

WASHINGTON REPORT
Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman
 16th District—Pennsylvania



The federal agriculture program is wasteful and unproductive. It is a program which I have criticized extensively since coming to Congress. In my opinion, it adds up to bad agricultural policy, ineffective use of tax funds, and hardship for our local farmers.

The basic philosophy behind the federal approach to agriculture would seem to be farming by government support. The program is made up of things like subsidy payments and price supports. It discourages competition of agricultural products in an open market which Pennsylvania farmers favor. On the other hand it encourages bigtime farmers in the Mid-West and South to seek more and more ways of receiving payments out of tax dollars even to the point of getting cash for not growing crops. As a result, we are getting more and more government on the farm and less and less productivity from the farm.

Something must be done to reverse the handout approach to agricultural policy. I have supported and continue to favor a means toward that goal which would simply limit the amount any one farmer could receive from the federal cashbox. For starters, that limit might be set at either \$15,000 or \$20,000. The savings to the federal government would amount to about \$250 million if the \$20,000 figure was used, and \$300 million if the \$15,000 figure was used.

WE REGRET ERROR

Lancaster Farming regrets and retracts the implication in last week's story on the new Triple G farm dairy barn that milk is purchased for resale. State law which allows a farmer to market his own milk requires that the farmer produce the milk he sells. We regret our mistake and apologize for any misunderstandings which might have resulted

There was some graphic evidence presented recently which showed why all Pennsylvanians and not just Pennsylvania farmers should be interested in seeing the farm program changed and payment limitations enacted. The Federal program now almost totally ignores the Commonwealth. Last year over \$609 million was spent paying individual farmers \$15,000 or more in subsidies. Out of that amount, Pennsylvania received less than \$400,000 or less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total. More than 20,000 farmers throughout the county received \$15,000 or more but only 12 Pennsylvania farmers were in that group.

The 16th Congressional District had no one on the list which is ample proof of our local farmers' belief in self-sufficiency and a tribute to them.

Given this evidence, it would seem to me that Pennsylvanians would have reason to question federal agricultural policy even if it was plausible in all other respects. But facts show that the failure of the farm program to deal equitably with Pennsylvania may be among the least of its shortcomings. For example, the migration off the farms in recent years has been unprecedented and must be laid at least partially at the doorstep of a poor approach to agriculture.

Congress soon will have an opportunity to reform the farm program. I am going to be favoring changes which would mean less federal involvement in agriculture. That is the kind of approach which our Pennsylvania Dutch farmers have indicated to me that they want. However, after looking at the way the Commonwealth gets short-changed under present policies, I would think that all taxpayers in Pennsylvania also would be clamoring for some big changes in our agricultural policy.

State Tightens Regulations On Migrant Farm Workers

The state Industrial Board has moved to upgrade regulations pertaining to housing facilities that will be used by some 7,000 migrant farm workers expected this year in Pennsylvania.

Board Chairman Clifford L. Jones, Secretary of Labor and Industry, said the amended rules will affect about 350 camps located in 33 counties in the Commonwealth.

The newly amended regulations, unanimously adopted by the Board, will require the following facilities in all living quarters occupied by migrant workers during their stay within the Commonwealth:

- Each habitable room, except for partitioned areas, must have at least one window or skylight opening directly to the out-of-doors. The minimum total window or skylight area, including windows in doors, must equal 10 per cent of usable floor space.

- Not less than 50 square feet of floor space per occupant must be provided for sleeping purposes only.

- For sleeping purposes in a dormitory using double bunk

- beds, not less than 40 square feet per occupant.

- For combined cooking, eating, and sleeping purposes, not less than 60 square feet of floor space per occupant.

- Housing used for families with one or more children over six years of age must have a room or partitioned sleeping area for parents.

- Separate sleeping accommodations must be provided for each sex or each family.

- Adequate and separate arrangements for hanging clothing and storing personal effects.

- At least one-half of the floor area in each living unit must have a minimum ceiling height of 7 feet.

- From every floor of buildings used for housing migrant laborers, proper and sufficient ways of egress and means of escape from fire and panic in compliance with the Fire and Panic Act must be provided, and conform to regulations defined in the State "Fire and Panic" Act, administered by the Department of Labor and Industry.

- Every dwelling unit must be provided with properly installed heating equipment of

adequate capacity to maintain a temperature of at least 68 degrees during the period of occupancy.

- Adequate refrigeration facilities in good working order must be made available to families doing their own cooking and for those served by the central kitchen.

- Floors, walls, ceilings, tables and shelves of all kitchens, dining rooms, refrigerators and food storage rooms must be constructed so that they can always be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

- Wall openings of all dining rooms, kitchen and food storage rooms must be provided with fly-screening which must be maintained in good repair at all times during the period the camp is used.

- An adequate supply of cool, pure and wholesome water with supply outlets located not more than 100 feet from any dwelling unit must be furnished for domestic and drinking purposes in all camps.

- One shower bath, with hot and cold water will be required for each fifteen occupants or fractional part thereof of each sex.

Jones said qualified and authorized inspectors of the Department's Bureau of Industrial and Occupational Safety will be responsible for enforcing the new regulations.

Additional or detailed information regarding migrant labor camps may be obtained by writing to Executive Secretary to the Governor's Committee on Migratory Labor, Labor and Industry Building, Harrisburg, 17120.

Kirks Mills' Flying Farmers

Tomorrow is the first day of National Music Week and we salute Mrs. (Jessie) Ruth Wilson, wife of Henry R. Wilson, better known as Harry. This family owns and operates a 480 dairy farm in the Kirks Mills area, near the Chester County border, in the southern end of the county.

Mrs. Wilson, the daughter of a retired Methodist minister, the Rev. Milton F. Hill in Mineral Wells, Texas, had a talented mother who taught piano, organ and voice so she taught Ruth voice and piano. Ruth also took voice at the Conservatory of Kansas City and attended Texas College of Arts and Industries

at Kingsville. This is where she met her husband when he was stationed there in the Navy.

Even though she has had a lot of experience as a singer and choir director, she not only is learning by doing but is also still taking voice lessons from Frederick Robinson of Lancaster. He is director of Lancaster Opera Workshop and he and his wife were the founders of it.

Ruth grew up in Maifa in western Texas and Pecos, central Texas. As a girl she went with her father to a little town in Mexico and played the piano for him when he conducted a church service there. She made her debut singing "Shout'nin' Bred"

between acts for a high school play.

Also while in high school she put on an hour's program singing first for the women then for the men inmates of the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Again "Shout'nin' Bred" was among her selections. This went over big at the prison because of the words.

One rule there was that no visitors were permitted to talk to the inmates. But even though accompanied by the lady guard in charge of the women, one of the women prisoners started to talk to her. This guard did not stop the conversation and Ruth couldn't understand why until later she told her that this woman had been there two years and they could not get her to say one word. So now she had gotten through to her in song which they were unable to do by any other means.

"I've done a lot of singing here and there over the years," Mrs. Wilson relates. While in college she was soprano soloist in "The Messiah" at Corpus Christi, Texas. She was part of a girls trio that sang a cappella for meetings and she says "I enjoyed it so much."

Mrs. Wilson has been directing the Little Britain Presbyterian Church senior choir, which has 24 on the roll, for one and a half years and the chapel (junior) choir of 20 voices for one year. The chapel choir in



Mr. and Mrs. Wilson ready to take flight to Oxford Airport from their Lancaster Co. dairy farm.

cludes children of grades 2 through 8. They are then graduated into the senior choir.

Prior to this she directed the Nottingham Presbyterian Church choir for five years. At times she has written some music for her choirs.

The five Wilson children are carrying on the music tradition with each one having had some training on the piano and each has another instrument.

Dana plays the recorder flute. This is a soft-toned instrument which is nice in a string ensemble or with another flute or as a solo instrument. She is the only one that has not been in

band but her instrument isn't suitable for band.

Beverly plays flute and piccolo, Coiky the trumpet, Judy clarinet and bass clarinet and Roxy the flute.

Mrs. Wilson says band is good training as it gives them good time which they wouldn't get otherwise.

Judy is also taking voice lessons from Frederick Robinson.

These children love music and find it no chore to practice.

One room in the Wilson home might well be called the music room with all the instruments, including a Baldwin organ with

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Mrs. Ruth Wilson likes to pilot their Cherokee Piper plane.