



Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

Hurray for 'REAL' legislation

Dairy producers in Pennsylvania have three REAL friends in the state legislature — Senators Frank O'Connell, Edward Helfrick, and Patrick Stapleton.

Although they don't represent the major dairy counties in the state (O'Connell's district includes Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming and parts of Luzerne and Monroe, Helfrick's district includes Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union, and part of Juniata, and Stapleton's district encompasses Armstrong, Clarion, Indiana, and Jefferson), these three senators have put their heads together to sponsor two significant pieces of legislation that will directly affect the dairy industry in Pennsylvania.

The bills we are referring to are Senate Bills 1350 and 1349, introduced last Wednesday and shipped off to the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee where Helfrick commands the chair — which definitely gives these bills the court advantage in the lawmaking game since they're almost ensured a fast serve to the Senate floor.

Just why should dairy producers be thrilled with these three senators and their two bills? Basically because they will put teeth into what the farmers have been attempting through the American Dairy Association's REAL seal campaign.

Let's look at SB 1349 first — the Milk Identification Bill. This 43-line bill amends a 1961 law, P.L. 975, No. 436, which defines milk and its derivatives, prohibits its adulteration, regulates its labeling, sales and serving, and gives the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture power to enforce the law.

Although the original law is great for regulating milk, it says nothing about "manufactured dairy products." Now S.B. 1349 spells out just what is meant by the terminology "manufactured dairy products" and limits this label to be used on only butter, cheese (natural or processed), dry whole milk, nonfat dry milk, dry buttermilk, dry whey, evaporated milk (whole or skim), condensed whole and condensed skim milk (plain or sweetened), and anything else deemed worthy for inclusion by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Anybody discovered tagging the label "dairy product" on an imposter product will be subject to a fine and be guilty of a summary offense, if this bill becomes law.

We're in full support of S.B. 1349 and all it is

meant to do for the dairy industry. With the current milk surplus situation and the corresponding glut of processed dairy products, we definitely don't need imitations competing unchecked for consumers' dairy dollars.

Going hand in hand with the 'I.D.' bill is the Milk Sanitation Act amendment proposed in S.B. 1350. This bill finally brings the laws governing milk and dairy product manufacturing up to date — the original law has been on the books since 1935.

If this bill makes its way through both the Senate and House and eventually lands on the Governor's desk for signing, the dairy industry will experience the impact of equality — making of milk, milk products, and manufactured dairy products meet the same high standards.

Before this bill was introduced, manufactured dairy products were not addressed in the milk sanitation law — a gross oversight that may soon be ameliorated. As a result, these products were not held up to rigid quality standards.

With S.B. 1350, manufactured dairy products will have to meet specific requirements. The bill requires that milk for manufacturing purposes be produced by cows that have been physically examined and given a tuberculin test. The legislation goes as far as spelling out that these same cows must be fed, watered, housed and cared for in a manner that will insure clean milk.

How the cow is milked, where the milk is stored at both the farm and manufacturing plant, how the milk is processed and pasteurized are spelled out in the "i" in the new bill. And concluding Section 10 which addresses the addition of manufactured dairy products to the law, paragraph "i" requires compliance with "definitions, standards of identity, and labeling requirements" and forbids any abnormal substances, except those approved by the secretary.

We know that these two bills will receive the dairy producers' support, even though they may make a few manufacturers unhappy. And we are glad to report that all three farm organizations, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, State Grange, and Pennsylvania Farmers' Union, are throwing their weight behind these "REAL" important bills.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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TO PREPARE A WILL

The statement, "We don't own enough to justify a will" is overused by many families. If you have a family, and you own anything, you should have a will. If a person dies without a will, property is distributed according to the In-trastate Laws of Pennsylvania. These laws may not distribute your estate according to your desires. This has often happened in the past and there is little that can be done about it without a will.

We urge all family heads, and property owners to contact a lawyer and have him help with making a will. The cost will be considerably less than settling an estate without a will. Don't put it off any longer.

TO APPLY POULTRY MANURE SPARINGLY

With the large poultry population in this region, poultry manure is in good supply. Since poultry manure may contain from 15 pounds to nearly 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton, depending on moisture and litter content, over application can burn crops and result in disappointments. Gardeners should not be using heavy amounts of fresh poultry manure in their soil. On crop land it is recommended that poultry manure applications be limited to not more than 5 to 7 tons of 75 percent moisture content per acre. Keep in mind that some poultry manure may contain up to 50 pounds of nitrogen per ton and can burn seeds and crop roots. Poultry manure is also the highest

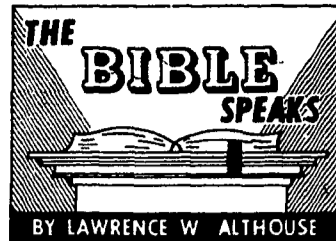
in phosphorus and potash content of any of our farm manures. It has excellent fertilizer value when used properly. The 1982 Agronomy Guide give additional details about the fertilizer values of farm manures. The Agronomy Guides are available through the Extension Office for \$2.00 fee.

TO CONTROL MICE IN ORCHARDS

Now that winter is almost gone, fruit growers should take a look at the newly exposed grass sod in their orchards.

If there are runways at the surface of the grass, it is a good sign that there are plenty of mice in the orchard, even though a mouse baiting program may have been followed last fall.

(Turn to Page A12)



TWELVE BASKETS FULL
March 28, 1982

Background Scripture:
Mark 6:30-44.

Devotional Reading:
2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, has a unique ministry. One of Dallas' oldest congregations, it cannot boast the excellent music programs produced annually by one of its affluent cousins. Nor does it sprawl over several city blocks, as does one of its closest neighbors. This is not to diminish one bit First Presbyterian's music program or its physical plant, but it does not compete on those terms in a city where there are probably more affluent, powerful, fashionable churches with congregations that number in the thousands than anywhere else.

He Had Compassion

What makes First Presbyterian so admired in a city of giant congregations is a program called "Operation Breadbasket." Every day the people and staff of this downtown congregation produce a minor miracle of their own, providing food for hundreds of the city's down-and-outers.

Feeding the hungry people of downtown Dallas is the largest single item in the church's program and budget.

Unfortunately, few of us belong to churches that could claim that. Feeding the hungry doesn't have the appeal that putting up a new

educational building or chapel has. It doesn't make us feel quite the same as renovating the organ, buying new robes for the choir, or redecorating the church parlor. It doesn't stir us like an appeal for funds to buy television time or put cushions on the pews. It may elicit feelings of guilt, but seldom ex-¹thiasm.

I have heard some people rationalize our usual lack of response to this kind of ministry by saying that "The church ministers to a person's soul; the social agencies and the government minister to his physical body."

Obviously, Jesus did not understand that, for he spent a considerable amount of time ministering to the physical needs of the people. When he saw them in need, his heart went out to them—and his hand. Seeing the hungry, leaderless mass of people before him by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus "had compassion on them."

They Were Satisfied

Faced with this great multitude, Jesus looked at the resources. Lots of us would have stopped right there, for the report was dismal: five loaves and two fish! Impossible! But Jesus knew that often great things could be accomplished with meager resources. Taking what he was given, "he blessed and broke the loaves" and "divided the two fish among them all."

It accomplishes nothing to argue about what Jesus actually did that day or how he did it. The important thing is that he took the meager resources given to him, blessed and shared them, and somehow by the grace of God "they all ate and were satisfied."

When people are forced to go hungry, ill-clothed and ill-housed, often it is not because there is too little to go around, but too few who will offer and bless what they have to share with others.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Unconstitutional referendum

A referendum is the submission of a law proposed or already in effect to be put to a direct vote of the people; also the right of the people to vote directly on such laws superseding or overruling the legislature.

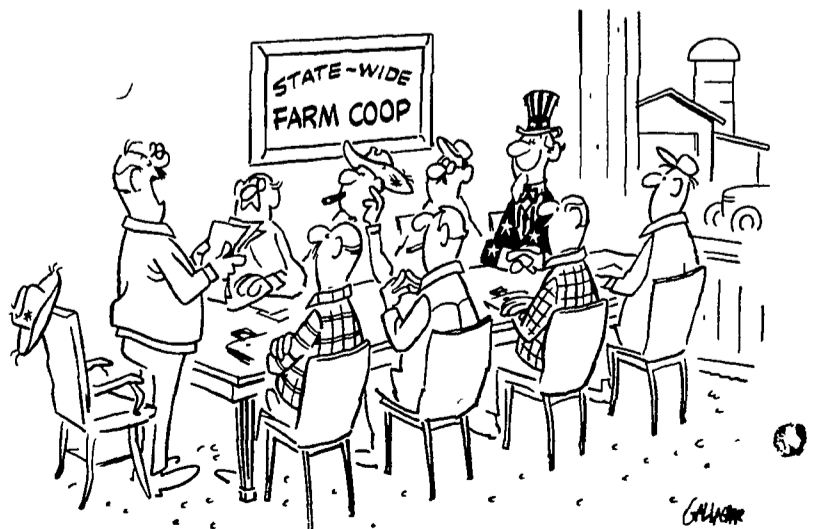
This (milk referendum) is not a referendum but a proposal made so by the illegality of that proposal, thus ill-conceived, ill-timed idea is a denial of the dairy farmer's individual rights and an insult to his intelligence by insisting that he is not qualified to make his own decisions but have some unscrupulous, self-interested group of individuals do so. To force a

farmer to sign his name to a ballot and divulge the amount of milk he ships is a brazen invasion of his privacy and a violation of the state and federal constitution.

The dairy farmers should ask themselves before they vote "Where is all the money coming from to sell this referendum?" Why not use this money to advertise dairy products? What does Inter-State do with the twenty-four cents per hundredweight they take from the farmers now? Why are all the referendum pushers "Fat Cats?"

Luther Wilt
Duncansville, Blair County

HAY HAWS



"IF EVERYONE IS HERE WE'LL PROCEED WITH THE QUARTERLY EARNINGS REPORT."