

INFORMATION SUPPLIED WASHINGTON PRESS ON

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1954

Following the Conference of the drouth state governors at the White House today, Governor Allan Shivers of Texas made the following statement: Problems of agriculture and drouth relief fall into two major areas--those requiring immediate, emergency attention and those requiring long range planning.

He said we must take necessary steps to prevent suffering and disaster in the immediate emergency and start at the earliest possible date to prevent dust and wind erosion through proper practices.

He said that he had recommended to the President and the Department of Agriculture the following:

1. Immediate agricultural allowance on per acre basis, under the soil conservation program, for wind erosion and dust storm prevention and also special allowances for re-seeding grasses and other cover crops.
2. Loans and credits for farm production and subsistence be extended at low interest rates with repayment on crop loans on a 5 - 7 year basis, and on re-seeding and pasture conversion programs on an 8 - 10 year repayment basis.
3. That special attention be given to small business loans in the disaster area with expansion of credit through the small business administration.
4. That all the Federal and State soil, water conservation, and agricultural agencies coordinate their activities so that

-2-

all will be working on one program rather than on five or ten.

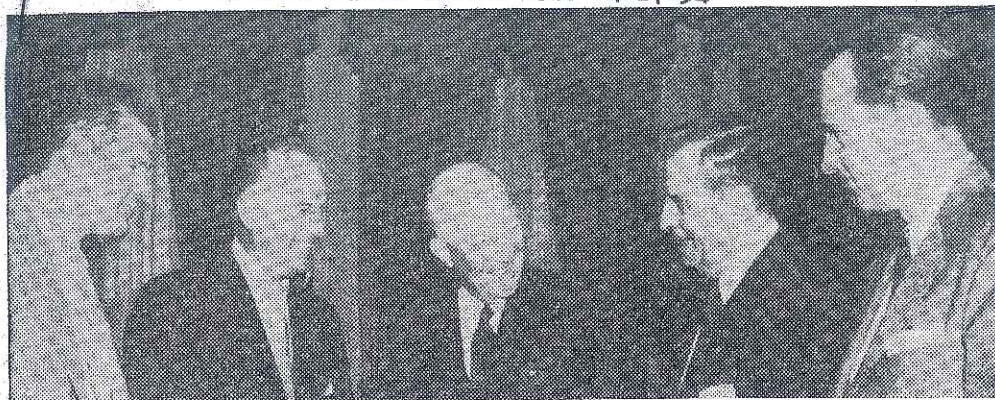
5. That additional incentives be given for good soil conservation practices, with special emphasis on up-stream water conservation.

6. That an additional one-year moratorium be declared on farm parity legislation, and the present fixed parity formulas be retained, particularly so that those farmers in the drouth areas will be assured an adequate price for such crops as they are able to produce.

7. That a long range project be started immediately with proper incentives for both water and soil conservation practices, and in addition tax allowances to encourage proper land management in the future, retaining as farm land that which is suited to such and placing in pasture and grassland acreage land better suited to such purposes rather than farming.

He concluded by saying that since our agriculture and livestock problems were our number one problems, permanent solutions for them must be found. Past efforts over many years have not been more than temporary expedience. A long range solution is badly needed.

Wichita Falls Record News 4-27-54



Shivers Asks Delay in Plan To Abandon Fixed Supports

WASHINGTON, April 26. (Special)—Gov. Allan Shivers asked President Eisenhower Monday to declare a "one year moratorium" on any plans to abandon fixed price supports in favor of the flexible support system backed by Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson.

The Texas governor declared, after a White House meeting with Mr. Eisenhower and governors of four other drought-hit states, that "fixed parity should be retained so that farmers in drought areas will be assured an adequate price for such crops as they are able to produce." The occasion marked the first time that Shivers, who generally supports the ad-

ministration, has come out for fixed supports, an aide said.

Other emergency steps recommended by Shivers included:

1. An agricultural allowance on a per acreage basis for steps to prevent wind erosion and dust storms, plus a special allowance for reseeding grasses and other cover crops.

2. Extension of loans and credits for farm production and subsistence at low interest rates, with repayment on crop loans in five to seven years and on reseeding and pasture conversion in eight to ten years.

3. Special attention should be given to small business loans in

disaster areas, with expansion of credit through the Small Business Administration.

4. All Federal and state agencies concerned with soil and water conservation and other agricultural agencies should coordinate their activities so "we will be working on one program instead of five or ten."

5. Additional incentives should be given for good soil conservation practices, with special emphasis on upstream water conservation.

Shivers also proposed a long-range solution to the drought problem involving proper incentives. (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued From Page One)

tives for both water and soil conservation practices, in addition to "tax allowances to encourage proper land management in the future."

He said land which is suited to farming should be used as such, while placing in pasture and grass that land which is less suited.

"A permanent solution must be found," said the governor, "since agriculture and livestock problems are our number one problem."

Shivers also endorsed a joint statement for the governors released by Gov. Dan Thornton of Colorado, in which they asked the President to make \$15,000,000 available immediately to combat the wind erosion problem.

The southwestern governors, in a joint statement, also asked that Uncle Sam's loan and credit facilities be used to give maximum benefits on a long-range basis to the people of the disaster area.

Mr. Eisenhower asked the Agriculture Department and the Civil Defense Administration to make an immediate study of the governors' proposals. Press Secretary James Hagerty said the agencies probably would report back to the President Tuesday.

Gov. Dan Thornton of Colorado acted as spokesman for all five governors, and Shivers said he fully endorsed Thornton's statement.

Others attending the drought

ministration, has come out for fixed supports, an aide said.

Thornton said the conference included discussion of the existing situation, a short range program of action and a long-range program. However, it was reported that the governors only touched on long-range aspects of the situation.

No Direct Aid Considered

The Colorado governor said the \$15,000,000 would cover emergency and immediate problems in the next two months.

The governors also recommended that ranchers and farmers in the five-state area be "encouraged and helped" in the proper use of land.

Shivers indicated there was little or no discussion of the possibility of direct federal relief in the form of public works in drought areas where farmers are directly in need of employment.

Ross Rizley, assistant Secretary of Agriculture, agreed and said he believed any direct relief would have to come from the \$15,000,000 "while it lasts."

The governors told the President the next six or eight weeks will be crucial in the drought area, it was reported, and emphasized that farmers need to replant crops.

Benson and his aides reportedly repeated recommendations that much drought area acreage should be retired from cultivation.

The Agriculture Secretary has said that 16,000,000 acres in the

upstream flood control projects at Brady and on the east fork of the Trinity at Weatherford.

The Texas governor said he thought an over-all solution of the Lone Star State's water problem will necessarily be slow in coming, but described the upstream projects as a first step.

He expressed belief that the Bureau of Reclamation will have to abandon its policy of retaining control of dams it builds even after local communities repay the cost of construction.

The water problem must be settled at the federal, state and local level, he said, and predicted that local interests will be willing to pay their share.

Cost of water projects can be financed from sale of water, power and through taxation of increased property values in the vicinity, Shivers explained.

'FAVORABLE TAX CLIMATE' URGED

Beaumont Enterprise

Shivers Talks at Aluminum Plant Dedication At Rockdale

ROCKDALE, Texas, April 24. (AP)—Gov. Allan Shivers Saturday called on Texans to help maintain a "favorable tax climate" so that big industry will be encouraged to move into the state.

"We can do Texas a great service," Shivers said, "and encourage future industrial growth by maintaining a favorable tax climate, a favorable governmental climate and a favorable industrial climate."

"If we do these things, we can have in Texas the greatest industrial growth of any state in the Union."

The governor made the assertions in a brief speech at ceremonies marking the formal opening of the \$100,000,000 Rockdale works of the Aluminum Company of America—Alcoa.

Following the short dedicatory exercises, Shivers flew to Dallas where he addressed the Democratic state executive committee.

Other speakers at the dedication of the Milam county plant—which Alcoa officials said brings the total capacity of aluminum-producing plants in Texas to 260,000 tons annually, one-sixth of the national total—included W. W. Lynch, president of Texas Power and Light company; Frank L. Magee, Alcoa vice-president and general manager in charge of production; and John D. Harper, Rockdale works manager.

'No. 1 Salesman'

Lynch called Shivers "statesmanlike" and "Texas' No. 1 salesman of industrial opportunity."

And both Harper and Magee, who made the main dedication ceremony addresses, cited the governor's efforts to induce Alcoa to locate its third Texas plant at Rockdale.

Alcoa operates aluminum-producing plants at Point Comfort and Port Lavaca, using natural gas for the production of power. The Rockdale plant produces power from the area's lignite supply.

Magee said, "Rockdale is our show place. We have here the most modern plant we could build and the very latest in equipment."

All Know-How

"All the know-how that we have acquired over 65 years of producing aluminum has been put into this plant. I don't think you can blame us for being proud of that."

When in full production the Rockdale works will employ about 1200 full-time production employees. Its payroll will exceed \$5,000,000 yearly. Ground was broken at the new plant October 15, 1951. The first aluminum was produced about 13 months later.

conference included Govs. Edwin L. Mechem of New Mexico, Johnston Murray of Oklahoma and Edward Arn of Kansas; Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson; Civil Defense Director Val Peterson; representatives of the Weather Bureau and Public Health Service, and several of Benson's aides.

The governors asked that \$15,000,000 be made available to supplement the \$195,000,000 agriculture conservation subsidy program in effect this year. A bill which would provide the needed \$15,000,-

Great Plains area has been seriously damaged in the drought, and 14,000,000 more can be severely hurt if present conditions persist. Little or no Texas land is included in the worst-hit category.

Benson has said that 75 to 90 per cent of the 3,000,000 acres which has been "broken out" since 1942 should be put back in grass.

Shivers said he planned to meet Tuesday with Rep. Wingate Lucas of Grapevine and other members of Congress to urge speedy appropriation of more money for

Houston Chronicle
4/28/54

Newspaper

PERTS WILL
OUR
ORS
with New
EUM
37
110 Main St.
ent

eat for
Itch!

othing anti-
ieves Itch of
eczema, psori-
atching and so
g. Buy Extra
stubborn cases.

R HOME DESERVES...THE BEST
Standard Brands
APPLIANCES "HOUSTON'S FINEST APPLIANCE CENTERS"

BEST PRICE EVER

FOR NEW 1954

Amiral

1" TV CONSOLE

249⁹⁵ Model C2246

SY TERMS



w, King-Size 21" Screen
ful Mahogany Finish Cabinet
ful Cascade Chassis for
Clear Pictures
1 Tone with Heavy Duty 10"
peaker
sitive Built-in Antenna

Shivers Hopes For Drouth Aid

By Washington Bureau

Washington — Governor Allan Shivers hopes to get some reaction from the Eisenhower administration to his emergency drouth aid proposal put before the Washington conference of governors.

Shivers recommended a seven-point program, including a one-year moratorium on any shift from fixed flexible price supports.

Shivers said the governors were briefed on the Indo-

China situation, but did not feel it proper to disclose what was said.

As for civil defense, the governor said Texas is "one of the top states."

"Of course, you never know if you're doing enough, but I am well satisfied with our progress," he said.

Shivers participated in a panel discussion on relations between the federal and state governments.

Meanwhile, representatives of the county judges of West Texas met with members of the Texas congressional delegation to discuss a five-point program of aid to drouth-stricken areas.

Representative George Mahon of Lubbock said he would introduce a bill which would authorize the small business administration to make loans to drouth-area merchants whose customers have been unable to pay their bills.

The judges' recommendations, which largely were embodied in Shivers' recommendations to President Eisenhower were:

1. Loans to small businessmen in the drouth area, as proposed by Mahon, so they may restock their merchandise and carry on.

2. Loans to farmers and ranchers to enable them to pay their necessary living expenses and operate their farms and ranches.

3. Additional loans to enable farmers to deep-break their lands and put hard clay on top, in order to stop blowing. Estimated cost is \$10 per acre.

4. An arrangement where by F. H. A. loans can be extended to 10 years so farmers may live, and pay debts to local creditors along with payments to the F. H. A.

5. Continuation of assistance by the soil conservation service to retain what top soil remains to crops may be raised when sufficient rains come.

The West Texans said recent rains have helped, but have not solved their problem, although they said the Department of Agriculture appears to think so.

Blocker Oil Pay Opened

Kilgore — (Spl) — La Gloria Corporation opened a new oil pay in the Blocker field of Harrison County.

The firm's No. B-1 Richardson flowed 89 barrels of oil daily on a 3-16-inch choke from the Travis Peak at 6500 feet. It also flowed gas from the Page zone at 6370 feet. Testing has started at

PENNEY'S
FIRST QUALITY
PENN

**ANNIVE
FOR A
FIRST QUA**

**AVE
BI
2**

- Easy to install! Str
- New, Improved S
- Adjustable Tape
- Quick Action /
- Easily Remov
- Tape!
- Highest Q

12 — Part I

The Dallas Morning News

Saturday, March 6, 1954

DROUTH VICTIMS PLEAD FOR STATE, FEDERAL AID

Austin Bureau of The News

AUSTIN, Texas.—County judges of a dozen Panhandle and South Plains counties Friday appealed to Gov. Allan Shivers for state and federal aid to help them through a drouth paralyzing their economic life.

"It is no longer a matter of feeding cattle," said Sen. Andy Rogers of Childress. "It is down to feeding people. It is a question of the survival of some of these communities."

They asked the Governor to do what he could to help them on the state level and also to use his influence in Washington to obtain drouth disaster relief for them.

The Governor promised full cooperation of his office in helping them get food, easy credit and work-making projects.

Counties represented in a before-office-hours conference with the Governor were Terry, Lynn and Dawson in the South Plains, and Dickens, King, Cottle, Motley, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Collingsworth and Donley in the Panhandle.

Drouth in that area is a serious matter of increasing concern as no rain or snow fell in the winter months, Shivers said. As the drouth goes into its fourth or fifth year, he said, "We all must do everything possible to relieve conditions."

He directed the county judges to seek surplus commodities through the Department of Public Welfare, and to seek help of the employment commission in finding jobs for idle workers.

He promised to contact the highway department to see what local road projects, employing local people, it could order in the area.

He assured his callers he would help any way he could with federal agencies, especially in seeing if Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson could not make more relief available under the disaster relief act.

With the Legislature going into special session March 15, Shivers promised "We will pursue the question (of relief) in any way the state can help."

The judges laid before the Governor a six-point relief program,

framed in prior local meetings, which they wanted him to take to President Eisenhower.

The program covers:

1. Use of surplus commodities to feed needy families now asking direct county relief.

2. Immediate funds to build roads, bridges and fences to give work to those now without grocery money.

3. Legislation to return the federal gasoline tax to counties in the drouth-disaster area for county road and bridge building with local labor.

4. Cheap interest money to water districts to build dams to store water for municipal and irrigation purposes.

5. Immediate reactivation of the Childress Air Force Base.

6. Liberalized credit to landowners who now owe money on their farms and homes at a high interest rate.

A gloomy picture of people hungry and without jobs and moving away was painted by the delegation.

Drouth is driving people away, said Judge R. L. Templeton of Wellington, Collingsworth County, as there has not been a good crop since 1949. Agricultural workers are not eligible for unemployment

compensation, he noted. Farm income in the county dropped \$4,300,000 from 1952, he said.

He told the Governor, "we want to go through you to the President."

"Don't you think the state ought to help you all it can first?" countered the Governor.

"We want jobs," said Templeton, adding that people in the area want work and have too much pride to ask for groceries.

County Judge R. F. Spraberry of Dawson County said the county raised 175,000 bales of cotton in 1949 but only 8,000 bales last year. There are now 119 families being fed on relief in the small county, and surplus commodities requested sixty days ago have not arrived.

"Our population has dropped 3,000 in the last eighteen months," he said. People have locked their houses and gone to look for work, he said, "and 98 per cent of the trouble is due to the drouth."

Even with a good crop this year, it will take farmers three years to work out, he said, "and if there is no crop this year it will take ten to fifteen years for us to get on our feet."

Charity cases are up 300 to 400 per cent in Motley County, said County Judge Vance Gilbreath of Matador. One hundred and fifty families of the 4,000-population county already have gone, he said.

His people need labor projects, he said, "for they want jobs to tide them over, as they don't want to ask for charity."

County Judge Richard Bird reported Childress County had lost 1,500 of its 12,000 population. The immediate problem could be cured by reactivating Childress Air Force Base, he said.

Judge Jack Gray of Donley County asked for help in getting low interest money to finance a \$9,000,000 dam on Salt Fork of the Red River north of Hedley, for which a permit has been approved. It will be self-liquidating with low interest but not at 4 per cent, he said.

"We should create work," he said asking Shivers to help them get a long-term, low-interest federal loan.

Teachers to Hold Denton Meeting

Special to The News

DENTON, Texas.—Classroom teachers from eighteen counties will hold their annual meeting on the campus of Texas State College for Women Saturday.

The teachers are members of District V of the Texas State Teachers Association. The Denton Classroom Teachers Association will be host. The program includes a luncheon and the appearance of the Verse Speaking Choir of TSCW.

Miss Poe to Speak

Miss Helen Poe, Dallas lecturer and traveler, will discuss the American heritage Monday at the noon meeting of the Dallas Electric Club at the Baker Hotel.

PRESS MEMORANDUM

APRIL 15, 1954

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Summary of Remarks by
GOVERNOR ALLAN SHIVERS
Delegation of County Judges:

This particular problem, because of the ~~length~~ duration of it and the breadth of it - extending ~~over~~ over approximately four states -- does call for both state and local, as well as federal help. I think you can be assured that we are going to do everything we can on the State level.

I would like to ask your opinion or advise about the possibility of appointing a non-official committee representative of the county judges commission and officials in West Texas, the area most affected, as well as some of the State officials, like the ~~Commissioner of Agriculture, Defense and Disaster Relief head~~, who of course, works in my office, and possible some others, and maybe some citizens at large to form sort of an advisory committee - not only as an economic planning group, but as a group to help out all economic necessities (?). I have been considering appointment of this committee not as a result of your visit, but ~~because~~ because of drought conditions for the past few years (not verbatim).

I will be in Washington the 26th, 7th and 8th of this month in a Governor's conference called by the President, ~~which~~ at which state problems will be discussed. I will bring up this problem and will discuss it with them. I know the Governors of New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado will join in that discussion, as we have been discussing it among ourselves.

You probably know that more money has been loaned under FHA to Texas in the last year and a half than to all the other states put together. There is a small business loan group that makes certain types of small business loans. If the businesses can qualify ~~under this~~ under this, ~~XXXXX~~ they might as well take advantage of it.

Public Law 875 is in effect in Texas now. It is not a public works law. It is a disaster relief law. As far as I know, there is no public works phase of it.

There is, as you know, under Surplus Commodities Act handled through the office here (John Winter's office - Public Welfare) and through the County Judge and Commissioner's office, distribution of surplus commodities. There is plenty of them available. Now, if any of you need them, there are probably enough of them - if you have any people who need any food of that type. There is a lot of red tape to it, as you know, and they are not what you would call fancy groceries, but they will help to keep body and soul together.

I want to assure you that we are going to do everything we possibly can to assist you in any way and phase we can. I appreciate the fact that you have taken time to come here, and I know the people in the Counties appreciate it. Call on us if you think we can help you, and if we can't, we'll tell you.