

# Grange Meets in Reading

The Pennsylvania State Grange criticized the State Milk Marketing Board for its inaction and called for a full-scale investigation of that agency during its annual meeting last week in Reading.

The Grange also went on record as opposing Senate Bill 130 which would abolish minimum retail milk pricing, and voted to "work for retention of the milk control law as now written".

The action came in a series of resolutions and policy statements that were adopted at the closing session of the 101st State Grange Convention. A resolution calling for abolition of the Milk Marketing Board was rejected by the delegates.

In other action, Grange delegates endorsed H.B. 1056 which would provide tax relief on farm land. The Grange recommended that such tax relief be limited to farmers engaged in agricultural production or who agree to retain their land for agricultural use. Delegates also recommended that valuation of agricultural land for tax purposes shall be determined on a county level by a county committee.

A Wayne Readinger, State Grange master, announced the election of Lancaster County's Clifford Holloway Peach Bottom, RD1, to the three-member state executive committee, and Claude Howell of Susquehanna county to the finance committee.

Grange delegates also urged use of DDT to combat the gypsy moth until acceptable biological controls can be developed, control of fertilizer exports to avert possible domestic shortages; adoption of no-fault automobile insurance; a careful study of all aspects of landfill problems; recycling of inorganic waste, and use of organic waste as a possible fuel for generating electricity.



Pennsylvania State Grange Master Wayne Readinger looks on as Governor Milton Shapp talks to the banquet which highlighted Tuesday evening's activities at the annual State Grange convention held in Reading.

They also urged reenactment of a tight gun control law based on the Gallen law which had been repealed by the new state penal code; widening and rebuilding highways instead of taking farm land for relocation purposes.

They rejected resolutions which would have opposed the movement of 14-foot wide vehicles on highways, or would have opposed increasing from 55 to 65 feet the permissible length of trucks and double trailers on four-lane highways.

Tuesday afternoon, Pennsylvania Governor Milton J. Shapp told the Grangers that his administration has been "striving to do things that will bring about a better and more productive way of life" for the entire rural community in the State.

The Governor said he knew the farmers were in trouble when he was elected three years ago and has organized and directed his administration with the knowledge that "In one decade -

in the 1960s - Pennsylvania lost 30,000 farms, or nearly one-third of its farms."

The Governor restated his commitment to build a new farm show complex in Harrisburg, urged the Grange to push their home area legislators to see the importance of fixing potholes on the State's roads and announced that he had written to the U.S. Postmaster General proposing the issuance of a special commemorative stamp in honor of the 100th Grange Encampment scheduled for August 9, 1974.

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale preceded his boss at the speaker's lectern, and told the Grangers that farmers continue to get the short end of grain, livestock and dairy prices. "Prices on the commodity exchanges have a way of fluctuating so that wheat, corn and soybeans and other commodities skyrocket in price after the farmers sell them."

McHale said it was essential

that Congress "conduct a full-fledged investigation of our farming economy, examining all aspects of food production, processing and distribution." He also said the United States should take the lead in establishing international commodity reserves which "would tend to stabilize prices and provide a critical reserve of food and fiber."

Dr. Russell E. Larson, Penn State provost also addressed the convention urging "renewed and greatly expanded emphasis on agricultural production technology."

Larson spoke at the annual banquet Tuesday night attended by more than 700 persons. "I do not believe the food problem we witnessed this spring and summer is a temporary occurrence",

he said. "We have moved almost overnight from a condition of vast surpluses, to a condition of relative scarcity. The stockpiles of the past have been replaced by situations where domestic and foreign consumers are bidding against each other for available agricultural commodities."

"American agriculture progresses by producing for foreign as well as domestic markets. And it goes without saying, stepped up foreign sales will reverse the adverse foreign exchange position this country has found itself in over the past few years."

To meet these changing conditions, Dr. Larson declared, "we will need to produce still more food on the same amount of land for the same unit of work. We

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