

Government Controls Criticized by McGuire

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By **CLIFF LEE**
Staff Writer

Government control is the greatest threat to the American farmer, says Richard McGuire, president of the New York Farm Bureau.

In an address to the State Young Farmers Conference of the state farm bureau, McGuire described public takeover of privately-owned land as "insidious" and the greatest threat to the American philosophy of free enterprise in the history of this country.

Approximately 150 persons came to Glens Falls Friday for the opening of the two-day conference at the Queensbury Inn.

McGuire singled out the Adirondack Park Agency as an example of how government control of private land limits the owners use of the land. He said such control imposes a limitation on the use, sale and purchase of private land.

McGuire, a Salem dairy farmer, told the group of about 150 young farmers that the majority of the people in the state and the country as a whole do not own land. He said there is an increasing desire on the part of these non-land owners to control private property through the government.

The Washington County farmer said Americans 200 years ago fought to establish a form of government that would protect their private interests and rights.

He said: "200 years later that same government has become the greatest threat to the rights and privileges

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of the land owner."

McGuire said government doesn't realize that use of land has always been planned ahead of time by farmers and other property owners to the best advantage of everyone concerned.

"No country that has turned over land planning to the government has ever succeeded in providing for the needs of its own people," he added.

McGuire said the farmer knows what is best for his own land and how to best plan its use in the future, rather than having the planning done by an outside agency.

The farm bureau president said farmers have got to make their presence known to legislators and convince them that private ownership of land is essential to the growth and prosperity of the country.

"You can always use the threat of not having enough to eat to convince the legislators of this,"

McGuire said, "and illustrate it with the countries that have turned over ownership of land to the government and are now starving."

McGuire said he objects to agencies such as the APA, which control land use on the premise of preserving nature. He said state residents have voiced their objections to a total takeover of control of private land in the state, but are allowing agencies such as the APA, to take over control of areas throughout the state one at a time.

According to McGuire, farmers have the biggest gamble, the largest investments and the most to lose of all businesses and that it is up to the young farmers to change the direction in which the country is moving to prevent the increase of government control of private land.

The young farmers' conference is scheduled to continue today with workshops on subjects such as estate planning, motivation and self-confidence in farming and present and future challenges in dairy marketing.

The young farmers also heard addresses Friday from Nathan Chandler, agriculture counsel to the administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency; Bruce Hawley, assistant director of congressional relations for the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington, D.C.; Henry Stebbins of the state Department of Environmental Conservation; and Phil Griffen, a New York dairy farmer and chairman of the resources committee of the New York Farm Bureau.

gfps to March 16