

# Capitol Hill prepares for rush of activity

**BY CURT HARLER**  
**HARRISBURG** — The stage is set for number of bills to move here on Capitol Hill once the Commonwealth Budget is passed.

Despite the slowdown, several farm-related bills continued to churn through the halls of Harrisburg.

SB 10, which among other things would raise the gross truck weight limit to 80,000 pounds passed a Senate-House conference committee.

SB 985 and SB 986, commonly known as the Knapp bills, were reported out of committee. They were rewritten to include a 12 year buyback period.

The bills, if passed, would keep municipalities from taking land by eminent

domain and then speculating with it. The Knapp's case was the one where farmland was condemned 11 years ago and the school district now is trying to sell the property for a shopping center.

Hearings were held by the Senate Labor and Industry Committee on J. Doyle Corman's package of workmans' compensation reform measures, SB 712-719 inclusive.

In general, farm groups called for speedy passage of those measures

The House calendar for next week features hearings by the House Ag Committee on several important measures including HB 2360, the noxious weed bill; HB 995, which amends the dog law; and HB 2339, the

Christmas tree grower legislation.

The Milk Security Fund legislation will sit until June; the budget comes first.

But if just two bills had to be singled out they would be SB 10 and Corman's package.

"We are quite concerned that we do get SB 10 through," says Pennsylvania Farmers' Association Director of Governmental Relations Al Myers.

Milk haulers and others have screamed for higher weight limits which SB 10 would provide. But the bill also has some other surprises.

Existing classes of trucks

over 5000 pounds would pay \$2 to \$226 more in fees. The 80,000 pound rigs would pay roughly \$1125 annually.

The bill will raise the out-of-state marker fee from \$2 to \$25. There will be a title transfer fee increase from \$5 to \$15. Inspection stickers for all vehicles, cars and trucks, will jump from the present 25 cents to one dollar.

Temporary licenses would cost \$5 instead of the current \$1. Persons with licenses suspended would have to pay \$25, above any fine, to have their license reinstated.

The bill should raise about \$95.1 million in extra revenue.

Of that amount, about \$5.1 million will go to local municipalities.

Now that the conference committee has approved it, the bill could go to a vote as early as this coming Tuesday. But insiders are not optimistic that the measure will move before the budget impasse is broken.

Workmens' Compension, in the words of State Grange Master Charles Wismer, "is a system gone wild."

He asked the hearings what kind of program made dairying twice as dangerous as professional football or hockey.

Indeed, the pro players contribute \$5.99 per \$100 of payroll to WC funds while dairymen must pay \$10.87.

Wismer came down hard on the insurance companies which write WC policies.

Chamber of Commerce figures show that in 1978 employers paid \$789.6 million for WC coverage. But that same year, only \$390 million was paid out.

That means the insurance companies took more than half of the premiums in operating expenses or profits.

The Grange asked that the legislature reduce WC rates, allow for employers and municipalities to self-insure, and to tighten up the filing process to cut down on payouts to undeserving people.

Groups like PFA, too, want the package to move fast PFA especially likes the provision which will allow groups with a minimum of \$500,000 in premiums to self-insure. PFA falls within that group.

HB 2489 would allow such groups, and local governments, to run their own WC programs. While not a part of the Corman Senate

package, the House Bill proposes similar ideas.

At the same time, the House Finance Committee's Energy Subcommittee heard testimony on the possibility of tax incentives for energy saving devices.

David Weinstock, public relations director of the Grange, pointed out that Pennsylvania is one of only 10 states not offering solar tax credits

"Unless the state demonstrates its commitment to aiding the consumer with tax incentives, Pennsylvania's energy future looks bleak," he said.

## Pa. Shorthorn spring sale held

**MERCER** — The Pennsylvania Shorthorn Spring Sale on Saturday, May 3 featured quality cattle, according to Judge Greg McKean, Mercer County Angus breeder.

The Grand Champion Bull, a June, 1979 son of MSF Tillerman 781, was MSF Tillerman 9772, consigned by David McElhaney, of Hookstown, Pa., and purchased by Paden Young of Sharpville, Pa. for \$1,000. The Reserve Grand Champion Bull, consigned by Windholme Farm, Orange, Va., was a January, 1979 son of Acadia Champagne 6. Windholme Champagne 6 139 was purchased by J.S. Campbell & Sons of West Sunbury, Pa. for \$1,100.

Duncancroft of Saxonburg, Pa. consigned the Grand Champion Female, Duncan Princess 78, a July 1978 Clark daughter bred to

Hart's 550 Spider. Purchaser was West Bend Stock Farm, Ron and Carolyn Benlich of Monongahela, Pa. for \$1,000. Reserve Grand Champion Female, MSF Duchess of Gloster 9736, a June 1979 daughter of Packard Thomas' West was consigned by Dick McElhaney and purchased by Glenn Aescheacher of Beaver, Pa. for \$490.

Other high selling lots included Duncan Augusta Mandy 2nd, a May 1978 daughter of Troubador Skol bred to Hart's 550 Spider, consigned by Duncancroft and sold to Philip Dunn of Huntingdon, Pa. for \$910. Tuscarora Eliza Star 242, a June 1978 daughter of Tuscarora Super Flag bred to Scotsdale Manix, a Tuscarora Farms consignment of Neelyton, Pa. and sold to West Bend Stock Farm for \$770.

John Stover of Tyrone, Pa. purchased Mapleview Waneta 2D, a February 1978 daughter of Oler's Model King, with a March 20th heifer calf by K Adam at side, consigned by the Richard Peoples Family of Volant, Pa. for \$675. Volume buyer purchasing 7 females was West Bend Stock Farm, while Glenn Aescheacher purchased 3 females. The 20 lots offered for sale averaged \$565, with 23 females averaging \$537 and 6 bulls averaging \$675.

The Pennsylvania Junior Association auctioned a cane of Thornwood Major Semen, donated by Lazy D Ranch of Excelsior Springs, Mo. David McElhaney was high bidder at \$260. Proceeds will be used to help defray the expenses of the Pennsylvania delegates, Sheila and Jeanne Peoples, to the National Shorthorn Youth Conference in Rochester, MN.



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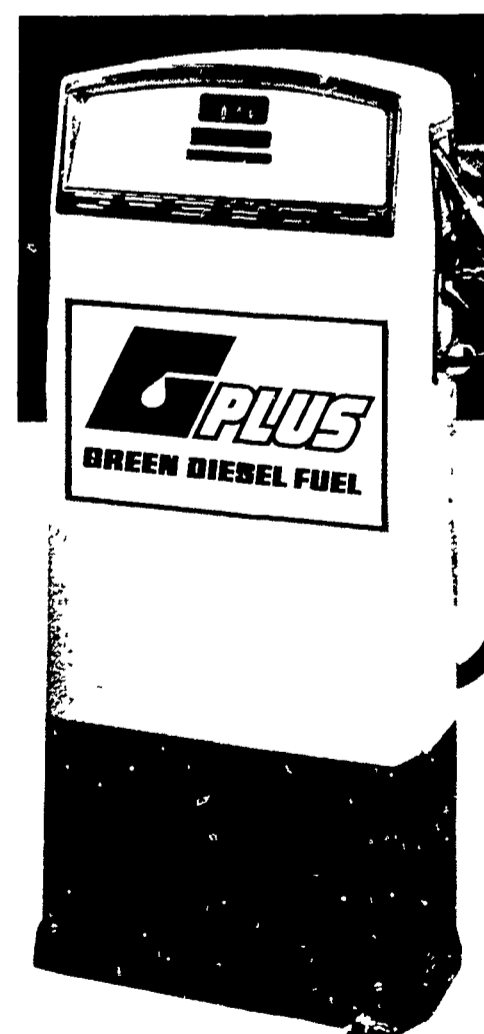
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