

O'Connell sees quick security fund approval

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent
MONROETON — "There are no serious disagreements over the Milk Security Fund Bill," Senator Frank O'Connell told the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers Association at their Spring Banquet held recently at the Monroeton Fire Hall.

"It should pass quickly and be ready for the governor to sign by June Dairy Month", he anticipated.

O'Connell was also optimistic that any amendments added to the bill when it gets to the House will not be substantial or severe, but he would not be specific about what the amendments might be.

Reviewing the contents of the bill briefly, the senator said the intent was to expedite the payment procedures reducing the time from 50 days to a shorter range. Among many other provisions, it will increase the auditing strength

of the Milk Marketing Board.

O'Connell told the 100 farmers present that he is actively working to increase the weight limit for trucks to 80,000 pounds. Farm Land Dairy is threatening to stop pulling milk out of the state for this reason, he said. He was not optimistic that the weight limit would be changed because of the attitude from Pa. Dept of Transportation that the crumbling state of the roads is due to heavy loads. He advised the farmers to put "some heat and pressure" on legislators to get the weight increased.

"There is a possibility that Schrader Creek will be made a "scenic river", O'Connell said.

The resource inventory has been made and is ready to publish. It states that the 22-mile stream, all in Bradford County, includes about 60 properties. They

will not be changed in any way or any hardship imposed upon them.

"But before the proposal becomes definite," he promised, "a public hearing will take place in the county."

Hazardous waste dumping is a problem all over the state, O'Connell told the farmers. He directed his remarks particularly to those from the Ridgebury area who are concerned about a proposed toxic waste dump in that area.

"From what I read, the particular site (Ridgebury) is not a proper place for a dump," he said.

He explained that was in favor of each county having the right to veto or accept hazardous waste but he doubted in his own mind if the county could take care of this problem.

"We can't have 67 counties in the Commonwealth providing a hodge-podge kind of waste disposal," he stated.

"I challenge you for your help and understanding in dealing with this very difficult problem," he concluded.

When asked if there is any



Fenton Murphy, left, treasurer of the Northeast Dairy Cooperative (NEDCO) urges Senator Frank O'Connell to get the weight limit for trucks increased to 80,000 pounds.



Sen. Frank O'Connell reassures Arthur Wolf of Ridgebury that the problem of the hazardous waste dump in his area is well-known. O'Connell was the main speaker at the Spring Banquet of the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers Association held recently in Monroeton.

way to restrict the DER, O'Connell said he was in favor of "legislative overview" when the regulations could be reviewed for 30 days in the house and senate before they are published. But no one else wants an overview, not even the governor, he lamented.

Kevin Ferris, president of the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers Association

chaired the meeting and introduced the 30 new members present. He also recognized Assemblyman Roger Madigan, and his wife, Peggy; and Fred Tiffany, state director for PFA.

The next meeting for the members of the farm group will be the annual meeting, October 6.

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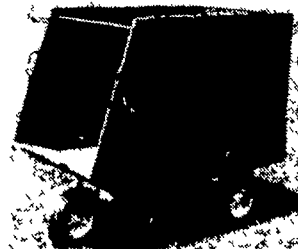
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