

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

As Pennsylvania enters a new decade, it is entirely appropriate that those of us in government pause briefly and reflect on the late 1960s as the most productive and progressive period in the modern history of our Commonwealth.

This record of progress speaks eloquently for itself — a record that has moved Pennsylvania once again into a leadership role in the Federal system that was born in Philadelphia almost 200 years ago.

We met the challenge of modernizing the Constitution when sister states failed. As a result, we have a truly unified judicial system and the best opportunity ever to improve local government.

A citizens' Crusade against Crime is under way; and the consumer is informed and protected against fraud through the new mechanisms established by the General Assembly.

Burning culm banks are disappearing from our coal regions for the first time. Acid mine waters are being cleaned with the first treatment plants, as we begin to stop the pollution of our streams and rivers.

Strict air quality standards have been set. Haphazard disposal of junk and garbage is being attacked through the Nation's first solid waste management legislation. All this is happening because Pennsylvania had the foresight to begin a ten-year "Project Environment."

Our mentally ill and retarded citizens are beginning to receive the benefits of services in our communities through one of the most innovative community mental health and retardation programs in the Nation.

Helpless children, the blind, the aged and totally disabled are finally receiving 100 percent of the assistance needed to live in minimum decency, while our coordinated manpower program trains thousands of unemployed and underemployed for productive and paying jobs.

Pennsylvania's working men and women receive added protection and assistance in case of injury or job loss through the finest package of labor laws ever enacted by the General Assembly.

More educational opportunity than ever before is being made available to young Pennsylvanians in public and private schools, in colleges, and in our rapidly expanding vocational-technical system.

The number of high school graduates continuing their education has increased dramatically to more than 58 percent, and many of those are able to do so only because of our enlightened scholarship and loan program.

Highways are being constructed at a record rate as we begin a master plan to make Pennsylvania the modern transportation hub of the world's largest concentration of people and industry.

We set an example to the Nation in effective State partnership with local communities by developing model cities, partner cities, neighborhood assistance and ghetto plant development programs.

And although many will prefer not to believe this, we have made productive efforts to hold down or reduce the cost of operating government through modern business techniques.

The proof can be found in the fact that my proposed budget included a lower percentage for governmental administrative cost than those of any of the past three Administrations. Only 73 percent of the budget was

for this purpose, excluding the payment of Social Security.

This accounting of our stewardship is capped by the dramatic economic resurgence of our Commonwealth.

For example: During every single month of 1969, Pennsylvania set a new all-time record for that month in the number of jobholders and the low unemployment rate.

Add to that remarkable record the fact that total personal income increased by 25 percent to more than \$40 billion a year.

The question now is whether we will continue this progress and accelerate it to meet the needs of Pennsylvania in the '70s? Or will we leave the new decade to political expediency?

GRANGE NEWS

Fulton Grange #66 and Junior Grange #343 held their regular meetings January 12 at Oakryn. Richard Holloway, Master, conducted the business session when plans were made to entertain the Regional meeting January 27, 7:30 p.m. Officials of the Pennsylvania State Grange will be conducting 38 regional meetings over the state between January 20 and March 31. All Grangers are invited to attend but the following officers of Pa. Granges are urged to attend one of the regional meetings: Masters, Lecturers, Secretaries, Junior Matrons, and chairmen of Women's Activities, Youth, Legislative and Membership committees. The entertainment committee for the Jan. 27 meeting is: Mrs. Norman Wood, Mrs. Harold Alexander, Mrs. Thomas Galbreath, Mrs. James Brown and Mrs. David Miller.

A donation was voted to a lo-

cal family who were victims of a house fire. Mrs. Jesse Wood is accepting reservations for the tour January 20 of the Kurzler & Co. meat plant and Armstrong Cork Co. Floor plant, Lancaster. Members of Fulton Grange will attend Lancaster Co. Pomona Grange #71 dinner meeting Jan. 17, 7 p.m. at Rhoads Spanish Restaurant, Quarryville.

Mrs. Stanley Stauffer Jr., Lecturer, presented a Christmas program which was postponed from Dec. 22 due to bad weather. 24 members of the Junior Grange presented a candlelighting service which opened with the group singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Gyles Brown read the Christmas story from The Bible and Mrs. Stauffer offered prayer. R. Clair Murphy, accompanied by Miss Mary Lou Wesley sang "O Holy Night" and "Winter Wonderland." Group singing "Joy To The World." Mrs. Stauffer conducted games and Miss Sylvia Shirk was in charge of a gift exchange for both Granges.

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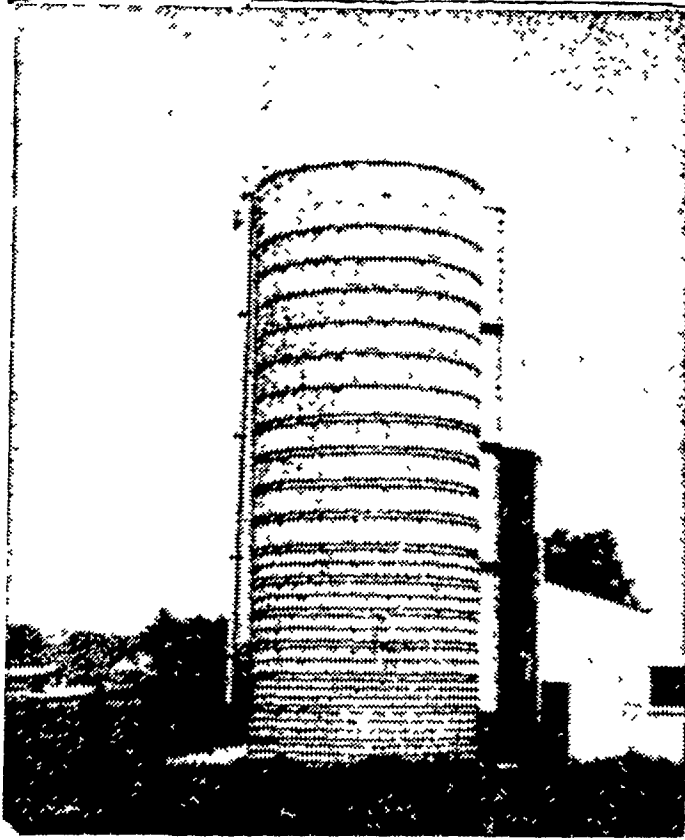
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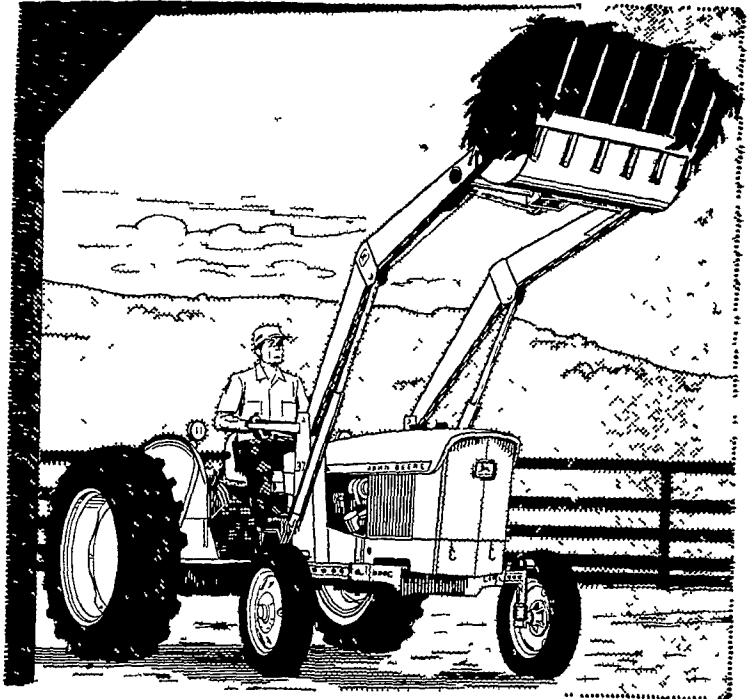
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