

Observations from Washington, D.C., Jan. 21 – Jan.25, 1978

OBSERVATIONS FROM WASHINGTON D. C. JAN. 21 THRU JAN. 25.

If you know of any banks or lending agencies that have foreclosed on a farmer in the last year, let A. A. M. know .

The Washington D. C. Chamber of Commerce estimated about 30, 000 farmers were in town last week and more this week. There were 1,000 Kansas farmers that came in last week end.

We are to make sure that anyone we talk to knows we belong to Farm Bureau and do not agree with their policy.

Write lots of letters to our congressmen, especially urban ones. Write to Carol Forman she is especially influential as assistant secretary of agriculture, and is a consumer advocate.

The Lewis strike office has addresses of any congressman or agency that you want to write to.

We have to have at least a 30% plow-down, or the promise of it within the next two weeks. The southern states have to know that we will back them up if they start. The USDA can't afford to see us cut back 30 to 50% on feed grains. This will hurt the most.

If we get a little "band aid" legislation to help us temporarily, we can't let up on the pressure for what we want.

Dole says speculative short selling will be investigated this year. If we got 100% parity farm bill passed, futures market will be in big trouble.

While in Wichita, a Minnesota delegate asked Bergland why he fought for 90% parity when he was in Minnesota, now can't see it when he is the Sec. of Agriculture.

Agriculture Commission worker says: Cheap food policy is prevalent in Wash. D.C. Farmers had 10% drop in net income last year.

Parity level has dropped to its lowest level in 40 years.

Labor costs in food exceed farm costs.

Lyle Davidson says:

We are in economic trouble. Inflation times are upon us! We are inexperienced in ways Washington works. We have to impress Washington with our sincerity. Democrats totally run the city. They are the power. Concentrate visiting Democrats. The executive branch is libera. In congress, democrates totally control all committees. Administration will not, at the present time, do what we want. The V. P. says no, Bergland says no, USDA says no. The administration wants to keep large grain reserves to keep prices down, not for emergency. We have a hard struggle ahead of us and its hard to communicate. Keep calling your state offices for information. There is some thing going on all the time.

One of the definitions of a polition. "When they feel the heat, they see the light"

There will be meat imports and meat labeling hearings this year. Our higher intrest rates are indirectly affected by the cheap food policy.