

PFA Says Boycott Failed

The meat boycott was called a failure this week by John R. Pitzer, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA), because the boycotters were attacking the wrong thing.

PFA is a general farm organization with more than 16,900 family members in Pennsylvania, and has 49 county affiliates. It is also affiliated with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the largest general farm organization in the United States.

"Wet sidewalks don't cause rain, but rain causes wet sidewalks," Pitzer said. "High food prices don't cause inflation, but inflation causes high food costs. Until we all understand that the high price of meat is caused by inflation and attempt to solve this problem, we are just kidding ourselves.

"A great hue and cry has been raised about food prices in recent months," Pitzer said. "Food prices have risen because of excessive consumer demand in relation to available supplies. Farmers and ranchers are endeavoring both to increase supplies and to curb excessive demand caused by our government's irresponsible spending policies.

"The dedication of farmers and ranchers to fiscal responsibility contrasts with the efforts of AFL-CIO President George Meany and

others, who seek to make a political issue out of food prices instead of buckling down to the hard task of balancing the federal budget."

PFA through its national organization - Farm Bureau - has proposed across-the-board budget cuts which "point the way to fiscal responsibility," Pitzer said. The organization has called for a total cut of \$13,400,000,000.

"The food boycott was a failure. It was doomed to fail even if it succeeded because the real culprit is inflation.

"Deficit spending by the federal government and programs and policies which increase the supply of money and credit faster than production of goods and services are basic causes of inflation.

"Inflation has raised farmers' production costs to the highest level in history," the farm leader said.

"The most pressing need for the future economic stability of America is a balanced federal budget. We must be willing either to reduce expenditures or to pay additional taxes. We prefer reducing expenditures.

"The Nixon Administration's proposals for a reduced federal budget moved in the right direction," he said, "but they fall nearly \$13 billion short of the amount necessary to bring federal receipts and expenditures

into balance."

He noted that the Administration's budget calls for a reduction of \$500 million in U. S. Department of Agriculture spending for "agriculture and rural development." This category includes all USDA spending except outlays for domestic feeding programs, Food for Peace and the Forest Service.

The largest reduction -- recommended by both PFA and the Administration -- is for spending on government commodity programs financed by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). These include farm price supports and direct payments.

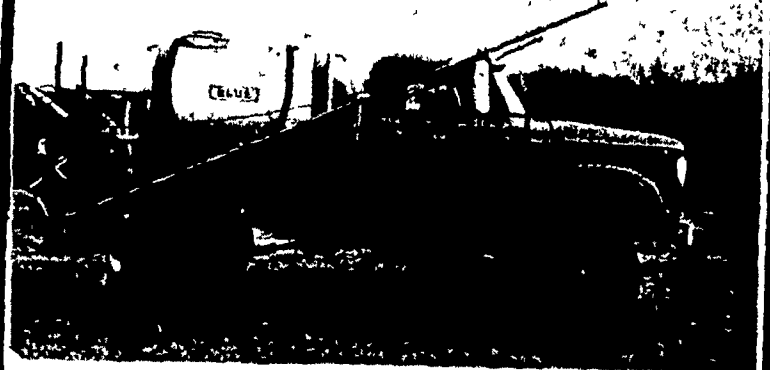
CCC spending would be reduced by nearly \$600 million -- reflecting only part of the \$1 billion cut in direct payments to farmers participating in commodity programs for 1973 crops. PFA has endorsed this reduction and has urged that, in extending the Agricultural Act of 1970, the Congress phase out "income support payments," relying instead on performance payments based on agriculture's need for adjustment and the individual farmer's contribution to that adjustment through participation in a set-aside program.

The Administration's reductions in CCC spending -- and other USDA spending cuts in fiscal 1974

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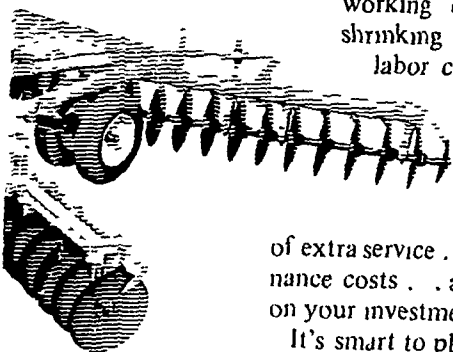
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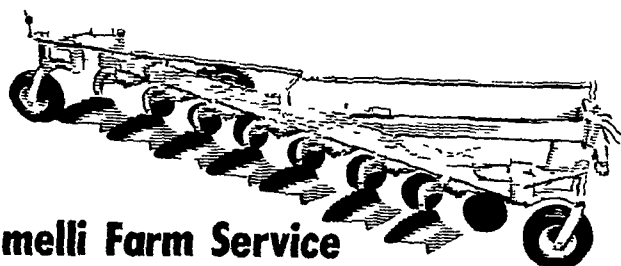
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