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Three senators 'beef':

Grocers fixed prices

In 1890 farmers in Chicago first fought for and finally received anti-trust legislation, State Sen. John DeCamp told a group of 90 last night.

And in 1974 beef producers had better do the same. DeCamp, along with Senators Walter Epke and Loran Schmit told the group of mostly students that they have proof that Safeway and A&P Stores have conspired to keep market beef prices low and consumer prices high.

They spoke last night on East Campus at an Alpha Zeta sponsored forum. Alpha Zeta is a UNL agricultural honorary.

The three returned from Washington yesterday after talking with Atty. Gen. William Saxbe about an investigation into the meat marketing practices of the two food chains.

Schmit is original plaintiff in a class action suit against the chains, charging them with "conspiring to pay arbitrarily low prices to producers and arbitrarily high prices to consumers."

The suit was filed June 10 and is asking \$507 million in damages to Nebraska livestock producers, according to Schmit.

"We've talked with hundreds of producers throughout Nebraska who say they've lost more money in the last 12 months than they made in the last 12 years," Schmit told the group. He said last fall's beef prices fell out of line with the normal fluctuations of supply and demand.

Beef producers and packers were reluctant to testify at a legislative hearing into the matter last December for fear of retaliation by buyers, Schmit said.

Speaking about the senators' meeting with Saxbe, DeCamp said, "Up until the meeting we felt everyone knew (about the beef farmers' situation), but when we met the top man, nobody knew. Frankly, we were shocked at the lack of action."

If the suit is successful, those involved hope to get the Justice Dept. to:

- Dismantle the A & P purchasing department which allegedly pressures packers into selling at low prices;
- Remove A & P, Safeway, and Kroger from the Nation Association of Food Chains, thus taking away their power to conspire;
- Prohibit the reestablishment of communication between the chains that would allow them to fix prices.

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60 YEARS AGO

Oct. 3, 1914—"In a rousing rally held in the Law Auditorium, the Greeks pledged themselves to better scholarship, more interest in school activities, and a more wholesome relation to their home communities.

"Chancellor Avery opened the meeting with a most interesting talk on the German Corps. He pictured them as organizations from which the American fraternities could learn many valuable things."

"There will be a meeting of the Komensky Club Saturday, October 3, at 8 o'clock in Union Hall, Temple. All Bohemian students, particularly Freshmen, are urged to be present. Several old Komensky members, who will be in town for the Nebraska-Washburn game will be present."

daily nebraskan

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