Struggle

(Continued from Page 1)

Millersville tioned LARA's financial ements and plans. Shirk ensed with the subject ply by pushing the issue and effectively nemg Funk. The brief play of tempers was soon gotten, however, and the ting returned to the calm which characterized the hour parley. Some ncial details were later closed by LARA and its resentatives.

vevertheless, some of se attending the meeting the Manheim Township

Municipal Office Building upset by the were proceedings, mumbling that LARA was avoiding some questions in order to keep the facts from the public. A number of them had signed up to be heard. Many of them were. Only one chose to side with LARA's actions, while all other visitors had come here to defend the Barleys and several others in the area who are having smaller tracts of land taken.

The lone individual who defended LARA was Lancaster County Commissioner

that the LARA members "had been unduly maligned," and that they, as volunteers, had been doing a fine job. A person sitting near this writer nodded in agreement, although he later spoke out on behalf of wiser land use.

Mowery kept her talk very brief, and left immediately afterwards. Saying she spoke on behalf of the other commissioners as well, she thanked the Refuse Authority for their work. On her way out the door, a farmer stood up to express displeasure with the fact that neither she nor the other commissioners were at a meeting at the Barley farm a week earlier. Mowery had already explained that she Jean Mowery. She claimed and the others were in conference at another meeting. The farmer eagerly asked' "And when did that meeting break up?" Mowery replied "Ten o'clock," and added she had other matters to tend to afterwards. The meeting a week earlier at the Barley farm did not officially get underway until after 11 a.m. More than a score of Pennsylvania legislators and other public officials were in attendance that sunny day. (See Lancaster Farming's issue of March 12, page 1.)

Attorney Heinly summed up his feelings about the meeting by telling Shirk that "You've heard your own people. I think we're missing some of the issues." Heinly suggested that other legal, engineering, and economic

experts be brought in who are not directly involved with LARA. The lawyer also asked LARA board members make themselves available to answer "the questions which couldn't be answered here." Don't couch a meeting such as this in terms of review," he said. He also suggested the Refuse Authority was allowing itself to go deeper into trouble by not facing the issues squarely.

Shirk replied: "We'll meet with you at your convenience if we can arrange it at our convenience."

Creswell's operation as a landfill without a permit appeared to be a point which tickled the listeners, including Heinly, who in all likelihood will use that point to bolster his case. Although Shirk disallowed further investigation on that score that afternoon, DER's Simmons and Heinly agreed to meet separately to discuss the matter, as well as the leechate question. The Creswell landfill is in violation of DER regulations on both counts.

On the matter of the permit, however, Simmons explained that if DER were to go strictly by the law, people would have no or very few approved places where they could dump their refuse. He noted that all dumps were to have a permit as of Jan. 1, 1970, but that the Department decided to allow a number of facilities to remain open as long as progress towards DER standards was being made. To have closed all dumps on Jan. 1, 1970 would have meant chaos," the DER regional solid wastes director said. Speaking specifically with regards to the Barley farmland in question, Simmons also said that his office had not as yet received an application from LARA which stated their designs on the Barley property.

During the first half of the meeting LARA officials and representatives spent time explaining their present position and thinking, while at the same time citing reasons as to why other alternatives aren't feasible to handle. Lancaster County's refuse Point by point, such alternatives as resource recovery, incineration, and other landfill sites were given a negative score. Some of the considerations involved and outlined by LARA spokesmen were: environmental impact. financing, legislation, and operation.

LARA claims that it needs to prolong the life of the Creswell landfill in order to generate enough income to pay for leachate treatment facilities which Department Enof vironmental Resources requires. That project reportedly costs \$1 million. Funk and others wondered why the Authority can't simply raise trash collection rates to have the costs taken care of by 1980, rather than 1985. (The Barley's land is expected to add five years to the landifll, and after that time the future of the site would again be in question).

Although it was admitted that LARA has a current equity of \$800,000, LARA's attorney John Hartman answered critics theorizing that the public might be tempted to dump their wastes off of highways if garbage collection rates were increased too much.

The Barley farm and several smaller adjacent tracts owned by Harry Graham, Clarence Shearer, Paul Ament, Clyde Ament, and Edward Andrews, are needed by LARA to keep the present landfill operation viable. One reason the site looks so good to them, they claim, is because the soil in the area is ideal for covering garbage. Simmons and LARA geologist Jim Humphreville both con-

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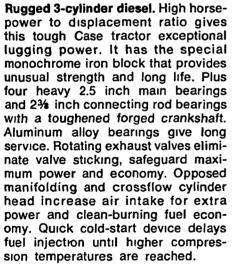
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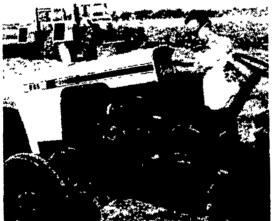
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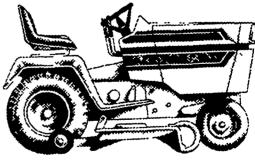
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