

Gov. Honors Grange For 99 Years' Service

In Proclaiming Grange Week in Pennsylvania, last week, Governor William W. Scranton cited the Grange for its long time service to the people of Pennsylvania in the following letter:

"The Grange in Pennsylvania and elsewhere has contributed significantly to the development of rural America for 99 years.

"American agricultural accomplishments are opening important avenues for international cooperation, through raising levels of nutrition and standards of living for

all the peoples of the world. "The Grange aids realization of international peace and prosperity by its active support of America's role in solving the world food crisis. "Grange objectives include building character, encouraging education, promoting individual and community responsibility, and fostering sound legislation.

"In recognition of the worthwhile contributions of the Grange, the world's only family farm fraternity, I am pleased to designate the week of April 17-23, 1966, as GRANGE WEEK in Pennsylvania, and I urge all our citizens to cooperate in this observance."

● Governor's Conf.

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He stated that, projecting the present rate of land competition over the next 20 years, we can expect to see 1.4 million more acres of Pennsylvania land tied up in urban areas, highways, and recreational uses. He stressed the urgency of considering Class III and Class IV land for as much of that use as possible.

Funk also cited his committee's findings on the potential need and supply of water in the state. He said that in response to increasing population pressures, supply and demand will raise food prices to a point where it will become economically feasible to put non-agricultural land into use, often under irrigation. If irrigation in the Susquehanna River Basin is to be used at its full potential it will create water shortages in competitive uses, Funk said. Since we are presently able to use only about 15 percent of the total rainfall, he sees proper storage of rain water as an important key to taking care of agricultural needs in the future.

The natural resources committee further reported that citizens of Pennsylvania needed to be better informed on the threat of land and water pollution. It "is the most pressing and high cost issue facing rural areas," in the state, Funk said.

A few of the highlights of

other committee reports included:

BUSINESS AND CREDIT—the Governor was urged to name a committee to review farm credit facilities, and to devise better liaison between lending agencies so that as farm size and investment continues to increase farmers will be able to obtain vitally needed credit.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS—greater food production can be achieved only through continuous research, training, and development of facilities such as regional post-high school centers and adult farmer courses. Colleges of agriculture in the U.S., it was pointed out, graduate 7,500 agriculture students annually, when actually twice that many are needed.

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING—to help span this period of transition in agriculture in which labor is scarce and high-priced, and

changes in diets and home-maker preferences are altering production and marketing practices, the committee felt the state agriculture department and university should expand their respective research and regulatory efforts.

GOVERNMENTAL ENVIRONMENT—called for more government-citizen cooperation. The food protection function of the department of agriculture should be expanded, and consideration should be given to some constitutional relief from high taxation on farm land.

● Parliamentarians

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kill Counties; G. Russell Drumm, landscape architect; and Dennis Grumbine, state FFA president.

The final placings of the four competing teams were: Solanco; Red Lion; Kennard-Dale; Grassland.



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