

“Irate Farmers Pressing Demands”

*Pueblo, CO
Farmers Strike
Friday, Sept. 23, 1977*



Vol. 105 – No. 188

Spartanburg, S. C. 29301 — Friday, September 23, 1977

Price 15¢

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Today's Weather: SUNNY

Price 15¢

8 A.M.: Sunny, 59 degrees. 12 NOON: Sunny, 79 degrees. 8 P.M. Fair, 75 degrees.

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Courtesy Spartanburg Herald, South Carolina

SPARTANBURG HERALD, SPARTANBURG, S. C. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1977 — Page A2

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Carter-Backed Labor Reforms Clear Panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation to make it easier to organize workers and to punish employers who frequently violate labor laws won overwhelming approval from a House committee Thursday. After two days of debate, the bill was approved by a voice vote after virtually all attempts to weaken it were defeated by a straight party-line vote. Business groups strongly opposed the measure.

The bill would: —Provide for immediate reinstatement, at double back pay, of any worker found by the National Labor Relations Board to have been fired illegally during attempts to organize a union. —Set out a timetable for union affiliation elections, with an election possible within 15 days of a petition being given to the employer if a majority of workers have signed the petition. The elections would be held within 45 to 75 days of the petition in other cases, depending on the complexity of the issues. —Authorize the NLRB to order compensation for workers when it finds that a company refuses to bargain with a newly certified union. The compensation for the delay in bargaining with the union would be based on the average wages paid workers in comparable jobs. —Bar companies that repeatedly violate labor laws from federal contracts for a three-year period. —Expand the NLRB from five to seven members to enable it to handle better the more-than-doubled caseload in recent years.

At the same time, a Senate labor subcommittee was hearing testimony on the measure. The Carter administration, organized labor, all living former secretaries of labor and some of the business community supported the bill. In exchange for the support of President Carter, the AFL-CIO agreed to shelve its attempt to get repeal of 14-B of the Taft-Hartley Act which authorizes right-to-work state laws. Sponsors of the measure say

companies have been able to keep unions out by endless rounds of appeals and court battles both before and immediately after attempts to organize workers. They say this has free choice about whether or not to affiliate with a union. Opponents contend the bill is designed to rescue the unions from their own failures to organize workers, especially in the Sun Belt right-to-work states. They say the bill would unfairly increase the powers of unions.

The bill is due to be brought before the House in mid-October, where Republicans say they expect to get more support for their amendments.

Irate Farmers Pressing Demands

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP) — A caravan of tractors, combines and farm trucks rolled across the highways of Colorado on Thursday, driven by farmers pressing demands that the federal government guarantee them at least a break-even price for their crops.

The farmers, loosely organized into a group called American Agriculture, headed here for a meeting with Agriculture Secretary Robert B. Bergland, who has held out little hope that their demands will be met. Without favorable federal action, the farmers say they will stop producing and selling crops on Dec. 14.

A dozen tractors were lined up around the runway at Pueblo Airport to await Bergland's arrival and about 90 other farm vehicles — with Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas license plates — assembled at a county fairground to make the trip to the airport. Car caravans and farm equipment decked with homemade signs were traveling toward Pueblo. "This is agricultural protest," said the head-

meeting with Bergland. Another group of farmers flew in from Delaware.

Bergland told a news conference in Denver earlier Wednesday that he would listen carefully to what the farmers had to say, but indicated that their demands would not be met.

"I know there are people in serious trouble with wheat prices," he said, but he added that the wheat-price situation was very complicated. Two-thirds of American wheat is sold abroad, he said, and raising federal price supports would put U.S. wheat in a disadvantageous position on the international market.

Most of the farmers involved in the protest movement come from the plains of Colorado, Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle where wheat is the main crop, but the movement also has drawn support from cattle raisers and other farmers. An airplane from Plainview, Tex., flew into Pueblo on Thursday with a group of cotton and milk farmers who wanted to take part in the

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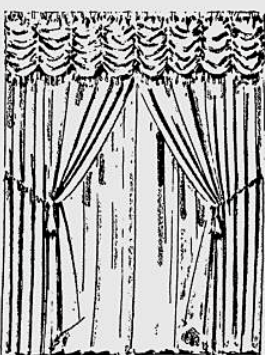
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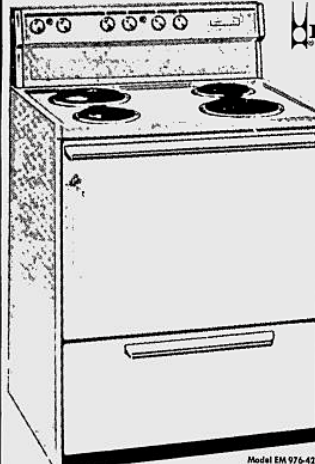


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Close-up of Article on Page A2 Spartanburg Herald-Journal, Sept. 23, 1977
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 Pueblo, CO

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ture's profit" and the hand-lettered sign on the side of truck filled with manure.

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meeting with Bergland. Another group of farmers flew in from Delaware, to honor whether American Agriculture could halt production of crops.

Before flying to Pueblo, an industrial city 100 miles south of Denver on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, Bergland noted that most of the varying degrees of success, "he 1978 wheat crop would be plant-

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Before flying to Pueblo, an industrial city 100 miles south of Denver on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, Bergland noted that most of the 1978 wheat crop would be planted before December and questioned whether American Agriculture could halt production of crops.

“The matter of not selling the crop has been tried before with varying degrees of success,” he said.

(Ad on page)

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