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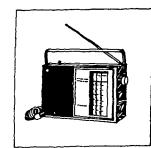
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Shapp Speaks on Changing Role Of Pa. Department of Agriculture

agricultural Pennsylvania's businesses will finally be put on an equal footing with other manufacturing and processing firms in the competition for loans from the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority if Governor Milton J. Shapp has his way, according to the governor's

The Governor recently told a meeting of the Pennsylvania Food Processors Association that he supports H. 1196, which will allow PIDA loans at low interest rates for agricultural enterprises.

The bill, which had already passed the House of Representatives and was slated to be in position for final passage in the State Senate, will put the State Secretary of Agriculture on the PIDA Board, it was reported.

Shapp also said that his administration is working to change focus of the Department of Agriculture

"We want to change the Department from simply an agency to promote farm production to a department to provide a whole host of services to people living in rural areas," Shapp said.

"It is generally overlooked, but some of the worst cases of poverty exist not in our ghetto areas but in rural areas," Shapp

"Several rural counties have a higher percentage of welfare cases than are found in either Philadelphia or Pittsburgh."

Shapp cited development as the key to the poverty problem in the rural areas

'We want to encourage careful development of our rural areas. This means the encouragement of new jobs in these regions so that those already on the farm won't be forced to move into the cities in order to find a livelihood," Shapp noted.

"And this also means the development of new jobs for the overflow of citizens who will be moving back to non-urban areas from the overcrowded cities.

'It also means the wise development of new communities and careful expansion of already existing ones to handle this population growth without polluting our rural beauty."

Shapp said he wanted to make sure that rural development, which will leave its mark on the countryside, is carefully planned and executed.

"For this reason we have established a State Office of Planning and Economic Development to inaugurate a comprehensive statewide program of research and planning for future growth," the Governor said.

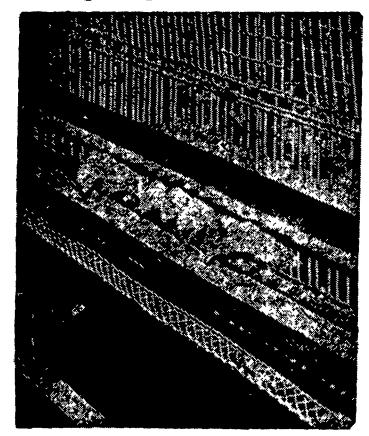
"The vanguard of this new office is already at work on developing an economic and industrial growth plan for one of our rural regions which I hope will serve as a showcase for statewide activities along these lines," Shapp said.

"This new office will aid in the development of new towns, provide the kind of information needed for judicious development of natural resources and expansion of water and sewage facilities and develop economic barometers to help Pennsylvania do on a statewide basis what the federal government does on a national level," Shapp pointed

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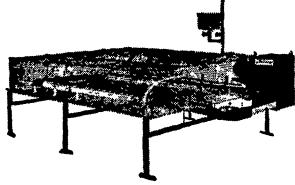
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