



## Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

### Vote yes for water on Tuesday

Next Tuesday Pennsylvanians will once again be heading to the voting polls to execute their democratic privilege, casting their "ballots" for candidates who'll best serve them in their communities.

Voters also will be indicating their yeas and nays for five questions which will be appearing on the November ballot, the first of which has drawn support from a number of farm organizations.

The question is:

"Do you favor the incurring of indebtedness by the Commonwealth of \$300,000,000 for use as loans to repair, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, extend and improve water supply systems, or to repair, reconstruct, or rehabilitate flood control facilities, dams and port facilities in order to improve the health safety and economic well-being of the people of the Commonwealth?"

This 'eloquently-worded' question was part of House Bill 1484 (not to be confused with the controversial Water Bill, HB 1483) which was passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on June 22 by a vote of 194-0, and later by the Senate on June 30 by a vote of 48-0. The Governor signed this Bill into law on July 12 and it became known as Act 88.

What this law throws into the voters' laps is whether to authorize a \$300 million debt by the Commonwealth in order to make available monies to be loaned to water companies and others with vested interests in water for repairing, constructing, et cetera, the Commonwealth's water supplies.

Advocates for Act 88 have been on the campaign trail since August, using the slogan "Vote Yes for Water." Heading the campaign committee is one of Lebanon County's farmers and agricultural leaders, George Wolf. Wolf has been active in the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts for quite some time, so speaking for water and conservation measures as chairman of the Vote Yes for Water committee is not something new for this lobbyist.

Other supporters of Act 88 include staunch agrarian groups such as the Pennsylvania State Grange and Pennsylvania Farmers'



Association as well as the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, and 30 other organizations.

One group, the Pennsylvania Builders' Association, showed their support of the Water Act by donating \$1,000 to the cause in August. Since then the Vote Yes committee has raised \$15,000 for the campaign through the efforts of its volunteer members.

The group circulated 140,000 brochures which explained the law and what the question would involve — these informative fliers were printed by REA for the Vote Yes committee, free of charge.

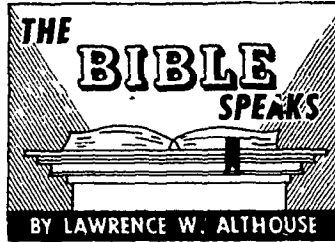
A lot of effort by a lot of people has gone into promoting this law which could supply the revenue for vitally-needed improvements for Pennsylvania water supply systems.

And, since these revenues are not hand-outs but merely loans to water companies, Pennsylvania tax payers won't get socked for the bill. The state's credit would be used to borrow money at a lower interest rate than would otherwise be possible. And, water companies will have to pay back every cent they borrow from the state, plus interest. No state subsidies would be involved.

If the question passes next Tuesday, the Governor has already received the recommendations of the enabling legislation committee of Vote Yes For Water which calls for \$220 million of the total \$300 million to be set aside for community water projects, with \$40 million each available for dam and port facility projects. They also recommended that the Department of Environmental Resources administer the majority of the program.

Many of Pennsylvania's water supply systems are long overdue for improvements for the safety and well being of all the citizens who depend on them for our most precious resource — water. Let's make these companies come out from behind the excuse that there's no available funds to make the necessary changes, or they can't afford the high commercial interest rates.

Vote "Yes" for Water on Tuesday.



### THE PRAYER HE PRAYED FOR US

November 1, 1981

Background Scripture:

John 17.

Devotional Reading:

Luke 11:1-13.

One day just a little over two weeks ago, Valere and I stood looking into the ruins of West Berlin's Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. Almost entirely destroyed by bombs in World War II, this church was left in ruins by Berliners to remind themselves and the world of the folly of war. Next to it was a new church hall and a campanile have been constructed in a contemporary style that is a jarring contrast to the Romanesque architecture of the ruined church tower, which is all that remains.

As we turned to leave, we were confronted by an elderly woman who asked, "Are you Americans?" Aware that Secretary of State Alexander Haig was scheduled to be in West Berlin the next day and that there was likely to be a sizable protest demonstration by Berlin youth against U.S. foreign policy, we were wary of her intention as we acknowledged that we were from the U.S.A.

Please Tell America!

With a gleam of sincerity in her eyes, the woman said, "Please tell the American people when you go home how grateful are the people of Berlin for what you have done for us." She went on to say, "Since the Berlin Airlift, I have been

coming to this church every day to thank visitors from England, France, and America and to give them these cards as a reminder of our gratitude." The card was a postcard photograph of the Liberty Bell replica given to West Berlin by the American people in 1950 and hanging today in the tower of the Shoeneberg Town Hall, where on June 26, 1963, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed that the proudest boast anyone in the free world could make were the words, "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner").

Responding to our questions, she told us that she had lived in Berlin during the dark days of World War II. She had been in a bomb shelter nearby the night the Kaiser Wilhelm Church was destroyed by bombs. She had saved herself from rape by the Soviet troops by disguising herself as a deformed, old woman. She had seen starvation, pillage, and pestilence. "How did you survive all that?" I asked. There was no trace of false piety in her voice as she answered simply, "One learns to pray."

She had prayed her way through the horror of World War II, the occupation and the Cold War. She had prayed and still was continuing to pray prayers of thanksgiving for the help Berlin has received from England, France and the U.S.A. She prays for our people and feels a oneness with us. Although she is in her eighties, she still believes God has a mission for her to perform.

The Work Thou Gavest

That was the way Jesus prayed for us, too, in John 17. He thanked God for his disciples (and us) and prayed that they/we might fulfill his mission — "the work which though gavest me to do" (17:4).

And his second petition? He prayed "that they may all be one." Thus he prayed for us and thus he wills that we would pray for each other. "One learns to pray," the woman said. Have you?

### OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

#### Still more gov't control in our marketplace

I would like to respond to Congressman Tom Harkin's article 'Great Grain Robbery'.

I, for one, am an American farmer who believes very strongly in a truly free, freemarket system — something which there has never been in my lifetime!

I greatly cherish the idea of having the freedom and independence to study the supply-demand situation of the nation and

the world, and make my own marketing decisions, based on my own outlook of the future.

As an American, I am insulted whenever this government is given power to control supply and demand, either domestic or foreign, because both are tied in together anyway. I am insulted because this government, which should be merely representing me

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## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

Lancaster County Agriculture Agent  
Phone 717-394-6851



#### To Check Ventilation Equipment For Winter

Exhaust fans in dairy and poultry houses have a heavy ventilation job to do. They remove moisture and dust, and in many cases run almost continually from October to April.

To make your ventilation system ready for winter, several items may need attention.

The fan blades, motor enclosures and louver shutters need cleaning frequently. Loose belts are common on belt driven fans. Fan output varies directly with fan speed. A 10 percent loss in RPM's of the fan means a 10 percent loss in air delivery.

Check the thermostat for accuracy by hanging a thermometer beside it for easy comparison. Be

sure the sensing element is clean and free from dust.

Have your fan motor protected by adequate overload protectors. Protection is secured by using thermal overload switches in the power line, or you may use a time-delay motor fuse.

#### To Purchase Your 1982 Agronomy Guide

Due to rapidly increased costs, a state-wide policy was adopted to sell the 1982 Agronomy Guide for a few of \$2.00 per copy. This is an excellent bulletin with a lot of valuable information. The \$2.00 fee is very reasonable in relation to the important information contained in the guide. The information in the form of recommendations and management guidelines is worth

far more than the cost of the bulletin.

The Agronomy Guides are available at your individual County Extension Office. Quantity discounts to schools, young farmer groups or businesses are available at 10 or more copies for \$1.60 per copy.

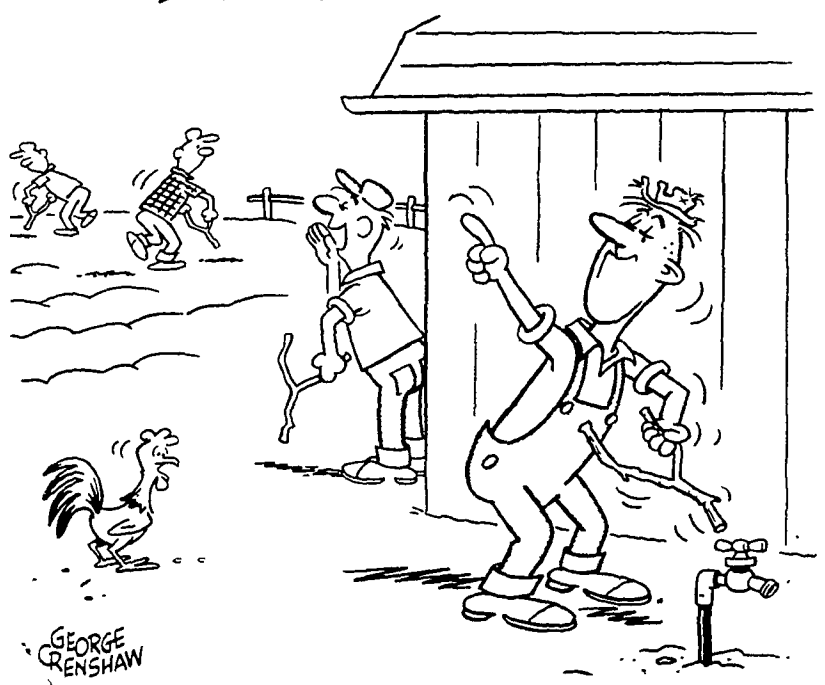
Please stop at your County Extension Office and purchase your 1982 Agronomy Guide.

To Pick and Store Apples Whether you grow apples or just like to eat them, it's important to store them properly.

Cool apples will keep longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33° F., at 90 percent humidity, and in dim light or darkness.

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## HAY HAWS



GEORGE RENSHAW

"Good news, fellas!...Hooper says he found water!"