CORPORATE gadfly Gerald Armstrong of Denver has allies on both flanks as he scolds management of Great Western United Corp. at the company's annual meeting in New York. Awaiting their shot at the microphone are, from left, Leonard S. Sheriff of Sheriff Securities Corp., New York; noted New York gadfly Wilma Soss; Sheldon D. Camhy, New York attorney representing Albert Dworkin, a stockholder who has sued GWU, and John Gilbert, another well-known New York gadfly. Armstrong, whose lapel button reads "Stockholders Have Civil Rights Tool" attacked GWU management on many fronts. GWU's directors met later, put off action on important matters till Oct. 10.

PRODUCERS SPOKESMAN

Sugar-Beet Growers May Switch Crops

GOODLAND, Kan. — (AP) — Failure of the Great Western United Corp. to sell the Great Western Sugar Co., a subsidiary, to a beet growers cooperative is causing some of the farmers to consider switching crops.

At the annual stockholders meeting in New York Monday, stockholders didn't approve a recapitalization plan which included the sale to the co-operative.

The organization, Great Western Producers Co-operative, formed to operate the sugar company, signed a sales agreement early this year and paid $500,000 down on a $68.5 million purchase price.

PRICE OF SUGAR

Officials of Great Western United said the change in the price of sugar made the sales agreement obsolete.

More than 4,000 farmers in a seven-state area are members of the co-operative, including these farming 48,000 acres in western Kansas and about 200,000 acres in Colorado and Nebraska.

Growers said they think the management of Great Western United reneged on the agreement and they are concerned about doing business with the firm.

"There are two possibilities we fear," said William A. Davis of Goodland, a director of the cooperative. "The present management will remain in control and we can't do business with people whose word we can't believe."

The second is "that some other group or corporate intrigue might enter the picture and that they might be even less sympathetic to the future of the industry."

Davis said farmers don't have to grow beets "with the price of corn, beans and wheat" at their current prices, adding "they know there are bound to be a good number of growers that will give up sugar beets."

William Doke, a beet grower near Goodland, said he thinks farmers will cut back on planting beets.

"The company has to sign beet contracts for next year," Doke said. "If their signature wasn't any good on the sales agreement, it makes you wonder what good it will be on a purchase contract."