

La. Sugar Growers Call for Meeting with Carter

Declaring that the Carter administration is "dismantling the sugar industry" by refusing to impose import quotas on cheap foreign sugar, a membership consensus of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation called on the President to meet personally with growers to hear their gripes.

"The President has had several town meetings and has expressed a desire to keep in touch with grassroots America — well, maybe it's time he met with sugar farmers," said James Graugnard, who was reelected Wednesday as president of the state Farm Bureau.

"Our economic problems are as serious as any segment of our society," Graugnard told the Farm Bureau membership holding its three-day convention here, "and we're just about as grassroots as you can get.

Describing Carter as "a compassionate and fair man," Graugnard said sugar growers feel the President would be willing to listen to them "if the farmers could personally get his ears."

The Farm Bureau president accused Carter of dictating his domestic sugar policies to the wishes of the big commercial users of sugar — primarily Coca-Cola — "and his policy towards the domestic sugar industry has been based on...assuring these companies of cheap sugar."

Referring to Carter's announced visit to an offshore Louisiana oil rig and New Orleans, Graugnard suggested the President also meet with Louisiana sugar growers.

During the final day of its convention, the Farm Bureau composed another resolution calling for the post of State Commissioner of Agriculture to be made appointive instead of elective.

Delegates at the 1,000-member general session voiced the opinion that since U.S. presidents have consistently picked top men for secretary of agriculture, the same could be true at a state level.

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THE GRAIN MARKETS - Wheat, corn and soybeans were substantially higher and oats higher at the close Wednesday on the Chicago Board of Trade, UPI reported. Wheat was up 3 to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents; corn up 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{4}$; oats up 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{4}$; and soybeans up the permissible limit of 30. Support in the major commodities was attributed to a technical adjustment following two consecutive sessions in which all but a few of the closings in wheat, corn and soybeans were at contract lows. There was good speculative support, local short covering and commission house stop-loss buying dominating the trade. A large shipment of soybeans from Chicago also whetted some buying fever in the belief that supplies here would become short of needs. The outside markets were higher.