

Last Farm Group Quits Migrant Labor Comm.

Withdrawal of its membership on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Migrant Labor was announced this week by the Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers Association.

The potato growers thereby became the fourth and last statewide farm organization to quit the migrant labor group in protesting continued operation under the State Department of Labor and Industry.

Others taking similar action in recent weeks are the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, the State Horticultural Association and the Penna. Vegetable Growers Association.

Leon Epler, Northumberland, secretary of the Potato Growers Association, has sent the following letter to Governor David L. Lawrence:

"Due to the impossible situation created against farmers in migratory labor matters through operation of the present Governor's Advisory Committee on Migrant Labor, directors of the Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers Association have voted to withdraw immediately from representation on the committee. You are hereby advised of that action.

"We find that minority agricultural representation on the committee has been entirely inadequate and ineffective.

"Recent actions by the 36-member committee show that farmers are being ignor-

ed in a matter which seriously affects them. Further, it is evident that the advisory group has been used in lobbying for legislation that would continue the same type of undesirable and uninformed bureaucratic control. Our directors find that they cannot go along with such tactics."

Epler expressed belief that Senate Bill-688, which has passed the Senate and now is in the House Committee on Agriculture, would be satisfactory to the groups concerned with the problem.

It provides cooperation by various agencies included in other bills that are designed to continue migratory labor regulation in the Department of Labor and Industry.

S-688 provides for a Migrant Farm Labor Commission within the Department of Agriculture.

Administration would be similar to the Farm Show and Soil Conservation Commissions.

Agencies represented in the proposed 18-member commission would be the State Departments of Agriculture, Health, Labor and Industry, Public Instruction, Public Welfare, the State Police, Liquor Control Board, the College of Agriculture and the Extension Service of the Pennsylvania State University, a total of nine, plus nine farmer members appointed by the Governor.

Epler said farmers generally favor this bill which provides for inspections by the State Department of Health on the housing and health of migrants.

Labor recruitment would be in the hands of the Department of Labor and Industry and duplication of inspection would be eliminated with savings of taxpayers dollars; he added.

"There are some farmers who may need supervision in migrant labor," he said, "but the great majority have provided and will continue to provide adequate facilities. Mechanization and acreage reductions for some crops are gradually decreasing, the number of migrant workers needed on farms."

Farm Taxes Up By Third

The cost of farming has gone up in ways we sometimes fail to consider, says County Agent Robert A. Powers. The Pennsylvania farmer is spending more for taxes and interest and has a larger depreciation cost.

During 1957, he spent 33 per cent more for taxes on his property than he had spent in 1949. His interest payment of debts was 50 per cent higher in 1957 than in 1949. And, his depreciation on buildings, machinery, and equipment was 60 per cent greater in 1957 than in 1949.

Area Women Attend Pennsylvania State Homemakers Week

Six delegates from Lancaster County and eight from Chester County were among the 512 Pennsylvania homemakers attending Penn State University this week as students during the annual Extension Homemakers Week on the campus.

Attending from Lancaster County were:

Mrs. Josephine Mancuso, Ronks; Mrs. Emma McCorkle, Millersville; Mrs. Clarence Herr, Strasburg; Mrs. Ellis H. Esbenschade, Paradise; Mrs. Muriel Clark, Strasburg; and Mrs. Charles K. Miller, Lancaster.

From Chester County:

Mrs. Owen H. Groff, Oxford; Mrs. Charles Locker, and Mrs. Arthur Coley, Downingtown; Mrs. Wayne O. Wrigley and Mrs. Clarence E. Diem, Cochranville; Mrs. George Henderson and Mrs. Nellie K. Gaut, Pottstown; and Mrs. Goldie Fisher Grafton, West Chester.

Delegates selected four interest group to attend during the week, from a selection of 30 different topics. Each group met for a full half day, giving the homemakers ample time to refresh themselves in their chosen subjects.

Monday evening's opening session featured Beatrice A. Judkins, Fed. Extension Service, Washington, D. C., discussing the importance of the homemakers role in the years ahead.

Other speakers included Congressman Walter H. Judd, Mrs. Clyde E. Bounds, Windber; Lyman E. Jackson, Dean of the College of Agriculture; Lydia Tarrant and Dr. H. R. Albrecht of the extension service.

This Week in Washington

by Clinton Davidson
Farm Program Defense

It takes a brave man to stand up in Congress and defend farmers and farm programs in the face of the national flood of adverse criticism being heaped on the heads of farmers.

Any congressman who speaks out for farmers risks his political career. That is one reason why a recent speech by Sen. George Aiken, deserves wider attention than it got at the time.

Sen Aiken has served as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee for almost twenty years, both as chairman and ranking minority member, and has had a major role in writing most of the farm legislation now in effect.

The Vermont Republican noted that "some government officials, newspapers, magazines, business organizations, and individuals are attacking the farm programs" and creating public resentment against farmers.

"The furor over farm programs," he told the Senate, has become so intense, so biased and so unreasonable as to cast confusion and suspicion into the public mind."

There are some who advocate that all farm programs be abolished. They believe lower farm and food prices would benefit consumers as much or more than farmers.

"It is not the farmer so much as it is the public that would pay dearly if farm programs were abolished," Sen Aiken said. "Only the fact that some surpluses are produced holds retail food prices as low as they are today.

"Even a slight shortage would result in skyrocketing consumer prices. A major portion of the costs charged to farmers actually goes to benefit consumers.

"Do the millions of mothers in our cities realize that the lunches which their children receive at school are charged in part to the farm program?"

"Do our internationally minded citizens know that billions of dollars worth of foreign aid and military assistance programs are paid for with farm commodities, the cost of which is charged to farm programs?"

"Does the housewife realize that much of the research work that goes into the preparation and handling of food for her benefit is charged against farm programs?"

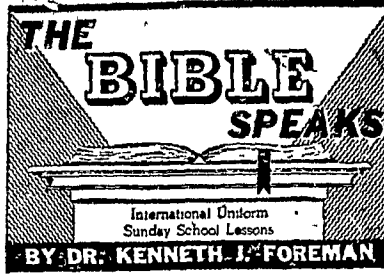
"How many people realize that we are planting over a billion forest trees a year on eroded and tired land, and that farmers who plant those trees will in all probability never live to harvest a single one of them?"

"How many urban dwellers know that the millions spent to conserve water supplies help prevent floods and provide water for city and industrial uses that make jobs for them?"

"Nearly 40% of our gainfully employed people are engaged in making farm supplies, producing crops and in processing, transporting and handling agricultural commodities."

"There is plenty to eat and wear today, indeed, more than enough, but two short crops in succession could throw our economy into a panic. Speculation and inflation would follow. Food costs would rise. Unemployment and depression would follow."

"I hope the seriousness of the situation will come home to all those who talk solely in terms of costly handouts to farmers and oppressive burdens on taxpayers. I hope they will take the time to read the credit side of the farm program ledger."



Bible Material: II Chronicles 17: 19-20.
Devotional Reading: II Chronicles 20: 5-12, 18-21.

A Strong Country

Lesson for June 21, 1959

THE STORY of King Jehoshaphat in the Bible gives us a valuable illustration of what a "strong country" or nation is, and also how the various parts of institutions of a country support one another. When the words "strong" or "weak" are used of nations today, the meaning usually is a military one. A strong nation is one that would be likely to win a war if it got into one. Now the kingdom of Judah, which had been pretty weak, revived its military strength under Jehoshaphat's leadership.



Dr. Foreman

He reorganized the army itself and also rebuilt the fortresses that guarded the strategic points in Judah. But there were other nations which were even stronger from a military view, and they did not outlast little Judah. There were other forms of strength in that nation.

Support of Education

In those days there were no colleges, no schools in our sense of the word. Most of what we now teach in school was still unknown; we would call that civilization "barbaric" if it existed today. Nevertheless, even bookless people need education. King Jehoshaphat saw to it that the schools went to the people. He routed the priests, Levites and princes out of the capital city where most of them seem to have gone, and sent them around the country to teach the people where they lived. We can observe similar movements today in the village schools of India or the folk-schools of Denmark. Many Americans seem to think you can't have real education without big expensive plants (including gymnasiums bigger than anything else); but where countries are small and poor, as Jehoshaphat's was by our standards, you have to do some-

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO MAKE OATS INTO HAY AGE—Spring Oats is heading on southeastern farms which means crop will soon be ready to cut. It is not to ripen for grain. For any hay crop the oats should be in milk stage and before the heads turn yellow. A word of caution here because in the past some hay-poisoning has been noticed when stock are fed this hay immediately curing when cut in the turning yellow. When cut in the milk stage it may safely at once; however, when cut in the ripening stage it should be allowed to cure in the mow for at least two weeks. For silage it may be cut at either stage, but in the milk stage, and fed after a two-week fermentation period.

TO ENROLL IN GRASSLAND AND CORN CONTEST—Local farmers have an opportunity in two state contests during the next two months. The Grassland Club emphasizes good practices in the production of quality forage crops and the entry deadline is August 1st. The five-acre Corn Contest recognizes maximum yield per acre and August 1st is the entry deadline. Both contests are available at the local Extension Office. Both events are jointly sponsored by the Pennsylvania Crop Improvement Association and the Penn State Extension Service.

TO KEEP LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMFORTABLE—In hot weather also reduces the efficiency of most farm animals and special effort toward their comfort will pay. Cross ventilation in all buildings is essential and should be cleaned frequently to prevent steamy air from being released. For hogs in confinement the wetting of the floor or a sprinkler system will improve gains. Poultry should have free access to fresh water and shade at all times. Maximum comfort is necessary for efficient production.

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