

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

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aren't our legislators and government leaders listening?"

I then asked for an appointment to speak personally with the president. Or better yet, I invited him to dinner at my home for an evening of informative conversation. The secretary replied that she would put this invitation on his desk.

Following this call I telephoned Governor Thornburgh (who also was not available). Then I asked for Agricultural Secretary Hollowell (who likewise was not in Harrisburg). I did get through to Deputy Secretary Heim who informed me that the Pennsylvania Administration was solidly behind the dairymen and that Governor Thornburgh had last month sent Secretary Hollowell to Washington in an effort to get this unjust levy reversed. However, Heim informed me that the root of the problem appears to rest with (David) Stockman, Office of Management and Budget.

It appears that government is no longer responsive to the American people or taxpayers. I would assert that neither political party follows the philosophy on which they were founded. The Democrats are led by rich men, when in fact it was the party of Jefferson and Jackson who insisted that liberal government methods should be followed so that an atmosphere could be created in which the common man would find it possible to be successful and realize his goals. The Republican party is the party of Lincoln, who said in the Lincoln - Douglas debates: "My philosophy is simple—maintain high protective tariffs and keep out cheap foreign goods so that the American worker (and farmer) can get ahead."

Somewhere this American system has jumped the rails. Now we allow into our country millions

of dollars of consumer goods, while the American workers and dairymen suffer. Why should we allow proven foreign dumping of goods in our country causing much suffering to the American people on our shores, while foreigners move our dollars off shore. Should we not think first of our own in crisis times like these?

President Reagan went to South America and gave (ostensibly a loan) \$1.2 billion to a foreign country deeply in debt (to whom?—the international bankers), which then in turn (according to the U.S. News and World Report, 12/13/1982) diverted some of these funds to Nicaragua, a nation in chaos and ruled by the Sandanista Communists. Outrageous! Why? But then he wants to take almost almost this very sum out of the hides of the American dairymen. Can we buy foreign friends' loyalty? Never!

Furthermore, why make the American dairymen shoulder all of the government cutbacks? Why not ask businessmen who manufacture and handle substitute dairy products, like coffee whitener and artificial cheese to share in supporting the budget cuts?

Are any solutions possible? I suggested a course of action to Deputy Secretary Heim. I would personally volunteer a day to accompany hundreds of dairymen from this area in making a journey to Washington to call upon all of the senators and Congressmen from the Northeast milksheds (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Vermont, etc.) The only way to reverse this unjust levy upon dairymen is to persuade these congressmen to call this up on the floor of Congress for reconsideration. And the only way (to get them) do this is to put heavy pressure on them. I also urge that Governor Thornburgh either

accompany us or that he gives the dairymen his backing and official support by letter that we can present to the congressmen.

In my opinion there is only one way to solve the present budget problems. The United States government cannot long endure unless new solutions to the problems are found—and soon. When President Reagan was running for office he sounded like a man who meant business. But after he took the oath of office things changed, for some reason. Why?

Many young farmers who love the land have been forced to go deeply in debt to follow their vocation. Seeing themselves annually sink more deeply into debt has caused many to become demoralized and discouraged. The only lasting solution to our present national economic problems is to get back to following the Biblical commandments.

Economic laws in the Bible will not allow us to develop a situation where grain rots in the field while in other parts of the world and even in our own country people are starving. But the name of the game today in government seems to be for the world government advocates to control people. As long as we stand for this control no solutions can be found.

"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender," Proverbs 22:7. The United States is not poor, nor are we bankrupt; our national debt is only a paper figure depending upon the assertions of people who want to

oppress us. That is what keeps weighing us down.

American's dairymen will waste their time writing letters to the president and congressmen. File Thirteen is too convenient.

Telephone calls are often unanswered. Now is the time for good men to stand up and be counted before it is too late.

Jacob O. Meyer,
Bethel, Pa.

Tired of feeding deer

I've never heard the Game Commission, sportsmen or anybody tell the public just how much it costs to raise a deer. Only the farmers and landowners raise and feed all of the game. Nobody else does.

It takes about a ton of grain to raise a hog if everything goes 100 percent right or about \$140-150 at \$7 per hundredweight; a steer about 3 to 4 tons or \$500-600 in grain, hay, pasture, etc. This livestock feed is under controlled conditions. Not the deer!

A deer eats what it pleases and can ruin ten times as much feed as a steer or a hog. I'll wager to say

that no deer can be fed for less than \$500 — and I believe most cost over \$1,000 to raise because deer are browsers and very wasteful destroyers. Deer ruin fruit trees and other trees, berries, peas, vegetables, grain, corn, and it only takes a few to ruin the crops on a farm.

They've raised havoc on our farm; and when it comes (time) to harvest any (deer) it's impossible. When the seasons come, they're miles away and not to be seen.

A fruit man planted 5,000 plum and apricot trees and a few years later the deer ate all of them. At \$5

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Now Is the Time

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farmer is going to cope with all the problems. I'm sure we all realize there are major problems confronting our farmers, such as high interest rates, higher costs of most inputs, surpluses, and depressed market prices. However, we have always had problems in agriculture and no doubt they will continue in the future.

On the other side of the coin, we have a good demand for most of our farm products, both domestic and abroad, and a greater recognition of the contribution of the farmer. If all farmers will make a special effort to do a better job of management and planning, and take a positive attitude of success and survival, they will be more successful and contented.

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