FOOD BUYING PLAN OFFERED

Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture has proposed a long range farm program of abundance —in bad times the Government would boost the food-buying power of the poor rather than pay farmers to produce less.

He proposed also that this country enter international agreements providing for sale of surplus farm commodities to needy countries at cut prices.

Calling for a future program of "organized, sustained and realistic abundance," rather than a return to the prewar production controls of the Roosevelt Administration, Anderson said "floors under consumption," as well as under farm prices are needed.

Floors under consumption could be provided, he said, by "a surplus distribution program of perhaps some sort of food-allotment program availableat all time—something flexible enough to meet both chronic" an dacute shortages of buying power.

He said the present srhool-lunch program is a good start in the direction of guaranteed levels of consumption, but that it does not go far enough.

Under food-allotment programs advanced by some farm and social leaders, a family with inadequate income would receive food coupons from the Government which it could use like cash to buy food from the grocer. The Government would redeem the stamps from the grocer.

Anderson advanced his program at a hearing of the House Agriculture Committee called to consider legislation to replace the wartime price-support program due to expire at the end of 1948.

While he made no estimate of the cost of a food-allotment plan, studies by the Agriculture Department indicate that the outlay would run perhaps $1,500,000,000 a year in depression times in addition to perhaps $600,000,000 for a lunch program in all schools.

Representative Hope (R., Kan.) chairman of the committee, commented that he could go along with Anderson's proposals providing details can be worked out satisfactorily. He explained, however, that the committee has not intention of writing a new farm bill this session.

The committee will hold several weeks of hearings to get the views of all interested persons and groups for study in preparation for legislative action next year.

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