

## Co-op leader calls for vigilance in Washington

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A national farm leader last Friday warned farm cooperative leaders they must be adequately represented in Washington with a strong voice at the right time to preserve their effectiveness and their future.

Kenneth D. Naden, president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, speaking before the final session of Agway's 16th annual meeting in Syracuse, N.Y., explained the intricacies of representing farmers and farm cooperatives in the nation's capital.

Naden was introduced by Ronald N. Goddard, executive vice president and chief executive officer of Agway Inc., a 123,000 member farm supply and marketing cooperative serving 12 northeastern states. Goddard also serves as chairman of the board of NCFC.

"Everyone has mixed emotions ranging from love to hate about the influence of the federal government on his life and his business," Naden said. "The most fundamental point that permanently overrides all debate on specific legislation is the question of just what should be the role of the federal government in our national life."

"This was debated en-

dlessly by our founding fathers," he continued. "It will never be settled definitely, because the need for government action changes."

"We all subscribe to the view that we want as much freedom as possible, but want as much control as necessary. Political power, as currently developed and exercised in this country, is the final determinant of how much government action is necessary," he said.

Naden warned the influence of federal government in the lives of every citizen and business firm is growing at a rapid pace. He pointed out that the number of persons on the staffs of congressmen and congressional committees has doubled in the past 10 years.

"It is important to understand that the federal government is not one monolithic entity," he said. "There are many governments, centers of power at the federal level, and not all are equally conspicuous or known to everyone."

"If you as farmers and cooperative leaders are to be adequately represented in Washington, you must have a voice at the appropriate time before each of these different branches of government," he said.

"You must have a program of action involving



Kenneth D. Naden

lobbyists who are experts in the operation of the federal government," he continued.

Naden stressed there are serious clouds on the horizon for farmer cooperatives in Washington.

"There have been many factors that have tended to create a basically sympathetic view toward farmers and farmer cooperatives in the past," he stated. "But we must be vigilant to preserve the favorable climate to help farmers stabilize or raise their incomes and give them clout in the marketplace which they would not otherwise have without federal assistance."

Naden pointed out NCFC is a trade association with cooperative corporations as members. It is also a farm organization because the

sole objective of the member cooperatives is to improve the income and security of the farmer owners and patrons.

Naden commented on several legislative activities in Washington of particular interest to farmer cooperative members.

One is to insure the allocation of imported crude oil at a fair price to cooperative refineries which do not have oil wells of their own.

Another is priority for gasoline and diesel fuel for planting, harvesting and food processing operations in the event of gasoline

shortages or gasoline rationing.

Naden also mentioned the need for a strong farm credit system in the United States and for improved transportation, especially in light of deteriorating rail

service and continuously higher prices.



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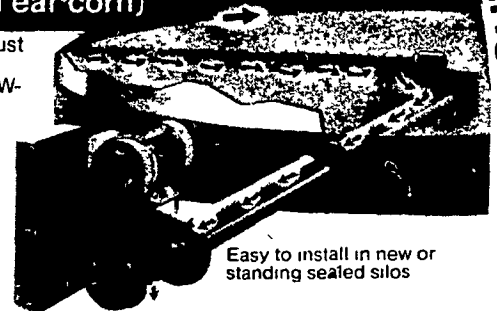
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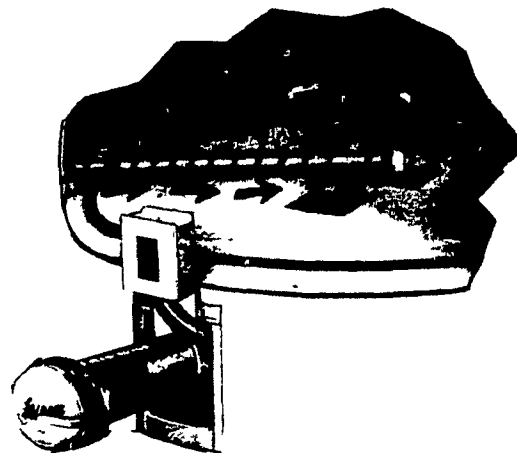
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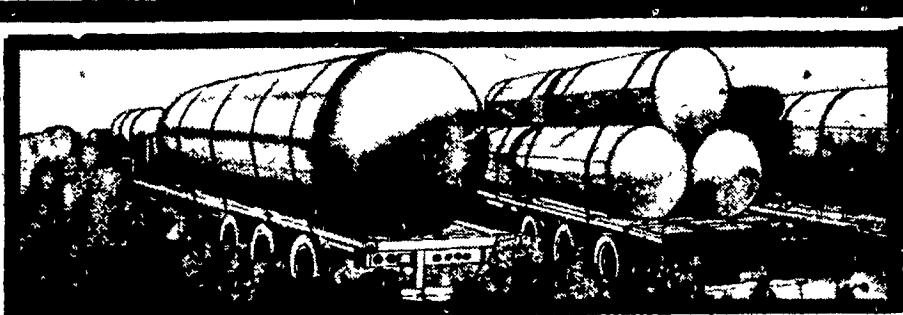
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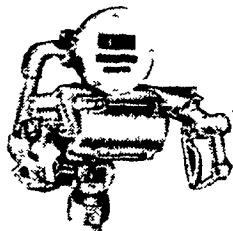
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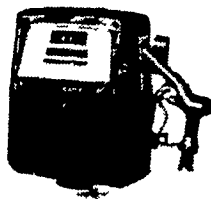
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