

Herr Joins Lancaster Farming Staff

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Jim Herr, 46, of Lancaster has joined the staff of *Lancaster Farming* as an advertising sales representative.

Herr has worked in advertising for a number of years, having worked for another farm publication for three years prior to joining *Lancaster Farming*.

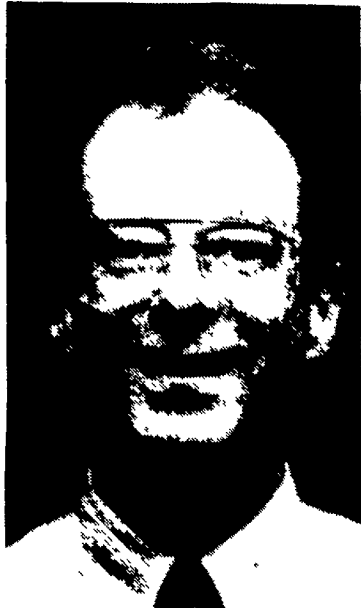
For 10 years he had his own advertising agency based in Lancaster and served businesses, including many agribusinesses, in the Mid-Atlantic area.

He first started working in a local mattress factory that his grandfather had started in 1909, before going on to achieving a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the Northwestern University of Chicago.

"I consider it a privilege to work with the leading agricultural newspaper in the East," he said.

"I see my role as helping people make sure they get the advertising they need to make their businesses grow, in a paper that really works."

Herr is married to Cindy and



Jim Herr

they have a 9-year-old son. Jim is a member of the Lancaster Friends Meeting (Quakers) and is the editor of his church newsletter. His hobbies include woodworking, coaching his son's soccer team, and hiking.

Ag Secretary Seeks Comments

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tation to its economy, as well as the suspiciousness of activities at the National Cheese Exchange.

Some speakers requested that Secretary Glickman do something to raise the price of milk so that farmers can recoup their cost of production and not go out of business.

The logic of the government using the cheese price at the National Cheese Exchange to determine the price of milk paid to farmers nationwide was also questioned.

As a general policy, in reporting all market prices of commodities, the USDA has taken steps to broaden the number of markets tested and reported.

The Basic Price Formula, however, is set by Congress and the secretary of agriculture has, according to Sen. Specter, the authority to drop the NCE price in lieu of a price equivalent.

According to Jim Peterson, a spokesman for Secretary Glick-

man who attended the meeting, Glickman began efforts in late January to address the use of the NCE price and has been receiving public comment.

However, it's not clear if what Glickman already started will fulfill what Sen. Specter requested when he returned to Washington and addressed the Senate later in the day on Feb. 10.

According to the Congressional Record for the day, Sen. Specter said, "Mr. President, the dairy farmers of northeast Pennsylvania, and for that matter the entire state of Pennsylvania, and for that matter the entire nation, are suffering very materially because of low milk prices.

"It is a national calamity where dairy farmers all across the country are facing the prospect of bankruptcy because the costs of producing milk have risen so tremendously and the price of selling milk has

decreased very rapidly in the course of the past several weeks and several months."

In his address, Specter described the meeting and how it came to be called. He also talked about the testimony and specifically mentioned testimony given by Mrs. Patricia Swetter.

"The highlight of the meeting occurred when a woman named Mrs. Swetter made the point very, very emphatically, about the imminent difficulties faced by the farmers and how answers were needed now.

"This Mrs. Patricia Swetter made that point with special gusto, as did quite a number of the other farmers who spoke at the hearing."

Specter said in his address to the Senate that Secretary Glickman explained the difficulties of finding an immediate solution, which he said led to a discussion of the BFP and the use of the cheese price at the NCE.

Specter then explained the connection between the price of cheese and milk and that, "There have been some indicators that the price of cheese is not accurate as it has been currently established.

"The Secretary (Glickman) responded in dialogue that ... he would be willing to work now to develop an equivalent price of cheese so that we could have a reevaluation as to the price of milk.

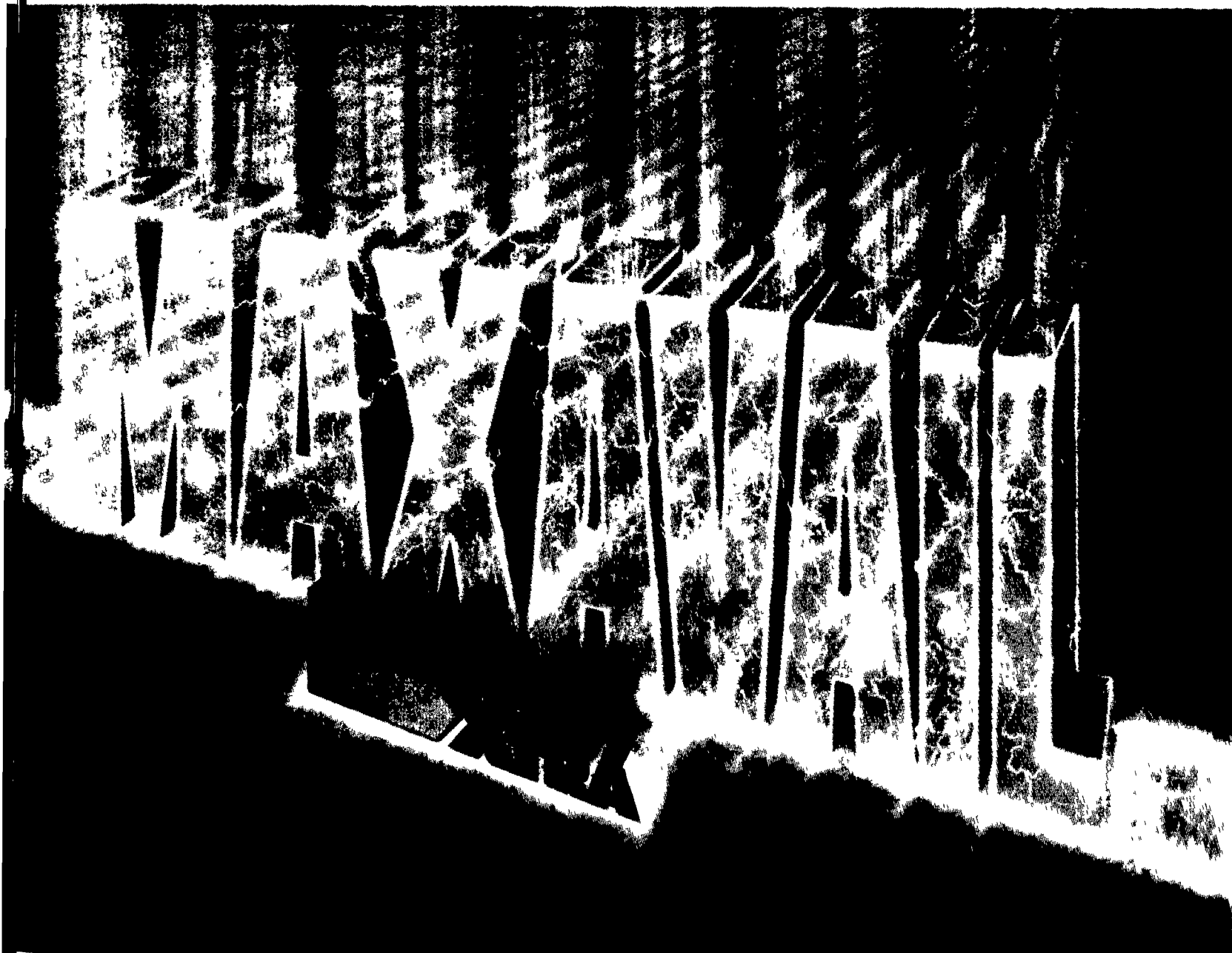
"There has been some indication that there has been some manipulation of the price of cheese. It may be that this is a subject which ought to be a matter for a hearing by the Judiciary Antitrust Subcommittee. It may also be that there ought to be a hearing from the Agriculture Subcommittee of Appropriations, or from the Agriculture Committee, on the pricing of milk, taking a close look at the issue of developing an equivalent price for cheese."

He then outlined a "sense-of-the-Senate" resolution that he subsequently proposed and which was adopted by the Senate (83-15) on Feb. 13 that calls upon Secretary Glickman to "... consider acting immediately pursuant to his legal authority to modify the Basic Formula Price for dairy by replacing the National Cheese Exchange as a factor to be considered in setting the Basic Formula Price."

The resolution was sponsored by U.S. Sen. Specter, co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, and also co-sponsored by Sens. Russell Feingold, Herb Kohl, James Jefford, Patrick Leahy, Rod Grams, Paul Wellstone, Olympia Snowe, and Susan Collins.

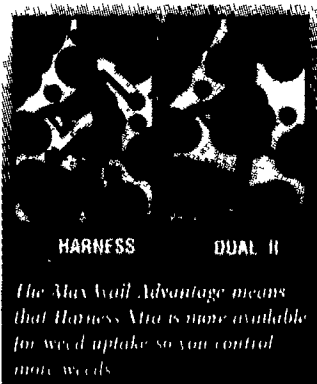
Specter's Washington-office press secretary John Ulliyot said this week, "This is pretty substantial step forward."

He said that what signifies the importance the dairy issue is receiving from the entire Senate is, "... that the debate of the balanced budget amendment was interrupted. The full weight of the Senate is behind urging Secretary Glickman to de-link the Basic Formula Price from the National Cheese Exchange."



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