Farm Forum

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among farmers as a way to set the prices paid to farmers. Notice that I wrote "Farmers" — this relates not just to milk or eggs, but to all farmers.

At this time, a small number of handlers and processors began to make a profit on our hard work. They got together and set a price on our products to set their bank accounts. You probably are thinking, "No, we as farmers set our price for our own product." Now who do you think the processor is going to listen to? All the farmers that are bickering and fighting and jealous of their neighbors? No way! The are probably laughing all the way to the bank.

Years ago, there was a farm in every corner of every township. It was hard to get them all together, let alone together enough to have them all agree on one fair price paid to them in their home area. Because of this divided and separated lifestyle we as farmers were weak and vulnerable.

Do you think that today, with the way we get paid for our products, is any different? Not yet! Because we are not all united.

The balance of the producers and processors is getting closer with fewer and fewer farmers producing the same amount of food as before — shows me we are getting stronger to set a price that is suitable to us. mirror, stop and take a look. Ask yourself some questions. Take a long look beyond your reflection. Is there a future? Who's Kidding Whom?

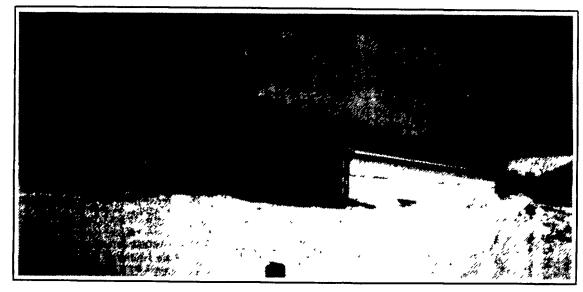
Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 26, 1994-A11

Sincerely, Peter A. Seman Thompson

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