

[REDACTED]

La Farge, Wi
March 17, 1992

Mr. Brian Lamb

Dear Mr. Lamb;

I asume C-Span may cover the Wisconsin primaries soon. I believe the family working farmer has been abused, but with young farmers leaving the farm may mean a shortage at the grocery in the future. A young farmer may be less efficient, but five or ten years later he may be the most efficient. He will be needed in the production of food at that time.

Agriculture has had very little coverage during the Presidential campaign from the news media-- there are lots of farm sales taking place. Used farm machinery sold good in recent years, but not this year. No body is going into farming.

We hear about 'jump-starting' the farm economy. If agriculture is getting within reason its fair share of the national income-- That would help 'jump-start' the economy.

You may use all, some or non of this.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

La Farge, Wi. 54639



MARCH 16, 1992

MADISON, WISCONSIN

★★
50 CENTS

MONDAY

Dairy experts warn of farm exodus

By Robert Imrie

Associated Press

Wisconsin likely will lose another third of its 32,000 dairy farms within five years as more aging farmers retire and financial woes squeeze out others, farm economists predict.

The exodus may jeopardize Wisconsin's claim as the No. 1 dairy-producing state in the country. Some experts say the survival of rural main streets and small towns is also at stake.

"If we don't figure out a way to encourage young people and new investment, we will lose our dairy industry. That has major implications," said Robert Cropp, a UW-Extension dairy specialist.

Cropp predicts 10,000 to 12,000 of Wisconsin's dairy farms will fold, perhaps

within five years but certainly by end of the decade.

Older farmers with outdated barns and milking parlors will retire without passing their farms to younger producers, in part because the next generation isn't interested, he said. Also, other farmers will be forced out by financial problems.

"Maybe in five years, California will be the No. 1 dairy state. I am not sure," he said.

Historically, Wisconsin loses about 1,000 dairy farms a year, Cropp said. Some economists predicted 4,000 to 5,000 farms would fold when raw milk prices last year plunged to \$10 per 100 pounds, the lowest price since 1978, but that didn't occur, he said.

Marinette County Agriculture Agent John Wacholz said the trend toward fewer but larger farms is reality and any political talk about saving family farms is based

on sentimentality, not fact.

"I don't think we will ever be to a point where there won't be a farming business run by families," he said. "Sometimes, we are afraid we are going to get run over by corporate farms. I think that is incorrect. We will always have family farms. Granted, they will be larger."

While the total number of farms will shrink, Cropp foresees milk production will remain stable, perhaps growing slightly by the end of the decade.

Last year, dairy farmers produced 24 billion pounds of milk, from herds that averaged 51 cows. By the year 2000, herds will average 75 cows and probably produce 25 billion to 26 billion pounds of milk, Cropp predicted.

Ed Jesse, a UW-Madison dairy economist, said the predictions reflect a continu-

ing trend of Wisconsin's dairy industry moving from what other businesses might call mom-and-pop operations to more specialized farms.

"It is not in any way indicative of the demise of the industry," he said. "It is a restructuring of the industry."

There are no economic arguments for maintaining a certain level of farms, he said.

But Dennis Rosen, president of the Wisconsin Farmers Union, which has 5,600 farmer-members, said shifting agriculture into fewer and fewer hands has speeded up because free-market policies in the past decade have harmed family farms.

"You are going to have a lot rural communities that are going to go basically bankrupt," the St. Croix County dairy farmer said. "You are going to have this cost that nobody is assessing."

Oodles of news

Continued from Page 1A

tial," Danky said. "He collected everything, but he especially liked newspapers."

The collection includes some significant historical items, such as a copy of the first reprinting of the U.S. Constitution — in The Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser newspaper in 1787; and America's first Spanish-language paper, El Misisipi, printed in 1808 in New Orleans.

The society also has the only known copy of many historical items, such as The Exodus, a newspaper published by blacks in the 1880s for former slaves wishing to migrate from the South.

But some of the material, which also includes thousands of newsletters and magazines, is relevant today. Even daily journalists, whose interest in history rarely extends beyond what happened at the last city council meeting, can find something here.

For example, the society has all of the newsletters issued by the National Association for the Advance-

Inspectors await UN word on Iraq missile destruction

By Nabila Megalli

Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — A British ballistics expert said Sunday his UN inspection team stood ready to go to Baghdad while the Iraqis and Security Council work out plans to destroy missile production equipment.

Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy premier, has been in New York trying to persuade the United Nations to allow the Baghdad government to convert missile-producing equipment to peaceful uses rather than destroy it. The Security Council has so far refused his appeals.

The ballistics expert, Derek Boothby, told reporters in Bahrain there was neither "negotiation nor compromise" involved. The council and his 35-member team were simply "waiting to hear from Iraq" on the method of the destruction, he said.

No date is fixed for the team's departure for Baghdad.

"This mission may as well initiate the destruction process of ballistic missile production and repair facilities. This is tied up with

Iraq denies planning attack on Kurds

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraqi Defense Minister Ali Hassan al-Majid denied Sunday that his forces were preparing for a major offensive against the Kurds, the official Iraqi News Agency said.

"We have no offensive intention now, nor do we plan to advance farther than the known positions of our military divisions," al-Majid said.

A spokesman for the rebel Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Barham Saleh, said Saturday that Iraqi shelling of the rebel-held town of Kifri killed six civilians and

wounded 20.

Saleh claimed earlier in the week that Iraq was escalating military operations against the rebel-controlled territory and massing troops for a major offensive.

The Kurds, a predominantly Sunni Muslim ethnic group found primarily in northern Iraq, southeastern Turkey, Iran, Syria and the former Soviet Union, have been intermittently struggling for autonomy from the Baghdad government for decades.

and Britain have threatened fresh military strikes.

Aziz arrived in Jordan on Sunday night en route to Baghdad, said the official Jordanian news agency, Petra. Part of his delegation remained in New York as a conduit between Baghdad and the United Nations on the demands of the UN Special Commission

hunt down chemical weapons and production sites and investigate biological and nuclear weapons research programs.

A day earlier, the Bahrain-based regional representative of the Special Commission, Alastair Livingston, said there was a discrepancy in numbers Baghdad gave of mis-

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La Ronge Epitaph Aug 8-1991 *Wis.*
The Smooth Talking Hoover Boys

Dear Editor,

Palmer Munson believes that the Hoover Boys are at it again! If some of our young farmers or other young people are struggling to establish themselves in business of farming or other, if they don't know what "Hoover Boys" means then they had better set down their Pepsi and their beer. They will need the long-lasting energy of milk while they study the history and take inventory of their future.

Munson says, "I'm a great believer in competition, but hooking a ton horse to a Shetland pony is not competition, that's victory for one and defeat for the other." The bargaining position of agriculture could be compared to the Shetland Pony.

Agriculture cannot effectively be organized or bargained for a price. Number one, we produce a perishable product. Number two, farmers and farm production is scattered throughout every farm field in the nation. We all contribute to the agricultural production in our agricultural counties, whether we are in business of tilling the soil and caring for the livestock, or in business on main street. Even the undertaker, if he would follow his income back, would realize that years back there was a truck load of farm products sold out of the area.

An abundance of farm products are important to national defense. Our nation would be much weaker with shortages and shoppers standing in line. That abundance does serve as an insurance policy against starvation for all the American people.

We in agriculture should not alone carry the financial burden of the abundance. What are the "Hoover Boys" doing? They seem so eager and so willing to use the

inferior bargaining position of agriculture into a deflationary trend.

Our economic recession and depressions are farm-led and farm-fed. By allowing the Shetland Pony effect to farm prices, young farmers are working their hearts out producing the shirt off one another's backs--while they drive their prices into the ground producing the abundance that America needs so badly.

Every time a hammer or a piece of machinery is shipped into an agricultural community, we are competing with defense contracts. Where is agriculture's defense contract? The cost of that abundance should be shared by all the American people. This cost should not fall on the backs of farm counties and farm communities alone.

We get fed a line on "free trade" but our present administration turn their heads away when "fair trade", for agriculture is mentioned. Too much inflation is bad, but too little deflation is worse, especially for us in agriculture, taking the lead in that trend.

The Shetland Pony effect is not good enough for America's competitive system and its family business. Cheap corn and cheap grain means cheap milk and meat years later. Our nation needs more than perfect PR and smooth talk from our leaders. Has your cost of living gone down? Have your taxes gone down?

A supply and management for agriculture should and must be a part of any price protection law. Otherwise, we will hear another ten years of moaning and groaning about the terrible cost of surpluses, while even some of our nation's so called 'farm leaders' complain about the cost of surpluses, then oppose a supply-

management program for agriculture.

Have farm surpluses really been a problem in the past? I haven't heard of any farm surpluses being dumped in the ocean! In recent years when industrial stock prices took as fall, a spokesman for the New York stock exchange thanked Allen Greenspan of the Federal Reserve board for providing the necessary equity to stabilize the industrial stock market. If that's not price protection for incorporated industry, then what is it?

Believe it or not, like it or not, agriculture needs and deserves reasonable price protection by federal law. All the people need full grocery shelves and an abundance of farm products to back it up.

Our job as farmers is to see that there is an abundance of farm products at all times. That abundance shouldn't be allowed to depress farm prices.

Hats off to the hard working farmer and the small businessman, the laboring man, who keeps agricultural roads, trucks, and tractors going and the electricity flowing.

Thumbs down to those who don't want the farmer to vote once a year with a secret ballot on supply-management program.

What prices are not protected by either government law or corporation policy--where they keep supply in line with demand?

If our agricultural section of our national economy had within reason its fair share of national income, that would serve to stabilize our national economy. The individual, then could and should take care of his or herself. Our nation's people would need less of the "band aid" approach from government.

Submitted by,
Palmer Munson

This may explain some of the Lincold abuse to family farmer recent years