

# Cattlemen ask congress to support budget cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. cattle industry strongly supports current efforts to cut federal spending, reduce tax rates and ease the costly regulatory burden on American agriculture and business.

That was the message being taken to Congress this week by directors of the National Cattlemen's Assn.

More than 100 NCA board members, in connection with a meeting in Washington, fanned out across Capitol Hill to urge their legislators to support fiscal policies which will help bring inflation under control.

The cattlemen urged lawmakers to support:

1. Total federal budget cuts at least as large as proposed by the administration.

2. Individual and business tax rate reductions and acceleration of depreciation; plus tax reforms, including indexing the tax system for inflation and amending estate tax provisions.

3. Legislative and administrative changes which will ease the current burden of excessive government regulation.

"We are one special interest group that believes the so-called special interests of individual segments of our society and economy must be set aside," said J.W. Swan, NCA president. "We believe that the only game in town right now is reducing government spending and adopting tax programs which will promote, not

strife, savings and capital investment.

"We are going all out in support of the administration and lawmakers of both parties as they push for across-the-board budget cuts and reductions in tax rates."

Swan noted that cattlemen currently are in a devastating cost-price squeeze. However, he said, the only sound answer to this problem lies not in more government programs but in less government—bringing less inflation and a rebuilding of the private economy.

"We believe in the free enterprise system," Swan said. "Like the general public, we will benefit most from the government's standing up and saying 'no' to all those who ask for exceptions to general tax and budget cuts. The record of the critics who want to change the current proposals doesn't speak well for the changes they want to make."

"Past policies, which found every group asking for and getting its own special appropriations or subsidies, obviously added up to deficit spending, burdensome government and raging inflation."

"Actually, this approach is in our own 'special' interest. We cannot stay in business if costs

keep rising faster than cattle prices. And demand for beef cannot improve unless people's real incomes improve."

The NCA spokesman pointed out that agriculture is in a particularly vulnerable position because of inflation. For one thing, farmers and ranchers, selling commodities as opposed to branded products and services, cannot immediately pass on cost increases. They have no control over the prices they

receive.

Unless the economy becomes more stable and unless some of the regulatory and tax burdens are eased, cattlemen said, still more producers will be squeezed out and meat supplies will be reduced.

Citing the adverse effects of excessive government and counter-productive tax policies, the NCA directors compared the U.S. economy in recent years with

the economies of other industrial countries.

During the past 12 years, the U.S. has had (1) The lowest growth in real wages; (2) the highest rate of unemployment, except for Canada; and (3) the poorest rate of economic growth, except for the United Kingdom. Real wages (after adjusting for inflation) have risen 251 percent in Japan and only 15 percent in the U.S.

## Market hosts growers meeting

LEWISBURG — At a dinner meeting held at the County Cupboard Restaurant in Lewisburg, over 100 Pennsylvania growers were guests of Weis Markets.

The purposes of the Grower/Distributor Meeting were to build a better relationship between growers and Weis Markets through improved communications, to build upon successes already enjoyed and to look for opportunities for continued growth.

George Michalak, Vice President of Perishables, for Weis Markets, said Weis' support of local agriculture has been ex-

tremely beneficial. In addition to having a consistent supply of high quality local grown products for their markets and providing the consumer with more flavorful, mature produce, it has helped the local grower and kept spending within the Commonwealth, which has a positive effect on the economy.

The introduction of the Pennsylvania Logo makes Pennsylvania grown products more visible to the consumer. Opportunities for increased growth through the expansion of variety of products grown to meet consumer

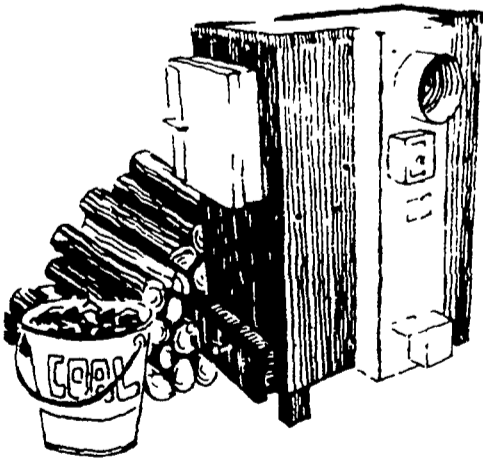
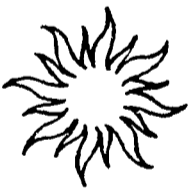
demand were some of the positive signs for the future.

Other invited guests were the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, E. Chester Heim and Senator Edward Helfrick, the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Sigfried Weis, the President of Weis Markets, who pioneered the company's relationship with the local farming community, announced that the Dinner Meetings will be continued as an annual event to help provide for the effective maintenance of the Grower/Distributor program.

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