

## Feed Industry

(Continued from Page 1)

Agriculture will certainly help our balance of payments problem, but it won't completely solve it."

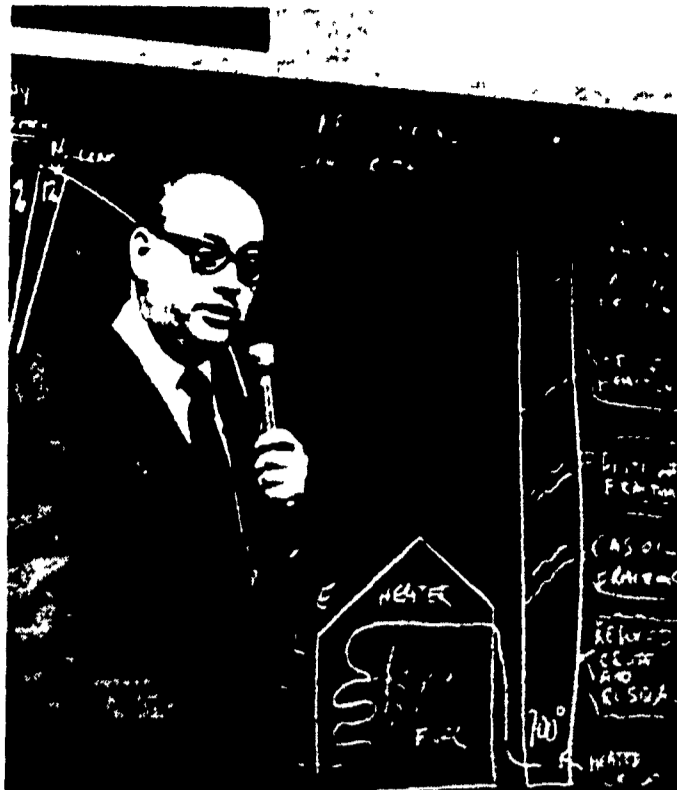
Featured speaker at the conference was John H. Frazier, Jr., a Chicago grain expert and feed industry leader. Frazier talked about the fuel crisis and said that he and others in the grain industry foresaw an energy crunch at least two years ago. Part of agriculture's problem, he said, is that farmers have changed their method of handling corn, the nation's largest crop. "We've put ourselves in a box by picking and shelling the crop in the field," he told the feedmen. "Because we pick and shell, we need natural gas for drying. And if we run out of natural gas, we won't be able to handle our largest crop."

Frazier sees a possible return to corn cribs as a means of corn storage, and reported that he'd seen

many new cribs being built recently in areas of Ohio.

On March 11, the Federal Energy Office voted to give agriculture all the petroleum it needs. Frazier is a member of the FEO's agricultural advisory committee, and reported that some consequences of that decision may seem a little strange to some people. "The beer bottle manufacturers told us they should get all the petroleum they need because they were in the business of moving an agricultural product. The FEO lawyers tried to tighten up the definition of agriculture, but I told them I think they ought to let it alone. Sure, you're going to have a few things happen that maybe shouldn't, but if you try to exclude any agricultural product, you're eventually going to hurt farmers."

Frazier said agricultural fuel needs in 1974 will be 125 percent of what they were in 1973, but the country as a whole will be getting five percent less crude oil.



John Frazier explains the intricacies of petroleum product manufacture to feed industry representatives at a feed meeting in Harrisburg on Wednesday.

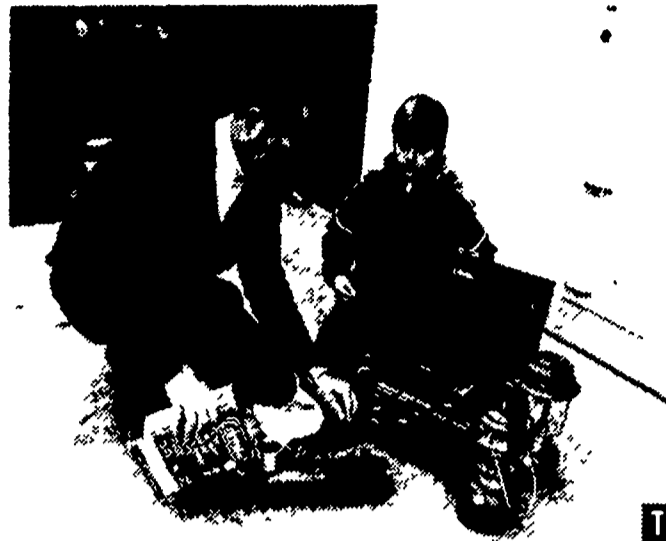
"Sombdy has to give up something," he noted.

He said the government's push for complete fuel independence was wise, but he didn't feel we should ever entirely stop buying crude oil for foreign suppliers. "We want to sell food to the rest of the world, which means we have to buy their products in return. And if we don't buy their crude, they can't buy our food."

The energy crisis isn't all bad, Frazier commented, because it's forcing us to do some of the things we should have been doing anyway. The country's new awareness of fuel problems has forced a lot of people to think about long range plans for the conservation of energy.

## SAFETY SENSE

KEEPING CAMP STOVES AND LANTERNS HANDY



Storms and the possibility of power shortage could mean a second season for camp stoves and lanterns. It's a good idea to have them ready for use indoors in case of emergency. Draining and adding fresh fuel should be done outdoors.

Camping families may have built-in protection from discomfort caused by electric power outages

With literally millions of outdoor lanterns, stoves and heaters stored away, it should be a simple matter for the owners to ride out brownouts and blackouts, says Sheldon Coleman, chairman and chief executive officer of the Coleman Company.

"The usefulness of lanterns and portable stoves in emergency situations has been demonstrated time and again over the past 50 years," Coleman said. "The important thing is to make sure

they are ready for immediate service when needed"

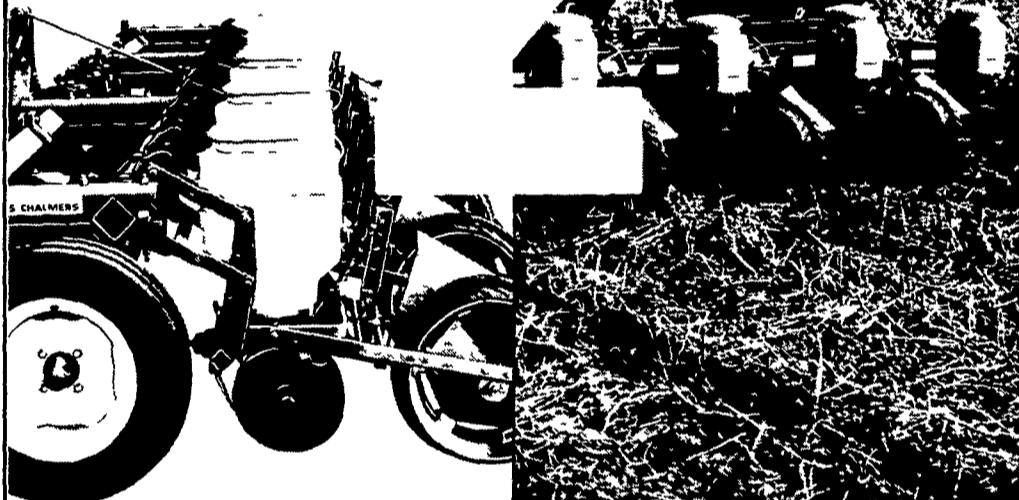
Coleman recommends gas-oline-fueled appliances be drained and refilled with approved stove and lantern fuel. Broken mantles on lanterns should be replaced. All appliances should be tested outdoors before being stored

Other outdoor gear such as sleeping bags, flashlights and electric lanterns are good additions to the family's "emergency locker" Even insulated jugs and ice chests can be pressed into service should power outages affect the water supply

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## From the Senate Side

from Senator  
**Clarence F. Manbeck**  
R-48th District

The recently enacted tax cut for all Pennsylvanians, hammered out after an eight-month stalemate, has raised the question of Constitutionality.

The fact that the plan could be challenged in the courts has caused some people to be concerned over the possibility of losing the tax break. They apparently believe that if the plan fails, the reduction in the Pennsylvania Income Tax is invalid.

That's not true. Built into the plan is what is called a severability clause, a clause which says simply that if any part of the tax relief plan is found invalid, the rest remains in effect.

The part of the plan supposedly on shaky Constitutional ground has nothing to do with the actual cut that drops the income tax from 2.3 per cent to 2 per

cent. The part in question has to do with defining who is eligible for a tax exemption under a special clause in the Constitution.

Under Article VIII, Section 2 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Legislature is empowered to create special classes for taxation of the poor, the aged, the disabled and the infirm.

Defining just who is infirm, however, seems to be the problem. Though the Constitution allows setting up the class, it does not provide any guidelines for defining the class.

To date, the matter has been more academic than anything. There has been no indication that anyone is going to challenge the provision. And even if they do, it is quite possible the court would find in favor of the way the plan is drafted.

The important thing, however, is that regardless of what happens, the long-overdue tax cut is a reality

and will go into effect May 1.

Since it is retroactive to January 1, the tax will be collected from May 1 through the end of this year at 1.85 per cent. That means that for each \$100 you earn, \$1.85 will be deducted rather than the \$2.30 that is being taken out under the old plan. Starting January 1 of next year, the withholding rate will be \$2.00 for each \$100 you earn.

It is because of Republican insistence that the tax cut is permanent. From the outset, the Governor wanted a one-shot cut in the form of a direct rebate. Republicans stood firm, arguing that both revenues and projected revenues clearly indicated a permanent cut was possible.

That point — permanent or one-shot relief — was the chief cause for the eight-month stalemate. Finally, a Republican plan was passed by the Senate and House, but vetoed by the Governor. This led to the talks that resulted in the compromise plan.

Originally, the Republicans wanted a 12 percent credit for State income tax paid in 1973. It was part of the plan vetoed by the Governor.

Finally, in place of the 12 percent credit, the Republicans settled for special consideration of the elderly, disabled and servicemen and a compromise was worked out.



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