

# Poor Harvest Conditions Plague Aroostook Farmers

By RUTH MRAZ  
District Correspondent

**PUNQUEU ISLE**—Officials in Aroostook County say the area is experiencing one of the poorest potato harvests in years as local growers are plagued with bad weather and a fluctuating labor supply.

Unusually bad weather has kept pickers from the fields, and workless days for the harvest crews means roaming the streets, excessive drinking and trouble for the local police.

"I've never seen a fall like this one," said one police official. "The jails have never been so full. The people are restless and resentful over the weather. The accidents and fights have been terrible. It's getting so I hate to hear the phone ring."

Elliott Barker, manager of the Maine Employment Security Commission here and a veteran

observer of the potato scene, stated the situation as critical. Says he: "It's the worst I've seen in many years. Farmers are very worried. Everyone is in trouble this year because of the lateness of the season. We've always borrowed time after Oct. 5 and in years past everyone except the very large growers were through digging by the 10th. But this year the weather has kept everyone so far behind that the crop is only about 42 per cent harvested."

Barker pointed out that in some areas, such as Houlton in southern Aroostook the harvesting was further along. In the St. John Valley area to the north, digging started later.

**HEAVY MORNING** frosts have prevented farmers from starting operations until noon each day this past week.

"I know one farmer who started at noon even though he shouldn't have. And then by 3 p.m. it was so cold the ground was freezing right to the machinery. When it gets down to 12 degrees that's pretty cold for this time of year," Barker stated.

One of the largest growers in Fort Fairfield is completely derailed. He began operations Sept. 11 and hasn't been able to put in a full day of work any day since then. His operation included both mechanical and regular harvesting methods.

Another grower, in the Presque Isle area, using several mechanical harvesters began on Sept. 11 and hasn't been able to work a total of 71 hours.

**MAINE'S POTATO** plant this year is around 18,000 acres. It takes a labor force of nearly

20,000 persons to harvest the crop. Maine was allocated 1,500 Canadian workers when the Secretary of Labor lifted the labor ban on imported help.

"However," explained Barker, "there just weren't that many Canadians available. We were only able to bring 3,000 and of these I'd say between 700-800 have gone home already. We always lose between 200-300 the first few days. A lot come just for the trip and really don't want to work. We had firm orders for 3,525 Canadian pickers farmers. We scaled this down 21 per cent and even then, we could see the workers weren't going to show. The situation was real tight in Canada. Actually, though, the labor situation had really worked out very well as far as we're concerned here. The supply and demand has balanced out well."

Barker said that due to the

adverse weather conditions, the Canadian work period had been extended from the original closing date of Oct. 9 to Oct. 23. He also pointed out that it helped the Aroostook growers when the announcement came through recently that the Canadians are still unable to drive any type of vehicle or harvesting equipment.

**SCHOOLS IN THE** area, closed since mid-September, will reopen for the most part a week later than planned due to the need to keep the children in the fields until the spots are in. Besides school children, local laborers and Canadians, Barker estimates that 1,800 are assisting in the harvest. The Indians come mostly from reservations in New Brunswick, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Picking wages started out at 25 cents per bar-

rel early in the season and rose to 27 cents with bonuses paid for workers who remained the season. Some pickers have demanded and received 30 cents.

Harold E. Bryant, executive vice president of the Maine Potato Council, believes that the killing frosts will have some adverse effect on the potatoes. He said "I would like to see all growers to aggregate their potatoes and store those dug after the frost in separate storage bins. We have to assume there will be some trouble with frost damaged stock. Of course until they're in storage, as long as it's hard to know what to expect. The growers will be watching them with sharp eyes."

**BRYANT SAID** that this year's crop, outside of the frost damage, are of excellent quality. Yields aren't up in Aroostook's usual high standard of 100-120 barrels per acre but are running about 150 as an average.

"The yield is down 15 per cent. This doesn't mean the total production is down that much. Many people feel there will be more potatoes than usual because of the weather," Bryant stated.

When asked about the price of potatoes, Bryant said there hadn't been enough shipped to establish a market price right now. He said the demand was good. The potato processing plants are paying \$2.25-2.50 per barrel at the present time.

But at the moment, farmers are not thinking about the future prices of potatoes in the market. They're under enough pressure trying to dig them out of the ground.

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## Recuperating LBJ Signs Antipoverty Bill

### Anti-Dickeyites Get Blow By Blow Reply

By MAY CRAIG

**WASHINGTON**—The U.S. Department of the Interior has issued to the Sunday Telegram a point-by-point reply to arguments raised against the Dickey power project by New England congressmen who voted against Dickey, as they were reported in the Sunday Telegram Sept. 26.

The department reaffirmed its position that Dickey would be a size under the Federal Government. It said the power would be cheaper than that from any privately financed plant.

Following is the Interior Department statement, with questions raised by opposed congressmen.

**CONGRESSMAN:** Dickey would produce only 1 per cent of New England's power needs.

**INTERIOR:** The intent of the Dickey-Lincoln School Project is not to supply New England with all of its future power needs. The Federal Government interest in participating in the comprehensive programs already planned for multiple-use and development of the natural resources and improving the over-all economic conditions of the New England area.

Load projections for the New England area indicate a need for an additional 13 million kilowatts of power by 1980. The total output of the Dickey-Lincoln School project would be 794,000 kilowatts.

It is planned to use the power from Dickey to (a) supply 100,500 kilowatts of load factor power (power as needed) to the small municipalities and cooperatives in and adjacent to Maine, and (b) the remaining 694,000 kilowatts, less losses, would be marketed as peaking power principally in the Boston area.

Dickey could only supply a part of the load factor customer needs in Maine and less than 5 per cent of the additional power requirements of New England, needed by 1980.

**CONGRESSMAN:** Atomic power promises lower rates.

**INTERIOR:** The table below shows the comparison of Dickey-Lincoln School annual power costs at market with alternative power sources:



Before, After Operation (AP Wirephoto)

### President Busy In Hospital Suite

**WASHINGTON AP**—President John F. Kennedy in a statement that he is extending and redesigning the efforts of his antipoverty program for 1966, re-stated his determination to stay in the White House until he is able to return to the Oval Office.

He said he would be in the Naval Hospital suite, it was announced.

The President had been up before dawn—at 5 a.m.—his press secretary said—and the bill he signed before his bedtime was the 14th Saturday.

The President—his doctors saying he was showing unusual powers of recuperation—had worked at the nation's business Saturday in his green-upholstered rocking chair. It was reported that he signed the latest bill between 8:20 and 9:30 p.m., and went to sleep shortly thereafter.

An new development was revealed by Johnson's family doctor, Dr. James C. Cain, who said that the President has yet to walk without a cane—one that has been there for years.

He said doctors do not plan to remove it.

And Cain indicated Johnson's doctors expect he will be a hard man to keep down.

He said Johnson is fatigued from Friday's operations and had a minor headache, but added "that is to be expected in a man just out of surgery."

"You know the President," he said, "and to predict when he is going to get out, I don't know. We're going to keep him by main force until we feel it's safe."

White House press secretary Bill D. Moyers said Johnson is receiving capsule intelligence reports on the world situation, and it is in shape to do whatever needs to be done.

"I assume that every decision that the President needs to take will be made by the President," he said.

"I'm sure he will be carrying out his activities, which he's doing, really to some extent this morning," said Dr. Cain. Surgery removed Johnson's kidney stone, which had contained a tumor, and took place on Oct. 9.

### Tupper Demands Accounting Of Power Lobby Cost

Republican Congressman Stanley R. Tupper called for a public accounting Saturday of the money Maine's private power companies are spending to lobby against the Dickey-Lincoln School hydroelectric project.

The First District congressman, in a statement to the Sunday Telegram, said the state's power firms are "desperately trying to hold the lid on the boiling pot of Maine public opinion."

"EVERY MAINE family" should clearly understand that its electric bill each month is 20 per cent higher than the average electric bill (in the U.S.), Tupper said.

He gave examples that claim a Portland family's \$15.70 a month bill would be \$7.46 if

they lived in Tacoma, Wash. an Augusta family's \$15.70 bill would be \$6.10 if they lived in Clarksville, Tenn., and a Rockland family's \$15.70 bill would be \$5.50 in Hopkinstville, Ky.

"It is only a question of time before the demand for significantly lower power rates in Maine must be acknowledged," Tupper said.

In calling for a public accounting of power company records, he asked that the state's Public Utilities Commission be urged by local and state officials to make the study.

"Maine citizens have a right to know what part of the additional 20 per cent they must pay for electricity goes into the immense expenditure for private power company officials and agents," he said.

The private power companies of Maine are fatigued with their executives in terms of salary: the president of Central Maine Power Co. receiving \$48,350 a year and the president of Bangor Hydroelectric Co. \$40,175.50.

"The electric power users of Maine have no quarrel with this, but they are interested in what additional monies the presidents and other officials receive in expenses that are used to sustain the highest power rates in the nation," he said.

**EFFORTS TO** reach Robert N. Haskell, the Bangor Hydroelectric president, and William N. Dunham, the Central Maine Power president, were unsuccessful.

Harold Schmeitz, a CMP vice president, refused to comment, but added that he would discuss the Dickey-Lincoln School project with Maine's power rates when he speaks to the Portland Club members Monday night.

### Red Tape Talks Delay Mass Exodus From Cuba

**MIAMI, Fla. (AP)**—Start of any mass exodus from Cuba faces a delay despite a Cuban government announcement that boatloads of refugees can leave for the United States on Sunday, a State Department official said Saturday.

John H. Crimmins, coordinator of Cuban affairs, estimated it would take 10 days after the Fidel Castro government and Cuban agree on ground rules for the movement to get under way. He added he expected no sizable influx until negotiations are completed.

The Swiss Embassy, which handles U.S. matters in Cuba, presented the U.S. position to

the Fidel Castro government on Friday.

"If our position prevails, I expect the movement would begin in 10 days," said Crimmins, who flew from Washington to make arrangements for the expected refugee influx.

Crimmins said that meanwhile Castro has notified that the United States looks with displeasure on jumping the gun on the program.

In Havana, the Foreign Ministry said newsmen would be taken to Cayman, the exit point, to see several boatloads of exiles depart Sunday for the United States, 90 miles away.

The Coast Guard here announced it doubled patrol boats to discourage boats from going to Cuba to bring refugees prematurely.

"Private tips might jeopardize negotiations and endanger the future exodus of Cuban exiles," a Coast Guard spokesman said.

Crimmins said Cuban operators of boats leaving the United States are not impeded, but are warned of possible prosecution on their return for violation of U.S. laws.

Among U.S. proposals in Cuba, Crimmins said, is that the United States furnish the transportation for the influx.

"It could be either by sea or by air," he added. "It would be a two-stage or split system of reliable transportation provided at no cost to the refugees."

Crimmins said in a statement on Page 1B; Col. 8 Continued On Page 13A; Col. 8

### Rhodesia Set To Fight For Independence

**LONDON (AP)**—Prime Minister Ian Smith of Rhodesia said Saturday his country will soon declare independence even if it means going to war to do it.

"If anybody puts his foot in our country who has no right to, we must take what is coming his way," Smith said at a news conference.

He said he did not believe, however, that the present deadlock between Britain and Rhodesia would degenerate into armed conflict between Anglo-British brothers but he added: "If we have to get out of our country, we would rather go out fighting than crawling on our hands and knees."

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### Pope's Visit Album Still Available

Orders for a "Day with the Pope," the 12 inch 2 1/2 rpm album, recording all of the highlights of Pope Paul VI's historic visit to the United Nations and New York, are still being accepted by the Portland Sunday Telegram.

The album, being created for United Features Syndicate, is expected to go into production later this week. Distribution as a public service to Telegram readers is expected to start the first week of November.

For further details about this historic album and to learn how you may obtain one turn to Page 9A.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**—Power costs at wholesale include two charges. The first, capacity, is the cost of providing the generating and transmitting equipment that will meet the highest wattage load the buyer ever might want. The second, energy, is the operating cost for fuel to produce a given amount of power.

**CONGRESSMAN:** Dickey could not pay for itself in less than 100 years.

**INTERIOR:** The total investment in the Dickey-Lincoln School Project, which includes transmission and interest during construction is \$302,311,000.

The annual cost of the project, which includes interest and amortization at 3 1/2 per cent to repay the project in 50 years is \$12,068,000.

The total payment to the Treasury during the 50 years is \$604,000,000, which includes \$12,000,000 in interest.

Power from the project would be sold at market for \$13.50 per kilowatt-year for Continued On Page 3A; Col. 8

### Osteen Humbles Twins As Dodgers Snap Back, 4-0

**LOS ANGELES (UPI)**—Cumber cool Claude Osteen maintained his perfect record over the Minnesota Twins Saturday and the Los Angeles Dodgers restored some luster to their battered prestige by hammering out their first victory of the World Series, 4-0, in a two-hitting double feat.

For the first time in the series, the Dodgers looked like a team that was in a line to win. Osteen, who led the crew they are as they shelled Minnesota starter Calvin Paschal from the mound Saturday, five innings and blasted

out 10 hits, including five doubles.

Osteen, the trail-blazing 163-pound lefty, who had beaten the Twins five straight times without ever losing to them while with the Washington Senators, checked them again today in his scattered hits for the first World Series victory of his career.

Did poor Johnny Roseboro, coming off the most tumultuous season of his career, put the Dodgers in front with a line double in the first inning.

Two-run single off Paschal in the fourth inning and the Twins never had a look-in after that.

Continued On Page 1B; Col. 8 Continued On Page 13A; Col. 8

### Pay Low, Turnover High

**Pineland Faces Personnel Crisis**

By DONALD C. HANSEN  
Staff Writer

**POWNAL**—Low pay, long hours and often difficult patient care duties are causing a "tremendous turnover" in physical therapists at Pineland Hospital and Training Center.

"The problem's never been as bad as it has been during the past three months," says Pineland personnel officer Miss Constance Blake.

If the current turnover rate is projected over the next year,

Superintendent Peter W. Bowman estimates that it will reach a 74 per cent figure.

"The problem's become so severe that the Legislative Research Committee launched a study last week. While almost all state institutions and departments reported recruitment and retention problems, none were more severe than Pineland."

Miss Blake agreed with Bowman that the high turnover and low pay is causing morale problems at the institution. The reason for the high turnover is a 44-hour week, a psychiatric aide at Pineland must daily face a 44-hour week, a psychiatric aide at Pineland must daily face a 44-hour week, a psychiatric aide at Pineland must daily face a 44-hour week.

"We need dedicated employees for this type of work," said Miss Blake.

"Most of them come to us without experience," she said. "We have to train them while they're on the job." Only a

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