

farmer, and especially as it relates to agriculture. In all these areas we hope to get definite goals accomplished at the end of the conference because there is federal funding in these areas so everyone of our conferences have been goal oriented. People have come away with something. From the last conference we had in Boston, there has been an exchange of legislation and ideas. One of the things organized was senior citizens and inner city people into buying clubs. These people make orders themselves with their community centers. When the farmer who is contacted comes to that part of the city he has already sold his product. He's not looking for a buyer - it is sold. This way he has supplemented the income of those with food stamps and the inner city people and has also given much stronger foundation to the farmers in the area. These are the types of things the clearing house can do and what can happen when people actually communicate with other people.



Robert Houriet: From your various view points could you give us an idea of what you think is the most feasible step for a small association of organic growers to take in lobbying for change in agricultural policy?

Carl: Well, first of all, as I view the situation, you must have strong units, strong islands of interest in your own areas. In other words we're talking about Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine. Be sure your voices are heard locally, that you're on sound ground, that you get your plans clearly formulated. I'm talking about your state level first, then move that on to the federal level by keeping your Congressman informed and your Senators informed of what you have in mind. With the Northeast and it's peculiar problems, I would say that you could create a good strong political block, because agriculture, historically, back thirty-five, forty years, that was the strong block in Congress and today it's a very soft voice. I think organic farming, small family farms, have a real fine place in agriculture. You're going to hear a lot more about them, especially when we begin to understand nutrition. This is one of the horrible things in America today. We don't understand nutrition. The average

family consumes fifty-four percent of their food as junk calories. To get back to your question, I think you've got to have a sound, active - people have to get excited about their product. They've got to support it. If you don't do that - forget it. A lot of people have the idea that all the great thinking and forces come out of Washington. Forget it! It's the grassroots, people out in the country that really make the government tick, and the louder the voices are at the grassroots, the more meaningful it is. Silas: I've been sitting here being critical of the bureaucracy, and you should be. We've heard a lot of talk recently about something called citizen participation. The Department of Agriculture has been doing that for forty years and it was the lead agency for doing that. In every country there is a citizens committee that deals with the A.S.C.S., soil Conservation Service, and Farmers Home Admin-

istration, and County Extension Programs. Get on those committees. Most of the time they're begging for people to serve on them and you can get on them, but you have to talk to people who put you on them. That's a very quick and easy avenue to influence and to power within certain limits. Second, you do need to know what you want in order to be specific. Don't ask them to love you because you're organic growers. Tell them you want your fair share of payments for soil amendments, period. And you want your fair share of conservation practices because you are taxpayers, and your fair share of subsidies for whatever you want them for because you're citizens. They're not interested, particularly whether you're organic or non-organic but they are interested in whether or not you're getting some equity in terms of distribution of bucks for programs, for research, for extension, or whatever it is. Lay it on them what you want. Tell 'em!



Life is short but our desires are many,  
And all mankind finds joy in living long.  
When day and month reach this auspicious time  
Everyone rejoices in its name.

The dew is chill, the summer wind has ceased,  
The air is clear and all the sky is bright,  
No trace remains of departed swallows,  
The honking still echoes from passing geese.  
Wine serves to exercise all our concerns,  
Chrysanthemum keeps us from growing old.

But what is the thatched-hut gentleman to do  
Who helpless views times revolutions?  
The dusty cup shames the empty wine cask,  
The cold flower blooms uncelebrated.

Drawing tight my robe, I sing to myself,  
In my reverent deepest feelings stir.  
There are many joys in living here,  
And just to see it through is something gained.

Tao Ch'ien  
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