

# Funk Urges

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 constitution. The change has also been endorsed by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and virtually every farm group in the county and state.

Funk pointed out to the newsmen at the conference that reassessments in nearby counties had resulted in vastly higher taxes for farmers. Some of the farmers' tax bills increased by seven-fold, a crippling bite which could force many farmers out of business.

Under present Pennsylvania law, Funk said, all land must be taxed on the basis of its market value. This works against farmers because market values for their farmlands keep going up faster than the general rate of inflation. Taxes which are based on market value will keep taking a disproportionate share of the

farmer's income with every reassessment.

"We haven't had a county-wide reassessment here for 13 years," Funk noted, "and we're going to have one within two years. If we don't get special tax treatment for farms, we're not going to have many farms left after that reassessment."

Some farms in the county are presently paying taxes at a rate below what it would be if they were taxed on the basis of their productive value. If the constitutional amendment is adopted, chances are these farmers would have higher tax bills, and in some cases those bills could double. "But this would be a lot better than paying taxes six or seven times higher than they had been," Funk said.

"Property taxes in 1945 represented 5 percent of a far-



Amos Funk, chairman of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce agriculture committee, talked to reporters at a news conference on Tuesday.

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 Home gardeners can enjoy certain garden vegetables longer by making two or more plantings. Plant only enough seed like lettuce, radish, and spinach to provide the amount you can use during a short period, say Extension vegetable specialists at The Pennsylvania State University. Home gardeners do this by planting another lot a few weeks after the first planting.

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## Scholarships

(Continued from page 1)

Donalee Meloy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Meloy, 316 Landis Avenue, Millersville. She is graduating from Penn Manor, and plans to attend the University of Delaware.

Karen Sue Overly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Overly, Quarryville RD1. She is graduating from Solanco and plans to attend Indiana

University of Pennsylvania.

Roxanne Stein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Stein, Box 68, Mountville. She is graduating from Hempfield High School and plans to attend Penn State.

Robert Weaver, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Weaver, 2 Conestoga Road, Lancaster. He is graduating from McCaskey High School, and plans to attend the Mount Alto campus of Penn State.

mer's net income. Today they represent 17.5 percent of net income, and they are the farmer's fastest growing cost of business," Funk told the group.

In response to a question as to whether or not farmers would be paying less taxes while everybody else paid more, Funk replied that in no case would a farmer's tax bill go down if the amendment were passed. The immediate effect of any legislation, would in fact, probably be to increase the farm sector's contribution to the county tax treasuries.

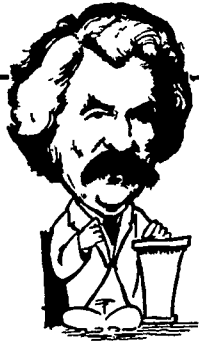
"We're not asking for special privileges," Funk asserted. "Instead, we're trying to keep taxes on farmland from rising faster than the rate of inflation."

Funk said a levelling off of farm taxes would tend to preserve farmland by making it less attractive for farmers to sell to developers, highway businesses and industry.

He explained that farmers not pressed by unusually high taxes

would be more inclined to continuing farming their land.

Funk said Pennsylvania has lost about one-third of its farmland since 1960, partly because property taxes have jumped 295 per cent.



### "QUOTES"

"Facts, or what a man believes to be facts, are delightful—get your facts first, and then you distort them as much as you please."

Mark Twain

# THE TIME TO STOP THIS



# IS ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, MAY 15.

Pennsylvanians concerned about green space (farm land, farm reserve, and forest land) are rallying behind a YES vote for the Constitutional amendment on the May 15 ballot.

This amendment will allow open spaces to be assessed for taxes according to land use. This will halt sky-rocketing property taxes and stop uncontrolled commercial development.

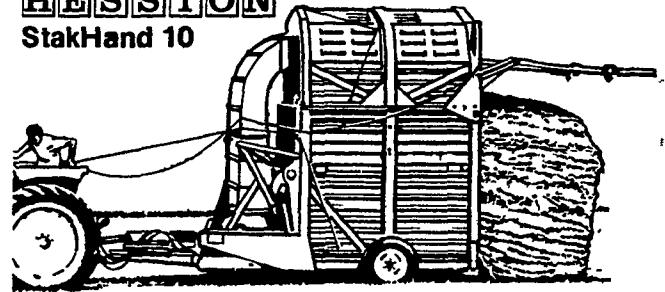
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