

Pros, Cons

(Continued From Page 29)

WG - Bill, I think one of the greatest responsibilities of this committee will be to mull over in their minds all the different approaches, and listen to different people, and yet just end up sometimes using good common sense. One thing I'd like to point out—you know in the federal order where we have over 8000 producers, we had 380 withdrawals. You know you can get withdrawals from the federal order program by submitting a request between the first and the fifteenth of the last month of any quarter. The first month, the withdrawals were 345. This last quarter we had 380 withdraw. And that's not a bad average out of 8000 participants. Only about half-a-percent withdrawals. That made me feel good. The other ting that really made me feel good was the fact that Eastern has only had one or two withdrawals.

WJ - But you don't really know that, do you?

WG - No, we don't know the names, but we do know by coop. The market administrator will give you the number of withdrawals from any coop. Eastern has had a very low withdrawal rate.

(Editor's Note: After the conference call, Arden Tewksbury called back and said that Eastern's records for the last three quarters indicated that 19,29, and 33 of its members had requested withdrawals in the three quarters.)

WJ - I would add that this kind of participating contrasts remarkably with some midwestern orders where you have as high

as 50 percent withdrawals. I think anyone would have to admit that the withdrawal rate in the Middle Atlantic program is dramatically low. Of course, everybody would like to participate in programs to increase the consumption of milk, and not pay any of the cost. That's a pretty attractive deal. That's the safest of all worlds. If farmers do decide to vote for this program, I hope they'll also get some kind of device to measure results. And maybe we can resolve some of these issues that we don't have scientific answers to.

AT - Summing up, this referendum was called up three years ago, and the only way you could vote was by individual ballot. We feel that dairy farmers in the state did defeat it. We feel that since then, the program has been lined up to be almost unbeatable. We feel that bloc voting means the referendum will almost certainly result in a go-ahead for the checkoff program.

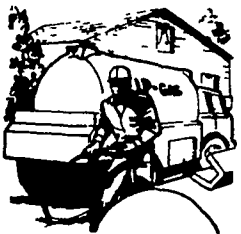
WG - There was a lot of pressure from New York to get this referendum brought up. After they went for five cents in New York. And my feeling is that if the Pennsylvania referendum doesn't go through, then you're going to be confronted with a federal referendum in order 2. Because there's too much milk coming out of Pennsylvania going into New York and not contributing to advertising. Right or wrong?

AT - I agree that if the referendum isn't passed here, then something may be done in New York to recall that program. It could work both ways.

RW - Gentleman, I think we've covered the important points of the issue. I thank you for participating.

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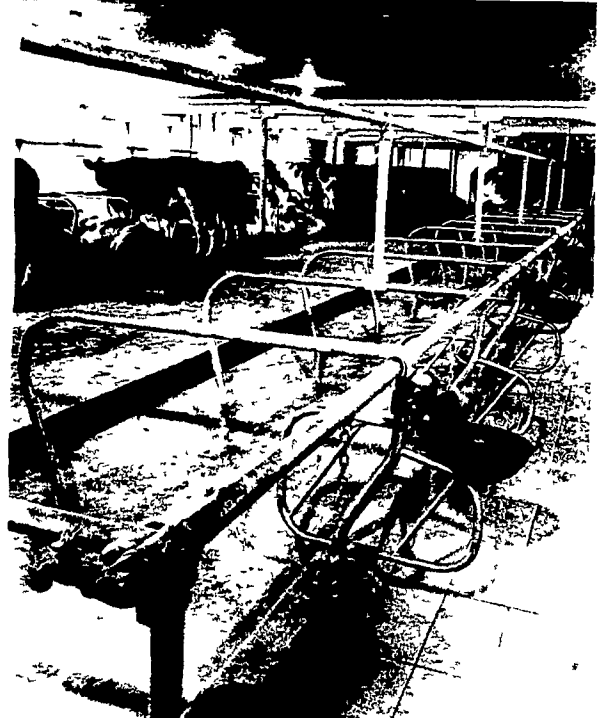
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