

Grange speaks out on balanced budget

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Six months ago farmers and ranchers nationwide launched a campaign to convince official Washington to balance the federal budget through spending reforms. Known as the "Balanced Budget Brigade," the

campaign culminated last week in the nation's capital as farm leaders met with Vice President George Bush, Secretary of Agriculture John Block and many Senators and Representatives.

The farm leaders brought with

them hundreds of thousands of cards and letters signed by farmers, ranchers and other interested citizens, calling for a balanced budget. In their meetings with government officials they specifically called for a freeze on

all federal spending at last year's levels excepting only interest payments on the national debt.

Confronted by questions regarding the budget demands by the Department of Defense, Edward Andersen, Master of the National Grange said, "American farmers are traditionally among the strongest supporters of an adequate national defense, but Secretary Weinberger's adamant and unyielding opposition to the military sharing in a national belt-tightening, does a serious disservice to the need to retain our economic as well as military strength."

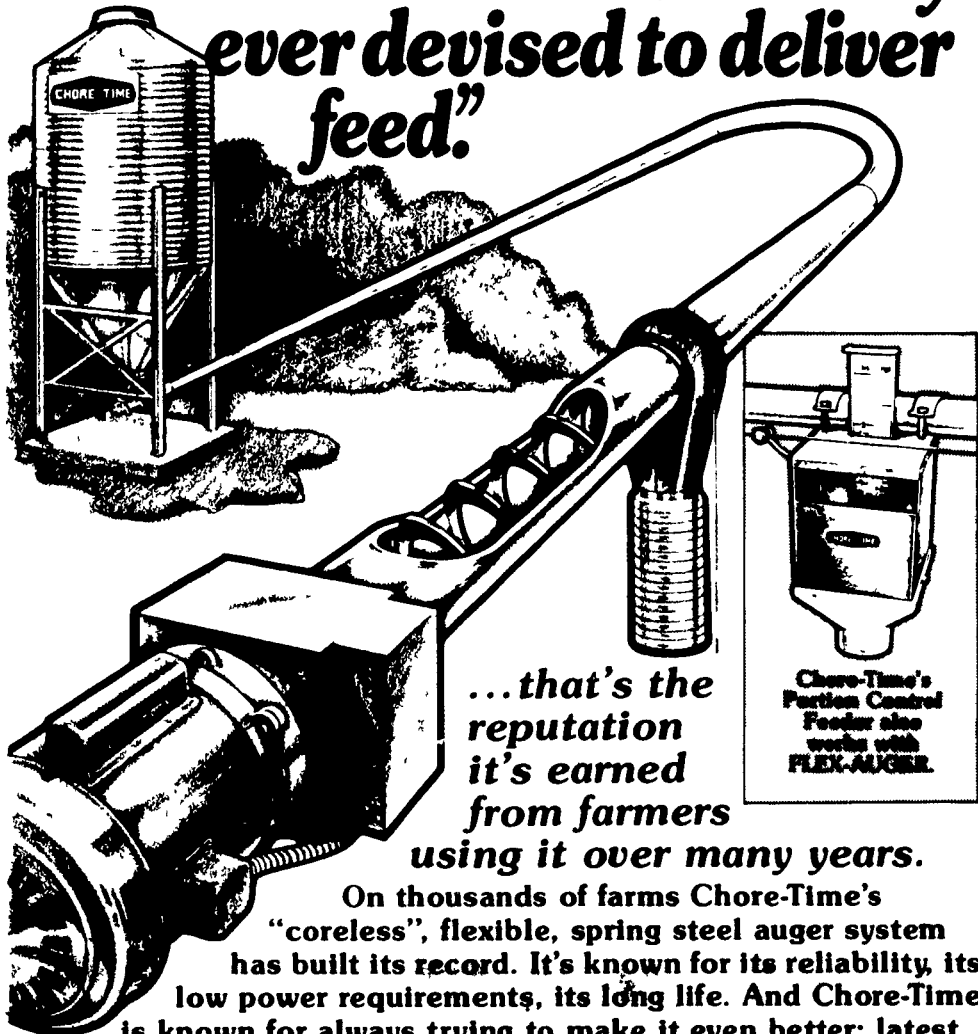
Setting their sights on Congress and the White House, the farm leaders were also determined to force official Washington to un-

derstand the serious economic condition of farmers who are financially trapped by high interest rates. They warned against raising taxes as a means to balance the budget. They said any new taxes large enough to affect the deficit would increase interest rates, reduce disposable income and lower productivity.

Andersen said the government should do what every household in America is expected to do, "Live within its means." He praised Senators Robert Dole, Mark Hatfield, Robert Packwood and Pete Domenici for their leadership in Senate efforts to control federal spending and their inclusion of the Department of Defense as an essential and critical part of this effort.

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Potter Holstein Club holds annual meeting

COUDERSPORT — Forty persons attended the Potter County Holstein Club's annual dinner meeting, Thursday, January 31 at Penn-York Camp. Elected as new directors were Karl Torrey, Shinglehouse RD; and Don Thompson, Westfield RD; and Dennis Smoker, Genesee RD, was re-elected. The terms of Dan Kice, Coudersport RD, and Ivan Kibbe, Harrison Valley, RD, expired.

Jay Gooch, state director, asked to be informed of any heifers for sale and advised that calves should be selected for the state sale.

Kenneth Raney, Pennsylvania State Holstein Association, was the main speaker. He reported that China could be a good market for cattle. He announced that the state calf and bred heifer sale is set for March 28 and 29 and said the state association is trying to raise the quality of the sale. The state association is continuing to promote milk, and consumption of milk is up 3-4%. CCC purchases are down. In 1982 in national advertising there was an expenditure of \$30 million for milk; \$670 million to advertise soft drinks; and \$1.5 billion to advertise alcohol.

Raney urged dairymen to

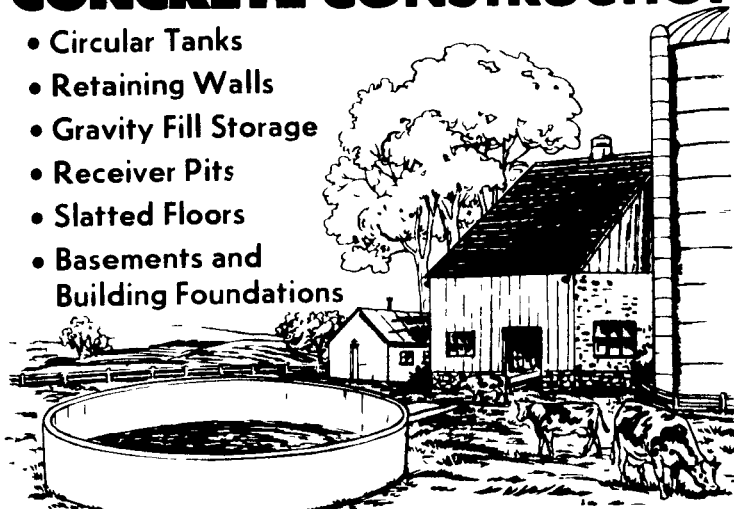
support their own industry by using and serving milk and dairy products.

He reported that the membership drive has been completed and that Potter County did not make its goal. The annual convention will be held in Philadelphia in February. One item they will discuss is changes in setting of dues. The Pa. Holstein News is no longer available and the Association is looking for ways to print their own news in Pennsylvania. Holstein spring forum meetings will be held in five locations around the state from March 4-8 with Wysox being the closest to Potter County. The Pennsylvania Spring Holstein Show will be March 28 in Harrisburg.

Following the annual meeting the directors met and elected the following officers: Dennis Smoker, president and alternate state director; Karl Torrey, show chairman; Don Thompson, sales representative; Kevin Risser, vice president; Jack Thomas, secretary-treasurer; Jay Gooch, state director and membership chairman; Tom Kibbe, special activities chairman and Samuel Crossley, publicity chairman.

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