

Rep. Hayes speaks at PennAg legislative workshop

HARRISBURG — PennAg Industries Association sponsored their legislative workshop on Tuesday here at the Holiday Inn. Taking time out of his busy schedule to speak to the group was House Majority Leader Samuel E. Hayes, Jr. (R-81st).

Hayes entreated the group of ag

business leaders to communicate with their legislators through several routes: personal contact, telephone, letter writing, and group meetings. He stressed the need for any contact to be made only after time has been taken to gather all the information on an issue — including what the op-

position is saying and doing.

Also on the agenda was Pa. Farmers' Association lobbyist Al Myers. He suggested to the members of PennAg that the duties of a lobbyist are two-fold: the tracking of legislation being one realm, and getting the information back to the organization being the other.

Myers stressed the importance of followup on any legislative contact — checking back on how the legislation is moving, whether it is amended, etc. He also emphasized the need for organizations to work together in getting legislation passed where policies coincide — even nonfarm organizations can work with farm groups to get "viewpoints across and legislation passed," he said.

Dick Broom of FMC spoke on the public's image of pesticides and their use in agriculture and industry. He stated the general public is not convinced that pesticides are necessary. He added that most feel the chemicals are used carelessly, that they cause cancer and birth defects, and that the Environmental Protection Agency is not doing a good job in controlling the use and sales of chemicals.

"People are being carefully taught to be scared of a lot of things," said Broom. "But they don't take everything at face value and so are asking questions. That gives agriculture chemical groups a chance to tell our side of the story."

Broom predicted that 1983 will see an intensification of legislation on pesticides — "and 50 percent of that will be unfavorable." He warned that consumer activists who had heretofore concentrated their efforts at the federal level will be moving into the state arena where they can push for more restrictive pesticide regulations. Even though these groups are relatively unorganized at the state level, Broom cautioned against complacency.

"The world perceives chemical companies as out to make a profit

without regard to health and safety," he observed. He suggested taking a low profile by working through other organizations on legislative efforts.

Broom cited incidents where public concern prompted legislation banning pesticides in several states. "I don't feel legislative action is the appropriate route for banning pesticide use," he stated, adding there are agencies to regulate chemicals.

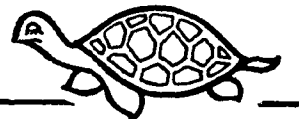
"We need to be as tough and outspoken as our competition," concluded Broom. "Everybody has the right to disagree — that's the way a democracy works."

"Get involved in the political process," he encouraged. "What excuse do you have for sitting on the sidelines?"



House Majority Leader Samuel Hayes, Jr. was the featured speaker at this week's PennAg Industries Assn. legislative workshop. With Hayes is PennAg's president, Tom Zeigler.

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