

● PFA

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ly-disclosed improprieties in the Pittsburgh area, and he proposed that legislators refrain from action pending the outcome of the Pittsburgh hearings.

The retail price of milk to the consumer is one serious bone of contention. He said that PFA is for volume as counts on milk, and that this can be accomplished within the present framework of the law by administrative changes in the law's application and interpretation.

In reporting on other legislative matters, the secretary said there are at this moment 900 bills pending in the Senate, and 825 in the House for a total of 1425. 150 of these effect agriculture directly.

The most serious issue at stake is the reapportionment question. If the state were to reapportion its representatives in accordance with the Supreme Court decision, Hatfield said, 12 counties would be certain to lose their representatives in the House; six more would probably lose

theirs; and 28 others could lose their House seats. This means that between 12-28 counties could be left without representation — the final figure would probably be about 18, he estimated. Lancaster may not lose any representatives, but it would surely lose much of the support previously enjoyed from other agricultural counties.

In the Senate, 67 percent of the counties would lose representatives. The Senator of the future would be from either Philadelphia or Pittsburgh. Philadelphia now controls practically every committee in the House, and even though a coalition of Republicans and upstate Democrats can muster enough votes to pass a resolution for a constitutional amendment, they can't get the bill out of the Philadelphia-dominated committees for a vote. A bill can be gotten out of committee if a simple majority votes a "discharge resolution," but supporters hesitate to use this drastic measure, he said.

The PFA representative re-

viewed the status of other bills with special emphasis on the rash of "humane society" bills and their potential dangers to agriculture.

He spoke particularly of Senate Bill 428, known as the "Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law." This bill is being pushed by the Humane Society of the U.S.A. with headquarters in Washington D.C. The Pennsylvania Humane Society is not supporting it. It would define an animal as every living creature except a human being. Under S.B. 428 it would be unlawful for a farmer to kill rats or mice; if he used pesticides on his crops he would be subject to fine for "exposing a poisonous substance;" when transporting animals, he would have to "provide protection from the elements and wind velocity, adequate ventilation, and sufficient space for freedom of natural position;" he would have to separate the animals by "species and sex" — the pigs could not ride with the cows except in separate apartments; no animal could be taken to market at less than six weeks of age, unless accompanied by its mother; etc!

Ridiculous as these things may sound to farmers, the bill had 24 Senators' names as sponsors — it only takes 26 votes to pass the Senate! PFA, through the efforts of its administrative secretary, was instrumental in killing this bill, Hatfield reported.

In the business session of the meeting, Charles Mohn, assistant organization director of PFA, congratulated the Lancaster County Assn. on its 808 members, but challenged

them to become the number one association in the state — they are now the second largest county segment of PFA, Mohn said.

J. Robert Hess, Strasburg R1, president of the Lancaster County Farmers Assn., directed the meeting.

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