

Martin Urges Administration To Reconsider 50 Cent Dairy Assessment

BY JIM REAGAN
WASHINGTON — Congressman David O.B. Martin (R-Canton) voted for the 50 cent dairy assessment in the final budget reconciliation package last year, but he has urged administration officials, including Secretary of Agriculture John Block, to reconsider the program, his staff confirmed Friday.

Martin and numerous other representatives from districts with dairy interests have been lobbying the Reagan administration to convince Washington officials that the 50 cent per hundred weight assessment program that was recently implemented by the Department of Agriculture is actually encouraging a larger milk glut.

Martin and other northeastern congressmen have told the secretary that the milk surplus stems from overproduction by the midwest's farmers and large corporate farms.

"He told them that they couldn't solve the milk problem unless they addressed the regional problem," a Martin spokesman said Friday.

Dairy experts say that the northeast is producing about one percent of the nation's milk glut.

Has Opposed Change
Martin has opposed the change in the milk support program since it was first proposed. Originally, before the policy was enacted by Congress, the Reagan administration had proposed giving the Secretary of Agriculture even broader powers and discretion over the milk support program. That could have meant far deeper cuts in the milk support program as part of Reagan's budget cuts.

Martin and other congressmen from dairy areas opposed that proposal. But the current check-off program, which has generated stiff opposition in the area, was included as one item in the final overall budget reconciliation package.

Martin supported the budget bill and technically voted for it because it was included in the legislation. But sources defend the congressman's vote, explaining that if the budget package had been rejected, and the milk program had been addressed as a single issue, the dairy supports would probably have been cut far deeper.

The milk price support program has been a long time target of capital hill budget cutters who claim it is just another subsidy for a special interest group, in this case, dairy farmers.

But in previous years, dairy interests had been able to work with a coalition of other agriculture groups,

including southern congressmen supporting tobacco programs, congressmen from sugar producing areas, and other agricultural area representatives who would trade support for their respective commodities. The Reagan administration targeted most of those programs for deep cuts, and managed to split the coalition in some parts, by using a

"divide and conquer" strategy that left them vulnerable to partial reductions.

The current check-off program was proposed inside the total budget package which left Congressmen, like Martin, unable to separate out individual items that they might personally oppose.

But dairy lobbyists say that a vote

for the bill was a vote for the same assessment policy that is now being criticized as a likely cause of farm failures for marginal operations, and a sharp reduction in income for more stable dairy farmers.

If Defeated — Worse
Those criticisms have left Martin's staff in the difficult position of attempting to explain how the congressional

budget system works to people who only know that the new policy is hitting them in their milk check.

"If it had been defeated, it could have been much worse," a Martin spokesman said. "The Secretary of Agriculture had already publicly said he would have cut the price supports even more deeply."
"The Congressman is hopeful that

his request and the request of other congressmen will bring about a reconsideration by the Secretary," the spokesman said.

"No one thinks the battle is over, there are pieces of legislation being considered, they have to address the whole problem," he said.
Martin is currently in Taiwan and was unavailable for comment.

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Christian Scientists Plan Thanksgiving Service

A special service of thanksgiving on Nov. 25 at the Christian Science Church, 28 Elm St., Potsdam, will trace the Scriptural record of God's blessings — even in times of widespread economic challenges. The Bible lesson-sermon, drawn from both the Old and New Testaments, focuses on God's provision for daily needs of food, clothing, shelter, as well as the deeper yearnings of the heart for fulfillment, health, and the opportunity to help others.

The latter part of the hour-long service has been set aside for expressions of gratitude. Hymns, the Lord's Prayer, and the President's Thanksgiving Proclamation complete the order of service.

Like all Christian Science services, the Thanksgiving meeting is open to all. Free care for very young children is available at the church during the service.

The meeting will be conducted by Paula Jensen-Moulton, currently serving the congregation as First Reader. Robert Murray will read from the scriptures.

Joins 25 Year Club

MASSENA — Robert B. Smith of Raymondville has been named to Alcoa's 25 Year Club.

Smith is an ingot servicer in the ingot plant at Alcoa's Massena Operations. A native of Potsdam, Smith attended Norfolk schools. He is a member of the Clare Snowmobile Club. He is married to the former Vera Frego of Raymondville. The couple have five children, Dale, Sheila, Patricia and Cathy, Mr. and Mrs. Smith live in Raymondville.

Facts of Law

BY RICHARD V. MANNING
Attorney-at-law

"The law speaks too softly to be heard amid the din of arms."
—Gaius Marius

A marriage has broken up, and the husband has been paying alimony. Remarriage of the husband will not ordinarily be a ground for changing the alimony decree; however, remarriage of the wife is a ground for eliminating payment.

An EASEMENT is the right to use another person's land for a specific purpose which does not interfere with the owner's use of his property. Utility and sewer companies often have easements on property so that they can install necessary lines.

The constitutional right of free speech and press has some limitations. Your rights are subject to regulation or restriction by the state for the protection of the public. Or, simply put, you can't yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater.

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