

# Sen. Schweiker Hits Dirty Dairy Imports

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William Simon. John Pitzer, PFA president also talked to the group of some 240 farm men and women attending the group's annual two-day Congressional meeting. Attending from Lancaster County were Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Groff, Kirkwood RD1, Donald Hershey, Manheim RD2, James Hess, Quarryville RD2, Mr. and Mrs. John Myer, Quarryville RD2, Robert Wagner, Little Britain, Mrs. Helen Wivvel,

Columbia RD1, and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Yost, Christiania RD1.

In his remarks, Pitzer talked about the fuel situation and said, "Today in Pennsylvania we have farmers who are seeking fuel for plowing," Pitzer reported. "I don't know if there is a shortage of fuel, or just poor distribution. Regardless, the farmer needs the assurance that if he plants the necessary crops to feed the nation, he will be able to

cultivate and harvest that crop. "Quite frankly, we are skeptical of the situation right now."

The Pennsylvania farm leader said that if "the farmers are unable to plant, cultivate and harvest their crops, the consumer will face unheard of high food prices."

Pitzer said that any national allocation program is going to have major problems. But, right now, the system "leaves too much room for 'buck passing'."

The farm organization spokesman also called for cutting government spending to bring inflation under control. Speaking directly to the congressmen in the audience he said: "You can help bring the farmers' costs into line by taking decisive steps in eliminating government-fed inflation. Let's forget the symptoms and attack the real disease — government spending."

He said that control of food

prices, rollbacks on gasoline prices and other moves by government to control the economy have done nothing but to treat the symptoms of the real problem. "Don't attempt to tell we farmers that high food prices cause inflation. We don't believe it and soon the voting consumer is going to explain the facts of life to all elected officials."

"The consumer and the farmer, who by the way is a large consumer, is sick and tired of inflation eating into our incomes like a malignant cancer. We can't afford this luxury anymore, and neither can you!"

Thursday morning William Erwin, assistant secretary of agriculture for rural development, spoke to the group at a breakfast meeting, after which the group returned home.

"Pennsylvania, already a leader in creating non-farm jobs in rural areas, is on the

threshold of a significant expansion of such development," Erwin said.

Speaking before a breakfast meeting of Pennsylvania Farmer Association leaders in Washington, Secretary Erwin said, "Pennsylvania is attached to the giant megalopolis that runs from Washington, D. C., to Boston. It is close to the huge markets provided by the millions of people who live nearby. This gives the State an important comparative advantage in terms of energy conservation and transportation efficiency."

"Now is the time for farmers and their rural nonfarm and village neighbors to organize to use this expected economic growth to curb escalating local taxes and to build the kind of a community that will serve the needs of their families more fully."

City people are increasingly interested in preserving good, nearby farm land. Open space and the environment are important to them; but, when they look at energy costs per ton mile for food transportation, they get even more interested.

"The recent opening of East-West Interstate Highway 80 triggered the beginning of a major developmental process in northern Pennsylvania. You have easy access to world markets through the modern port facilities in Philadelphia. You have a network of railroads, you have raw materials and a good work force. Business

leaders know this. Already anxious to move plants, offices, and laboratories to rural areas, many businesses are already taking advantage of these conditions. Your challenge, as responsible farmers, in a system of self-determination, is to organize to guide this development so as to best serve the interests of the community and its people," Erwin continued.

Farmers, the official said, may strengthen their hand by joining nonfarm rural neighbors in creating the kind of a community they want. That's because nonfarm rural residents, in the Keystone State, outnumber farmers nearly ten to one. Farmers now make up slightly over 2 percent of the State's population, while nonfarm rural people make up nearly 25 percent.

"Next to the family," Erwin said, "the community wields more influence over the kind of kids raised and the sort of life rural families enjoy than any other force. And for that reason alone, more and more farmers are taking leadership roles in community development matters."

"Rural development is the best way to bring needed nonfarm job opportunities to young people who desire to remain close to home and to small farmers and to members of farm families who are able to take part-time or full-time, off-the-farm employment."

"And if farm youngsters who select nonfarm vocations eventually inherit, as they generally do, their share of the home-farm assets, it is better that that wealth be inherited in the local community than by heirs in distant cities."

Help is available to local leaders who want to have a bigger voice over growth of their area, Erwin told the farm leaders. Federal loans are available to finance needed water, sewer and other developmental facilities. Loans are also available for local housing and to stimulate business development.



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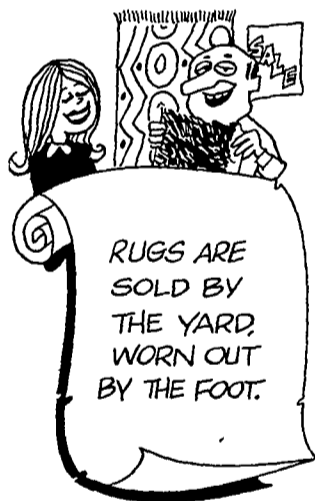
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