

# Farm women told to 'fight for freedom'

Roger Fleming, former Secretary-Treasurer of American Farm Bureau Federation and new head of Farm Family Insurance Co., told local farm women that they must "fight for freedoms everywhere." Addressing the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association Women's Rally at Lamar, the farm official

asserted, "You women are our not-so-secret weapon in the campaign to bring the importance of economic questions and issues to the forefront in this Bicentennial year."

He warned his audience not to be misled by those "30 second TV spots" that lead Americans to believe the only important things about their heritage are the military victories or the political oratory.

He termed the basic tense of the United States style of living to be the capitalism which embraces these four requirements: (1) Private ownership of property in most cases, (2) Private management of property in most instances, (3) the opportunity for profit with the necessary risk of losing within the system, and (4) competitive conditions that offer both the opportunity and risk.

He boiled down his description of inflation to the picture of a kettle boiling over. When a cook sees that situation, he or she doesn't just put the lid on, he turns down the heat.

"Even the smallest kids running their lemonade stands on a hot blistering day, when business is heavy, have learned the secret to inflation," he noted. "They simply fill an extra pitcher with water and dump it into the lemonade and keep on selling. Well, you know who has the bucket deluting the lemonade. They're all in Washington D.C.!"

Fleming sees the farmer and non-farm consumers with a common stake in the economic problems of this decade ever since the war on poverty and the Vietnam war kicked them off. "We've got to get rid of the interveners who see only the hole in the donut," he asserted.

"No economic system in the world has ever produced as much food to feed the world and raise the standard

of living like the American system. But now the real threat to this system is on the horizon. There are those who feel agriculture must become a public utility. Already there are the threats of intervention in chemical regulations, land control guised as land use programs and embargoes on grain that deny farmers free markets."

County women Ethel and Phyllis Gross, Mary Marsteller and Gail McPherson wholeheartedly supported Fleming's conclusion which led to a standing ovation: "The American people, in this Bicentennial year, must rededicate themselves to the preservation of their economic freedoms," he began.

"To accomplish this goal we must first strengthen our churches and affirm our faith in God; then we must strengthen our respect for the worth and integrity of the individual. We must minimize patronage that simply cuts down the worth of persons; and we must decentralize government which threatens state, local and individual rights."

"Finally, we must come to recognize economic and political freedoms as Siamese twins. There is no future in pessimism. Like the prophet Nehemiah, we must repair the wall in front of us."

Fleming closed on a humorous description of the liberation of farm women over the two ensuing centuries: "When the cows get out, because the fence gets down, you women are liberated!"

Fleming's speech concluded a day-long workshop session for the farm women at which they had learned about the project for informing farmers about new OSHA requirements, the member services of their association and the policy development, information network and legislative work of PFA.

## Five 4-H'ers to attend conference

Five outstanding Pennsylvania 4-H'ers have been selected to take part in the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. April 24 to 29.

The conference, with headquarters at the National 4-H Center, is designed to explore ways to improve 4-H work and to interpret the youth program to legislators and other public officials through personal contact.

The 4-H members attending the national conference are Wayne Bender of Sonestown; Jeffrey Roth of Spring Grove; Wendy Graves of Bloomsburg; Terry Coon of Clinton, and Pat Reinhart of Gettysburg.

Major thrusts of this conference will be based on the Bicentennial theme, "4-H '76 — Spirit of Tomorrow." The delegates will have an opportunity to concentrate their participation on 4-H program history, heritage, and plans for Century III, future directions of 4-H and on our nation's heritage; and horizons for the future including emphasis on international programs.

Several hundred 4-H members from all states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia will take part in the activities.

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