

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

The statement in your July 12 editorial that having the ability to pay does not entitle people to energy is a bit skewed. There are too many people that feel that they have the right to tell other people how to run their lives and how to spend their money.

And if the people being told don't listen to the folks doing the telling insist that they have the right to call in societies receive arm-government.

People do have a right to spend their labor where they want to.

If a farmer would prefer to use gasoline or diesel energy to grow his crops instead of using horsepower—that should be his privilege.

Isn't it interesting—a

hundred years ago, there were zillions of barrels of energy in the ground. Was there anyone running around, writing editorials suggesting that it be saved? I doubt it.

Rather, the folks were telling us (and the government) that they should make the oil producers take a smaller profit so that the farmers could have cheap energy—so that the consumer could have cheap food.

This is where the free market system comes in. When items are abundant, the price is low. When items are scarce, the price goes up.

If I prefer to spend money for driving 80 miles an hour (on the interstates that were designed for 100 miles per

hour—and built with my tax money that was taken from me by force or intimidation) so that I can spend an extra couple of hours at the beach—that should be my choice. If I prefer to drive 80 miles an hour instead of paying to use energy to drive a plane or a bus to take me on a foreign country tour—that should be my choice.

I have a right to energy—if I can pay for it.

Have a good day, and kick the dirt off your boots before you come in the house.

M. Hawn
West Chester

Dear Editor,

I disagree strongly with your proposed solution to the economic plight of Pennsylvania mushroom growers. Your editorial states, "While we continue to believe in the principle of free trade, mushrooms constitute a special case." It then goes on to propose new tariffs and import duties.

It is precisely this attitude on the part of thousands of special interest groups across the country that has brought upon us the mountains of bureaucratic regulation of which we now complain. Each suppliant, from the small businessman and shoe manufacturers to Chrysler, goes hat in hand to Washington seeking protection from competition.

Each has the same story "I really believe in free markets for the other guy, but my case is different."

The result is a maze of regulations, restrictions and tariffs, which do nothing to increase the efficiency of domestic producers, but which do raise considerably the cost to consumers. This translates into inflation, about which we also complain.

We have brought this situation upon ourselves by asking the government to do too much. If minimum wage

laws, taxes, and regulations are responsible for preventing the mushroom growers from competing effectively, the answer is not still more government intervention.

Instead, we should all work to have the offending laws changed and to have the regulations and restrictions removed.

Carolyn Cosentino
Rochester, N.Y.



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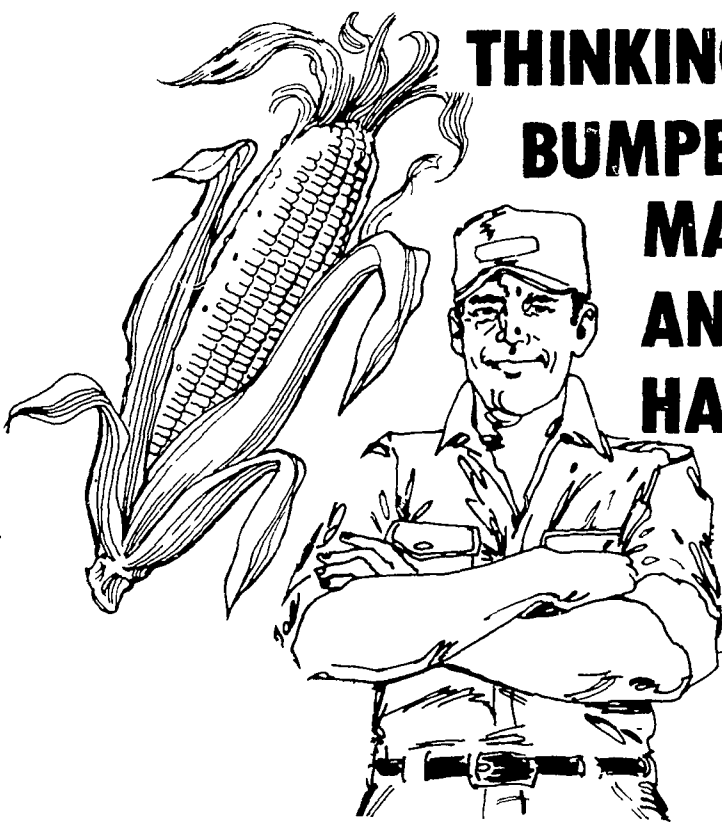
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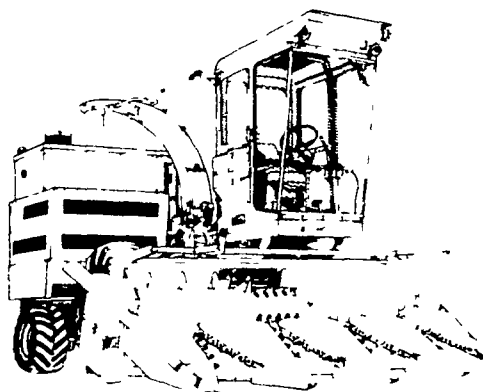
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