

APR 22 1982

# Conservation Concerns All Who Eat

**T**HERE'S nothing like higher prices to make people aware of where the necessities of life come from, and inflation is making us pay more attention to vital facts we previously may have overlooked.

Several items that have reached this desk lately suggest that urban residents and consumers may be recognizing the importance of conservation and good management of our natural resources.

Dr. Bernice Crockett, former professor at Southeastern State University, Durant, now with Oklahoma Water Inc., supplied a copy of *Graduate Woman*, publication of the American Association of University Women.

One article by Lester R. Brown, head of the Worldwatch Institute, Washington, D.C., was titled "The Soils, Where Civilization Takes Root." Another by Joan Gussow, head of Columbia University Teachers College nutrition programs, asked: "How Long Is your Food Chain?" She wrote "Americans have trivialized food" and in retaliation the food supply has made people

helpless.

"If there is not enough food it doesn't matter if there is enough of everything else — including oil and money," Gussow said.

Kent Ruth, travel writer and booster for Geary, sent an item from the *Mennonite Weekly Review*, covering a Faith and Agriculture Forum held at the Iowa Mennonite School in March.

"Too many people feel that since things are still green, things must be all right," said Wes Jackson, director of the Land Institute at Salina, Kan., a principal speaker. He called for rethinking of traditional farming methods and biblical teachings.

The *Western Law Journal* devoted its front page and much inside space to questions of "Dividing the Waters." It related to conflicts over water between states and Indian tribes, the City of El Paso and the State of New Mexico.

"The crux of the dispute is whether water is an article of commerce — which, under the constitution, cannot be restricted by the states —

or a precious natural resource subject to state regulations," one writer pointed out provocatively.

Conservation from another angle was the topic of a leaflet mailed by Ken McFall, executive secretary of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. It was written by James R. Dunn, Ph.D., former president of the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

Dunn's premise is that by failing to develop our own energy resources the United States is encouraging devastation of forests, wildlife and food production in less developed countries. By outbidding them for oil, Dunn says we are forcing them to use trees for fuel, widening man-made deserts.

"Two-thirds of the forests in Southern Asia are gone already, as are half of the forests in Africa and one-third of those in South and Central America," Dunn asserts. "The remaining forests may be consumed in 20 to 80 years."

Conservation is not just a farmers' problem. Soil, water, trees and energy are of concern to everybody who eats.



LEONARD A. SOLOMON  
Executive Director

405 / 521-2384

STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

114 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73105

March 29, 1982

Mr. Ferdie Deering  
11608 Susan Lane  
Edmond, OK 73120

Dear Ferdie:

A couple of weeks ago it dawned on me that my many friends are making me look good as I try to administer the statewide conservation district program. So every Monday I have resolved to write a friend who has been instrumental in my success (ever what that is).

This morning as I was thinking about all of my friends, your name rose to the top. I would like to express my deep appreciation to you for your many years of support and assistance, starting back in the 50's with the old Neighborhood Block Program at Warren, Oklahoma, down through the years to the fine article in yesterday's "Sunday Oklahoma".

Thanks again for your friendship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonard A. Solomon".

LEONARD A. SOLOMON  
The Sage of Lightning Ridge