



Clifford Holloway, left, welcomed State Senator Patrick Stapleton, D-Indiana, to the State Grange meeting in Williamsport. Holloway is chairman of the Grange Executive Committee. Stapleton is chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

State

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are presently required to pay the capitol franchise tax. An exemption from this tax would allow the farm family to pass on farm ownership to sons and daughters without excessive taxation.

The exemption of cooperative agricultural associations with gross sales of \$100,000 or less from the certified audit requirements of the act would go a long way toward relieving undue financial burdens on family farms. Certified audits for small cooperatives are often more expensive than the savings incurred from forming the cooperative, he said.

"Family farm preservation initiatives will form the core of our legislative efforts," said Holloway. "The incredible jump in the value of farmland, caused by development pressure must not force our sons and daughters off the land."

Holloway said the family farm preservation program would include new legislation to promote agricultural districts and "right to farm" proposals, amendments to the state Clean and Green Act and the inheritance tax, and exemptions from current law of family farm corporations from the capital stock franchise tax and

certain cooperative agricultural associations from the certified audit requirements.

Agricultural districts, a voluntary program to be initiated at the local level, would encourage communities and farmers to retain agricultural land even when some urbanization has occurred.

"Right to farm" legislation would permit farmers in agricultural districts to carry out essential farming activities that, in some cases, are being prohibited by local ordinances.

Holloway announced the Administration's "fairly firm idea on the kind of legislation" needed to create a Milk Producer's Security Fund.

Holloway advocated a \$3 million fund as a minimum to protect from 40 to 60 days cash flow of a dealer.

He stated three ways milk money could be protected for the milk producer should a dealer default on payment.

A bond in an amount equal to an average 40 to 60 day cash flow; a letter of credit issued to a dealer by a banking institution; or a Milk Security Fund which would be held in trust and administered by the Milk Marketing Board.

"The reality of getting such legislation passed seems to indicate that our hopes would ride on a provision that everyone would help to share in the

cost of the fund," Holloway said, "... dealer, handler, cooperative, and producer alike."

In closing, Holloway emphasized that the "proposal is not set in concrete."

He asked the Grange to strongly consider the alternative, and to inform him of its feelings.

John Walker Scott, Master of the National Grange, criticized Congress for "failing to get off dead center on energy legislation."

Scott reported that Congress has failed to move meaningful energy bills for the past two years.

"If we were to get involved in a military engagement in the near future," Scott said, "we would be at the mercy of our enemies because of our dependency on foreign energy sources."

"Environmentalists," the National Master claimed, "have practically put us out of business in burning soft coal."

He related to the delegates that the U.S. now imports 50 per cent of its energy needs, while paying for crude oil at \$20 per barrel.

"This price is causing a great drag on our economy," Scott stated.

On agricultural issues, Scott criticized the increases in dairy imports that were brought about by the multi-lateral trade negotiations, saying the increases would depress the domestic market.

Grangers elect officers

Charles E. Wismer, jr., Trappe, Montgomery County was elected State Master at the conclusion of the Grange's 107th annual session. Wismer, a dairy farmer mayor and police chief of Trappe, succeeds Robert E. Steese, Grove City, Mercer County.

Other officers elected to posts within the organization include: William T. Reichart, Hanover, York County, State Overseer; H. Carl Deibert, Bedford, Bedford County, state secretary; Lloyd Craft, Waynesburg, Greene County, executive committee; and Henry T. Huber, West Chester, Chester County, finance committee.

The executive committee was enlarged to four men. Clifford Holloway, Peach Bottom, who normally would have left the committee, will serve another term.

Dog training limits eased

HARRISBURG — Restrictions on the training of dogs by sportsmen in Pennsylvania have been eased under legislation which was enacted recently.

Formerly, dogs could be trained only from sunrise to 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, except that the training of raccoon dogs could be continued until midnight.

Now, dogs may be trained at any time, day or night, from August 1 through March 31.

Previously, dog handlers were permitted to run fox hounds for two months of the closed period (April 1 through July 31), if enough hunters in a county petitioned the Game Commission for the extra training period. This provision applied only to fox hounds.

Now, the raccoon dog handler has the same privilege formerly reserved for fox hound chasing. If sportsmen or farmers in sufficient numbers petition the Game Commission, the

running of raccoon dogs for two months of the four-month closed period may be permitted. A two-month closed period is still required to protect young wildlife.

In another change in the law, the penalty for chasing small game by dogs during the closed period has been increased from the former \$10 fine to a stiffer level of \$25.

Trainers are reminded that to train dogs legally on Sunday, the consent of the owner of the property where such training is planned must still be obtained in advance, except in the case of state-owned and national forest lands.



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