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City Dwellers Form Co-ops With Farmers

Private Business Accuses Outfits With Trespassing

By RAY MITTEN
Times Special Writer
WASHINGTON, Feb. 11—The number of farmers and city dwellers joining hands in the co-operative movement is increasing steadily.

They are extending existing co-operatives and setting up new ones.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that a growing number of farmers' purchasing co-operatives are admitting nonfarm people as members, even though this means eventually forfeiting their farmers' exemptions under federal income tax laws.

After lengthy debate farm co-operatives finally won a fierce fight against private business before the House Ways and Means Committee in the last Congress.

Battle on Mince

Private business insisted farm co-operatives should be taxed, that the tax-exempt co-operatives created unfair competition and had reached the proportions of big business themselves.

The battle is expected to be re-jousted in this Congress.

Urban and rural co-operatives are joining in forming councils, especially in the Midwest.

The union of farmers and city dwellers is strongest among the distributive co-operatives, such as grocery stores, and service stations.

But they are joining forces in other types, too, notably hospital associations. A Texas co-operative of farmers that is building a new hospital received requests for membership from carpenters who wanted to pay their fees by doing construction work on the buildings.

Reflect Changes

To reflect another changing aspect of the co-operative picture, the Co-operative League of the United States of America reports that whereas its membership in 1930 was almost entirely urban, it is 80 per cent rural today.

Another new trend finds more farmer co-operatives supplying farm produce to urban wholesale co-operatives which supply retail urban co-operatives.

Similarly, urban co-operatives are setting up farmers' markets in town, in co-operation with farmers, to save city dweller members' money and give farmers steady produce outlets.

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A check for \$1255 has been presented to Karl Zimmer, president of the Marion County Society for Crippled Children and Adults, by Beta Beta chapter, Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

The money, raised through a bazaar in Broad Ripple Legion Hall and the sorority's children's clothing shop, will be used to help maintain crossroads Kindergarten for Crippled Children, 416 W. 30th St. Mrs. J. K. Mahrot is sorority president.

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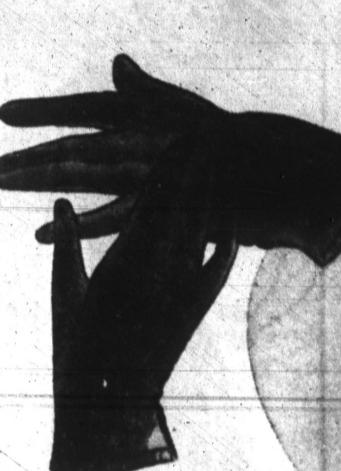
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