

BRETON FARMERS DEMONSTRATE

35 mm. developed positive; 30 meters - 100 ft

In Brittany, hundred of farmers sealed off several towns for the past four days and temporarily invaded the courtyard of local government offices such as the "Sous Prefecture" of Quimper, requesting liberation of two of their Union Leaders imprisoned at the beginning of the other week following invasion of the Morlaix Prefecture.

The disturbances which began early in June are part of a growing Breton campaign to get the government to boost price supports, regulate produce surpluses and reform the antiquated marketing system.

Over the week-end BRETON FARMERS SNEERED at a hastily passed Government plan to alleviate the agricultural crisis and continued their demonstrations. Two towns in the Finistere Peninsula were surrounded by tractors and invaded by demonstrators who broke their own "never on Sunday" pledge to register dissatisfaction with the government plan.

The farmers protest spread for the first time to wine-growers who pledged their support to Breton farmers.

The towns besieged by angry Breton farmers were Carhaud and Rostrenen.

The trouble started over a drop in the market for this year's large potato crop. Another of the farmers' complaints is that the average Frenchman only wants to eat steak and holds other cuts of beef in contempt.

Brittany represents only 5 per cent of France's farmland but trouble always seems to come from there first and it serves as a waterware for the rest of France's farm population. Over the past ten years spectacular progress has been made in Brittany to improve production methods. But as production increased, nothing or little was done to protect the farmer against marketing variations. That was the situation last month when the price of potatoes dropped to six old francs a kilo while they were sold in Paris's central market for ten times as much after passing through the hands of half a dozen middlemen. This coverage shows :

- General views of tree feld across a road to hamper traffic
- power line knock down
- farmers cortege with tractors, waving to onlookers
- farmers on tractor waving a sickle
- crowd assembled before Justice Hall in Quimper requesting liberation of imprisoned Leaders
- general views of tractor cortege in village
- C.U. of placard reading "Liberate our leaders"
- tractors across road, farmers on trucks, placard reading "farmers too must live."
- farmers blocking road to traffic, tractor cortege across town, numerous tractors on road, two corteges meeting at crossroad, important tractor blockade on road, crowd assembled in front of Sous-Prefecture at Quimper, orator speaking to farmers, shots of types in crowd, placard reading "Free our brothers"
- G,View of tractors in a village