

State FFA Members

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then set up in their six committees — mirroring the standing legislative committees.

After a half hour of free time, they received an update on the progress of the Milton Hershey FFA chapter, and were shortly in rooms' with lights out.

Monday started with three of the state officers leaving the hotel at 6:45 a.m. to go to Milton Hershey School to prepare breakfast.

The rest of the group left an hour later to eat. A presentation by Bob Fortna, plant manager of the Hershey Chocolate Factory was given at breakfast, followed by tours of the school, the factory, the Hershey Zoo and the Hershey area.

After lunch, the group went back to the Holiday Inn and participated in legislative simulations from 1:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., when they went to Hoss's Steak and Sea House for dinner.

After dinner they again participated in two hours of legislative simulation, followed by two hours

of supervised recreation, and then shortly afterward bed and lights out.

Tuesday began with checkout at 6 a.m., and then going to the Hilton for the legislative breakfast, the group photo and the tour of the Capitol.

While at the Capitol, the FFA members got an exceptional chance to see some citizen protest, which occurs often at the Capitol, as those protesting cuts in welfare inundated the building, visiting legislators, carrying signs and rallying on the front steps of the Capitol.

The state FFA officers are Tim Weller, state advisor, Sheila Reiner, executive secretary, Mary Johnston, adult treasurer, and William Hess, FFA facilitator.

Leaders of the supporting organization, the FFA Foundation, include Glenn Wenger, president; Steve Kline, treasurer; Kerry Hoffman, secretary; Sam Sherk, first vice president; and John Nikoloff, second vice president.

Completed Farm Bill

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According to a news release from U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, who chaired the conference committee, the farm legislation "gives farmers freedom to plant for the market and ends Depression-era production controls."

Whenever the Senate and House approve almost identical pieces of legislation and leadership decides that the measure must be resolved, a conference committee of representatives from both house of the Legislature is formed to work out the compromises.

Usually, the recommendations of the conference committee are followed by both legislative bodies and subsequently quickly approved.

According to a news release by Lugar, "The bill is officially known as the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of

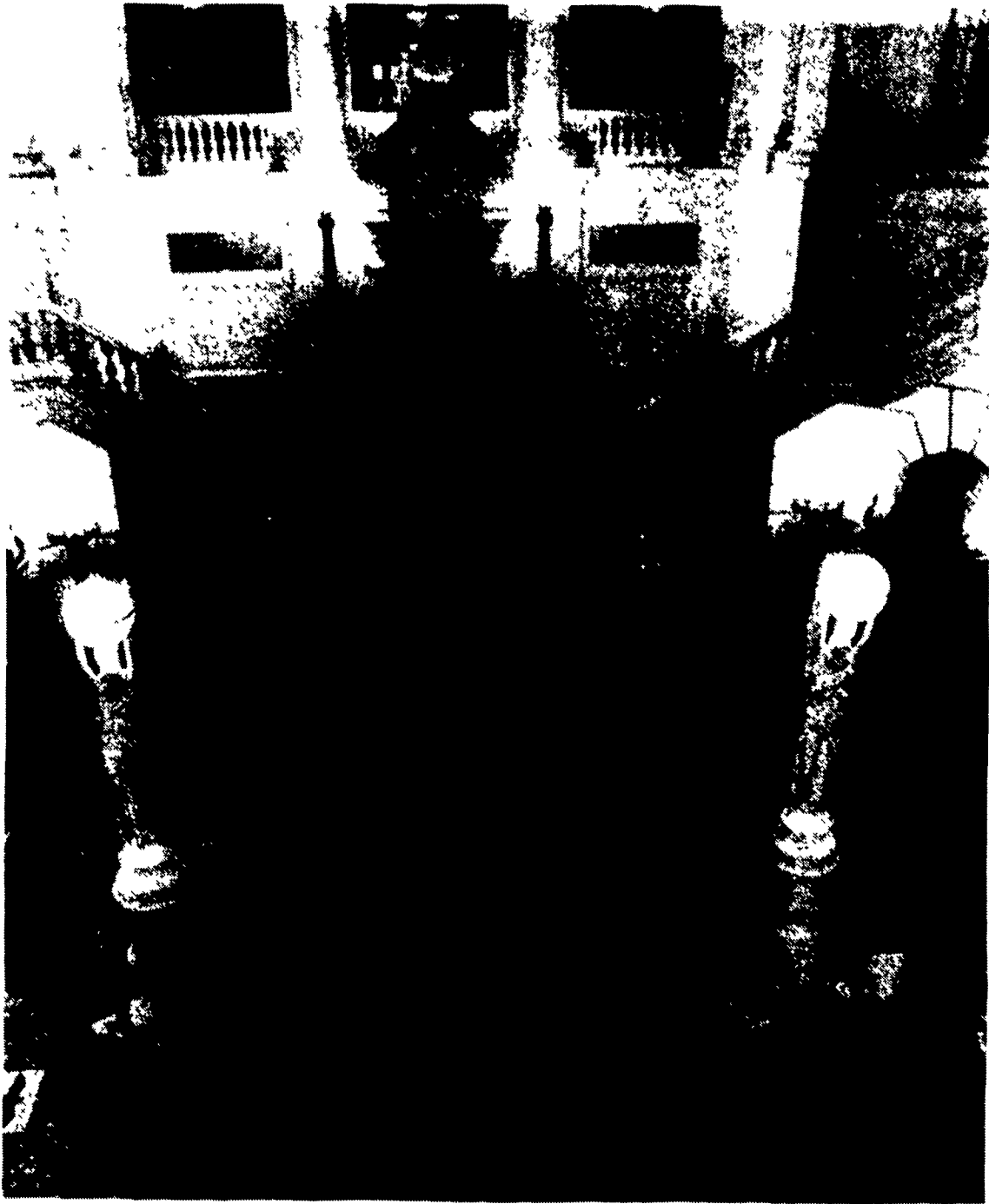
1996. The overall bill includes reforms to the major commodity programs as well as measures on conservation, nutrition, trade, research and credit.

"Commodity farmers (who) have participated in federal farm programs will receive market transition payments for seven years."

The official acronym for the proposed measure is FAIR, according to the news release.

In recorded comments made for radio reports, Lugar said, "The important thing about this bill is releasing American agriculture to make more money."

In those comments, he then explained that with market-driven production, more farmers will make more money and he expects it to boost farm income and thus stimulate rural economies and communities.



With state officers lined up across the front, FFA members participating in the ninth annual State Legislative Leadership Conference stands on the steps of the state Capitol Rotunda for a group photo.

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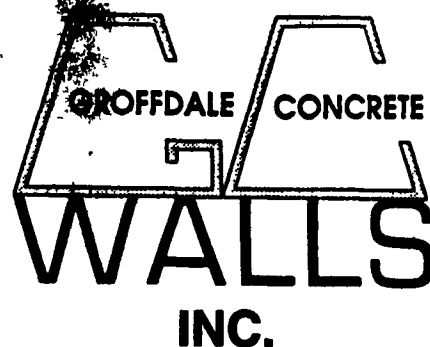
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