

FFA's Martin Meets With Ag Secretary Butz

Nelson Martin, President of the Pennsylvania FFA Association was one of 82 FFA officers who met Wednesday with Secretary of Agriculture, Earl L. Butz. The hour long meeting was a highlight of a week-long State FFA Presidents' Conference in the Nation's Capital. The conference was sponsored by General Motors Corporation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Nelson is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Clyde W. Martin, East Earl, R.D.1.

The purpose of the State Presidents' Conference program was to improve leadership skills, develop an understanding of the national heritage, and prepare state FFA officers for more effective leadership roles in their state FFA Associations. The conference also provided a forum for the exchange of ideas among officers from every state in the nation and was an opportunity for officers to discuss national issues such as FFA constitutional changes before the National FFA Convention in October.

Prior to their meeting with Secretary Butz the officers toured a National Farm Safety Week display of farm equipment on the lawn of the U.S. Department of Agriculture building. The exhibit was a public demonstration of the progress that has been made in providing safer machinery for the nation's farmers. The display was set up by the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute, the trade organization of the nation's farm equipment manufacturers and a sponsor of the National FFA Safety Award program.

Officers moved from the farm safety display to a conference room in the U.S.D.A. where they had a brief discussion on education issues with Michael Russo, acting director of vocational and technical education from the U.S. Office of Education. Among many things



Nelson Martin, East Earl, president of the Pennsylvania FFA Associations, is greeted by Secretary of Agriculture, Earl L. Butz during the State FFA Presidents' Conference held in Washington, D.C.

Russo explained recent legislation which has made possible expanded educational opportunities in vocational training including agriculture. He expressed the need for youth organizations like the FFA for development of all vocational education students.

The visit to the U.S.D.A. and discussion with Secretary Butz were only part of an action packed week for Martin and his fellow FFA officers. Following their Department of Agriculture

visit, Officers were treated to an exclusive cruise on the Presidential Yacht Sequoia.

On Friday they visited the White House for a special tour of the Presidential Home, highlighted by a meeting with President Richard M. Nixon. Officers also visited historic and memorial sites in Washington placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The week long program concluded with a banquet and special program presented by the National FFA Officers.

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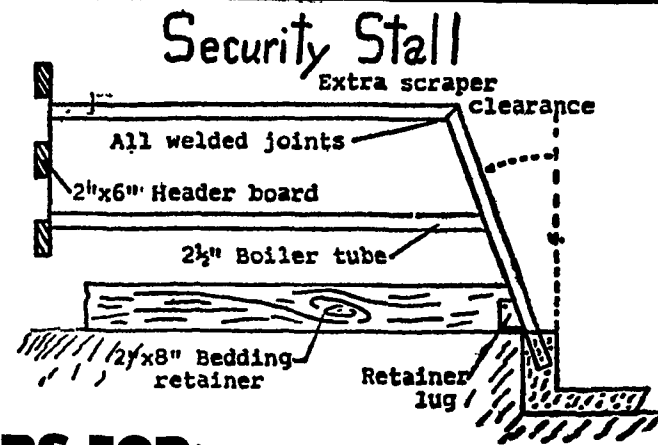
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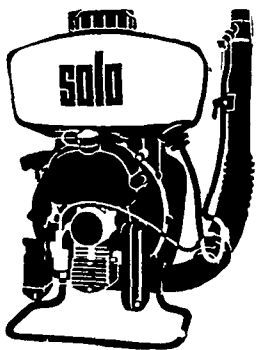
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