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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20515

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: October 26, 1973

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 26....Chairman W. R. (Bob) Poage, D-Texas, of the House Agriculture Committee today hailed the action of the Cost of Living Council in lifting price controls on domestic sales of fertilizers.

The action, Poage said, would help relieve the acute shortage of fertilizers that has hit the American farmer right at the time he is trying to increase production to meet soaring food and fiber demands. The action comes long after its need had become apparent to American agriculture, but is still welcome, he added.

With no price ceilings imposed on sales of fertilizers sold in the export trade, much of the supply from U. S. manufacturers has been going abroad which otherwise would have gone to American farms. Even this new move still leaves unsolved the question of manufacturing adequate amounts of fertilizers to meet both the domestic and export demands, Poage added, observing that he had urged John Love, the Director of Energy Policy and Assistant to the President, to order priorities on deliveries of natural gas feedstocks for use in manufacturing anhydrous ammonia fertilizer.

Poage commended the work of Rep. E. de la Garza, D-Texas, as chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, which conducted public hearings in September and October on the fertilizer shortage situation.

Congressman de la Garza, informed of the Cost of Living Council action, said: "I am gratified that the Council has taken this action. We know that it is not the final solution, but it will help alleviate the problem."

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