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Farmers Can Be Certified

Yancey County Farmers who would like to become certified to apply restricted-use pesticides now have the opportunity to do so.

Johnny Hensley, Yancey County Ass't. Agricultural Extension Agent, said a series of classes are planned for farmers on pesticide use.

By attending two 2-hour classes farmers can obtain a form which they can use to get a certificate from the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

Under a new federal law, farmers must have this certificate before they can buy restricted-use pesticides for their 1978 crop. This means that farmers will need to attend the classes by the fall of 1977, Hensley said.

Hensley said the classes are being organized and taught by the Agricultural Extension Service. "We try to make the classes as meaningful to farmers as possible," Hensley added. Topics covered include pest identification, types of pesticides and how they work, and pesticide safety, equipment, application rates and regulations.

Hensley estimates that about 1900 farmers in Yancey County currently use restricted-use pesticides. These are pesticides that have been declared potentially dangerous to people, animals or the environment.

Training will be conducted for several weeks with about 100-150 farmers per class. Farmers will be notified by mail of which class they should plan to attend. Those not receiving a letter right away are encouraged to wait until they receive a letter to attend the classes.

Plans are to involve people from one community per class until everyone who needs to be certified has received the training.

Lodge Plans

Special Election

Stated Communications of Burnsville Lodge No. 717 AF & AM on Thursday, December 16, 1976. There will be "Special Election of Officers." All members are urged to attend.

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REPORT FROM
U.S. Senator
JESSE ★★ HELMS

WASHINGTON—Perhaps a few comments are in order concerning the constantly increasing number of political pressure groups which take it upon themselves to attack Senators and Representatives with whom they disagree.

These pressure groups can be found all across the political spectrum. Some operate on big budgets with large staffs. Others are small—some of them are individuals with a political ax to grind.

And all of them count on the news media to get their "message" across, free of charge.

HUNGER—For example, in late October, just before the election, an outfit piously calling itself a "Christian citizens lobby," issued a press release in which it launched an attack on a number of members of Congress. Many newspapers, two or three of them in North Carolina, published the press release without raising a single question about its validity. Even one of the major press associations rewrote the press release only slightly, and distributed it to hundreds of newspapers across the country—never bothering to wonder about the basis for such an obvious political attack, let alone the issues involved.

The outfit calls itself "Bread for the World," and its press release accused several Senators and Representatives of "voting so consistently against hungry people, both here and abroad." The press release added, "It's hard to believe that U.S. voters, if they know the record, would not think twice before returning these people to office."

How's that for a last-minute political attack, just before an election?

DISCLOSURE—There was no hint in the press release as to the identity of this so-called "Bread for the World" outfit. No mention was made, for example, that it is headed by a man named Eugene Carson Blake, generally regarded as one of the most politically activist clergymen in the country.

Dr. Blake is a former leader of the World Council of Churches. Over the years, his advocacies have embraced almost every ultra-liberal proposal that has come up. Let me quickly add that Dr. Blake is entitled to his views, but he is subject to question when he uses a vague press release, issued just before an election, to attack those with whom he disagrees.

ISSUES—Dr. Blake's so-called "Bread for the World" press release did not list the issues on which it based its "ratings" of Members of Congress. It simply singled out Senators and Representatives who, for example, have been raising questions about the waste and abuses discovered in the food stamp program. These same Congressmen have objected to spending hundreds of millions of dollars of the American taxpayers' money to send grain to subsidize communist and socialist governments abroad.

I am one whom Dr. Blake's outfit criticized. So is Senator Goldwater. I hope I continue to merit Dr. Blake's criticism, because I contend that American tax dollars ought not to be used to subsidize communist tyrants around the world. Much of the grain and other foods which American taxpayers are sending abroad does not go to hungry people—it goes to dictatorships which deliver the food only to people who happen to have the money to pay for it. The hungry citizens in those countries are out of luck if they have no money. To illustrate how the system operates, there is at least one foreign government that derives 80 per cent of its income by selling—to its own people—the food sent to them by our country, paid for by the American taxpayers who are being led to believe that we are helping the poor, starving people of other lands.

I would emphasize that there is nothing unlawful about Dr. Blake's attempt to propagandize the American people. Still, it is clearly a blatant political activity—one that is counting on the news media to ask no questions.

And in this instance, too many didn't.

Aftermath Of Bus Accident

[Cont'd from page 1]

State Representative asking that the mountain counties in North Carolina be given priority in the matter of bus replacement schedules. The County Commissioners, who took office only this week, are already looking into the matter of the purchase of the three additional buses needed by the school system.

All these measures are reassuring, but it's too bad everything had to be triggered off by an accident. The only consolation we have is that perhaps the nationwide attention given to the cause of the accident in Yancey County may prevent an even greater tragedy, here or elsewhere, in the future.

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