

FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS

Acreage controls major issue for next session of Congress

THE CURRENT 83rd Congress is scheduled to reconvene for its second session Jan. 4. At that time there will be a rather heavy schedule of bills to be considered, which were introduced in the first session, which ended Aug. 3.

Cotton Acreage Controls

A bill introduced by Congressman Hope, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, would set a higher minimum acreage for cotton if marketing quotas become necessary next year. The bill, H.R. 6665, is similar to the wheat acreage control bill which was passed in the first session of Congress.

The purpose of these bills has been to anticipate the problem of marketing quotas and to revise the legislation of the existing laws which, if put into effect now, would call for drastic reductions in acreage. The marketing quotas are proclaimed by the Secretary of Agriculture, under the provisions of the Agricul-

tural Act of 1938. Under this act the Secretary must proclaim marketing quotas when the supply of a commodity in storage exceeds 120% of the normal supply.

With present domestic supplies of cotton at record highs the possibility of marketing quotas for next year seem quite certain. Present stocks of cotton in storage are in the neighborhood of 6 million bales. Present estimates for the 1953 crop indicate production should be about 11.5 to 12 million bales.

Under the existing law, the marketing quotas if proclaimed for the 1954 crop, would be 10 million bales, the legal minimum.

To get a 10 million bale crop of cotton, it would be necessary to reduce the planted acreage by about 35%. A reduction of this size would probably create economic hardship for cotton belt farmers. The bill introduced by Congressman Hope would provide for a mini-

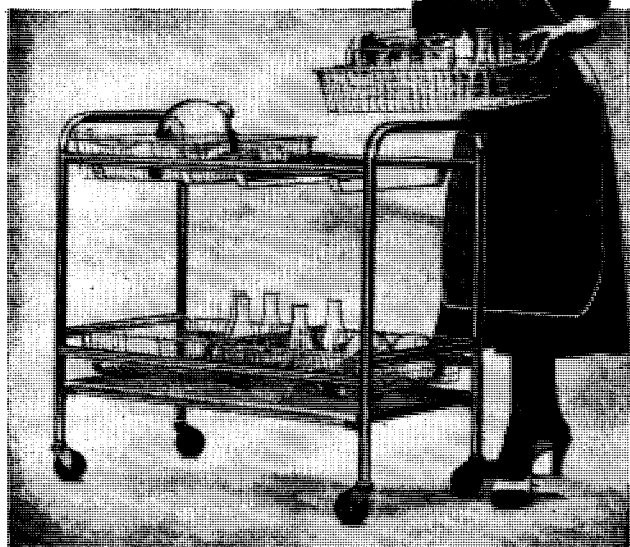
mum acreage allotment of 22.5 million acres.

Cotton acreage quotas were in effect in 1950, however, since that time there has been a steady increase in the cotton acreages in the Western states. Under the existing law the acreage allotments would be determined on the basis of the acreages planted in the years 1947-1952; this system does not allow adjustment of the averages for the steady increasing Western acreage. The new bill provides for this situation by setting a maximum reduction in acreage for any state at 29.5% of the 1952 acreage.

Under Congressman Hope's bill the minimum acreage allotments would be based on the averages of the various states for the 5 previous years. The allotments for Western states would be increased so that they would not have more than a 29.5% reduction from the acreage of the previous year.

The bill as reported here, was introduced in the House and subsequently passed and sent on to the Senate. It seems quite likely that this will become a piece of important legislation for the next session of Congress.

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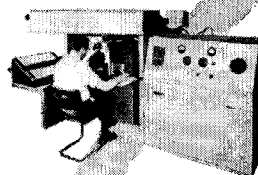
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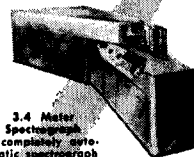
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