

Maryland Agriculture Commission hears farm movement leaders

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - The Maryland Agricultural Commission recently met with American Agriculture Movement representatives Wayne Eakin and Richard Carlisle to discuss their proposals and programs.

The meeting with the Commission lasted for over an hour and a half.

The discussion ranged from the effects of the current low prices on agriculture to specific items such as their proposal that commodity import prices be fixed at 110 per cent of parity.

Other topics of conversation included the potential impact of their program on foreign trade and the world balance of payments as well as whether it was realistic to fix milk prices to 100 per cent of parity.

The Commission and the Agriculture Movement were in agreement that U.S. agriculture would be best suited if government stayed out of the management of prices and that only by limiting production or expanding markets would the laws of supply and demand

function properly for farmers.

Other topics of the Commission meeting included a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages for farms being brought into the Department of Natural Resources Water Appropriations System. Having recognized several months ago that farmers, because they are currently exempt from needing Water Appropriation Permits have cloudy standing in times of water shortage, the Commission has met in the past with personnel of the University of Maryland, the United States Geological Survey and Maryland's Water Resources Administration.

The Commission discussed possible forms an agricultural Water Appropriations System might take. Considerations included usage that would be automatically permitted, fees involved, reporting procedures necessary and protections a system would provide farmers.

The Commission decided to formalize the discussion and then, over the next three

or four months, to discuss the situation with the agricultural groups they represent.

Two drafts of proposed regulations were approved by the Commission. The first dealt with the definition of "Country Hams" and is intended to protect the integrity of those who truly sell Country Hams. The second with rules of procedures for the Department of

Agriculture's Board of Review.

The Department of Natural Resources brought proposed Wetland Regulations to the Commission's attention. It was decided to defer the discussion of the regulations until the January meeting which will be January 12, 1978 at the Department of Agriculture, Conference Room, Parole Plaza, Annapolis.

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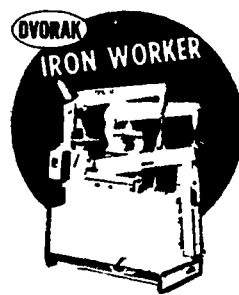
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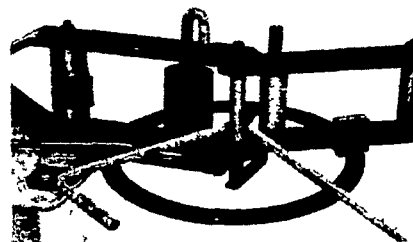
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