## Farmer tells U.S. labor to wake up

Walter D. Carlin operates a large hog and steer farm in Bedford County and was prompted to write this article after having read two stories in the Nov. 21 issue of U.S. News and World Report entitled "If the Steel Industry Is To Survive," and "Strikes End Labor's Calm With More Unrest to Come." A copy of the article appearing on this page of Lancaster Farming was also forwarded to U.S. News and World Report and the Bedford Gazette.

Carlin is a former Chester Countian, having operated a poultry farm about five miles south of Coatesville. A husband and father to five children, the author has lived and worked in Bedford County for five years.

#### By WALTER D. CARLIN, JR.

As a farmer, I would like to have you think briefly with me on these thoughts.

It is a well-known fact that since 1950 farm production per man hour has increased nearly two and one half times as rapidly as has productivity per man hour in industry. Because of this tremendous achievement, American food is a better bargain today both at home and in world markets than ever before. Food costs average about 16 per cent of the American worker's takehome pay while in other major countries, workers must pay a much larger share of their wages for food - as high as 60 per cent. Domestically, this abundance of food production has enabled Americans to divert vast amounts of worker's income and labor to provide us with a fabulous living standard, including everything from automobiles, highways, schools and homes to television sets, motorboats, camping trailers and overseas vacations. Competitively priced food is our greatest exportable asset in keeping. our trade deficits from swallowing us.

How has this miracle come about? When the farmer wakes in the morning, he infringement knows exactly what tasks management's prerogatives must be completed before he to reclassify and eliminate can go to bed that night. He jobs according to changing also knows that if he doesn't do them, no one else will! He

headache or backache. He

hustles all day long! He is

not ham-strung by work

rules and job classifications. A farmer will continually increase his productivity by investing profits and anticipated profits in new equipment and technology which promise to make his work easier or potentially more rewarding. His efforts have succeeded beyond measure in supplying the world with food and fibre which is affordable!!

However - I offer that this achievement could have been equalled or exceeded by industry if not for these obstacles to industrial efficiency.

Traditionally, when management shows a profit (or even if it doesn't), union labor is always ready to demand a big share of action irregardless of whether this profit is related to productiveity per man hour or should be attributed to superior managment

vestments in plants, machinery, technology and inventories.

Labor is always there, through threat of strikes, with new demands for higher pay, longer annual vacations. additional paid holidays, increased benefits in hospitalization and dental plans, earlier and costlier retirements, 13 week paid vacations each five years, job protection schemes and

work situations.

Coming from a steel town, will not be slowed down by a I have friends in executive positions in the steel industry who quickly point out that they would drop onethird of the work force and produce just as much steel.

gained restrictions on management have tied their

hands. In these trying days when steel companies are crying in the face of non-existent profits, when employees are losing jobs and faced with further losses of employment, when both corporations and unions are demanding protection from foreign imports, which easily compete for our domestic markets with our obviously over-priced products, I say to the greedy unions - Wake Up! Roll up your sleeves and do what the American farmer has always had to do - an honest

During this same period, our once unequalled industrial strength has been bled and drained by greedy

decisions, i.e., capital in- However, many of the ab- unions of its potential to ove mentioned union- reinvest adequate amounts of capital in new plants and manufacturing facilities.

Wake up American labor! - It may not be too late to allow industry to rebuild and recapture the once earned and deserved position as the giant of the industrial world. day's work for an honest

American agriculture these past 25 years has become the strength of our country and the envy of the world. Without our tremendous exports of food and fibre to a competitive world market to strengthen our international trade balances, this nation would be bankrupt.

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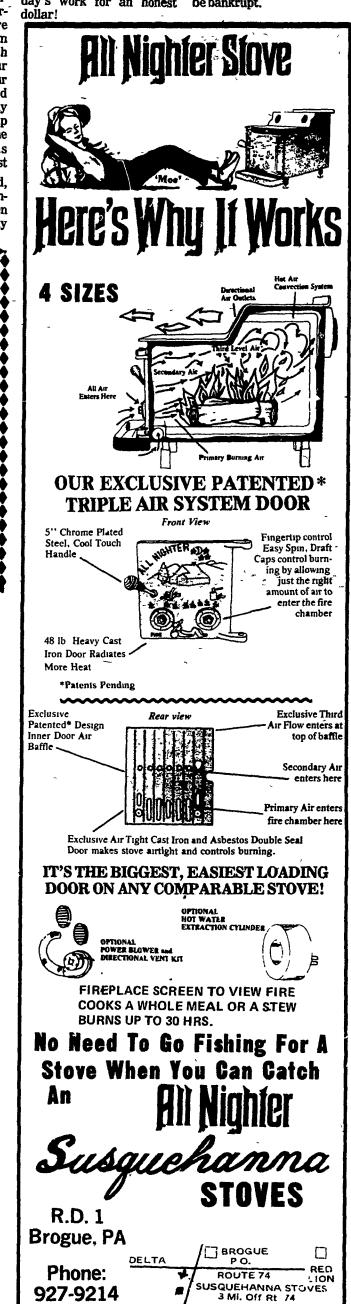
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