

● **A Republic**

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largest general farm organization in the U.S. In Pennsylvania, Fleming said, 100 per cent of the organized counties showed a membership gain. Also, he said, the Pennsylvania Farmers Association membership has increased every year since it was organized in 1951 as the state unit of AFBF.

He reviewed some of the basic beliefs of AFBF that have been stated by the voting delegates. In addition to those already expressed in the Constitution these included: "that the centralization of power and authority in the federal government, the movement to socialize America, the apathy of the American people toward this trend, and the apparent lack of responsibility on the part of individual citizens are among the greatest dangers threatening our republic and our system of private competitive enterprise;"

"That the exercise of monopolistic power in any form—whether by government, industry, labor, or agriculture—jeopardizes freedom and self-government"

Fleming struck hard at the federal government's plans to supervise and control agriculture through the use of di-

rect compensatory payments. "It is not," Fleming said, "a scheme to control production; it is a scheme to control farmers. It is not a plan to establish a free market; it is a proposal to wreck markets." The concept of compensatory payments provides an invitation for politically determined limitations on the farm incomes of individual producers, Fleming said.

Fleming told the visiting farmers that over the years AFBF has been fortunate to have had courageous, elected leadership. The policies of the organization have attracted that kind of men and women, the official said. They have also had competent and dedicated career employees. The latter are essential to any functioning organization, Fleming said, but they are no substitute for locally and nationally elected leadership. To be successful in the future "—we are going to need to get the kind of membership involvement in programs and activities never before thought possible or necessary."

Fleming pointed out that AFBF has a history, and a wealth of experience, in opposing the aims of government-controlled agriculture "It is not easy," he said, "for

those who disagree with Farm Bureau to 'neutralize' it. Neither Farm Bureau nor its membership has any defense contracts; it doesn't have any mergers pending that require the approval of the national government; it doesn't have any licenses which require renewal; it doesn't have any rates dependent for approval upon officials of the central government."

Fleming suggested that perhaps this is why the "advocates of big government appear so desperate to make farmers dependent for their net incomes on compensatory payments from the federal treasury. From the standpoint of the centralizers," Fleming said, "this would be a major accomplishment. But, "it would be fatal from the standpoint of maintaining a free, independent and prosperous agricultural industry."

The audience punctuated Fleming's talk repeatedly with applause as he scored on points popular with the membership. At the conclusion, he received a standing ovation.

Wearing your halo too tight gives others a headache, too

● **Hess**

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who went to Chicago were: Hess; Galen Smith and Jim Young, both from Cumberland County; and Fred Harteis from Cambria County.

For two weeks prior to the contest the boys practiced judging. First at Penn State, then at Rutter Bros. Dairy in York. Their coach was Paul Anderson from Penn State University.

On Friday, November 27, Coach Anderson drove the boys to Chicago. On the way they stopped to see and judge some top herds. These included the L & J Brown Swiss Farm, McDonald's Guernsey Farm, and several others that represented top herds in their breeds.

On Saturday the group arrived in Chicago, and stayed at the LaSalle Hotel.

On Wednesday, they competed with nine teams from other states. The boys judged 10 classes—two in each breed. They gave oral reasons on two classes, and written reasons on three.

When the results of the judging were announced at the banquet held on Wednesday night, the team learned

they had ranked in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

But where they really shone—was in the Holstein judging—there they won first place! They received a plaque and set of cufflinks and tiepin from the Holstein Breed Association.

On Thursday morning the boys observed some of the cattle judging at the Livestock Exposition, and later headed for home. They arrived in Lancaster Friday evening.

Ken Hess told Lancaster Farming that the trip was very interesting and worthwhile, and it was an experience that he would remember for a long time.

● **ASCS**

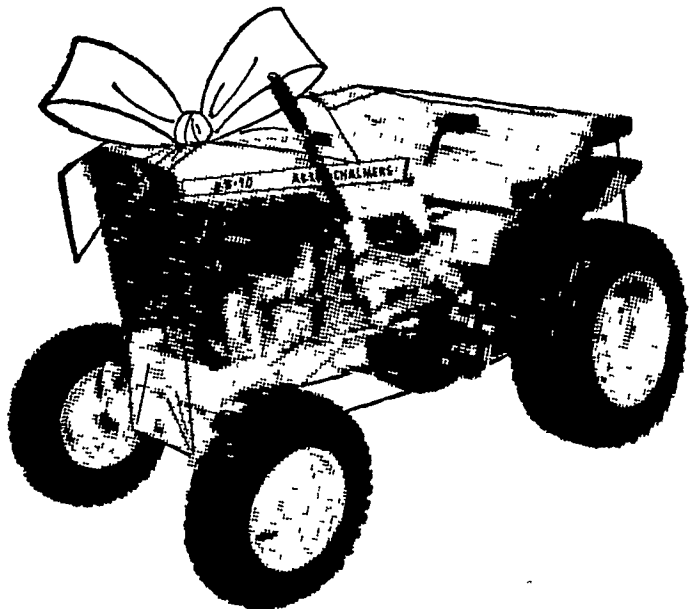
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referendum tentatively scheduled for mid-February in which the county's 4,769 tobacco farmers will vote on whether they want acreage allotments and price supports on 1965, 1966, and 1967 crops.

Lancaster County growers have never approved allotments and support for Type 41 cigar-filler tobacco.

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