

MARYLAND HOSPITALITY: Frank and Mrs. Atwood are given a generous serving of Maryland barbecued chicken and crab by Ernie Matthews, Delmarva poultryman who did the cooking at feast which climaxed meeting. (C) Preston-Bay Country News and Farmer)

By
Frank
Atwood



Frank Atwood's Biggest Thrill

Meeting President Eisenhower and Introducing Him to NATRFD Members Was Great Experience

THE PRESIDENT of the United States made friends all over the country when he welcomed 200 members of the National Association of Television and Radio Farm Directors in the White House rose garden June 21.

Our names had been submitted in advance. Our convention badges got us through the White House gate. On the lawn near the famous putting green the TV-movie cameras and microphones indicated where we were to stand.

As president of National Association of Television and Radio Farm Directors, it was my assignment to meet the President and introduce our group to him. I had not known whether a speech would be expected, but I had been thinking of little else for hours and although

kind friends said it sounded off-the-cuff, it was as completely memorized a one-minute talk as I have ever made.

I said we had come to Washington from 32 states and Canada in search of current information and opinion on national farm problems. I said it was an honor and a privilege to pay our respects to the President of our country, and that I believed we could feel, too, that we were making a neighborly call on Mr. Eisenhower as a Pennsylvania farmer.

THE PRESIDENT stepped to the microphone with a chuckle. "It is a fact, of course," he said, "that I am interested now in farm programs from two angles, one as a farmer, and one as a

governmental official, and I find my ideas don't always agree when I take the two viewpoints."

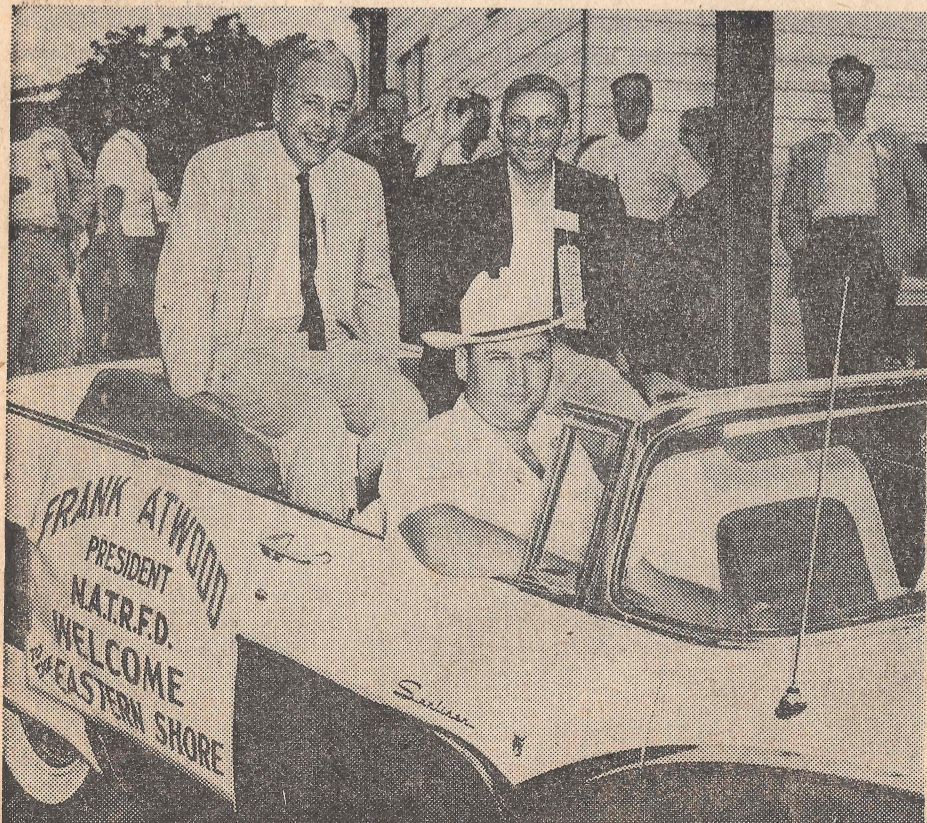
Then his serious message: "There is no question about the common sense, the logic, of the decisions that will be reached by the American public when they are informed, but they must be informed, and accurately, and when you have the mission of getting ahold of the information, not only about the farm program but the things that will interest the whole farm community, you are doing a tremendously great service. . . ."

Farm broadcasters should have gone back to their microphones with an increased sense of their responsibility.

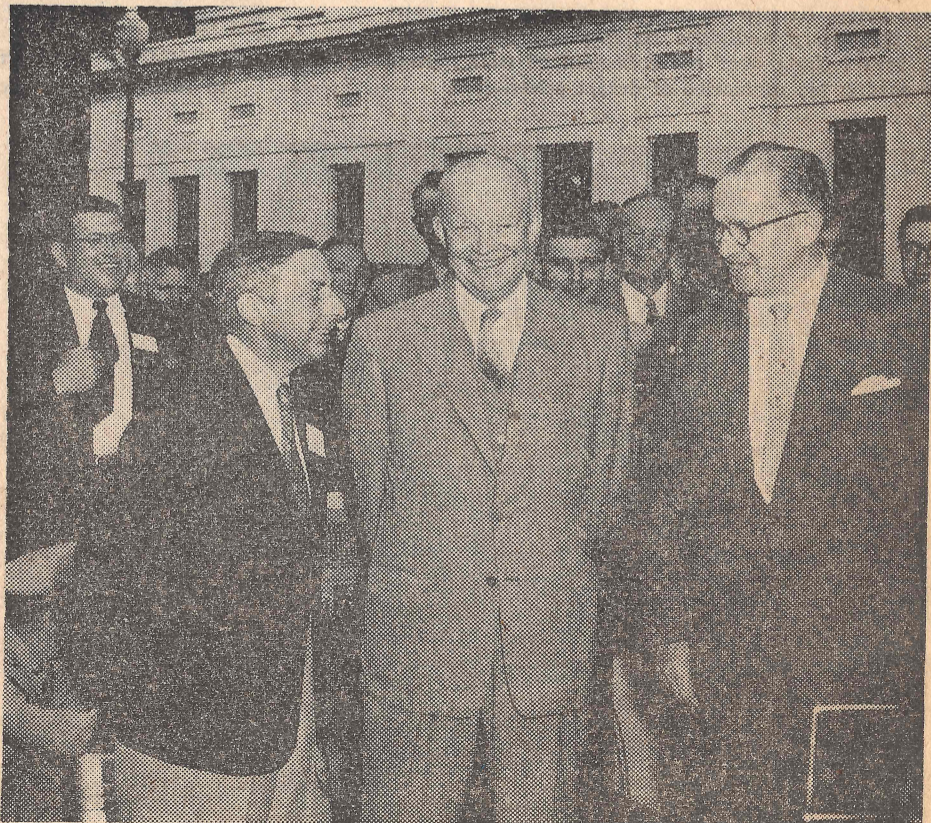
ington was one of two we hold each year, the other being our annual session at Chicago after Thanksgiving. I was elected last November and somebody else will get the job at our next Chicago meeting. It is a cohesive group, and hard-working. Two and a half days out of three we spent in Washington would come under the heading of work sessions, getting ideas, making tape recordings and television films to take back home.

For recreation we had a whiz-bang foray into Maryland, by police-escorted bus to Annapolis, by boat across Chesapeake Bay, and a chicken barbecue and crab feast on the famous Eastern Shore of Maryland.

OUR NATRFD meeting in Wash-



WELCOME TO EASTERN SHORE is extended to Atwood, sitting with Lowell Kern of New York and (with big hat) Charlie Wyatt of Texas. Kern and Wyatt represent American Petroleum Institute, one of hosts for the outing. (C) Preston-Bay Country News and Farmer.



POSING WITH IKE: After his brief talk to NATRFD members, the President posed with his guests. Ike and Secretary of Agriculture Benson are grinning at Atwood's invitation to national corn picking contest in Missouri (U.S. Department of Agriculture Photo).