

Hoover the Food Administrator

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- **The System of Food Control**
- Voluntary mobilization of food producers and distributors for "intelligent control of food consumption."
- Full inquiry into existing available food stocks, costs and practices of food producing distributing trades.
- Prevention of all food hoarding and "corners."
- Requisitioning of food supplies and equipment for handling them when necessary.
- Government establishment of prices to guarantee farmers their profits.
- Prohibition of food waste.
- Licensing of legitimate mixtures and milling percentages.
- Control to end immediately after the war.
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A Washington dispatch, dated May 19, says: A food control for the United States during the war, backed up with plenary powers, but relying mainly for success upon the voluntary co-operation on the part of the people, and especially the normal peace time agencies of the grain and foodstuffs trade, was outlined by President Wilson tonight in formally announcing the appointment of Herbert Hoover of Belgian relief fame as commissioner of food for the United States.

Mr. Hoover, the President explained, took up the work only on condition that he would receive no pay for his services and that he was to name an entirely volunteer staff of executives around him. In other words, outside of the routine clerical force practically every person in this agency, which in a few weeks' time will become one of the most important war arms of the government, will be volunteers, giving their services to the government, just as Hoover organized the efficient Belgian relief commission.

The President in appealing for co-operation on the part of the people and the agencies of trade with Mr. Hoover point out that it furnishes a test for democracy to display its efficiency without having to submit to the introduction of anything resembling Prussian autocracy into the food control in this country. He emphasizes that the food control is to be for the war only and will not be built up into a permanent establishment.

To be Given Dictatorial Power

While in general terms the President's ideas on the food control have been known through the various bills pending before congress he outlines his conception of the powers which he asks to be conferred upon himself and executed by Mr. Hoover as extending to distribution, consumption, exports, imports, prices, purchase and requisition of commodities and storage. In other words, the President's plan is that Hoover should have the most drastic power ever granted an individual, but with the idea that it will have to be exercised but little, but rather the whole food control problems should be worked out by voluntary co-operation.

To the farmers he points out that the price fixing is a protection in these words:

"Authority is asked also to establish prices—but not in order to limit the profits of the farmers, but only to guarantee to them, when necessary, a minimum price which will insure them a profit when they are asked to attempt new crops and to secure the consumer against extortion by breaking up corners and attempts at speculation when they occur by fixing temporarily a reasonable price at which the middleman must sell."

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION

Country is Asked for Fullest Co-operation in Food Economy

A Washington dispatch, dated May 19, says: The President's proclamation follows:

"It is very desirable, in order to prevent misunderstandings or alarms and to assure co-operation in a vital matter, that the country should understand exactly the scope and purpose of the very great powers which I have thought it necessary in the circumstances to ask to congress to put in my hands with regard to our food supplies.

"These powers are very great indeed, but they are no greater than it has proved necessary to lodge in other governments which are conducting this momentous war and their object is stimulation and conservation, not arbitrary restraint or injurious interference with the normal processes of production. They are intended to benefit and assist the farmer and all those who play a legitimate part in

the preparation, distribution and marketing of foodstuffs.

"It is proposed to draw a sharp line of distinction between the normal activities of the government represented in the department of agriculture in reference to food production, conservation and marketing on the one hand and the emergency activities necessitated by the war in reference to the regulation of food distribution and consumption on the other. All measures intended directly to extend the normal activities of the department of agriculture, in reference to the production, conservation and the marketing of farm crops will be administered, as in normal times, through that department, and the powers asked for over-distribution and consumption, over-exports imports, prices, purchase and requisition of commodities, storing and the like, which may require regulation during the war, will be placed in the hands of a food commissioner appointed by the President and directly responsible to him.

"The objects sought to be served by the legislation asked for are: Full inquiry into the existing available stocks of foodstuffs and into the costs and practices of the various food producing and distributing trades—the prevention of all unwarranted hoarding of every kind and of the control of the foodstuffs by the persons who are not in any legitimate sense producers, dealers or traders; the requisitioning when necessary for the public use of food supplies and of the equipment necessary for handling them properly; the licensing of wholesome and legitimate mixtures and milling percentages; and the prohibition of the unnecessary or wasteful use of foods.

"Authority is asked also to establish prices—but not in order to limit the profits of the farmers, but only to guarantee to them when necessary a minimum price which will insure them a profit where they are asked to attempt new crops and to secure the consumer against extortion by breaking up corners and attempts at speculation when they occur by fixing temporarily a reasonable price at which middle men must sell.

"Although it is absolutely necessary that unquestionable powers shall be placed in my hands in order to insure the success of this administration of the food supplies of the country, I am confident that the exercise of those powers will be necessary only in the few cases where some small and selfish minority proves unwilling to put the nation's interests above personal advantage and that the whole country will heartily support Mr. Hoover's efforts by supplying the necessary volunteer agencies throughout the country for the intelligent control of food consumption and securing the co-operation of the most capable leaders of the very interests most directly affected, that the exercise of the powers deputed to him will rest very successfully upon the good will and co-operation of the people themselves and that the ordinary economic machinery of the country will be left substantially undisturbed.

"The proposed food administration is intended, of course, only to meet a manifest emergency and to continue only while the war lasts.

"Since it will be composed for the most part of volunteers there need be no fear of the possibility of a permanent bureaucracy arising out of it. All control of consumption will disappear when the emergency has passed. It is with that object in view that the administration consid-

ers it to be of pre-eminent importance that the existing associations of producers and distributors of foodstuffs should be mobilized and made use of on a volunteer basis.

"This successful conduct of the projected food administration by such means will be the finest possible demonstration of the willingness, the ability and the efficiency of democracy and of its justified reliance upon the freedom of individual initiative.

"The last thing that any American could contemplate with equanimity would be the introduction of anything resembling Prussian autocracy into the food control of this country.

"It is of vital interest and importance to every man who produces food and to every man who takes part in its distribution that these policies thus liberally administered should succeed and succeed altogether. It is only in that way that we can prove it to be absolutely unnecessary to resort to the rigorous and drastic measures which have proved to be necessary in some of the European countries."


HOOVER TELLS HIS PLANS

A Washington dispatch, dated May 19, says: A statement given out by Herbert C. Hoover, after the White house announcement of his appointment as food controller, gave his plans for food administration and called on the country to render voluntary assistance in carrying it out.

Mr. Hoover's statement closes with this appeal to the country:

"Probably more seriously than anyone else in the country, I recognize the difficulties and possibility of failure in this work and I appeal to the patriotism of my countrymen for their support.

"I have no instinct to be a food



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