells of arrest

When Harvey Sanner, a farmer from Des Arc, came to the microphone to ask Goldberg a question, Pryor interrupted to tell the Board chairman that Sanner had been arrested during an American Agriculture Movement demonstration in front of the Board of Trade in January. Goldberg quipped "in that case, can I stand behind you, senator?"

Discussing his arrest, Sanner said he had heard accounts about Board traders "manipulating prices" and "being dishonest," but he said the security staff at the Board of Trade was honest "because when they tell you if you step across a line, you are going to be arrested, brother you are arrested. I found that out."

Sanner said he could not be convinced that speculative short selling on the Board — in which speculators sell commodities at one price, hoping to buy them at a lower price before the contract delivery date — was not "harming



Goldberg (left) talks to a farmer at the meeting, which a

me as a farmer." Many producers contend the trading strategy acts as a price depressant. Goldberg said research showed the practice doesn't act as a "market depressant or uplifter."

Jimmy Wallace, who helps operate the farm on which the meeting was held, said he believed the practice was harmful to farmers and he said he also believed "that people do manipulate the market * * * where they make the prices go up and down."

The Board of Trade chairman said he was not implying that all of the CBT's rules and regulations were perfect and he said that he had appointed a committee to look at them "to determine if they are in need of change."

Notes influence

On another subject, Sanner said he had read that the Board of Trade "was very influential in Washington" and spent a lot of money attempting to retain that influence. He asked Goldberg why. The Board of Trade chairman said "just as you try to get people to understand what your business is all

about, the Board of Trade does the same thing."

But Goldberg said the Board of Trade does not take an official position on farm legislation. He said the Board would occasionally



—Staff Photos by Steve Keese

also was attended by (from left) Frank White, Tommy Robinson and Jimmy Wallace.

take a position on certain items having a direct bearing on the agricultural community. He said, for example, that the Board had written to President Reagan and to members of Congress urging the

federal government to extend emergency credit to farmers.

After the session, Goldberg said he felt the meeting, which was the first face-to-face encounter he has had with producers on a working

farm, had been "very constructive." He said one of the things that had been brought home to him is the "gap" in the knowledge farmers have about the operations of the Board of Trade.

Farmers cite prices, government policies in 60,000 failures

BY MARK ALBRIGHT
Democrat Staff Writer

In slang terms, if someone is said to have bought the farm, it means he died. In actuality, death does not automatically follow buying the farm these days, but there is much grief associated with it.

The modern farmer is faced with a financial crisis, the like of which hasn't been seen since the Great Depression. But in the Depression everyone suffered. Farmers are a lonely breed today.

What did the farmers do to bring these problems on themselves? Or what did somebody else do to them to cause 60,000 of them to go bankrupt last year?

For Hays T. Sullivan, a crop farmer from Burdette, the answer is simple, sort of.

"There's one main problem," Sullivan said. "That's the price of the commodities we sell. It's too low. That's the one and only problem we've got."

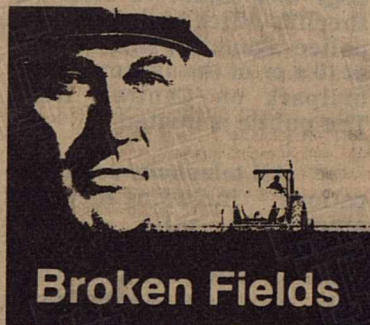
Harvey Joe Sanner, a Des Arc farmer and national delegate for the American Agriculture Movement, agreed: "The severe credit crisis has been brought about by low commodity prices. If we'd received fair prices the past five, six, seven years, we wouldn't have the credit problems we have today."

But Sullivan added there was another problem behind that one.

"It's Ronald Reagan's overvalued dollar," he said. "It's killing us."

Sullivan said the high value of the dollar overseas has made it cheaper for countries to import food from anywhere but the United States. As an example, Sullivan said a bushel of U.S. soybeans that sold for 8½ German marks in 1979 now goes for 19 German marks.

Tommy Williams, a cattleman from Rosie, said farmers have to operate a little differently in that they don't get to set their own prices.



This is the second in a three-part series about the plight of the farmer.

"When I go the store, they don't ask me what do I want for my cattle," Williams said. "I ask them what can they pay me."

Williams said that the efficiency of American farmers has caused problems. One U.S. farmer can feed 57 people, which means fewer farmers are needed. Efficiency also keeps prices low.

"Because of the farmer's productivity ... today, food expenditures for a family of four requires 16.6 percent of the disposable income compared to 23 percent in 1951," Williams said. "While at the same time, input costs for cattlemen have risen dramatically in relation to the prices received for our products."

Other than being too efficient, farmers were unanimous in agreeing that the other causes for their plight were beyond control.

"Government has more influence than any other source," Williams said. "The only non-government related influence on us is the weather. And we're not sure about that."

Charles L. Hoffman, Jr., a farmer and implement dealer from Montrose who filed for bankruptcy last week, said the U.S. government had not been a friend to the American farm-

Farmer

• Continued from Arkansas Page
ers when it gave away the competitive edge they had developed.

"In the early 70s, the third world countries were emerging with expendable income," Hoffman said. "We had the most immediate capability to export to them."

"We had developed tremendous new (farm) technology," he said. "But as this technology developed we were quick to give it away. We gave it away at the expense of the farmer."

"By doing so we've given away the biggest single tool of foreign policy we've got," he said. "You can't eat sand, oil or bombs."

Hoffman said that at the same time government was giving away agricultural technology, it was encouraging people to enter farming with incentives. And now that those incentives are disappearing, the farmers are left in a profession they may not have entered otherwise.

Williams said Reagan's policy of less government influence on farmers was not one he had opposed.

"I agreed with his philosophy of getting government out of agriculture and out of our everyday lives," Williams said. "But we didn't realize how much they were in our lives. Now that he's cut it out, it hurts; it hurts real bad."

Tomorrow - How you gonna keep 'em down on the farm? Possible solutions and the outlook are examined.

Veteran Alexander botched attempt to amend farm bill

In Washington

Carol Matlack

Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — There was considerable head-shaking on Capitol Hill last week over United States Representative Bill Alexander's botched effort to amend the 1985 farm bill to allow farmers to vote in a referendum on crop production controls.

Alexander is a 17-year House veteran and the chief deputy Democratic whip, which means he ought to know something about rounding up support for a bill. But his colleagues deserted him in droves on the farm amendment Tuesday, leaving him with fewer than 60 votes, after he tried to offer it for consideration without even having a printed copy of it. The 500-page proposal, held together with rubber bands, wasn't delivered to the House floor until midway through the debate Tuesday afternoon — an error that did not go overlooked by opponents, who had a field day.

"I will be happy to yield the floor to anyone who has read this bill," Representative Bob Walker (Rep., Pa.) said at one point during the debate. There was a long, embarrassing silence before Alexander came to the microphone to respond.

Alexander said such attacks were unfair, since much of his amendment simply incorporated actions taken earlier by the House. Harvey Joe Sanner of the American Agriculture Movement, chief backer of the bill, said Alexander was victim of parliamentary maneuvering by House leaders who wanted the amendment killed. "You can Monday-morning quarterback all you want, but he did try," Sanner said. "I'm proud of Alexander for making the effort."

Supporters dismayed

Privately, though, Alexander's supporters were dismayed at how things had been handled. Logically the measure should have gotten considerable support, since it consisted essentially of two proposals, each of which had gotten more than 100 votes in earlier House de-

liberations.

Instead, things fell apart. A final game plan wasn't set until the night before the scheduled vote, and Alexander's staff was literally cutting and pasting the amendment together only hours before the vote. The final version was still under review by House legal counsel when the debate began. The situation arose partly because the House leadership rejected Alexander's request for a parliamentary ruling that would have made it easier to offer the proposal.

But there were other, more fundamental problems.

For one thing, while Alexander had positioned himself as the chief House sponsor of the referendum proposal, he didn't seem to pay much attention to it until the last minute. There was a flurry of publicity last spring when he first introduced it, but even then he conceded he wasn't sure he agreed with everything in it and simply wanted to ensure it received a full hearing. The proposal has sharply divided farm groups, with the AAM saying it would raise commodity prices and rescue farmers, and opponents arguing that it would make American products less competitive on the world market.

Didn't ask to testify

The House Agriculture Committee held hearings on the bill, but Alexander, who doesn't serve on the panel, didn't ask to testify. The Committee eventually rejected the proposal, although it adopted a milder version that was scrapped when the farm bill came to the House floor.

Alexander's staff closely monitored the Committee actions, ultimately deciding to offer the referendum plan as an amendment when the farm bill came to the full House.

Another problem

But there was another problem: Alexander, who represents one of the most heavily agricultural districts in the United States and serves on the agriculture appropriations subcommittee, has no one on his legislative staff with much expertise or interest in agriculture. In a city where experts abound, Alexander assigned the task of monitoring the farm bill to

a newly hired aide.

And when the subject of agriculture comes up during interviews with Alexander himself, the congressman appears unenthusiastic and is visibly relieved when the subject shifts to something he prefers talking about, like Central America or the federal deficit.

★ ★ ★

Representative Tommy Robinson (Dem., Ark.) says it's just coincidence that a \$4,950 campaign contribution arrived from the National Rifle Association the day after he co-sponsored a bill that the NRA favors. Robinson signed onto a bill July 16 sponsored by Representative Harold Volkmer (Dem., Mo.) that would relax federal handgun legislation passed by Congress 17 years ago.

Robinson said the NRA had promised months earlier to help pay off his campaign debt, and the timing was happenstance. He said he supported the Volkmer bill because he thought existing laws were "a hassle" for sportsmen.

The Volkmer bill would lift a ban on interstate sales of rifles, shotguns and handguns, and would require federal agents to notify gun dealers before they performed routine inspections to insure compliance with federal recordkeeping regulations.

Several major law-enforcement organizations, such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, oppose the bill, but Robinson, himself a former police chief and sheriff, said he was unmoved by their arguments. "They are just prone to believe that crime's going to go away if it's harder to get firearms," he said. "It has been my experience that criminals who buy guns, the majority of them buy on the black market," so changing federal laws would have little effect, he said. Also, Robinson said, "People are killed with sticks and knives and rocks."

The NRA-backed bill already has cleared the Senate, with Senators David Pryor and Dale Bumpers (Dem., Ark.) both voting for it. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt (Rep., Ark.) is an original sponsor in the House, where the bill is pending in the House Judiciary Committee. The NRA has not reported contributions this year to Pryor, Bumpers or Hammerschmidt.

Says AAM Spokesman

Strong Producer Voice Needed

April 22
1982

The need for a strong producer voice in agriculture becomes more apparent each day and it also becomes more obvious that the American Agriculture Movement has become that voice.

It's interesting to read some of the newspaper articles quoting leaders of "farm" organizations, that tell how bad the farm situation is when these same groups supported the legislation that led to the situation we are now in. The Farm Bureau, the Agriculture Council, the American Soybean Association are some of them, and there are others, but these three probably do more damage to Arkansas farmers than the others. Maybe they think we will forget that they supported the past two farm bills. Their standard excuse is "this was the best we could get." When you don't propose anything else, you can be assured you won't get anything better.

We have come to know that the basic problem is caused by farmers being a diverse, unorganized group, selling into a controlled market. The solution, pure and simple, is to provide a farmer with a mechanism to extract his price from this controlled market.

Yet these three "farm" groups, financed with your dollars, have opposed any legislation that might have provided this mechanism to producers. It's ashame that these organizations don't use their influence to benefit farmers instead of processors, large grain companies, and foreign governments. It's no secret that these folks have reaped benefits at the expense of producers, and we know who has helped them. It's hard to understand why these "farm" organizations think more of the Japanese people than they do the American farmer, but, with all their moves to keep cheap grain going to Japan, it seems that they do.

Movement feels that there is something basically wrong with farmers getting their income from tax dollars instead of the market place. Probably the vast majority of farmers feel this way. Maybe someday soon the farmers in Farm Bureau will rise up and stop the non-producers at the top from dictating policy. Alabama Farm Bureau finally got enough of them representing everyone else at the expense of farmers and seceded from the National Farm Bureau. It would certainly help if more states would follow Alabama's lead. When the others realize that agriculture must be healthy before the economy will get healthy, instead of the other way around (like they have been told) maybe they will take action.

We will have the battle nearly won when all farmers and organizations admit that America truly gets her

Strength From The Land
AAM - Des Arc Chapter

The biggest fallacy is being perpetrated by the Farm Bureau. They tell everyone, "We want the government out of agriculture," yet they are telling our politicians they want a paid diversion. This is quite a contrast. They want the government out when you mention higher loan rates that would help farmers, but they want them in with a direct payment that destroys any public sentiment and political strength farmers can muster.

A paid diversion has never provided any substantial income to producers and has caused us irreparable damage in the eyes of government leaders and much of the American public. Everybody sees this as paying someone not to work. Its repulsive to many, paying farmers not to plant. Consumer resistance is supposedly a reason for keeping farm prices low. Any improvement in prices will be met with a resistance like never before when the public is seeing news stories about the millions of tax dollars paid out to farmers not to plant. Even though the amount to individual farmers may be very little, the total amount will appear huge.

The American Agriculture

Farm Equipment Sale Here This Week Totaled Over \$400,000

No one was able to estimate the crowd in Des Arc for the AAMA-sponsored farm equipment sale Wednesday held on Riceland Foods property. Some comments were, "There were hundreds and hundreds; the most people ever to attend a sale in this area." One person said, "There are more pickup trucks than at a coon hunt."

A spokesman for the Des Arc Chapter of AAMA said, "The members of this group have really hustled; a lot of the quipment was moved to the sale site by our members."

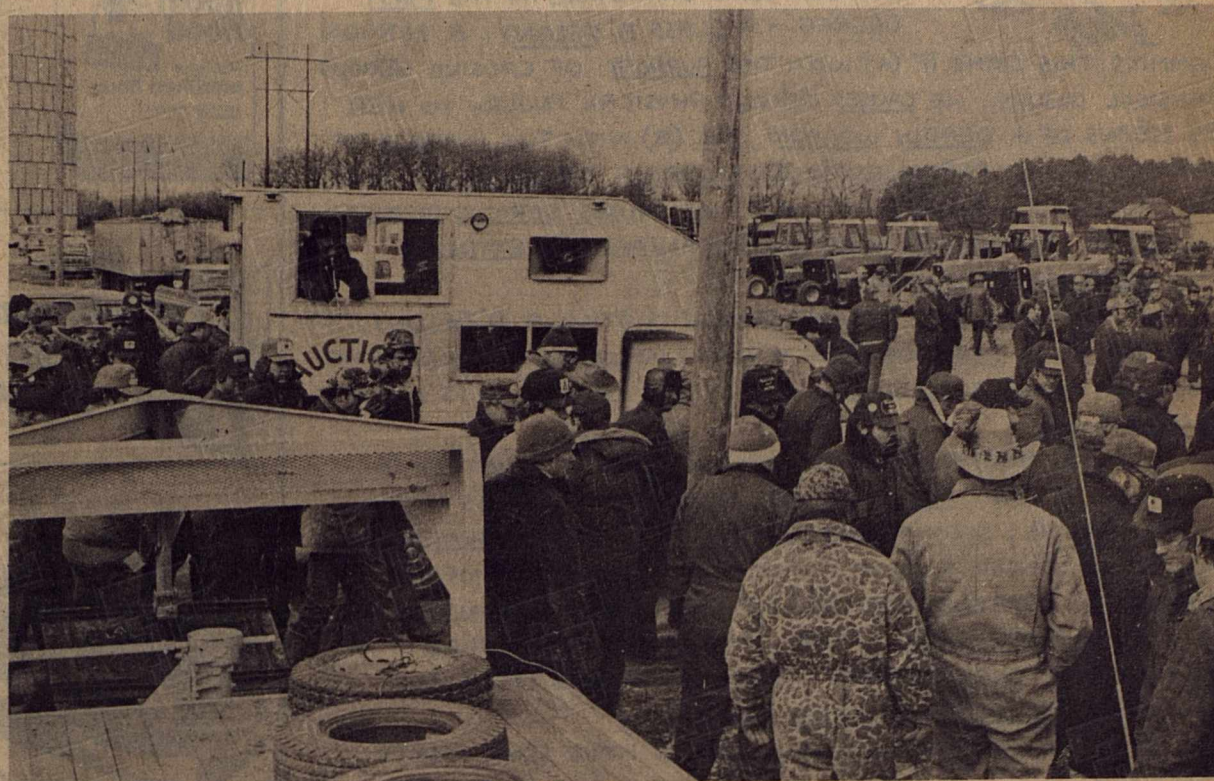
No one was disappointed in the sale that totaled over \$400,000.00. Over 400 pieces of equipment was on the lot when the sale began at 10 a. m. Wednesday and only a few of the items were classified as P. O. (items that can be pulled from the sale if bidding is low). A representative of Blackmon Auction & Realty of Little Rock, one

of the largest auction firms in the country, termed the sale "good."

Interested buyers flocked to the sale from all states surrounding Arkansas, and as far away as Ohio and Minnesota.

Wives of AAMA members were kept busy making coffee which they sold along with sandwiches, clearing over \$1000 for their day's work.

All the monies from AAMA projects will go toward paying for the nice American Agriculture Movement headquarters building built here last year. The building is also being used for many other community activities. This week over 100 people gathered at the building to enroll in karate classes. These classes will meet two nights a week. Last week the AAMA "cooks" prepared fish for a PCA Seminar attended by about 50 persons.



Small portion of sale crowd here Wednesday

Farm aid approved by House

Reagan can't veto crisis, O'Neill says

GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — The House set up a showdown with President Reagan Tuesday, sending him a farm debt relief bill with a warning that he "cannot veto the problem" of economic disaster in rural America. Mr. Reagan has threatened to kill the bill.

At the White House, spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan

• Arkansan attacks Block's farm bill, Page 1C.

would, "in all probability, act very quickly" once he receives the bill, approved on a 255-to-168 vote of the House, short of the two thirds that would be needed to override a veto. Supporters of the bill concede they lack enough Senate votes to overturn a veto. The Senate approved the farm bill last week by a vote of 65 to 33.

The Arkansas House delegation split along party lines Tuesday in the vote on the farm aid with Democrats Bill Alexander, Beryl Anthony and Tommy Robinson voting for the measure and Republican John Paul Hammerschmidt voting against it.

Speakes indicated the president has not wavered from his threat to veto the legislation.

Protesting farmers lobbied for the bill anyway, with Harvey San-

(See FARMERS on Page 10A.)

Farmers

Continued from Page 1A.

ner of Des Arc, Ark., summarizing their sentiment when he said administration officials "have got about as much idea as a blind possum about what's going on in rural America."

The House, to save time to try to get spring planting funds quickly to farmers, scrapped a debt relief bill it passed last week and embraced the Senate version to get the legislation to Mr. Reagan as quickly as possible.

It would provide payment of up to \$50,000 in price support loans per farmer this spring rather than next fall. House Agriculture Chairman Kika de la Garza (Dem., Tex.) called it a "good investment to keep the farmers on the land."

It also would provide \$100 million in interest subsidies for an estimated \$5 billion in federally guaranteed farm loans. The measure was attached to a \$175 million African debt relief bill.

Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole of Kansas reiterated Tuesday his belief that Mr. Reagan would veto the bill as a "budget buster."

"Within the next few days were are going to lay to rest this so-called farm credit crisis," Dole told a meeting of the United States Feed Grains Council.

House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts said Mr. Reagan could veto the farm bill, "but he cannot veto the problem."

"We in Congress did not create the economic disaster that has hit the American agricultural heartland," he said. "The Reagan administration created that problem with its high interest rates and high-priced dollar."

Agriculture Secretary John R. Block appeared before the Senate Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee charging that paying price support loans in advance subverts farm programs and farmers could get the advance payments "whether they need the money or not."

Block estimated 3 per cent of farmers went out of business last year and 5 per cent will be lost this year.

There is "always a social cost when you have change, but in a dynamic society, you're always going to have change," Block said. "I'm not sure there will be an economic cost. *** About the same amount of food is going to be produced."



SENATOR BUMPERS—Speaking At Des Arc Saturday Evening

Says Senator Bumpers, AAM supporter Stiff opposition to 0/92 Program expected

By PAULA SKARDA

"If I were a farmer, I'd belong to AAM," Senator Dale Bumpers told the large crowd in attendance at Saturday's American Agriculture Movement meeting held in Des Arc.

Bumpers, in the state for meetings of the Southern Legislative Conference, praised the tenacity of AAM and its leadership during its long, grueling struggle to change agricultural policies on the national level.

Addressing farm issues, Bumpers said, "common sense is the scarcest commodity in Washington D.C. Often farm policy is made by legislators who have little idea about the nature of agriculture."

A current issue facing the senate is the 0/92 program. Bumpers told the group that the program was expected to draw stiff opposition. "The senate is not likely to support the 0/92 program after the lack-luster effect the 50 percent program had this year."

The 0/92 program is expected to draw opposition from grain dealers and other interest groups around the country. A concern expressed in regards to the program is rising grain prices.

Commenting, Bumpers said, "Americans have been the beneficiaries through cheap food prices." American farmers have been placed at a disadvantage in world markets with other producing countries subsidizing their farmers. Wouldn't you rice farmers like to sell Japan your rice for half what they subsidize their farmers?"

Echoing Bumpers comments, State Representative Bobby Glover and Senator Mike Beebe, who were in attendance, both expressed concern for the farming economy as it effected Arkansas and Prairie County.

Rep. Glover, member of a sub-committee on tourism development of the Legislative Joint Interium Committee on Agriculture and Economic Development, commented he hoped to see improvement in the promotion of Arkansas agriculture, both domestically and export markets.

"Arkansas has three leading economic factors, tourism, industry and agriculture. It's a sad commentary that little has been done on a state level to promote the state's major economic factor, agriculture," Glover said.

Senator Beebe pointed out recent federal bail-out programs for the city of New York and Chrysler Corp. "If the federal government can help a city and a corporation, they should help the family farmer, the backbone of America."

Both Glover and Beebe paid high praise to Senator Bumpers. Glover said, "Arkansas and farm families are fortunate to have both Dale Bumpers and David Pryor in Washington D.C."

Referring to the presidential race, both Glover and Beebe expressed regrets that Senator Bumpers had dropped out of contention.

Bumpers commented, that while there were some regrets about not entering the presidential race, "I just want to be a senator."

In one of the lighter moments, Bumpers advised since the Gary Hart incident, he took "Ole Betty" with him more now on trips.

In a question about the Farm Credit System, Bumpers urged AAM members to "hang in there," not flee the system. "The government cannot afford to let the Farm Credit System

go to pot," the senator said.

On a serious note, Bumpers briefly urged farmers not to give up on the system. "I want to encourage you to keep up the fight. Often Americans have a tendency to be lazy or apathetic about voting. While in Panama or Korea, young people are being killed for the right to vote."

"Do you realize that only 10 percent of 18-21 year-old adults voted in the last election," Bumpers said.

"The strongest urge of man is to be free, but often is taken for granted until lost. We have the greatest system, you need to be a part of that system," Bumpers said.

Harvey Joe Sanner, AAM, Arkansas president, reflected on AAM's 10 year history. "AAM has made real in-roads in its 10-year existence. The organization is getting stronger, with membership growing to include consumer, implement, labor and other groups."

"AAM is enjoying increased support on many levels, especially at a legislative level. AAM has outlasted Bergland, Block, and will out-last Richard Lyng. We've got the best system but need active participation from all farmers," Sanner said.

"Economic conditions make life tough. Some of our farmers have given up or are apathetic. Now's the time we need to pull together to complete the job that was started 10 years ago," Sanner said.

Following the meeting, King Kat Inc. served a catfish dinner to over 100 guests.

American Agriculture Movement plans input for '85 Farm Bill

The American Agriculture Movement, Inc., in convention and meetings held across the country assembled and proposed the following to be included in the 1985 farm bill.

The 1985 farm bill must include:

-Production Controls: establish a mandatory program through referendum by farm operators with quantity controls (bushels, bales, pounds, etc) in addition to a 10 percent acreage reduction. Production levels should be established according to inventory stocks.

-Loan Rates: Loan rates set at not less than 70 percent of parity (the average cost of production) on all storable agriculture commodities including milk. Minimum non recourse loan term shall be 36 months with loan rates increasing 2 percent annually through 1996 and remain at 90 percent parity thereafter; storage rates for on-farm storage and commercial storage shall be the same.

Proposed Annual Loan Rate Increase

Year	Parity
1986.....	70 Pct.
1987.....	72 Pct.
1988.....	74 Pct.
1989.....	76 Pct.
1990.....	78 Pct.
1991.....	80 Pct.
1992.....	82 Pct.
1993.....	84 Pct.
1994.....	86 Pct.
1995.....	88 Pct.
1996.....	90 Pct.
1997.....	90 Pct.
1998.....	90 Pct.
1999.....	90 Pct.

-Food Reserve: A national food reserve shall be established (to guard against food shortage) and released only when a food storage has been declared by the House and Senate agriculture committees. Inventory stocks of each commodity shall be set by the Ag secretary and shall be managed by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

-Imports: All agricultural products (livestock, poultry, dairy, fish, vegetables, etc. shall be labeled as to the country of origin. Any processed or co-mingled product shall be labeled as such. All imported products shall have equal inspections and meet same standards as domestically produced products. Products containing residues of U. S. banned chemicals shall not be allowed to be imported into the U. S. Red meat imports shall be controlled by a price trigger and reflect a parity level consistent with other ag commodities and no ag product shall be allowed entry at less than the domestic price as provided

for in the G.A.T.T. (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades) anti-dumping agreements.

Exports: The U. S. should use subsidies to maintain our market share in world trade and this device should include export PIK, adequate credit, interest buy-down, etc. U. S. subsidies should match those used by foreign governments hidden or direct.

-Farm Tax Loopholes: There should be a maximum write-off of \$20,000 for non-farm income through tax-loss farming.

-Soil Conservation: The existing soil conservation programs shall be continued and expanded in problem areas.

-Farm Credit (FmHA): re-schedule farm debt on a case-by-case basis to allow the operation to meet cash-flow requirements necessary to continue operation. Terms of the

loan (20 year maximum) shall be established by county committee. The county committee shall be elected by farm operators in a county referendum and shall be a functioning loan committee of no fewer than five people! Three of which must be farm operators, elected by their peers which will in turn appoint two others, one from the financial community, and one holding a public office. New applications must be accepted for consideration and any economic emergency (EE), emergency disaster (EM), or operating (OL) loans not acted upon within 60 days must be automatically approved.

-ASCS: County ASCS committees shall make all decision relating to soil and water conservation practices, including cover crops, haying and grazing dates, etc. The ASCS community committee must be continued with no fewer committees than in place in 1980.

AAM calling for march on Washington, D.C.

The American Agriculture Movement, Inc. is calling for a Farmer's Parity March on Washington, D. C., Monday, March 4, through Friday, March 8.

All farmers, ranchers, labor, consumers, Main Street businessmen, environmentalists, hunters, church groups and all other interested people who believe "we should save the family farm system," are urged to march with the AAM group.

A spokesman for the group said, "We will not get another chance, we must get parity in agriculture now! Monday, March 4, will begin with a rally on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial at 12 noon, followed by a

march to the United States Department of Agriculture. Tuesday through Friday will be lobbying days. Farmers will be coming by plane, train, automobiles and who knows how else. Rumor has it some may bring equipment, tractors, trucks, etc., that FmHA is foreclosing on. If so, it will be left for Secretary Block to dispose of appropriately.

AAM hopes all other farm organizations and groups will support this effort.

The American Agriculture Movement, Inc. launched its 1985 farm bill offensive starting at the 6th annual convention held Jan. 10-13, 1985, in Oklahoma City.

AAM spokesman asks

David Stockman: devil or angel?

There is probably no one in America that has antagonized as many people recently as Office of Management and Budget director David Stockman.

The "boy wonder's" popularity falls in a category that includes Adolph Hitler. Having Mr. Stockman to develop farm policy is like asking Hitler to babysit Jewish children. His ignorance about agriculture was evident when he placed the blame on commodity loan rates and speculation on land. The farm problem is affecting people who never bought land, agri businesses, rural banks and all types of people directly and indirectly.

The silver lining to the black cloud of the Reagan-Stockman farm bill proposal is that it has caused some usual adversaries to become allies. The farm community has probably never been this unified in its rejection of a farm bill. With the exception of Robert Delano, American Farm Bureau Federation president, practically all farm leaders have condemned the administration's bill. Before you try to understand Delano's stance, you have to ask, "Where is Allen Grant, his predecessor?"

When Mr. Grant left AFBF, he publicly stated he was going to help develop Mr. Reagan's farm policy. With Mr. Grant behind the scenes promoting the low price, cheap food policy, it becomes a little clearer as to why David Stockman makes such ridiculous statements.

It has been terrible on morale for us to be constantly bombarded with "free market" proposals by the President, Jesse Helms, John Block and Stockman but now the worm is starting to turn. Many politicians are now openly stating that the President's bill is already dead. Its utter simplicity and the destruction it would bring to rural America is unacceptable to Republicans and Democrats alike.

The make-up of the Senate is certainly in our favor. There will be 34 members up for election in 1986. Of those 34, there are 22 Republicans. Of those 22 Republicans, there are 16 farm state Republican Senators who are in their first term. They would have to be less than bright to support Mr. Reagan's concepts and try to get elected in 1986.

On the House side, there are 43 so called "boll weevil" Democrats, cotton state conservative Democrats, who have supported much of Mr. Reagan's policies. They have sought an audience with Mr. Reagan to discuss agriculture for the past three years. He has not granted them that audience yet, the honeymoon is over, the boll weevils will surely not support the administration any further on farm legislation.

The media attention, the rural bank problems area all in our favor as the farm bill begins to take shape. The urgent credit needs are number one priority on most minds now and it certainly must be addressed.

But while attending to that, we

must not lose sight of what caused the need for all this credit. Low farm prices is the disease that must be cured. When all attention is given to credit the symptom gets treatment while the disease runs rampant.

In the coming weeks as alternatives are presented, we should see optimism increase and hopefully a direction toward sensible legislation.

American Agriculture Movement has asked farmers and agri businessmen to be in Washington, D.C. beginning March 4 on Monday for a farm rally and the next four days to be used to contact legislators. The rally will begin at the Jefferson Memorial with an address by Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa and a march to the United States Department of Agriculture and the White House.

The story we started telling in 1977 that some thought was crazy has all come true. All the hard work we've poured into creating a national farm organization of producing farmers is

now going to be put to the test. The 1985 farm bill will decide, do we keep the most productive system in history, or do we let it go forever.

The AAM thinks it's worth saving and the effort we put forth now could very well decide whether we succeed or fail. We're not big enough to do it alone but we are not alone; other farm groups, coalitions with several groups outside agriculture, make us much stronger.

With past successes, such as the target price freeze issue, under our belt and the knowledge that our political system does work when you participate in it, it's encouraging. There is more to do than just vote.

We realize that we have an obligation to our community, children and grandchildren, future children and we think it's now or never and anyone who doesn't do something shouldn't complain.

"There ain't no free lunches."

AAM—Des Arc Chapter
Telephone 255-4766



—AP Wirephoto

Farmers hold up crosses during demonstration at Agriculture Department in Washington.

Continued from Page 1A.

horseback, the group quietly marched from the memorial to the Agriculture Department, where they planted small wooden crosses bearing the names of farmers who have gone bankrupt.

From the Agriculture Department, the group walked to the White House, where they sang "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful" before dispersing to begin an organized lobbying campaign on Capitol Hill that is scheduled to go on through the week.

The march began the second week of intensive farm lobbying that started last Monday when several hundred farm-state legislators arrived to ask Congress for credit relief for farmers seeking loans for spring planting.

In response, both the House and Senate approved separate credit bills. A final version is expected to reach Mr. Reagan this week. He has repeatedly vowed to veto any credit relief measures beyond the liberalized rules for \$650 million in loan guarantees he announced last September.

Block, in response to the massive farmer lobbying effort, said Monday the government cannot and should not pay for the \$100 billion in losses suffered by American agriculture.

1,000 farmers march, ask credit, prices help

GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — More than 1,000 farmers marched to the federal Agriculture Department and the White House Monday to call for more credit aid and higher prices for their products.

Instead of using a convoy of tractors and confronting the police at barricades as they did in 1979, the organizers from the American Agriculture Movement carefully conducted a series of made-for-TV vignettes, including a prayer session in front of the Department. Only two small tractors were part of the protest Monday.

"We've smartened up because we've got to get the media to tell our story for us in the right context," David Senter, national director for AAM, said. "The media is our judge and jury."

The farmers gathered in a drizzling rain on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial, waving flags from 25 states and placards with such warnings as "Farm's Broke, Town's Broke, Cities Next" and "Parity Not Charity."

A parade of congressmen, senators and farm leaders sparked loud applause and cheers when they began to decry the administration's plan to cut farm crop supports.

Instead of President Reagan's "free market" farm policies, the speakers called for higher levels of price supports tied to parity, the rallying cry for AAM since its birth in 1977.

Escorted by both motorcycle policemen and troops of officers on

(See FARMERS on Page 10A.)

Harvey J. Sanner testifies at subcommittee hearing

Alexander farm bill endorsed by subcommittee

Ending farm embargoes would "enhance America's economic security by freeing the American farmer to export as much as he can wherever he can," Congressman Bill Alexander testified at a congressional hearing, as a subcommittee chairman and several farm and trade experts endorsed his position.

Alexander's bill to exempt farm exports from trade embargoes except in times of war or Presidentially-certified military hostilities was endorsed at the hearing by the chairman of the International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee, Rep. Don Bonker (D-Wash), and by cosponsor Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-Neb). The bipartisan bill would apply to all countries.

Harvey Joe Sanner, national president of the American Agriculture Movement, and Steve McCoy, executive director of the North American Export Grain Association and an associate director of the National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy also testified in favor of the Alexander bill.

Arkansas State University professor John Kaminarides, who conducted a major research project on the Cuban trade embargo, testified that American farmers had lost roughly \$2 billion in farm exports during the embargo's history, and the overall income effect to Arkansas of the state's decline in rice and other exports was estimated at \$446.7 million.

Alexander said.

The bill's three major goals are to allow exports of farm products to countries now subject to total trade embargoes, to provide the same exemption to any future embargoes, and to codify President Reagan's policy of not imposing "stand-alone" farm export embargoes for economic or foreign policy.

Alexander said embargoes not only prevent exports to the embargoed country, but they also "encourage expansion of agricultural production in competitor nations, who move to meet the demand in the embargoed markets, and that makes it harder for America to hold on to its market share in all countries."

Secondly, "The continued pattern of embargoes has called into question America's reputation as a reliable supplier of goods," Alexander said.

Thirdly, American farmers are deprived of unacceptably high levels of income by embargoes, and finally, embargoes simply don't work. As Steve McCoy testified concerning his work in the 1986 National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy, the commission concluded embargoes have tended to fail, "particularly since the commodities and products denied currently embargoed nations are freely available elsewhere."



Congressman Bill Alexander, Professor John Kaminarides, left, Director of the Office of Business Research and professor of economics and business at Arkansas State University, and Harvey Joe Sanner, a Prairie County farmer who is national president of the American Agriculture Movement, testified June 8 in favor of the Alexander bill to exempt farm exports from trade embargoes except in times of war or military hostilities. The chairman of the International Economic Policy and Trade Subcommittee, Rep. Don Bonker (D-Wash.) endorsed the Alexander bill at the hearing. The cosponsor is Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.).

Congressman Alexander noted that the Reagan administration's official stated policy is that agricultural embargoes "are enormously costly to U. S. producers and taxpayers." He stressed that the Soviet grain embargo in 1980, the Cuban embargo, as well as other agricultural sanctions "have only succeeded in hurting our people here in America."

Under questioning from Congressman Alexander, a Treasury Department witness conceded that despite the trade embargo against Cuba, the administration does not prevent all trade with that nation--there has actually been a relatively small but increasing amount of trade allowed with Cuba during the Reagan administration through foreign subsidiaries of U. S. companies.

Such companies can do business with Cuba by obtaining licenses from the Treasury Department, and during the Reagan years the subsidiary trade exported \$114 million and imported \$145 million from Cuba, thus running a trade deficit of \$31 million with Cuba. "We do trade with Cuba through subsidiaries, and the only thing we accomplish by the embargo is to punish farmers in Arkansas and elsewhere by depriving them of the Cuban markets for their products,"

Alexander recalled that in 1982 President Reagan promised farmers that "no farm exports will be singled out as an instrument of foreign policy, except in extreme situations, and then only as part of a broad embargo supported by our trading partners."

Alexander said the key phrase in Reagan's promise is "supported by our trading partners." When the farm products in question are readily available from many other suppliers, there is no incentive for an embargoed country to change its objectionable policies, and American farmers and traders are the only losers."

In the case of the Soviet grain embargo, the federal government stepped in with emergency programs to soften the impact on farmers, but in so doing those programs cost taxpayers roughly \$2.2 billion. Another example of the damaging impact of embargoes was the 1973 embargo on oilseed exports to all countries that reduced farm income by \$50 million.

ASU Professor Kaminarides, who traveled to Cuba this year to do research on the embargo, said the loss to American farm exports was about \$2 billion from 1965-86, while the loss to Arkansas in farm exports was \$235 million, with the overall income loss to Arkansas estimated at \$446.7 million. The direct and indirect effect on Arkansas' employ-

ment caused by the embargo led to a decrease in employment of roughly 1,400 workers, Kaminarides testified.

Alexander said that Commerce Secretary William Verity had aptly summarized the strategy to employ in attacking the trade deficits: "from a businessman's point of view, which is usually pretty simple and direct, to the extent that we can export more and import less, then we do something constructive about the trade deficit."

Thomas Kay, administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, testified that Reagan has stated that no restrictions will be imposed on farm exports because of rising domestic prices, that farm exports will not be used as an instrument of foreign policy except in extreme situations and as part of a broader embargo, and that world markets must be freed of unfair trade practices.

In explaining why the American Agriculture Movement endorsed the bill, Harvey Joe Sanner said, "We should sell to any country willing to pay a fair price for our commodities. It is absurd, for example, that we are not allowed to sell rice to our offshore neighbor, Cuba, on the basis that they are a communist country, when we sell subsidized grain to the USSR

at prices lower than Americans can buy it."

AAMA Speaks Out—

A.A.M. Asks A.S.A. to Leave Political Arena

We are constantly getting information that proves what the American Agriculture Movement has maintained all along: we can have higher prices for our production.

Two separate news stories this week told of Brazil buying soybeans from the United States. One story gave the reason as being that the Brazilian producers were holding their soybeans for higher prices and there was a shortage of soy oil so they have to come to us for beans to crush for their own use and to fill their export needs. When you have the only available supply of any commodity and continue to sell it below your cost, the intelligence of the people responsible needs review.

The American Soybean Association is the number one reason we have low soybean prices. They have told our political leaders that they speak for producers and that the vast majority of growers are happy with current legislation. • Even though their income from processors and grain companies and foreign governments nearly double what producers put in. The work that A.S.A. does in market development and research is not the issue and probably needs continuing, this is what their role should be. However, they have used these activities to try and justify their role in influencing legislation. In this area they have been very effective which only proves that their efforts are misdirected. Net farm income and farm debt are a good gauge of the results of their activities.

The request AAM is making of A.S.A. is for them to remove themselves from the political arena. Their leadership does have hearing problems; they don't hear producers like they do bureaucrats and processors.

There is one voice that shatters the silence and that is when you request a re-

fund of your check-off money. It worked once before when A.S.A. immediately changed their stand on the \$4.50 loan rate and asked for \$5.00. If we are to ever receive a fair price, we must stop the commodity groups and insurance companies from claiming to represent farmers.

Don't let A.S.A. humiliate you. Consider a refund — **IT'S YOUR MONEY**. If you feel you should support research, you can send the money to the University yourself. If you have beans in a Riceland Foods pool, your soybean tax was held out last week. All you have to do to get your money is to drop by the Des Arc Grain Drying Coop Office. They will provide you with the form needed. You buy one 20 cent stamp and mail the form. It's simple and easy. You have 45 days from the day it is held out to file for a refund. The money may not be significant to you, but this is your way of letting the A.S.A. know of your disapproval. The Bunge grain elevator just east of Des Arc will provide the same ac-

commodation.

The soybean tax is siphoning between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per year from the Des Arc area alone. This is one easy way to be heard. If every farmer at Des Arc would participate, it would surely be a start that could bring results. If every farmer could have read the A.S.A. testimony on the past two farm bills and had the opportunity to sit in on Congressional hearings like some of us have, then we would surely have a unanimous effort.

In the past we have relied on commodity organizations and insurance companies to speak for us because that was all we had. **NO MORE!** There is now in AAM, a producer organization established in Washington, D.C. We now have farmers capable of representing themselves and we will continue to speak for ourselves.

Never again will we allow our business to be taken care of by organizations representing everyone's interest before ours.

We have much to be thankful for in AAM in that we have a leader with the determination and knowledge of Marvin Meek. Marvin is an asset that has brought respect and credibility to AAM, not only in Washington, but around the world. He carries on his shoulders a responsibility that few men could bear. The destiny of production agriculture and the welfare of rural America hinges on the success of AAM because without a strong producer voice the condition will only worsen. There is no reason to expect any long term prosperity for agriculture without a change in our national policy and AAM is the primary vehicle we have to bring about change. Without it we can only expect more of the same because we have always known that America gets her

Strength From The Land!

Des Arc AAM Chapter, 256-4766, office, or 256-3335, 256-4620, 256-4655, or 256-3720.

REPORTED

Clinton Pledges Promotion For Arkansas Agriculture

Governor Bill Clinton told a large crowd of area farmers at Des Arc Saturday that he had kept his promise to work for Arkansas agriculture.

Due to bad weather over the state the governor was about an hour late arriving at Des Arc Saturday. He flew from Camden where he dedicated a CocaCola plant and landing was routed from Carlisle to Brinkley and back to Carlisle. However, the group of dignitaries, farmers, business people, and others who had gathered for the chili dinner and speaking did not leave. The event was sponsored by the Des Arc American Agriculture Chapter and drew a crowd from a wide area of

Central Arkansas.

Governor Clinton, who has received some harsh criticism in recent weeks for some pieces of legislation he pushed through the special session, said, "I am surprised no one blamed me for the weather."

The governor said he regretted the publicity the teacher-testing law had received, saying, "this has blotted out many other rulings that are more important." He said he had never criticized Arkansas' teachers and he had received thousands of letters from all parts of the state who are all for the new education standards and are glad to pay for it." He added that he was sorry that he had been the cause of so much condemnation but "will stick to my guns" for higher education standards for Arkansas.

Governor Clinton, expressing "it's an honor and pleasure to be here", came to talk about Arkansas agriculture and said he would join with other Democrats in drafting a plank for the Democratic platform next year that would be worthy of support of the farmers. "We are going to try to make the Democratic party worthy of support of the farm groups."

Governor Clinton pointed out that farm policy is dictated as much by the State Department as the Agriculture Department. Also, he said, the Federal Reserve Board creates interest rates



Gov. Clinton speaking at Des Arc meeting

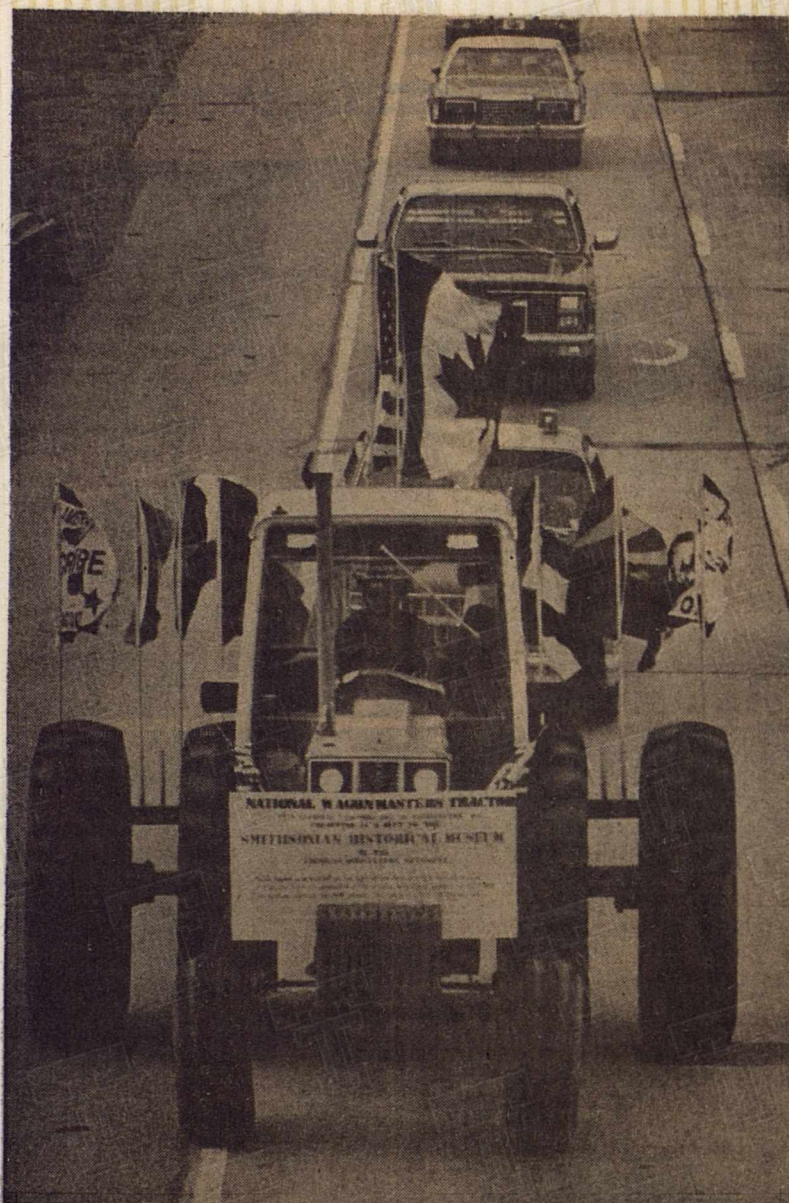
and strong dollars; everything going overseas is more expensive; much of our industrial section has been lost to foreign labor; the export policy, Democrat or Republican, has killed farm prices." He commended Secretary Block for his PIK program, stating, "Even though it has been costly, he, at least, tried something out of the ordinary." "As long as markets are like they are, farmers will have to intensify economy; study and compare manner of exporting; consider non-producing program. He advised, "try to

sell at approved price, if you can't, sell it anyway."

Commenting on inflation, Governor Clinton said, "Prices have dropped because Arabs have been killing each other; they can't get together on what to charge for oil; if it turns around, we could be in trouble again."

Governor Clinton did not bring any real answers to the farmers' problems but he said, "When I campaigned last year, I talked to a lot of farmers; I obligated myself to be a voice for them." He said he kept

(Continued on Page 10)



Arkansas Democrat/Kitty Francis

Headed east

Bill Bowls of England at controls of the National Wagonmaster as it heads east through Arkansas, bound for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Members of the American Agricultural Movement staged a "tractorcade" Friday to carry letters about the plight of the American farm family to President Reagan. Bowls and other farmers are carrying letters from Gov.-elect Bill Clinton and the governors of Texas and Oklahoma.

Clinton (Continued)

his promise to appoint a full time legislative liaison assistant for agriculture; the first time ever in Arkansas.

Governor Clinton commented on the increasing costs of wells to find water and dry wells. "You can see that we need the legal framework to facilitate more efficient use of our surface water," adding, "I would like to see huge holding ponds of surface water."

The governor referred to this district's legislative representatives, stating, "You are extremely well represented by Senator Mike Beebe and Representative Bobby Glover - and 'try to get me to do something for you.'"

One of his listeners jibed the governor "did you learn from Frank White"; Gov. Clinton said, "I learned a lot from Frank White and gave the lessons back to him."

The governor was introduced by Senator Beebe of Searcy, who says he believes the spirit of the independent farmer exemplifies the American way, said the governor tells them, "I'm a great American; if you vote with me, you're a great American." In a humorous vein, the senator said, "If he doesn't do what we want him to do for agriculture, next time Floyd Calhoun can introduce him."

Senator Beebe said, "I feel that farmers are the single most powerful group - if agriculture does well, everyone does - and, if Washington will realize the vital importance of agriculture to our State, Nation and World." He added, "You can take solace and pride in the fact that Governor Clinton is devoted and dedicated to getting this done."

Others speaking briefly to the group were Otis Chapman, a long-time AAM spokesman from Scott, and State AAM president Jack Cothern of Wynne. Chap-



CHILI SERVING TABLE: Three brands of chili, mild, hot and "Oh My Gosh", were served at AAM's chili dinner last Saturday. Senator Mike Beebe, second from left, was among dignitaries attending. Others at the serving table, l to r: Bettis Campbell, Jimmy Holloway, Jimmy Flanagan, Donald DeVore and C. W. Sears.

man advised farmers to start now making plans for available farm credit. He said, "FHA has \$600,000,000 available for 75 counties in Arkansas; Lonoke County has already spoken for \$20,000,000; it's available on a first come-first served basis. If you are going to stay in business, you must watch your credit source and stay after it. Cothern plauded the Des Arc Chapter leader and national AAM delegate Harvey Joe Sanner, stating, "He is the best organizer in the state."

Representative Glover also commended the active AAM movement, stating, "I admire your backbone and intestinal fortitude; you stay in there and work for farmers of Arkansas." He also commended the wives who take part in the work of the farm group, "Prairie County has the most active group in the state."

Glover commended Clinton for his appointment of Charles Eddy Smith as liaison agricultural assistant, "he has been a great help to the agriculture committee and to me. The governor has

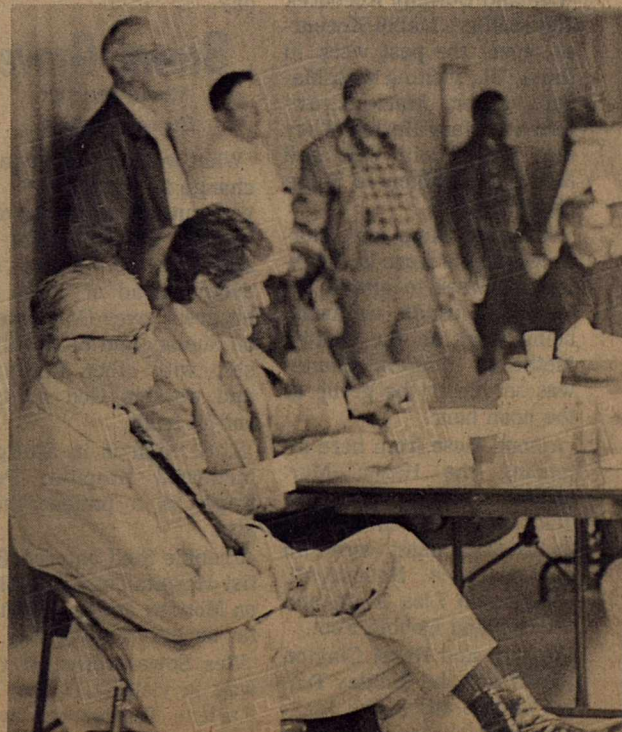
beefed promotion of the industry and is not leaving it up to rice growers, rice council and farm groups." He invited chairmen of AA groups to "come before us and tell us what we can do better for them." Glover stated that he had introduced a resolution requesting that Washington use only American flag ships to transport grain from this country - "the legislature has helped in this area," he said. He also commended the work done by Gov. Clinton in doing the paper work that resulted in Prairie County and some other counties being declared disaster areas.

Commenting on the recent special session, Rep. Glover said, "We passed over 100 bills pertaining to education," calling them constructive steps in educating our young people. He pointed to legislation he sponsored setting a crime task force, and stated, "Sixty four percent of the criminals in our prisons are age 15-25 and have a fifth grade education."

Sanner, emcee for the program, called attention to the

many farm groups over the past 100 years that have addressed the agriculture problem - and failed. "We have asked ourselves - why did they fail?" He said, "We know now, after six years of examination, that there are workable solutions and we feel better about being able to be effective." "We have been to the 'horse's mouth'; we have been told there are too many farmers by Leng (he hasn't learned a lot); Mills says

there are solutions; we have worked to Washington and back with a lot of people - the time may be right in 1984; we want someone who will represent production agriculture, who is speaking for farmers." He said, "I am not lending support to any Democrat or otherwise who is not concerned with our survival." He called on Gov. Clinton to "devote the same diligence to the agriculture problem as you have to education."



Governor Clinton stops for bowl of chili before speaking here Saturday (G. P. Mullen in foreground)

Frustrated farmers gather in Jonesboro looking for solutions

By LYNNETTE MCINTIRE
Staff Reporter

JONESBORO, Ark. — Many of the 1,200 farmers who came to an American Agriculture Movement crisis meeting here yesterday said they came out of frustration.

"I just came to listen," said Keith Perkins, 23, a Bono, Ark., farmer who is not an AAM member. "We're fixing to have to sell out. The bank ain't letting us have any money this year, and we don't have any money to live on." His father, who also is not an AAM member, came with him. "The trouble is our price (received for commodities) isn't high enough," said Jim Perkins, who farms 1,000 acres with his son.

All the speakers at the Jonesboro meeting echoed the Perkins men. Farm prices have been far outstripped by production costs, leaving farmers in debt and abandoning the land. Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, Texas agriculture commissioner Jim Hightower, Rep. Bill Alexander (D-Ark.) and a half dozen other speakers blamed government policy for the farmer's struggles.

"You are being crucified by your own successes," Clinton told

the enthusiastic crowd. Farmers have not shared in the economic recovery and are now asked to bear an even greater burden of this year's deficit-cutting budget proposed by Reagan, Clinton said.

"I think it's wrong to string up and leave to dry the people who have already paid the price" of America's economic recovery, said Clinton.

He said current farm program proposals, which cut 15 percent of the farm budget, are based on ignorance. "I'm convinced that most people in public life don't believe farming is in bad shape. They think there's always somebody crying at budget time," he said.

Hightower, famous for his homespun sarcasm, put it more bluntly: Reagan's farm policy "is so ugly it will wrinkle your shirt," Hightower said. "These guys couldn't run a watermelon stand if you gave them the melons and had the state police flag down the cars."

Hightower came to Jonesboro to promote his own agricultural policy plan. He is on an intensive corn belt tour to gain grassroots

(See FARMERS on Page A11)

Farmers meet to

(Continued from Page A1)

support that will pressure Capitol Hill, he said.

The plan, called "A Populist Proposal to Save America's Family Farms," advocates strict mandatory production controls; minimal floor prices that would match production costs; the targeting of farm program benefits on medium and small sized farms, with minimal acreage controls for those operations; and an aggressive Food For Peace program.

The program will be politically attractive because subsidy payments would be replaced by guaranteed loans that would not sap the federal budget, said Hightower. "Our program is cheaper than Reagan's and more free en-

terprise oriented because the government's only role would be to control production," said Hightower.

Clinton recounted his plans to increase farm sales abroad and a current state bill that would allow banks to hold farm assets up to 10 years so banks would not be tempted to dump foreclosed farm land on a depressed market.

Harvey Jo Sanner, Arkansas AAM president, said his organization supports increases in the loan level to make it reflect production costs; mandatory production controls; loan terms long enough to ride through bad times; and loans through banks instead of the government so as not to sap the budget.

Farmers here were looking for

build political clout

answers. They already knew the problems.

Donna Shoop's family in Memphis, Mo., already has filed for bankruptcy. They owe a total of \$1 million in debts, \$500,000 of it on their land. She said the family is frantically negotiating with farm creditors for a new loan to buy seed, fuel and all the other things needed in spring. "We're still trying to restructure our debts," she said.

Meanwhile, her two sons are growing bitter, her husband is confused and "and hardly a day goes by when I don't cry."

Crowds like Jonesboro's encourage her, though. It means that farmers may be gathering enough political clout to change things, she said.

Organizers of the event said they were surprised by the turnout. A room for 600 was originally scheduled for the meeting, but the crowd forced the motel to move the meeting to a large indoor patio area.

Hightower said the Jonesboro crowd was not an isolated incident. A rally this week in Greenville, Ill., attracted 400 farmers. Four meetings in Missouri have attracted crowds of farmers in the last two weeks.

"It's a tidal wave of dissent and political power. We're trying to ride the crest of the wave," he said.

(Pictures on Page B1, additional farm stories on Page B4)

Says AAM Spokesman

Last Talks A Farce

Nov. 5, 1981

The writing of the 1981 Farm Bill is entering final stages this week as House and Senate conferees start to work. Dennis Robertson, ag aide to Senator David Pryor, called the Des Arc office Tuesday to say that he (Robertson) was going to Washington to work on the Farm Bill. Dennis is scheduled to be back late Friday and plans to attend to State AAM meeting at Brinkley this Saturday at 3 p. m.

He, like us, expects nothing of any significance in the conferees bill, but, hopes to retain the House provisions on target and loan on rice. The Reagan Administration has threatened a veto if there is any variation from the Senate version.

The whole process takes on the appearance of a phony charade for the public's benefit when we know the bill in effect, written some months ago when the administration set the cap for agricultural appropriations. The quibbling over nickels and dimes for the different commodities seems ridiculous when the outlay for agriculture is only 2 percent of the total budget.

The National AAM discovered a document in the Congressional Record recently that explains why the farm bills have taken the course they have. After reading this report, we called Washington and had a hundred copies sent to the Des Arc Chapter office.

This report was put into the Congressional Record June 21, 1972, by Congressman

Melcher. It is called: "The Young Executives Plan to Liquidate Farmers."

This committee was made up of 15 young employees in USDA chaired by Assistant Secretary Richard Lyng, who is presently an under-secretary.

Here are some excerpts taken from their report:

Page 21737: "Income from farming should be of concern only to the extent that it affect the level of resources attracted to the industry and hence the industry's ability to produce efficiently adequate supplies of food and fiber."

"The number of farms or farm population size is irrelevant except as these influence performance of the agricultural industry."

Page 21739: "The committee recommends elimination of the F.H.A. farm ownership loan and farm-operation loan programs."

Page 21741: "The committee's recommendations remove from agricultural policy the welfare considerations of small farmers and other rural residents."

The committee proposes a Family Assistance Plan for dislocated farmers that would include cash payments while you are being trained for another occupation. This occupation could be sitting on a porch in a ghetto waiting for the next check.

Their goals of removing farmers will be brought about with pricing. Through lowering of supports, import-export policy and other methods, government can

bring about the changes.

Here is a quote from one of the influential agricultural economists, Kenneth Boulding, Dept. of Economics, University of Michigan: "The only way I know to get toothpaste out of a tube is to squeeze, and the only way to get people out of agriculture is likewise - to squeeze agriculture. If the toothpaste is thin, you don't have to squeeze very hard; on the other hand, if the toothpaste is thick, you have to put real pressure on it. If you can't get people out of agriculture easily, you are going to have to do farmers a severe injustice in order to solve the problem of allocation."

This information is available at the Des Arc AAM Office; please stop by and pick up a copy.

We may not be successful in our efforts to stop this transfer of wealth from agriculture to other segments, but, we are not going to sit on our hands and gripe without at least trying. It isn't going to be easy or quick, but, we have a start in the right direction.

A. A. M. Spokesman

Des Arc A.A.M. Chapter

P. S.: Three-wheeler tickets are available now at the local office. The ATC Honda will be on display next week at Nichols Implement Co., Des Arc. The following week, they can be bought at Des Arc Implement Co., and at Gaines Implement the next week. Charge for tickets is \$1.00 and the drawing will be held Dec. 19, 1981.

Congress Ready To Solve Ag Problems, Farmers Told Here

By TAMMY SMITH

Arkansas Senators Dale Bumpers and David Pryor and controversial Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts had harsh words concerning the "farm crisis" at Friday's American Agriculture Movement membership rally at the Holiday Inn in Jonesboro, but all offered words of praise and encouragement to the packed room of farmers, bringing the audience to its feet several times during the speeches.

Bumpers began the evening session by telling the more than 1,000 farmers he believes the vast majority of people are indifferent to the plight of the American farmer, but he contended that Congress is more sensitive than ever before to their plight.

Bumpers stood above and behind a huge banner entitled "Farm Crisis Meeting!" and told the group that farmers had been dealt a "double whammy" because as farm prices have declined, so have land values. He added that he has just introduced a bill to consolidate seven Farm Home Administration programs into one, which would help the farmers to some extent.

He said he would like to include that the FmHA could only take the amount of collateral needed on a loan. "Right now, they take your

house, your wife and your kids," Bumpers said, getting applause from the audience.

"I think Congress is in the mood to do something," Bumpers said. "I don't know how to get farm prices up. We can talk about managing the supply side. We can talk about all those things, but the truth of the matter is we've got to get your commodity price up above your price of production so you can make a profit."

"If we could increase our exports by 10-20 percent, it would be advantageous," he said. In closing, he said he would do everything in his power not to let the greatest segment of the economy, the family farm, "go down the tubes."

Pryor, who is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

said he saw a "new coalition forming across America at a rapid rate." He said the bankers, the farmers and small business people are "in the soup together."

"People from all walks of life ... one way or another, their future is dependent, indirectly or directly, on whether the people in this room make it or not."

He said he had written President Ronald Reagan a letter before the State of the Union address and asked him not to let what happened in last year's address happen — fail to mention the plight of the farmer or the word "agriculture."

"I asked President Reagan not to forget us in 1985, but I made a mistake," Pryor said. "The president did talk about agriculture Wednesday night, but what he said, in effect, was ... when he talked about farmers he said, the bottom line is, we're in a recession and we're going into a de-

(See CONGRESS Page 2)

Inside The



Today

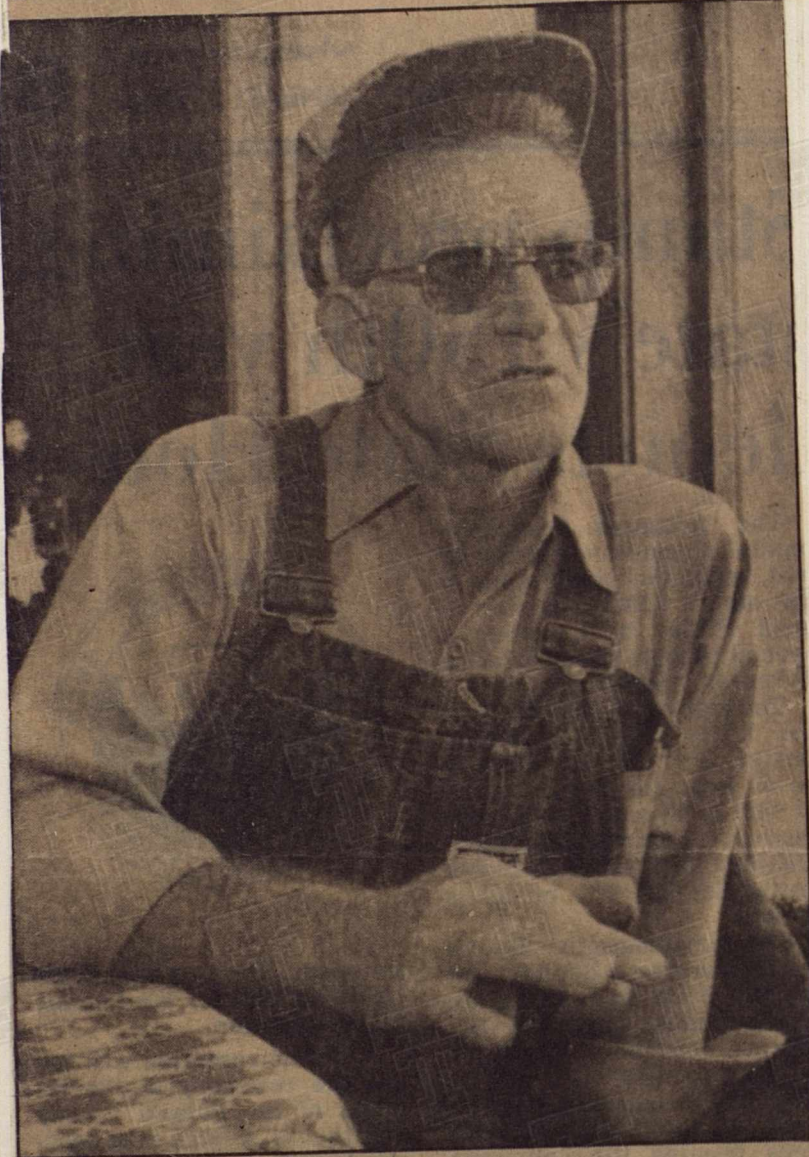
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SATURDAY, Feb. 9, 1985.



FARM CRISIS — Jack Cothran of Wynne (at podium), president of the Arkansas American Agriculture Movement, said the crowd for Thursday's AAM meeting in

Jonesboro was far larger than organizers had expected. Seated at right is Harvey Sanner of Des Arc, another AAM leader.



Associated Press

FARMER LOBBYIST — Lonoke County farmer Odis Chapman, 51, says the methods of the American Agriculture Movement have changed in recent years, and so has farmers' attire. "We're businessmen, big businessmen, and we dress according to the occasion."

Farm activists say lobbying has made sophisticated turn

The Associated Press

SCOTT — Odis Chapman wore denim overalls when he worked his Lonoke County farm and figured the outfit was appropriate for the American Agriculture Movement's 1977 tractorcade to Washington.

But Chapman, 51, state spokesman for the farmer's group, said protesters in overalls and wayward tractors would be less effective nowadays than suits and ties. So he swapped his denims for dressier garb while he lobbied the 1985 farm bill on Capitol Hill.

"We've graduated. We're businessmen, big businessmen, and we dress according to the occasion," he said in an interview at a country store near his farm.

Harvey Joe Sanner, 42, of Des Arc, the AAM delegate from Arkansas, said that he made a dozen trips to Washington this year. "Neighbors harvested part of my crops," he said. "Yes, it's changed. You see more neckties than overalls. When in Rome, do as the Romans do. It's uncommon now to see overalls up there. Farmers can buy suits and ties, too, and we don't just wear them to weddings and funerals and church."

The switch in attire is symbolic of changes in the farmer group's lobbying methods, Sanner said.

"The way we look at it, we can't afford not to go to Washington," Sanner said. "We stayed home for too long, and that's why agriculture is in the shape it's in. It's like putting high-priced chemicals out to kill weeds. You can't afford not to do it."

On Saturday, Dec. 17, 1977, a caravan of tractors and farm vehicles chugged into Washington to protest declining farm prices. Sanner's red International Harvester was among them. He still uses the tractor on his farm.

On the following Monday, tractors mixed with commuter traffic and rumbled onto the Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and Capitol Hill. Many stayed through the winter in the shadow of the Smithsonian's museums.

About 3,500 farmers left by bus and car April 13, still angry, after the House plowed under a grain and cotton growers' aid bill by a 268-150 vote.

The American Agriculture Movement's leaders said President Carter was responsible and promised retaliation with their votes. Carter had promised to veto the bill as unwarranted and inflationary.

"The tractorcade served its purpose," Chapman said. "The place for a tractor is in the field and not up and down the interstate highways. But this was necessary to get the attention of Congress and the attention of the American people at

what was really happening to their food source."

Chapman said he stayed at a motel about four blocks from Capitol Hill when working in 1985 as a lobbyist for AAM. "They have the economy rates. It's not the Hilton, but it's clean, it's sufficient."

The tab was paid by AAM with contributions from farmers, Chapman said. "If we had to be on our own expenses, there's no possible way we could go. But \$5 here, \$5 there, and the first thing you know, when it's necessary for somebody to be in Washington to represent the farmers from the grass-roots level, enough of these \$5 and \$10 contributions and you've got a plane ticket and you've got a place to stay for a week."

Chapman said he has learned a lot about the legislative process. Sanner added that he is frustrated by the ways of Washington, especially the slow movement of legislation. He said he was learning patience.

Sanner said the tractorcade was prompted because lawmakers were not listening to farmers. "I'd say we have their attention now, but it's hard to convince farmers you are accomplishing a whole lot because things move so slow in Washington."

"We've managed to keep delegates from Arkansas up there almost the whole year," Chapman said. "We have to alternate. The other farmers kind of take care of our work while we're gone."

"We go as cheaply as we can. We take Saturday flights if they'll save money, and many folks share rides to Washington when they drive," Sanner continued. "I buy my own meals, because I figure I'd eat no matter where I was or what I was doing ... We probably spend fewer dollars per man-hour than any other group. But I try to remember these are farmers' dollars we're spending. I won't waste a neighbor's money."

"We feel it's money well-spent. It's just as necessary as money for chemicals, fuel and seeds."

Arkansas Soybean Association members

(Continued from Page 1)

HARVEY Joe Sanner, left, Des Arc, Ark. farmer tells Mack Howington, Lepanto, Ark. that market-oriented agriculture programs have not worked for American farmers.



the government loan — there will be a point at which the government stops buying our crops."

Referring to the OPEC cartel controlling the world's supply of oil to the industrialized world, Rose said, "Everyone maintained that \$32 per barrel was too high, that we couldn't pay it."

"So, people found ways to reduce their usage and today OPEC has had to cut its production sharply and they can't sell their oil at \$29 a barrel."

"The same thing can happen to soybeans if we get our price so high the world can't buy," Rose declared. "We'll only be building supply, with no demand."

Production cuts

"And that can only lead to production cuts. I personally don't feel I can stay in farming if I'm forced to idle half my land each year to comply with the restraints that would be necessitated by a high loan."

Farmer Jim Bush, who also opposed Sanner's motion, said "I don't like low prices for our crops, but I feel the American Soybean Association has served the farmer well."

"I think the farmer's major problem today is high interest rates, a strong dollar, and a lack of exports. I would rather see ASA work at solving those problems than to support a higher loan rate."

Sanner countered that "\$5.02 is nowhere near the cost of producing soybeans, and a higher loan rate need not be an incentive to produce more."

To stay afloat

"I — and most farmers I know — produce because we have to in order to stay in business, but we can't do it below the costs of production.

"Soybean prices have to be tied to corn or something else realistic to farmer costs, and not to the needs of processors and the grain trade.

"As for the OPEC analogy, they're still selling \$2 a barrel oil for \$29, which isn't a bad profit margin."

In a vote by the small group of farmer members present, Saner's motion to change the resolution's wording to support a higher loan rate was defeated.

Gil Harrison, division manager for the American Soybean Association's Latin American division, reported that market development efforts in that area have been paying off handsomely in terms of added markets for American soybeans.

"When I started work in the area over a decade ago, soybean consumption in Mexico was practically nil; last year we exported 58 million bushels to them."

Further increases

Exports to all Latin American nations last year totaled more than 100 million bushels, Harrison noted.

"By keeping up our work and expanding our market developing efforts, we feel we can increase this amount by 30 percent by 1990.

A "tremendous opportunity" exists in developing markets for soybean protein in human nutrition programs, he said.

"This represents less than two percent of our sales now, but we

(Continued on Page 23)

debate loan levels

(Continued from Page 22)

think that by 1990 this can be increased by 15 million bushels in Mexico alone."

Harrison said new sales can be generated from a rapidly-developing aquaculture industry in Latin America.

"Teams from Mississippi and Arkansas are working to help them develop catfish and shrimp production, which will utilize a lot of soybean meal. We see a potential there for five million bushels of consumption by 1990."

Livestock uses

Approximately half the soybeans now sold to Latin American nations are used for livestock feeding rations, Harrison noted.

"All the governments want a larger supply of animal protein for better diets, and we're showing them how soybeans can help accomplish this.

"Poultry feeding uses 60 percent of all soybean meal consumed in Latin America. Chicken was once rare in diets there; now they eat it every day."

Pork production takes 35 percent of all soybean meal, Harrison said.

Because there is "a chronic shortage of vegetable oil in all of Latin America," he said ASA has been working to persuade governments to lift restrictions regarding content and labeling.

"Competition from U.S. products remains a worry, particularly from American sunflower and Canadian rapeseed products. ASA programs will continue to be aimed at helping American farmers maintain their hard-won market share.

"These markets have not been inherited, nor have they come about by accident or by government programs. There are still a lot of prosperous soybean farmers who think these markets just happen and that market research/development doesn't accomplish much," Harrison said.

"We're making progress. Venezuela, for example, is now one of our largest soybean oil markets as a result of their lifting some of their restrictions."

Competition analyzed

Latin American soybean growers do not present as much competition for U.S. farmers as is often thought, Harrison said.

"Brazil and Argentina can't really compete with American soybeans in Latin American markets, because they're too far away. We have a tremendous freight advantage in shipping beans to Latin America."

Mexico has few farmers trained for large scale production, he said.

"And there is no Extension Service in Mexico to help farmers become better producers.

"I think we will see more of these soybean-producing nations deciding to keep more of their beans at home, processing them into oil and meal, and selling them as value-added products in world markets.

"They are more and more going to find that they can't compete with the U.S. in raw soybeans; we're going to be able to continue to dominate this market.

"We must keep exploiting our advantage as the most reliable supplier of whole soybeans in the world," Harrison said.

Continuing fight

That will necessitate a continuing fight against import restrictions by other nations that would limit movement of soybeans, and against subsidies to farmers in those nations, he noted.

"How long can a lot of these nations, many of which have tremendous debts, be able to continue subsidizing farmers and pushing their countries closer to bankruptcy?"

U.S. farmers will need to keep taking the initiative to protect their markets and develop additional outlets for soybeans, Harrison said.

Sanner reports from Food Conference

Says, "present" farm policies, economic suicide for rural America

By PAULA SKARDA

Harvey Joe Sanner, local farmer, progressive farm activist and national president of the American

Agricultural Movement, reporting from the World Food Conference, Des Moines, Iowa, denounced Reagan administration's farm policies as "economic suicide for rural

America."

The four-day conference, drawing 500 representatives from 35 world countries, U.S. states, progressive farm organizations, academic professionals and agri-political leaders, addressed issues of world hunger and agri policies, Sanner said.

Clayton Yeutter, U.S. trade representative, speaking for the Reagan administration, "outlined administration plans to move U.S. agri policy from democratic governing to GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariff), a worldwide organization," Sanner said.

"U.S. farm policy, designed to eliminate farm programs over the next 10 years, will be on the table for discussion at a GATT meeting in December.

"If adopted, U.S. farm policy would be drawn from the GATT accord, eliminating all farm programs including the Extension Service," Sanner said.

"Farmers need to wake up and be aware of the potential danger if this approach is followed," he said.

Sanner commented that he was encouraged by the general consensus of the representatives that the administration approach to agri policy was "not well received."

"AAM doesn't deny the need for changes in farm programs, but not to

SEE CONFERENCE (On Page 3)

CONFERENCE—

CONTINUED

the extent suggested by the Reagan administration.

"The Reagan solution to lower prices would bankrupt cities and the farm credit system, because, that solution doesn't work until there is wide-spread destruction.

"Lower prices won't solve the problem of surpluses, but will destroy the base of production agriculture. That approach won't work," Sanner continued.

"AAM's approach - supply management, makes more sense. Fair prices world-wide is not an impossible dream," he said.

Citing the need for new direction, Sanner commented, "a change of attitude is needed in Washington. Leaders must recognize that program mismanagement has been faulty."

Highlighting the slate of conference speakers was Lord Henry Plumb, president of the European Parliament.

"Plumb seemed to have a solid grasp on world-wide agricultural problems and spoke out against the Reagan plan," Sanner said.

"Overall, the conference went well. Progressive farm organization representatives, were able to voice their views to world leaders at the meeting."

"We are fortunate that producing farmers took part in the conference. In the past, producers have allowed economists and political leaders not capable of addressing rural problems, speak for them," Sanner commented.

Following the conference, Sanner flew to Washington, where he testified before a House of Representatives sub-committee on an Anti-Embargo bill sponsored by Arkansas First District Congressman Bill Alexander. If approved, the Bill would forbid embargoes of any type from being placed, except in cases of shooting incidents.

Policies blamed for crisis

Des Arc farmer hits
Block's farm bill

GAZETTE WASHINGTON BUREAU
WASHINGTON — Government policies, not mismanagement by farmers, are to blame for the current agricultural crisis, Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc, Ark., a national director of the American Agricultural Movement, told two congressional panels Tuesday.

In testimony before the House Agriculture Committee and one of its subcommittees, Sanner sharply criticized a proposed farm bill unveiled recently by Agriculture Secretary John R. Block.

The measure, which would lower government price supports and move to a "free-market" farm economy, would "bankrupt tens of thousands of farmers," Sanner said. He said the proposal would continue a longstanding "cheap food" policy that keeps agricultural prices too low for American farmers to make a living.

Sanner is one of about 45 Arkansas farmers in Washington this week for a series of rallies and congressional meetings. He said the meetings had been encouraging, because "with the circumstances getting as bad as it is and [President] Reagan and [Budget Director David A.] Stockman proposing something so utterly ridiculous *** it may give us a chance to come up with something better this time."

American Agriculture leaders argue that the government could "have a better farm bill at lower cost than what they [administration officials] are proposing," Sanner said. That could be accomplished by enhancing United States exports and placing more controls on farm production, he said.





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HARVEY JOE SANNER

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Tom Wagner
PRESIDENT

Ray Reed
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Democratic

Agriculture Council



Democratic National Committee

1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 797-5900

Jim Hightower
Chairman

December 16, 1983

Mr. Harvey Joe Sanner
P.O. Box 908
Des Arc, Arkansas 72040

Dear Harvey Joe:

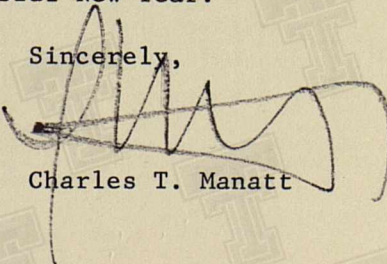
Thank you for your participation in our Agriculture Forum on December 3 in Memphis. I understand that the meeting was a great success, and I appreciate your efforts.

We have quite a bit of work ahead of us this year. However, with your help and the leadership of Jim Hightower, as the Chairman of the Agriculture Council, I do not see how we can fail.

Again, thank you, and I look forward to working with you this year.

Best wishes for a successful New Year.

Sincerely,


Charles T. Manatt

Road to Pope County Jail Paved With Cryts' Anger, Soft-spoken Stubbornness

This article recounts how Wayne Cryts, a hero to some but to others a man whose actions have been detrimental to the rights of other farmers, wound up in the Pope County Jail.

Knight News Service

RUSSELLVILLE — Wayne Cryts, the Missouri farmer who so far has refused to tell who helped him take 31,000 bushels of soybeans out of a bankrupt grain elevator, holds court each day for those who stream to his jail cell.

County judges, congressmen and gubernatorial candidates praise him and seek his counsel. Deputy sheriffs pass along dozens of long distance telephone calls, lock his cell only at night and open their homes to his relatives. Farmers' wives write him poetry. Schoolchildren wear yellow ribbons for him. The mayor of Russellville gave him the key to the city.

In Contempt of Court

Cryts, 35, a normally soft-spoken man with a high school education and a stubborn spirit, is in jail for contempt of court for refusing to answer a question from federal Bankruptcy Judge Charles W. Baker in Little Rock.

Last year, when the company that owned the grain elevator went bankrupt and the stored soybeans were declared to be assets of the bankrupt corporation, Cryts led a crowd of 5,000 angry farmers who pushed past FBI agents and federal marshals, broke into the padlocked elevator, and seized what he said were his soybeans.

Later, to avoid the court's selling his soybeans out from under him,



—Staff Photo

WAYNE CRYTS

Cryts moved them from another elevator in violation of the judge's order. Then he sold them.

American Agriculture Movement members from throughout the country parade in front of the Postoffice and Court Building in Little Rock each day waving placards that say, "Held Hostage In America."

If Cryts is being held hostage, so, in a sense, is Judge Baker. Since he sent Cryts to jail, someone has sent wreckers to tow away his car in the middle of the night. A box of roses was sent to his wife with a note purporting to be from the judge. "I'm sorry I hurt you, darling," it said. A bouquet of dead roses in a black box arrived for the judge. Bumper stickers read, "Hang The Judge."

Plumbers, termite eradicators and

(See ROAD on Page 5B.)

Road to Pope County Jail Paved With Cryts' Anger, Soft-spoken Stubbornness

Continued from Page 1B.

cabs have been sent to the judge's home by callers purporting to be the judge. The anonymous phone calls haven't been pretty, either.

The showdown between Cryts and Judge Baker, a loquacious man with a reputation for blunt talk and a stiff backbone, has fueled a major challenge to the powers of federal bankruptcy courts and called into question the safety of millions of bushels of grain stored each year in elevators across the South and Midwest.

Are Unsecured Creditors

But under federal bankruptcy law, farmers are unsecured creditors whose ownership of commodities in storage is considered only after secured creditors such as banks get their money.

The Senate passed a bill last year to give farmers priority and to protect the warehouse receipts that farmers and lenders have long considered to be a sort of second currency in the agricultural community. The bill is now under attack by banking lobbyists in the House.

Cryts' problems began in late 1979, when he stored his 2,000-acre farm's soybeans — a crop worth more than a quarter of a million dollars — in a grain elevator in Ristine, Mo. He got warehouse receipts for the 31,000 bushels and paid the rent in advance. He did not sell them to the elevator, as some farmers do.

But the next summer, before Cryts sold his grain, the company that operated the Ristine elevator and 10 others in Arkansas and Missouri declared bankruptcy. Soon, a shortage of grain was discovered.

The company was owned by the James family of Corning. Don James, one of the three brothers who formed the heart of the company, was later sentenced to five years in prison for violating state grain warehouse laws, with all but two years suspended.

To settle creditors' claims, Judge Baker ruled that the court-appointed bankruptcy trustee could sell the grain and pool the money. Proceeds of the sale are expected to go to the farmers or other creditors, after deductions for legal costs, storage and spoiled grain.

Says He Had Taken Enough

Wayne Cryts grew up on a farm in Puxico, Mo., (population 650) that has been in his family since the late 1800s. Now, sipping coffee in a blue prisoner uniform in the Pope County Detention Center, he insists he has taken enough from a government that seems determined to break farmers, not help them.

"I began to notice that since 1974 our farm was producing as good as ever but we weren't making a profit any more. We were steady losing equity and living on credit and the value of the land. I could see that if something didn't happen, my children [a boy 15 and a girl 14] could one day lose our farm."

The seizure of his grain, he said, "was the last straw. I couldn't have

lived with myself if I didn't stand up for what was mine."

So, after warning federal marshals what he was going to do, Cryts showed up at the guarded Ristine elevator. The marshals read him a court order barring anyone from disturbing the elevator.

He got into his truck and drove toward the marshals. They parted, allowing him and 70 other friends to retrieve the grain, which they put in another warehouse.

Again the judge ordered Cryts to leave it alone. Again Cryts took it out. This time, he stored it on his own land and that of his neighbors, later selling it.

After a hearing that Cryts failed to attend, Judge Baker prepared to sign an order finding him in civil contempt of court and fining him more than \$200,000 plus \$1,500 a day. The order was never signed because Cryts asked to reopen the hearing so he could present his side.

Judge Baker will not comment on the case for publication, but the draft provides an insight into his feelings. It noted that Cryts and his followers think "they are in some fashion champions of the interests of farmers. The truth, however, is quite the reverse." He described them as concerned only with their own interests.

When Cryts refused to tell, during a hearing in February, who had helped him take the beans or what had been done with the beans, Judge Baker instituted proceedings that resulted in Cryts receiving immunity from criminal prosecution. That took away Cryts' right to use his Fifth Amendment right to silence on the witness stand. When Cryts still refused to answer questions, Judge Baker ruled that he was in contempt of court and jailed him.

Meanwhile, he sits in jail and wonders how long he will remain a celebrity. "I'm being realistic. At some point, I know the publicity is going to die down and I'm still going to be sitting here."

Local AAM Leaders Speak Out; Plan Radio Spots, Call-In Type Program On KWCK Friday, Dec. 11

Comments On "Bad" Farm Bill

As the completion of the 1981 Farm Bill draws near, it becomes apparent that farmers are their own worst enemy. The policies of some farm organizations and commodity groups that are being written into law have been financed by producers. Through insurance premiums and check off programs, we are guilty of paying for our own destruction.

When these so-called farm organizations place everyone's welfare above the producers, they only add to the problem.

Two of their favorite terms for solving the problem are 'increased exports' and 'increased productivity' - both empty and meaningless without some emphasis being on farm prices.

We, in American Agriculture Movement, realize that you can't export your way to heaven; we already ship one-half of our soybeans and rice and we still aren't receiving a fair price. We know that if we shipped 90 percent without some handle on pricing, we still have not solved any problems.

We have also learned that every other segment benefits from increased productivity.

Just the hint of increased production depresses prices enough to more than offset any producer benefits.

You all remember 1980, the shortest crop in years, yet before we planted a 1981 crop, the projected production destroyed our prices. So, it's obvious that increased productivity without regard to price is no solution.

A.A.M., I'm sure, doesn't have all the answers, but, we have certainly become educated enough to know that the leadership of any other farm groups only offer proven failures as their policies.

So, the next time you pay those dues or premiums or see where your check-off money was deducted from a grain settlement sheet, ask what is it doing. These people we have been paying claim to have a large voice in agricultural policy and the last two farm bills have followed their suggestions. So, with all their input and their receiving the type legislation they want, why is production agriculture in its present condition? Please, don't fall for the old phony baloney excuses: "inflation, the No. 1 problem" or "the world economy is the problem" or "the strong dollar abroad is the reason." These are problems, but, if they were all solved today, the underlying problem of producers being considered last would still be there.

In the coming weeks, we intend to make information available as to how the different groups influenced the farm bill. It will be up to you, the grower, to decide if you want to continue to support these organizations that forgot you when they could have helped.

Probably, as more farmers become aware of how their own money is being spent, they will demand a change.

It may seem insignificant on an individual basis, but, when you consider the check off and dues on a national level, it amounts to hun-

dreds of millions of dollars; just imagine how much good these huge amounts of money could do for farmers if it was used with producer benefits in mind. After three years of observing how these organizations have stabbed farmers in the back in Washington, it's apparent that the leaders are not going to pull their head out of the sand until farmers who are supporting them demand it. The most powerful demand you can make is to request your money back.

A good instance of how this works happened a little over a year ago. The American Soybean Association constantly testified that \$4.50 was an ample loan rate for soybeans; however, after a few weeks of growers getting refunds, they changed their story overnight and asked for, and got, a \$5.02 loan rate. They do understand when their funds are threatened.

This past week, Marvin Meek, AAM president, met with President Reagan. Marvin was invited, along with leaders of 14 other farm organizations. Only five leaders spoke and AAM and Farmers Union were the two who told the President that his Farm Bill was no good and his economic plan was doomed to failure because it forgets that agriculture is the key to a healthy national economy.

The American Soybean Association leader echoed the Farm Bureau sentiments, along with the Corn Grow-

ers Association. It doesn't seem possible that these organization leaders could be ignorant of the farm situation as agriculture industry is the nation's largest industry and consumes more goods than any other. The Farm Bureau leader told President Reagan that they were in favor of the Senate version of the Farm Bill, "the sorriest for farmers," and in favor of any cuts he wanted to make. He also recommended to the President that "if Congress went over any at all what spending limits he had set out that a Presidential veto be applied."

So, we must assume that they are either unconcerned with the problems of their members or they are gutless and afraid to stand up to the administration and tell the truth as to what is happening in rural America.

American Agriculture

Movement members should be extra proud that our President is not afraid to carry our sentiments to the President of the United States. He is not so far removed from farming as some of the others and his position is not nearly as lucrative as the others. If there is a bright spot in all of this, it is the hope that many more farmers will finally see some of these phonies for what they really are. And, it makes more obvious the need for our organization to never give up and to grow stronger to better serve farmers. If we ever expect change, we, the producing farmers, will have to cause it. It seems that our strength is growing among agri business and rural merchants as our problem increasingly becomes theirs.

Equipment Gathering on Grounds Now

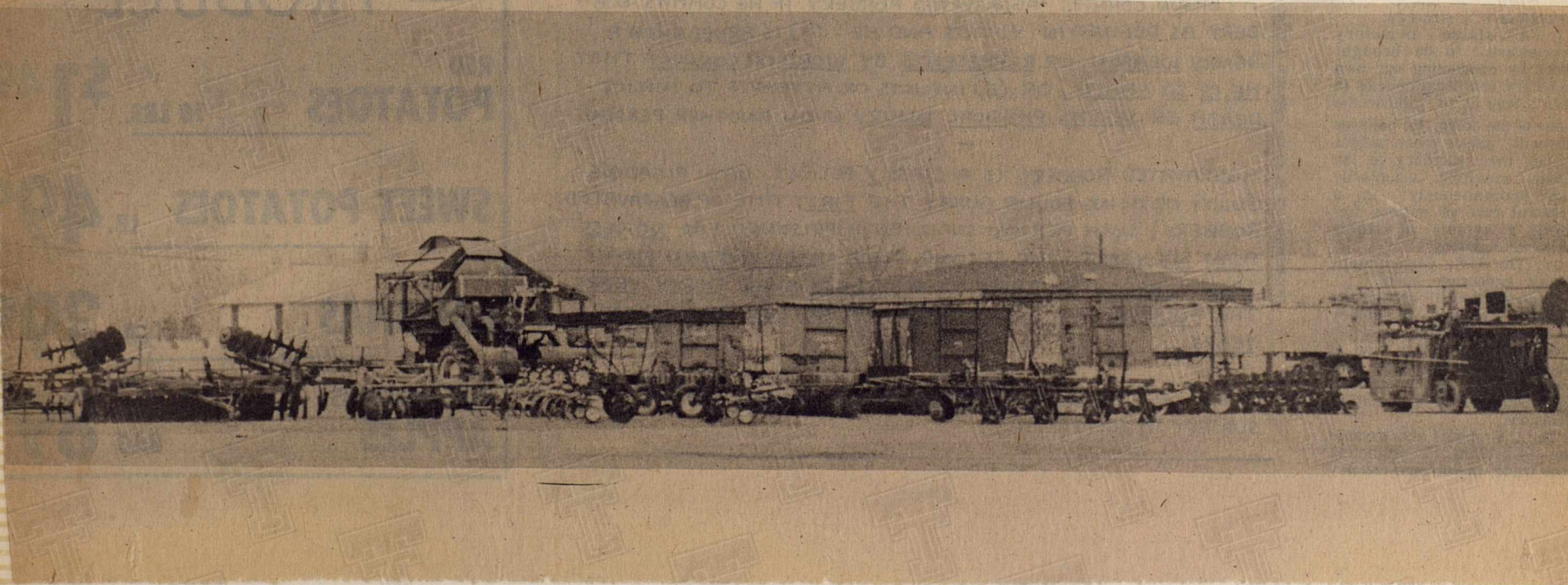
Gigantic Farm Equipment Sale At Des Arc February 10

Signs of the gigantic area-wide farm equipment sale to be held here next Wednesday, Feb. 10, at Des Arc, are already showing up on the lots in front of the Des Arc

Grain Drying Cooperative. It is an open sale and is being sponsored by the Des Arc Chapter of American Agriculture Movement. An

estimated 250 pieces of equipment are expected to be on the grounds by sale date. The sale is being handled by Blackmon Auctions

& Realty of Little Rock. If you have equipment to sell, you are invited to call the AAMA office and give them a listing.



Arkansas opens new AAM headquarters

A long-awaited dream became a reality Saturday, June 19, 1982, when members of the Arkansas Agricultural Movement Association had their dedication of their new headquarters on Highway 65 South. Governor Frank White, Senator David Pryor, and Congressman Beryl Anthony, Jr. were among the dignitaries participating in opening ceremonies following a barbecue luncheon.

Addressing an audience of about 300 association members and friends, White said American farmers are engulfed in the worst economic depression since the mid-1930s.

The governor said the grain embargo against the Soviets by the administration of former President Jimmy Carter, high interest rates and a lack of laws to protect the economic and political rights of the farmer were the reasons for the current depression in the agricultural community.

"Those embargos hurt the farmer worse than anything, because it almost cut off the overseas export markets to them," White said. "Because of this, I don't think it has been this bad for the farmers since the mid-30s."

White said the experience of Puxico, Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts "illustrates the problems farmers are facing with the lack of laws protecting them from the current bankruptcy laws." He said the nation's grain elevators had been "seriously mismanaged," resulting in farmers being "ripped off."

White said that, during his administration, the state Plant Board has done "an excellent job of monitoring the grain elevators in this state, to keep them from exploiting the commodities you work so hard to produce."

Like Governor White, Senator Pryor also voiced concern for the rights of farmers. He said he was drafting legislation to create a National Insurance Plan to protect farmers from "losing their shirts" when grain elevators declared bankruptcy. Such a plan would operate similarly to the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

Pryor said his office is working on legislation designed to change bankruptcy codes, revamp the referral subsidy program and expand the criminal code to protect farmers from exploitation by grain dealers. He said the commodity export plan must be strengthened to provide the poor with surplus commodities now rotting in government warehouses.

Pryor also suggested setting up an export-import revolving fund to help give farmers what they need in order to compete in foreign markets. He said the 1982 Farm Bill should be revamped to meet farmer's economic needs.

Fourth District Congressman Beryl Anthony, also a speaker at the dedication, stressed the need for set-asides.

He noted that the agricultural depression could be solved by balancing supply and demand.

"There needs to be additional incentives for the nation's farmer to put aside more land and not produce so much," Congressman Anthony emphasized. "If we can get you to do this, I am sure that the prices you receive for your goods will rise."

Pryor stressed the need for an advocate for the American government in the Administration and called for changing the name and mission of the Department of Agriculture to the Department FOR Agriculture. "This Department should not be merely an extension of Mr. Haig's State Department or Mr. Stockman's Office of Management and Budget."

Pryor helped auction off a red and white quilt featuring the AAM logo design, handmade by a Stuttgart woman.

Pryor gave C. W. Day, the farmer who first conceived the idea of the American Agriculture Building, a flag which had flown over the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. in the name of the AAM headquarters in McGehee. On behalf of the

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farmers, Senator Pryor also presented an engraved plaque to Mr. Day which read, "A farmer dedicated to America's future."

Beginning in January, 1981, Day drove his pickup truck almost 7,000 miles collecting donations from over 381 area farmers and farm-related businesses, encompassing a six-county area: Desha, Chicot, Jefferson, Lincoln, Arkansas, and Ashley.

While trying to raise the money necessary, Mr. Day was away from home so often that the farmers presented Mrs. Day with a silver tray "to help make up for keeping him away from home so long."

Pryor, Anthony and C. W. Day then went outdoors and cut the red, white and blue ribbons stretched across the building's facade. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill Clinton arrived following the ceremony, to add his support for the farmers. He had been delayed by a previous engagement.

Musical entertainment was provided by a country and western group, the Desha County Blacklands Band and by Mrs. Marie Ferguson, dressed as the popular Nashville entertainer, Dolly Parton.

AAM President Jack Cothran and Harvey Joe Sanner also attended the dedication.

presents a plaque to C. W. Day he "Clarence W. Day Meeting AAM headquarters.

AAMA Comments On Farm Bill, Passed Wednesday

REPORTED

This Wednesday afternoon, we telephoned Congressman Ed Bethune in his Washington office and to his aide, Jerry Climer, later in the evening. We had asked Jerry to call the Des Arc AAM Office when the vote was taken on the new four-year Farm Bill. He called at 9 p. m., Wednesday night, and told us the Bill had passed the House, 205 for and 203 against.

Jerry said the vote came after a two-hour debate mainly over the alternatives if this Bill failed. The Ag experts said we would revert to the 1949 Act that would eliminate several provisions we now operate under.

The PL 480 program would end, the anti-embargo protection clauses we now have would be gone, much of the revolving credit to purchasing countries would end, and food stamps would be cut heavily.

There were other arguments to convince congressmen to vote for the Bill. These reasons make good excuses for politicians who should have done something for farmers in committee

instead of waiting until the last minute. We will have a complete copy of the Bill in the AAM Office in two days for anyone to look at.

If you think the last four years have been tough, just brace yourself; this is a processor Bill designed to keep farm prices low. The same folks who wrote the 1977 Farm Bill wrote this one. The same people just drove another nail in the 'family' farmer's coffin. If any of you want to send congratulations to the folks who are destroying us, address them to: the Farm Bureau, the American Soybean Association, National Cotton Council, and the Agriculture Council of Arkansas.

These are the people who could have helped farmers but chose to represent everyone else. There are many others responsible, but, these are the most contemptible and repulsive because they are financed by farmers, the very people they are sworn to serve.

We have had many setbacks since AAM was born and this is just one more we will have to overcome.

When you let ingrates run your business as we did until 1977, it gets in a terrible mess. Seeing how hard it is to change policy should make us happy that we started when we did. It's taken us this long to get our feet under us and get a real understanding of the problem. The very fact that a bunch of dirt farmers went to the nation's capitol, established an office there and gained more credibility than much older groups is something we can all take pride in. What some would consider a failure on our part when the Farm Bill didn't reflect our wishes, we know is the failure of those who didn't help. We shouldn't feel as if we let someone down; it is us who have been let down. When one doesn't try, one shouldn't complain. It's kind of like cussing a politician and never going to the polls.

All of us know we have some problems; so, let's get together and try to solve them. Anyone who is not in AAM, please contact us; we all need each other. If we don't hang together, we will surely hang separately.

Strength from the land - AAM.

If AAM farmers go broke,

In the month that's passed since the compromise farm bill of 1981 rolled off the Congressional assembly line, there has been no end to the number of people — farmers and others, too — who've told me they just aren't buying this year's model.

But it's also taken that full month for anyone to calm down enough to tell me what exactly it is about the new model that rubs them so far in the wrong direction.

Is it the color? (Black, as in dreary and dismal, most critics say.) Or the upholstery, supposed to pad the rider against all the nasty shocks of the road? (Non-existent, other critics claim.)

No. According to Harvey Sanner and Jimmy Flanagan, Des Arc soybean-rice-cotton farmers who must live by, or at least with, the new farm bill, its major flaw is the deal being

FROM THE GROUND UP

**Sandy
Miller Hays**



offered at the lot — low rates on short-term loans.

The loans in question are offered by the Commodity Credit Corp., which will stake a farmer to a set number of dollars per bushel or hundredweight or other unit to float him from harvest to the time when market prices rise enough to make it worth his while to sell his crop.

To obtain one of these loans, the farmer usually puts up the crop itself as collateral. In the event that market prices never rise to a sufficient level, he gets to keep the loaned money and the government gets to keep his crop.

Supposedly, these loans help spur market prices, since

they offer the producer a chance to market his goods in a more orderly fashion and avoid having to sell them right at harvest time, when the overabundance of crops is sure to drive prices down.

But in reality, the loans more closely resemble a wet horse blanket than a spur where market prices are concerned, Sanner said.

He and Flanagan claim the low loan prices offered to farmers, supposedly as a safety net, are in fact an entangling web because potential customers know they can outwait the 1-year CCC loans and then snatch up the surrendered produce at the government's low prices.

"If we could get an extension on the loan period, the processors would have to have the product eventually and would have to pay the higher prices," Flanagan said. "And

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they won't go quietly

the market could stand those prices.

"If we had that tool, we might not even need it. If the customer knew he couldn't just wait for our loan periods to run out, he'd go ahead and buy the product, since he'd know he had to buy it eventually anyway."

According to Flanagan and Sanner, "customer" in this case is not synonymous with "consumer," and very little correlation exists at any rate between the prices paid to the farmer and the prices paid by the consuming public.

The figures certainly bear that argument out — right now, 82 cents of every dollar spent on food by the public goes to someone other than the farmer.

So if loan prices increase in order to net more cash for farmers, consumers may feel a little more pinch at the check-

out stand, but it would be nothing compared to the boa constrictor-like squeeze they'll feel if loan rates remain low, farmers go broke and corporation farming becomes the norm, Flanagan said.

He also said it is not that preposterous to see prospective corporation farmers behind the low loan rates right from the start.

"Probably, these are the people electing the politicians and contributing to their campaigns, and I'm sure they're pushing for lower prices," he said. "When they squeeze me out, they can buy my farm. And the faster I go broke, the faster they can get it."

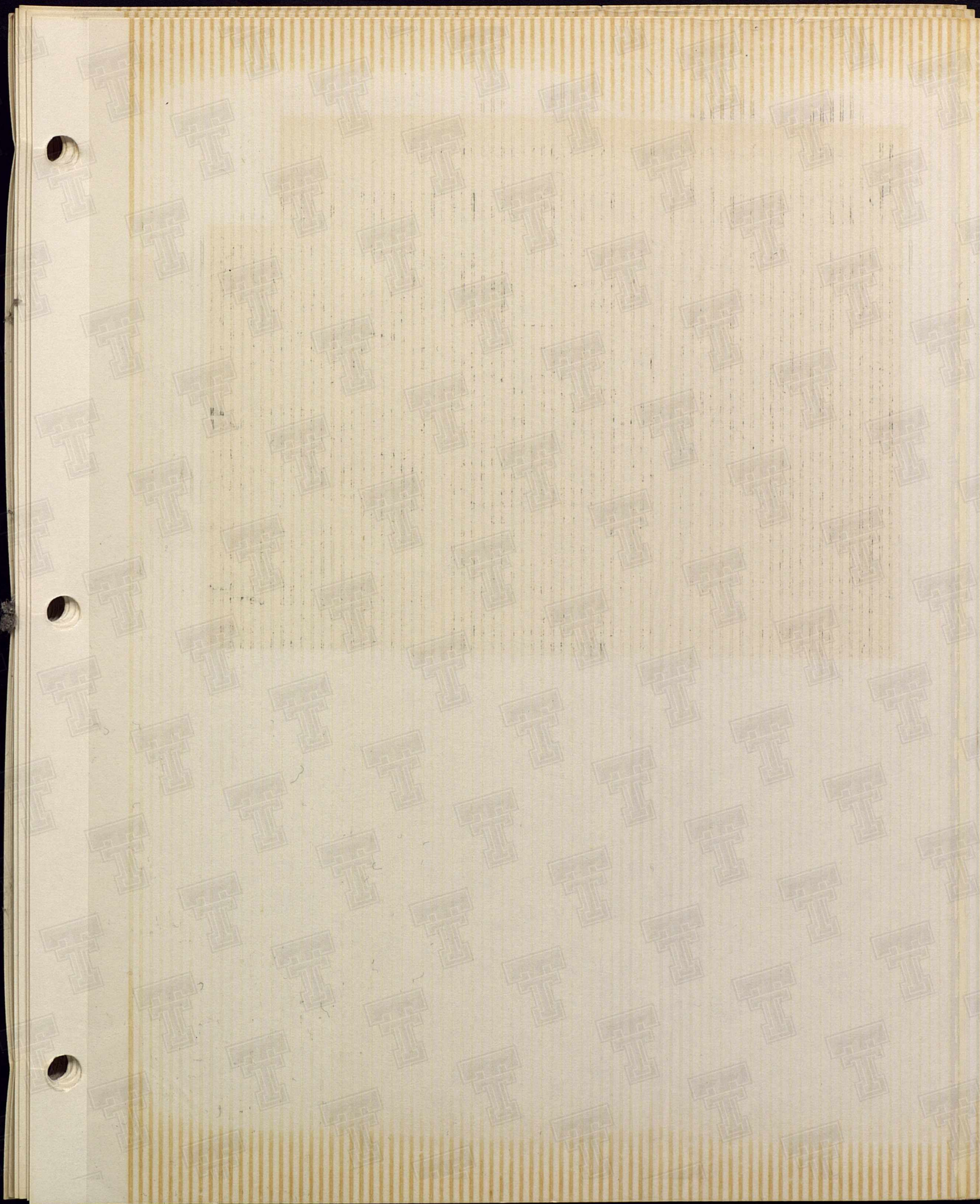
Sanner and Flanagan see no contradiction in seeking higher loan rates and longer loan terms from the government as a prime means of getting government out of American agriculture, although other observers have more dif-

ficulty understanding the workings of such a plan.

"When you talk about a higher loan rate, people say, 'Oh, you're going to get government in agriculture,'" Sanner said. "But it's already in waist deep, and you've seen what a short-term loan did."

Both as farmers and as members of the American Agriculture Movement, an organization that's hasn't taken its licks quietly since it revved its tractor motors on the doorsteps of the White House in 1979, Sanner and Flanagan said they are ready for the fight.

"I'm not going to be content to sit on my hands and go broke because some bureaucrat or some commodity organization tells me just to accept this farm bill," Sanner said, to which Flanagan added, "I'll probably still go broke, but I won't go quietly."



A personal message to farmers from AAM chairman, Marvin Meek

Dear Fellow Farmer,

A depression has hit the farm sector. The new farm bill just passed by congress will not help. The farm economy will continue to slide unless we, the farmers of America, take charge of our own fate and do something.

The reason that farmers can't make a living is simply that the products we produce and sell are priced too low compared with the high priced items we have to buy. Everyone else passes on their increased cost of production, but the farmer still has to go to the marketplace and ask "What will you pay me for my commodities today?"

The American Agriculture Movement has zeroed in on the real farm problem - low prices at the farm gate. We have been hammering this point home since we began our movement in 1977. We are one of the few organizations that even talk about price.

The American Agriculture Movement gained national recognition as a result of our tractorcades and other very visible activities. We also got some criticism, but we did let our government and the public know that there is a problem down on the farm.

AAM formally organized in 1979, and today we are considered one of the major voices of agriculture. We maintain a strong national office in Washington D.C. with a capable staff. Our taped farm update hotline has become a popular way of finding out what's going on in Washington DC minutes or hours after it happens.

We feel that AAM's growth and credibility is due to the fact that AAM is made up of farmers and is run by farmers. We are supported entirely by membership dues and contributions. Our paid staff is minimal, and is made up of people who still farm part time or have leased their land out to someone else. We believe that anyone who is not directly involved in farming is out of touch with the real problems. The fact that I feel the pinch, the urgency, makes me a much more effective voice in Washington than a highly paid lobbyist whose income is insulated from the farm economy. The same is true for other farmers. When AAM goes to Washington to talk to congressmen and senators, the farmers themselves do the lobbying.

Washington learned a lot from the farmer-lobbyists, and we learned a lot from Washington. One of the first lessons we learned is that *there is no free market*. The embargoes of the past few years, plus every trade agreement the US government enters into, are a restriction to our markets. As long as the government decides who may buy our products, we do not have any semblance of a free market.

We also learned that elected leaders respond to pressure from special interest groups with political influence that is backed by money. They don't necessarily do what is right just because it is right. They are most interested in whether or not they can get re-elected.



AAM Chairman Marvin Meek with daughter Heather and wife Sherry.

The Delegate Body of AAM voted unanimously to form a Political Action Committee beginning in January of 1982. Guidance will be given us by the number one public affairs firm in Washington DC, the Martin Haley Company. Joe Johnson, the president of Martin Haley, was one of a few people who organized the political action committee in the early 70s that got a parity bill for dairymen. American Agriculture is working for a similar parity bill for all of agriculture.

Many of you may have gone out of the farming business, or may be working in other farm organizations or commodity groups. I commend you for your involvement.

However, American Agriculture needs you too. Several organizations pressing for higher commodity prices through higher loan rates are more effective than just one organization. Besides AAM, Farmers Union in particular is doing a tremendous job of promoting higher support prices.

The American Agriculture Movement needs your participation and your money because we don't sell anything except our promise to try to get the commodity loan rates as high as possible in order to protect ourselves against the so-called free market which doesn't exist. Neither we nor anyone else can do it without you, the grass roots farmers and ranchers.

You have an excellent chance to find out more about AAM by coming to our annual grass roots convention January 8, 9, and 10, 1982 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. Many outstanding AAM speakers will be there, as well as the Martin Haley Company. There'll be time to get to know the family of American Agriculture.

If you can't come to St. Louis, contact the national office for the nearest AAM chapter, and go to the next meeting.

Also, subscribe to the *American Agriculture News*. It will keep you up to date weekly on the farm news

A time for action

Politicians are fond of saying "You can't get farmers together."

They've said it so often that apparently farmers believe them.

Farmers will cuss and discuss a problem in the coffee shop, tell what needs to be done, and then say "But you can't get farmers together. Nobody will ever get anything done," shrug their shoulders, and go back to the fields to produce one more year at below the cost of production.

AAM has another philosophy, and it is "Yes, we can get farmers together." And if we say it often enough, maybe the politicians will believe us.

AAM seeks to bring all of agriculture together and get all of agriculture tied to the parity index. In the past, when one segment of agriculture gets a price increase, it comes at the expense of another commodity. Taking from one group of producers to give to another group of producers creates constant conflict and keeps agriculture chasing its tail instead of turning on its real enemies.

AAM is serving notice on the world that "Yes, we can get farmers together."

And we're doing it.

that counts and let you know what AAM is doing all over the country. Subscription price is only \$15 a year.

Don't depend on anyone else to help you. Join with American Agriculture, a family of family farmers working to help themselves. We are simply a group of farmers trying, the best way we know how, to get a fair price for what we grow. Won't you join us?

Marvin Meek Speaks to AAM

During the last few weeks, I have read the "Mailbag" portion of the *American Ag News*, and, as usual, I spotted a few good ideas from the farmers. Also, I noticed that the government has been accurate to assume that the farmers can be manipulated into thinking they are an insignificant part of our society. When I say they "ass-u-me", I want to tell you what assume really means. They have made an ASS out of U and ME.

I regret that many of you are not able to see the political strength and influence that the farmers really have in Washington and in several agriculture states. It's true that we haven't been able to turn it into something meaningful in the way of price, because we haven't had anything to hold over their heads, like *money*. When you consider what we have accomplished without any P.A.C. money, it is more than any other single group in Washington. Also, we have been combating other so-called farm organizations and commodity groups.

In the last two weeks, there have been two letters crying what the legislators and bureaucrats want us to be crying, and that is: "Oh, we're only 3% of the population and we can't change anything that the other 97% don't want us to change." Excuse the French, but bull _____! You farmers had better get your heads screwed on straight because we are the most powerful, influential force in the world, for two reasons:

(1) We influenced 62% of the voting public nearly every election. We influenced them mainly with the luck of our purchasing power. We are prone to complain freely in our communities and when we tell the merchants in rural America that we're not buying their products, cars, trucks, equipment, furniture, etc., it makes a definite impact on their votes in the next election, just like on November 4, 1980. The folks who voted for Ronald Reagan were voting their pocketbooks in most all cases and we are the people who kept telling them that the agriculture policy was the reason why they were losing our business. Not only do we have influence with rural America, we are, more often than not, the deciding votes in most elections. Most national and state elections are won with margins that are close to the number of farmers that turn out to vote. Most elections are won with less than 1% of the votes.

(2) The second reason we're the most powerful group in the world is because we produce what the world has got to have -- *FOOD*. The government has again *ass-u-med* right in thinking we could never get together in marketing our production. They have pitted the cattleman against the grain farmer and them against the cotton farmer, and so on and so on. That's right, farmers. They have made an ASS out of U and ME (ASSUME).

The letter to the editor asking why we don't embark on marketing approaches is a good question. The answer is *money*, or the lack of it. The resources have been so limited that we just haven't been able to develop a good program on a nationwide basis. The A.A.M. has adopted a policy called L.A.M.P., two years ago, and L.A.M.P. stands for: Legislation, Alcohol, Marketing, Politics.

To the gentleman who asked why we don't work on marketing, that is a subject very dear to my heart and I have always said that what we produce is ours until we give it away to someone else to make a profit on. Because now, today, if the farmers would put their production into the loan or reserve, the Board of Trade would have to deliver *paper* to someone (USSR) instead of *grain* because the carry-over projected for 1982 will be equal to or slightly less than the carry-over for 1979.

We have the ability to control our destinies but seem not to have the desire. Remember, you've got it first, and until you decide to give it away or sell it, there's not anything they can do with it.

Marvin Meek

AAMA Officials At Local Potluck Dinner

The potluck dinner and meeting was well attended Saturday. We had as guests, Jack Cothran, State AAMA president; Deloss McKnight, national delegate; Odis Chapman, spokesman for the Arkansas Agriculture Movement of Arkansas. We also had Dennis Robertson, Senator David Pryor's ag aide, and Doyle Patton, Farm Director for KAAV Radio.

The farm bill was discussed and Dennis told us, as far as the Senate was concerned, there was no way to get anything better. He said it was only political reality when the Senate was Republican-dominated and the ad-

ministration pressure was as great as it was.

The reason we have been given for the yes votes that our delegation cast was that the only alternative was to revert to the 1949 bill. It's still hard to understand how they all hated it but still voted for it. No one really knows what would have happened if the bill had failed. It's obvious no administration would have allowed the 1949 bill to govern us; it would eliminate two-thirds of the rice production in Arkansas plus much of the wheat and curtail many other programs such as P. L. 480 and the food stamp

program.

Probably an extension of the 1977 farm bill would have passed or the new bill amended after the holiday recess. But, whatever might have happened; it didn't, and we have a new four-year farm bill.

We have already instructed our politicians that we have not solved any problems and we can't stand four more years of what we have had. We are already looking for alternatives; we don't know yet just what our options are, but, there will surely be amendments to the bill.

The grain elevators where you delivered your soybeans

have the forms available for your soybean tax refund. Any problem you might have in getting a refund, please let us know. Just be sure and file within 45 days of the day it is deducted. Soybeans in a seasonal pool have not been taxed yet. Remember, your money has financed an organization committed to low soybean prices.

Kevin Campbell Wins Three-Wheeler

Kevin Campbell was the winner at the drawing for a ATC Honda 3-wheeler given by the local AAM Chapter. We appreciate all of you for supporting this effort and making it such a huge success.

Don't sit on your hands and gripe for the next four years; help us do something for farmers and the country at the same time. Many of us don't have four more years; let's all pull together and we can win.

Strength from
the Land
Des Arc Chapter, AAM

from AAMA Office- Chapter

Proposed Arkansas Resolution

WHEREAS, the National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen, is an organization representing the ASCS elected officials of the over 3,000 counties of the United States, and

WHEREAS, these elected officials have a bounden duty to represent the interests of the U.S. producers of food and fiber, unlike the appointed officials of the United States Department of Agriculture, and

WHEREAS, the Bankruptcy Act of 1978 contains gross inequities and injustices which have been brought to light by the actions of Wayne Cryts, to the end that he has been incarcerated, and

WHEREAS, the only method left for Wayne Cryts to focus attention on the said inequities and injustices of the said act of 1978, after his legal avenues of administrative and judicial appeal, including a requested trial by his peers, had been exhausted, was for him to respectfully deny and decline to respond to questions of the court, and

WHEREAS, the officers and members of the National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen do not condone in general acts that are disruptive to orderly processes; however, we do recognize that history has taught us that certain acts of the past, such as those of Thomas Paine and Samuel Adams, for instance, are sometimes necessary to focus attention on abuse of power and inadequacies of man-made rules, and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that it was to this end that Wayne Cryts took his stand, and did engage in an act of civil disobedience; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of Farmer Elected Committeemen endorses the need for changes in the Bankruptcy Act of 1978; that the inviolate validity of warehouse receipts be established; that the United States Department of Agriculture once again become friend rather than foe of the U.S. farmer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the President of the United States, the Members of Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, members of the News Media, and to Wayne Cryts, of Puxico, Missouri, temporarily a resident of the Russellville, Arkansas, Detention Center.

New officers are: president, Eugene Neal, England, Arkansas; vice president, Coy Pruitt, Ozark, Arkansas; secretary-treasurer, Perry Stratton, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Accomplishments of the AAMA

AAM has provided a farmer created and farmer built organization within which farmers themselves have been the leaders, speakers, and organizers. In becoming involved with government and politics, farmers have spoken for themselves and have developed the skills to express the agriculture viewpoint directly themselves.

AAM has begun to make Americans more aware of the importance of agriculture as the largest single sector of our economy.

AAM has helped consumers to realize the gravity of the situation facing agriculture today and the impact that changes in the structure of agriculture can have on the future of a reasonably priced food supply.

AAM has shown American voters how both Republican and Democratic Administrations over the last 25 years have promoted a "cheap food policy" which has helped deteriorate the value of the dollar and undermine American economic strength.

AAM uncovered facts about the beef import practices and revealed them to the nation and the USDA.

AAM discovered and revealed that Mexican beef was being brought into the U. S. where it was being placed in the boxes of domestic packers for shipment to domestic markets labeled as if it were domestic beef.

AAM action resulted in stopping the utilization of imported beef in school lunch programs across America.

AAM has exposed the fact that chemically contaminated produce was being imported into the U. S. with misleading labeling, indicating

that it could have been grown domestically.

AAM is working to obtain legislation requiring that all commodities be labeled with their country of origin. There are currently several bills active in both houses of Congress.

AAM uncovered and released information about the purchase of U. S. farmland by foreign investors, which led directly to investigations by the Congress and the news media, which in turn resulted in Congressional action to require registration of foreign purchases of U. S. farmland.

AAM is directly responsible for expanding the definition of emergency to include Economic emergency, thereby opening up additional avenues of finance.

AAM farmers have become involved much more directly in the political conventions at the state and national level. They have helped to write platform positions and shape national political debate.

AAM has helped to elect to office in many states those who have taken more favorable positions on agricultural issues.

AAM action has directly caused existing farm groups to become more responsive to the best interests of both farmers and consumers.

AAM has exposed USDA manipulation and distortion of farm income and production cost statistics.

AAM has illuminated the way that federal policy has served to promote the increasing concentration of farmland ownership in the hands of corporations and wealthy individuals.

AAM has worked for inheritance tax reform,

as this tax affects agriculture. Included in the new tax legislation is an increase from \$175,000 to \$600,000 exemption.

AAM efforts have been responsible for several increases in commodity target prices and loan rates. For instance, wheat loan rates have increased from \$2.00 in 1978 to \$3.20 currently with additional increases coming in the 1981 farm bill. There are also similar increases in other commodities.

AAM has been responsible for many local and state actions beneficial to agriculture.

AAM has helped to intensify the political support for legislation favoring the development of alcohol and other biomass fuel. We are directly responsible for the 4c exemption and bringing this country into an alcohol fuels policy.

AAM has convinced CCC to change its policy on the resale of government owned feed grains. They lowered the weekly amount sold, and set the price of 15c to 20c over the cash price for any large sales. This should take the downward pressure off the farmer's backs.

AAM has been able to keep \$250 million for alcohol fuels in the rescission package to be used by FmHA for loan guarantees.

AAM has been successful in bringing to the front, concerns about conservation of our soil and water. As a result of AAM, legislation is now pending to provide a conservation investment tax credit.

AAM has been directly responsible for a new USDA demonstration program showing the longer term serviceability and profitability of

organic agriculture.

AAM's successes have shown that individual citizen effort still can make a difference.

AAM has worked to focus public and Congressional attention on the tax advantages available to foreign owners of American farms giving them a competitive advantage over American farm producers. As a result of the effort, legislation is now pending to tax foreign investors in farmland the same as U. S. citizens.

In other areas, AAM is involved in producing educational material, including films to educate the public and fellow farmers as to the role we are playing in shaping policy in this country.

We are also pursuing through the legal system, changes in laws and programs that are unfair to producers.

As a result of AAM efforts, changes are being considered in the bankruptcy laws to protect farmer's private property when elevators file for bankruptcy.

AAM is seeking to serve the best interests of the country. We do not ask anyone to accept what we say without examining the facts. We urge everyone to inform themselves on the issues we are addressing and become involved as they think best.

If you decide that we are right, we hope that you will join us. We believe that we can be most effective if we work together—organized—if not for our sake, then for the benefit of our country.

Above all, do not leave the job to elected officials; without the supporting vigilance of us all, they cannot and will not get the job done!

REPORTED

"Ifs" won't remedy farm problem

Mr. Wagner Moore's letter (Dec., p. 10) stated that the AAM had the answer to the farm problem when it said "don't sell until you get a price."

We have had many answers: Don't plant, don't sell, buy futures. All were unsuccessful because all were preceded by "if we can get farmers together." An answer that cannot be implemented is no answer.

We can support something that will work, or continue to propose thousands of answers that always get killed by the big "IF."

HARVEY JOE SANNER, vice president,
AAM of Arkansas

... Instead of criticizing AAM, let's put the criticism where it belongs—on the government officials who have invoked four grain embargoes in the

past 10 years. It's about time farmers take a hand in shaping their destiny for a change. As far as I'm concerned, it's "hats off" to AAM.

MRS. SONDRASCHWENEKER, Illinois

State AAMA Meeting Here Oct. 3

AAM Looks At Action On Farm Bill

Reported

The past week in Washington, action taken by the Senate in regard to the new farm bill, is a slap in the face of all farmers, more especially rice farmers. The cuts in target price levels and no action on loan rates is absolutely no help for producers.

Senator David Pryor voted against the bill and said he saw it as a dagger aimed at the most productive section of America. The Arkansas senator made an appeal on the floor for consideration for the rice-producing states but to no avail. Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas was out of town when the vote was taken. The need for a stronger farmer voice becomes more apparent every day.

The American Agriculture Movement has many accomplishments to its credit, but, we are still not accomplishing what we set out to which is to put a profit back in agriculture.

However, we are trying. Dennis Robertson, Sen. Pry-

or's ag aide, said we were the only farm organization calling and voicing concern when the Senate bill was coming up for a vote. Our efforts surely had a bearing on the "no" votes. The House is scheduled to begin considering their version of the farm bill soon. It is more favorable than the Senate Bill but totally inadequate. The one bright spot might be a stronger embargo protection clause in both bills.

State Meeting Here

The next AAMA state meeting will be at Des Arc Saturday, Oct. 3, at 5 p. m. There will be a fish fry at the AAM building here at 7 p. m. with donations accepted to pay for the meal.

All farmers, members or not, are welcome; we need to become more informed and all pull together. Our destiny for the next four years is being decided now; if we sit and complain and do nothing, we have added to the problem instead of helping to solve it.

AAM 'Here to Stay' As Des Arc Chapter Dedicates Building

By RANDY ELLIS
Of the Gazette Staff

DES ARC — The American Agriculture Movement, that rambunctious organization of farmers that turned goats loose on the Capitol steps in 1978 and snarled Washington traffic with a tractorcade in 1979, did something very traditional August 1, and dedicated a local chapter building at Des Arc.

The \$32,000 building is the first permanent building in the country to be built by a chapter of the AAM, according to Harvey Joe Sanner, president of the Des Arc chapter Board of Directors.

Sanner, who farms just under 1,000 acres of soybeans and rice near Des Arc, said the chapter's decision to build the structure shows people that the AAM plans to be around a long time.

"We're just like country music, we're here to stay," Sanner said. "Bob Bergland [Agriculture secretary under former President Jimmy Carter] called us a passing fancy. Now here we are with a new permanent building. Where are Bergland and Carter? They were the passing fancy."

A crowd of 700 to 800 persons gathered for the dedication, which was about as traditional as they come, complete with political speeches, entertainment and a fish fry.

Sanner indicated the traditional nature of the dedication was more indicative of the AAM organization of today than the radical actions of the organization's past.

"The tractorcade and all those other tactics were just done to draw attention to the problems of farmers," Sanner said. "Now we are working on solving the problems. The American Agriculture Movement is still working, we just haven't been using the sensational tactics we once did."

The tractors are gone from Washington, and in their place the AAM has a small Washington staff. The AAM president meets with Agriculture Secretary John R. Block two or three times a week, Sanner said.

"We don't have as many members as we had during the tractorcade because it was such an emotional thing then, but I think we may be more effective now," Sanner said. "It's not as exciting because the results are slow in coming, but I think a few people working with farm legis-

(See AMERICAN on Page 12E.)

(Continued From Page 1E.)

American Agriculture Movement Dedicates Structure at Des Arc

lation in Washington may mean more than half the country riding around on tractors."

Sanner said he did not know how many members the AAM has nationally, but said estimated membership is about 150,000. A spokesman in the national office said membership statistics were not kept. Sanner said the Des Arc chapter has about 70 members "and a whole lot of other people who support what we are doing."

AAM's decision to use more traditional methods to push for legislative changes does not mean that the plight of farmers has improved, Sanner said.

"We have the same problems facing us now that were facing us then," he said. "The main issue is low farm income. We just are not being paid for our produce. All we have ever asked for is a fair price for our produce out in the market place.

We're not asking for a government handout or subsidy."

Sanner said what he would like to have from the government is a loan program that would enable farmers to borrow money for 24 to 36 months, at regular interest rates, on grain they have stored. That would enable farmers to hold their grain until market conditions were favorable, rather than having to sell when prices were low, just because they needed the money immediately.

"I'm disappointed in President Reagan's farm policies so far," he said. "I don't see anything in the farm bill which would be of much help."

Sanner and Jimmy Flanagan, another member of the Des Arc chapter, said family farmers are being forced out of business every day.

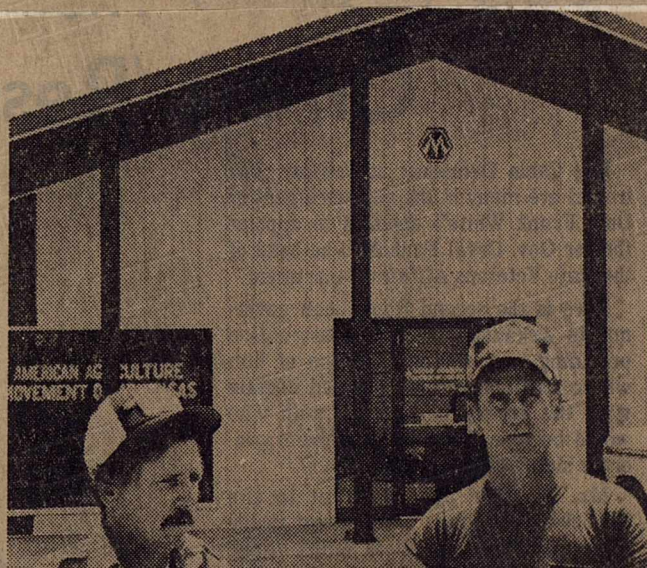
Sanner said the growing number of farmers who have had to

take out Farmers Home Administration loans is one indication of the increasing number of farmers in financial trouble. He said there were 131 such loans for a total of \$1,520,850 made in Prairie, White and Lonoke Counties in 1975. In 1979, the number of loans had increased to 851 for \$43,104,270 and that was before last year's big drought.

"Right now we are all hoping for a bumper crop to keep our heads above water or depending on a crop failure somewhere else to pull our price up," Flanagan said.

Sanner added, "Something's wrong with farm policy when you have to depend on another farmer going broke to make a profit."

Sanner said he believed the AAM had been successful in helping to get the Small Business Administration to make



Sanner (left), Flanagan outside Des Arc building.

some agricultural loans and in getting the Farmers Home Administration to make some disaster loans.

"We still have many problems, but who knows where we would be if we hadn't done the work we have," he said.

Sanner said AAM members

are not planning any dramatic actions, like tractorcades, for the future, but refused to rule them out entirely.

"We have always had a saying in the American Agriculture Movement that we will do whatever it takes to get the job done," he said.

THANKS!

To you, the people who made the American Agriculture Movement Building dedication such a tremendous success;

The bands, servers, cooks, the people who helped set up tents, and to everyone who helped in any way, you are deeply appreciated.

Thanks, also, to those who sent flower arrangements and potted plants to honor the dedication.

These unselfish efforts have made a day, August 1, 1981, so wonderful it will always be remembered.

The City of Des Arc should salute you - you represented her well.

IN APPRECIATION . . .

Des Arc Chapter American Agriculture Movement

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Harvey Joe Sanner
Jimmy Holloway

O. B. Fields

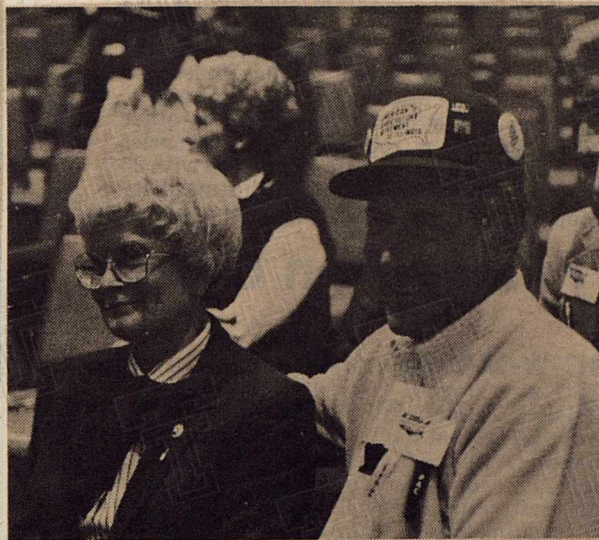
Donald DeVore
Bettis Campbell

The AAM Reporter, Monday, April 15, 1985

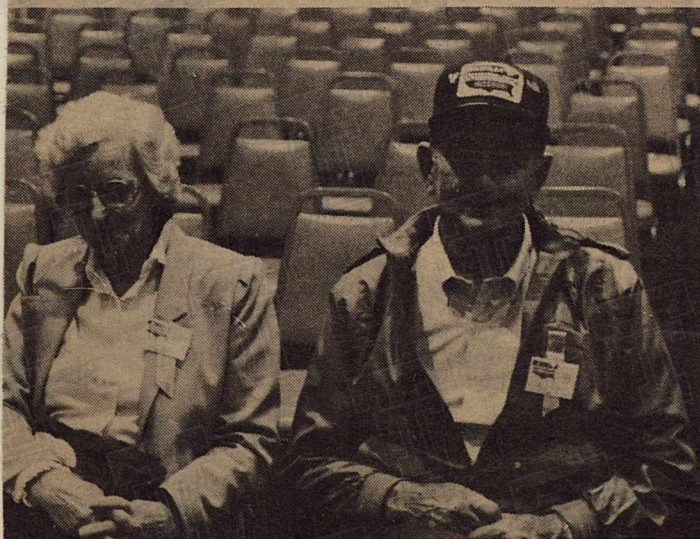
Meet The AAM Family



Vance and Ruth Morris



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Curl



Paul and Hyten Avon



Harvey Joe and Carolyn Sanner

Photos By Marian G

There May Be Light At The End Of The Tunnel,

It's always darkest before the dawn, and brother, we in agriculture could certainly use a little dawn. Many of us have just about lost our equity in the darkness. Thank goodness and AAM, there are a few rays of light showing up here and there. In the past, many times whenever we saw a light at the end of the tunnel, it would wind up being an oncoming train.

Hopefully, we are on our way to brighter times with the P.I.K. program as a start toward supply management and away from the fallacy of 'free market' policies that have not worked. With all the individual problems with P.I.K., we realize that before it came along we had absolutely nothing to hang any hope on. It's only a start but it has some significant successes to its credit already.

P.I.K. has taken land out of production, something we farmers could not do our-

selves. It has also caused some upward price movement but probably the most significant issue that will have long term effect on farm policy is the fact that it disproved the old argument that farmers would not take land out of production.

We've heard it over and over from the Farm Bureau, the politicians, the bureaucrats, the grain trade, commodity groups, who all maintained that farmers would not set aside land. They all argued that farmers loved to produce, that they wanted to market that production, that they had capital expenditures, that it was against a farmer's nature; all kinds of reasons. The tremendous sign-up for P.I.K. proved their reasons false and shed a lot of light on who they were really speaking for. Farmers will take land out of production when the incentive is there; that incentive might have been desperation in this case and the likelihood you would be worse off in the fall after growing another crop below cost of production. Whatever the reason, the signal it sent should be around for a long time.

AAM was one of the first farm organizations to support P.I.K. and has been working with U.S.D.A. to improve on it and make it better serve producers.

Tommy Willis, AAM national chairman, presented the idea of a P.I.K. assignment to U.S.D.A. Tommy spent some time in Washington recently and is still working with the department on some problems with the assignments.

AAM is asking that producers be issued assignments from A.S.C.S. right away that would show the bushels of P.I.K. grain you are entitled to. A farmer could then carry this assignment to a lender and borrow against it. This would help with cash flow and relieve pressure on other agencies such as FHA. USDA is currently requiring assignments to be tied to warehouse receipts, something that may not be possible until late summer or early fall. Hopefully, AAM can change this to better serve farmers.

As AAM has gained credibility in Washington, we are gradually being more effective for farmers. Our testimony is accepted by more politicians than ever before as being truly representative of producers. Many now are speaking out privately and publicly as well against the Ag policy we now have. It's sad, that our elected officials have been slow learners, but many are finally seeing the light. Of course, they had an army of teachers before AAM came along. We, as producers, must bear some of the blame for the pitiful shape agriculture has gotten into. We stayed on the farm where life was easier and much simpler and just did what we were told was good for us, become more productive and efficient. The only thing wrong is that the

pricing of our products is a political matter and productivity and efficiency cannot compensate for an inadequate pricing system. Who tended to our business when we wouldn't? The list is long with processors, grain companies, insurance peddlers, exporters, food chains, feed dealers, commodity organizations, misguided co-ops, Boards of Trade and finally, brainwashed farmers. Why did it happen? Well, it's more fun to just farm and play softball or squirrel hunt, or go to deer camp; it's easier to drink beer and fish than to attend meetings and provide input. All of us would rather be in a duck blind than in a room full of bureaucrats who are determining how our livelihood will be directed. Anyone knows Oaklawn is more fun than a Senate subcommittee hearing in West Memphis. The cost always scared us, too; it's expensive to support an organization - why, you could run a tractor ONE WHOLE DAY, maybe, instead of paying dues.

And, when all else fails, personal reasons always make a good excuse for not working together. But, one thing for sure, AAM is causing a lot of the old reasons and excuses to be overrun by providing a means whereby farmers have learned of the importance of representing ourselves and they know we must do it because we can see what happened when we didn't.

AAM is placing more emphasis on working with other groups and has joined the National Farm Coalition. This is a group of 29 farm organizations who are coordinating their efforts and attempting to develop long range policy goals that can be supported with a unified effort by the major producer organizations. All groups are providing input and the N.F.C. does support supply management and has voted to oppose the freeze of loan rates and target prices proposed for 1984-85.

This is another positive step in the development of AAM realizing that the job is too much for one organization and the more we can work with others the better

all farmers will be served.

AAM Political Action Committee was reported in the March issue of Successful Farming as being the largest PAC among the national farm organizations. The doors that have opened to AAM because of our PAC is almost unbelievable and the fact that we did what the Washington establishment said couldn't be done has earned AAM an enviable position. Political observers said farmers would never contribute voluntarily and we proved them wrong and the success rate in picking candidates was exceptionally high. The success stories of AAM PAC are too numerous to mention and will no doubt grow. AAM P.A.C. will continue to be a valuable tool in our total program to improve farm prices.

The next few months are going to be exciting for agriculture and AAM. The destiny of hundreds of thousands of farmers will be determined this crop year and that destiny has never provided farmers with as much opportunity to help in shaping it as right now.

The date has already been set for our 1984 Convention. It will be in Nashville, TN, at the Opryland Hotel, Feb. 6, 7, 8. This year, there will be a large machinery show held in conjunction with the meeting. Clifford Hamilton, national finance committee chairman, has invited President Reagan; he has not heard from Reagan yet, but Clifford told him he should

come 'for his own benefit' not just for ours.

Gerald McCathern presented Tommy Willis with a \$1,000 check at the Memphis delegate meeting April 8-9 as a commission to AAM from sale of his book about AAM entitled "Gentle Rebels." Gerald proposed to re-print his book in paperback form in partnership with AAM. The unselfish efforts of men like Gerald McCathern are an inspiration; so, watch for the book and pick up a copy when it comes out.

Wayne Cryts In Jury Trial

Wayne Cryts attended the Memphis meeting and told us of his situation with the courts. The next step is a May 31 jury trial in Little Rock. This has been a long strenuous ordeal for Wayne and his family and we, in AAM, are proud of the Cryts family for the stand they have taken and the dignity and patience they have maintained through some mighty trying times. I'm sure Wayne would welcome some friendly faces in the courtroom on May 31 - so, if any of you get the chance, you might sit in on some history in the making.

Supporting HR1592

The delegates of AAM are in support of H.R.1592, Congressman Alexander's bill to make soybean loan rate to 6.62 which is on par with corn. A consensus of growers is needed to pass this bill - so, any of you who can, contact the Arkansas Soybean Association or Ark-

ansas Farm Bureau members who might influence those organizations to support it - please do so.

Many county Farm Bureaus and many members of the ASA do support it - but the state and national leadership is opposed. There could be a lot of support mustered with a little effort and who knows, we might win.

Whatever the outcome, our efforts will once again focus attention on the fact that we know:

America Gets
Her Strength
From The Land
DES ARC CHAPTER AAM
256-4766

AAMA, Canadian Farmers Get Together

The American Agriculture Movement held a delegate meeting in Minot, North Dakota recently. There were two days of meetings attending to AAM business and the third day was spent at the International Peace Garden with an impressive ceremony that brought farmers of the AAM and the Canadian Agriculture Movement together in a show of unity and a pledge to work together to benefit producers in both nations.

Marvin Meek chaired the delegate meetings and David Senter brought us up to date on issues and his efforts in Washington, D. C. AAM had been invited to London, England, to a meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers I.F.A.P. is made up of farm organizations from countries around the world with its headquarters in Paris, France. The U. S. farm groups represented in I.F.A.P. are the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers Union and the National Council on Cooperatives.

The Farm Bureau refused AAM the opportunity to participate in this conference as an American representative. They had our invitation withdrawn . . . presumably, because AAM does not agree with the agriculture policy of this nation that continually exports commodities below cost of production. This policy is what has net farm income at the lowest point since the depression. It is Farm Bureau policy. They can't deny it; Mr. Reagan got in bed with them from the start with his choosing Allen Grant as his agricultural advisor. Mr. Grant is a past F. B. president.

The Farmers Union and the National Council on Cooperatives called and expressed their concern and S. agricultural policy was serving the grain trade and politicians not grass roots farmers.

Later, Marvin and David were invited to the French Embassy in Washington for

dinner and discussion of agriculture issues.

David Senter told us that the calls are constantly coming into the national office from different groups, such as labor unions, laid off workers and civic organizations who want to know more about AAM and what we have been saying. As jobs are disappearing because we are not buying and the flood of imports into this country adding to the problem, many areas are in serious trouble; and as unemployment benefits are used up, some are becoming desperate. David is to meet soon with a Mr. Dennison, an aide to Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO. AAM is not marrying a labor union but there are some common problems we can work on. They are lending support in changing the bankruptcy laws. They are also carrying our message to Congress for us because they know that many of their jobs depend on our purchasing power. We can even have space in their magazine to reach more people with the truth as to why they are not working.

David has a good working relation with Gene Moos, agriculture aide to Congressman Tom Foley of Washington State. Mr. Foley has drafted legislation that could be a real boost to wheat and feed grain producers. He is proposing a 25 percent set-aside with 15 percent being volunteered and 10 percent carrying a paid diversion to be paid in advance. There would also be an increase in loan rates. The approach Mr. Foley is using to get this into law is different than we normally use. It is part of the Budget Reconciliation Act and would not have to pass through the agriculture committees.

With the clout of Tom Foley and the Congressional Budget Office projections of \$1.6 billion dollars in savings on deficiency payments and CCC take over of grain, it has good possibilities.

We, in Arkansas, have talked with Dennis Robertson in Senator Pryor's office about using this approach on rice, soybeans and cotton. He didn't feel we should load Foley's bill with commodities that is sure to draw opposition from rice millers, soybean crushers and cotton exporters. We will wait and see how wheat and feed grains do. The significance here is that AAM is constantly trying new approaches, looking for that solution that will put a profit back in farming. We will not stop looking until we find it. How many of us will be left when we do find it? No one knows; but, we do know that it is up to us. "Whatever it takes" has been a phrase used commonly in AAM and if it takes supporting a partial advance paid diversion to get an increase in loan rates that might save a few farmers, then we will support it.

Wayne Cryts was at Minot as the delegate from Missouri. Wayne has traveled all across the country speaking about his situation with elevator bankruptcies. With all the publicity that Wayne's case has drawn, it's amazing that some farmers are so ignorant of the facts. Some have even compared Wayne's actions to removing grain from a coop that all members have grain in and a shortage exists.

The Ristine elevator was a commercial storage warehouse; Wayne paid his storage in advance, and for a load out charge, he could haul the beans out and sell wherever he liked, a practice not uncommon in his area. There was no shortage when he removed his beans. The trustee and his lawyers, with the help of some other farm organizations, did a good job of distributing false information about the Cryts case.

The Cryts family is under pressure that is tremendous with approximately a \$300,000 fine hanging over their heads and the possibil-

(Reported)

ity that they could lose everything that several generations have worked to accumulate. They need and deserve our support. Without moral and financial support, there is a real possibility they could lose it all. It shouldn't be possible in America that any citizen could be subjected to this treatment for taking control of his own private property without harming others while the people responsible continue doing business. Wayne is back in Washington this week turning in more testimony. There are several lawmakers working on legislation that would improve the bankruptcy laws. Senator Pryor is drafting an insurance plan to protect farmers that would be financed by a check-off. He also proposed much stiffer penalties for elevator operators who break the law. He has asked us for input and we are advising him that we feel only the farmers that want this protection should pay for it. Those who feel safe with a co-op or who have on-farm storage should not be taxed. We are trying to get the fairest and most equitable means possible to finance this plan, yet still protect farmers.

The delegate body made some decisions in Minot that should strengthen AAM and improve communications with members and improve our effectiveness. Any questions about the internal business of AAM are certainly welcomed from members. There is an up-to-date newsletter printed in Washington bi-weekly being made available to members who want it. This newsletter is currently going to members of Congress, the press and sustaining members. The calming down, addressing problems rationally with more realism while never losing sight of our goal is gaining us support and credibility daily. The AAM Political Action Committee is working; there are doors open now like never before,

granted none of the results have put money in our pockets yet, but we knew it wouldn't happen overnight. Many things are in the making because of our P.A.C., so, we need to support it. AAM PAC members are meeting with bankers, equipment manufacturers, agri businesses, in several states and are being received well. The support these groups can lend is unlimited. The PAA is there for one reason, to get higher farm prices, so AAM members or not, every farmer and every agri business should support it. A commitment of a few cents per bushel or acre is an investment in your future. It's time we all paid our own way and at least tried to improve the situation.

The Canadian farmers presented Marvin a \$1,000 check and said when presenting it that this was just the beginning. The spokesman said that they realized that the U. S. did set the world price for grain or can set it and they want to support our efforts in Washington. The U. S. and Canada have 85 percent of the export grain market, so, it is obvious that working together, we can get farmers a profitable price.

The whole event with the Canadians was amazing and inspiring and seemed to breathe new life and commitment into all present because we all knew, for everyone there, there were thousands at home in support of this effort.

The Canadian farmers, like the American farmers, are aware of the fact - that

America Gets Her Strength From the Land AAMA

Call one of these numbers if
you want to help yourself:

256-4766
256-3720
256-3335
256-4580
256-4655
256-4620

Local AAM News

Written By Des Arc AAM Representative

The Farm Crisis Act was killed by the House Agriculture Committee this past week. Although inadequate, it did offer a small amount of relief for farmers. The proposed legislation went down in defeat at the hands of the Administration and their processor friends, namely, the National Cotton Council, American Soybean Association, and, of course, the American Farm Bureau Federation.

We were contacted by several congressional aides and asked for our opinion of the Farm Crisis Act. They were told of how we viewed it, as inadequate and containing provisions that we directly oppose; however, any relief is much needed by farmers and we urged its passage. The paid diversion in this Act is a child of Farm Bureau and commodity organizations who had rather see farmers get a handout from the government instead of earned income through higher prices. Ever since direct government payments to farmers have been made, we have lost public sentiment and political strength. You can also correlate low net farm income with times when deficiency payments are made, because they are never sufficient to make up for the lost income due to low prices. They have been used to keeping prices low and it's a shame that leaders of some so-called farm organizations have been duped into believing that farmers can prosper under this system of direct payments.

Check this for contrast: We just want the government out of agriculture. But, we would like a handout not to

plant. This is F. B. philosophy nationwide.

The American Agriculture Movement doesn't want a handout; we want a fair price for our production out of the market place. Until we get it, the farm debt and the depressed rural and total U. S. economy will only worsen.

How much longer the farmers in these so-called farm organizations are going to let their leaders lead them down this destructive road with their free market fallacy and export your way to heaven, propaganda remains to be seen.

Their policies have failed and will continue to fail just as Ronald Reagan is doomed to failure because neither addresses the key to putting a profit into agriculture and that key is "cost of production." No business can operate without it and until cost of production plus a reasonable profit for agricultural commodities is obtained our condition will only worsen.

All the other attempts will not only fail; they tend to muddy the water and cause the loss of much manpower because it is misdirected. Such is the case with the F. B. delegation's efforts to affect tariffs in overseas countries. In a "Letter to the Editor," *White River Journal*, John Naill, the president of the Prairie County Farm Bureau, said "Clarification was needed as to F. B.'s reason for interfering in affairs in Japan. Mr. Naill said "this was not to lower prices to Japanese farming; however, news stories at the time told of thousands of Japanese farmers protesting F. B.

presence because prices would surely be lowered. The two major commodities in Arkansas are rice and soybeans; Japan does not import rice and soybeans are duty free; so, we need clarification as to how rice and soybean farmers could benefit from F. B.'s proposal. I don't think the F. B. leadership, with their threats of trade wars and intrusions into affairs of other governments, have considered the ramifications. The last time our government interfered with the Japanese supply of soybeans, with Nixon's embargo, the Japanese financed clearing the jungles in Brazil to ensure themselves a dependable supply.

We also need clarification as to the great benefit you speak of in exports; sure, we need exports, but without a price it's counter productive, we are exporting our valuable topsoil and water, plus our equity in land and machinery every time we ship a bushel of grain below our cost of production. The real sadness is the fact that the price is there; it's just going to everyone but producers.

If increased exports are the answer, we must have some clarification as to why exports are up 800 percent in the last decade while net farm income is at its lowest point since the depression.

World recession, high interest rates, poor countries, are all excuses, but they are not reasons. The reason is that we have not priced our product and the shame is that we could.

U.S.A. has 60 percent of the world's exportable grain market, combined with Canada, we export 85 percent of

all the grain exported. We can set world grain prices and it's ridiculous, and, maybe even unpatriotic, not to do so, and allow this transfer of wealth from America to foreign governments.

In July, the American Agriculture Movement is holding a delegate meeting in North Dakota on the Canadian border. This will be a joint meeting with the recently organized Canadian Agriculture Movement. This meeting may have more significance than anyone can imagine. Farmers from two nations coming together with common problems; both searching for solutions and ways to help themselves.

This is the type of effort we need from other farmers and their organizations. If any benefit comes from our joining hands with our Canadian farmers, we can all take pride in the fact that AAM took the first step. If not a penny is gained, we still have pride in the fact that we tried - and, we haven't failed until we quit trying.

God bless Marvin Meek in his unselfish efforts in behalf of all farmers who want to continue to farm and pass on this proud heritage to their children. If you don't support this effort, you may not get another chance. So, let's all do our part; because, we have one thing in common. AAM member or not, we know and believe America has always gotten her

STRENGTH FROM THE LAND

256-3335 256-4766 256-4620
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