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## McHale's future

(Continued from Page 1)

the way things went, and expressed a bit of confidence at an earlier interview with this reporter that the Senate may change its mind and confirm him after all. He made the remarks following his appearance at the Pennsylvania Grange's Annual Convention in Lancaster last month. Although the Agriculture Secretary acknowledged - finding some new support within the Senate, he hesitated to predict for sure one way or another which way the voting would go.

Freed noted that the objections against McHale centered on the same issues which were brought up last July - primarily the accusation that McHale is acting as more of a welfare secretary than Secretary of Agriculture.

According to Freed, there were no new objections brought up - "no surprises." McHale meanwhile continues to defend his actions and programs quite openly, referring to himself as a spokesman for the family farmer.

It is interesting to note that although Secretary McHale is a highly controversial figure within the Commonwealth, the Associated Press has in some of its stories reported that he (McHale) is highly regarded and respected outside of the state.

The criticisms most frequently hurled at McHale concern "so-called" rural - development programs which many people believe do not belong within the Department of Agriculture. However, he is known to have some support for his programs. One successful dairyman observed that "at least McHale is doing something useful with the funds, rather than wasting them on a program to study the sex life of some African lizard."

McHale himself defends his programs by saying his "rural - development" programs only consume five percent of the funds within his Department. Most of the budget for these projects came through federal money, he says.

While the vote in the Senate may be so close to make a prediction of the outcome difficult, if not impossible, the majority of farmers and agribusinessmen who have made their opinions known to the staff of this newspaper have indicated they would prefer a change in Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture - namely a new Secretary.

## Federal land control opposed by Grange

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Grange Delegates attending the 109th Annual Session of the National Grange in Columbus, Nov. 10-18, voted opposition to legislation that would take land use decisions away from local and state governments. They said conditions vary so greatly in different parts of the country that a national land use policy could not possibly be adopted.

Jack Silvers, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and Washington State Grange Master, said the Grange will support legislation which limits the Corps of Engineer's permit system for dredge and fill operations to navigable waters as traditionally defined by the Corps. He said the current interim regulations released by the Corps appear to be a form of federal land use control which the Grange opposes.

Silvers said National Grange Delegates votes to support legislation to amend the Grain Standards Act which would reorganize the Federal Grain Inspection Service. He said recent scandals involving grain inspectors and grain exporting firms have demonstrated weaknesses in the Act. The Grange recommends the Service be changed to Federal-State-Private inspection service that would require federal inspection at all export points and a State-Private inspection system at interior points with USDA support inspections, a conflict of interest provision and severe penalties for violations.

The Grangers feel farm produce is threatened by Environmental Protection Agency regulations and will request Congress to clearly define the limits of EPA control. The Grange is opposed to any interpretation by the EPA which extends their authority to include normal farming activities.

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