

# Paes Calls for Conservation Of Lancaster Co. Farmland

Paul Paes, Lititz businessman and the county's newest commissioner, said that he wants conservation of Lancaster County farmland to be a top priority item in the county this year.

"I hope that any land not suitable for productive farming will be retained for recreation and open space," he said.

"We are blessed with the most productive unirrigated farmland in the world," he went on. "If we lose all our good land for buildings, we'll have destroyed the good things we take for granted."

Paes also said he foresees the county taking over many of the poverty programs which the Federal government originally funded.

It was announced last week that five of the major programs, being phased out of the federally financed Office of Economic Opportunity, will be taken over by the combined efforts of state and local governments and private agencies.

This is one reason the federal revenue sharing money is coming in, Paes said in a personal interview at his business on South Broad Street. He said the county will be able to give the same quality of service, but cut costs on the administrative end. It will be easier to work with this way, he said, and we'll get more results from our tax dollars.

Congressman Eshleman's office reported that this takeover plan may be the first of its kind in the nation, with the county coming up with a specific plan whereby state and local sponsorship and financing will replace federal funding.

The programs being taken over by state and local governments are the Solanco and Welsh Mountain area medical clinics, the Senior Citizens self-sufficiency program, the manpower program, the rural Outreach program, and administration of Head Start.

They are five of the most prominent activities of CAP (Community Action Program).

Paes, who was appointed two weeks ago to serve the unexpired term of the late chairman of the county commissioners, Abram D. Dombach, who died March 13, is serving the dual role of commissioner and county



County Commissioner Paul Paes

chairman of the Republican Party.

Since he took office, he has been under fire from the Democratic commissioner, Jean Mowery, who claims there is a conflict of interest in his dual role as county Republican chairman and commissioner.

However, Paes has denied any conflict of interest, stating that he intends to "do what's best for the county first" and that this "ends up being best for the Republican Party."

Paes said that of the 67 parties in Pennsylvania, both Democratic and Republican, almost half of them are headed by a county chairman who is also a county commissioner.

"This is nothing unusual," he said, singling out Dauphin and Chester Counties, whose Republican chairmen are also

county commissioners, and Lehigh County, whose Democratic Party chairman is a county commissioner.

Paes, who has been called on by Mrs. Mowery to resign from the county Republican party post, said he can accomplish much for the county through the post.

As an example, he pointed to county attempts to have the state relocate Route 30 East, to a point south of its present location, stating that by being chairman, he was able to coordinate things and get Harrisburg to listen to the problem.

We want the state to relocate Route 30 and take some crush of traffic off," he explained. Something will probably be done in the next year, he said, due to the efforts of Rep. Marvin Miller, Sr., and other legislators in

Harrisburg, which he was able to coordinate as county party chairman.

"This is one of the good things" that is coming out of his dual role, Paes said.

On the question of home rule for the county, Paes said that it is the answer to improved methods of administration "if it is done properly."

He said the smaller municipalities, like Lititz, "are afraid of it," and that the strong mayor type of government in Lancaster City is hurting the

chances for a county home rule charter.

Paes, who sat on the original committee looking into a county home rule charter, said the time has come when the county must go into different methods of record keeping and service. "We have to keep looking around," he said.

Paes and his wife, Betty, who live in Refton, maintain a furniture and decorating business at 201 S. Broad St., Lititz. They have one daughter, Suzette.

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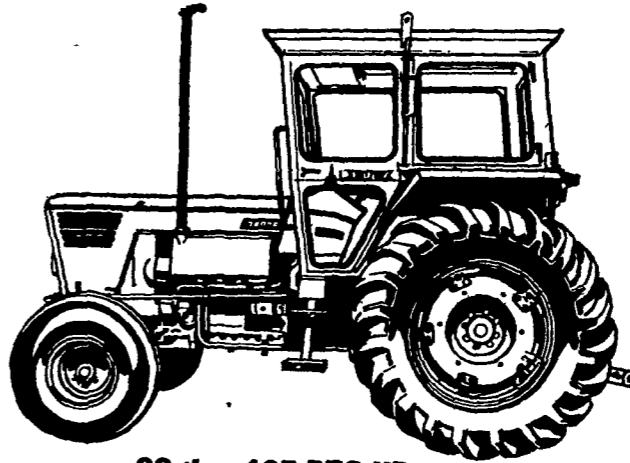
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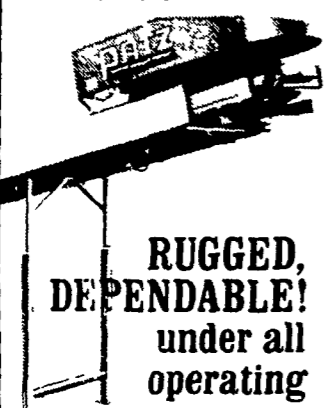
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