

Leader Says Government Already Has Power To Keep Prices Right

A dairy cooperative leader has reminded that the federal government already has the power to keep farm milk prices at necessary economic levels and has urged the support of a butter subsidy bill in order to upgrade declining American diets and to bolster the subsistence of dairy farmers now being forced out of business.

John C York, general manager of Eastern Milk Producers Assn. is pointing out to the Senate Agricultural committee in a hearing beginning Wednesday that the 10,000 dairyman organization favors passage of the proposed Mondale Bill which would encourage movement of butter into commercial domestic consumption by effecting a reduction in prices to consumers from payments made at the processing level on butterfat used in butter.

Mr York is also recommending to the Senate committee that Title 1 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 be extended for another four years. Base plans, as authorized by the Act, are just now being actively developed in the Northeast he pointed out and if adopted would probably not be enacted until just a few months before the Act is due to expire. This recommendation does not necessarily mean Eastern is endorsing a Class I base plan, but some planning should take place in order to prevent confusion.

He also pointed out that Eastern is interested in seeing legislation that is simple and un-

complicated which would permit across-the-table negotiations between cooperatives and buyers of milk.

He emphasized that if President Johnson's recent suggestion for collective-bargaining legislation is intended to raise prices to fluid milk producers, then there is no need for new legislation. The authority to raise fluid milk prices already exists in the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 . . . and all that is needed is the will of the government to raise such prices. The federal government also has the authority to raise the support prices for manufacturing milk . . . but needs the will to do it, he pointed out.

While commenting on collective bargaining for agriculture, Mr. York noted, "We would prefer to see legislation enacted along the lines of S 753 (a relatively uncomplicated measure permitting negotiations between cooperatives and milk buyers) before going on with collective-bargaining legislation modeled after the National Labor Relations Act.

He noted that Eastern would prefer a bill which did not provide for any of the complicated measures for referenda, producers committees, and joint settlement boards which is envisaged in current discussion of collective bargaining for agriculture.

In urging support of the Mondale bill, Mr York emphasized that butter price support of this type would help stop the farmer exodus from dairying and the migration to crowded cities, and would help to halt the decline in the consumption of butter which has had unfavorable effects on people's health.

He quoted a USDA study of food consumption in U S households which showed a deterioration in the diet of American families during the years 1955-1965. He quoted Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman who noted, "Over the 10 year period

the number of Americans having good diets dropped from 60% to 50%. Decreased use of milk and milk products was one of the principal reasons for this 10% drop."

The Eastern general manager noted that under the Mondale bill, payments would be made whenever the Secretary of Agriculture finds that purchases of butter for price-support programs will exceed for any marketing year the volume to be utilized for domestic consumption, including the school lunch program.

Although the bill does not indicate the rate at which payments would be made, it is presumed the rate would be at a level sufficient to move the excess supply of butter into commercial channels . . . perhaps in the neighborhood of 10 to 20 cents per pound of butterfat, said Mr. York.

While manufacturing milk producers would be the primary group to gain from the payment of a subsidy on butterfat, and hence on butter, fluid milk producers would also benefit, pointed out Mr York in the New York-New Jersey milkshed, 76 percent of the output of milk in 1966 was used to make butter.

In referring to the nutritional drop in American family diets of the past 10 years, Mr York submitted tables showing that domestic per capita consumption of butter has decreased from 16.1 pounds in 1964 to 5.7 pounds in 1966. The cost compared to numerous cheaper substitutes is considered the main reason for this drop in consumption of butter.

State Farm Price Level Up Slightly

The March index of prices received by Pennsylvania farmers increased 2 points (1 percent) from the previous month, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The increase was due mainly to an increase in fruit prices.

The index of prices received for livestock and livestock products was unchanged. Steers and heifers, were unchanged at \$25 per hundredweight, slaughter cows were up 40 cents to \$17.40, calves were down 50 cents to \$34.50, lambs up \$1.70 to \$24.80, sheep up 30 cents to \$7.30 and hogs down 30 cents to \$19.60. Milk cow price at \$330 was unchanged from February. The March milk price (preliminary) at \$5.80 per hundredweight was 5 cents below the February level.

Grain prices were mostly lower, with corn and wheat down a penny to \$1.20 and \$1.29 respectively. Oats were up a penny to \$83, barley down 3 cents to \$1.05 and rye off a penny to \$1.05 and soybeans down 2 cents to \$2.50. Alfalfa hay price was unchanged

BITS O' BUSINESS

The recent crisis in the international gold market had far-reaching effects. For instance, if you were in the market for a garden hose with a gold-plated nozzle, forget it. Because of the crisis the manufacturer decided against marketing it. However, the company says if the gold situation eases it will market the hose. By the way, the hoes goes for \$495 . . . Barbers in Trenton, N.J. are charging 25 cents more for a haircut because the popularity of long hair has hurt profits.

One strip of new highway, 8.3 miles long, near St. Louis, cost as much money as our government paid for the entire Louisiana Purchase, from which 17 states were carved—fifteen million bucks.

at \$33 per ton while the all hay figure was down 50 cents.

Poultry and egg prices were unchanged from February.

The prices received index for all farm products, a measure of the change in prices received by farmers, was 248 percent of its 1910-14=100 base. This compares with 246 the previous month and 255 for March 1967.

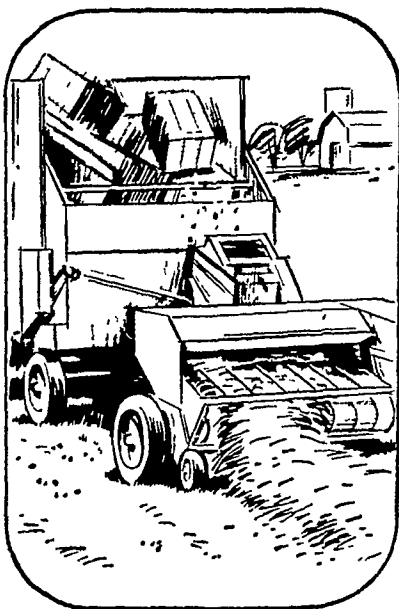
Robert K. Rohrer

**Bulldozing - Grading
Patz Sales & Service**

**Barn Cleaners - Silo
Unloaders - Cattle Feeders**

**Quarryville, R. D. 1
Hensel 548-2559**

**The Satisfaction
That Comes
From
Doing A
Good Job Of
Farming**



It's a great feeling to know that you are the master of your farmlands . . . that when you treat your soil right, it will treat you right. Liming is one of the most important factors in keeping your soil in the highest productive range. By raising the pH from a level below 6.0 to 6.5 or higher, you can expect to harvest .8 more tons of alfalfa per acre, with similar increases for all other forage and cash crops.

**Order Now For Prompt Delivery
MARTIN'S LIMESTONE**

Blue Ball, Pa. 354-2112

Gap, Pa. 442-4148



**Call Us...
FOR FAST
ON-THE-FARM
SERVICE**

**SWEIGART
FIRESTONE**

329 W. High St., Manheim, Pa.
Phone 665-2258

**Diazinon
stops
corn root worms
in any season,
wet or dry.**



P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.

Smoketown, Pa.

397-3539

**Look for this SIGN in SPRAYING
RICHARD R. FORRY**

LANCASTER,
PENNA.

Spraying

PHONE
397-0035

★
Modern
Less Tracks
Experienced
Operators



★
SPRAYING
Hay Crops
Potatoes
Tomatoes

Dependable service within 40 miles of Lancaster. After years of experience we are equipped with the most up-to-date, effective, and safe methods of applying chemicals on your farm crops.

Keep watching for additional ads explaining spraying service, etc.