

McPherson

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history has mostly been made from movements created by minorities."

Mrs. McPherson directed her first verbal round of shots at agriculture chemical restrictions.

"Take away all the farmer's scientific aids because

of so-called 'health reasons' and we'll soon see a shortage of food. It becomes a problem of the risks of pesticide usage versus the risk of dying from toxic substances forming from natural causes," she warned.

Intellectuals have pushed

arguments in recent years that "food is for people, not for profit," and that "profit is a four-letter word." Commenting on that philosophy, Gail noted examples of television broadcasting profits having been up 60 per cent in 1977, while oil company profits finished this year at only the two per cent level.

"The government can provide to people in this country only what profitable businesses pay into the coffers in taxes. It's time to shout back, farmers, that businessmen and farmers must make a profit to support the demands being made on this government."

Research has traditionally been upheld as the way to feed the world's growing population, but Mrs. McPherson has some reservations about that goal.

"The Green Revolution has not worked to the benefit of American farmers," she argued. Superior varieties of rices and other grains were developed to save Asians, using our tax dollars, instead of putting that money into domestic research. Thus, your taxes perfected crops for other countries, undermining your potential export sales."

"And, at the same time, Dr. Norman Borlaug was being recognized for his high-yielding varieties of grains, the chemical DDT was banned from use on crops here in this country, taking away one of our most efficient and inexpensive tools," she added.

Misrepresentation of the current farm labor situation worries the spokeswoman, too. She cited USDA study that showed only two per

cent of the entire work force on farms are migrant laborers. Three-quarters of all farm work is performed by farm family members and two-thirds of the remaining hired workers are high school students and housewives earning extra money.

But the most subtle madmen of all are those who keep silently handing out the paperwork, in Mrs. McPherson's opinion.

One prime example of questionable regulatory involvement arose after recent fatal explosions in Midwestern grain elevators. Investigators suspect that those explosions were caused by required dust-emission equipment. Rather than ease up on the dust-compacting regulations, federal authorities have slapped on an additional 17 pages of restrictions and now promise to close the elevators to business on all days that the humidity drops under 45 per cent.

In a plea for every-farmer involvement in finding solutions to the rash of problems facing agriculture,

Gail concluded with some self-help suggestions.

"Look beyond your barns and fields into the suburbs and cities. The people are bound with agricultural illiteracy. Contact your representatives; give your dollars to support your commodities. Go to the schools, invite the public to your not-always-glamorous farm. Attend meetings and communicate back and forth with other consumers. Reason, reality, and God are on your side."

Presentation of the first annual "Green George" award was made by George Williams, owner of the Codorus Fertilizer Service. Destined to become a lighthearted "Academy Award" of the area agriculture industry, the hand-painted ceramic statue went to Robert and Lucretia Rebert, Spring Grove R2. Their selection was based on "unusual achievement in the field of agriculture above and beyond the call of duty," and was presented to the Reberts for their unique method of replanting missed corn rows.

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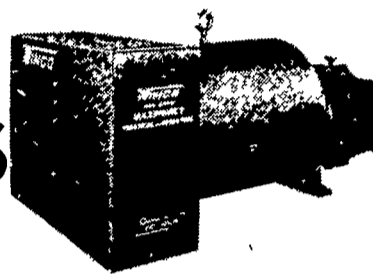
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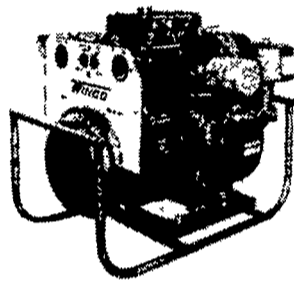


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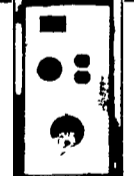
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