

During the War of 1812, Stephen Girard, Philadelphia banker, assumed an entire Government loan of \$5,000,000.

**Suburbia's Need For Land Poses Problems To State And Nation**

As you read these words an evergrowing suburbia is nibbling away at Pennsylvania's dwindling farmland acreage, according to Leland Bull, Pa. Secretary of Agriculture.

Suburbia, with its fondness for huge shopping centers and individual homes built on large lots, has a ravenous appetite, especially for the level lands which predominate on many farms.

It is estimated that in the past 17 years three million acres of the state's farmlands have been lost to real estate erosion.

Supermarket doors give automatic welcomes and bowling balls crash into plastic pins on the land John Rumberger once farmed.

Meadow lands, formerly lunch-lands for dairy cows, now support turnpike concrete

Where cornfields once rustled in autumn breezes, apartments stand guard over lesser buildings.

This gobbling up of agricultural land is nothing new. It's been going on for years. However, the pace at which productive farmland has been converted to other uses has accelerated as our affluence has grown.

What's the solution to the problem?

It seems unAmerican to tell a farmer cultivating prime agricultural land, about to be engulfed by suburbia, that he can't sell his land to a developer — especially if he is offered \$15,000 an acre.

Let's make the situation more acute. Suppose the farmer offered the attractive price has no children and is getting too old to farm. What then?


There are some who advocate laws which would forbid selling agriculture land for purposes other than farming. They would have the state purchase the land and then lease it to someone who would continue to farm the land in question.

The problem of land usage has been a vexing one not only to Pennsylvania, but to California, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, to name a few.

Thus far we Americans have always been able to produce more food than we have needed.

Now it appears that we are hastening the day when we will have insufficient land to raise the food vital to our existence.

"Great hopes make great men."—Thomas Fuller.



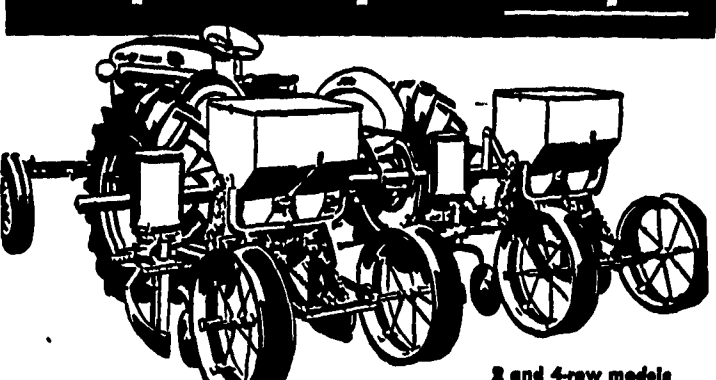
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estimated Prize. Our winner may elect to choose a \$1200 shopping spree instead of the trip.