

# PFU Members Meet With Clinton

WASHINGTON, D.C., — Members of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Union (PFU) recently participated in a National Farmers' Union (NFU) fly-in here during which they met with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The participants also met with all their congressional delegates and several members of the administration.

PFU members focused on three main issues when talking to the senators and congressmen: the 1995 Farm Bill, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and national health care. The Pennsylvania delegation also met with Senator Harris Wofford and Congressman Tim Holden who is the only representative from the Northeast who sits on the ag committee.

Mrs. Clinton met with 230

members of NFU on September 21 to discuss health care and rural issues. During the White House visit, Mrs. Clinton warned that there will be a move to cut Medicare in the next session of Congress. In the absence of real health care reform, she said these Medicare cuts will especially impact rural communities, leading to closings of rural hospitals and increases in local taxes to compensate for the shortfall.

The First Lady commended Farmers' Union for its efforts in health care reform. The organization has called for universal coverage, 100 percent deductibility of health care premiums for the self-employed, among other things. "This is an issue that's not going to go away," she said,

blaming the stalemate in Congress on a "massive misinformation campaign."

Mrs. Clinton told the group that family agriculture is not only a living, but a "way of life critical to the American way of life." She expressed concern that the voice of farm families is being ignored in favor of "the very large and very powerful."

PFU members who participated in the fly-in include PFU President Robert Junk, Vice President Jerry Seyler, Secretary Terry Pattison, Treasurer Naomi Spahr, Ed Rogg, Ed Rinkhoff, Larry Breech, and Greg Powell from Farmers Union Milk Producers (FUMPA). Also attending was Brenda Seyler from PFU's Youth Group.



Members of the PFU during a recent Washington fly-in. Front row left to right, Robert Junk, Jr., president of PFU; Brenda Seyler; Naomi Spahr; and Ed Rinkoff. Second row, Terry Pattison, Gerald Seyler, and Greg Powell. Third row, Larry Breech, and Ed Rugg.

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