

He claims there's more to it than meets the eye

This farmer went to Washington

By DIETER KRIEG

WOODSTOWN, N.J. — Merton Coles and his wife, Pauline, support the actions of farmers demonstrating in Washington, and they claim that news reports on the farmers' activities are slanted against them. That, in fact, is why they went to the nation's capital two weeks ago. Coles says he couldn't believe what he was hearing, seeing and reading, so he went down to witness for himself. "They weren't giving the story of the farmer," he explained. "They were talking about violence and tractors on fire," he complained.

According to Coles, the farmers didn't cause any disruptions. Rather, incidents of bad conduct were instigated by law enforcement officers and then one thing led to another.

The Coles also maintain that if farmers here in the East were as informed about agriculture and national affairs

as the farmers in the Midwest, many more would support the American Agriculture Movement.

Coles says he went to the nation's capital not because he was so dissatisfied with his own farming situation, but rather to see for himself what's going on and because he sympathizes with the plight of Midwestern farmers. His convictions grew considerably after he made the trip to Washington. He returned an excited supporter of the American Agriculture Movement.

He says he can no longer just stand idly by.

"Normally I'm a quiet, peaceful citizen," he explained. "But we weren't getting the coverage, and I believe if people were properly informed, they would see things differently," he continued. He wants to do his part to spread the kind of thinking the American Agriculture Movement represents.

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Farmers in the East aren't as well informed about agriculture, government, and world affairs as their counterparts in the Midwest, says Merton Coles, a New Jersey dairyman who supports the American Agriculture Movement. If it weren't for his Midwestern contacts, he added, he wouldn't be informed and enthused enough to support the cause. As it is, he firmly believes that if others were as informed as AAM members, they too would support such activities as the tractorcade in Washington, D.C.

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