



Eugene Gayman, vice president of the PFA, told legislators and farmers alike of the problems facing agriculture today.

PFA members gather to meet with legislators

By KENDACE BORRY
HERSHEY - A time for Pennsylvania Farmers' Association members to politick with legislative members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly was the reason for the state legislative briefing session and dinner held April 13, at the Hershey Motor Lodge and Convention Center. Close to 500 people gathered to talk and exchange ideas of an agricultural and political nature.

Speaker at the dinner was

Eugene Gayman, vice president of the PFA. Addressing to legislators and farmers alike, he told his audience that the farmer is an optimist. They dream of "getting environmentalists off their backs; government rescinding foolish regulations; assessments of land going down; and zoning regulations treating farmers fairly."

Explaining the farming situation today, he noted that input costs are at a record high, and the prices farmers

receive for their products don't begin to give them a fair profit. He told legislators that some constructive legislation is needed to make farming a profitable business again.

"We need to be able to affect the market price of our products once they leave the farm" Gayman noted. "On numerous occasions the Pa. Farmers' Association through key legislators has introduced legislation in the General Assembly to give farmers

more clout in marketing their products. To date, you, the legislators have not seen fit to grant farmers this privilege. Time is running out for many of us."

He went on to explain that what farmers would like to see is marketing and bargaining legislation that would permit farmers to negotiate the price and sale conditions of their products.

"Basically what we are asking is that when 50 per cent of the producers ship-

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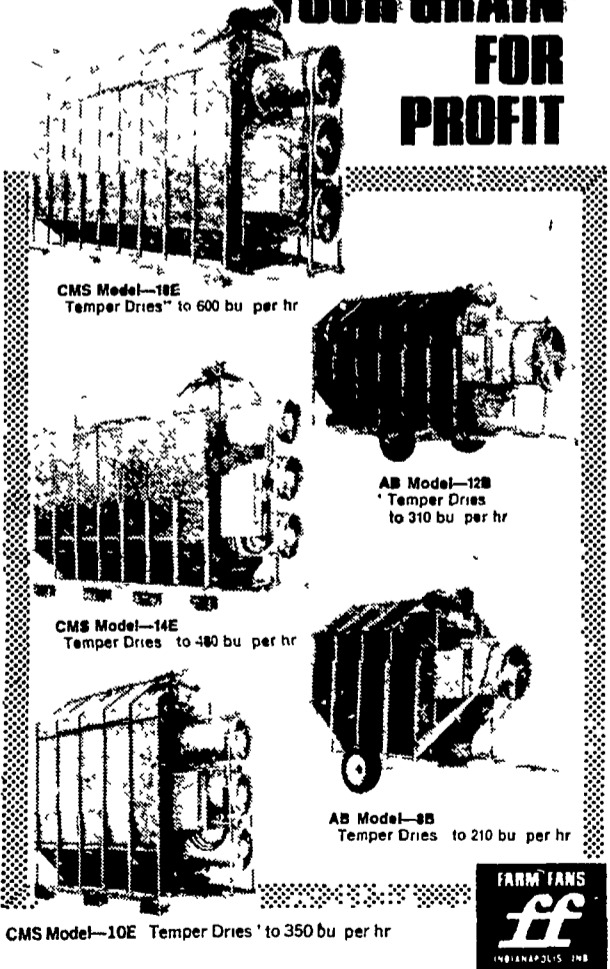
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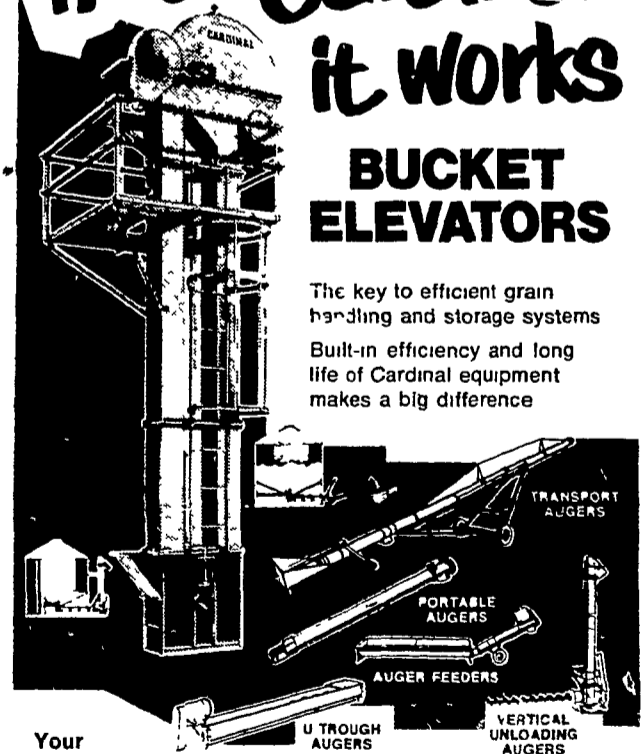
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