Uncle Ab From Abington — February 23, 1977

By Jim Jones

Ran across a statement th' other day which was attributed to one Thomas Jefferson-- "Tillers of the Soil are the Chosen of the Lord".

Been thinkin' a good deal about these words. Wondered if they still hold true today some 175 years after ol' Tom's time. If taken literally, th' folks who lives in the cities an' never put a spade into th' earth are sure second rate citizens in th' eyes of God. Don't think that's quite what he meant, If its a matter of degree, then my brother Jon who owns and tills nearly 250 acres is a much holier person than I am. That may be, since I can't argue Jon's holiness and he better not argue mine. We all would be in trouble compared to those fellers who farm thousands of acres.

Rememberin' that Jefferson was raised and lived in a society which is called by the big word agrarian, meanin' that most of th' citizens made their livin' off the land, its possible that ol' Tom was thinkin' that th' folks who made their existance off th' soil had a special kinship with th' Almighty. God makes things grow. Man jest puts th' God-given seeds into th' God-given soil an' hopes that God will look with favor on his puny endeavors. When its dry, man prays to God fer rain. Not so, sez some who point with pride to their big irrigation rigs. But they forgets where th water fer their irrigation comes from. Th' fertilizer folks sez yer crops won't do as well without some of our high-powered plant food. That might be true to a degree since man in his stupidity has robbed th' soil of its natcheral plant food. But th' fertilizer is all traceable back to natcheral ingredients such as phosphate rock an' potash.

All man has done is concentrat them an' package them into convenient and expensive forms that our modern machinery will handle.