

Change Urged In Inforcing Bankhead Act

All-Cotton States Committee Would Continue Law With Important Alterations

Reserve Suggested

Election of Boards to Control Would Be Put in Hands of Producers

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The all-cotton States control committee which Monday submitted recommendation to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace recommended unanimously in favor of continuing the Bankhead cotton control law for 1935 and at the same time asked for certain changes of administration of the law.

The committee grew out of a two-day meeting in Dallas Nov. 9 and 10, originally confined to Texas and Oklahoma, but with other States being invited. In addition to Texas and Oklahoma the committee making recommendations to Secretary Wallace included cotton producers and others from North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia and California.

It was announced by the group that a permanent organization of the producers of the cotton-producing States would be effected if possible. An organization committee was set up, composed of the following:

B. A. Stufflebeme, Dallas, chairman; Homer D. Wade, Dallas, secretary; J. F. Tomkins, Burdette, Ark.; Dave Davidson, Tulare, Cal.; Claude Ingram, Hollis, Ok.; U. B. Blalock, Raleigh, N. C.; G. C. Adams, Atlanta, Ga. A call will be issued shortly for a conference to be held in the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans, Jan. 18, 1935, for the purpose of completing this organization.

Want Producers to Control.

"We recommend," says the statement filed with Secretary Wallace, in part, speaking of operation of the Bankhead law, "that the county cotton control committee be elected by signers of the cotton contracts from a list of five persons who shall be

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nominated by the local cotton control committees.

"The arbitrary authority exercised by county committees under the cotton adjustment program is so great and so far-reaching that the producers should be made responsible for their election, and in turn these committees should be responsible to those producers. The election of the county committee, we believe, will remove much criticism of the acts of the committee by producers.

"Without abridging the right of the producer to protect and to appeal to the cotton section of the Agriculture Adjustment Administration, we suggest that the county control committee be constituted the final authority to approve contracts and to make allotments of tax-free bales under the Bankhead act.

"When and if the voluntary adjustment contracts for quotas under the Bankhead act are opened for review and alterations, we suggest that the producer with a proven record of production be protected from horizontal cuts in arriving at a county's quota. To aid the county committees in the completion of their task we urge the formulation and announcement of all administrative rules and regulations at the earliest possible date to the end that final approval of contracts and allotment of quotas may be announced to growers well before planting time.

Favor State Reserves.

"We suggest that the operation of the Bankhead act bill be changed to provide for a State reserve to meet the need within each State for such reserve. We feel that a flat reserve applicable to all States alike works an injustice against counties within those States with conditions peculiar to themselves.

"We suggest that a careful study be made of means whereby certificates of exemption may be issued only to one party to the application for the purpose of simplifying and expediting not only the issuance of certificates but the ginning of the crop. In like manner we trust that other procedure under both the adjustment act and the Bankhead bill be reduced to their simplest operation, thus avoiding intricate forms and procedure, which do so much to delaying the completion of the program and which add to the irritation of producers.

"We recommend that the cotton section of the AAA be requested to rule administratively to permit the unrestricted production and use of feed crops on farms under contract to reduce cotton acreage in 1935, on both contracted and noncontracted acreage."

In the conference with Secretary Wallace the following were from Texas: G. A. Vestal, Quanah; J. H. Youngblood, Waco; Reagan McCrary, Calvert; Hayden Perry, Robstown; Eugene Butler, B. A. Stufflebeme, Frank A. Briggs and Homer D. Wade, Dallas; Fritz Engelhardt, Eagle Lake, and E. M. Cook, Weir.