

# On the farm front

BY GORDON HILL\*

On June 15, the two opposition parties united to defeat the Government's farm stabilization bill. Then they gave the government a clear directive to develop, by October 31, farm income protection legislation, embodying an insurance type plan, open to all farm commodities and involving a legally constituted negotiating role for farmers.

The Legislature also directed that farm organizations be involved in the development of the legislation.

## Victory for Farmers

This is a great victory for farmers and for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. We have been pressing the government for just such a plan for the last year and a half.

A lot of people wonder why farmers need an income protection plan. It sounds to them like "coddling" the inefficient.

Most Canadian farm prices are set in terms of the world grain market. This means the price Ontario farmers receive is completely independent of the quantity and quality of the Ontario crop. For example, they may have a poor crop, because of weather conditions here, and, instead of the price being fairly high because of a short supply, farmers may get a low price because, say, the Southern U.S. had a large crop.

What this basically means is costs of production bear very little relationship to price of farm products in Ontario.

## Farmers' Need

Ontario farmers, therefore, need some method whereby they can be assured of some of their costs of production, at the very least. Otherwise, farmers are left playing a dicey game with bankruptcy.

Without this kind of assurance, farmers' confidence in the farming industry is quickly disappearing. They are inclined to stop farming when things get too tough. And young people considering taking up farming are unlikely to do so.

## Agri-Power - No Joke

Ontario needs adequate and varied food production. If we don't produce our own food, we will soon be at the mercy of high price imports. Agri-power is no

joke. With more and more countries being unable to produce enough food, the power of food-exporting countries continually increases. Ontario does not need and cannot afford to shift its position from being a net exporter of food to major dependence on imports.

The income protection legislation OFA proposed and the Legislature has directed the government to develop will provide price stability in the food industry. It will provide farmers with the assurance that their costs will be covered and therefore provide them with the capital to improve efficiency and quality of product. It will assure Ontario of enough farmers to produce enough food to feed its people.

## Program Would Be Voluntary

The program OFA suggests would be voluntary both for each commodity group and for individual producers of a commodity. It would provide flexibility for the development of different commodities. For instance, some commodities might wish to have a high percentage of costs covered by a plan, others might just want a stop-loss plan and still others might not want a plan at all. No individual producer or group of producers would be forced to participate in any of these insurance-type plans.

What OFA wants the government to develop is enabling legislation with a legally constituted negotiating role for farmers. This will allow farmers to work out with the government the details of plans and the kind of support each commodity group wants and needs.

## Work With Government

We are looking forward to working cooperatively with the government in developing the enabling legislation to which the two opposition parties have now directed the government to submit to the Legislature by the end of October.

\*Gordon Hill is President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which represents nearly 25,000 Ontario farmers.

# Ontario plans 200 events for Olympics

More than a million people are expected to attend about 200 cultural projects being held across Ontario this summer in connection with the 1976 Olympics, Premier William Davis said recently.

Mr. Davis said the events, designed to reflect the province's cultural heritage to Olympic visitors as well as Ontario residents, will get under way in June which the Government has already proclaimed as Olympic Month in Ontario.

The projects, which are being financed on a matching grant basis

through Wintario funds, will involve both leading professional and small town amateur groups.

Mr. Davis said the program has been under development since last July in the Cultural Olympics Co-ordinating Office of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

COCO has been working with regional cultural Olympic committees in Kingston, Metro Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Niagara Region, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Windsor, Sarnia, Chatham, North Bay, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Cobalt, Peterborough,

Collingwood, Guelph, Kenora, Oshawa and Owen Sound.

The Ministry of Culture and Recreation is also assisting about 25 groups, such as the National Ballet and Young Peoples Theatre with preparations for their participation in the cultural program at the Montreal Olympics.

The Premier said he believes Canadians will pull together to make the Olympics a success despite the controversy that has surrounded the Olympic site in Montreal.

"I have never found

Canadians, certainly not the citizens of Ontario, lacking in willingness to exhibit to the rest of the world their faith in this great country and its long traditions for warm hospitality and good sportsmanship," said Mr. Davis.

He recalled the opening of Expo '67 was also clouded by controversy, but this was quickly forgotten once the doors were opened and the celebration of Canada's 100th birthday began.

"I expect by the time of the march past of athletes on July 17, Canadians will once again show that same kind of enthusiasm and do their share in making sure visitors meet a friendly Olympic spirit in the towns and cities across Canada," said Mr. Davis.

He said Ontario is also particularly proud of being the site of the 1976 Olympic for the Physically Disabled which is being held at Centennial Park in Etobicoke. About 2,100 disabled athletes from around the world are expected.



**\$51,000 HOLSTEIN AT PICKLAND SALE**—Pickland Royal Flossie brought \$48,000 at the Pickland Sale held May 3 at Hays Sales Arena, Oakville, Ontario, when the Pickland herd of Claude F. Picket, Georgetown, was dispersed. She was bought by Oak Ridges Farms, Oak Ridges, Ont., and Kahn Bros., Brooklin, Ont. Five-year-old Flossie was sired by Elkur Royal Hope "Excellent" and her dam was Pickland Tonal Flossi "Excellent". Flossie was Honourable Mention All-Canadian two-year-old in 1973. As a three-

year-old she produced in 305 days on twice-a-day milking 16502 lbs. milk containing 689 lbs. fat, average butterfat test 4.18 percent. Left to right: Ernie Kahn of Kahn Bros. Brooklin; Claude F. Picket, Georgetown; R.R. Dennis of Oak Ridges Farms, Oak Ridges; Peter Heffering, Pt. Perry; George Darrach, Farm Manager at Oak Ridges Farms; Bert Stewart Hornby; Arnold Weaver, Herdsman at Oak Ridges; Horace Backus, Mexico N.Y., on pedigree; Norman Darrach, Oak Ridges; and Jeff Nurse, Georgetown, at the halter.



**\$51,000 HOLSTEIN CALF AT PICKLAND SALE**—Brown Dale Barb, born 18 February 1976 from Hanover Hill Barb "Very Good" and sired by Lakefield Fond Hope, "Excellent and Class Extra" sire, sold for \$51,000 at the Pickland Sale held May 3 at the Hays Sales Arena, Oakville. Barb was bred by R.F. Brown, Paris Ont. and E. & M. Ladina, Cremona, Italy, and was owned by Claude F.

Picket of Pickland Farm, Georgetown. Pictured with Barb, left to right: Peter Heffering, of Hanover Hill Holsteins, Port Perry; Alilio Ladina, Cremona Italy, father of Ercole & Marcello Ladina; and Miss Peddie, Georgetown, whose father is herdsman at Pickland Farm

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