

Local Dairymen Join NFU Washington Talks

Simon Zook of Chester County was among more than 100 Farmers Union dairy farmers who went to Washington, D.C. last week to demand that the Federal government take action to halt the drastic economic decline in the dairy industry and to assure continued supplies for the consumer.

"We went to the highest levels of government with our recommendations for higher dairy price supports, lower dairy imports, and general improvements in the farm program", Zook said.

William Shepherd, also of Chester County, was with the Farmers Union delegation, made up of one representative from each of the 11 states participating in the fly-in, to meet at the White House Wednesday with Norman E. Ross, Jr., Assistant Director of the Domestic Council. The delegation described the dire economic plight of dairy farmers across the country and told Ross that thousands of dairy farmers are liquidating their herds and that unless action is taken immediately, thousands more will go out of the dairy business before the end of the year.

In addition to the White House meeting, the Farmers Union dairymen described their plight to their own Congressmen and Senators, to members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and to officials at the Department of Agriculture.

During the meeting at the Agriculture Department, a USDA news release was distributed which announced that a national hearing will be held in the near future to review Class I milk prices. One of the USDA officials said that it is highly unusual for such an announcement to be made before all of the details of the hearings had been worked out. He said

that it was more than a coincidence that the announcement was made while the Farmers Union dairy fly-in to Washington was in progress.

"Hearings, which may prove to be more significant to dairy farmers, will begin next week in Congress", Zook said. "We worked hard to inform the members of our problems to help prepare them for dairy price support hearings to be held by the House Agriculture Committee September 24 and 25 and by the Senate Agriculture Committee on September 30."

Rep. Bob Bergland (D-Minn.), a member of the

House Agriculture Committee, told the Farmers Union dairymen that the Committees will take a serious look at the dairy situation since the Administration apparently has refused to act. He told his luncheon audience Tuesday, that with costs increasing by 20 percent since March and dairy prices plummeting by 20 percent during the same period, it is obvious that dairy farmers need help.

Senator Frank Moss (D-Utah) said that governmental intervention is required immediately to increase dairy prices and stabilize the dairy industry. He said farmers and con-

sumers share a common reasonable income for the interest in the salvation of the farmer will assure abundant the dairy industry. A supplies for the consumer.

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Candidates To Speak

Gov. Milton J. Shapp and Drew Lewis, the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor, will speak at the 102nd annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Grange in Washington (Pa.) Monday, Oct. 28.

A. Wayne Readinger, state Grange master, said the two candidates were invited to express their views to the 2,000 delegates and Grange members who will attend the convention.

Lewis will speak at 3 p.m. and Gov. Shapp at 8 p.m. on Monday, the opening day of the four-day convention. The sessions will be held in the auditorium of the Trinity Area Senior High School.

Readinger, who heads the 58,000-member state Grange, said "we feel it is particularly important at this time to hear the opinions and proposals of both candidates for the office of chief executive of Pennsylvania. We are pleased that these candidates accepted our invitation to speak at the convention."

This is the second time in recent years that gubernatorial candidates of the major parties have been invited to speak at a state Grange convention, Readinger said. In 1962, William W. Scranton and Richardson Dillworth addressed the Grange convention at Reading.

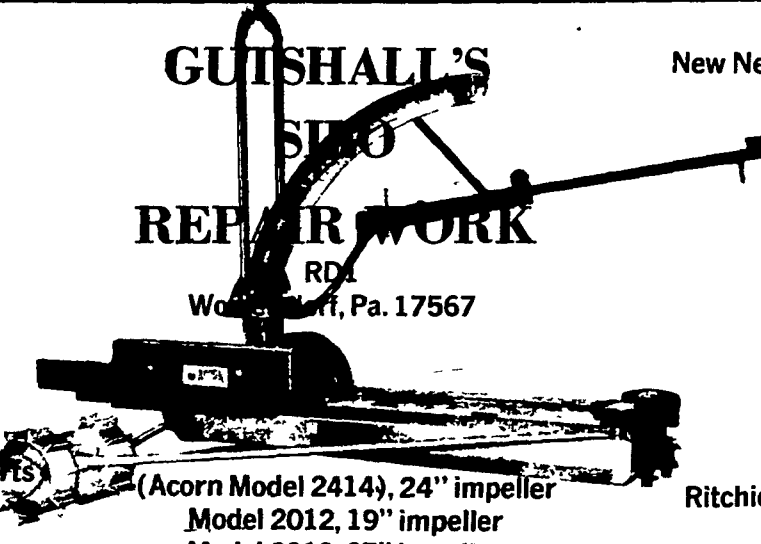
Alone and isolated, it is not unusual for a hearing loss victim to exhibit seemingly anti-social behavior, officials of the Beltone Crusade for Hearing Conservation observe. Reluctance to use the telephone, unwillingness to participate in group conversations and continual complaining that others are mumbling are a few of the "danger signals" that could indicate an undetected hearing loss, they add.

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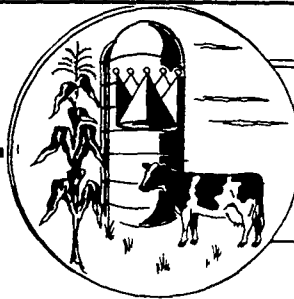
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