

Lancaster Co. Farmers Assn. Holds Membership Meeting

Local farmers who participated in the Congressional tour of Washington March 2 and 3 received a warm reception from Congressman Edwin Eshleman and Senator Richard Schweiker. It was reported by Robert Hess at the Lancaster County Farmers Association spring membership meeting at the Farm and Home Center March 12.

Hess said he feels more every time he visits Washington that the big city legislators are realizing the importance of farmers in the Pennsylvania economy.

Clyde Wivell reported on his attending the Pollution and Waste Conference sponsored by Penn State in February. Wivell said many people are brought up to adulthood and are unaware where meat, milk and eggs come from.

He said farmers must do their part to control water runoff from feedlots as best they can to maintain cleaner streams. He said the proper people have the law on their side to close the farmer's business if they can prove that drainage from his feedlot is polluting streams.

Noah Wenger reported on the legislative committee's visit with local legislator Harry Gring. He said in Pennsylvania now there are far more people on welfare than there are farmers and that they vote too. He said farmers must speak louder to maintain their position.

The main speaker was commissioner Benjamin Weaver. His subject was taxes.

Weaver said we have to have a tax reform. Taxes should be more flexible and be based on the ability to pay. He supports the state income tax.

Welfare is the number one enemy causing increased taxation and 44 percent of federal taxes is used for welfare. In New York City one out of every 19 live solely by his welfare check. In Lancaster alone there are over 1500 dependent children.

There are many families of

three to four generations that grew up and know nothing else but welfare, Weaver said.

Society is changing, he said. People are more independent. Years ago neighbors helped neighbors in need. Today we don't do that.

He said there is a lot of legitimate welfare but it has gotten out of hand. We have somehow gotten away from the 25th Chapter of Matthew where we are instructed to feed and clothe the needy. We always let it up to the next person to do it.

But he said the land owner should not be expected to share the whole burden. Those who can work should be made to work

and those who have the ability to earn should share the load in proportion to his ability to help those on legitimate welfare.

Lancaster County is a well balanced county economically, but since 1961—the date of the last reassessment—land has grown highly in value. Land should be taxed on its present use and not on its potential, Weaver said.

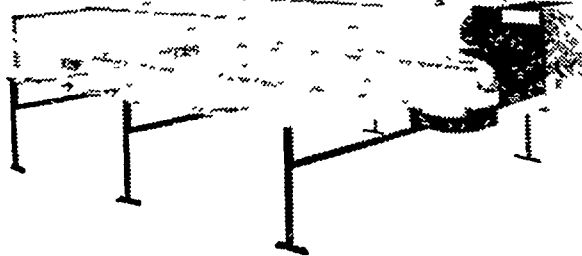
Concerning farm land, he said something should be done to preserve it in Lancaster County. New modern highways take about 80 acres of land per mile of highway.

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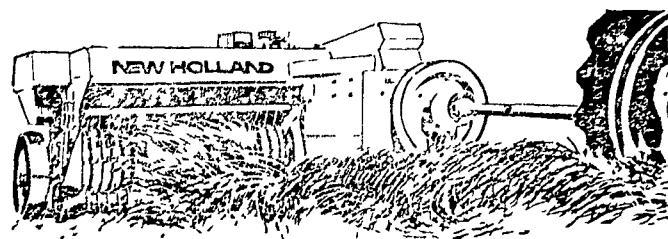
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