

NFO National Convention Held Dec. 19

A multi-barreled program to raise farm prices was outlined at the annual national convention of the National Farmers Organization which ended in Louisville, Ky., December 19.

Delegates to the convention from Chester and Lancaster County included Leland Stanford, Elizabethtown R D 1, and J Winfield Trego, Glen Moore.

The theme of the convention was "NFO, The Farmers' Only Hope."

National President Oren Lee Staley brought the 12,500 delegates to standing ovation 16 times as he outlined the plans

ahead for the organization in his State of Affairs message.

"After January 1, the NFO will initiate a Commodity Lift in red meat, grain and specialty commodities," Staley told the delegates attending from all 48 states.

Under the lift plan, huge blocks of farm production will be lifted out of selected areas where the price pinch is great and transported for sale in other areas "to create vacuums to start then stepping prices."

In addition, Staley said vertical integration and packer feeding must be stopped and NFO will

cause to have introduced in Congress a bill that will define agriculture, the food industry and the processing industry. "We will seek federal anti-trust laws which prohibit sizable companies from becoming involved in more than one sector of the food industry." Similar legislation will be sought in most state legislatures.

The NFO president said the NFO will use every economic legislative and legal weapon at its command to claim justice at the market place for farmers and ranchers. "If it is necessary

to have a holding action, the NFO will honor existing contracts—but a holding action will be called."

He said the NFO collective bargaining program has been accepted widely enough by processors that the NFO has the capability to, step by step, move every head of livestock, every bushel of grain and every pound of milk produced in the nation, as well as several other commodities, through the NFO collective bargaining program.

"Farmers defeat themselves by selling their production as in-

dividuals. But farmers blocking their production together and then bargaining together and selling together through NFO collective bargaining program, build prices together."

The NFO during January will contact every farmer and rancher who is not a member of the NFO and "ask him to join the NFO for the purpose of waging the battle for justice at the market place."

Delegates heard conclusive progress reports from various national commodity department heads, in addition to future plans of the departments.

"The NFO has the scope, the experience and the blueprints for successful collective bargaining for agriculture. All farmers and ranchers have to do is use this program," Staley commented.

The convention featured an outstanding array of speakers, including Erhard Pfingsten, national NFO vice-president, U S Senator Harold Hughes, D-Ia and Marlow Cook, R-Ky.

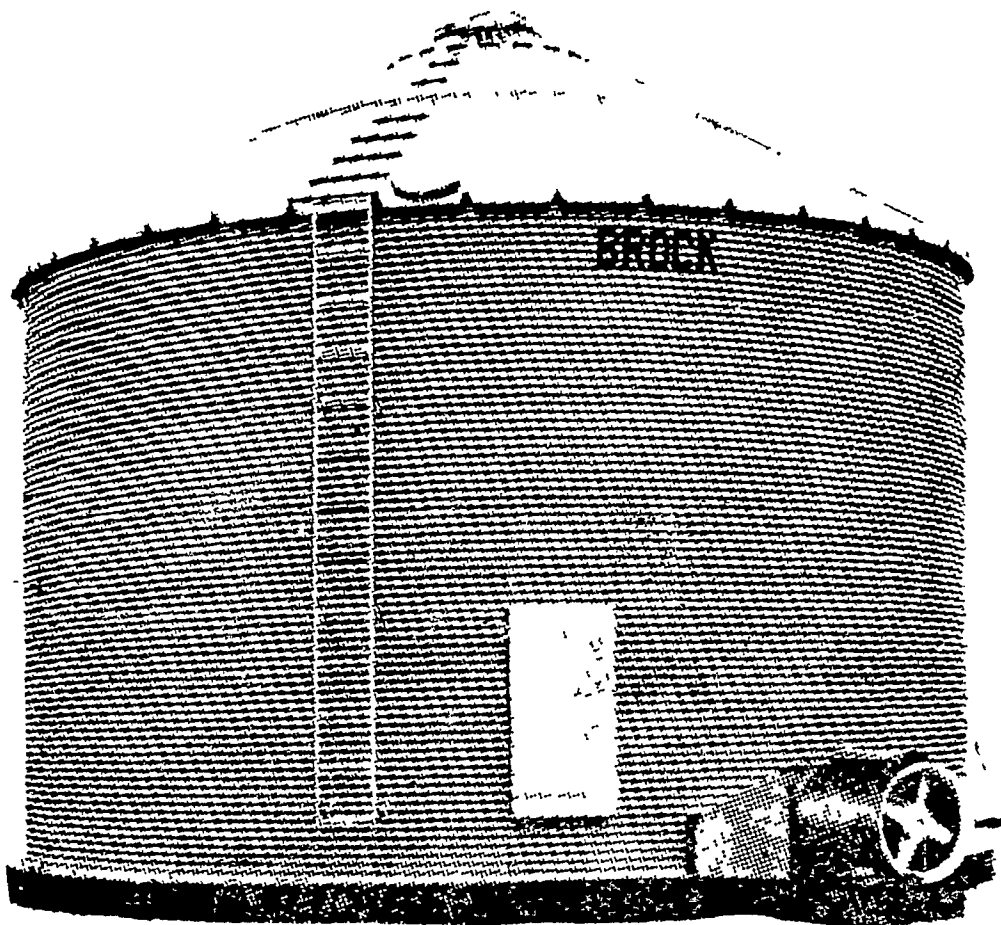
During the annual election of officers, Staley was returned as national NFO president and Pfingsten as national NFO vice-president, both by acclamation.

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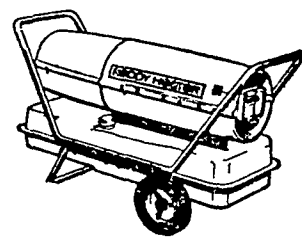
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