

Petitions To Be Presented To Octorara School Board

BY MARJORIE KEEN
Chester Co. Correspondent
 Petitions protesting Octorara Area School District's taking of the Naaman King farm are scheduled to be presented to the school board Monday, March 21 by Chester-Delaware County Farmers Association. "We're hoping to have 100 to 200 concerned people turn out for the meeting," said Richard Breckbill, vice president and policy coordinator of the association.

King was served notice last December that the school board had condemned his 102-acre West Fallowfield Township farm to add to its Highland Road campus. Lancaster attorney James Thomas filed preliminary objections to the Taking for King last January 8. Following depositions of Octorara Superintendent Richard Mc-

Adams in February, a brief was filed by Thomas, requesting oral arguments before Chester County Common Pleas Judge Charles Smith.

Alan Jarvis, solicitor for the school board, said, "I have no problem with that (oral arguments)." Jarvis' formal reply to Thomas' brief is due the day of the school board meeting, March 21.

"The condemnation process is a legal process and we need to fight that battle in the courts," Thomas stated. "The decision whether to condemn and how much to condemn is a political process, and to the extent that the school board members are sympathetic to what a group of interested people have to say about it, a petition drive could have a great deal of impact."

"On the other hand," Thomas continued, "they might just com-

pletely turn a deaf ear on it and say 'We've decided; we're not going to be swayed by it.' The petition

doesn't have any impact on the legality. . . It's a struggle on a different level."

The petition asks the school board to 1) purchase a parcel of (Turn to Page A32)



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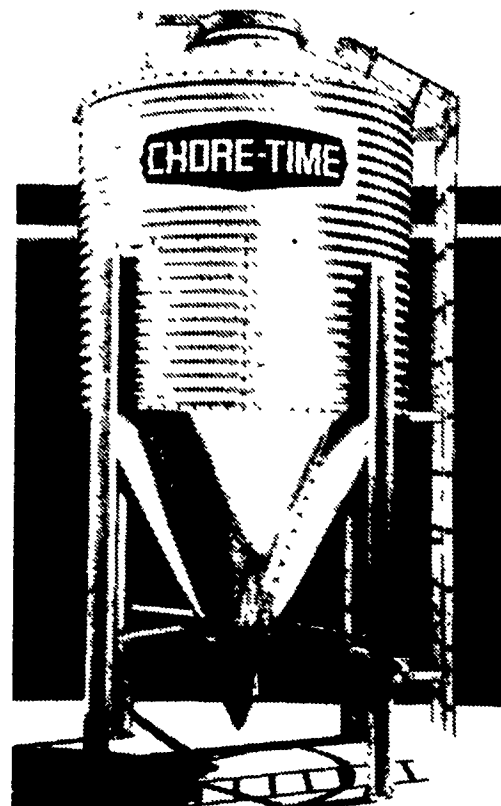
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