

SEVEN LIVESTOCK men convinced President Truman that the beef rollbacks originally scheduled for Aug. 1 and Oct. 1 were a mistake. They negotiated a White House "understanding" that the rollback plan would be dropped, as gracefully as possible.

The men who personally gave the president the facts on beef were M. J. Flynn of Kansas City, ex-Gov. Roy Turner of Oklahoma; C. T. Guseman, Hereford, Tex.; John Hayes, Mission, Tex.;



Keeping in Touch With Washington

Negotiate 'Understanding' To Drop Rollbacks

J. C. Newby, Plattsburg, Mo.; Joe Jarboe, Tulsa, Okla., and Charles Skinner, Lexington, Neb.

The cattlemen went quietly to the White House and sat down with the president. They proved to him that

the order not only was unfair to producers, but that it would hurt consumers in the long run through less production of beef. They showed that he has been misled by Price Stabilizer Mike DiSalle.

No announcement was made of a truce for the simple reason that DiSalle was out on a limb and had to be helped down with as little embarrassment as possible to him and the administration. The president reasoned that if the administration didn't protest too much congress would take off the rollbacks anyway. That would get both DiSalle and the administration off the hook.

HOW MUCH INFLATION?

Hottest Washington argument this summer is over how great the threat of inflation really is. Official administration position is that unless price control dikes hold the country will be flooded with greenbacks by fall or early winter.

Supporting this gloomy side of the argument is the plan to spend \$40,000,000,000 for defense and another \$32,000,000,000 on civil programs and foreign assistance in the next 12 months. That is nearly \$30,000,000,000 more than during the past year.

On the face of it inflation looks like a sure thing. But there are arguments on the other side. The government tax bite will be close to \$10,000,000,000 more than in the past year. Credit controls will be a brake on spending-before-you-get-it. More people will be paying off debts they contracted when they went on a buying spree after outbreak of the war in Korea.

Those who see no great danger of inflation point out that the inflation howlers were wrong last winter when they predicted 10 percent higher prices by spring. Prices, on the contrary, declined. They suggest that inflation talk could be another buildup for controls.

REALISTIC MEASURES

The council of economic advisers, the top government economic agency, got into the inflation argument recently in a manner that didn't please the White House a little bit. In fact the president was so displeased that he stopped publication of the report.

What the council said was that while there was some danger of inflation, that only fools would rely on price controls to stop it. Price controls, the council pointed out in the secret report, are at best a temporary expedient for holding down inflation until more realistic measures can be taken.

The council suggested that if the controllers really want to stop inflation they will adopt a program for (1) encouraging maximum production, (2) stiff taxes to finance defense on a pay-as-we-go basis, (3) practice strict non-defense government economy, (4) restrict personal and business credit for projects that do not lead to increased production.

1952 FARM GOALS

The agriculture department already has begun to worry about 1952 farm production. It is drafting production schedules for next year, but not at all sure that farmers will get enough machinery, labor, fertilizer and

other production essentials to even maintain the 1951 rate.

The department wants 80,000,000 acres of wheat, 90,000,000 acres of corn, 27,000,000 acres of cotton, at least as much beef and 5 to 10 percent more pork in 1952. But it has no control whatever over supplies of any of the production essentials.

The labor department has charge of distributing the labor supply and it has been hostile to USDA requests for farm workers. There are 500,000 fewer workers on farms this year than last and by next year the gap may increase to 1,000,000.

The national production authority continues, despite farm pleadings, to insist that steel for farm machinery and tools be cut 30 percent in the last half of this year. Let 'em repair their old machines, says NPA. Fewer workers and fewer machines don't add up to increased production.

Secretary Brannan says we need to increase fertilizer, especially nitro-



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