

● L.C. Farmers

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 manufactured products. If we expect them to buy our agricultural products, we must lower our restrictions against their products. He stressed that farm products must be included in this bargaining or farmers will suffer drastically from reduced exports. He pointed out that Secretary Freeman would like to establish an International Commodity Agreement which, Harris said, would amount to one big international supply management set up with politicians running the show. Harris warned that if we allow ourselves to get tripped in such a commodity agreement we will begin to lose our markets instead of building them. He also said that an international commodity agreement would lead directly to many national commodity agreements.

He reminded his audience that 78 per cent of Pennsylvania farmers had voted against the mandatory wheat program. The Administration countered this by forcing Congress to pass a "voluntary" wheat program. "How can the government get farmers to cooperate on a voluntary program," Harris asked? "By simply making sure that if they don't go along, you bust

their market!"

As an example of this, he cited the release of 140 million bushels of wheat by Commodity Credit Corp. onto the domestic market to keep the price down, and thus be sure that farmers would have to sign up in the voluntary program.

Harris emphasized that for every bushel of wheat the U.S. sold recently the American farmer was penalized 12 cents a bushel. That was the difference between what we sold it for and the going price on the world market. AFBF, along with others, protested strenuously. Now, due primarily to the impending election, the export penalty has been reduced to zero. If we ever get to thinking the wheat program is voluntary, Harris cautioned, remember the Secretary of Agriculture can release wheat and smash the market any time he chooses.

A short business meeting followed in which Mrs. Noah Wenger gave a report on the activities of the women's committees since the last meeting.

Harold Rohrer, who represents York, Adams and Lan-

caster counties in the State association (PFA) spoke about bus transportation on December 8 to the AFBF Annual Convention in Convention Hall, Philadelphia. The Convention runs from December 6-10, but the 8th is Pennsylvania Day. Pennsylvania will be honored for having the largest percentage increase in AFBF members of any state in the northeast.

Noah Wenger reported for the membership committee of the Lancaster County Farmers Ass'n that there had been an increase of 148 members this year over 1963. He stated that Lancaster county now stands in second place in the state association in number of members (total members in county is about 700). But Wenger stressed the need for even more members. "Everything we want to get done," he said, "depends on active members."

Six new directors were elected by the membership. They were James Garber, Noah Wenger, James Kreider, Leroy Pfautz, John Charles and Ellis K. Mentzer.

J. Robert Hess, president of the Lancaster County Farmers Ass'n, had opened the meeting.


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