Farmers' land no longer their own-O.F.A. head

Farmers must accept that their land is no longer their own, Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Gordon Hill told the OFA's annual convention. He was addressing more than 500 farmers from across the province at the Oshawa meeting.

"We must accept that for the good of all the people in Ontario, society has the authority to decide the purpose for which our land can be used."

In return, Hill seeks a fair deal for farmers. He demanded three chief guarantees: Assurance by the provincial government that farmers who produce food on land locked into farming can make a profit.

Special areas in each county set aside for poultry and livestock production. "It is not acceptable that livestock and poultry units built in good faith be closed down because of odour complaints."

No more big city garbage dumps outside the city limits. "If our urban friends have sufficient funds to squander this country's natural resources in such profusion, they had better have enough

Greetings

Here's to a very

Merry Christmas full

of peace and

bappiness.

money for recycling."

Land-use legislation passed in early summer gives no such guarantees, claimed Hill. "These three bills are really planning for development rather than planning to put our land to the use for which it is best suited."

He also reprimanded farmers for leaving it up to the trade and governments to find and develop export markets. "They have failed, and farmers may lose market opportunities today because we've sat on our butts."

Take initiative

He called on farmers across Canada to unite, and take the initiative in exporting farm products. "If farmers were strongly organized today, I'm sure we could sign up long-term contracts. I'm also sure we could be selling a larger degree of processing in our export products."

However, farmers are losing these markets by default, added Hill, because thay are not strongly organized to take advantage of the seller's market that exists across the world today.

"Regardless of how efficient we are as producers, if we do a poor job of marketing, we are throwing money away." He told the farmers present the first step to cornering export markets is for farmers across Canada to band together. Then, they would be strong enough to work with governments and the trade as a team.

Success, he added, will only come with an industry-wide approach, not a continuance of the hit-and-miss efforts of the past. He warned that quibbling between provinces over export markets must end.

Hill predicts another round of soaring input costs at the farm gate during coming months.

"Farmers can expect to pay another \$15-million next year when the price freeze on fuels is lifted. Ontario farmers can count on a 5c-a-gallon increase on heating oil and a 6c-a-gallon increase on diesel oil and gas."

Hydro hike
Hydro costs will be up
another 10 percent in the new
year. Fertilizer prices on
some analyses are already 35
percent above last fall's
prices. Hill alerted farmers to
the short supply of fertilizer
for the coming spring, and the

tight delivery problems they can expect.

He called on the Canadian

government to negotiate with the U.S. government to ensure that Canadian farmers have enough phosphates to supply their needs. Hill pointed out that the U.S. depends largely on Canadian potash and natural gas (used to produce nitrogen) to supply its fertilizer market. Canada, in turn, is deficient in phosphate rock which is shipped up from the Southern U.S.

Although Canada should be in a solid bartering position, Hill warned that Canada's fertilizer plants are divisions of international companies. "Our Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whelan said publicly

with the fertilizer companies, and has been assured that adequate supplies will be available. The integrity of the fertilizer suppliers is on the line. If any of them fail to follow through, their privilege of doing business in Canada should be withdrawn."

He said that the hardships created by rising input costs are being intensified by the government's refusal to halt inflation, while the same government is prepared to hold down food prices to consumers. "This places farmers in an intolerable position."

Hill cautioned, that although farm income in the last few months has been higher than in several years, dimmer days are ahead.

"It's a fast moving world, and we're living in the day of the lobby. Either farmers dig in and get their share, or learn to be satisfied with what's left over."

## Honor musician

At the annual meeting and dinner of the Central Ontario Musicians' Association held Tuesday evening of last week at the Transylvania Club in Kitchener, a life membership in Local 226 American Federation of Musicians was presented to Charles Landsborough. He has been cornet player for 30 years with the Guelph Concert Band, formerly the Guelph Musical Society.

Many drivers have their windshields broken by gravel dropping off dump trucks. Even unloaded dump trucks can be a hazard, says the Ontario Safety League. They may have gravel and stones on the flat ledge running down the side of the truck. If a truck hits a bump stones may be tossed off, bounce on the road and strike an oncoming





WORLD CHAMPION RED ROBIN is shown in Mexico receiving his honors from judge Mrs. Winnifred Heckman. H. J. Brunotte shows the champion Pomeranian owned by Mrs. Phyllis Canfiedl of Fifth Line.

## The Legend of the Christmas Rose

According to legend a little shepherd girl from Bethlehem followed the shepherds on their way to the manger. All the shepherds had gifts for Jesus but the little girl had none. She felt very sad and unworthy about this and hung back from the others. Just before they reached the stable, an angel appeared in a blaze of light and scattered lovely white roses before the little girl. So she gathered them up and laid them before the manger.



## O. Holy Night

Each year at Christmas, the sacred story lives anew. As we reflect upon that hely time, of a Child born in Bethlehem, may we find inspiration in His life, to guide us on our way. Sincere greetings to all.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

TOWN OF ACTOR

OF THE



from everyone at

ADAMS BUS DEPOT

On that first Christmas, a special Star shone bright over the Mother and Child. May the Christmas star of peace, joy and happiness shine bright over you and yours for Christmas and all through the year.

Freetings

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