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# State GOP Platform Committee Considering Position on Agriculture

Amos Funk, a Millersville farmer, planned to be in Pittsburgh last night (Friday), to urge the state Republican platform committee to adopt a strong pro-farming stand in the upcoming gubernatorial election.

Funk, who heads the 12-member agricultural platform committee, said he feels the guidelines his committee has drawn up will enhance his party's chances for success in November. He said over-regulation by government is the biggest problem farmers have.

The committee members each logged nearly 3000 miles during the August

meetings with farmers and representatives of farm groups. Among the major recommendations Funk will be presenting are:

- The construction of a Keystone Agricultural Exposition Center at a central location and at a cost based on available resources of the Commonwealth.

- Adoption of a policy that discourages indiscriminate use of good agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

- Retention of the General Assembly at the present level to provide the best representation for rural areas.

- The need for a

preferential assessment plan to provide farmers financial relief from high taxes that prevail in developing areas and

- Retention of the Milk Marketing Law which should be administered as mandated.

The report states that previous state leaders have subordinated agricultural interests to recreational and industrial development.

It urges the direction on non-agricultural use of land to less productive soils in order that agricultural efficiency can be retained and food and fiber be produced at a reasonable cost.

The report also recommends funding to encourage and provide for the conservation and wise use of soil, water and other natural resources.

The reports scores the policies of the Shapp administration, calling them "disaster for Pennsylvania's agriculture."

"The consumer in this commonwealth needs ample protection under the law. However, Pennsylvania's secretary of agriculture should not be the consumer's advocate. He should speak for agriculture."

"The Shapp ad-

ministration has fostered a climate in which the consumer has been pitted against the producer and the middleman too long."

The report states that the Shapp Milk Marketing Board "has been totally derelict in its duties," wrecking the state's dairy industry.

It suggests that the proper resale, pricing guidelines and regulations might have prevented some of the financial problems that some of the dairy cooperatives are experiencing.

The report also recommends:

- The encouragement and expansion of direct marketing efforts for state agricultural products.

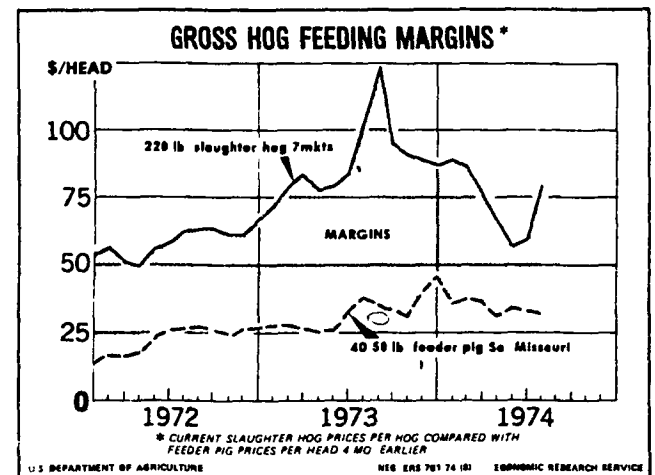
- The retention of an

adequate number of rail lines and the transfer of 13,000 miles of roads to local authorities.

- Cooperation between the department of agriculture and Pennsylvania State University in extension and research and additional funding for the use and disposal of solid and agricultural wastes.

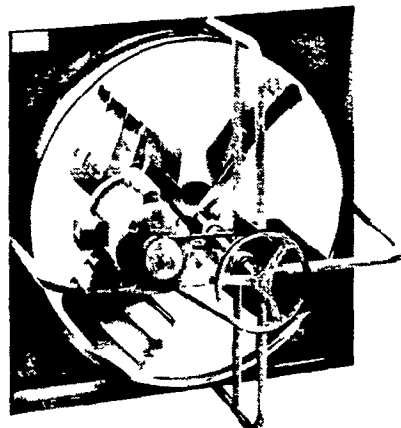
- That the present interpretation of the migrant housing law by the Department of Environmental Resources is unrealistic and does not follow the law's intent.

Ninety persons attended the platform committee hearings. Forty gave verbal testimony and six written testimony.



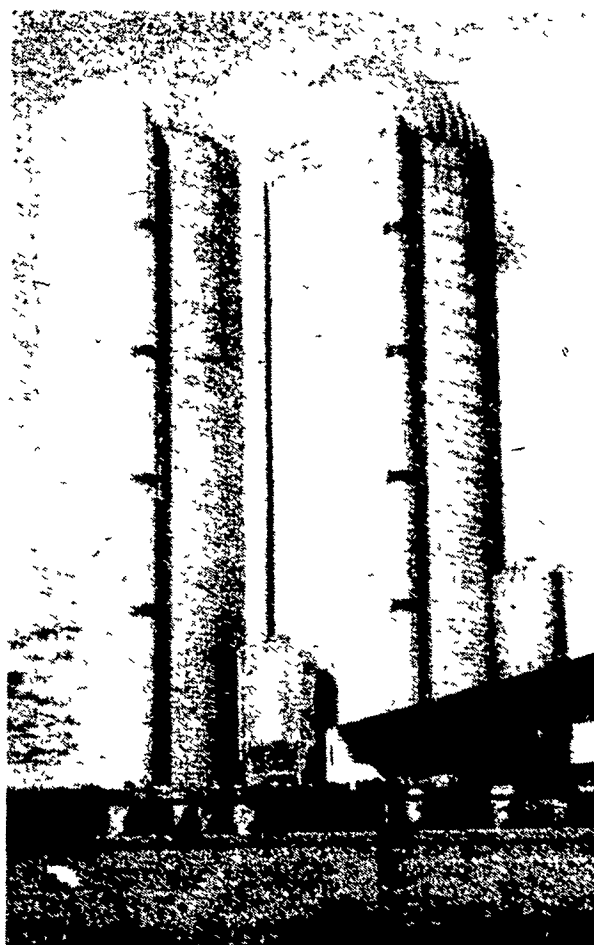
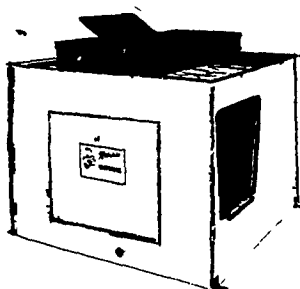
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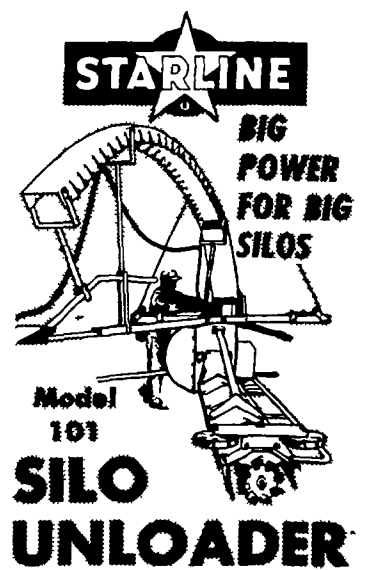


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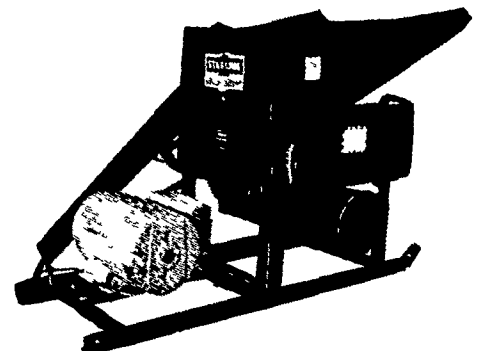


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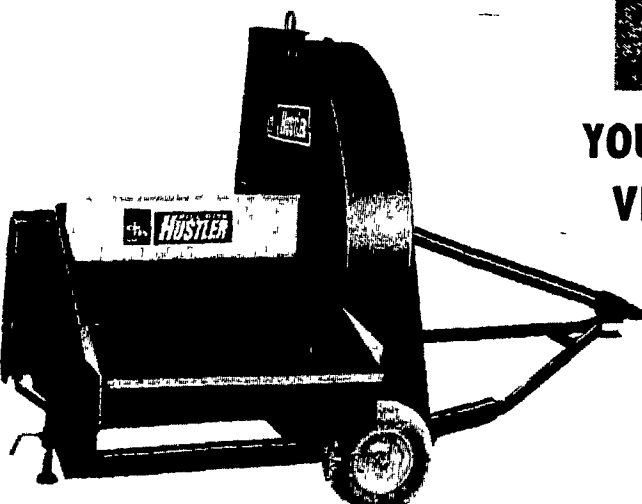
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