

## A land

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lost in snow, other sections are bathed in sunshine.

That means a lot, especially in agriculture. We can produce food the year around and virtually anything that grows under the sun. Our land offers that much.

Not only do we have beneficial variations in climate, we also have a vast inventory of resources - from coal and oil, to timber and iron ore, and water. Above all, we have land - lots of it, and we can still afford the luxury of space.

Our land yields food and fibre, and materials to build homes, factories, computers, and airplanes.

What's more, we have research and learning centers. We have gifted people with expertise. We have technology, and free enterprise and freedoms that most people can't enjoy.

When you think about it, there isn't much that we don't have. We have been given the keys to a land of milk and honey. Few other nations, if any, have all the inventories that we're blessed with. That becomes very apparent when you consider the size of this country and have travelled it from one end to the other.

With all that going for us, then why is it that we're feeling the pinch? And why are a number of other nations with much fewer blessings sailing right past us?

Do some of those other countries have something that we don't have?

Japan and Germany come to mind. Only a fraction of our size in area, with people squeezed into virtually every corner of the land and no extraordinary amount of resources to depend on, they're producing and thriving. Why? Because they have to if they want to survive. They can't afford to sit back and enjoy the luxuries a big country affords.

It's worth mentioning that 20-some years ago practically every television set made in the world was made in the USA. Kodak may still be the biggest name in film and cameras, but Japanese cameras dominate the 35-millimeter selection. Cars, too,

are often imported from Japan and European countries. The world's production patterns and economic relationships have changed drastically over the past decade or two.

About all we export is Mickey Mouse, rock music, and of course, agricultural products.

We should, naturally, be able to produce and export much more than that, considering our climate, resources, and expertise. My goodness, we have put a man on the moon already. Can't we have a better balance of trade?

I think what this country needs is direction and purpose and pride. And if we need labor unions, we need to have them realize that they can't have their pie and eat it too.

We haven't felt the pinch enough to muster our collective willpower and shape it into a national goal. The last time we had a national goal and some pride was when we went to the moon. That's been a decade ago and we've been drifting along ever since.

Thank God that agriculture is still on top of things. But we aren't necessarily the most productive and efficient in that area either. Crop production per acre of land is far ahead of ours in some parts of Europe, and the new innovations in our barns are quite often only imported versions of what Europe has had for the past decade. Significantly, they're doing it with less energy.

Our edge in agricultural productivity comes mostly as a result of the surface area we're able to cultivate and the favorable ranges of climate we're blessed with. That's enough to keep us in the Number 1 position for a long time to come.

But it'll require being on our toes all the time, lest we lose what has already been lost in industry, which is largely the fault of labor unions. Let's hope that the current squeeze will be taken as a lesson which leads to a better economy and future.

At worst, the economic squeeze could prove us to be a nation of fools.

At best, it can offer us directions and goals and pride so that we might be better than ever.

## Is gasoline short?

HARRISBURG — Farmers who are experiencing gasoline shortages should ask their supplier to contact the Governor's Energy Council for additional gasoline under the state's set-aside program. Applications can be submitted by phone (717-783-8610).

The information required on the application includes the name of the prime supplier; name, address and phone number of the gasoline station; name of

caller; gasoline allocation for current month; allocation for previous month; how much gasoline is on hand and what type of customers are supplied (agricultural, medical, construction, etc.), plus - most important - how much extra gasoline is requested.

The phone call must be followed within five days by a letter stating when you need more gasoline. The correspondence should be sent to The Governor's

Energy Council, Attention: Allocation Department, 1625 North Front Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17102.

Officials say the gasoline situation will get worse before it gets better.



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