

Senator Tells How Food Is Very Good Buy

Elmer D. Hawbaker, Pennsylvania Senate minority leader, spoke here this week about how food prices get cheaper and cheaper for the consumer.

At the annual banquet meeting of the Lancaster County DHIA at the Farm and Home Center Tuesday, Hawbaker recalled that in 1941 he produced chickens and sold them for 30 cents a pound live with "feathers and all." "In those days," he added, "having chicken meant cutting the head off and plucking the feathers."

But consumers today often don't even pay 30 cents a pound to buy the chicken cooked and ready to eat, he stated.

This isn't the only farm commodity with which this sort of thing has happened, Hawbaker noted.

In 1949, he recalls selling a pen of hogs and receiving \$29.50 a hundredweight. More than 20 years later hogs are selling for less at a time with the working man "insists on 12 per cent annual increases in salary to keep up with the inflation."

"How does he (the working man) think the farmer is getting rich with declining prices?" Hawbaker asked.

Noting that his wife is a school

teacher, Hawbaker said she earns about 13 times the salary that she did when he met her in 1937. He said that milk at that time was selling for 10 cents a quart. If farmers had gotten the same rate of increases as his wife, milk would be selling for \$1.30 a quart today instead of the 37 cents or less that it is, Hawbaker said.

And the farmer would be getting something like \$26 a hundred for his milk instead of \$6, Hawbaker said. Hawbaker operates an 80-cow milking herd in Franklin County.

He said he joked recently with his wife that if he had gotten the same kind of raises over the years that she has, he could also work 180 days and loaf 185.

He admitted that he was somewhat facetious in making the comment. He acknowledged that "teachers have it hard," but also emphasized that "the farmer has a hard job, too." He mentioned the need to get the cows milked in all kinds of weather, including zero weather, throughout the year.

Hawbaker also spoke about the increasing bargain consumers are getting in food, but he played down the effect of "middle men"



Senator Elmer Hawbaker, left, is greeted by Donald Eby, president of the Lancaster County DHIA, at the annual DHIA banquet

Tuesday afternoon. Hawbaker was the banquet speaker.



Wouldn't you rather keep your farm in the family than have it sold for taxes?

Planning your estate can help you avoid the unnecessary costs and heavy inheritance taxes that often require selling a farm intended for children and other heirs. But that's just one of the advantages of planning your estate to protect your family's future.

As a typical Lancaster County farmer, you're probably worth more than you realize and it's so important to plan your estate for handling by specialists. At the Friendly First, our trust officers, George Sload and Rick Ashby, are the experts who can help set up your estate for the best interests of you and your family.

Regardless of how little or how much you're worth, you'll get personal interest and plenty of time for discussion with a Friendly First trust officer. You can arrange a meeting at any of our branch offices . . . or even at your home . . . wherever and whenever it's most convenient for you.

Tragic losses can happen without proper estate planning. Don't let them happen to your estate. Call George Sload or Rick Ashby today to arrange a discussion that can be very valuable to you and your family. Call them TODAY at 397-4733.

Put your trust in the hands of the Friendly First.



The First National Bank of Strasburg

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

LANCASTER
397-4733

WILLOW STREET
464-3421

STRASBURG
687-7617

in causing higher food costs. There used to be a lot of talk about middle men getting all the farmer's profits, but there's much less of this talk today as farmers become much more familiar with business in general, he said.

He recalled that he found out from experience with his own bottling operations about "middle men's costs." The big gap between farm prices and consumer prices is eaten up mostly by costs rather than profits, he stated.

Hawbaker also said that 70 years ago in 1900 the average working man had to spend 30 minutes of labor to earn a quart of milk. Today he works four and one half minutes for the same quart of milk.

Hawbaker emphasized that "price doesn't mean anything today" because the values of the dollar changes. "The thing that's basic is time the amount of time that a worker must spend in order to earn something."

"We are supplying each other's needs with the work we do," according to Hawbaker.

The state Senator also noted that while the average worker spends 13 hours and 15 minutes of work per week to pay his taxes, he spends only five hours and 15 minutes to buy his food. Clothing costs him two hours and five minutes a week, medical expenses one hour and 15 minutes, and recreation one hour and 35 minutes. "It certainly points out that food is not a burden for most families."

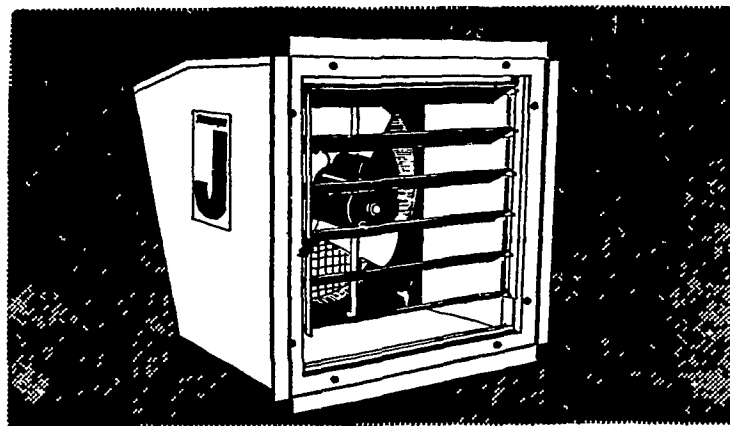
At the same time that the amount of work necessary to buy food is declining, the food itself is coming in better form — note the example of chicken.

Despite these facts the farmer is under increasing pressure from consumers, Hawbaker noted. "We even have a Secretary of Agriculture to encourage Pennsylvanians to drive across the river into New Jersey to buy milk. The thing that we and the Secretary should be saying is this: Food today is cheaper than it has been anywhere else in the world."

Hawbaker also recalled that the income from "one bushel of

(Continued on Page 11)

JAMESWAY All-Season Ventilation



Controls Environment Automatically

- * Complete Intake-Exhaust System
- * Draft-Free Conditions
- * Thermostat and Time Controls
- * For All Farm Buildings

YOU CAN COUNT ON US

Reliable Products - Installation - Service

M. E. SNAVELY

445 South Cedar St., Lititz, Pa. 17543 Ph. 626-8144