

# RIVER JOURNAL

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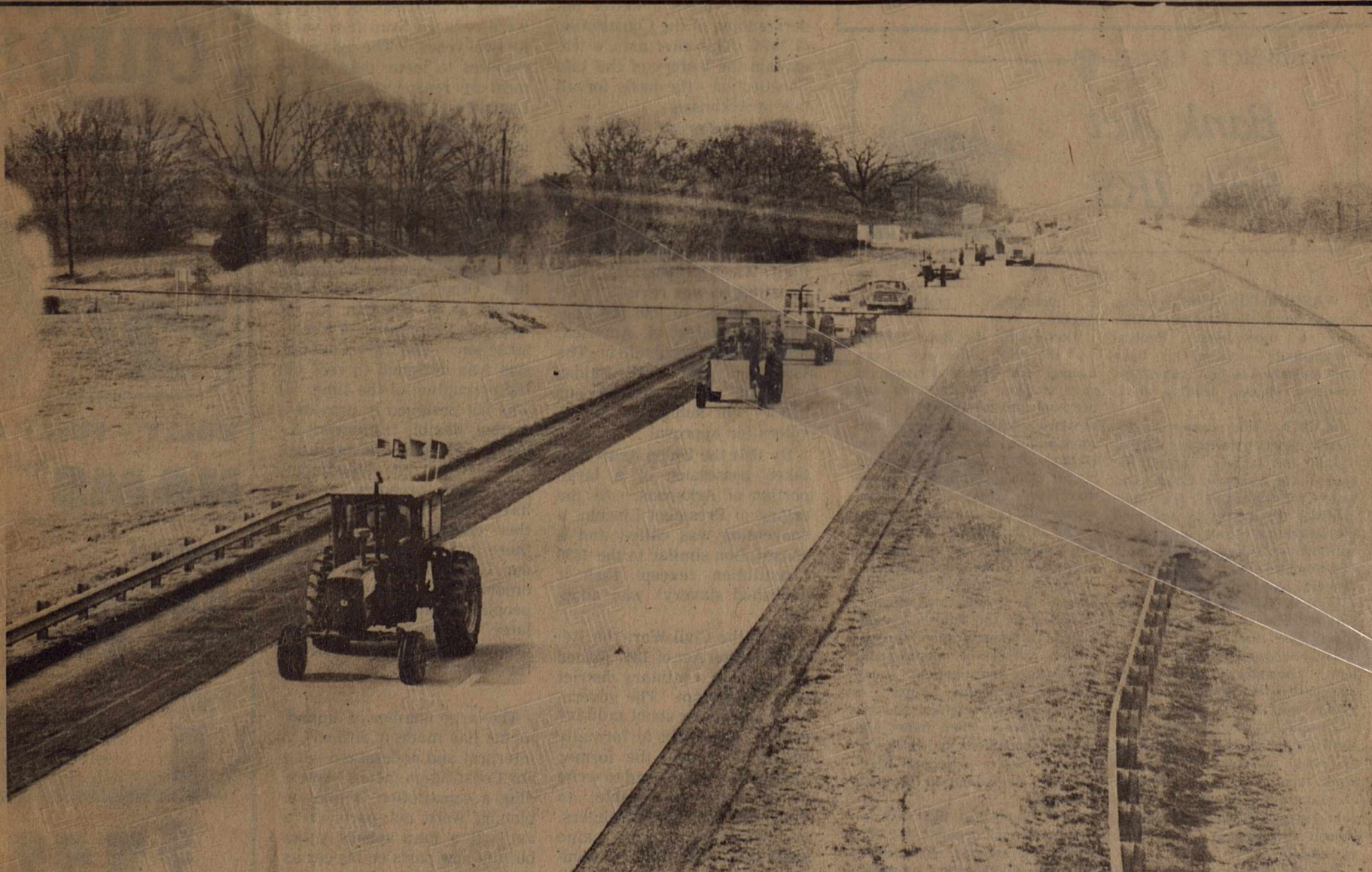
Free Press and A Free People: An Unbeatable Team"

(USPS 682-800)

January 25, 1979

Arc, Arkansas 72040 (County Seat) Prairie County

Commercial Job Printing



## Tractorcade Moves Through County





torcade Monday night at West Memphis. He was accompanied by support vehicles driven by Rick Branham and John Lee Prislovsky.

#### Group Will Air To Washington

Farmers from the local area who will go by air to Washington for the meeting with elected officials in Washington. The group includes E. H. Burrows, Paul Holloway, Bobby Weatherley, Donald DeVore, Dennis Sears, Phillip Speight, Steve Fields, Tim Sears, Steve Sanner, Bill Reidhar, Owen Guess, W. C. (Steve) Hambrick, Sr., Larry Tate, V. O. Calhoun, Jr.,

Del Taylor, Leon Inman, Guyman DeVore and crew, Wholesale Oil, V. O. Calhoun Farms, Harvey Smith, O. B. Fields, Des Arc Implement, Ingram Bros., R. A. Carlock, Jr., Andy Madar, Bob Childers, Paul Holloway, Willie Joe Patterson, Floyd Wood, Guy Mitchell, Jim Sanner, Western Auto, Roy Roach, Fert-Chem Co., Sisson Conoco, Des Arc Florist, Tony Smith, Garth Hardware, Des Arc Furniture & Appliance, John Golleher, Waliski Seed, Inc., Tom Fisher (Nichols Ins.), John F. Orsi, White County Savings & Loan, A. R. Harrison, Gaines Young, Gaines Implement, Jack M. Stewart, Thermogas-Hopcaid, Dub Grizzle, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Charlie Keel, Richard Norman, DeVorak Farm Supply, Michelsen Flying Service, James Service Shop, and Bill Burrow.

## Joined At I-40 By Local Farmers

Farmers and members of their families, riding in tractors and campers, arrived in Little Rock Saturday afternoon and after a rest over Sunday proceeded on Interstate 40 toward their rendezvous with elected officials in Washington.

More than 400 vehicles began driving more than a week ago in New Mexico and Texas and they were joined by farmers in Oklahoma and western Arkansas.

The tractorcade, one of six moving toward Washington, arrived at the Hazen overpass on I-40 Monday about noon where they were joined by a group from Des Arc American Agriculture Movement Chapter. (Des Arc's group shown

left to right, are Jimmy Holloway, Jimmy Flanagan, C. R. Smith, Keith Campbell, and Harvey Joe Sanner.) The tractor is accompanied by a support vehicle and camper.

The farmers want Congress to implement all provisions of the 1977 farm bill which became effective in 1978. "With a stroke of a pen," a spokesman said, "the secretary of agriculture could raise farm prices to 90 percent of parity." They now average 65 percent of parity, the spokesman said.

The tractorcade got a permit from the state to travel I-40. Speeds average 15 miles per hour for the 5-mile long tractorcade.

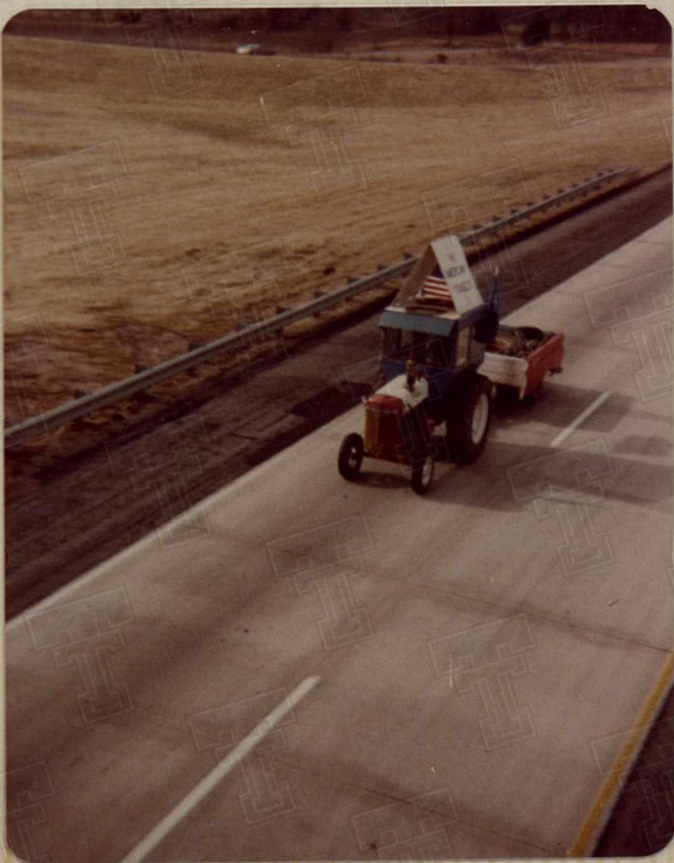
Clinton Childers and Francis Orlicek.

This group will leave Little Rock Feb. 4 for the flight to Washington. They will join the tractorcade group Feb. 5 outside the capitol city and all the farmers will be meeting with congressional delegations Feb. 6, 7, 8.

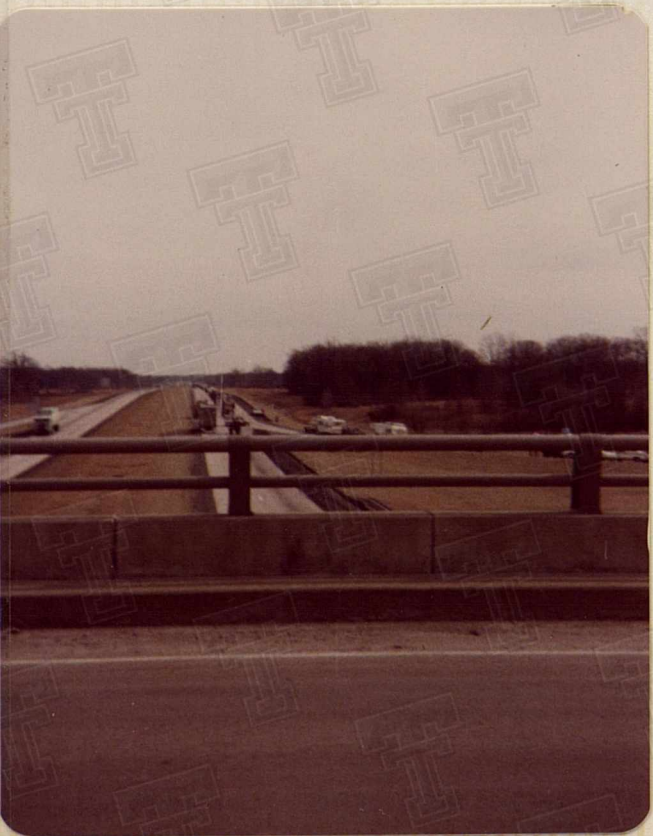
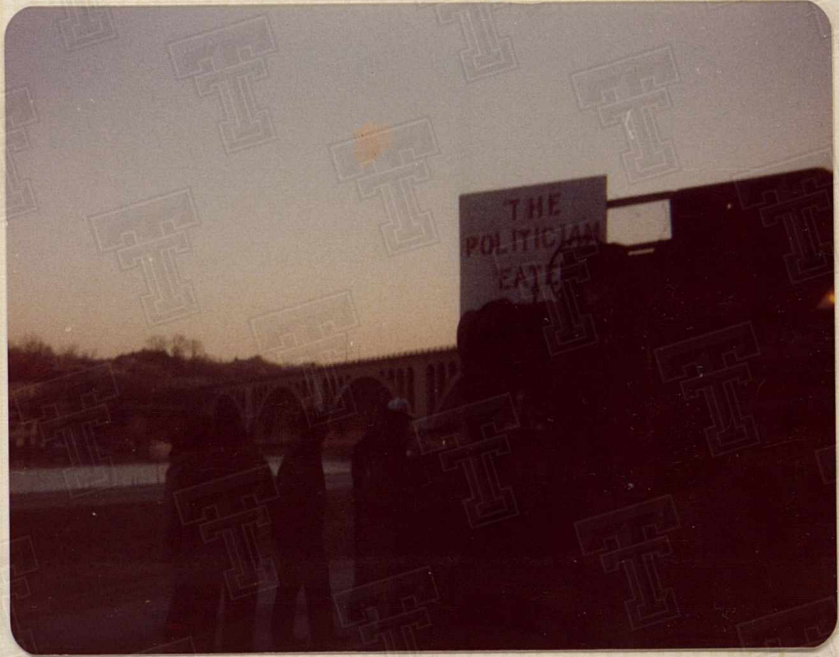
A call Wednesday night from Harvey Joe Sanner traveling with the tractorcade for a report on the whereabouts of the group revealed that they had arrived in Nashville, TN. Wednesday after stops at West Memphis Monday night and Huntington, Tenn., Tuesday night. A Rally was being held at the Nashville National Fairgrounds Wednesday and the group leaves there this Thursday morning. Sanner said they traveled in snow from Huntington to Nashville.

The Des Arc office of AAM expresses their thanks to the following people for helping get the tractor ready for the trip to Washington and also to those who contributed money to help defray expenses on the long trip:









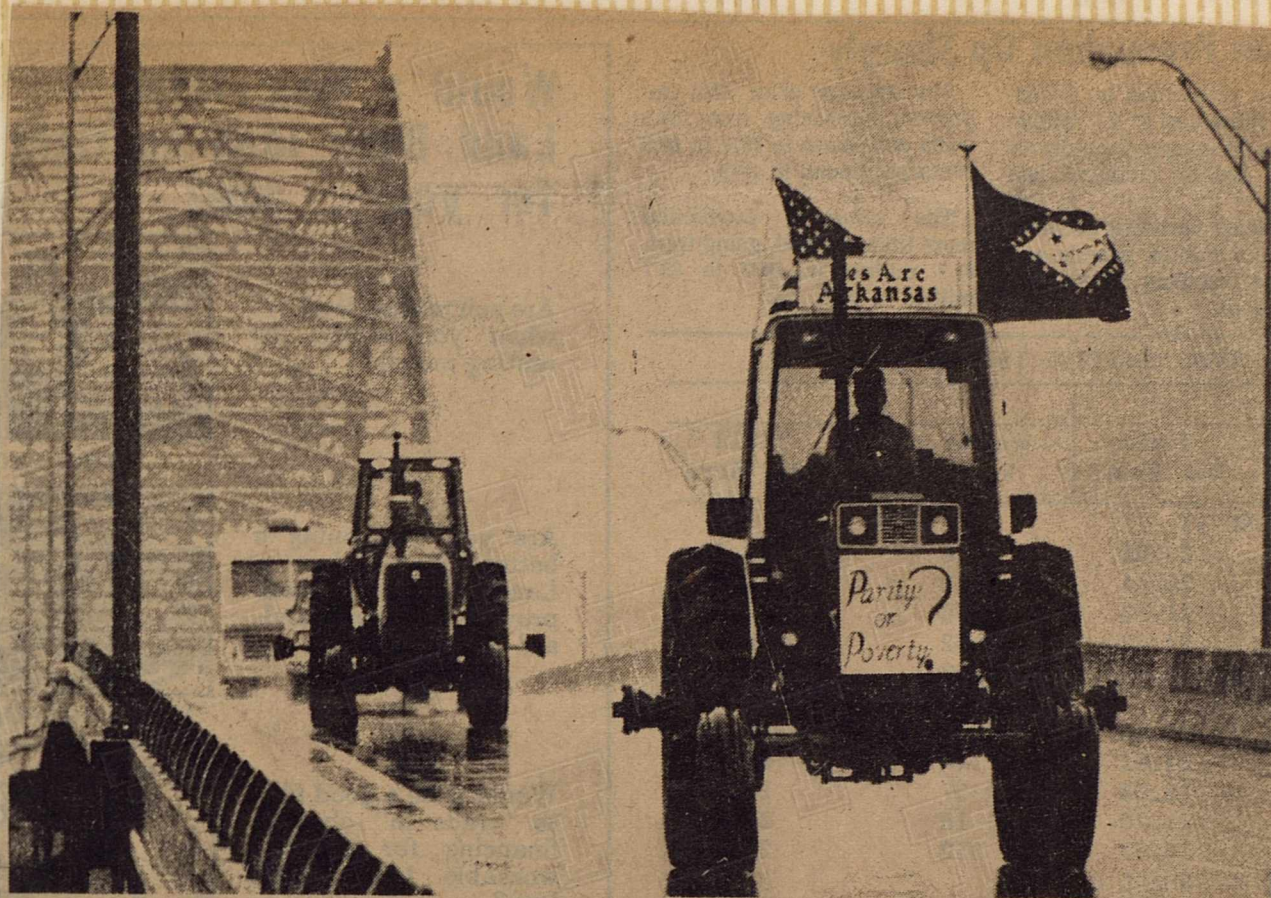












## Des Arc Tractor Out In Front —

From Memphis Newspaper

As the five-mile long tractorcade crossed the Mississippi River Bridge at Memphis last week, Des Arc tractor, with flags flying, was leading the group

## Local AAM Farmers Joining Tractorcade To Washington

A group of local farmers are making plans to join a tractorcade bound for Washington, D. C. and a planned February 2 rendezvous with elected officials to protest federal farm policies.

A local American Agriculture movement spokesman said one tractor would go from here along with support vehicles and will be joined in Washington by a Des Arc delegation that will fly up for the meeting.

The tractor will be driven by Jimmy Holloway and will be accompanied by a service vehicle owned by C. R. Smith. A motor home owned by R. V. Weatherley will be carrying other local AAM members, Jimmy Flanagan, Harvey Joe Sanner, and Dennis Sears.

The Texas tractorcade consisting of about 150 tractors and support vehicles left from

two points Sunday night and are expected to arrive in Little Rock this Sunday night. They will be joined by Arkansas farmers including the Des Arc group Monday and Tuesday.

The local spokesman said driving time will be ten days with no Sunday traveling.

As many as 5,000 tractors, support vehicles, and 30,000 farmers are expected in Washington. The principle purpose of the mass gathering is to urge Secretary of Agriculture Bergland's signing of the 90 percent parity amendment to the 1977 Farm Bill, the local spokesman said.

Jim Dupree of Weldon, Ark., active in the farm movement said he did not know how many would participate in the tractorcade but he hoped to have at least one from all the AAM

offices in the state. Dupree said there were approximately 22 offices in Arkansas.

The local spokesman said, "We are glad to see U. S. Senator David Pryor living up to a campaign promise to farmers. He has been appointed to the Senate Agriculture Committee since taking office Jan. 3."

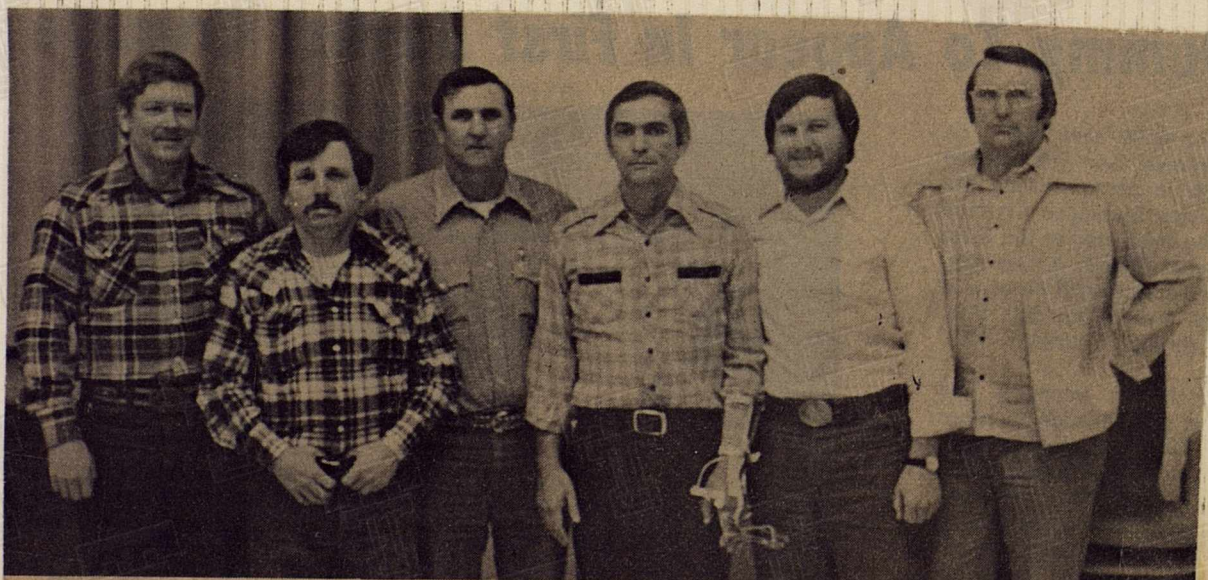




It's always open house at the Ag Building here when the AAMA boys cook up something - which they do real often.

### **AAMA Group Off To D. C.**

The local AAMA group that will be leaving this weekend for the Grass Roots Convention in Washington, D. C. includes Harvey Joe Sanner, Jimmy Flanagan, Jimmy Holloway, Dennis Sears, E. H. Burrows and wife, Kerry Campbell, and Gary Madar, and perhaps others. The group will travel in cars and pickups fueled with gasohol. The fuel supply has been made available along the way by the national AAMA. The Grass Roots convention that will be drawing farmers from throughout America will be held Feb. 19 and 20. The local group will meet with members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation Feb. 21 and 22. A group from Des Arc attended the rally and alcohol fuel demonstration in Little Rock when AAMA groups from Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, stopped overnight enroute to the Washington convention. Those mentioned above were in the local group along with Chip Calhoun, Floyd Calhoun, Buddy Teague, Earl Paul Hamilton, Jimmy Hamilton, Howard Bradford, and Jim Tate. The group said, "If you can't go to D.C., help someone else with expenses."



**DES ARC AAMA CHAPTER LEADERS:** Left to right: Jimmy Holloway, Harvey Joe Sanner, Jimmy Flanagan, Donald DeVore, V. O. Calhoun, Jr., and Jim Tate, Des Arc Chapter directors.





































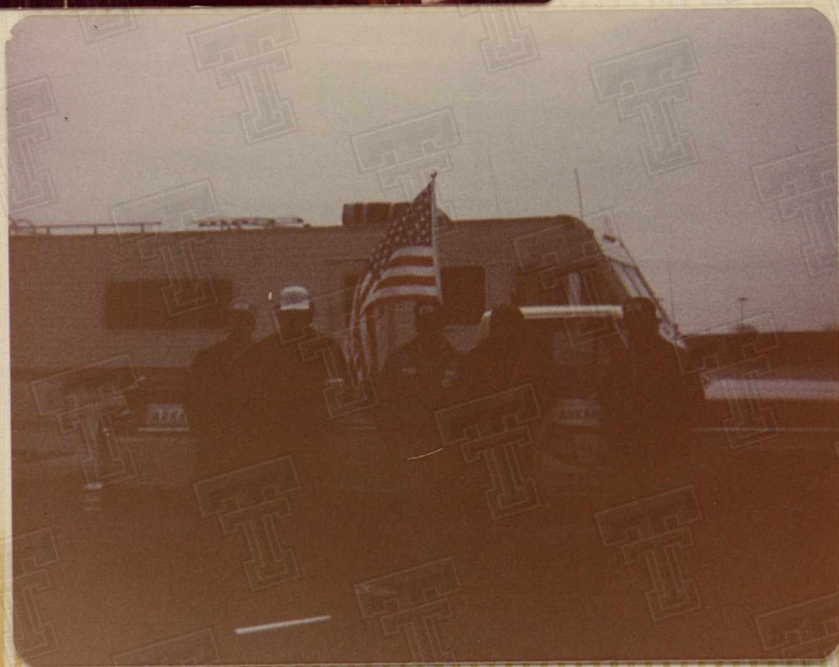




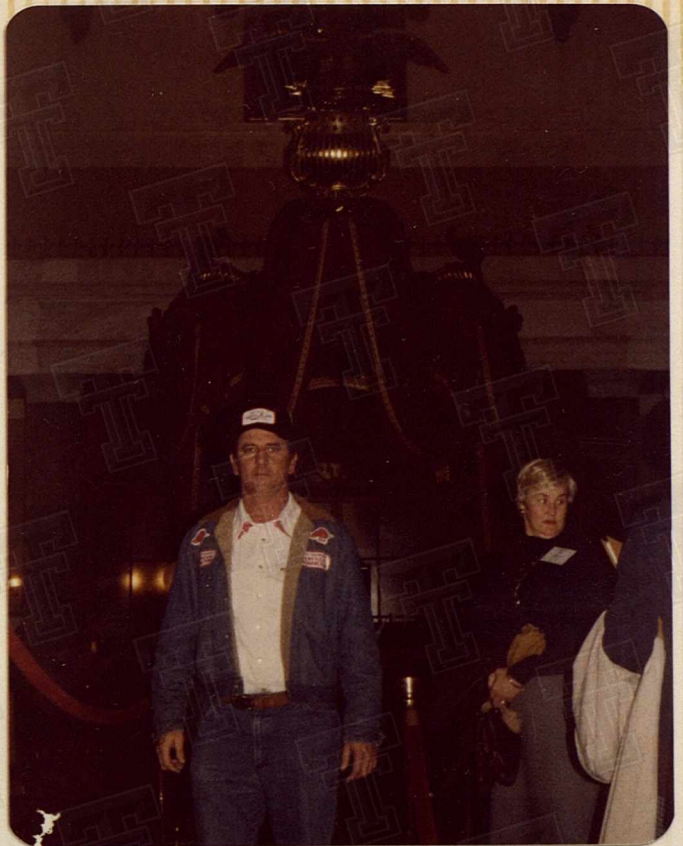








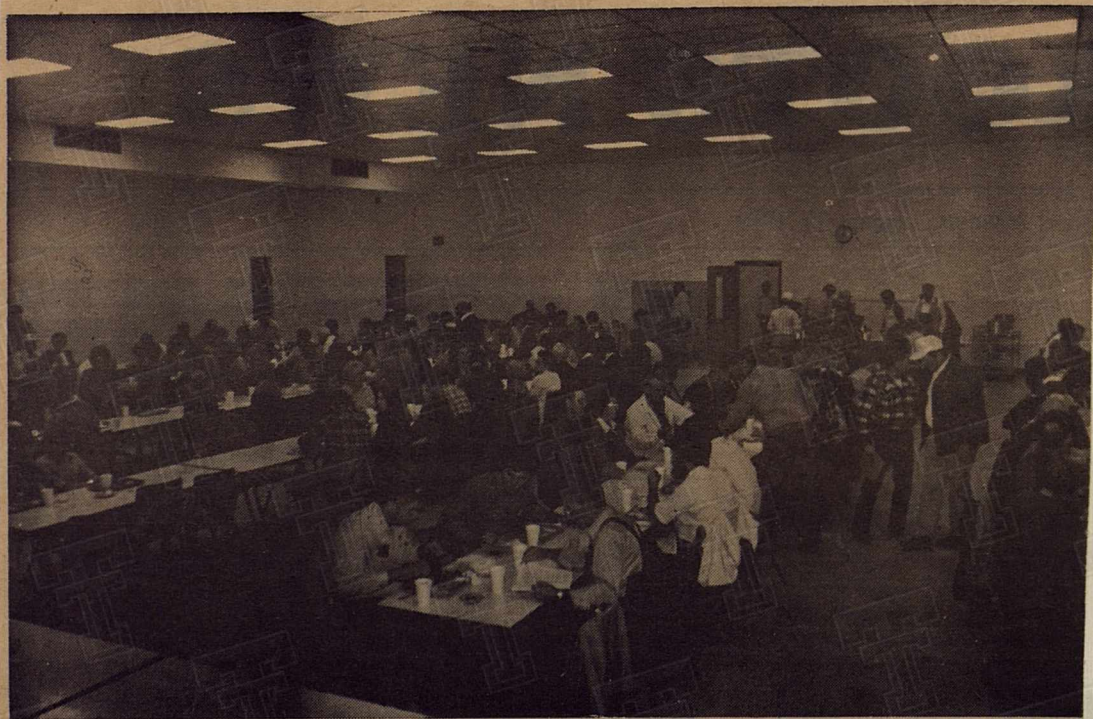








Page 2 GRASS-ROOTS NEWS, January 25, 1979



**FISH FRY** -- Visitors at the Des Arc AAM meeting tackle fresh fried fish and await an

information program on the American Agriculture Movement. (Don Smith Photo)



## **Outlines Proposed Action To Protect Farmers**

# **Bumpers Talks To Farmers About Embargo**

Senator Bumpers met Tuesday with a group of Arkansas farmers to discuss the President's grain embargo and appropriate actions which the government should take to protect the farmers from lower prices caused by that embargo. The farmers included representatives of the Arkansas Farm Bureau and Arkansas Agricultural Movement.

As a result of the meeting, Senator Bumpers sent Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland a letter outlining steps he felt should be taken to relieve the situation.

The Senator's first proposal was an immediate raise in the loan rate on soybeans from the current \$4.50 per bu. to a price more near the true cost of production. Senator Bumpers cited University of Arkansas figures which show a 1979 cost of production for Arkansas' North Delta area soybeans at \$5.02 per bu. That estimate doesn't include land charges or management.

Arkansas is fifth in the nation in soybean production at this time. Although market prices for beans are near the level they were before the President's embargo, the Senator feels that future soybean prices could be depressed if large numbers of corn-belt farmers switch from corn to soybeans as a result of the lower corn prices caused by the embargo.

The Senator also urged the Secretary to lower the interest rate on ASCS on-farm storage loans from 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  percent to the original 7 percent. Arkansas ASCS Offices have made 1,018 of these loans and have \$13.6 million now obligated. The Senator feels that this recom-

mendation would make farmers less vulnerable in times when government policy forces a reduction in overseas grain sales.

The Senator is also concerned that the President's promise to purchase large quantities of wheat for the P. L. 480 "Food for Peace" Program not displace American rice which already has been scheduled for the program. In fiscal year 1980, 368,000 metric tons of rice is to be shipped to undeveloped countries. This is a reduction of almost 100,000 metric tons from last year's P. L. 480 rice program. The Senator emphasized his concern about the decline in rice tonnage over the past several years.

Another measure which the Senator advocated is the extension of the FmHA Economic Emergency Loan Program past its expiration date of May 15, 1980. It is designed to help farmers who are particularly hard-hit by rising production costs and low crop prices. Farmers may borrow up to \$400,000 to refinance existing debt. Since the program began in August, 1978, Arkansas FmHA has made 2,301 loans totaling \$125.9 million.

The Senator asked that all producers be eligible for USDA commodity programs. This would primarily effect rice farmers, who, if they did not have a rice allotment before 1977, are ineligible under the present program. In Arkansas, the nation's largest rice producers, only 35 percent of the rice is eligible for farm programs.

The last recommendation which the Senator made was a request for the Secretary to place set-aside or land diversion on crops where a large oversupply is expected in next year's crop.





















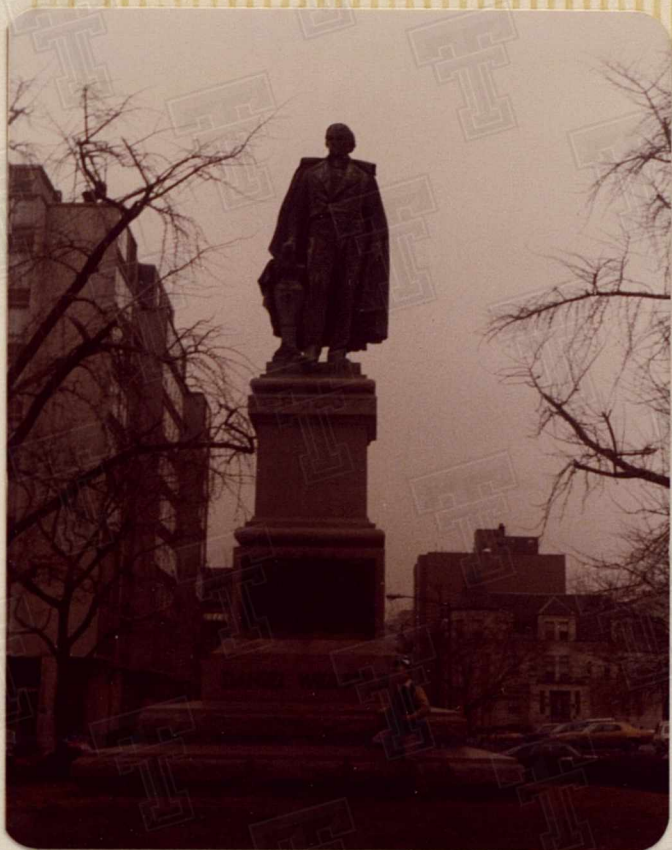




























**In Response to Proposals by Melvin Sims**

## **Thanks, But - No, Thanks, Says AMA Delegate**

"Thanks, But no thanks, Mr. Sims," was the response of Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc to the proposal by USDA's Melvin Sims at the Arkansas Rice Council meeting held in Forrest City on January 26.

Sims, guest speaker at the rice meeting, is with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's foreign agriculture service. Sim' proposal for long rice prices so that the farmer can compete against subsidized sales by foreign governments, "is totally unacceptable and we, in the American Agriculture Movement, will not take it lying down," Sanner stated frankly.

Sanner pointed out, "The catch phrases of the administration such as 'market-oriented', 'market clearing levels', and 'free market approach'... means just one

thing to Arkansas farmers: lower prices and more debt."

This simplistic, ineffective approach to the farm problem must be challenged, Sanner emphasized, and added, "we will be expecting the support of the Arkansas congressional delegation in informing Arkansas farmers that there are alternatives available."

**State AAM  
Convention  
February 11**

Sanner, a national AAM delegate, advises, also, that the State AAM Convention will be held Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Holiday Inn in Forrest City, starting at 6 p.m. (The meal will be "Dutch treat".)

Entertainment will be provided by Dr. A. J. Langlois, professor and humorist, of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro. National AAM president, Tommy Willis of Brownsville, Tenn., will be present and current activities leading up to the writing of the 1985 Farm Bill will be discussed.

All farmers, ranchers, and interested persons are invited to attend.























Harvey Joe Sanner, a rice and soybean producer, represents his home state of Arkansas well. Harvey is a man with a huge heart and an ambition to match. He serves as National Vice-President of Planning, and has recently been appointed to replace DeLoss McKnight on the PAC.

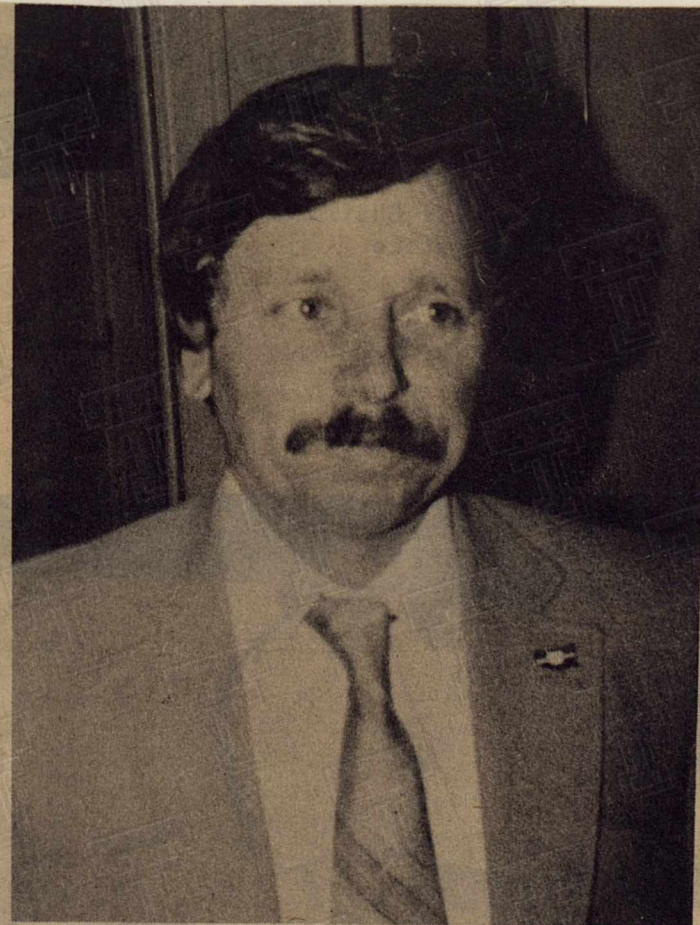
During the winter of '79, Harvey spent 30 days away from home, participating in the tractorcade to Washington, D.C. He believes the tractorcade started a process of farmer involvement that continues today. Looking back he said, "I am proud I participated, but am sad about all the negative things reported about the tractorcade. These negative things covered up the real issues of why we were there."

Last December, he relived some of the tractorcade days as he headed up the Arkansas team that escorted the National Wagonmaster's tractor across the state, as it inched its way towards Washington. It will eventually be placed in the Smithsonian Institute.

Harvey has a beautiful, petite wife, Carolyn, and two sons, Kelly and Matt. He says he is very thankful that his family understands the importance of AAM, and proud of the sacrifices they are willing to make so that he can be the Arkansas delegate. Harvey describes his wife as a housewife, tractor driver, partner, and most importantly, his best friend.

Harvey Joe has extreme pride in the National Office, and considers AAM's credibility as a national organization of producers a top priority.

When asked by the Reporter what the highlight of his AAM career has been, he replied, "I am most proud of the practical, realistic program we began with, and the PAC we established last year. Our PAC holds more promise for progress than any other single accomplishment."



Harvey Joe Sanner, at the National AAM office

Harvey Joe added in his interview, "I appreciate the people of Des Arc, and all of Arkansas. I am ever mindful of their confidence, support and hope. I hope I will never let them down."



**Gathering At Fish Fry Monday**

## **Embargo Is Topic At AAMA Meeting**

At the Ag building in Des Arc Monday, the Des Arc Chapter of AAMA served fish to about 50 members and guests Monday this week. They served catfish and white Amur. The white amur was furnished by Donald DeVore. The fish and all the trimmings was cooked by the local farmers at the office on Highway 11 North.

The major topic of conversation was the grain embargo by President Carter. The local farmers said, "We were told by President Carter that he would never call for a grain embargo."

In discussing an article in the American Agriculture News, they quoted Darrel Miller of Kansas, who said, "We relay what presidential candidate Jimmy Carter said at the Iowa State Fairgrounds on August 25, 1976. 'It's not my idea of a fair shake to have a one-sided market. You know what that means. When prices go up, the Republicans are the first to slap on controls and export embargoes. Their kind of free market means the lowest parity level in decades. If I am elected, we will make sure that our support prices are at least equal to the cost of production. That will not guarantee a profit - no real farmer wants that - but it will give the determined farmer a chance to stay in business.' The 1976 Democratic platform on agriculture stated: 'Maximum agriculture production will be the most efficient means of achieving

an adequate food and fiber supply and a reasonable price stability to the American consumer. Without PARITY income assurance to farmers, full production can not be achieved in an uncertain economy. We must assure Parity return to farmers based on cost of production plus a reasonable profit.'

The local AAMA spokesman said, "According to the Kiplinger Agricultural Letter, thousands of farmers will be forced to sell out completely, or switch to a part-time operation and work full time elsewhere. A lot of good families are going to be hurt. But, if you are one in 4 or 5 who plays it smart and survives the shake-out in the tremendous changes expected in agriculture, you are going to be in the driver's seat . . . running the major food factory for a world that grows ever hungrier."

## **Pryor Aide Visits Des Arc**

Skip Rutherford of Little Rock, administrative aide in the Arkansas office of Senator David Pryor, was in Prairie County last Thursday to meet with area residents at the Courthouse in Des Arc.

The trip to Prairie County, according to Rutherford, is a part of Senator Pryor's efforts to bring the services of his office to Arkansans throughout the state.

"Senator Pryor wants to hear what people are saying and wants to know their views on issues," Rutherford said.

Rutherford also met several individuals and groups who requested Senator Pryor's assistance for help with problems concerning various federal agencies. He said people can contact Senator Pryor in Washington at 404 Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (telephone: 202-224-2353), and in Little Rock at 3030 Federal Building, 700 West Capitol, Little Rock 72201 (telephone: 501-378-6336).

Representatives of Pryor's office will be coming to the Prairie County area on a regular basis to meet with the people according to Rutherford.





**FISH FRY** -- Visitors at the Des Arc AAM meeting tackle fresh fried fish and await an

information program on the American Agriculture Movement. (Don Smith Photo)

## 450 Arkansans Attend Information Meetings

More than 450 persons heard information about Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association in meetings at Des Arc and Hazen January 10 and 11.

The meetings were sponsored by Des Arc and Hazen chapters of AAM, with an estimated 300 persons attending the Des Arc meeting and more than 150 at the Hazen meeting, officials reported.

The meetings were parts of the current drive for new AAM MEMBERS IN Arkansas. Reports indicated perhaps as many as 50 new members were gained in the two meetings.

Speakers at the meetings included Jim Dupree of Weldon, Odis Chapman of Scott; DeLoss McKnight and Jack Cothran of Wynne. All four men are leaders and state delegates of Arkansas

AAM. McKnight is national secretary of the American Agriculture Movement, Inc., the national organization.

Theme of the get-acquainted-educational type meetings was accomplishments of AAM in its brief history. The various speakers dealt with current aims and accomplishments, along with current activities at local, state and national levels of the Movement.





**CROWD LISTENS** -- Scene at Hazen Friday night after a chicken dinner is pictured as

speakers describe the evolution of AAM in Arkansas. (Don Smith Photo)

## Report Says David Senter Firing Biased

David Senter, Agricultural Coordinator for the State of Texas and working out of the Office of State-Federal Relations, Washington, D.C., has been fired according to a story in the January 22 American Agriculture News, Iredell, TX.

The story claimed Senter was threatened by a superior

that he would be unable to find future work in D.C. if, "...he did cause any trouble," over the firing. The quote was not attributed.

The AAM story said there was speculation Senter's support of fuel-alcohol may have caused conflict with the state's governor, who recently vetoed gasohol legislation.



**FARM LEADER** -- Jack Cothran, Arkansas AAM president, opens meeting at Des Arc while chapter chairman Harvey Sanner of Des Arc, and Odis Chapman, speaker from Scott, listen. (Don Smith Photo)



## Secretary Bergland Asks Farmers To Help Pay For Mall Damage

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland announced Friday, March 9, that he is asking farmers and their organizations to help pay repair costs for the extensive damage to the Mall in Washington.

Speaking to reporters on the Mall, Bergland said, "The Mall is our Nation's front yard and it should be kept in as good condition as farmers keep their own front yards. The recent damage to the Mall during the farmers' demonstrations reflects badly on the image of farmers, even though the damage was caused by only a small number of farmers."

"I have received many phone calls and letters from

farmers and farm organizations saying that they wanted to help restore the Mall. I have also received contributions from the general public wanting to help pay the costs of repairing the damages," Bergland said.

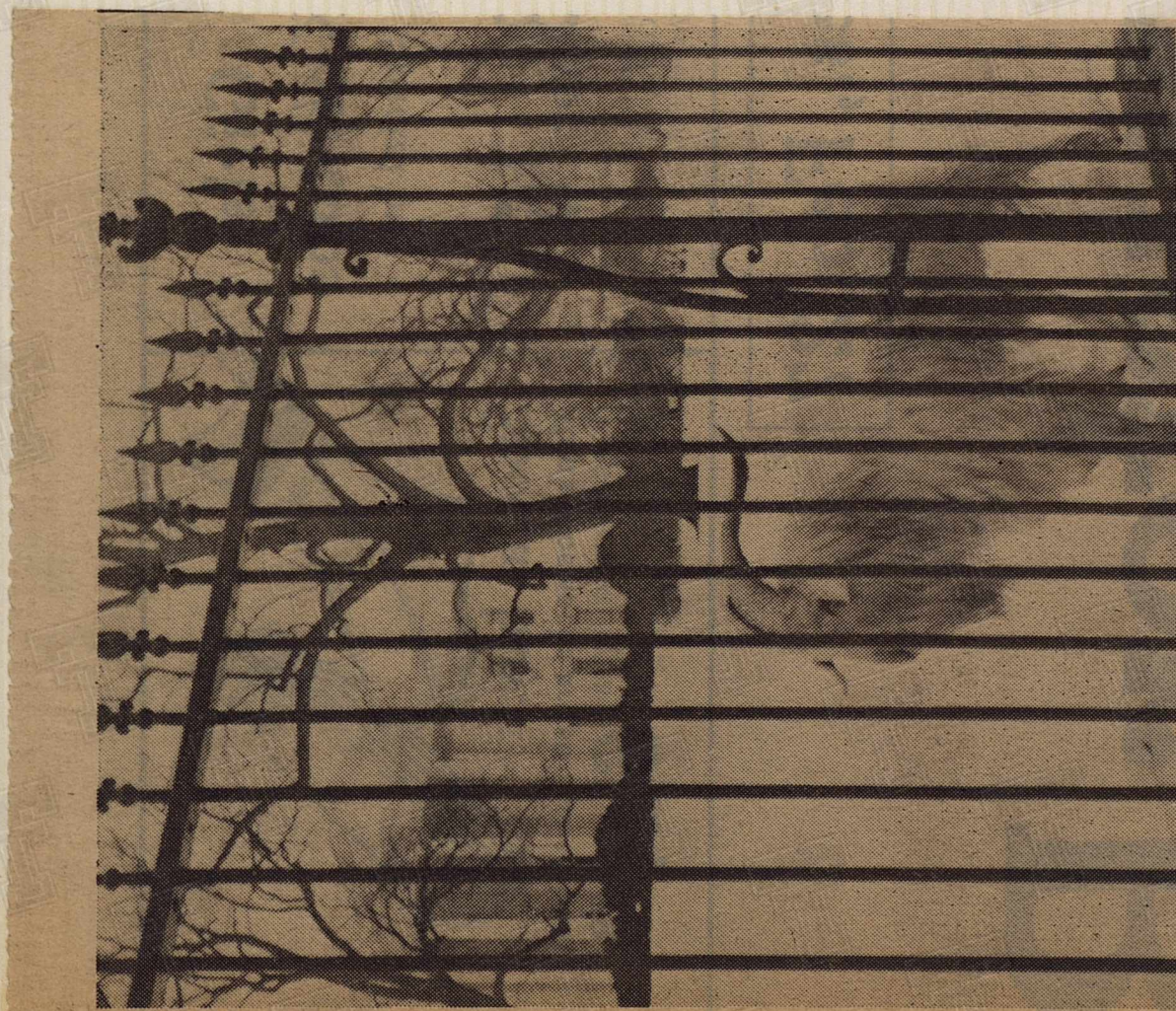
The secretary noted that he has no authority to solicit funds, but that he has conferred with the National Park Foundation and determined that this organization is the proper place for contributions to be sent.

"I am making a personal contribution to this repair effort and I hope that all farmers and their organizations from throughout the United States

will do the same. I think this is appropriate and necessary to restore the credibility and the image of America's farmers," Secretary Bergland said.

Contributions for repairing the Mall will be accepted by check or money order sent to: The Mall Fund, National Park Foundation, Washington, D.C., 20240. All contributions are tax deductible.

The National Park Foundation, a non-profit organization



—AP Wirephoto

Farmers dumped this goat over White House fence as part of protest.





**BACK IN BUSINESS:** The Des Arc Chapter of the American Agriculture Movement recently moved offices to a new location. Shown above are local supporters of AAM, left to right: C. R. Smith, Guyman DeVore, Carl (Butch) Walters, Raymond Ingram, Gary Madar, Harvey Joe Sanner, and O. B. Fields. Sanner said, "The coffee is hot and the American flag is flying every day; we invite you to stop by."

#### ***Accomplishments Cited At Brinkley Meeting This Week***

## **Local AAM Office Moves To New Location**

The Des Arc Chapter of American Agriculture Movement reactivated their activities here last week with a move of their offices to new quarters. The offices are now located near the west city limits next to Bennie Horn's Feed & Seed on Hwy. 11-38 in a building owned by Troy Hunt.

Members of the Des Arc office attended a state meeting in Brinkley Tuesday, Dec. 5, where a drawing was held to pick a winner of a Chevrolet pickup on which chances were sold by AAM. The winner was Rick Zimmerman of Little Rock.

A spokesman for the local

group said the sale of tickets on the pickup was very successful. "We raised enough money to operate the state AAM office for sometime," he said.

A certificate of "incorporation for non-profit organizations" status has been approved by the Secretary of State Winston Bryant and the AAM has been declared an official organization. A membership drive will begin sometime after the first of the year, the spokesman said. Temporary officers were elected until such time as a special election can be held.

At the meeting in Brinkley,

Odis Chapman, outspoken leader of the state AAM, talked about some of the AAM accomplishments the past year. "One of the most important," Chapman said, "was creating an awareness among politicians of agricultural problems; this was a major accomplishment in itself." Senator Dale Bumpers recently spent a day on the Chapman farm near England, Arkansas, discussing these problems with the state AAM leader. Senator-elect David Pryor, who will take office in January, already has an aide spending time with AAM members in order to become more informed of the farmers'

problems.

"Great strides are being made toward cooperation with existing farm organizations," local members stated. "We feel that the more farmers become involved with farm-supportive organizations the more can be accomplished for the good of all."

Everyone, farmers and other business people are invited to stop by the local AAM offices anytime for coffee and conversation. The office at Des Arc is open Monday through Saturday,



## Arkansans in Washington

# Farmers' Help in the Snow Earns Capital's Gratitude

By TOM HAMBURGER

Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — It took a 26-inch snowfall last week to turn around the American Agriculture movement's public relations problems at Washington, if only temporarily.

Before the snow, residents were growing tired of the farmers, who had driven their tractors on the Capitol Hill mall, chopped down trees and cost the city money. They held daily "tractorades" that infuriated Washington motorists.

"Why should we suffer?" a *Washington Post* columnist had written before the snow. "The people of the Washington area are not the ones stopping them from making a buck \* \* \*. Farmers, go home."

Monday, after snow had piled up in five-foot drifts, all was temporarily forgiven.

The city was paralyzed under a blanket of white and the farmers, mobile with four-wheel-drive vehicles and tractors, redeemed themselves.

Hospitals were short on supplies and staff. The farmers picked up doctors and carried them to the hospital in their tractors.

Just days earlier, Washington policemen were cursing the farmers who now were digging patrol cars out of snow banks.

Senator John Warner (Rep., Va.), who recited George Washington's inaugural address on the Senate floor Monday as part of the observance of the first president's birthday, was brought to the Capitol in an American Agriculture tractor.

One farmer, George Hill of Okeene, Okla., set out in his tractor for the home of the columnist who had told the farmers to go home. He found him and took him for a ride, talking all the while about the farmers and their plight.

"He testified for his fellow farmers," the columnist, Richard Cohen, wrote. "But the most compelling testimony of all was his tractor. No one would ride 1,500 miles in one if he wasn't hurting pretty badly."

ciency payments or any kind of handouts," Sanner said. "We aren't interested in a subsidy. We want to get away from the federal government."

★ ★ ★

Representative Bill Alexander (Dem., Ark.) and other Arkansans have been talking with the Chinese about newly expanded trade possibilities. There is a strong possibility that Alexander will in the next few weeks announce a visit of a Chinese trade delegation to Arkansas. The group, from the Cereals and Oils Corporation of the People's Republic, will tour Arkansas rice mills and port facilities if arrangements can be completed.

If the trip doesn't occur, Alexander will consider a visit to a trade conference at Hong Kong.

★ ★ ★

It was a week for lobbyists at Washington. In addition to the bankers and the Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, both arguing for business-oriented legislation, Senator David H. Pryor (Dem., Ark.), Representative Ed Bethune (Rep., Ark.) and Alexander had dinner at a Washington club with oil company executives from Oklahoma.

Alexander was escorting Miss Lisa Myers, a reporter for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, to last week's events.

By rush hour Friday, however, Washington commuters again were aggravated by the farmers.

Three farmers were arrested near the White House as members of the American Agriculture movement dropped a goat over the White House fence and others tipped over a combine, stalling traffic for hours.

★ ★ ★

Harvey Joe Sanner, a farmer from near Des Arc, insists that the movement needed to demonstrate and Washington and needs to continue pressure for major reforms in farm policy.

"If we don't, there is no way but down for American agriculture," he said. "We're going to stay on 'em until the new farm bill is written."

Thursday, Agriculture Secretary Bob S. Bergland repeated the administration's line that has become so infuriating to farmers like Sanner.

"The farm program we have now is working," Bergland said. "I don't recommend any change. I'm advising my friends [farmers] to cut their spending habits. I don't buy a car when I can't afford it."

Sanner said Bergland and the press have misrepresented the farmers' cause.

While farmer are asking for bigger loans and higher target prices, "We don't like the defi-





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

March 13 1979

Mrs. Carolyn Sanner  
Route 1, Box 47  
Des Arc, AR 72040

Dear Mrs. Sanner:

When I used the word "greedy" on the "Good Morning America" show to describe some of the farmers who came to Washington to protest administration farm policy, I made it clear that I was talking about a small group of the protesting farmers. But my mail leads me to think a good many people have been given the impression that I said all farmers are greedy.

I'm not only sorry that impression was given, I regret that the motivation of so few farmers does an injustice to the vast majority, including those who came to Washington. Most of the latter came here not because they are greedy, but because, for one reason or another, they did not share in the general farm prosperity of 1978 and are genuinely worried about their economic future. *own it show th CB DAL*

I have a lot of sympathy for any farmer who is caught in a financial squeeze, because I've found myself in that situation many times. The truth is that I had to work hard in tough years just to hang onto my farm in Roseau, Minnesota, and there were times when I was scared stiff I couldn't do it.

*noway*  
It's important for you to know that the American Agriculture Movement and I do not disagree over the need to save the family farm. Where we disagree is over how to do it. And it's an honest difference of opinion. I believe the programs and policies we instituted or implemented in the last couple of years have put us on the right track. I think last year's record is evidence of that. What we have to do now is make these programs and policies work even better. That's going to take hard work by the Department of Agriculture. *how much* And it's going to take patience, understanding, and cooperation by farm producers. I hope you'll help.

Sincerely,

BOB BERGLAND  
Secretary



... Mr. Paarlberg says farmers shouldn't expect commodity programs to keep farming profitable. I suppose the alternative is not to have a profit, which has been the result of most commodity programs. Productivity, not government programs, has produced what profit I've realized from agriculture. Mr. Paarlberg uses the term "we in" (Turn to page 7.)

### Letters

(Continued from page 3)

agriculture," which infuriates me. I am more "in" than the policy makers, but I am the last to be considered.

HARVEY JOE SANNER, Arkansas

### Senator Hodges Speaking At AAM Rally

## Get Into Politics; Farmers Are Told

Senator Kaneaster Hodges, speaking at the American Agriculture Movement Rally held at Village Creek Saturday, told farmers, "If you do not get involved in politics, you will have to get out of farming."

Hodges was one of several political figures speaking at the rally.

Thirty-two hundred people attended the rally last Saturday and approximately 30 of those attending were from the Des Arc area.

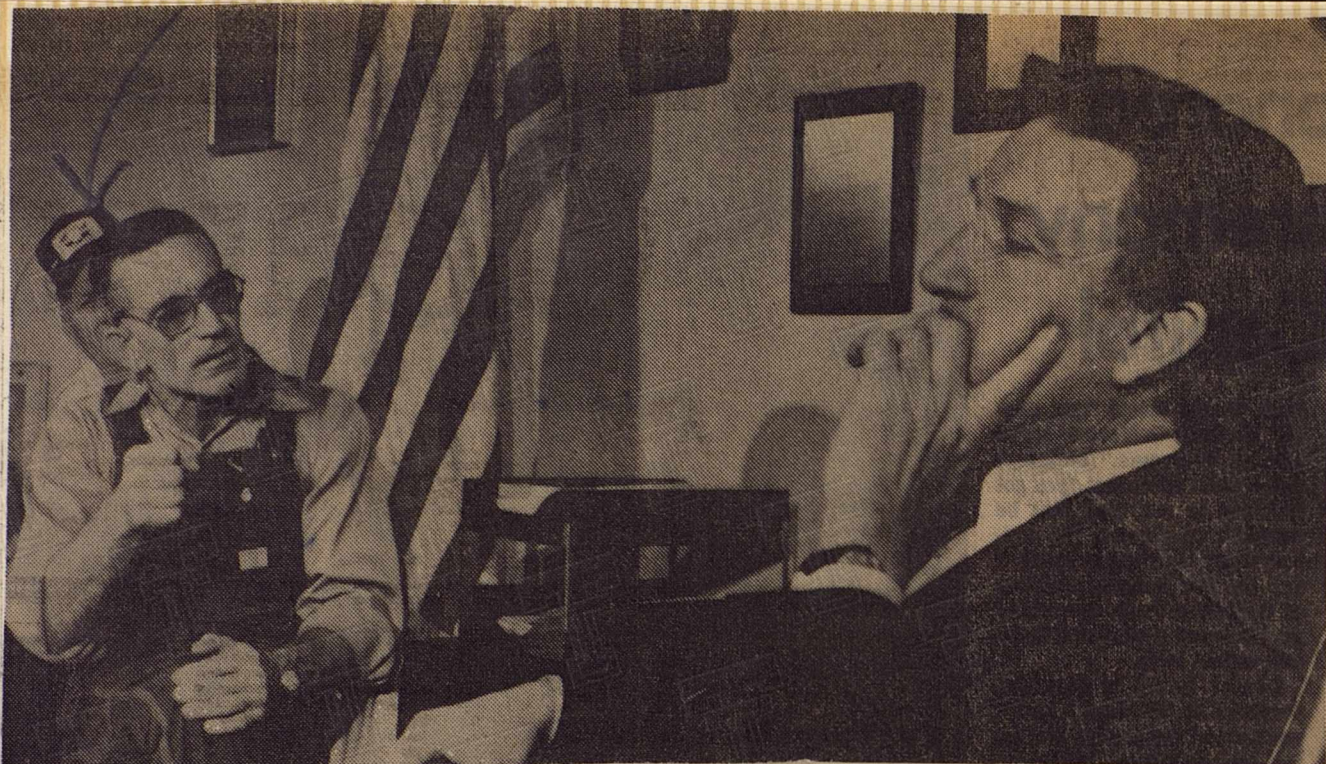
The temperature was at 100 degrees but in spite of the hot weather all reported an enjoyable time, a local AAM spokesman said. The barbecue meal and trimmings were extremely well prepared by a Little Rock caterer, the spokesman said.

### Local Meeting

The Des Arc office of AAM will have a meeting Friday, Sept. 1, at 7 p. m., in the W. C. Guaranty Savings & Loan community room at Des Arc and all members are urged to attend.







Chapman tells Bumpers that farmers need higher loan rates for soybeans.

## Using Food Policy as Weapon Blasted

By GEORGE WELLS  
Of the Gazette Staff

The free market is a fallacy that won't work because the United States uses its food policy for a weapon, Odus Chapman of Scott, a representative of the American Agriculture movement, told Senator Dale Bumpers Tuesday at Little Rock.

About 20 farmers, and as many reporters, crowded into Bumpers' office for what the senator called "a listening session" with farmers from around the state about the possible effects on Arkansas agriculture of the American grain embargo against Russia.

Chapman, Jim Dupree of Welton and others represented the American Agriculture movement. Several representatives of the Arkansas Farm Bureau also were present, including Jack Justus, the vice president and executive assistant.

### 'Dramatic Change'

Dupree was concerned that the announcement represented "a dramatic change in United States policy" because America had never before openly used food as a weapon in its foreign policy. This meant that the farmer would have no protection against the whims of politics, Dupree said.

Several farmers expressed fears about what would be done with the grain that had been intended for Russia. If it is sold on

the open market, it could seriously depress the price of all grain products, including rice, they said. If it is stored, it will be a continuing threat to stable prices because "it might be dumped on the market," as one farmer put it.

Chapman suggested that what was needed most was to "set our loan rates at a reasonable level." Grain that is in storage can be used as collateral for government loans at a set price. The higher the loan price, the more the farmer will get for his crop if he can sell it before the note is due.

### Lacks Facilities

One of the problems with handling the grain that had been meant for Russia, Bumpers told them, is that the United States lacks facilities to store grain for a long time. The longer the grain can be stored, the less impact it is likely to have on farm prices in any one year.

Justus said there were two basic problems: What to do with the grain it can't sell to Russia and what to do about planning this year's crop. "There's no real, immediate solution. It can't be solved with the swiftness with which it came on us."

Most of the grain that would have gone to Russia would have been either corn or wheat, but the impact also affects soybean and rice farmers because those grains are sometimes interchangeable,

especially in use as feed grains for livestock. "Rice is already in trouble," Chapman said, because one of the biggest buyers was Iran.

### Appropriate Action

Bumpers told the group that farmers were "entitled to protection" from such situations as have resulted from Iran and Afghanistan. He outlined several things he thought might be appropriate, and later put them in a letter to Bergland, including:

★ An immediate increase in the loan rate on soybeans from the current \$4.50 a bushel to something more near the cost of production, which he estimated at \$5.02 a bushel based on University of Arkansas research in the northern Delta section.

★ Lowering the storage loan rates from 10.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

★ A policy that would not result in the anticipated increased purchases of wheat for the Food for Peace program displacing purchases of rice for that program. A reduction of about 100,000 metric

tons of rice for the program from last year's 368,000 metric tons already is planned.

★ Extending the Economic Emergency Loan Program of the Farmers Home Administration beyond the expiration date of May 15.

### Support Decision

Most of the farmers at the meeting indicated they supported President Carter's embargo decision but were concerned that farmers would wind up bearing all, or a disproportionate amount, of the burden.

Bumpers also said that suggestions to develop gasohol — a motor fuel blending alcohol and gasoline — and diverting the surplus grain crops into that was somewhat misleading. He said the country did not have the facilities to do much in the short term and probably could not absorb more than 1 million of the surplus 17 million metric tons.

Chapman agreed, saying that "gasohol is good politics, but it's not worth a dime to me this year."



# Bumpers, farmers meet

## Action to cut losses demanded

By JOHN McANULTY

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

About 20 Arkansas farmers Tuesday gave Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., a clear message: Since the United States is using food as a weapon in foreign policy, they expect Congress to give the farmer specific economic considerations to prevent drastic losses.

Bumpers received the message at his Little Rock office from members of the American Agriculture Movement and the Arkansas Farm Bureau. He termed the meeting a "listening and talking" session to find out what effects the grain embargo against the Soviet Union is having on them. The grain embargo was implemented in response to Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

Bumpers told the group that he will support any program "that will keep the farmer from losing" as a result of the embargo. He said the embargo is a "fact of life," and that he agrees with President Carter's imposition of it but with "considerable reservation" because its potentially drastic effect on farmers.

Arkansas farmers are concerned because the embargo has curtailed the sale of one million tons of soybeans to the Soviet Union. A total of about 17 million metric tons of grain will not be shipped to the Soviet Union as previous contracts had provided.

Carter has said that the farmers will be paid for the grain that was under contract to the Soviets but the grain will remain on the market and farmers fear that the excess grain will cause prices to fall.

Odis Chapman of Scott, a spokesman for the American Agriculture Movement, told Bumpers that farmers should not have to bear 100 percent of the brunt of foreign policy. The feeling among all of the farmers present Tuesday was that Washington will push concerns of the farmer under the rug if congressional delegations from agricultural states do not fight hard for the farmers.

Scott said that, during the embargo and in the future, farmers would be helped by an increase in federal loans for producing grain.

Bumpers agreed with Scott on the point but said he was not sure how much should be set aside to loan the farmers. Bumpers had said Jan. 8 that an increase in the loan amount is unlikely.

If the excess grain caused by the embargo can not be sold to other markets, the farmers will be faced with a storage problem.

Bumpers said Tuesday that he would like to see the interest rate lowered on Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service on-farm storage loans. The interest rate was raised from 7 to 10 percent last spring. A lowering of the rate would ease some of the economic strain on the farmers.

Bumpers also told the farmers that he will urge Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland not to substitute wheat for rice in the the Food for Peace Program. Under



DemoPhoto by Gary Fountain

### Odis Chapman of Scott explains position

There is a question as to which will be done and Bumpers said he will work toward seeing that the rice is used in the program because rice prices are already depressed and the loss of Iran as a market has depressed prices even further.

Bumpers said he thinks soybeans should be given a target price, as is provided other types of grain. The target price for a type of grain is set by the federal government and enables farmers to receive the target price amount from the government if sale prices on the market fall below the target price.

Scott told Bumpers that he can speak for most other farmers in saying that target prices constitute a "welfare program at the expense of our people."

Jack Justus, vice president and executive assistant for the state Farm Bureau, said the bureau has always felt it was dangerous to use food as a weapon and that now that it's being done, there appears to be no immediate solution to protecting farmers.



## Credited With Use Of Rice In School Lunches

# AAMA Members Cite Accomplishments

The Arkansas Agricultural Movement Association held its regular monthly meeting at Brinkley Tuesday, March 6, at 1 p. m. The last state meeting was held in Arlington, Va., just a few miles from the Capitol in Washington, D. C., a spokesman said.

There have been Arkansas people in Washington, D. C. since that time and we heard reports from several of them, the spokesman said. Progress is definitely being made in that Arkansas farmers representing AAMA are meeting with people who have a large part in determining agricultural policy, the spokesman said.

Farmers in Washington had two informal meetings last

week with Congressman Foley, chairman of the House Agricultural Committee. Also, Senator Dole, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, met with the Arkansas farmers.

The farmers still in Washington have talked with Howard Hjert, chief economist with USDA; Lynn Daft, economic adviser, and Dr. J. B. Penn, a member of the president's Council of Economic Advisors. All of these people are being made aware of the importance of some emphasis being put on producers when agricultural policies are formed, they emphasized.

It was decided to keep at least two people on a rotating basis in D. C. One area of major concern was the misleading news reports and the misquotes of the news medias.

Odis Chapman, well known spokesman for the Arkansas farmers, has been invited to appear on the Channel 7 program, Arkansas Issues, Saturday, March 10, at 12:30 p. m., discussing "the family farmer." Local AAM leaders said, "Odis is a very capable and dedicated man and this program should be enjoyable."

### AAMA GETS RICE ON SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

AAMA has accomplished something for the rice producers this past month that should be a big help to farmers, stated local AAMA leaders. Rice has been approved for use in the school lunch program, according to Margaret Glaver, head of food services division, Washington, D.C. She said, "It can be served eight times weekly in the elementary schools and 10 times weekly in high schools as a bread substitute. AAMA earned 100 percent credit for this accomplishment.

vote and a voice in this organization."

The local AAMA spokesman reports that an organizational meeting will be held Monday

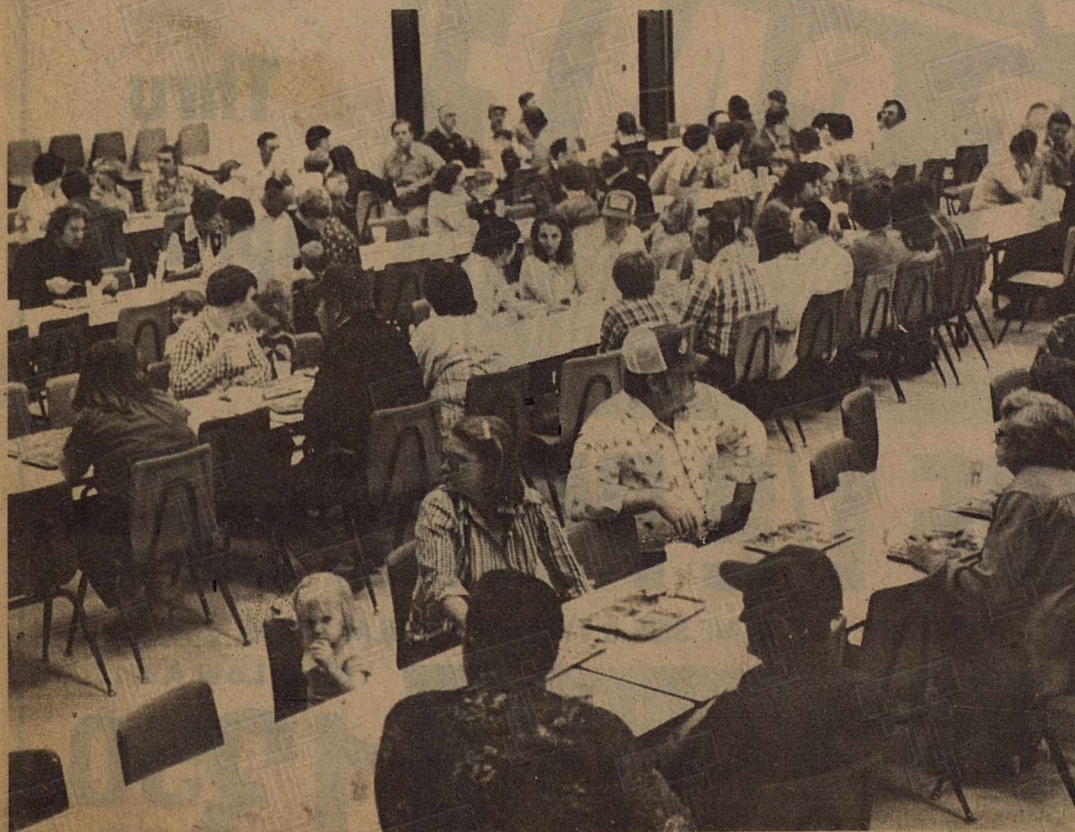
night, March 12, at the local AAMA office in Des Arc and they urge all members to make it a point to attend this important meeting.

The local spokesman said, "This is just one of the things you can see AAMA has done for agriculture. We are also responsible for Senator Pryor being on the Senate Agriculture Committee, as well as Congressman Beryl Anthony's appointment to the House Agriculture Committee. Both of these men are asking questions of Secretary Bergland and other administration people - who should be asked."

Spokesman for the group stated, "It's obvious we can do a lot of good and the more our membership grows, the more we can accomplish. We will continue," he added "our continue our membership drive," he added, "and we want to encourage you to buy a membership so you can have a



# 200 People Served At AAMA's



Part of large crowd at AAMA Barbecue Supper last Thursday

Approximately 200 persons attended the free barbecue supper given by the Des Arc chapter of American Agriculture Movement Association at the elementary school last week on Thursday evening.

The large crowd finally made their way through the line serving free barbecue pork, salad, chips, beans, and cake, and were then content to listen to talks by Representative Bobby Glover and Odis Chapman of Scott, Arkansas.

Rep. Glover spoke briefly on several bills that would be of concern to the farmer including a bill that would require a "true value" assessment of land.

Guests were introduced by local chapter spokesman, Harvey Joe Sanner.

Highlight of the evening was a talk by AAMA's spokesman from Arkansas, Odis Chapman of Scott. It was Chapman's 198th appearance before a farm group since he started with the agricultural movement 18 months ago.

Chapman, who has been to Washington, D. C., 11 times, recently went to the Capitol City to view the damage done by the tractorcade that went to Washington early this year and claimed by some in Washington to have dealt \$2 million damage to the capitol mall.

Chapman, in his humorous and fiery way, refuted this claim as well as many others. He said, "My estimate of the damage to the Mall would be at the most, \$25,000." He told his audience pictures of the mall and the damages are available at the local chapter office. He added, "If any of you will go to Washington and see for yourself, I will pay your fare up there and back, if I am not telling you the truth." He added, "It was not our idea to park in the Mall - they herded us in there, and kept us in there for three weeks."

The local group expressed appreciation to the school lunchroom staff who served, Bobby Lynn Weatherley, who furnished the hog, and to Donald Guess who barbecued the meat at no charge. They also gave their appreciation to the school administrators for allowing them the use of the



# Barbecue Here

facility.

## State Meeting

Twenty-five states were represented at the state meeting in Little Rock, April 7 and 8, with the following count: Alabama, 4; Arkansas 98; Colorado 3; Florida 1; Georgia 4; Illinois 13; Indiana 2; Iowa 1; Kansas 20; Kentucky 1; Louisiana 7; Maryland 1; Michigan 2; Mississippi 10; Missouri 22; New Mexico 5; North Dakota 2; Ohio 7; Oklahoma 3; South Dakota 3; Tennessee 3; Texas 29; Virginia 2; Wisconsin 1; and Wyoming 1.

The farmers proposed a set of by-laws and the delegation voted tentatively to accept the by-laws and proposed dues of \$200.00 per member.

The local spokesman emphasized the proposed dues is only tentative and may not be accepted by farmers of this state.

Representatives of all states took the proposed by-laws back home to study and will make recommendations as to needed changes at another national meeting May 12 and 13 at such place and time as will be announced later.



Odis Chapman speaks

A local spokesman said the proposed by-laws are available for study at the local office and farmers are urged to come by the office in Des Arc and have some input into decisions that will be made about the policies and by-laws of the organization.

Harvey Joe Sanner, local representative at the state meeting last weekend, said the group saw the need to organize but it is hoped that many farmers will voice their opinions about important issues that concern all farmers.

## Bumpers To Meet With Area Farmers

A meeting of importance to local farmers is announced this week by Harvey Joe Sanner, spokesman for the Des Arc Chapter, American Agriculture Movement. The meeting will be held at the Brinkley school auditorium Tuesday, Jan. 9, beginning at 4:30 p. m.

Guest speakers for the meeting will be U. S. Senator Dale Bumpers and Alvin Jenkins of Colorado, early promoter of the AA movement. The two men will discuss AAM accomplishments the past year.

Sanner stated, "All farmers are urged to attend this important meeting whether or not you are affiliated with the AAM. We invite farmers to stop by the local office for information."

The local AAM group will leave Des Arc for Brinkley at 3:30 p. m. and invite others to accompany them.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT office at Des Arc is temporarily closed a spokesman said this week. Office headquarters the old American Station at 10th and Main, has been purchased by Ronnie Rollins, the spokesman said, and would be remodeled. The AAM office will move back into the location after remodeling which will take several weeks, they added.

WILL FELAND, Senator David Pryor's agricultural aide in Washington, met with the Des Arc Chapter American Agriculture Movement Association board of directors for breakfast here last Thursday morning at Langley's restaurant. The purpose of his visit was to "keep in touch" with the local AAMA group and to give them an opportunity to give their views on upcoming legislation that will effect farmers. Members of the Des Arc AAMA board are Harvey Joe Sanner, Jimmy Flanagan, Jimmy Holloway, V. O. Calhoun, Jr., Jimmy Pugh, Donald DeVore, and Jimmy Tate.

Harvey Joe Sanner was heard to say this week that he would not shave his beard off until it rained. Please pray for rain.



## AAM News & Views

The American Agriculture Movement recognizes that all working people of this country are suffering. We suffer from high interest rates and spiraling inflation figures that lower our standard of living. The open door import policy and controlled exports have stolen millions of jobs of hard

working American people. We have been subjected to having taxpayers made into tax recipients.

Agriculture is the largest industry in American and consumes 40 percent of all the industrial output of our country. Agriculture employs over 20 million people directly and indirectly. The impact of the destruction of farming industry by producing at prices less than the cost of production has prevented farmers from being able to retool. It is destroying rural communities and forcing thousands into the job markets to compete for a limited number of jobs.

The National Delegates, by unanimous vote, adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, National USDA Administrators have ignored the political interests of independent family farmers, and

WHEREAS, Southern governors through the Southern Growth Policy Board have been unable to respond to the known emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the corporate sector, the independent trade sector, and the major food processors have denied independent farmers' needs for assistance in achieving parity price.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Agriculture Movement call on leaders of AFL-CIO, Teamsters, United Mine Workers, UAW, and Inde-

also covered taxes, lobbying, farm women's survey; and lunch sessions with choices such as exports, marketing, transportation, and energy. By far the most interest was generated during floor questions at the legislative session in which J.B. Penn of the Economics and Statistics service, was the speaker.

The most pressing questions pertained to USDA's shift in policy FROM favoring producer interests to favoring non-producer interests. Trade negotiations also drew a lot of interest. The question was why our trade negotiators weren't doing a better job, and why didn't they focus on better prices rather than just stressing quantity. The answers were generally evasive of the issues, but never the less, a great deal of information was made available on the actual process of passing agricultural legislation.

The regulations session detailed the process of the life of USDA regulations and informed how we, as producers, could have input on these regulations. We were encouraged to attempt to shift chemical regulations toward application, rather than total banning.

In a roundtable discussion the last afternoon, Howard Hjort - USDA, Don Crabill-OMB, and Suzanne Early - USDA, answered a variety

## Howard Hjort Wins His Own Prize

While in Washington recently, the word was afloat that Howard Hjort over at USDA had given himself a \$17,000 prize. Sure enough, at home one reads in the public prints that Hjort had won \$20,000 for shifting USDA policy from being producer oriented to being customer oriented. Normally these little boondoggles go unnoticed. But American Agriculture Movement has a Washington office, and the people at AAM really know what's going on.

The business of Carter's top agriculture economic advisor determining who has to get the prize, then in effect naming himself, is tawdry enough. Even worse is the matter of casting in cement what has been apparent for many years. Obviously the farmer is without a voice in the very department that is supposed to look out for his welfare. Even without this observation in blunt English, the statistics say as much. Even a decade ago farm production and marketing got 50 cents of every dollar spent by USDA. Today the figure is 28 cents.

In the public prints Bergland comes off as embarrassed because of the "error" that went out over his signature.

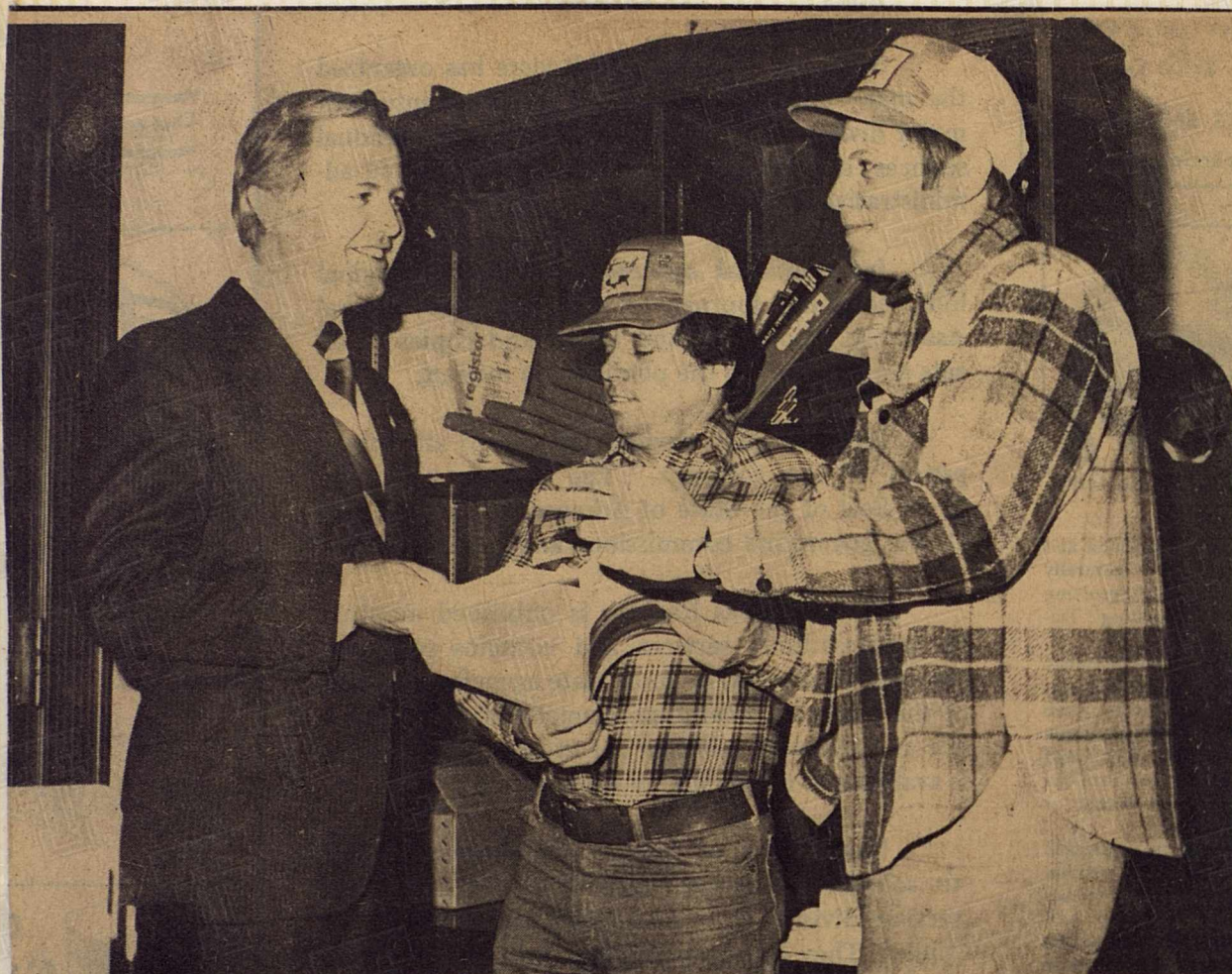
Actually the scene was rather high powered. It was during a recent White House ceremony that Hjort was honored for distinguished and meritorious service. Almost immediately several farm groups, the National Association of Wheat Growers and AAM included, jumped all over Bergland. And Bergland came forth with the "this is a mistake" routine. Unnoticed amid all the shouting was the fact that the \$20,000 stayed right where Hjort put it—in his own pocket.

Reagan on Wed., Oct. 29, when Reagan was on a final campaign week visit in Texas. Marvin was very pleased with the meeting and stated in a press release that Reagan was in complete agreement with a letter sent to 170,000 Texas farmers and ranchers.

The letter complained of Carter Administration policies toward agriculture and was sent out by Marvin and other agriculture leaders. Marvin also stated that Reagan committed himself to appointing a secretary of agriculture who will redirect the USDA!!!! "from Jimmy Carter's strict consumer orientation toward the goal of production and

along with AFL-CIO, New sumers, environmentalists, York Stock Exchange, con- and now FARMERS!





**DES ARC FARMERS IN WASHINGTON**—Farmers are still in evidence in the nation's capitol. Two Des Arc farmers, Harvey Joe Sanner and Jim Pugh, members of the American Agriculture Movement met last week with 2nd District Congressman Ed Bethune. Many of the tractors have been removed from the Mall area near the Capitol but the farmers are still in Washington to lobby for higher price supports.

**Barbecue, Jimmy Driftwood, Along With Politicians Expected**

## **AAM Rally At Village Creek Saturday**

Barbecue, Jimmy Driftwood, and politics will be at Village Creek State Park (between Forrest City and Wynne) on Saturday, August 26, beginning at 12:00 noon.

Sponsored by the 27 regional state offices of the Arkansas American Agriculture Movement, the farm rally is open to all farmers, ranchers, interested people and their families.

Guest speakers attending the rally include Berle Anthony, Ed Bethune, John Black, Doug Brandon, Attorney General Bill Clinton, Sen. Kaneaster Hodges, Tom Kelly, Governor David Pryor, Congressman Jim Guy Tucker and Congressman Ray Thornton.

"This rally will give each state official an opportunity to address himself to the farmer

and the problems of agriculture," stated Ken Mitchell, director of the Arkansas American Agriculture Movement. "And it will give the farmers an opportunity to meet the different leaders in our state government and voice their (the farmer) positions," he added.

The Arkansas American Agriculture Movement is headquartered in McGehee.

This rally will be held outdoors, therefore, you are asked to bring pillows, blankets, lawn chairs, and other items to be comfortable.

A spokesman for the local chapter referred to the county fair activities Saturday and said, "You can attend this event and be back in time for the Saturday night rodeo and queen contest."





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## Des Arc AAMA Elects Directors

An organizational meeting of the Des Arc Chapter of the American Agriculture Movement Association was held Monday, March 12.

A Board of seven directors was elected using the same geographic zones as used by the Des Arc Division of Rice-land Foods.

The new Board is composed of the following persons: District 1, Donald DeVore and Jim Pugh; District 2, Harvey Sanner and Jimmy Flanagan; District 3, Jimmy Holloway and Jimmy Tate; and at large member, V. O. Calhoun, Jr.

Other business discussed included a financial report given by Jimmy Holloway and the State AAMA plan to keep two farmers in Washington, D. C. all year on a one-week rotating basis.

The state office will be sending Harvey Sanner and Jim Pugh for the week beginning March 19.

A special recognition goes out to Mrs. Sally DeVore for her attendance at the meeting and for her contribution to the organization.

Bobby Lynn Weatherley has volunteered a hog and a tentative date of March 30 was set for a barbeque for members, associate members, and their families.

The meeting closed with a slide presentation by Chip Calhoun of the recent Tractorcade to Washington.

Anyone with facts or questions that need to be mentioned in Washington should contact the Des Arc AAMA office by this weekend.



## Report On AAM Delegates To Washington Meeting

Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc, an alternate delegate with the American Agriculture Movement, was in Washington, D. C. Feb. 2 to Feb. 6 for the delegate meeting, and he gives the following report on the trip:

Two other Arkansas AAM delegates attending were Jack Cothran, Arkansas president; DeLoss McKnight, a national delegate.

(Quote)

Monday morning, Feb. 2, we were addressed by Secretary of Agriculture John Block, who was received very well by the delegates. He said he didn't have anything specific to tell us since they were still trying to staff the department and weren't working on policy matters yet.

He did tell us the primary goal of his department would be to get some profit back in agriculture. Inflation and government spending are two of the main obstacles we face, Secretary Block said. He said budget cuts across the board were going to affect every department but he thought USDA's share of these cuts could be made in areas that would not harm producers.

Block drew applause when he stated he didn't think FHA should be building golf courses and racket ball courts. He thinks several programs in USDA need to be re-evaluated.

Secretary Block was asked by a Nebraska corn farmer to extend the deadline on some reserve grain that was due to be called this week when prices are depressed. He said, "I'll look into it." The next day a 30-day extension was applied to this grain. This is just one instance of how a secretary of agriculture can help producers. It's something to which we are not accustomed.

The secretary thanked American Agriculture Movement for its work in

made (it is expected within the next week).

The Arkansas delegates met with both Senators, Bumpers and Pryor, while we were in Washington. We also visited with three of our four Congressmen, and an aide of the fourth. It appears that Prairie County is going to have a new congressman. The Congressional Districts are going to be re-apportioned and it is very likely we will lose Ed Bethune and be placed in Congressman Bill Alexander's district. Alexander thinks Prairie, Arkansas and Cleburne Counties will probably be the three needed to give him the population needed. Congressman Hammerschmidt told us he had to give up 61,000 people. You can see how the population is shifting in Arkansas from the farming-agriculture to urban areas. Whatever the outcome of the re-districting, we in AAM can have a working relationship with either Ed Bethune or Bill Alexander. Mr. Alexander acknowledges the fact that past farm legislation has not worked in behalf of the producers. He has pledged to support producer interest in any upcoming farm legislation. Bethune's aide, Jerry Climer, is very knowledgeable about agricultural legislation and how the system works. Jerry Climer spent several years in USDA before coming to work for Congressman Bethune. He has been very helpful in the past and we hope to work with Jerry, no matter whose district he might be in.

We had nothing but good positive comments about our AAM building to be constructed at Des Arc, Senator Bumpers as well as Congressman Alexander and Bethune said they would like to visit Des Arc when we get our building completed. As we progress with out building, we are to keep them posted so they can work a visit into their sche-

at Conway. All said they would program them right away. Channel II thought they would be aired beginning this Thursday and played several times a day. Again, if you don't see it, call and ask or if you do call and express your appreciation.

What we have going on for us right now is something vital, not only to agriculture but the nation as a whole; farmers finally speaking for themselves. Any economist will tell you that agriculture is the backbone of every economy and we have stood by and let the production side of agriculture go without representation too long. It is very apparent that if we are to have representation, we are going to have to do it ourselves. If we don't have input in the 1981 Farm Bill, we can expect the same type legislation we've lived under these past four years with every segment showing a profit except the producer. We have several farmers on the verge of bankruptcy who three years ago never dreamed they would be where they are today. The drought just quickened the pace three years of low prices had started.

Any farmer who is not feeling the pinch is most fortunate; but eventually even the most stable will be affected. No one in farming today is receiving a fair return on their investment and when this happens, you don't purchase goods and services from the local merchants as you would if agriculture was healthy. We all benefit from a healthy agriculture, especially in a rural community like Des Arc. One thing most farmers have in common: when we make money, we spend it, and every time a farm dollar is injected into the local economy, it turns over seven times. Just think what that means in revenue in sales tax alone. If agriculture was where it should be,



Prepared By AAMA Group

# Farmers, Politicians In Numbers At

This past Thursday our office prepared fish for Riverside Chemical. The meal was furnished by B.A.S.F., manufacturers of Basagran and Basalin herbicide. We had over 100 people in attendance. Any AAM member who was not contacted just could not be reached by phone because we called every member.

The only group who numbered close to farmers present, were politicians. We had several there and these informal meetings provide an excellent opportunity for interested citizens to meet and question the candidates as well as learn about the newest chemicals. These

fish fries also provide income for our local office.

This past Friday morning, three AAM members were invited to Cabot by the Kiwanis Club to a breakfast meeting where Odis Chapman was guest speaker. One bit of information Odis had that should be of interest to local businessmen as well as farmers was that Prudential Insurance Co. has bought forty-two 8640 John Deere tractors. These tractors didn't come from a local dealer, they were bought at the factory.

One other thing we learned is that U.S.D.A. is going to manage a communal farm

in Alabama for Prudential. Prudential bought the land and equipment and will get a guaranteed return with U.S.D.A. providing management. It makes you wonder how Bob Bergland's department can manage a farm for someone else and guarantee a profit when he went broke on his own land. Of course if you are operating on an unlimited supply of our tax dollars, it gives you an edge.

Jo Ann Pryor, Farm Editor for the Arkansas Democrat, called to get information about our requesting refunds of the soybean tax. This past Saturday's Democrat had her story with

comments by two Des Arc AAM farmers and spokesmen from the American Soybean Association and the Arkansas Farm Bureau.

ASA and "Farm" Bureau are still up to their old tricks of clouding the issues with statements like "guaranteed income" in regard to a cost of production loan rate. You don't have income without production; we still have drought, floods, insects, hail, farm organizations gone astray, and many other things to contend with before we realize any profit.

A higher loan rate would merely be a tool that farmers could use in trying to get

a fair price for their commodities. As for the government involvement in agriculture that "Farm" Bureau says they don't want, well, no one does, but you can rest assured the government is involved and will continue to be.

Lynn Daft, presidential advisor, told U.S. A.A.M. farmers this spring that food production was too important to be left up to farmers or Congress and that whatever steps government needed to take to insure a stable supply, they would take. He also said to look for market interruptions from time to time because food would be used

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## Riverside Fish Fry

In the Democrat article, ASA and "Farm" Bureau spokesmen both agreed with Bob Bergland as to why loan rates shouldn't be raised. This is understandable since none of these three have any soybeans.

The simple truth is agriculture is in trouble and U.S.D.A., the ASA, nor "Farm" Bureau are offering any solutions to the problem.

A.A.M. is carrying the load

in foreign policy as a weapon if needed. We have proof of this with the recent U.S.S.R. embargo.

So, it's obvious we have government involvement, so why not let it be in support of the producers. As far as a higher loan rate on soybeans encouraging foreign production, how could this be when we produce for less than anyone else?

and it's hard enough without help from these organizations. It is sure enough tough when they directly oppose any effort we make to solve problems.

History proves their past policies aren't working and need changing, but it's going to take farmer involvement before these organizations start speaking FOR farmers. We urge you to become involved; hopefully

with A.A.M., but if you can't, get with one of the other organizations. If we stay silent as we have in the past, you can see who does the talking for us and who suffers the consequences.

A.A.M.A. Spokesman  
Local A.A.M.A. Office  
To "BETTER LATE THAN NEVER" in last week's JOURNAL: Thanks, we needed that!

A.A.M.A.



# Grain farmers fear cutoff

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Grain farmers in America's heartland, who have been recovering financially with new export markets and higher prices, say President Carter's grain sale cutoff to Russia may pull the rug out from under them.

And some said they fear a substantial drop in prices when U.S. grain markets open for business on Monday.

Carter's decision to withhold 17 million tons of grain ordered by the Soviet Union "is almost certainly going to lower grain prices," Dave Wilson, who farms 1,600 acres of eastern Kansas land, said.

"That means the grain I'm holding won't be worth as much Monday as it was on Friday," he said. "And at a time when our storage and interests costs are skyrocketing, lower prices will mean I'll have less income."

In a nationally televised address Friday night, Carter said he would raise the grain reserve so the wheat he is withholding from the Soviet Union will not be a glut on the domestic market. But farmers are skeptical.

"That doesn't mean any more income," said Wilson, who has 80 percent of last summer's corn, wheat and soybean crop still in storage. "It won't help my cash-flow situation, that's for sure."

Until Carter's announcement, most farm officials were predicting higher grain prices for the early part of 1980. Record harvests, record exports and the highest prices in several years had lulled farmers into anticipating still higher prices for their grain.

"It's going to stop the rally we had going," said Galen Harper, whose family farms more than 1,000 acres of wheat in Scott County of western Kansas.

"I hadn't sold any of my wheat crop from last summer," he said. "We thought that if a guy held his grain long enough, the market price would rise in February or March to a point where we could at least break even."

"That doesn't look too likely now."

The administration's decision to curtail grain shipments to Moscow was in reprisal for the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. But to farmers in Middle America, thousands of miles from the fighting, the sacrifice Carter is asking seems pretty steep.

Carter said he would take action to make loans available to farmers hit hard by the effects of any grain embargo.

Farmers said the administration's action would put an abrupt halt to their rebound toward solvency.

## Bergland pledges farm aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland, conceding President Carter could be hurt politically, promised Saturday the government will offset losses to farmers from the curtailment of grain sales to the Soviet Union.

But Bergland said despite the federal effort, he could not guarantee that grain prices would not drop because of the partial embargo. Some agriculture leaders expressed skepticism that the government could make up for the losses.

At a news briefing Saturday, the Agriculture Department conceded that without separate government action, the suspension of 17 million tons of grain shipments to the Soviets — primarily corn and wheat — would cost American farmers \$3 billion in income this year.

But Bergland outlined a combination of government wheat purchases and an expansion of the reserve corn storage program to divert the grain which was to have been shipped to the Soviet Union under a program agreed to last year.

In nationally broadcast address Friday night, Carter announced the halt to roughly two-thirds of the grain destined for shipment to Russia as part of his

response to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

The Agriculture Department officials said they are confident the grain embargo would put significant pressure on the Soviet Union, which has banked on the American shipments to make up for a dismal grain harvest.

Bergland said the leaders of Canada and Australia have given "firm support" for the action and would not make up for the loss of American grain. He said representatives from grain exporting countries would meet in Washington late this week.

"There are farm leaders who have endorsed the president's action on the ground that it was the right thing to do," Bergland said. "There are others who will do anything for a dollar and have said so."

Bergland conceded that the action could harm Carter politically, especially in farm states such as Iowa where he faces a crucial test in the state's Democratic caucuses scheduled for Jan. 21.

To soften the impact on farmers, Bergland said, the government would purchase the 4 million tons of wheat which would have gone to the Soviets and to use it to feed needy families around the world.



## Des Arc AAM Learn Reasons For Controversy In Oklahoma

Delegates from the Des Arc Chapter of American Agriculture Movement attended a state meeting in Brinkley May 2.

At the meeting, the group was informed of the reason for the controversy in Oklahoma City at the national meeting of the AAM last week.

A Des Arc spokesman said, "It seems that there are certain elements in AAM that are concerned with political economic theories and the saving of the world rather than focusing their efforts on agricultural problems. They have had quite a voice in this movement but their support is diminishing as more people are made aware of their goals. They definitely do not represent the grass roots farmer. This group made some decisions after the meetings ended that received a lot of press.

"Actually all that happened

was that Randy Marble was removed from one committee he had served on. Benny Fratelli had another delegate placed on one of his committees. Both men are still actively working for agriculture and passage of some sensible and fair legislation such as Senate Bill 2626.

"Work is going on every day for S2626, not only in W.D.C., but in several states across the nation.

"The Bill was scheduled for Senate Ag hearing May 2, 3 and 4 but a postponement has it set for May 23, 24 and 25. Senator Hodges' office is mailing out thousands of copies of the Bill. They have been sent to ASCS offices in several states and to every agricultural college in the nation. These people were asked to evaluate the Bill and feed back is being received in Hodges' office.

"So far, it has been extremely favorable. Senator Hodges is

speaking in several states on the Bill and has been warmly received in all of them and no doubt gaining valuable support.

"S2626 has 15 senators on it as co-sponsors now, several of which are on the Senate Ag Committee.

"So, you see, even with some controversy in the Movement, there is a lot being accomplished because we have some sincere and dedicated people working for the good of agriculture and America."

"We will be in communication with W.D.C. through our state office and any new developments will be made known to us.

"Our 10 cents per acre program was not completed at this meeting as had been planned. So many of us have been busy. It was decided to give these offices more time. We hope to have these acres completed by our next state meeting which is Tuesday, June 1.

"We felt that Des Arc farmers have been very supportive and feel this support will continue to grow.

"We will have a business meeting at the local office Thursday, May 4, at 8 p. m. All are urged to attend; we will total our acres and see just where we stand."

AAM



# State AAMA Group Met June 7

The monthly meeting of the Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association was held Saturday, June 7, at 5:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Flames Restaurant in Brinkley.

There has been a lot happening in Washington, D. C., concerning agriculture. Through the efforts of the AAMA, more people are being made aware of the problems facing us. Even Congressman Bill Alexander wrote Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, concerning testimony Marvin Meek had presented to the House Agriculture Committee. This was surprising since Alexander has been everything but helpful to the AAMA and our efforts, but we do thank him for his concern.

Nothing definite was decided, but there was discussion as what we can do about farm prices. We are NOT going to sit on our hands and go broke without some kind of effort! To try and fail is honorable; To fail without trying is shameful!

Local AAMA Office

By Harvey Joe Sanner  
Spokesman

## National News

Although the prices that farmers are getting for their grain at present are as low in purchasing power as any ever seen in the United States, farmers are advised not to panic and sell either remaining old-crop or new-crop grain too cheap. AAM has been advised by Consultant Robert G. Lewis, formerly chief economist of the Farmers Union and a specialist in commodity and trade programs, that there is a fair chance for stronger grain prices before 1980 ends.

"The present low grain prices in the United States are unrealistic," Lewis said. "They do not reflect accurately the true world supply and demand situation, nor the marginal cost of producing grain in the world. Instead, present grain prices within the United States and in world trade are the result of anomalous political policies of the present United States government, and there is a sub-

stantial chance that the policy might be overwhelmed fairly soon by forces beyond its control."

### "World Market" is Rigged

Lewis said government policies rather than the forces of supply and demand are the primary determiners of grain prices in the world economy. "About 80 percent of the total market for wheat and feed grains is in countries that pay their own farmers prices much higher than the 'world trading price' for all the grain they can produce, up to 10 times as high for wheat and 4½ times as high for corn as the prices received by American farmers. These countries use protective tariffs and other devices to keep American grain out of their markets until their own farmers' entire crops are absorbed, and then they add-on levies or simply skim-off huge profits on any imported grain they buy to raise its cost to their own higher farmers' prices," he pointed out.

"One result is that all of the world's surplus of grain each year is concentrated in a few exporting countries, including the U.S.," Lewis said. "These countries -- the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Australia, Argentina, South Africa, and Thailand produced 35 percent of the world's total grain last year, but consumed only 19 percent of the world's total use within their own borders. This huge over-supply, concentrated in a small part of the total world market, creates artificially-low prices for the farmers in these exporting countries," he said. "Because the importing countries raise the cost of imported grain to their own consumers as high or higher than their domestic prices by import duties or profit mark-ups, American and other exporting country farmers have no opportunity to sell at the prices most of the world's consumers are accustomed to paying for grain.

### U.S. Turns Back

#### On Farmers

Lewis said the U.S. government formerly sought to defend its farmers against the

consequences of other countries' trade discrimination against them, but no longer does so.

"The highest trade barriers in the world are those that are raised against American farmers," Lewis said. "They run as high as 100 percent and more of the price that American farmers receive. Last week the European community levied a tax of \$3.21 per bushel on wheat and \$3.25 per bushel on corn from the United States to raise its cost to European users to the European prices of \$8.35 per bushel of wheat and \$6.76 per bushel of corn. The profits skimmed-off by the Japanese Government's Food Agency are even larger.

"Yet in the recently-concluded trade negotiations, there was no reduction in these tariffs against American farmers. In contrast, American manufacturers won a reduction in the already-low duties against their goods of about 8 percent to only 4 or 5 percent," Lewis said.

"Moreover," Lewis continued, "The Carter and Nixon-Ford Administrations have refused to protect American farmers from the artificially-low prices imposed on them by the economic discrimination of the importing countries. By sharply cutting the real level of price supports, prices American farmers receive have been forced down in purchasing power to the levels of 1932, lowest in history. Thus, the U. S. government takes advantage of the way the world grain economy is rigged against American farmers to make its own farmer-citizens the victims of other countries' profiteering and the main scapegoats for U. S. inflation.

### World Grain Shortage possible

"The 'cheap food' policy is an extremely high-risk policy, and the fundamental situation is set-up for a worse world food shortage than was experienced in the 1970's," Lewis declared.

"Present world reserves of grain in excess of minimum

'pipeline' stocks are barely one-half as large in relation to world consumption as they were at this time during 1972, when the Soviet Union's crop failure plunged the world into several years of food shortages."

"The U. S. Department of Agriculture's latest projections issued this month show that an even tighter reserve stocks situation is likely by this time in 1981. Both the present and projected reserves are far smaller than ever experienced during the 1950's and 1960's. At most, there is only one to two weeks' grain supply in reserve above the minimum 'pipeline' stocks to which world supplies were reduced in 1974."

"In this fundamentally extremely tight supply situation," Lewis said, "any serious weather scare is likely to touch-off a boom in grain prices. And so far this year, the world's weather provides plenty of potential scares."

### Higher Demand Or Politics May Help, Too

Lewis said that even if the weather is favorable and yields are normal this year, there is a potential for stronger prices before the end of 1980.

"One thing that could boost grain prices even if crops worldwide are normal, would be a recovery in the economies of importing countries. Hard times and high unemployment have slowed down the growth of demand in importing countries for American farm products. Even a modest up-turn in jobs and incomes around the world would shave present grain supplies to the tight conditions of 1973-74-75 and strengthen prices," Lewis said.

"Above all, 1980 is an election year," Lewis observed. "If President Carter is a candidate for re-election, it is probable that the Administration will take action shortly before the election to strengthen farm prices, either in conjunction with moves in Congress to legislate higher minimum loan



# A.A.M.A.

From Local Office

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association was held Saturday, April 5 at 1:00 p.m. at the Flames Restaurant in Brinkley.

A report was given by Jack Cothran, State AAMA President, about the recent agricultural banker fly-in. This was a meeting arranged by the National AAM office so that some of the governmental policymakers could hear from the rural bankers as to the effects of the administration, agricultural, and monetary policies on rural communities. The bankers, along with AAM farmers, met with Bob Bergland and Howard Hjort of U.S.D.A.

Jack Cothran and Deloss McKnight, who is the national AAM secretary, were two of the Arkansas farmers that accompanied the Arkansas bankers. They were both very impressed with the testimony presented by Fred Denton, a banker from McGehee. We certainly appreciate Fred and the other bankers for telling these people of the seriousness of the economic situation, not just from a farmer's standpoint, but from the whole community.

The group also met with the White House economic advisors and officials of the Federal Reserve System.

A Federal Reserve System official drew laughs when he stated that they had decided the problem with agriculture was the high cost of land and inflation. He said

if they could bring land values down to about one half of where they are now, agriculture would be healthy. He was informed that this would put a lot of farmers out of business and still wasn't addressing the real problem. The fact that President Carter has surrounded himself with so many inept and misinformed people, disturbed this group.

One problem that needs constant attention is the printing of misleading information about agriculture. This is understandable when you know who the press has always gone to for reports. U.S.D.A. is a frequent source, and we all know what their statistics show is not what is really happening.

This was the case with the new World Book Encyclopedia Yearbook. The article on farming on page 319 paints a picture of prosperity while the tractorcade on the same page isn't even mentioned. When you read the article, you will find that over 50 percent of net farm income came from off-farm jobs. Chicago prices are quoted that we almost never receive, and what increases we had didn't even keep pace with inflation. The list of fallacies in this one article goes on and on, so we contacted the World Book editor, Wayne Wille. Wille was told of our concerns that such information ap-

peared in a publication with the credibility of World Book. We asked him where the writers got their information and why didn't they talk to farmers to get the true picture. He didn't know who they had talked to, but is going to find out. He was given the AAM national office number and address and was asked to contact David Senter for a farmer's view before printing stories about agriculture. We will be in touch with Wille from time to time to see that he does have all the facts.

We are finally seeing some response from the American Soybean Association. ASA President, Allan Aves, sent a letter last week to Tom Foley, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and to Herman Talmadge, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee requesting that the loan rate on soybeans be raised to \$5.02 per bushel. It's odd that a few days ago ASA was opposed to any increase at all. When we contacted Perry Dickson again, the ASA economist in St. Louis, he said they had taken a look at the rising production costs and decided an increase from the \$4.54 loan rate was justified. High production costs and low market prices were just as severe a few days ago when ASA testified to these same committees that a raise was not justified. Could it be the protest of producers and the

requesting of refunds of the check-off money had an impact?

This office contacted Andrew Wisenhunt, the chairman of the Soybean Promotion Board, to try and find out how the check-off is distributed. Wisenhunt told us none of the Arkansas money was used for lobbying, but Dickson said a portion of American Soybean Association's money was used for lobbying, so it makes you wonder how Arkansas money is kept separated from the other states. Wisenhunt said if we could just hang on for five more years and keep developing markets, we could name our own price. Wisenhunt is evidently pretty naive because during the same conversation he told of asking Bob Bergland if ASA developed a market in China would the government close it if trouble developed in Viet Nam and China intervened. Bergland said, "Yes they would." And to say they wouldn't, was not being realistic.

So to build markets you can't rely on while opposing some type of protection for producers is hard to understand.

We have also been in touch with the Misc. Tax Section, the agency that collects the check-off to see what cost is involved, if the state retains any of it. Information is being mailed to us this week.



# Jenkins Says He's Outraged

During the winter of 1979, members of the American Agriculture Movement tried several times unsuccessfully to obtain WhiteHouse permission to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in memory of our nation's war dead. Early Friday, June 27, Ken Solving, a reporter with the Washington Weekly, a D. C. publication, informed Alvin Jenkins, Campo, Colorado, one of the founders of the AAM, that this privilege was granted May 28 to representatives of a homosexual organization.

Jenkins, himself a Korean war veteran, was outraged! "How is it that a veteran and a farmer was denied this right when a group of people, who, by law, cannot even serve in our armed services, were permitted to do so? This is the worst of all possible insults!

Jenkins said he and several

other AAM supporters asked Lynn Daft, a White House advisor, four times for permission to decorate the Tomb.

"The nearest thing to approval we got was that we would be allowed to place a wreath on the gate of the fence surrounding the Tomb!!" he said.

"In my opinion, every farmer, veteran, and serviceman of this nation has been slapped in the face by an unthankful, uncaring Administration! This is one of the reasons why the all-volunteer Army is not working - no respect!

"In the name of all present and former servicemen and women and our nation's farmers, I demand an apology from the President and the Secretary of the Army!" Jenkins concluded.

A local AAM spokesman said, in his opinion, granting the farmers permission to perform a deed such as placing a wreath on the Tomb would have given them some national credibility and this was not wanted in Washington.

## Considerable Activity At Local AAM

There has been considerable activity around the American Agriculture Movement (Des Arc Chapter) office since the W. D. C. trip, a local spokesman said this week.

Senator Pryor, as well as Congressman Ed Bethune's office has been contacted with information that could be helpful to them in reaching decisions about agricultural programs.

A Des Arc AAM member went to the G.A.O. (General Accounting Office) Building while in W. D. C. to talk with someone who was preparing a report about farm prices and their effects on the economy. Also, G.A.O. has work going on to determine the effects of the grain embargo. It was interesting to note how G.A.O. report differs from U.S.D.A. The statistics were misleading and arranged by U.S.D.A. to imply that their programs are working well.

One instance being that off-farm income is considered as net income, so according to U.S.D.A., low farm prices meant higher income because more farmers were working at off-farm jobs.

We found that a garden produced for a farm family's use is computed as net farm income, along with housing.

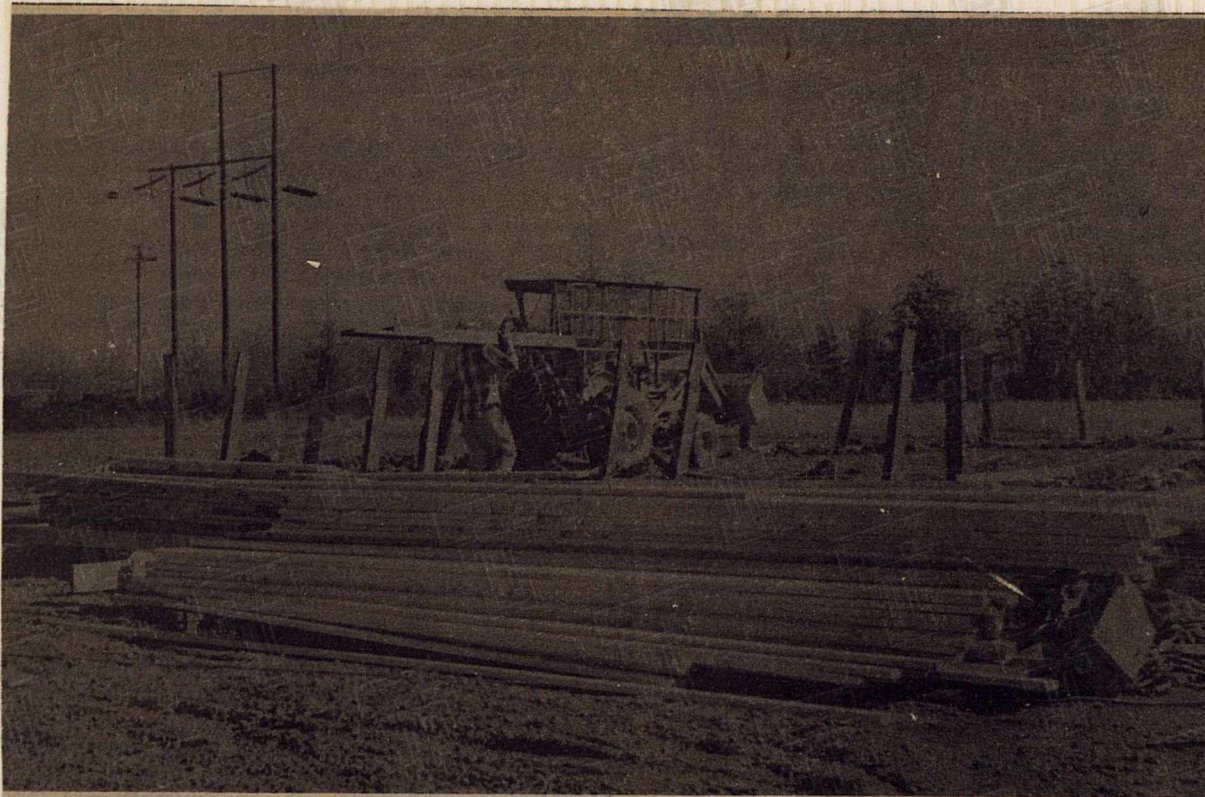
We have learned that C.C.C. loans over the years have actually made the government money instead of costing the taxpayers as we have been led to believe.

These loans on commodities are repaid by farmers. But, when they are repaid, the money goes into the general fund, which shows a deficit in USDA, implying that farmers received money from the government.

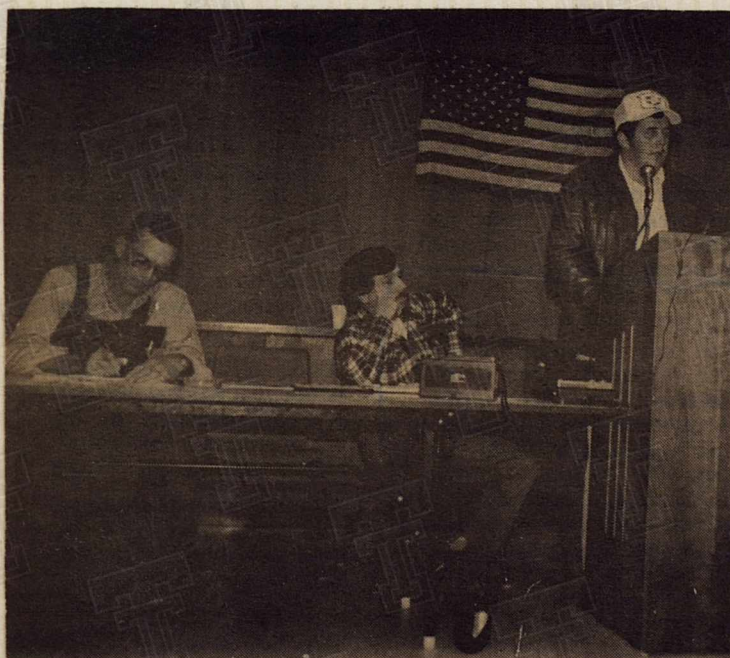
There will be a State AAMA meeting at 1:00 Saturday, March 8, at the Flames Restaurant in Brinkley. All members are urged to attend.

DES ARC AAMA

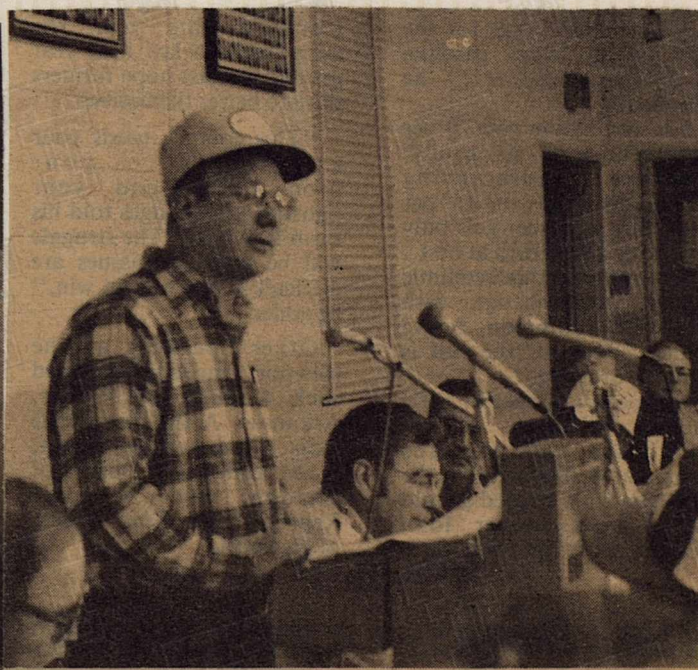




**NEW AAMA BUILDING GOING UP:** Workmen were unloading steel for the new Des Arc Chapter American Agriculture building here Tuesday. It is a Morton building from Wynne and a crew from Kansas is putting it up. Crew members are Dale Banton, foreman; Bob Davis, lead man; Kim Baker and Thomas Carroll. They said construction would take eight to nine days. The site is located just north of Paul Gaines Implement on Hwy. 11 North.



**FARM LEADER --** Jack Cothran, Arkansas AAM president, opens meeting at Des Arc while chapter chairman Harvey Sanner of Des Arc, and Odis Chapman, speaker from Scott, listen. (Don Smith Photo)



**FARMERS WARNED --** Kaneaster Hodges, tells farmers during a Newport Arkansas Agriculture Movement speech that a better grain loan program, and prices above cost of production are the only sensible answers for farmers in the current economic crises.



# Editorial

## Hodges and the AAM

Since the defeat of the emergency farm bill last month, Sen. Kaneaster Hodges has emerged as the pivot man between the two factions of the now-split American Agriculture Movement—whose tractorcades familiarized the country with the slogan “100 per cent of parity” earlier this year.

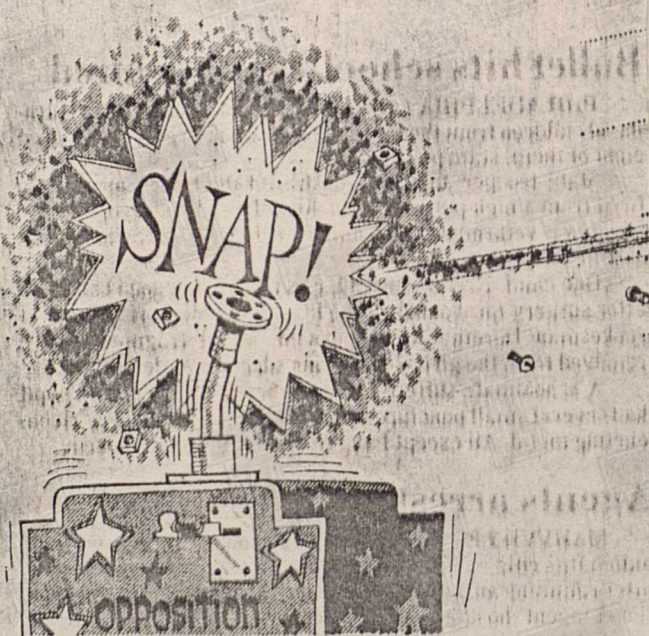
That demand wasn't attainable in Congress and never will be and its defeat has split the AAM. The radical wing still clamors for the unattainable and is coming back with new legislation. The moderates have flocked to Hodges and his “fair price” bill, which would base commodity prices on cost of production. That bill was run over in AAM's losing effort for full parity in April and is now knocking heads with new full-parity legislation written by Rep. Richard Nolan, D., Minn.

The radicals are still the larger AAM faction and control the national AAM board, having purged all moderates. But the moderates from 12 states (including Arkansas) have decided, after meeting in Oklahoma and Memphis, to try and work through the bigger organization. If the radicals—as expected—unite behind the Nolan bill, however, that probably won't be possible.

The moderates—from the South, Midwest and West—might, in effect, leave the AAM movement, but meanwhile they and their bill certainly stand the better chance in Congress. Hearings on the Hodges bill begin next week in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

In the end, the Hodges' bill promises to develop into the compromise legislation needed to split the difference between what the more radical farmers want and what the American consumer can live with in the way of costs.

Stability is the keynote of any farm legislation—and



that means cutting back crop acreage, diminishing surpluses by increasing imports and, of course, giving the farmer a fair return.

The Nolan bill, makes agriculture all but independent of cost and consumer restraints. It is a radical bill. The more moderate Hodges approach gains by contrast with it and should be the foundation of whatever final compromise Congress makes among all interests.



## Local AAM Group At Farm Legislation Meeting In Memphis

Report By  
Local AAM  
Spokesman.

Six local AAM members were among the 500 persons attending the Dec. 6 meeting in Memphis, said by some to be "the most significant meeting for agriculture to be held in the Mid-south in recent history."

What made the meeting significant and impressive, they said, was the panel of speakers assembled as well as the different segments of agriculture represented. There were several others other than producers such as bankers, implement dealers, fertilizer and chemical firms represented.

The AAM people said, "We are gaining support from agri-related businesses. They see how our organization has progressed and matured. Many of these businesses are starting to feel the financial pinch that producers felt sometime ago."

Legislators attending were Senators Dassen, Pryor and Bumpers, Congressmen Jones of Tennessee and Bowen of Mississippi. Senator Pryor and the two congressmen are on the Agriculture Committee. Marvin Meek, national AAM president, was present. Deputy Administrator Dr. J. B. Penn, ESCS, gave a presentation on past farm legislation and listed some possible alternatives to the 1977 Farm Bill. Dr. Penn told those present a lot they already knew but from an economist's view.

Dr. Penn said there are only 500,000 mainstream or commercial farms such as those in this area. The balance of the 2.2 million farms are huge corporate operations and smaller part-time farms. He said, "If the rate of declining numbers of the decade of the 1970's is allowed to continue, there will be only 50,000 family farms left by the year 2000."

The smallest sector of the three types of farms is the commercial farm where all income is generated by the

low prices or loss of production.

Dr. Penn made a completely asinine statement, according to local farmers in attendance; he said, "due to our numbers being so small he wasn't sure there was a low income problem in agriculture." However, just prior to that remark, he said, "Any further loss of farmers would not benefit the consumer because increase in farm size beyond what they are now would not result in cheaper food prices." He stated also, "Any further loss could have a serious effect on rural economy. 'We've always been told we have to have economists,'" a local AAM spokesman said, "but I'm not really sure why."

Any farm policy discussion, it seems, is always started with a negative view. The bureaucrats always have a dozen reasons why something won't work instead of looking for solutions. They always attack higher prices as causing surpluses like we have had in the past.

Marvin Meeks pointed out a fact to the panel that should enlighten them: he said, during the time we had a grain surplus if the beef imports had been restricted, we in America would have fed every pound of surplus grain to our own cattle and the consumer would have benefited through plentiful supplies of much higher quality beef; the American cattleman would have prospered; the grain farmers would have had a dependable and favorable market. If you doubt this, ask USDA how much beef has been imported; multiply this time 4 lbs of grain it takes to produce a pound of beef, then you can see how much market we have lost.

After Dr. Penn's presentation, we heard from the politicians. They were pretty typical long speeches that

in Washington "But, please leave those --- tractors at home."

Meek told the congressman "why the tractors"; "when we went the first year, no one listened; the tractorcade got their attention." He said, "It might have seemed a mistake to some people, but a news service traveling with the tractorcade later estimated that the coverage would have cost 12 to 14 million had it been bought. "It did focus attention on agriculture," Meek emphasized. The meeting in Memphis to seek farmer-input for the new farm bill would never have happened had it not been for the efforts of AAM, Meek added.

Senator Pryor stressed the importance of keeping a strong farmer organization and continuing communication with the agri business community. "The public relations campaign being directed for AAM by Walker & Associates of Memphis is the way to becoming successful in passing legislation," Pryor said. "The public must be made aware of the importance of agriculture to the whole economy," everyone agreed.

Jim Dupree of Wynne, Ark., was complimented for the excellent job he did chairing the meeting. He promised the legislators that there would be farmer-input in the new farm bill even if he had to walk to Washington by himself. Local spokesmen said, "We're very fortunate to have a man of Jim's caliber representing us. "He can communicate with economists, politicians, or farmers." Also, they commented, "we owe a debt of gratitude to Jack Cothran, Arkansas AAM president; Tommy Willis, Tennessee president; and L. A. Davidson, Mississippi president, for putting together the Memphis meeting."





Farmers and farm-related business people at chili dinner

## Chili Dinner Brings AMA Groups Together

Farmers and people in farm-related businesses were invited to a chili dinner given by the Des Arc Chapter of the American Agricultural Movement, at their quarters here Wednesday at noon.

The Des Arc Chapter is a very active AAM group and will kickoff their activities for 1980 with a membership drive starting after the first of the year.

Wednesday's gathering served to remind the group that they will continue to work for the welfare and preservation of the American farmer, a spokesman said.

Jimmy Flanagan and Harvey Joe Sanner came home from Washington to be with their families Wednesday to Sunday. Two other AAM farmers, Jimmy Holloway and C. R. Smith were interviewed by KATV7 in Washington. In a call home Tuesday, they report no more trouble in Washington involving the demonstrating farmers.



## Local Men Attend District AAM Meeting At Wynne

The annual American Agriculture Movement meeting of the Wynne District office was held Thursday, Jan. 8, and three Des Arc members attended. Those attending from Des Arc were Robert Long, Riverside Chemical manager; Representative V. O. "Butch" Calhoun, Jr., and Harvey Joe Sanner. The meeting was chaired by Roy Stevenson, Wynne Chapter President.

Jim Shayer, a member of the Arkansas Legislature, gave a presentation on a bill he is introducing in the present session. The bill, he said, will help clarify who is the legal owner of grain after it is delivered to an elevator. Several Arkansas farmers have been put out of business in recent years when elevators went bankrupt and remaining grain is attached by the court and applied to the elevator's debt. The recent failure of the James Bros. Elevators in Arkansas and Missouri make it apparent that we need some type of legislation to protect farmers, he said. Under present law, even a bonded warehouse receipt does not prove ownership or let you decide what will be done with the grain, an AAM spokesman stated. "When you look at it practically, grain being siezed is no different than your car being attached and sold to pay off debts of a commercial parking lot," the spokesman stated.

"This is another prime example of what happens when you don't look after your business," the spokesman went on to say, "we've left farmer-business in the hands of people who aren't farmers far too long. Arkansas agriculture move-

ment has been asked for input in legislation and we will be working with several legislators who have promised to try and pass some type of bill in the upcoming session."

Jim Dupree gave a good presentation as always, the local AAM representatives stated. He stressed the importance of farmers staying involved, especially in the coming year when a new farm bill is scheduled to be written. "We all know who had input in the 1977 farm bill and what has happened to agriculture and the whole economy," they stated, "and farm debt is at an all time high with less return to equity than ever. We have been promised a chance to participate in forming the new farm bill and we'll have only ourselves to blame if we sit down and do nothing. It's certain, production agriculture won't be represented unless producers do it themselves."

Senator David Pryor had called Dupree Thursday morning to tell him that John Block had just left his office and that he was impressed with him. Pryor said he thought he would make a good Secretary of Agriculture.

Odis Chapman spoke to the group and told the farmers of the many accomplishments made and sometimes forgotten. Odis is steadily on the move for AAM; he has been asked to meet with USDA officials who prepare the crop estimates and projections. The meeting will be held in Memphis. Odis asked everybody for suggestions on how they thought the crop reports could be improved. He told how misleading USDA statistics can

be, such as net income being up for cattlemen when they had to dump their herds because of the drought. "Actually, there was more cattle sold but not because the ranchers wanted to and the price is always depressed under these conditions," he said. So, any suggestions you have for Odis can be relayed by calling him or come by the Des Arc AAM office - and they will make sure he gets it.

Des Arc Chapter's new office building is now at the Prairie County Fairgrounds, so come by and visit. "We have more going on for us in Washington, D. C. right now than we have ever had. Marvin has met with John Block at least four times and is meeting with Jesse Helm today at 2:30 p. m. Marvin says the whole mood of Congress is one of cooperation and he feels good about something good will eventually happen for agriculture. It's up to us."

Des Arc AAM



Tuesday morning, the new office building of the Des Arc Chapter of American Agriculture Movement was delivered. Two trucks were used to haul the building and approximately 20 members were on hand to help with the unloading.

The erection crew is scheduled to arrive Monday, Feb. 23.

Since the Des Arc Chapter has broken the ice, other chapters are considering building their own building. The McGehee office, which is also serving as our State office, has already begun plans for their own building. A landowner, near McGehee, has already given the land for a building site. The deed is being prepared and other arrangements are being made so that construction can begin in the near future. The Cross County Chapter is seriously considering a building.

As information about our efforts reach more people, the awareness of what our successes could bring and what our failures will surely bring, reinforces and strengthens our organization. When we pull together, anything is possible.

When division or dissention among farmers occurs, someone benefits other than farmers. The groups who have profited because of past divisions in producers, surely thrive on unrest. Farmers have constantly been pitted against each other and been led to believe that one segment has to suffer for another to prosper. The grain farmer is told he can't have higher prices because the beef producer needs cheap grain. The beef and pork producers who have become informed now realize that cheap grain means cheap meat. When grain is cheap, more is fed and consequently you have an oversupply of pork or beef; herds are liquidated; then meat prices rise; as shortages appear, grain stocks grow, due to lower livestock numbers. Knowledgeable meat producers say that higher grain prices will result in higher livestock prices due to the interrelation of the two. The dairy industry is a good

example of interrelation. Dairy products are supported at 80 percent of parity and according to USDA, supplies are building up. There is now a move in W.D.C. to lower the support rate even though dairymen are constantly shrinking in numbers. With dairy at 80 percent of parity, and grain at 50 percent, there is an imbalance. Cows are kept on production that would be taken off if grain prices were on par with dairy. It's typical of bureaucrats and processors to propose lower supports for dairy instead of higher supports for grain.

The Des Arc office has contacted some dairymen in an effort to learn of their problems and how we might work together on some common issues.

In our efforts to improve relations with different farm organizations, a representative from the Des Arc AAM office and the White County AAM met with the White County Farm Bureau board of directors Thursday, Feb. 12. The meeting was held in the Farm Bureau office in Searcy. Charles Hughes of White County AAM showed a 30-minute film featuring the late Congressman Jerry Litton. This film is educational and stresses the need for farmer-unity. Jim Kellar is president of the White County Farm Bureau and was very receptive to the idea that we could work on some common problems together. It is hoped we can continue communication and combine our efforts when possible.

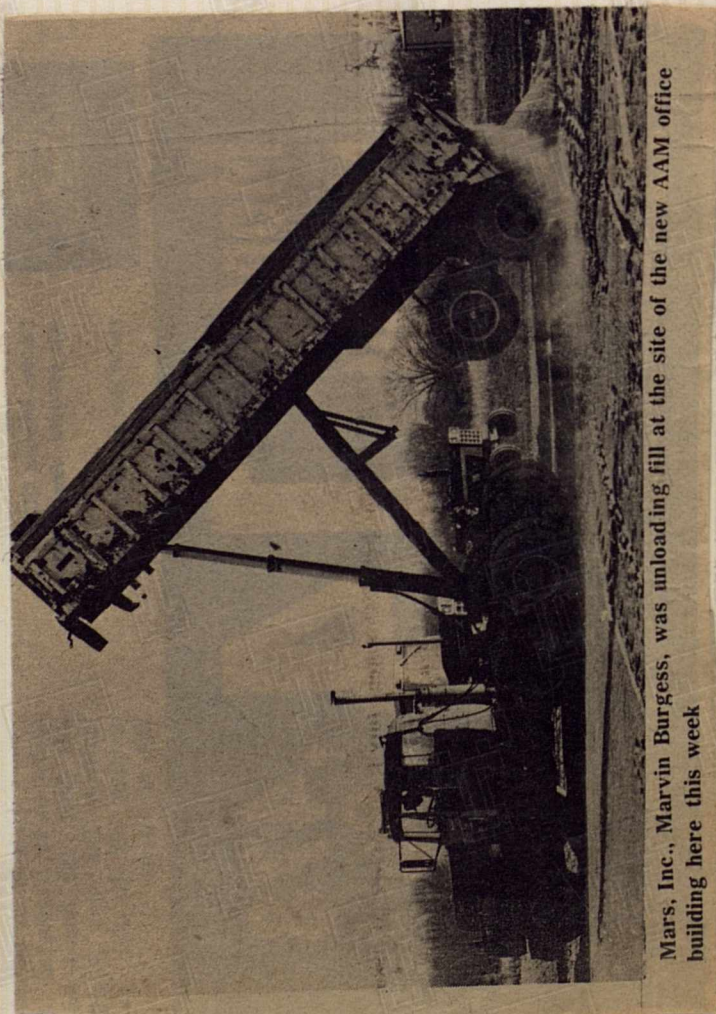
A meeting with the Woodruff County Farm Bureau has been tentatively set. Bobby Robinson of Cotton Plant is president of the Farm Bureau in Woodruff County and he is very interested in working with us. When details are worked out, word will be passed along.

Any suggestions from members as to points that need to be made should be brought to the AAM office. Hopefully, a working relationship can be established.

A.A.M.A.

Des Arc Chapter  
(Reported)

## New Building Delivered Tuesday To Des Arc AAM



Mars, Inc., Marvin Burgess, was unloading fill at the site of the new AAM office building here this week



# AAMA

## Our Purpose



### *Farmer to farmer*

Former Sen. Kaneaster Hodges, D-Ark., speaks to a group of farmers in Washington Tuesday. Hodges told the farmers that it might be time for the U.S. Agriculture

Department to "disband" because officials were not listening to farmers. Hodges, a farmer himself, said farmers had been badly treated by Washington police.

There seems to be some misunderstanding locally, as well as nationally, about the purpose of the American Agriculture Movement. The national movement began as the spontaneous reaction of farmers to the trend of farm policies and market activities.

Although Arkansas farmers on the average have not suffered to the extent many of the midwest farmers have, many of us chose to join because we feared the future. Our market prices are no longer determined at the local level nor are they entirely dependent on the laws of supply and demand. Today's farmers serve a world market. This is a mixed blessing. It gives us additional outlets for our produce, but it also subjects us to the whims of world politics. This leaves the farmers in a precarious position. We produce to supply the world not knowing if we will be allowed to fill its needs. The problems are enormous; the solutions are elusive. We realize that nothing can be done overnight to remedy the situation.

The solution must come from Washington, D. C. We felt the first step was to get their attention. The tractorcades were our means to this end. The next step is to educate them to our problem. This we are doing through direct and indirect communication with anyone on the "hill" who will spare us some time. We are constantly bombarding them with facts and statistics. All information must be documented rather than hearsay. This is a slow process. The results are not immediately evident.

This brings us back to Arkansas. In our state, the Movement is organized as a non-profit corporation under the name of Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association. Our purpose is simple - we want to better the position of all farmers.

We are not just a bunch of radicals. We are not out to destroy Riceland Foods, Farm Bureau, or any other organization. Almost a hundred per cent of us are members of Riceland and most are members of Farm Bureau. We want the organizations to remain strong and even become stronger. But we want to make sure they are operating at all times. We want to understand why our grain co-op is lagging up to \$.38 per bushel behind Bunge Corporation on the purchase price of soybeans. That's close to a 5 percent gross income increase by carrying our beans across the river. This is not our only local question. In fact, we are constantly trying to pinpoint problem areas and seek out solutions. We aren't bashful about calling a Congressman, a journalist, or others whether next door or in Washington. If a question needs to be asked, who not ask it?

At our organizational meeting this past Monday it was determined that we have approximately eighty voting members locally. There are probably that many more farmers we need to hear from. This is not a plea for contribution of money but rather a contribution of ideas and viewpoints. We especially invite all strong supporters of Riceland Foods to come by. This is not a time to draw a line and choose sides. Let's talk about the difference of opinion and all work for the same goal . . . the betterment of the farmer.

Des Arc Chapter -  
American Agriculture  
Movement Association



# Report From The National

A National Delegates meeting of the American Agriculture Movement was held in Washington, D. C., Feb. 6 and 7. The Saturday session began at 1 p. m. in the Methodist Building.

This meeting was used to present a financial report; to attend to other business and elect officers. The finance committee reported on the outcome of the convention and presented a check to the national office in the amount of \$29,000. This money was left after expenses of the committee and convention were deducted. The car raffle and donations plus registration fees were the main source of income. The finance committee, composed of Steve Close, Ginger Hill, Clifford Hamilton, and Ted Godfrey, are to be commended for their many hours of work and making our convention such a smashing success.

The officers for 1982 are Marvin Meek of Texas, chairman; Wayne Cryts of Missouri and J. D. Terral of New Mexico, vice chairmen, all have specific duties assigned to them. Deloss McKnight of Wynne, Ark., is secretary, and Louis Saunders of Michigan, is treasurer. When you realize the commitment of these officers and the many hours they spend working for American farmers with no compensation, you can see our dues as the bargain they are.

There was much discussion about FHA and their policy changes. Mr. Schuman, Director of FHA, had called Marvin and talked 1½ hours after the AAM press release telling about the memorandum Schuman issued that set quotas for state FHA's to meet in liquidating farmers. AAM obtained this memo that was labeled confidential and it was in direct conflict with what FHA was releasing to the press. Director Schuman told Marvin that the memo was a forgery; later, said it wasn't. The newspapers these past few days have been full of stories of how FHA is going to "stay with the farmers" in an attempt to play down the foreclosures. After hear-

ing from farmers in several states, it's obvious that we have much better FHA administrators in Arkansas than in some other states. The heavy-handed approaches some have used toward farmers are almost unbelievable. The abuse of FHA credit by a few farmers makes it extremely hard for sincere, hard-working farmers to get a fair hearing. There has been some waste and mismanagement and it causes a stereo-typing and the attitude of many in Washington is that "any farmer with FHA is a poor manager and wouldn't be there if he wasn't." It's sad to say that this attitude has been instilled in many farmers and into some farm organizations.

The refusal of U.S.D.A. to consider low commodity prices as a reason for bankruptcy is understandable. It would be an admission that their farm policy is a failure. They have removed economics as a qualification for disaster. However, there is a good chance that the Economic Emergency Loan Program will be reinstated. It is definitely being considered. Without some improvement in the farm situation, many more of us will be FHA borrowers in the very near future.

In the hearings before the House Subcommittee on Credit, Congressman Ed Jones of Tennessee had the Young Executives Committee Report put in the record. This is the report AAM came across that was conducted in 1972 by Dick Lyng, then and now an Undersecretary of Agriculture. This report explains how the government planned to move farmers off the farm and how rural communities and towns should not expect agriculture to support them. We still have some of the reports if anyone wants one. There are several AAM people testifying before different committees as the need arises. Marvin testified on Tuesday after the delegates meeting.

In Sunday's meeting, the delegates voted to set up a chairman's expense fund and salary. There has been no provision to pay Marvin's travel expense so Texas has assumed this role. Many felt this cost should be absorbed by all states. Marvin travel-

ed all over the U. S. last year for American Ag and much of it at his own expense. He still refuses to accept any salary but the delegates thought we needed the provision for future chairmen. Not many farmers would give a year of their life without pay and away from their families, to try and better things for all farmers.

The representatives of the Martin Haley Company, who spoke to us Sunday were Dick White and Ralph Roming. Dick said that many congressmen, who had learned about AAM starting a political action committee, had one comment in common, "It's about time!" He told us that AAM has already gained a new respect because of the PAC. Marvin said that all the time he had spent in Washington he had received two invitations to congressional receptions. Since our PAC was formed, he has been invited to 35! The response, so far, has been tremendous. At a meeting in Plainview, Texas, over \$50,000 was raised, with much of it coming from the banking community. Rural bankers can relate to the Martin Haley Co. easily. They can see first hand what happens to communities that depend on agriculture when that industry is depressed. Meetings are being set up now all over the country for Martin Haley and American Ag to explain the PAC. The first one for bankers is scheduled for Memphis on February 20. Over 700 from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas have been invited. American Ag members should urge their banker to attend this meeting. These meetings are being conducted on the "seed money" Martin Haley raised on their own at

no cost to AAM. This is a first for Agriculture; never before have we had a PAC. Different commodities, such as dairy, have had one, but never all of agriculture combined.

The first meeting with Agriculture bankers is scheduled for February 20 in Memphis. Over 700 bankers from Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee have been invited.

We had an Undersecretary of Agriculture in Arkansas last week - Mr. Frank Naylor. Mr. Naylor is in charge of FHA. He had just left a meeting of farmers in South Carolina where he had to be escorted out of the meeting.

Naylor had some interesting comments. He said that USDA had determined we had adequate storage because any more farm storage makes it difficult for USDA to get a handle on the amount of grain and it becomes hard to monitor and forecast. Here is one of the funniest things any government official ever said, "We will have a free market because USDA will control it and see to it." Naylor said the setaside will have no significance because only 30 percent participation is expected. John Block wanted a 25 percent SAS on all commodities including soybeans but David Stockman won out. With little participation, the government avoids deficiency payments while production isn't reduced thereby keeping prices low, the ultimate goal of the administration. One other tool they are using to kill our prices is the psychological embargo we are under, grain companies are afraid to buy or make commitments not knowing what tomorrow will bring.

AAM of Arkansas



# AAM Meeting In Washington DC

We had our state meeting Saturday, Feb. 13, in Brinkley. The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers and attend to business.

The following were elected state officers: Jack Cothran of Wynne, chairman; Perry Dixon of Blytheville, 1st vice president; Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc, 2nd vice president; C. W. Day of Tillar, secretary; Deloss McKnight of Wynne, national delegate; Harvey Joe Sanner, alternate delegate; Odis Chapman of Scott and Jim DuPree of Weldon, spokesmen

It becomes more evident every day that the answer to our problems is going to come from farmers themselves; none of the groups that have written the last two Farm Bills offered anything different in this one. The day of leaving our

problems to someone else to solve is over; even with good intentions, insurance companies, commodity organizations, and cooperatives can't be expected to influence national policy as production agriculture organizations such as AAM knows must be done if we are to survive.

The attitude at Saturday's meeting was probably more positive and enthusiastic about the possibilities of our organization doing some good for farmers in the future than any we have had.

The new ideas being offered, new concepts, are com-

ing out of the American Agriculture Movement. The P.A.C. is the most exciting idea since the tractorcade and is certain to be productive. We are on the threshold of a new beginning for agriculture. It seems sometimes that we aren't moving nearly fast enough, but, probably these past four years were needed to build the kind of format we now have. Our people have become more realistic, levelheaded, and much more effective, due to their continuing appraisal of the situation. Many of the hotheads are gone, many freeloaders who used us for personal gains

are gone. We have survived. Now, let us get on with the program.

Any farmer who has any reason for not joining should contact us and discuss it. Whatever the reason might be, we feel the alternatives are much worse. Don't be left behind when the farm organization of the '80's is taking off. Call one of these phone numbers: 256-4766, 256-4580, 256-4655, 256-4055, or 256-4620.

**Strength from the Land  
AAMA**

**Des Arc Chapter**

**REPORTED**



**AAM BUILDING FLOOR GOES IN:** About 25 farmers gathered the new American Agriculture building to put down the concrete floor. Concrete is being poured from the truck here and rake hands are busy. Crews will be here next week to install steel siding, a Des Arc AAM Chapter spokesman said.





Harvey Joe Sanner, center, is shown here with Jaycees Steve Hambrick, Dennis Harrell, and Ricky Ruth.

## Jaycees Select Outstanding Young Farmer

The Des Arc Jaycees have announced that Harvey Joe Sanner will represent Des Arc as the Outstanding Young Farmer in the State of Arkansas Jaycee competition, January, 13 in Little Rock.

Steven Hambrick, president of the Des Arc Jaycees, said that Sanner has been farming in this area for 12 years. His

wife is the former Carolyn Marsh and they have two children, Kelly, 14, and Matt, 13.

He is a 1961 graduate of Des Arc High School, ASCS Community Committeeman, and is a member of the American Agricultural Movement and the Masonic Lodge.

"We are pleased to have him represent our area in this com-

petition," Hambrick said.

This year's Outstanding Young Farmer Competition is being sponsored by the Production Credit Association of Arkansas. "The purpose of this program is to focus attention on the importance of agriculture to Arkansas by recognizing the efforts of the young farmers, aged 18 to 35, of our

state," said Leon Wilson, state chairman who was last year's winner.

The Outstanding Young Farmer Awards Ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Little Rock, starting with agriculture seminars that morning. The luncheon will be at 1:00 p.m.



## Arkansans in Washington

# State's Delegation Catches Balance-the-budget Fever

By TOM HAMBURGER  
Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The balance-the-budget fever has reached Washington and the Arkansas congressional delegation has been caught up in it.

As the fever spread, positions changed, promises were made and even the Arkansas state legislature backtracked.

At Washington, proponents of a balanced federal budget picked as the battleground a measure to increase the public debt ceiling by \$32 billion.

Arkansas's two freshman representatives, Democrat Beryl Anthony Jr. and Republican Ed Bethune, were among the first in the House to suggest linking a balanced budget with the debt ceiling increase.

The two argued that they should plea-bargain with Congress and the administration and refuse to support an increase in the debt — something necessary to pay the country's bills — unless Congress passed legislation enforcing a balanced budget, with expenditures not exceeding revenues. Since 1961, the federal government has operated with a deficit in every year but one.

Anthony has changed his mind since then and said, although he and Representative Bill Alexander (Dem., Ark.) missed the crucial 201-to-199 vote to approve the debt ceiling increase with no strings attached, he doesn't believe the debt ceiling vote was an appropriate place from which to fight the battle.

Anthony now endorses a plan

fore such a convention can be called.

Senator David H. Pryor (Dem., Ark.) was an early proponent of the constitutional amendment, although he too opposes the idea of a convention to draft it.

He will be studying the various budget balancing amendments to the debt ceiling this week end and plans to choose the strongest one he can find.

The Senate will have to vote on the debt ceiling bill and the various amendments which have been attached to it this week. Unless the debt ceiling increase is approved by the Senate this week the current ceiling will expire and the government will not have sufficient funds to pay its bills. Without a balanced budget amendment, Pryor said Friday, he was "inclined" to vote against the increase.

★ ★ ★  
As if the recent move to Washington were not enough, Arkansas's three freshman wives have been busy considering new activities.

Mrs. Lana Bethune has started work on a guidebook to the national capitol that will feature an Arkansas perspective. The Bethunes aren't sure who will print the book, but the work is well under way.

The book will show where statues of Arkansans are located in the capitol and provide details of Arkansans who have served at Washington.

Mrs. Sheila Anthony is looking into the possibility of applying to

search Service, the VA announced.

Dr. Uzman, a Fort Smith native, graduated from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's of science degree in 1942 and received her master's at Washington University at St. Louis.

★ ★ ★  
Two Des Arc farmers, Harvey Sanner and Jim Pugh, were at Washington last week and both were angry about what they considered exaggerated government estimates of damage on the Capitol Mall caused by tractors during last month's farm protest.

For example, Sanner noted that the National Park Service estimated it would cost \$110,000 to repair gravel walkways on the mall.

"I could have taken a hoe and shovel and fixed that in 30 minutes," Sanner said.

Small groups of farmers will continue visiting Washington this year, pursuing farmers' requests for a fair price for their crops.

Sanner reported that the national organizers of the American Agriculture movement will meet at Little Rock next month. Arkansans hope the group may endorse a bill introduced by Bumpers and Pryor to raise loan levels and increase the pay back period.



Now You See . . . Now You Don't

## The Two Faces Of The American Soybean Association

Written by soybean farmer,  
Harvey Joe Sanner

As a member of the Arkansas Soybean Association I attended the annual meeting held Tuesday, December 20, in West Memphis, Ark.

The first order of business was the reading of the resolutions prepared the preceding day by the resolutions committee. There were five pages of resolutions that do not mention net farm income. Yet this great advocate of the "free market" has in these resolutions begged for government monies, your tax dollars, no less than five times. It's very obvious that when A.S.A. says "get the government out of agriculture," they really mean they want them in for everyone else but the farmer.

They are very supportive of efforts to increase production, increase exports while adamantly opposing any effort by farmers to improve price. To loan your tax dollars to a foreign government that may never pay it back while opposing higher loan rates to American farmers (who have always repaid, with interest), shows a disregard for farm income.

I questioned the chairman as to why the Arkansas delegates did not vote the wishes of the membership in Nashville, Tn., last August. I got no answer.

When you view what has happened to net farm income while exports have increased 800 percent, it becomes easy to see who has benefitted from A.S.A. policy. To see why grain companies and processors have been served at farmer expense one only has to read the A.S.A. financial report. The American Soybean Association received \$347,415 through memberships. Member services, such as update mailouts, totaled \$439,306. This represents a \$91,891 deficit. With a staff in St. Louis, a Washington, D.C. office, plus state offices to maintain, it's obvi-

who influence legislation are paid by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or foreign governments.

I asked, "What is a third party cooperator? There was no answer.

No intelligent thinking person would deny the need for A.S.A.'s work in market development and research, but they should stay in that realm. With a consistent record of failure in regard to net farm income vs. gross farm income, they should offer to withdraw from the political arena. There is a danger in continuing to let

the grain trade finance an organization that purports to speak for farmers.

The benefits to farmers by a change in A.S.A. policy could be invaluable. I, as an A.S.A. member, am ready for us to quit our whining and begging for finances and start a program to unite farmers so that they can work together to improve their livelihood.

When net farm income becomes the number one goal of A.S.A. then it will deserve the support of producers. Until this occurs A.S.A. will continue to be a problem instead of a part of the solution.

**ODIS CHAPMAN** and Jim Dupree, national delegates for the AAMA, are speakers at the fish supper meeting, sponsored by the Des Arc AAMA Chapter, tonight (Thursday) at the elementary school cafeteria. All farmers and farm-related businessmen are invited.

### Lewis To Speak At Jonesboro AAMA Meeting

Plans are being made by several local AAMA farmers to attend a meeting Saturday night at Jonesboro to hear J. C. Lewis of Guyman, Okla., farmer and AAMA member.

Lewis, who will speak Friday night at McGehee High School, will discuss the Tri-Lateral Commission, its members, and objectives, which are, Lewis says, for a world government.

Lewis will discuss the objectives of the Tri-Lateral Commission, who they are, Commission, its members, and its objectives.

The local AAMA office will have tickets available at \$5.00 each (does not include meal). If you are interest in going, call the Des Arc AAMA Chapter office.



## Des Arc AAM Spokesman Protests News Reports

Harvey Joe Sanner, spokesman for the Des Arc Chapter of American Agriculture Movement, said this week he would like to let local people know how things really are concerning some reports in the news media recently.

Sanner protested reports that costs of restoration and repairs to the Capitol Mall in Washington, D. C. would cost \$2,000,000 and said "it's preposterous." Reports that the mall would have to be resodded are ridiculous; "the reports are highly exaggerated and untrue." Sanner stated that the mall area where the farmers spent most of the three weeks in Washington, was frozen with temperatures ranging in the 20's to zero and snow. With those conditions, the tractors and other vehicles could not have dug up the ground.

Estimates, he said, included overtime for policemen on duty, vehicles rented to block farmers inside the mall area.

Sanner also said charges that some farmers' actions were violent was also untrue. "Some of the policemen on duty just over-reacted," Sanner stated.

"It was not our idea to park in the mall area," the spokesman went on, "but we were directed to park in this area to attend the rally being held at the Capitol steps, and when we returned to our vehicles, we found all openings to the mall blocked by police," Sanner added.

When asked "what have you accomplished," the AAM spokesman replied, "The trip was not a total waste; it opened some eyes and some doors which we must keep open until a new farm bill is written." Sanner said he also objected to terms used in some news media that the farmers were asking for subsidies. "We are not asking for any subsidies," he said, and continued, "we are just asking for a fair price out of the markets, markets that are manipulated by untimely USDA reports."

The spokesman said the local AAM extended thanks to many people who have supported them during the recent weeks including Mrs. Sally DeVore, who furnished a huge box of peanuts for the group; Mrs. Elsie Minton, for a cake; Bob Norman, for the use of his trailer for returning tractors; Raymond (Chip) Calhoun, Jr., who furnished a truck and driver to bring tractors home; and to R. V. Weatherley, for the use of his motor home.

A truck and trailer is enroute back to Des Arc this week from Washington with tractors belonging to Harvey Joe Sanner and Mark Calhoun of Des Arc, and one used by the Hazen Chapter.

### Unless Encroachments Are Stemmed, Free Enterprise Ends . . .

The following poem was written by Colonel Fred Stein, America's Heritage Poet, Poet Laureate of Rockford, Ill., who came to Washington and read this original poem at a rally of farmers in Washington recently:

In these days of Inflation, Contention, and Clout  
Leverage is oft what it's all about;  
Let's each back the other, the American Way,  
(An Honest Day's Work for an Honest Day's Pay).

Many cry: "Give us this Day our Daily Loot,"  
Though their honor and record  
do many dispute;

While our Farmers, our Ranchers, and our  
Dairymen, too,

Give "Value Received" and help see us  
through.

So, let's hail our Men of Livestock and soil,  
'Tis their wholesome efforts that famines foil;  
True to Free Enterprise, they rate reward,  
But with lack of Appreciation, little is scored.

At last, indignantly, the Worthy must march;  
"Throw down the Gauntlet" and now  
prove their "starch",

So, dear Farmers and Ranchers,  
and dairymen, too.

Let's hope now your "guts" will at last  
see you through!



# A.A.M.A. Activities

The Des Arc office of Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association was used recently to review the Resource Conservation Act. The meeting was held jointly by the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service, Prairie County Extension Service and the Farmers Home Administration. The 1977 Clean Water Act has mandated that certain environmental requirements be met on our farms. The Resource Conservation Act only spells out the areas considered most important by a cross section of Americans.

A slide presentation showed how we are to be forced into these programs whether we like it or not. You have probably heard about some of the local farmers being threatened with heavy fines and their drainage work halted by the Corps of Engineers. This has been just a tip of an iceberg yet to come down on us. The kind of crops you plant, how long you hold rainwater on your farm before releasing it, the kind of chemical you will be allowed to use, if allowed at all, are just a few of the things some bureaucrat will be telling you to do.

The purpose of these meetings being held all over the U.S. is to give everyone input as to how the programs should be carried out. It is very important that farmers send in their comments, March 28 is the deadline. We have drafted a letter and made copies that are available at the Des Arc office along with the address where they are to be

sent.

This is only a sample letter, you can write your own, add to it, or send it like it is. The input we have now can have a role in how we are affected. You can bet the environmentalists are going to get their comments in. One thing we noted in the slides, we have been classed as "land users" not land-owners nor farmers but "land users". According to EPA, they own the land, we only make it productive and pay taxes on it. Have we lost control of our own land? Stop by the AAMA office for more details and literature.

It would have been much simpler to have stopped this nonsense before it was written into law, but then we weren't tending to our business.

Where were you Farm Bureau? Oh well, when you are primarily concerned with the sale of tires, batteries, insurance, running travel agencies, oil wells, and who knows what else, you can't be expected to lookout for the farmer's interests.

John Naill III of Biscoe, Prairie County's Farm Bureau President, was contacted and asked if the Prairie County Farm Bureau agreed with the National Farm Bureau in regard to loan rates. We were disappointed to find out that they are in almost complete agreement. Farm Bureau is doing a much better job of lobbying for U.S.D.A. than they are for farmers. They uphold the out-of-date philosophy of low loan rates with deficiency payments -- something U.S.D.A. sees as the answer to farmer prob-

lems.

How a "farm organization" can endorse such policies when you can see what has happened to farm debts and farm income, make it very evident who they are representing.

Did you ever notice how the Farm Bureau testimony in Washington almost never makes the local papers? There has been a book placed in the Des Arc Library called *Dollar Harvest* that explains Farm Bureau's birth and its activities. All farmers, especially members of the Farm Bureau, should read this book which will explain where Farm Bureau's real interests lie.

Inquiries are being made about possible legislation to have the word "Farm" removed from Farm Bureau. A tire and insurance company shouldn't imply that farmers come first.

Only the farmer members can turn the "Bureau" around to represent production agriculture. To our friends in the Bureau: You have your work cut out for you!

John Stephens, former employee of the American Soybean Association, was contacted by this office this week. We wanted to let Stephens know that we acknowledge and appreciate the work he and ASA has done in market development in the past.

Our main concern is that it is past, and we have the markets; but government policies restrict access to these markets: and if it is to spend money to develop markets that can be closed with the stroke of a pen,

then why bother?

Where ASA is at fault is in that during these disruptions they offer support to every segment except the producer. Lobbying for lower prices supports everyone but the producer. Therefore, it shouldn't call itself a producer organization.

No commodity organization has the right to interfere in the pricing of our commodities in the name of market development. If a market can't be developed, with producer funds, with-

33 bu.

X \$4.80

\$158.40

Net loss equals \$21.60 per acre with no production cost increase added.

In another article, Dan Lamberth, President of Arkansas Soybean Association, who also happens to be Vice President of Hartz Seed Co. of Stuttgart, said he believed the free market forces were the solutions to our problems. Lamberth evidently has read the papers. We have an embargo against the U.S.S.R. and any informed persons knows that U.S.D.A. places limits on foreign purchases. We have, in reality, been under a type of embargo for some time. How anyone can say that we have a free market is beyond belief!

One of ASA's proposals was increased funding for the Foreign Agriculture Service. Another was an expansion of the Commodity Credit Corporation export credit program.

How our own organization can propose C.C.C. loans to foreign governments but deny the American farmer a realistic loan from the same agency, is almost beyond comprehension!

The ASA also proposed loans to foreign govern-



## By Des Arc Chapter Spokesman

out the producer receiving a profit, then abandon it.

As for spending check-off money for research to increase yields, Why? We can't realize a profit on what we are producing now. A supposed surplus has ruined our market, so increased yields would only mean lower profit with an increase in production costs, with less profit. A ten percent increase in yields would probably mean as much as a 20 percent drop in price.

per acre	30 bu. per acre
per acre	X \$6.00 per acre

per acre	\$180.00 per acre
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ments for building grain handling facilities. If this much effort was put forth for handling and storage systems for the American farmers, the benefits would be more direct and enjoyed here at home where they are needed.

Requesting your soybean promotion money back is a form of protest as well as being useful income. When you have marketed 15,000 bushels, you have spent \$150.00. This will pay your dues in AAMA, the only organization totally committed to the production side of agriculture, not buyers, shippers, and millers.

The need for agriculture to speak with one voice has never been greater. This is evident after looking at the dairy industry. They are consistently receiving a higher rate of parity than most commodities. So, the quicker we turn our own organizations around and get them back on track supporting the producers, the quicker we will see the benefits.

We, at AAMA, are always open to suggestions as to how this might be done.

Local Spokesman, AAMA

## AAMA Office Serving Supper For Members

The Des Arc office of the American Agriculture Movement Association will sponsor a free barbecue supper for their members, associate members and their families Thursday, April 5, at the Des Arc Elementary School Cafetorium.

The highlight of the evening will be a talk by Odis Chapman, AAMA leader of Scott, Ark., guest speaker. Chapman will discuss the activities of AAMA and accomplishments.

Local members of the AAMA on a recent trip to Washington, took pictures of the Capitol Mall which has been described as desecrated by the farmers march on Washington earlier this year.

Serving will begin at 7 p. m. and all members, associates, and their families are urged to attend.

### Chapman On TV Program

Odis Chapman, Arkansas' recognized AAMA leader, will appear on Channel 11's "Issues For Action" program Sunday, April 1, starting at 12:30 p. m. and invites everyone to listen in.

## AAM Groups Announcing Gatherings

Des Arc and Hazen chapters of Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association planned large meetings to attract more than 500 Arkansas farmers to special programs Thursday and Friday nights with a continuing series of meetings for AAM in various communities in coming weeks.

Next meetings are at Blytheville and the Mississippi Chapter's special meeting at Cotton Bowl Tech in Burdette, AR. January 24; followed by a special meeting at Brinkley January 25; and special meetings at Newport January 26; McGehee February 2; Beebe, February 8 and 15.

Programs for the various meetings are announced in Grass-Roots News as they are made available.



# Disgruntled farmers

## *Ways to organize, gain political clout, listed*

By JULIE KOPPEN  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

In an effort to gain more political power on Capitol Hill in Washington, nearly 250 farmers from 44 states have gathered at Little Rock this weekend for a two-day meeting to lay the groundwork for a national American Agriculture Movement.

Many of the same farmers who marched across the country to camp on legislators' doorsteps in Washington D.C. in January expressed the same concerns they did four months ago.

The family farmer in America can't survive under present federal legislation, they said.

At the State Fairgrounds Saturday the group listened to several presentations by lawyers, a lobbyist and public relations personnel on how to set up a powerful organization.

The presentations were made by persons not currently related to the farmers' movement. They told the farmers that their ideas were just suggestions. They all said they would like to be considered for the services they outlined as essential to the organization.

George McNeely, secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Agricultural Movement Association, said the farmers would form committees to discuss the details of a national organization, and will finalize a draft of the organizational plans during their meeting Sunday.

Then, each of the delegates

representing the 44 states will go back to their state organizations and present the plan. The group will meet again soon and vote on whether to form the national organization, McNeely said.

"If we don't get our act together, we aren't going to survive," Tommy Kersey, a Georgia farmer and movement organizer, told the group. "We're the last frontier of family ownership."

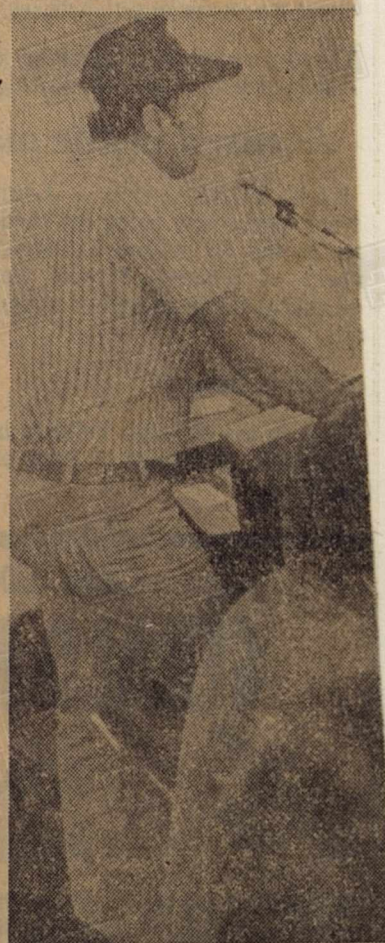
Kersey said he was "naive enough in the beginning to think all we had to do was go to Washington, D.C., and tell the truth." He said his parents, his preacher and his friends had told him that was all he had to do, "but evidently they've never been to Washington" — a statement met by loud applause.

"If we could just show 'em we were together one time, just one time, we'd scare 'em to death," Kersey said.

Garry Morrow, who was identified as a professional lobbyist from Austin, Texas, told the group that politicians make fun of "hobby lobbyists."

"You'd better get some professionals, because your enemies have got professionals," he said.

Morrow briefly outlined the role of a salaried lobbyist for a two-year effort. He said a lobbyist would do the group's research, contribute to selective political campaigns, pinpoint the pressure points of the "swing guys" (congressmen who have been tallied as voting both



### Farmers of

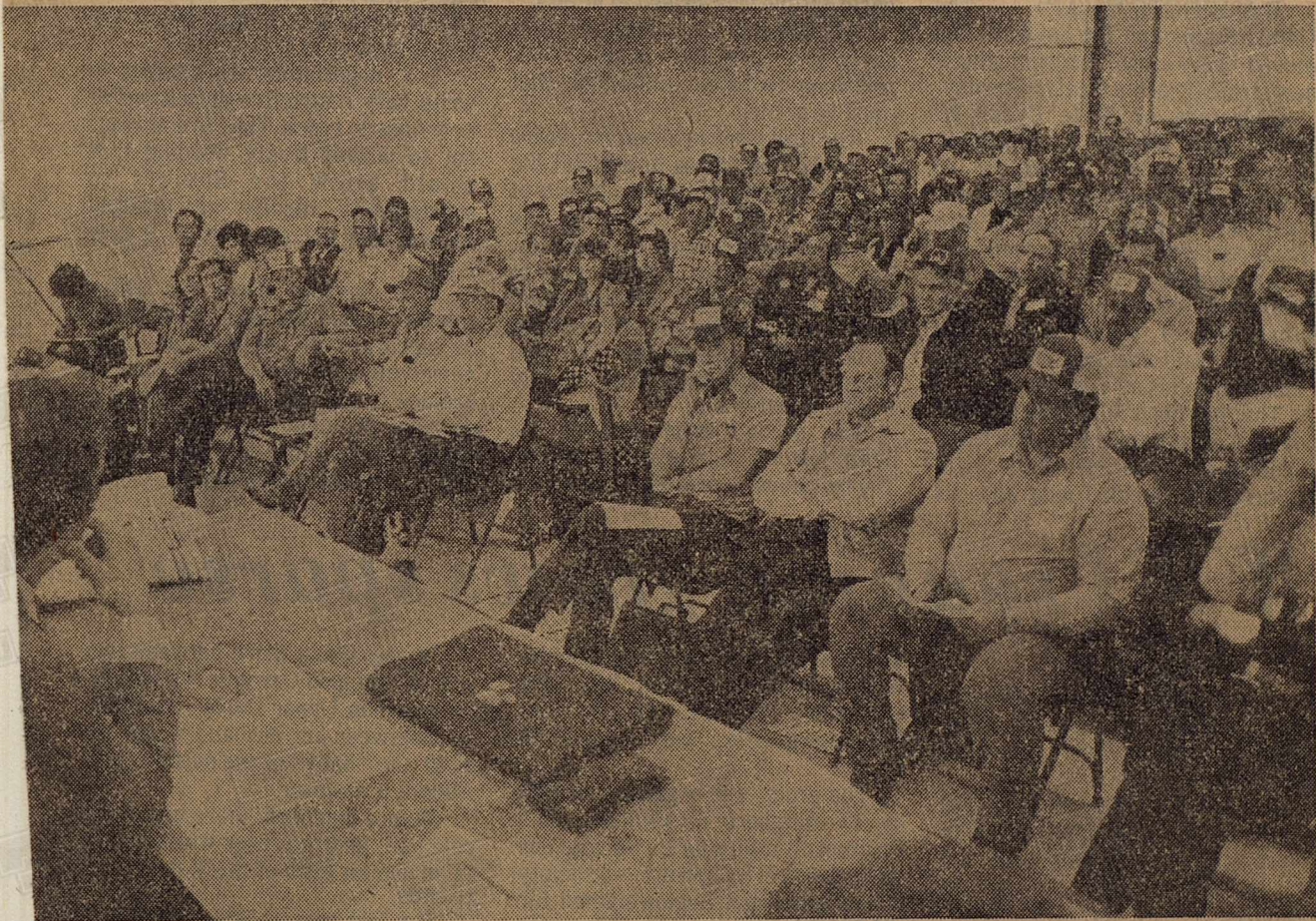
ways on farm issues) and organize lobbying on key issues.

"You've got to hit them hard after August," Moore said. "We've got to make our issues the big issues in the next presidential campaign."

Roy Spence, an associate of a Texas public relations firm, told the farmers that the politicians, the "honey-money boys" and the corporations were reading the farmers' "book," and it was now time for the farmers to read their's (the politicians.) It is entitled,



## meet to organize movement



DemoPhoto by James Allison

### the American Agriculture Movement listen to Tommy Kersey of Georgia

"money, power and clout and most of the time doesn't have a damn thing to do with conscience," Spence said."

They're called opinion polls, he said, and then outlined how his firm could conduct such polls to use as "weapons" in the farmers' battle.

Don Morrow, a Texas lawyer, presented a sample draft of organization by-laws for the group to consider.

The proposed by-laws called for a permanent office in Morrow's law firm, if the group should choose that

firm. The proposal also set up national headquarters in Washington, D.C., and state offices for each member state.

Morrow set the minimum amount of annual dues at \$200 per person, but said the group might consider making them even higher than that — possibly as high as \$400 per year.

Each member state would elect one delegate to sit on the national board of directors, and officers would be elected, Morrow said. By initiating a mail membership drive,

the group may get 30,000 members within the first six months, he said.

Kersey stressed that the farmers do not have the money or the authority under the present set-up to hire any of the persons who made presentations.

A tentative \$6 million budget was presented to the farmers as a sample of how they could set up the organization's budget. The budget projections were based on 35 state offices in 1979 with each state having a minimum of 500 members.



# How ya gonna keep 'em

My friend Harvey Joe Sanner of Des Arc, who could sell icemakers in Siberia, dropped by the office one day recently to tell me I've been missing the point.

**MY PROBLEM**, Harvey Joe says, is that I emphasize the secondary aspects of farming — fighting off weeds in fields and pastures, keeping animals out of the sick pen and so on — and overlook the dilemma of our shrinking agricultural base.

Maybe Harvey Joe has a point, but I perceive it as merely a difference in perspective.

The shrinking agricultural base is serious; farmers are getting out of farming for many reasons, but mostly because they can no longer make a profit at it.

But I prefer solutions, exploring avenues that can help the farmer make a profit, such as fighting off weeds in the fields and keeping animals out of the sick pen.

Be that as it may, there is little doubt that the United States could someday be short of farmers.

Census Bureau figures show a full 25 percent of farm residents these days are at least 55 years

FROM THE GROUND UP

**Sandy  
Miller Hays**



old, and half are over 40, with the median age settling in at 36 years.

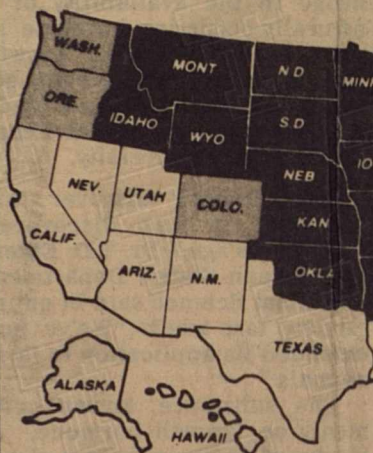
**NOW, WITH 36** less than a decade away, I'm not about to say that's on the downhill side of life. But today's median farm age is quite a switch from 1920, when more than two out of three American farmers were under the age of 35.

Farm families are simply getting older. According to the Census Bureau, only 45 percent of farm families have any children under 18 years of age, compared with 55 percent among non-farm families, while more than one in four farm families have at least one member aged 65 or older, compared with 18 percent of non-farm families.

The question is, who will farm the land in the future? The current crop of farmers won't live forever, and there is precious little incentive these days to draw youngsters away from the

## U.S. farm popula As a percentage of 1980 stat

0 to 1.9 percent 2 to 3.9



Chicago Tribune Graphic; Source: Census Bureau

promising fields of business, medicine or law and back to the farm.

**FARM LIFE** will always offer certain priceless intangibles: a feeling of independence and a lifestyle which many farmers perceive as being more closely

## Plans Continue For August 26 A.A.M. Rally

A spokesman at Des Arc said this week that preparations are continuing for the August 26 American Agriculture Movement Rally to be held at Village Creek State Park near Wynne starting at 8 a. m.

Arkansas Senators, Congressmen, and candidates will be among those attending. Congressman Bill Alexander, 1st District Congressman, has been chosen to be the House representative at the SALT talks that week but has said that he will send an aide to represent him at the rally if he is unable to attend.

"Remember, this can be a family outing; wives and children are welcome at the statewide rally," the local spokesman said.

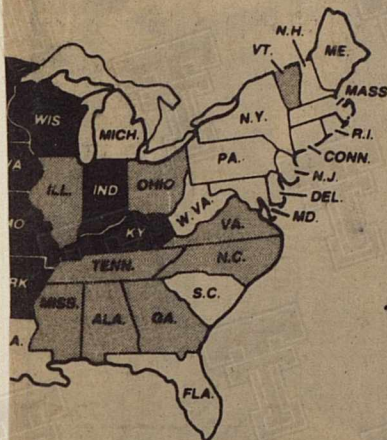


# down on the farm? Money!

## ation

e populations

percent 4 percent and above



aligned with Nature, for example.

But it's hard to bank those assets, while farming as it stands all too often offers too little that can be banked.

Although real income for non-farm families fell 5 percent be-

tween 1979 and 1980, farm families' buying power shrank by 15 percent. The median income for farm families in 1980 was only \$15,800, and an appalling 30 percent of farm families earned less than \$10,000 that year, while their city cousins enjoyed a median family income of \$11,200.

Back in 1900, the Census Bureau says, 40 percent of Americans lived on the farm, but these days only one person in 38 goes home to a farm.

**FARMERS AREN'T** yet as scarce as hens' teeth, but they're headed in that direction. Only five years ago, the United States had 2.44 million farmers; already the figure has dropped to 2.37 million. Arkansas alone has reportedly lost a thousand farms in the last year.

I can't come up with a solution for this problem, but I can think of some things that would ease the situation. For example, it would help if the farm economy picked up enough that today's impressionable youngsters who might be tomorrow's farmers weren't regularly subjected to seeing their experienced elders struggle and sometimes lose what little they have

left.

★ ★ ★

Speaking of losses, Arkansas suffered a severe one last Sunday with the death of Robert P. Lewis of Scott, one of this state's leading lights in soil conservation efforts.

In case you missed knowing Bob — and you missed a lot, I can tell you — he was president of the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts and a member or board member of the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Pulaski (County) Conservation District, as well as a handful of other groups of similar interests.

You probably have surmised that Bob Lewis was interested in saving the earth. Bob was always a ready source of sensitive but not sentimental comments about the importance of the annual "Soil Stewardship Week" celebration, which was pretty appropriate since Bob seemed to personify what a steward of the soil should be.

Bob Lewis and I were of a similar mind in at least one respect: Bob was interested in solutions. He understood the problems, of course, but his approach was "What can we do?" rather than "What will we do?"

**SURPRISINGLY**, Bob was not a native Arkansan. He was born in Covington, Ky., and came to Arkansas in the late 1950s to become a farmer.

But Bob's efforts in soil and water conservation have directly or indirectly benefited every Arkansan, and every Arkansan, whether rural resident or city dweller, shares the loss in having been robbed by Bob's death of all the good things he didn't get the time to do.



REPORTED

## Second Annual AAM Fly-In Well Attended In Wash., D. C.

The second annual American Agriculture Movement Fly-in began April 26 and was well attended by farmers, agri-businessmen, and rural bankers from across the nation.

The reason AAM originated this program was to give key government officials an opportunity to hear tractor dealers, fertilizer companies, rural bankers, relate the effects a depressed agriculture is having on their businesses.

Two farmers, Bettis Campbell and Harve Joe Sanner, along with Paul Gaines, Des Arc implement dealer, attended three days of meeting with government officials and politicians. One important and significant thing about this trip, a spokesman said, was the cooperation and support from local agri-businesses who paid expenses for the three men who represented them as they were unable to attend themselves. This type of positive action is what AAM has had as its philosophy

and interest rates only add to their cost and is passed on whenever possible. In the case of farmers, this hasn't been possible. The bankers got a first-hand look at what we farmers have been telling them for three years; that people in government are too far removed from our problems to understand.

Tuesday morning, Bill Alexander, chief deputy majority whip, and our soon-to-be 2nd District Congressman, addressed us at a breakfast meeting in the capitol. This meeting also overflowed and some people had to be turned away.

Mr. Alexander, it seems, is placing more emphasis on agriculture than he has in the past. He recently hired Ron Deaton, who has spent some time in the Foreign Agriculture Service, and who has a farm background and is currently working for both Congressman Beryl Anthony as well as Alexander. Bill Miles is Alexander's ag aide, who, also, has been most helpful and we

had to liquidate herds; so, therefore, there should have been more meat available? Mr. Hamilton had some questions he couldn't answer.

Tuesday evening, Charles Hertzberg of the Small Business Administration, told us some of SBA's problems; why the recent freeze and what their role would be in the future. Hertzberg said SBA was never intended to be in agricultural lending and was not equipped to handle it. The drought pushed them into it - with not enough funds and not enough manpower. He said there was a 2 billion dollar appropriation and by March of 1981, one billion was already loaned with another billion in applications in the offices. He said "it is apparent we are going to run out of money before the fiscal year is anywhere near being over."

All loans were frozen to re-evaluate and see how they could make the remainder of their money go

make FHA more responsive and keep it in line with its original goals.

When we arrived in Washington, we received a summary of the Administration's Farm Bill; so, we had time to study it before meeting with Mr. Block.

Secretary Block addressed us and outlined some of the proposed bill. Marvin Meek says John Block's heart is in the right place, and this is probably true. However, what the Administration is having him push as a Farm Bill is an insult to the integrity of the American farmer. Their proposal is nothing but a repeat of what we have had in the past - with possible worse effects. The approach hasn't worked and it's not going to work.

The whole approach is based on a trickle down effect and no income injected at the bottom end of the economy where, we, as producers

are. The Administration feels: if you get interest rates and inflation under control, agriculture will once again become healthy.

A.A.M. has repeatedly said: inflation is a serious problem but without a fair price for what we produce, we are still in trouble. If, by some miracle, inflation was stopped today, with \$1.10 fuel and \$7.00 soybeans, you haven't solved the problem.

Any farmer who thinks what Mr. Reagan is proposing as a farm bill is going to help farmers needs to explain how, because the ag aides in W.D.C. say it's the same old thing and will not work. We are hopeful we have educated enough of the Congress that some alternatives will be presented and become law.

While in D. C., the Des Arc men met with Senator Dale Bumpers, Senator David Pryor, and Congressmen

Ed Bethune, Beryl Anthony, and Bill Alexander. They all know our feelings about farm legislation and are working with us to find some realistic alternatives to the administration's bill.

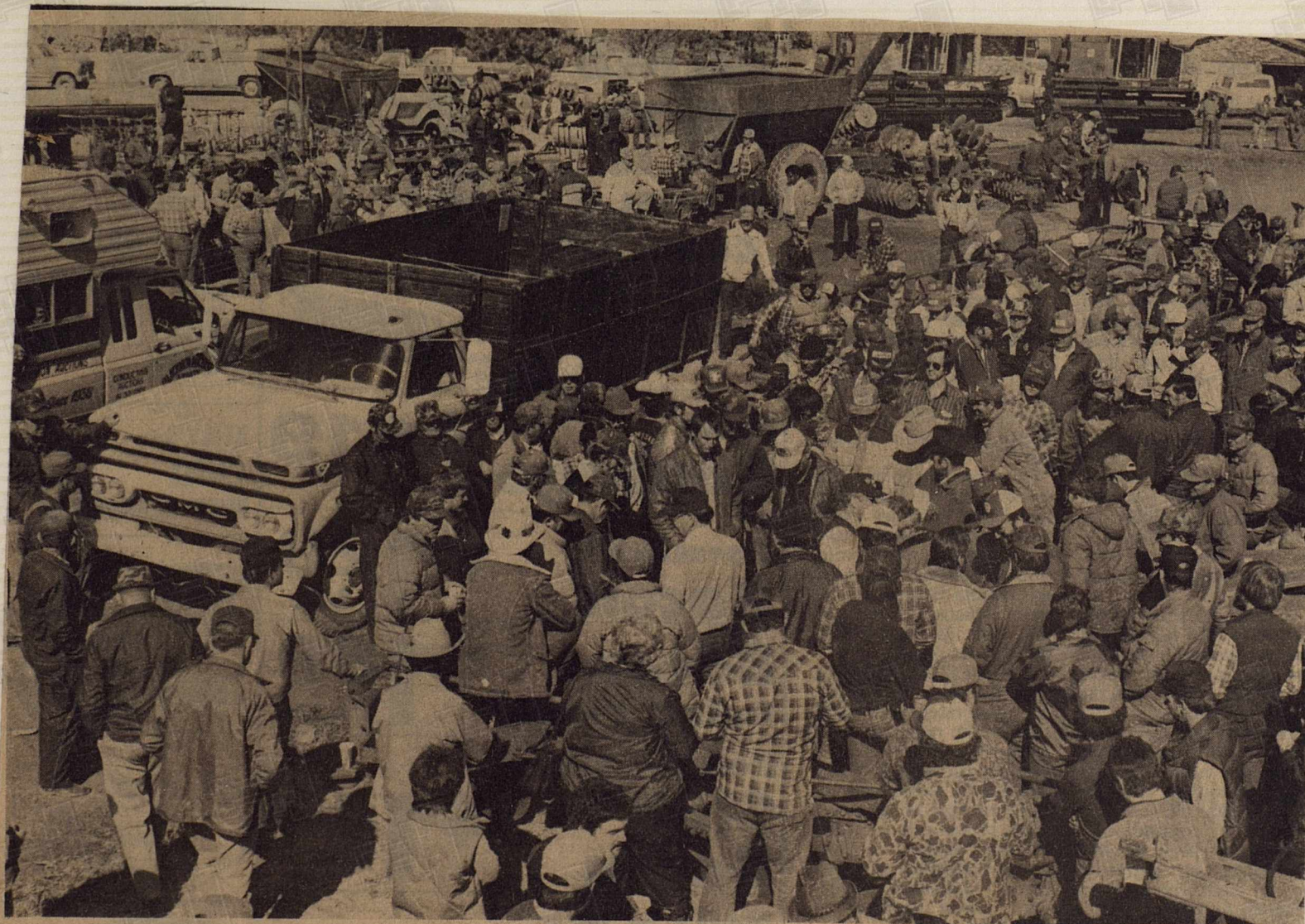
Senator Pryor is on the Senate Ag Committee and is aware of the problems and knows that we can expect more of the same with what has been proposed. He will introduce legislation or amendments to bills in the markup process that will put more emphasis on producers.

This trip reaffirms our belief that if we don't do the job ourselves, it won't get done.

A.A.M. is the only producer organization representing all of production agriculture.

Des Arc Chapter  
American Agriculture  
Movement of Arkansas





## **AAM SALE DAY**

Pictured above is part of the crowd attending the American Agriculture Movement (Des Arc Chapter) auction sale held at Des Arc last Friday. This was their third annual sale and according to a spokesman for the

Des Arc AAM it was "the most successful sale so far," with sales totaling \$423,000.00. Four area farmers liquidated farm equipment in the sale along with many other consignment equipment.





**DES ARC AAMA CHAPTER LEADERS:** Left to right: Jimmy Holloway, Harvey Joe Sanner, Jimmy Flanagan, Donald DeVore, V. O. Calhoun, Jr., and Jim Tate, Des Arc Chapter directors.

### **AAMA Meeting- Continued**

to a cause, without financial help from the farmers, he is representing, that speaks highly of this movement as well as him."

"Odis Chapman has a dedication to agriculture," Sanner said, "that is beyond belief: 300 meetings, approximately 20 trips to Washington, D. C.; he has testified nine times before the House and Senate Agriculture Committee Hearings." Sanner said, every farmer in America owes a debt of gratitude to this man. Because of Chapman's honesty and sincerity, he is recognized as a qualified spokesman for the producing farmer, Sanner added.

"When people have the commitment that both Jim



**CHAPMAN AND DUPREE ANSWER QUESTIONS:** Odis Chapman and Jim Dupree, center, spend time answering questions and discussing problems at AAMA meeting Thursday night. (The flag prominently displayed in background was flown all the way to Washington on tractor from Des Arc last February. A little frayed, it still has much significance for local farmers who made the trip)



and Odis have, it makes our own sacrifices seem insignificant," Sanner said, and he commented on the matter of dues that has caused quite a controversy. "This is a small price to pay for the good these men have done for all of us," he emphasized.

#### Setting of Dues

The AAM spokesman said that several months of discussion went into the setting of dues. There were hours and hours of argument and suggested amounts ranged from \$10 to \$1,000. The final vote was for \$150 per year. This amount is needed, they said, to operate a state office and lend support to a national organization. It was felt that \$150 would not impose a hardship on anyone with the size of today's farming operations. Sanner said, "When a man knows AAM has done so much for agriculture and still feels that \$150 is too much, he doesn't think much of his way of life. Anyone who won't admit or can't see the good that AAM has done, can do, either isn't looking or is not being honest with himself." He added, "The farmer whose dues will jeopardize his livelihood needs AAM more than any farmer."

"The dues probably will be the best investment a farmer will make this year when you consider this is the last year under the 1977 farm bill. Time is running out for us to have input into the new farm bill - the bill that will control out destiny for the next four years beginning in 1981. If there ever was a time we need unity in agriculture, it is now," he stat-

ed.

All farmers and those in farm-related business (deriving all income from farmers) are being asked to pay \$150 per year dues; other businesses, such as grocery stores, etc., are asked to pay \$35 for membership in AAMA. Of this, \$10 pays for a subscription to the AAMA publication, Grass Roots, and \$25 stays in the local treasury to support lobbying to influence farm legislation.

#### Other Speakers

Other speakers at Thursday night's meeting were Representative Bobby Glover, who spoke of his attempts to protect the farmer from unrealistic property assessments. Rep. Glover was complimented highly by all AAM speakers for his work the past weeks in the House. Jack Cothran of Wynne, State AAM president; Deloss McKnight, national AAM secretary, Wynne farmer and attorney; and Will Feland, Senator Pryor's aide, all spoke on the accomplishments of the AAM and the merits of the organization.

Feland commented on the reaction of the leaders in Washington concerning the embargo, who said, "we had better do something for the farmers or they will be coming up here."

Dupree, a native of England, who told about his trips to Des Arc to play baseball 30 years ago, who is very profound in his comments said, "One very important thing has been accomplished through AAM and that is that the farmer is now looking after his business and is not leaving it up

to someone in Washington who knows nothing about the farmers' problems. The farmer has been educated and knows what is going on in Washington where he is concerned and the farmer is now being represented as he should be - by farmers."

#### Local AAM Group Attend State Meetings

Des Arc AAMA Chapter members have met in Little Rock recently with Senator

Jan. 15, and last Friday Sanner, Flanagan, Donald DeVore, Jimmy Hamilton of Griffithville, Willie Joe Patterson, Weatherley, and Andy Madar met with Pryor and Jim Webster, assistant secretary of agriculture. They were told that farmers would not suffer all the loss from the embargo but they were not clear on just how this would be done.

to discuss the embargo. Harvey Joe Sanner, Jimmy Flanagan, Jimmy Holloway, and Bobby Weatherley, with Bumpers on Tuesday.



Harvey Joe Sanner, local AAMA leader, prepares fish for farmers and townspeople at Ag building here Wednesday at noon. (They're laughing, but they were eating!)



(The following appeared in the Springdale News, Feb. 5, 1979)

# Arkansas Farmers: 'It's Like Going

By ERIC RUFF  
NEWS Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—For the handful of farmers from Des Arc, Ark. (pop. 1,714), who have been camped out nearly a week on a wooded Civil War battlefield, today draws a close to anxious days of anticipation.

The tractorcade onslaught began before dawn, and by morning rush hour some 2,000 grunting tractors had snarled traffic and blockaded the Agriculture Department. Motorists waited for hours to cross the Potomac River bridges feeding into the nation's capital.

"As far as I'm concerned this is like going off to war," said Rick Branham, a Des Arc farmer who lost about \$40,000 last year.

Standing outside information headquarters for the Bull Run Regional Park, there is real emotion in his voice. From under his soiled red cap he recalls, "In 1973 we had a real good year and I could walk into a place and say, 'Hey, I'm a farmer, I'm proud to be here.'"

"Now I go in and say, 'Gosh, I hope they don't know I'm a farmer.'"

Branham, who said he wanted to get married "but flat can't afford to," will be one of thousands of American Agriculture Movement members to storm Capitol Hill demanding 90 percent parity.

Parity is the level at which farm product prices stay even with production costs, thus ensuring the farmer a constant standard of living.

From Branham's friend, John Prislovsky, came a sullen account of day-to-day life. "It's kinda hard to drive through town when you owe so many people. You feel pretty bad..."

Similar words were uttered by Mark Calhoun, a 20-year-old farmer who probably won't need a shaving razor for another year or two. He currently rents 1,000 acres from his father and owes about \$400,000.

"Owing that much money don't make you sleep at night," Calhoun said, with nods of agreement coming from his fellow Des Arc companions.

"You don't know when you're going to pay them back," he continued. "That's what's so bad."

Alongside the red-capped Branham stood Pat Skarda, another Des Arc farmer here to carry the word for 90 percent parity.

As a blustery afternoon wind brought a chill to the weekend day, Skarda said, "I'm a little different from these fellas because I made money. But I'm here anyway because when these guys are in trouble I know I'm not that far behind."

Skarda inherited his farm from his father, who died a year ago. With his hands dug into his back pocket the 24-year-old told how his father had planned ahead for his death, allowing the Skarda family to pay \$250,000 in inheritance taxes.

"The minute he died I couldn't grieve because I had to worry about losing the farm," Skarda said. "I'm asking you, is that right?"

## off to War'

Of the group, Skarda was the only farmer owning the land he planted. The others rent.

Sonny Evans of Beebe, who made the AAM trip last year, quickly characterized Skarda as "the last of a breed."

That was followed by "It's a shame too," spoken softly with a tone of resignation by one of the group.

Evans, who owes \$136,000 and rents an 800-acre farm, offered harsh words for government and the American people. His steel eyes glared and dark bushy eyebrows curled as he declared, "We got us a sick, sick country. We should have had a million people following us."

For Evans, 38, coming here again meant leaving behind a family and a small boy who cries when his father tells him he may not be farming much longer.

There is a militant-sounding desperation in his voice when Evans says, "We have got to get 90 percent parity because the small farmer, and the big farmer in a few years to come, will be owned by large corporations."

That 90 percent of parity goal could be met by Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland with the stroke of a pen. The secretary is empowered to set the level by the 1977 farm act. Thus far there has been no indication from USDA that Bergland will set the 90 percent rate.



**"We may be here indefinitely," Spokesman Says**

## State's Delegation For Farmers

Harvey Joe Sanner, spokesman for the Des Arc AAM group, called the Journal office Wednesday from just outside the office of Senator Dale Bumpers where Sanner and James Albert Kirkland of Des Arc were meeting to have lunch with Senator Bumpers. The Des Arc farmers are part of a demonstration group now in Washington to influence implementation of certain farm legislation. The Washington tractorcade is comprised of 5,000 farmers and nearly 2,000 tractors and support vehicles from 20 states. Twenty-four tractors in the group are from Arkansas.

Sanner said the farmers had two meetings with the Arkansas delegation Tuesday. The entire Arkansas delegation, Senators Dale Bumpers and David Pryor, and representatives, Ed Bethune, Bill Alexander, John Paul Hammer-schmidt, and Beryl Anthony, are supportive of the farmers but some of the northeastern legislators are not listening, the farmers say.

The non-sympathizers includes Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland who has called the farmers "greedy and inefficient." Bergland says he sees no need for legislation asked for by the disgruntled farmers. Thousands were expected to meet with Bergland on Wednesday. Sanner said, "USDA reports show all the

to bring the two Des Arc tractors back home.

E. H. Burrows, Paul Holloway, Bobby Weatherley, Donald DeVore, Dennis and Tim Sears, Philip Speight, Steve Fields, Steve Sanner, Bill Reidhar, Owen Guess, W. C. Hambrick, Sr., Larry Tate, Kirkland and Francis Orlicek, all of

Des Arc, and three Beebe farmers, flew out of Little Rock and Memphis Sunday in order to be in Washington for the Tuesday meetings.

The Des Arc tractors are owned by Jimmy Holloway and Mark Calhoun.

Pat Skarda went up for a few days but has returned home.

## Chapman, Dupree Speakers At Des Arc AAMA Supper Jan. 17

On Thursday, Jan. 17, at 6:30 p. m., the Des Arc Chapter of Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association will host a fish supper and all farmers and business people and their families are invited to attend.

This is the second annual fish supper hosted by the Des Arc Chapter and will be held in the Des Arc Elementary School auditorium.

The two principle speakers for the event are Otis Chapman of Scott, Ark., outstanding spokesman for the AAMA and early leader of the program in Arkansas, along with Jim Dupree of Weldon, Ark., AAMA leader and spokesman. Both men are Arkansas delegates on the National AAMA Com-

mittees.

Harvey Joe Sanner, local spokesman, said the meeting would kick off the Des Arc Chapter's membership drive.

### Trip To Washington Planned

A rally is scheduled in Little Rock on Feb. 12 and will bring Arkansas farmers together with farmers from Texas and Oklahoma and will be the starting point for a motorcade to Washington D. C. "The purpose of this trip is to stress farm-produced alcohol," Sanner said. All vehicles used in the motorcade will be powered with gasohol and some with

100 percent alcohol. No tractors are expected in Washington this year, he added. In 1978 and 79, tractorcades moved into Washington in force protesting USDA parity programs.

In regard to the recent embargo on grain to Russia by President Carter, the local spokesman said, "Officially, we support the President, but are opposed to the American farmers having to bear the brunt of his decision."

You will hear this subject and many others that will be of interest to the farmers and business people of this area next Thursday night. The local AAMA Chapter urges you to attend.



# State AAMA Leaders Rally Des Arc

Jim Dupree and Odis Chapman, two well known Arkansas activists in the American Agriculture Movement, spoke at a meeting here Thursday night in what was a "kickoff" for the membership drive for the Des Arc AAMA Chapter.

More than 300 farmers and families and farm-related business people attended the free fish supper given by the Des Arc AAM leaders.

Chapman and Dupree, who have become nationally known as spokesmen for the farmers of Arkansas appealed to the farmers to join them in their fight to influence government policy. Chapman, who is also a preacher, is an emotional speaker of humor and "tells it like it is." Dupree, who farms rice and beans on 14,000 acres at Weldon, is an enthusiastic proponent of the AAM movement and has traveled to Washington numerous times as the AAM

spokesman.

Chapman, who was one of the first in the state to speak out concerning the need for a change in government farm policies, said, "We have credibility in Washington now."

Dupree and Chapman talked at length about the accomplishments made by the AAM in just two years.

Harvey Joe Sanner, local chapter spokesman, said, "First of all, we have made more progress than most people realize, even our own members don't always see the accomplishments until they are pointed out by someone outside the movement." Will Feland, Senator Pryor's ag aide, assured us we were having input into agricultural policy and were definitely building a foundation that provides the means for more and more input. He also assured us that we had earned a credibility in Washington, D. C. that al-

lows us to speak for the producing farmer, Sanner said. "We have brought to light the fact that major farm organizations and most commodity groups put the processor interests ahead of the producer," he added.

"We have educated the public that food is of higher quality and lower price than anywhere else in the world. What adds to our food cost is processing, packaging, transportation, etc., something that farmers do not control nor share in."

The speakers pointed out that AAM is responsible for the progress that has been made in the development of alcohol fuels. Government officials, oil company representatives, spokesmen for the agricultural colleges all have said it wasn't feasible, and now gasohol is being marketed in several states. Now, in response to the embargo, the administration

has pledged over 100 million dollars for the development of alcohol fuels, the speakers pointed out.

Chapman told the group, "AAM people were successful in getting rice re-classified as an approved food for the school lunch program. It had never before been approved for school lunchrooms although we were sending it all over the world to feed others."

Due to AAM, they said, Secretary Bergland conducted structure of agri hearings all across America to get grass root input for formulation of the new farm bill. It was an admission by USDA that the trend toward fewer and larger farms may not be in the best interest of USA, especially the American farmer.

The AAM has in the past two years brought agricultural problems into the news more than ever before such as the recent embargo. "We

## Forces

ad embargoes in 1973 and 1975," they commented, with hardly a mention of farmers' losses." Without AAMA, meetings with both Arkansas Senators trying to find solutions to the embargo would not have taken place.

Sanner spoke in praise of Dupree, "One of the most impressive men in this movement is Jim Dupree. His presence has added a dimension that we desperately needed. The fact that he is involved, not because he is broke, but because he sees what the present system holds for us. He sees AAM as the only organization addressing the real issues and attempting to change the trend in agricultural policy. He has made several people aware that even though they are financially sound that without some change, they, too, will eventually be in trouble. When a man like Dupree offers his total commitment



ODIS CHAPMAN — Moves his listeners to action.



# Farmer Motorcade to Pass Through Little Rock

Gazette State News

One of three farmer caravans bound for Washington to promote the use of farm grain for the production of alcohol fuels and to bring attention to the plight of American farmers will pass through Little Rock the night of February 12 and be joined by Arkansas members of the American Agriculture movement.

This will not be a "tractorcade," as was last year's trip by farmers to Washington, according to Tim Apple of Bellville (Yell County), who will be Arkansas's "wagon master" for the motorcade. Farmers will drive cars, pickup trucks, vans and motor homes, all of which will be powered

by a mixture of alcohol fuels and traditional fuels, Apple said. The lead vehicle in each motorcade will be powered exclusively by alcohol fuel.

The motorcade that will pass through Arkansas will begin near Amarillo, Tex., and stop overnight at Little Rock, then proceed toward Washington the morning of February 13.

## To Meet at D.C.

Caravans also are planned through the Deep South and the Midwest, Apple said. The three motorcades are to come together just outside Washington February 16. Farmers will have their national meeting at Washington

February 18-19, then remain at Washington at least through February 22 to lobby congressmen and meet with federal officials, he said.

## Rallies Scheduled

Rallies supporting alcohol fuels have been scheduled tentatively for 1 p.m. and at 7 p.m. February 12 at the Livestock Show Firegrounds at Little Rock. Apple said Governor Clinton would be asked to speak.

Apple said Friday that it was too early to say how many Arkansas farmers will participate. Four, including himself, already have committed themselves to drive their vehicles, he said.

Harvey Sanner of Des Arc, a farmer and American Agriculture official, said he believes more farmers will participate in the caravan than drove in last year's "tractorcade." That caravan included many Arkansas farmers and the tractors clogged traffic at Washington, leading to some problems with the Washington police.

## Angrier This Year

Sanner said farmers are angrier this year, primarily because they believe they are having to bear totally the brunt of the embargo on grain exports in the Soviet Union ordered by President Carter as a retaliation for the

Russian military action in Afghanistan.

Farmers have said they support the retaliation, but believe they should get economic compensations, specifically regarding loan rates, from the government.

Sanner also said Friday that the Des Arc office of the American Agriculture movement will hold a fish fry and rally at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Des Arc Elementary School to start its membership campaign in the area. He said Odis Chapman of Scott and Jim Dupree of Weldon (Jackson County), both leading organizers of the movement, would be the speakers.

## Lions Hear AAM Objectives

The Des Arc Lions Club members met for their regular dinner meeting Tuesday night at Petty's Cafe. The Rev. Jack Bledsoe, vice president and co-chaplain, opened the meeting and Co-chaplain Rev. Harold Hansford, gave the opening prayer.

Pres. Lawrence Holloway was a few minutes late, but the Eager Beaver Lions assessed him with a fine. Art Dohm served as secretary.

There were 19 members and five visitors present. Visitors were Tony Rampley, accountant for the Nichols Enterprises, and local American Agriculture Movement chapter members, Harvey Joe Sanner, Jimmy Holloway, Donald DeVore and Jimmy Flanagan, who are interested in informing others of their objectives for their organization.

David Eagle of Eagle Food Center was also a guest.

Sanner was principal speaker for the AAM group; however, the others entered into the very informative program which was enjoyed by all present. A Lions spokesman said, "Mr. Sanner did a good job of explaining the objectives of the AAM and those present learned a lot this organization."

## Ladies Night

The Lions will invite their ladies to dine with them and attend the Feb. 10 meeting to be held at the Methodist Church fellowship hall.

Circuit Judge Cecil Tedder of Searcy will be the guest speaker. Guests will include Mrs. Tedder, Attorney W. B. Guthrie and Mrs. Guthrie and Attorney Robert Abney and Mrs. Abney. Guthrie and Abney are associated in a law firm at Des Arc.



DES ARC FIRE DEPARTMENT

RAY (Lookin Good) MCVEY

CARL (Long Legs) KILGORE

JOE (Can't Miss) BROWN

BOBBY (Slow Poke) LONG

JAMES (Half Fast) WYATT

TRAVIS (Just Fell Off) NANNIE

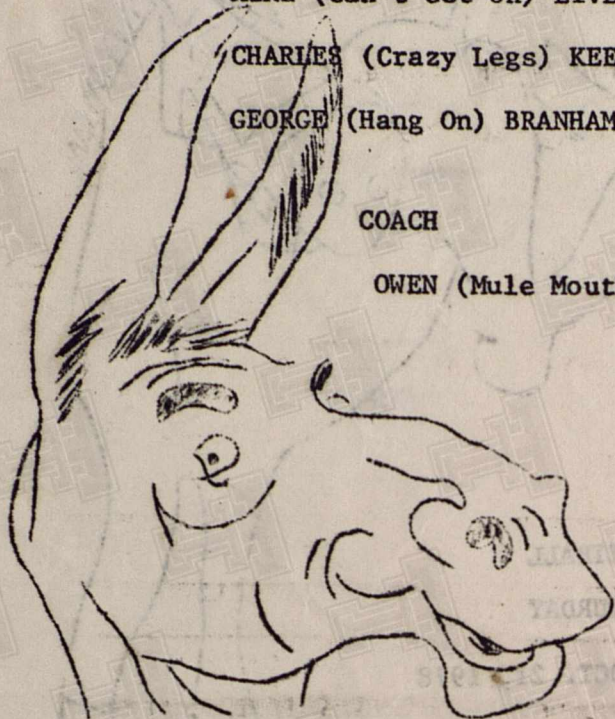
MIKE (Can't Get On) LIVESAY

CHARLES (Crazy Legs) KEEL

GEORGE (Hang On) BRANHAM

COACH

OWEN (Mule Mouth) BROWN



AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT

JIMMY (Help Me) FLANAGAN

JAMES ALBERT (Get Out of My Way) KIRKLAND

STEVE (Stepped On) SANNER

BOB (I Want Off) CHILDERS

DONALD (Lost Out) DEVORE

JIMMY (Got Kick) DEVORAK

BUTCH (Tail Twister) WALTERS

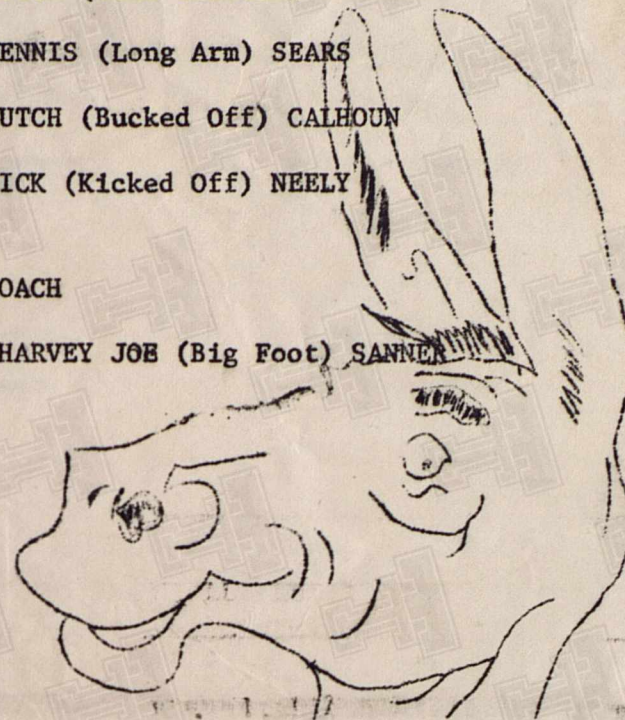
DENNIS (Long Arm) SEARS

BUTCH (Bucked Off) CALHOUN

DICK (Kicked Off) NEELY

COACH

HARVEY JOE (Big Foot) SANNER





# Des Arc Farmers Meeting, Lobbying In Washington

Des Arc farmers in Washington D. C. for the American Agriculture Movement convention, were among about 100 Arkansas farmers lobbying in the nation's capital for higher prices for agricultural products and "fairer loan terms" from the federal government.

The farmers drove into Washington in vehicles fueled with gasohol and were making the rounds of the offices of the Arkansas congressional delegation all day Tuesday to discuss their problems.

Tim Apple, Bellville farmer and "wagon master" for the Arkansas group, visited the office of Senator Dale

Bumpers of Arkansas, who is scheduled to hold a public meeting with the farmers today, Thursday.

The farmers are seeking a commitment from the government to give farmers 90 percent parity for agricultural products, Apple told a Bumpers aide Tuesday. "We just want prices that will cover our cost of production plus a reasonable profit," Apple said.

Apple declared that the federal government does not give farmers fair terms on loans and cited an example: the cost of producing a bushel of soybeans last year reached \$6.50 and the government only gave the far-

mer credit for \$4.50 per bushel of soybeans as loan collateral."

U.S. Agriculture Department projects that costs will rise 25 percent in the next year, while net income for farmers will fall 25 percent.

E. H. Burrows, a Des Arc farmer in Washington, said he had to put 340 acres of his land in hock in order to pay for his production expenses last year. He asked why the same government that bailed out Chrysler Corp. with a loan at 4½ percent charged him 8½ percent for a loan. Burrow added: "The government will make loans as low as 3 percent to farmers, but only in case of dis-

aster."

Harvey Joe Sanner, another Des Arc who was at Bumpers' office Tuesday, said, "I resent the word 'subsidy' when applied to money a farmer receives from the government for a crop the government stockpiled."

Jimmy Flanagan, another Des Arc farmer in Washington, when asked what he was seeking, said, "A decent farm bureau or one properly implemented."

Rep. Bill Alexander will meet with the farmers today, Thursday.

## Will Feland Visits Local AAMA Office

Will Feland, Agricultural Aide to Senator Pryor was in Des Arc last Friday morning for breakfast and a short visit with a small group of local farmers representing the AAMA.

Feland spoke briefly about the E.E. money appropriated for F.H.A. and the reason for removing the 8 percent money for grain storage from the bill. Feland said, "Because of President Carter's effort to bal-

ance the budget, the president said he would veto the whole bill if this segment was left in and realizing the dire need of economic assistance to many farmers, the 8 percent storage money was removed from the bill."

Feland left the group with discouraging thoughts as he said the outlook for commodity prices rising any substantial amount in 1980 looks very dismal.

## National AAMA Meeting In Little Rock April 7-8

The American Agriculture Movement Association held its regular monthly (state) meeting at The Flames Restaurant in Brinkley Tuesday, April 3.

Permanent officers were elected as follows: Harold Wells of Tillar, president; Jack Cothran, Wynne, vice president; and George McNeely, McGehee, will serve as secretary.

Local AAMA farmers say, "The interest is growing in the national AAM organizational meeting scheduled for April 7-8 in Little Rock. The meeting will get underway at 1 p. m. Saturday in the arts and crafts building at the State Fair Grounds. Interested farmers

from several states have made plans to attend."

The farmers said, "We have accomplished a lot for agriculture in a non-organized fashion, but, it's apparent now that we can have more credibility and be more effective if we are organized."

"The meetings in Little Rock are a step in that direction," a spokesman emphasized, "we are most fortunate that this important meeting is being scheduled in Arkansas."

The local AAMA Chapter is giving a barbecue for members today, Thursday, at their offices in Des Arc. All members are urged to attend.



**AAMA FARMERS ASK**

# Why Declining Soybean Market?

This past week the main topic of discussion has been the declining soybean market. We have been trying to find out why. Fewer and fewer farmers are satisfied with the reasons we are given.

We contacted the Commodity Credit Corporation in Washington to get more information on the story of soybeans being dumped on the market by C.C.C. We talked with the Secretary of C.C.C., Bill Cherry. He told us that C.C.C. had bought contracts to protect the grain companies when the U.S.S.R. embargo was announced. They are now offering these contracts for bids. The C.C.C. offered all they had, 27,580,000 bushels at one time.

When Cherry was asked didn't he think this was going to depress an already depressed market, he replied that they may not accept the bids that were offered. But as you probably know, the market dropped 18 cents per bushel immediately.

ers of these cheap beans.

When you really get into these programs you find out who they help the most and why the producer is the last to be considered. It's sad how the different commodity groups and some "farm" organizations' views are consistent with U.S.D.A. Brainwashing is probably a pretty good summation of what has happened. A.S.A. says higher loan rates would mean the government would be the market. If the level was realistic and the length of the loan reasonable, the commodities would move into the market in an orderly fashion. History tells us that at least one in every five years anyone of the major commodities will be in short supply. Any build-up would then be used. A.S.A. also says we will encourage competition. It has been proven that we are the most efficient producers in the world and that productive land is not available to outproduce us.

A.S.A. says a price support program would be costly to

with "O" inflation. The spread between production cost and commodity prices would still be there. No one wants inflation controlled more than farmers; but even if this was the answer, it would take time to accomplish this and we don't have it. We must have a change in farm policies if we are to survive and keep producing more efficiently than anyone else.

Where Stephens and the

A.S.A. might better spend their efforts, is telling the consumers that a healthy agriculture is a healthy America and increases in food costs are not farmer-induced, and food prices will become like oil prices if family farmers are shoved off the land and a few multinational corporations have control.

If A.S.A. would work in these areas and stay out of these areas, stay out of

farm policy, and listen to the producing farmers' needs, it could better serve its members.

A meeting of the different farm organizations is a definite possibility. Our local office has contacted three different organizations who have agreed that the need is there. The state leaders of some of these organizations are working on this now.

## Local People Attend AAM Fly-in

Local people attending the American Agriculture Movement Fly-in for farmers, agri business and rural bankers at Washington, D. C., the past week were Bettis Campbell, Harvey Joe Sanner, and Paul Gaines.

The men were in W.D.C. for three days, meeting with government officials, and members of the Arkansas

Congressional Delegation.

The Fly-in was scheduled at this time because mark-up on the new Farm Bill began last week.

The Senate Ag Committee and House Ag Sub-committees were meeting and all hearings were packed with farmers and agri-businessmen. (story on page 12)



## Meek analyzes the Washington scene

AAM Chairman Marvin Meek reports from Washington that a parity loan rate bill will be introduced in the House.

The administration is defending their position, but weakening and sending out mixed signals. The Administration has generated a lot of opposition to their farm bill in the Senate and the House, and the legislators do not appear to be softening toward the administration's approach.

The farm bill to be introduced will probably carry an escalator clause based on carryover stocks.

One third of the leadership in the House have said they are willing to "run with it."

The matter of loan rates will be approached from the concept of net cost, not initial budget outlay. It will drop everything but the loan rate.

Meek said this plan is appealing to congress, and it should appeal to urban people if it is presented right.

(Net cost is much less than the initial budget outlay. For instance, the initial budget outlay may be \$3 billion, but net cost for a loan program might be only ½ billion, because the farmers repay the loans with interest. All that is lost is what is mishandled.)

Meek asks people at home to write more letters, even if they have already written. Letters should concentrate on selling the loan rate and

net cost approach.

He asks that letters especially be sent to Senator Jesse Helms, Representative Kika de la Garza, and Ag Secretary John Block.

Meek said he was very pleased with the results of the fly-in. "AAM is the only group pounding the halls," said Meek. "I can assure you our being here has caused this balking of the Senate and House leadership against the administration's proposed farm bill."

Meek chided those farmers who got discouraged and went home, especially Texas farmers. "The Senate Ag Committee put provisions on cotton that were very detrimental to upland cotton growers with the intention of shifting cotton production to the southeast," said Meek. "Now we have been assured this will be taken care of on the Senate floor, and that it won't go anywhere in the House. We just kept plugging and we squelched it," said Meek.

Meek said he wants to extend a special thanks to everyone who came to D.C. for the fly-in. "Your efforts were rewarded, and they have made our job easier. We have gotten changes made."

"This time the legislators can't say 'Where were you when we wrote the farm bill'," said Meek.

"All farmers owe those of you who have been working a big thank you."



## Arkansans in Washington

# Lawmakers Feel Heat as Farmers Protest Embargo

By TOM HAMBURGER

Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Arkansas congressional offices are already feeling the effect of the American Agriculture movement lobby this year. Dissatisfaction with President Carter's effort to cushion the effect of the embargo of grain and soybeans to Russia has mobilized the group like nothing else could have.

A hard time may be in store for Alexander and Representative Beryl F. Anthony (Dem., Ark.), the two members of the Arkansas delegation most aligned with the Carter administration, the place where farmers will direct their fury.

"I know I'm madder at them [the administration] now than I was," Sanner said last week. Sanner says he believes there "has been a total lack of concern for farmers. I'm as patriotic as the next guy. But we shouldn't have to bear the brunt of this thing. We feel it worst and feel it the hardest."

Sanner said he believes farmers need higher loan rates. He said farmers will drive pickups fueled by 100 per cent alcohol fuel or gasohol, a mixture of alcohol and gasoline, to promote alcohol fuel use. The farmers expect to set out in caravans and arrive here by February 16. It will be the third straight winter the American Agriculture movement has protested farm policies at Washington.

Administration officials said last week sufficient steps have been taken so that farm prices will average just as high as they would have if President Carter had not embargoed 17 million tons of grain and 1 million tons of soybeans to Russia to retaliate against the invasion of Afghanistan.

Harvey Sanner of the Des Arc office of the American Agriculture movement says that the anger among Arkansas farmers is stronger now than it was last year when thousands of farmers marched on the Capitol, camped on the mall and blocked Washington-area highways in their quest for increased attention from the federal government. Sanner predicted in an interview last week that more Arkansas farmers than last year will drive pickups and other vehicles to Washington next month to state their case.

Many of the farmers have already talked with Arkansas congressional offices. Senator David Pryor (Dem., Ark.), an early advocate of a grain embargo, received about 50 calls from farmers one day last week and immediately issued a statement urging that farmers not bear the entire burden of the president's foreign policy.

Pryor also called for an emergency meeting of the Senate Agriculture Committee to consider providing assistance to the farmers hurt by the embargo action.

On the House side, Representative Bill Alexander (Dem., Ark.) has said he too will support aid to the farmers in the wake of the embargo. Alexander's administrative assistant, Bill Miles, points out that such action will likely increase the federal government deficit, a side-effect that could be hard for Pryor, a vocal advocate of balanced budget legislation.

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## Senator Tells Farmers to Return to DC

Wynne, Arkansas - About 3,200 people came to a rally, barbecue and round of political speeches August 26, sponsored by the Wynne AAM.

It was a case of standing the heat or getting out of the kitchen, with temperatures above 100 degrees. The politicians stayed longer than the farmers - at least there seemed to be more farmers eating, rather than listening to the speeches, says Inga Eubanks.

Senator Dale Bumpers told farmers that "A whole lot happened as a result of your visit to Washington, and you have an impact." He urged farmers to return to D. C. in January to continue lobbying, since the Congress, the USDA and the White House don't seem to care, and needed relief will have to come in bits and pieces.

To be effective, he advised AAM farmers to "Get its act together, get its leadership consolidated behind 3 or 4 positions, and say 'This is it'."

Senator Hodges, who was appointed to serve out the remaining term in the Senate after Senator McClellan's death, can't run for reelection. He criticized the president for breaking his promises and for opening up beef imports, and criticized the government for its handling of trade agreements dealing with agricultural products.

"We have come out last of every trade treaty in the past, and that's with Germany and Japan, countries that we beat in 1945, and yet everywhere you look, there are Toyotas and Datsuns."

Democratic and Republican gubernatorial, senate and congressional candidates spoke.



# Farmers leave tractors home, take

By PAMELA MURPHY

DEMOCRAT WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — About 100 Arkansas farmers representing the American Agriculture Movement have arrived in the nation's capital to lobby for higher prices for agricultural products and fairer loan terms from the federal government.

Instead of descending upon Washington in tractorcades and tangling traffic to draw attention to their economic plight, as they did last year, the farmers opted for a more orderly approach, leaving their tractors at home.

The farmers planted themselves in the

offices of members of the Arkansas congressional delegation all day Tuesday to discuss their problems with the congressmen and their aides.

Tim Apple, a farmer from Bellville, the "Arkansas wagon master" who lead the state's American Agriculture members to Capitol Hill, visited the office of U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., who is scheduled to hold a public meeting with the farmers Thursday.

The No. 1 priority of the farmers is to obtain a commitment from the government to give farmers 90 percent parity for agriculture products, Apple told a Bumper's

aide Tuesday. He said farmers are simply asking for prices which would cover their cost of production plus a reasonable return.

The federal Agriculture Department determines parity for various crops by formulas measuring the purchasing power a crop would give the farmer.

Apple also complained that the federal government does not give farmers fair terms on loans. For example, he said the cost of producing a bushel of soybeans last year reached \$6.50. By contrast, the government gave the farmer credit for \$4.50 per bushel of soybeans as loan collateral.

Quoting Agriculture Department

## demands to Capitol Hill

statistics, Apple said agricultural interest costs will rise 25 percent during the upcoming year, while net income for farmers nationwide will fall 25 percent.

E. Burrows, a Des Arc farmer, said he had to put 340 acres of his land in hock in order to pay for his production expenses last year. He asked why the same government that bailed out the Chrysler Corp. with a loan at 4½ percent charged him 8½ percent for a loan. The government will make loans as low as 3 percent to farmers, but only in the aftermath of a disaster, Burrow said.

Raising another issue, Harvey Sanner, another Des Arc farmer who lobbied

Bumper's office Tuesday, said he esented the word "subsidy" when applied to money a farmer receives from the government for a crop the government stockpiled.

When asked what he sought from Congress, another Des Arc farmer, Jimmy Flanagan, said simply, "A decent farm bureau or at least one that is properly implemented."

Flanagan said the law currently calls for 90 percent parity, but the law is not carried out.

Rep. Bill Alexander, D-Ark., said he would also hold a meeting with farmers at his office Thursday.



## Statement To U. S. Committee On Agriculture

The following statement was made by Marvin Meek, chairman of the American Agriculture Movement at the Public Hearings of the Committee on Agriculture, U. S. House of Representatives, in Washington, D. C., May 1:

Mr. Chairman, I commend you and the committee for scheduling these hearings. Quick action is needed to prevent an economic disaster in American Agriculture.

One immediate cause of distress is the effects of the President's embargo on sales of American farm commodities to the Soviet Union.

Another immediate cause of distress is the sharp rise in interest rates and the curtailment of credit for farmers and others in rural areas.

Both are serious. But it would be a mistake to concentrate on these details and lose sight of the fact that the general agricultural situation is on the brink of economic disaster. If we don't pay attention to the dangerous spot we're in, we might stumble in trying to cope with these immediate problems and fall over the edge.

American farmers are in the beginning stages of a serious depression.

The prices received by farmers during the first three months of 1980 averaged only 64 percent of parity. Present farm prices are about the worst ever known, on all counts.

Sixty-four percent of parity is very nearly the worst in the entire history of the United States, going all the way back to the earliest records that were kept beginning seventy years ago in 1910.

The only year in history when the purchasing power of farm commodities was lower than it is now, was in 1932, the very worst year of the great depression.

That's count one. Present farm prices are worse on another count also. The prices now being received by farmers in the United States are the very cheapest in the entire world.

ple to know, when they are considering agricultural policies.

I request you, Mr. Chairman, to add your voice to ours in demanding that the U.S.D.A. continue to compile and publish this information, and that it be expanded to cover other important agricultural commodities as well.

On a third count, also, the prices now being received by American farms are worse. In terms of the returns realized by farmers on their labor and investment, the prices received by American farmers are the worst of any important segment of the American economy. The return that the farmers get for their labor is below the wage rates of workers with comparable skills and responsibility, even if little or nothing is charged-off as a return on their investment. The return the farmer gets on his investment is far below the returns on investment in regulated utility companies and manufacturing, even if little or nothing is charge-off as a payment for their labor.

It is not the embargo that is the basic cause of the farmer's bas situation. It is not high interest rates.

The basic cause of the farmer's terrible economic situation is the farm policy of the U. S. government.

The farm situation has been growing steadily worse for the past five years.

### Fear Embargo To Be Extended

The embargo merely made it still worse. The price of wheat has dropped 18 cents a bushel below the price received in December, 1979. Corn is down 7 cents and soybeans are down 35 cents.

Now record-high interest rates have made the situation even worse than that by greatly increasing the expenses farmers will have to try to pay out of lower prices for their products.

But even this may not be the worst. There are reports circulating in the trade that President Carter is likely to cut off grain exports to the Soviet Union altogether in 1981. This would add another six to eight million tons of

leadership and positive, decisive action by the United States in these times.

### Grain Give-Away Hurts Nation

But here again, we think it would be a mistake to look no further than the immediate, short-run issues of the day. Before we resort to impulsive, warlike action, we ought to correct the weakness that has been evident for a long time in the way we have squandered this nation's one outstanding and unmatched strength - our food power. The way we have squandered our national advantage as food producers probably has had a lot to do with our present economic and political weakness in the world.

We have been giving away our grain - to the Russians and everyone else, for less than it costs American farmers to produce it.

The Russians' main exports are gold and oil. They are getting paid about 15 times as much for their gold and oil as 10 years ago. Yet, the U. S. Government manipulates the price of our grain down to the cheapest in our history, to the cheapest price of any country in the world!

The U. S. dollar has sunk to the lowest value since the Civil War. Our competitors in world trade are taking away our markets for manufactured products. Yet, we've been subsidizing the governments of our main economic rivals and of our greatest military adversary of our main economic sary to the tune of billions of dollars a year with our cheap grain.

### Enriches Foreign Governments

Last week, the European Economic Community levied a tax of \$3.18 per bushel on every bushel of American corn they bought from us. That's 87 cents a bushel more than the total average price that American farmers got for corn last month.

The tax levied by the European Community on American wheat last week was \$3.27 per bushel - just short of the \$3.62 average price

and \$2.29 a bushel for barley. They pay their own farmers prices that are about double what American farmers get.

The Europeans do not tax soybeans that American farmers sell to them. Instead, they pay huge subsidies to their own farmers to encourage them to compete against us. Farmers in France are getting a straight subsidy of \$7.51 per bushel, plus their market price of about \$6. That given them a total income of \$13.50 a bushel - about a full dollar more than double the price American farmers are getting.

The skim-off by the Japanese government's food agency is even bigger. They triple the price that American farmers get paid when they re-sell our grain to their own flour millers and feed manufacturers. The profit goes into the Japanese Treasury.

Almost every other country that buys our cheap grain skims - off big profits too, before they pass it along to their consumers at higher prices. They all pay higher prices to their own farmers for all they can grow. American farmers get only the business that's left over.

All this profiteering by other countries on the American farmers' grain adds up to billions of dollars a year. That's money that ought to come back to the U.S.A. It hurts all American citizens, as well as the farmers, to give it away. It cheapens our dollar, making the price we have to pay for imported oil and other things go up.

The give-away of grain at cheaper and cheaper real prices throughout the past five years probably has contributed more to inflation by cheapening our dollar and raising the cost of imported oil and other imports than moderately higher grain prices would have done.

American farmers are beginning to see through the excuses we've heard so often. We've been told that farm commodity prices are made by the forces of supply and demand in a competitive marketplace, and there's nothing the Ameri-



## By AAMA Committee Chairman

market for grains is rigged against the farmers of the United States, and the U. S. Government is an accomplice in the deed.

The countries of the world that guarantee higher prices to their farmers account for about 80 percent of the world's total consumption of grain. They pay higher prices to their own farmers for all they can grow. American farmers are totally locked-out of these markets until all of the higher priced domestic production is absorbed.

The grain exporting countries - United States, Canada, Australia, and Argentina account for only 20 percent of world consumption of grain. But they produce about 35 percent of total world production. Practically the entire world surplus of grain is concentrated in these few countries.

This situation is made-to-order to guarantee that the entire world surplus will be concentrated on the backs of farmers in the United States and the other exporting countries. And this guarantees that the prices they get will be depressed most of the time, unless there's a worldwide shortage as happened in the mid-1970's.

### Export Restrictions Used To Control Prices

But even when world demand and world supply do not come into balance, the American farmers are now allowed to recover their losses from the years of surpluses.

We get export restrictions, by one name or another.

In 1973, it was an export embargo. In 1974, exports were restricted under another name and, in 1975, under still another. And then we got a stand-by embargo agreement with the Soviet Union, by which the U. S. Government takes it upon itself to tell the Russians how much grain they could buy from American farmers. Now we have another grain embargo. Tomorrow, the embargo may be made total, prohibiting all sales to the Russians.

This puts American farmers in a no-win situation. The world grain economy is rigged against the farmers so as to guarantee almost

perpetual price-depressing surpluses. Whenever the surplus does disappear, our own government steps in with restrictions to keep the price down.

American farmers are not unreasonable to ask that their own government would intervene in this rigged world-grain economy to protect them against injustice. But they do not now receive such help from their government.

The trade barriers that other countries have raised against American farmers are the highest that exist against any commodities or goods.

Import levies and other such measures amount to the equivalent of tariffs up to 100 percent and more of the price received by the American producer.

Yet in the trade negotiations concluded last year, not one bit was whittled off of these trade barriers of other countries against American grain.

In contrast, the tariffs against American manufacturers averaged only 8 percent before the negotiations started. Yet even these low tariffs were reduced further, almost to the vanishing point of 4 or 5 percent.

### "Cheap Food" Policy Arises

American farmers were protected against the worst effects of price-depressing world grain surpluses for nearly 40 years through the bi-partisan farm program legislation adopted along with other economic reforms in the recovery from the depression of the 1930's.

But now the legislative goal of fair prices for farmers has been repudiated. In its place, we have a cheap food policy. The policy is to hold down the farmers' prices as an off-set to higher prices, higher wages, higher salaries, higher profits, and higher taxes in other sectors of the economy. The farmer is being used as a scapegoat for everybody else's inflation.

It is no accident that the purchasing power of farm commodities has sunk to the lowest point since 1932. Government farm policy has returned to the pre-depression era and the results are the same as then. We are again hearing about farm

liquidation sales and falling land prices. This fits right in with the 1930's level farm commodity prices farmers are getting.

The cheap food policy has brought us to the brink of an economic disaster for agriculture. We have been eating up the golden goose and soon there will be no more golden eggs. It is our younger and most productive farmers who are hardest hit. It has become impossible for a beginning farmer to earn enough from farming to make payments of interest and principal on a farm and the livestock and equipment that's needed, and cover his production expenses, and his family's cost of living.

The older and middle-aged farmers, who have accumulated enough equity to weather the storm a little longer won't last forever. Where are their replacements going to come from? That's a problem for the nation, as much as it is for farmers.

### Congress Must Act

It's up to Congress to start America moving away from that brink. And nothing less than a positive, direct step away from the brink will do. This is no time to quibble and maneuver about just how we might manage to stay precisely in the same place where we were just before the January embargo. That's a dangerous place to be. If we aren't careful, the ground might start to crumble under our feet.

As a modest first step away from the brink of agricultural disaster, Congress should enact H.R. 6815 at once, to raise the minimum price support loan rates for the main storeable commodities to 65 percent of parity.

Sixty-five percent of parity! What a small move that would be!

But it would take us in the right direction. It would give farmers a better chance to get their production loans approved that many still need to carry out efficient operations this summer. It would give the country some time to get ready for the further necessary steps that must be made before farmers will be

compensated fairly for their labor and investment.

Most of the storeable commodities that would be affected immediately by this legislation are now bringing prices lower than average purchasing power of farm products. Prices of other crops and livestock would gradually adjust themselves to the improved prices of the price-supported crops, with which they compete for use of land and which provide the raw materials for producing meat and milk and poultry.

This would have some short-run impact on food prices, but it would be small. The cost of farm products represents only about one-third of the retail cost of food.

And the long-run effect would be beneficial for consumers in comparison to the shortages and instability of both prices and supplies that are sure to result if agriculture continues to crumble at the brink of economic disaster.

In fact, serious damage has already been done. Hog prices are the lowest in real purchasing power for more than 30 years. Breeding herds are being cut back. There will be less pork by the end of the year.

Beef cattle herds have been cut back during the past several years more sharply and more deeply than ever before in history. Even so, the drastic increase in interest rates and the collapse of cattle prices of the past few months, is forcing still more bulls and cows and heifers off to the butcher, instead of being held back to re-build the beef breeding herds. The result is that there is almost no chance that the American people will have as much beef to eat per person at any time during the 1980's as they enjoyed all through the 70's.

We live in a dangerous world. It is full of hungry and angry people. To allow the American farming system to dribble away in chronic depression is the worst thing that could happen to the American economy in these dangerous times.



# Bumpers Affirms Support Of Agriculture Movement

The Arkansas Agriculture Movement Association met Tuesday night at the Brinkley High School auditorium with approximately 350 in attendance. A number of those attending were from the Des Arc area.

Principal speakers for the meeting were U. S. Senator Dale Bumpers and Alvin Jenkins who gave very informative talks. Senator Bumpers gave a brief summary of his recent visit to China and also reaffirmed his support of the AAMA. Sen. Bumpers pledged to work for legislation that would improve the economic condition of the American farmer as well as consumers. He closed his talk with a question and answer session.

The major area of complaints from the AAMA group was the FHA and its failure to readily process loans. Sen. Bumpers said he was well aware of this problem due to the many such complaints received by his office.

Jenkins, a Colorado farmer and service station owner, who was one of the organizers of the American Agriculture Movement, pointed out where "agriculture is headed if it continues on the course it has followed the past six years; one of low farm prices and

ever-increasing production costs."

Jenkins made a startling comparison in the cost of farm equipment six years and the cost today and what it will be six years from now at the present rate of inflation. He invited the farmers to make their own comparisons.

Jenkins emphasized, "We must all pull together if we are to survive." He said, "The movement may not always take the direction everyone likes but we are trying to do something good and we are learning as we go."

The AAMA then held its regular business meeting and a financial report was given from each local office. New membership cards were distributed and a membership drive will start immediately. The Des Arc office will be contacting farmers and businessmen this week, a spokesman said. Persons not engaged in farming may purchase associate memberships. If you are interested in becoming a member you are invited to stop by the local AAMA office.

"This movement is probably the best opportunity and possibly the last for all farmers to come together for the good of agriculture and America," a local spokesman said.