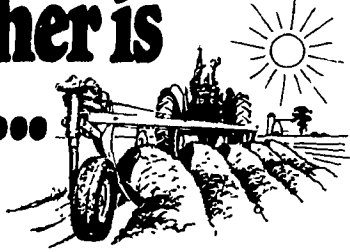


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Grange polls farm leaders

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Some say shaky, some say marginal, some say wait and see, some say terrible.

Those were the answers from six state Grange officials from different parts of the country when asked, "What is the state of the farm economy?" The farm leaders were also asked, "What would you like to do about it?"

Charles Wismer, Master, Pennsylvania State Grange, called the farm economy very shaky. He said because we are now over-producing, we need to either cut back in production or develop new markets. He also said the Administration's new farm program may be on the right track but doesn't go nearly far enough in providing incentives for farmers to participate.

From the West, Jack Silvers, Master of the Washington State Grange, said serious problems are developing, but the mood of his farmers is to give Reaganomics a chance to work. Another Western Master, Mrs. Jeanne Davies, Colorado, said farmers are now at the point where they must decide whether to sell part of their land to have operating capital. She said farmers need a means to get loans through an agriculture authority and more cooperation is needed

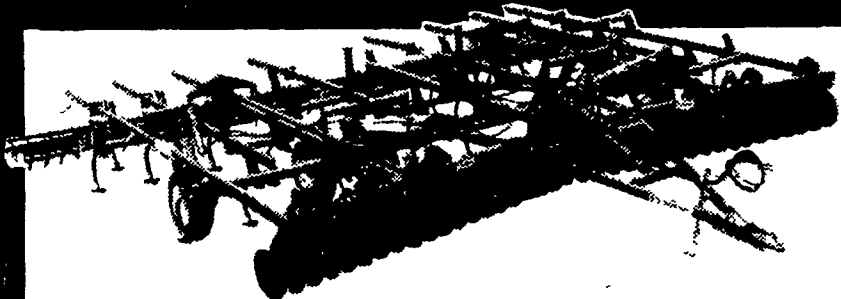
between farmers and marketing organizations.

New England farm leader, James Shores, Master, Maine State Grange, said his farmers are not ready to go under, but the situation is marginal. Hardest hit are the broiler and lumber industries. He said ways are needed to bring down rail transportation costs into New England because current costs add tremendously to the cost of feed grains and fuel.

Ed Moody, Master of the Kansas State Grange, said farmers are borrowed up to the hilt and are worried about the future. He is encouraged by recent meetings held by a coalition of Kansas farm groups with David Stockman, Director, OMB and Secretary of Agriculture, John Block. He feels Sec. Block should and will use his discretionary authority more often.

Southeastern farmers are having a terrible time, reports Lloyd Massey, Master, North Carolina State Grange. Massey said farmers, either individually or through cooperatives should have better direct access to foreign markets. He also feels that finding a way to lower interest rates is the key to economic recovery for agriculture.

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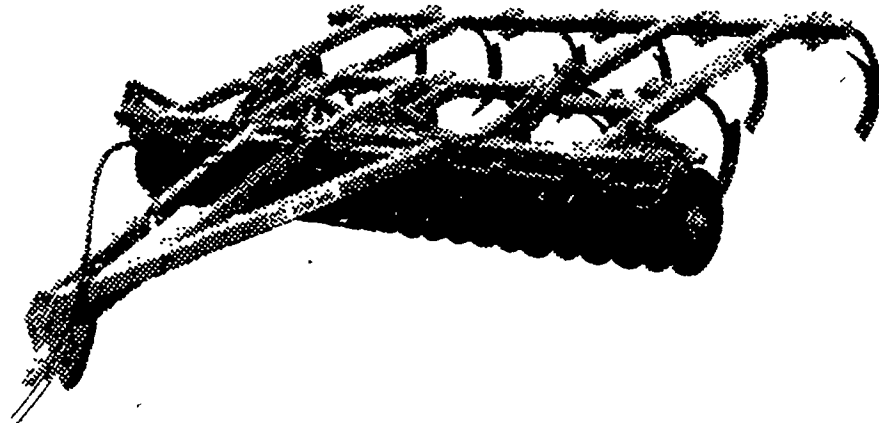
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