

Haabstad fields grain embargo question

Straw poll selects candidates

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Although most of the visitors to the 1980 Farm Equipment Exposition were looking for information on machinery or products to use on their farms, this year's crowds were given a chance to learn about the political end of agriculture.

According to Hugh Coffman, Farm Show Director, he had been approached by several political candidates for space at the already over-crowded Farm Show. Several weeks prior to the opening of the Expo, Coffman said they decided to send out invitations for the election campaigns to rent space.

He noted that seven campaigns, plus the League of Women Voters, set up information booths.

The political arena, as it was dubbed by the Expo organizers, had some logistics problems when the show opened on Thursday. The political representatives found their accommodations in the poultry barn too isolated.

In order to get their beliefs across to the public, the campaigners had to strategically locate where they would be noticed. So, their displays and tables were shifted to the concourse between the commercial exhibitors and the livestock barns.

Despite the better vantage point, the Expo visitors still seemed to pass by the tables covered with political pamphlets, occasionally picking up a brochure or two. The campaigners appeared ready to talk to the visitors about their candidate's merits; but, for the most part, they succeeded only in talking among themselves.

By mid-afternoon Saturday, most of the campaigners had started packing up and tearing down their displays. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture employees in charge of conducting the straw poll began to entreat visitors passing by to take part in the vote. But, in the typical rat-race rush, the Expo spectators detoured the ballot box with a hurried "I voted already!"

The outcome of the straw poll was tabulated on Monday. With a crowd estimated at 25,000 by the Farm Show Director, the poll received a meager 356 votes for the three day "election."

The Expo visitors who voted selected George Bush as the Republican candidate, and Jimmy Carter as the Democratic candidate for President.

Bush received 72 Republican votes, followed by Ronald Reagan with 55, John Anderson and Howard Baker with 21 each, John Conley with 20 votes and several write-in votes for Gerald Ford and Barry Goldwater.

Carter swept the democratic choice, getting 78 votes. Ted Kennedy was backed by 44 Expo voters, and 10 cast their ballots for Gerry Brown.

For the U.S. Senate seat, Bud Haabstad was chosen as the Republican candidate in the straw poll, with Pete Flaherty as his Democratic opposition. Haabstad had 45



Bud Haabstad

of the 131 Republican votes, and Flaherty got 62 of the 139 Democratic votes.

The Auditor General political battle will be between James Knepper and Al Benedict, according to the Expo poll. And LeRoy Zim-

merman and Michael O'Pake will be fighting it out at the polls for Attorney General, as indicated by the ballots cast in the straw poll. The survey also foretold that Budd Dwyer and Bob Casey were the chosen candidates for the office of Treasurer.

Whether his victory was the result of his brief appearance at the Expo, Bud Haabstad was introduced to the crowd of about 300 at the Keystone Classic swine sale, held on Saturday.

After a brief introduction by PDA Secretary Hallowell, Harold F. Haabstad, Jr. told the farmers our nation's strength is in its ability to produce food. He went on to say government has to concentrate on helping the farmer, and together will

turn the country around and get it back on the right track.

In an exclusive interview with Lancaster Farming, Haabstad explained he is currently a county commissioner in Delaware County. He was quick to add he grew up on a farm near Cambridge, Maryland, until he was 18 years old. He recalled having turkeys, cattle, and hogs, and raising tomatoes on the 300 acre farm that he says is still in the family.

When asked what he felt he could do to help the current plight of the farmer, Haabstad said he felt it was unfair to think one person has the power to turn things around, but he said he would try to impress upon the legislators in Washington, D.C. the importance of the

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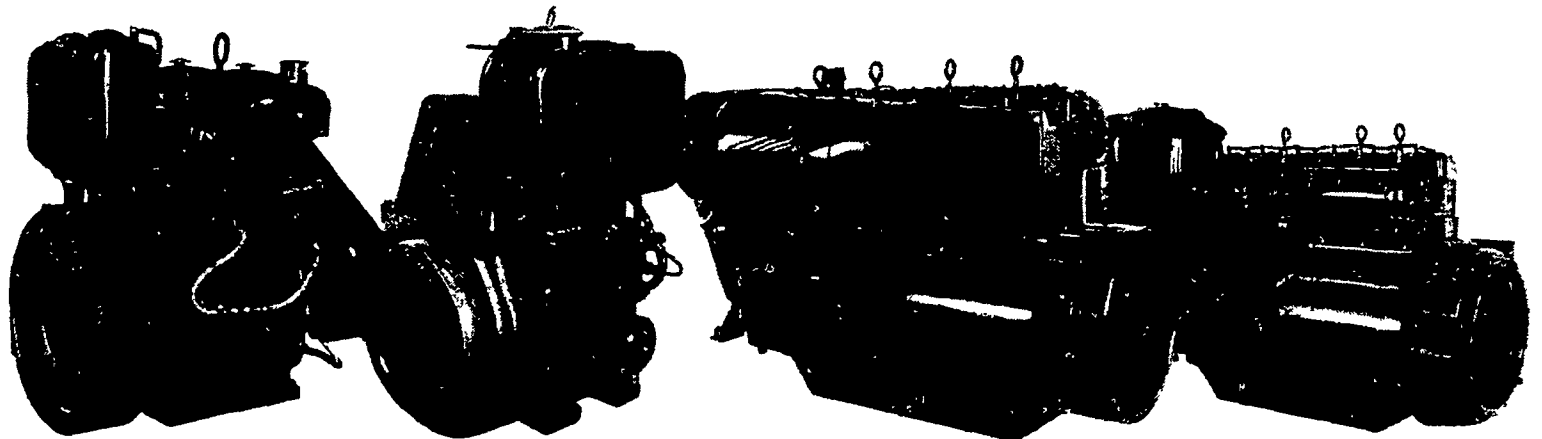
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