



PRESIDENT of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Peter Hannam calls on corn producers to get together and form a corn marketing board. Mr. Hannam spoke at the Halton Federation's annual banquet.

## Tariff rules unfair for Ontario farmers

Charging that current tariff and trade regulations are strangulating the agriculture industry, the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) told the Halton branch the role of the federation is to convince government farmers mean business. Speaking last week at the annual banquet of the Halton Federation of Agriculture, Peter Hannam called on farmers to have a unified voice on issues concerning them.

Five per cent of Canadians are farmers, Mr. Hannam said. In the past farmers spoke with "divided tongues," he said, with individual commodity groups lobbying separately. "When you get the support of people in the community other than farmers, then you get some action."

The most effective action the government could take would be to find markets for the foods produced, he said. Identifying the main problem as the inequity in trade and tariff policies, he said the priority of OFA is to expose inequities the farmers are facing. "We're not asking for a closed border," he said. "We recognize we're a trading nation."

As the situation now stands, farmers are losing domestic markets and not getting world markets, according to the OFA president. Citing peach sales, which fell from 85 per cent in Canada 15 years ago to the present 17 per cent, Mr. Hannam asked: "What

industry is going to go next?" Tariffs on imported peaches are as low as one-quarter cent a pound, while the tariff on Canadian export peaches is 16 to 20 per cent of the value of the product, he said.

Other produce which faces unfair trade and tariff policies are chicken, cheese and beef, Mr. Hannam said. While Canadian chicken producers are forced to use expensive raising methods to meet stringent health standards for their chickens, 50-million pounds of chicken are allowed to be imported from the U.S. without meeting the health requirement. "The inequities can't be explained by common sense," Mr. Hannam commented.

British cheese markets were lost when England joined the Common Market and export to the U.S. is

limited, he went on. Even at the resulting high price Canadian cheese sells for in the U.S., people are buying it, he reported. "At four to five dollars a pound, someone's making a profit on the cheese and it's not the farmer."

Many Toronto restaurants buy U.S. beef because the tariff is only three cents per pound, he commented. The U.S. on the other hand, has a 10 per cent tariff on boxed beef, which works out to about 30 cents a pound.

Ontario has a tremendous potential to produce food year after year, long after non-renewable resources are depleted, Mr. Hannam said. But to make its point to government the federation is going to have to put its argument in economic terms, such as the number of jobs lost or gained and the effect on the balance of payments, he said.

## Agriculture hall of fame

Agriculture and Food Minister Bill Newman has announced that a meeting was held recently to discuss the possibility of establishing an Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Fifty invited delegates, representing agricultural organizations in the province, attended the meeting and gave a very favorable reaction to the concept.

The proposed location for the Ontario Agricultural

Museum near Milton.

In making the announcement, Mr. Newman said, "The objective of the Agricultural Hall of Fame will be to give formal recognition to the many men and women who have by example and deed, paved the way for the extraordinary developments that have been made in organization, in production, in marketing, in education and all other phases of our industry."

## Directors, scholarship winners listed

By Henry J. Stanley

Hillcrest United Church basement was filled with members of the Halton Federation of Agriculture for their annual banquet and meeting on Thursday, Dec. 1. Chairman Bob Merry told of the many accomplishments of the Halton Federation during the past year, especially in the area of land use planning, opposition to garbage dumps and hydro in prime agricultural areas, providing scholarships and representing the voice of

agriculture in Halton whenever and wherever possible.

Recipients of Halton Federation Scholarships were Doug McPhail of Georgetown a student in the Diploma Course at the University of Guelph and Carolyn Bird of Georgetown, first year student in the Degree Course of the University of Guelph.

Directors elected for 1978 are Keith Anderson, Harold Biggar, Norman Bird, Tom Foster, Murray Harris,

Claude Inglis, Richard Kunica, Harold Lawrence, Art Lawson, Colin Marshall, Bob Merry, Harold Middlebrook, Bruce McClure, Fred Nurse, Harold Patterson, Jim Reid, Ed Segsworth, Richard Sovereign, Gerhard Treviranus, and Joe Windmoller.

The director from Halton to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is Gerhard Treviranus, Georgetown. He replaces Tom Foster, Campbellville, who served as Halton's Director for the past several years.

## Form marketing board corn producers advised

Peter Hannam, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, told Halton farmers the provincial group is calling on corn producers to organize a corn marketing board. Speaking at the Halton Federation of Agriculture banquet, Mr. Hannam said corn producers were the last in the farm produce industry without an organization to speak for them.

Corn is a \$300-million-a-year industry, he said. More corn is produced than can be used in Ontario and even more can be produced, creating a need for sales to other provinces and countries. But Mr. Hannam was quick to point out the proposed organization would not buy or sell corn, nor would it have any control on the

amount produced. He said it would be strictly a negotiating body.

A principal function of such a negotiating board would be to act as spokesman for corn growers. Other functions the board might undertake are to negotiate and administer advance payments, negotiate stabilization plans for corn,

negotiate corn handling and drying charges, act as watchdog of payments for premium grades of corn, supply marketing and trade information and promote export opportunities.

Mr. Hannam told the group if the proposal is to move any further, corn producers will have to petition for it.

## Canadians spend less

If every farmer in Canada over the past 10 years had taken no profits, consumers would have saved only 20 cents a day — less than a cup of coffee — according to Peter Hannam, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "There's certainly no rip off there," commented Mr.

Hannam. "We can produce the food and we can do it cheaply." Speaking at the annual banquet of the Halton Federation of Agriculture Mr. Hannam said Canadians today spend less on food than people of other countries and less than they did in past years.

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