Grangers oppose Ag **Department** proposal

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania State Grange voiced opposition to the new regulations covering the administration of the Clean and Green Act, at a hearing held in Harrisburg last week.

David Weinstock, The Grange's Public Relations Director, told officials of the State Agriculture Department of his organization's opposition to their plan to require owners of forest reserve land to have an implemented forest management plan in order to get a preferential assessment.

"We oppose this measure because the regulations are attempting to expand the scope of the law, and in doing bypassing the SO, Legislature," Weinstock said, "Grange policy op-poses regulations contradicting the intent of the Legislation they cover.

A forest management plan is in no way mentioned in the act, nor in any of the subamending sequent legislation."

statements saying his

legislation."

Grange policy supports the concept of the regulations, and even goes beyond what the regulations attempt to do.

acreage necessary to qualify land for a forest reserve preferential assessment from 10 to 25 acres," he said.

Weinstock also suggested that if legislation were offered, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service's Tiber Stand Improvement costsharing practice be approved as a forest management plan.

Commenting on another section of the regulations, Weinstock noted that soil classifications were required for those lands included under agricultural reserves.

This "blatantly contradicts the purpose of the legislation," he said.

The definition for He qualified his agricultural reserves "requires only that the land

organization would support be non-commercial open the provisions "if (they) space used for outdoor were offered in the form of recreation, and that it is available for public use, free of charge."

Citing these requirements as going beyond the intent of the law, Weinstock called for the repeal of the soil "Our policy would in- classification requirement crease the amount of forest for agricultural reserve



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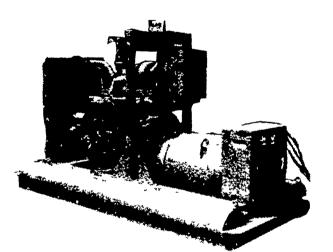
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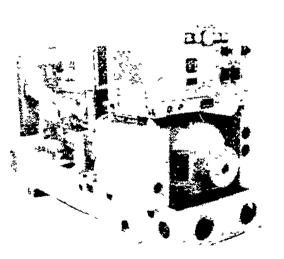
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