Death of Sugar Act Thought Fuel to Rise

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Industry Representatives told a House Agriculture subcommittee that Congress could do its part to relieve the situation by extending the Sugar Act at least five years beyond its Dec. 31 expiration.

Three Days

The spokesmen testified as a subcommittee on consumer relations opened three days of hearings on sugar marketing conditions.

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Import Quotas

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Blake said foreign sugar producers now view the U.S. market with uncertainty because, after Dec. 31, they no longer will be guaranteed a share of the market through a quota.

Similar testimony was given by Donald P. Falconer, vice president of the California and Hawaiian Sugar Company, who said the Sugar Act buffered the U.S. market from world sugar market pressures.

Sugar Supplies

He said the decision not to extend the protective program "effectively committed this country to a policy of securing its sugar supplies on the world market."

Falconer said Congress ignored warnings of higher sugar prices and the decision was made to buy America's requirements of foreign sugar on a world market where sugar was in tight supply and at record prices.

Extension Of Sugar Act Asked

By WILLIAM L. CHAZE
Associated Press Writer

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Horace D. Godfrey, vice president of the American and Florida Sugar Cane Leagues, said growers are beset with problems that have nothing to do with the market.

In addition to increased costs of labor, fertilizer and machinery, he said, Louisiana growers are confronted with natural gas curtailments.

And in Florida, he said, growers are threatened with the loss of promising sugar acreage through the rezoning of property from agricultural to other purposes.