

Reaction to McHale

[Continued from Page 1] hadn't followed the case closely enough to be able to form an opinion; six curtly answered the phone with "no comment," and four did not know who Jim McHale is.

The survey taken on Wednesday included all kinds of farmers from several counties in the state, and calls were made strictly at random.

Here's what farmers, and in some cases, their wives, had to say about Jim McHale, his policies, and the fact that he has been voted out of office:

"As a secretary of agriculture, I believe he was better than most," replied a middle-aged Dauphin County beef operator.

A Berks County farmer stated his views in no uncertain terms: "As far as I'm concerned we don't need a secretary of agriculture, nor an agriculture department - there's too much government interference anyway and they're responsible for having caused a lot of our problems in the first place. All they've done is to place controls on controls on controls."

"I never cared much for him," another farmer said, "but I can't tell whether his removal is for the good because I don't know who will replace him - I never cared for him."

A York County woman answered the question with these words: "I never thought he was that bad, but he must have had many

people against him and they were out to get him."

"I don't know of any programs he (McHale) had which helped us, and I don't believe he was working for us in the right way, even though he did have some good ideas," a Lancaster County farmer's wife stated. "His ideas for unionization of farmers were wrong and they got him off on the wrong foot," she continued. "I hope that whoever gets in will be more responsible to farmers. McHale didn't listen to farmers enough and did mostly what he himself wanted to do. His administration was primarily a doing nothing at all type of administration," she concluded.

"I was surprised to read about it and thought he (McHale) was quite a farmer," one man said, adding that he didn't want to see McHale get ousted.

Indicative, perhaps, of the growing public sentiment against government, were the 21 individuals who either did not know who McHale was, had no comment at all, or expressed various degrees of apathy. Typical of many of the comments which were made by the 11 persons who said they hadn't followed McHale's performance, was this one by a Lancaster County farmer:

"I really wasn't following things close enough to know what his (McHale's) job entails, what he's supposed to do, and why his job was in jeopardy. I wasn't following

it closely because I'm not interested. I believe there are a number of jobs and positions in Harrisburg which are unnecessary and could be eliminated."

Another man said: "I don't pay too much attention to big shots in Harrisburg, they're all out for the money is what I think, and not out to help the small farmer. I'm opposed to regulations especially those restricting the spraying of our fields."

"About all I had against him," another fellow began, "is that he never did anything about Pennsylvania milk prices - he's always been more concerned with consumers."

"I'm not much on politics, and it don't make much difference to me," a Lebanon County hog producer revealed.

"He was good as far as I know and served the agriculture picture pretty good," a farmer replied when asked of his opinion regarding McHale's defeat in the Senate. "I didn't really follow him too much with his programs, but if we get as good a fellow to replace him we'll be alright," he concluded.

A southern Lancaster County woman emphatically stated that she and her husband were very much for McHale, adding that they even attempted to persuade other farmers in their area to support McHale and write



James McHale

letters to Harrisburg to urge his confirmation. "We are very sorry he didn't make it," she stated.

The next woman to answer the phone, also from Lancaster County, politely said she wasn't up on it much - I don't even know who you're talking about."

A Berks County dairyman, who revealed he had served on the board of directors of his milk marketing organization, said plainly that he did not care for McHale. "People around here don't think much of him," he continued. "I hope we'll get someone who will really work for us - someone who is better than he was."

A Lancaster County farmer who had met McHale on various occasions told this reporter that McHale had turned him off the first time he met him. The reason, he explained, is that the Secretary used vulgar expressions throughout his talk. "It's bad enough for a grown man to talk that way,

let alone a public official," he noted. Besides that, he also criticized McHale for having had some radical opinions, and that he wasn't really working for rural people who aren't farming - it's wonderful that they're getting him out," he said somewhat jubilantly.

Gossip Time

Mabel was in such a hurry the other day she couldn't stop to hear Myrtle's gossip in the supermarket—just had time for the headlines

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