

Wait on TMI, governor says

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agencies at the beginning of the second term in an attempt to upgrade our operations — bring new people, new ideas, new enthusiasm into all of our departments. It has been seized on as a partisan issue by opposition, but it is not representative of any change in policy — it was simply a desire to make that operation work better.

COLLEGIAN: What is your opinion of the Supreme Court decision on Tuesday that would allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to permit the undamaged reactor at Three Mile Island to re-open without considering the effects of mental stress on residents of the area?

THORNBURGH: My position has been, since the accident took place, that Unit 1 should not re-open until we are assured that all of the health, safety and environmental concerns that grew out of that accident have been satisfactorily resolved and until the damaged reactor at Unit 2 has been dealt with in terms of having a plan for its cleanup and the funding of that cleanup.

In my view neither of the pre-conditions that I would set for our looking favorably on restarting have been met, so we continue to be opposed to it. The irony of it is that we don't have any official say. Even under the most recent decisions of the court, the authority and jurisdiction for dealing with that question is still a monopoly of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

COLLEGIAN: As a strong supporter of the

mandatory five-year sentencing for all persons convicted of committing a crime with a gun, do you feel that this legislature will further decrease Pennsylvania's crime rate in the future?

THORNBURGH: First of all, I don't think we want to get too excited about the decrease in the number of reported crimes. While we're certainly pleased that the last two years have each seen a decrease — in some cases a significant decrease — I'd want to wait for some experience before I would pass a judgment that we have licked the problem of increasing crime.

I think it is in some ways related to the demographics of the state. But I also think that the kinds of messages and signals that we have been sending over the last four years about our attitude as a state toward crime have had a positive effect toward reducing the crime rate as well.

The imposition of minimum mandatory five-year sentences in certain narrow areas is something that I feel extremely positive about.

The fact that we have put our money where our mouth is by undertaking a 30 percent increase in our prison capacity is also showing people that we mean business — that we're not going to let a lack of prison space be used as an excuse or a cop-out for any judges that are so inclined to not enforce the law to the maximum extent.

Another thing that we are very excited about is our neighborhood crime watch program, which has been instituted in Pennsylvania on a wider scale than anywhere in the country. The long-term effect of these will be to not only reduce crime but to also have a reasonable chance at recreating that sense of neighborhood community that is important to our society on the whole.



'The important thing is that, for the first time, PHEAA is authorized to really create the kind of revolving funds for student loans that we have used for industrial development loans.'

—Gov. Dick Thornburgh

PHEAA for four years. And that had occurred in a time of very high inflation. We had an increase in the first four years, stabilized it this year and added the bond funding, which will have the effect of increasing the flow of money available. That unquestionably has helped to take up part of the slack that has resulted from gradually increasing costs in every institution.

We're committed to PHEAA; we are pleased that this new initiative is going forward to provide them with the wherewithal to increase their capacity to make student loans.

COLLEGIAN: Pennsylvania has made some strides in advanced technology fields. Do you see Pennsylvania as being a leader in advanced technology?

THORNBURGH: I don't think we have a choice.

As I indicated, our economy is in transition from its traditional reliance on heavy manufacturing — which has been the bedrock of our prosperity over the years — into something else.

A lot of it is going to be folded back into our basic manufacturing base to raise the productivity and make more competitive those industries that we traditionally relied upon. The Ben Franklin Partnership is designed to capitalize on the resources that we already have in place — outstanding institutions of higher education and pre-eminent private sector research and development facilities. We simply have not heretofore had the catalyst to bring these together in ways that will spill off job opportunities.

COLLEGIAN: What role do you think small businesses will play in Pennsylvania's economic future and what priority has small business been given by your administration? Please see GOVERNOR, Page 3.

Governor backs small business

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THORNBURGH: Small businesses are really going to be the major contributor to our economic growth in the balance of this century. I think all statistical studies and estimates indicate that and we've taken that cue in a number of ways to try to build up the strength of our small business sector. I think one of the first executive orders that I signed as governor in 1979 was to create a meaningful small business council.

We haven't been able to meet all their needs, obviously, but some that we have been very reassuring to the small business community. Probably the most important changes were reforms in our tax laws as they affect small businesses: the phase-out of the unique 90 percent pre-payment provisions of the corporate tax; the providing of a loss-carried forward provision for the first time in Pennsylvania's income tax law; the accelerated cost recovery provisions of the federal statute.

In the area of regulations, we've cut red tape and tried to be less intrusive. We established a regulatory review committee within the administration and now we have a statutory independent regulatory review commission to review all regulations for their cost-benefit effects.

What's gotten the most attention has been the Small Business Action Center, which is in the department of commerce. The Small Business Action Center is an operation that is designed to extricate the answers to questions that small business men and women have. This is a one-stop operation that guarantees



'Small businesses are really going to be the major contributor to our economic growth in the balance of this century.'

—Gov. Dick Thornburgh

24-hour service. They've had 25,000 satisfied customers in the two years they've been operating. The people are trained — they know where to go to get answers. They know how to massage the system to get a result that would otherwise take weeks, months to get. We continue to keep our ear to the ground through the Small Business Advisory Committee and try to respond to the concerns that they have.

Incidents of serious crime decrease

By KAREN KANE
Collegian Staff Writer

HARRISBURG — One of the reasons for the 1982 statewide decrease of reported serious crimes is that the most likely offenders are getting older, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency said Friday.

The preliminary findings of the Uniform Crime Reports, prepared by the Pennsylvania State Police, reported that incidents of serious crime in 1982 have decreased by almost 6 percent on top of the 1981 decrease of 1.5 percent. The complete report is scheduled to be released by early summer.

The majority of serious crimes are committed by people under the age of 18 — the age group that was hit hardest by the population decline following the "baby boom" era, Doug Hoffman, the commission's chief resident statistician, said Friday.

Meanwhile, reported offenses in Pennsylvania dropped by a greater percentage than the nationwide preliminary statistics released last week by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The report stated that serious crime throughout the nation decreased by 4 percent in 1982.

"Although the population mix is different from state to state, the demographic characteristics are definitely a part of the nationwide decrease too," Thomas S. Buzby, Director of the Commission's Bureau of Program Services, said.

In addition to age, community anti-crime programs throughout the nation added to the decrease, the FBI said.

Neighborhood crime watch programs also played a role in the state-wide decrease in reported crime, Buzby said.

"We certainly like to think that the influx of community-based crime prevention programs has had a positive result in getting people to be on the lookout for potential criminal behavior," Buzby said.

The commission is training crime prevention officers at police departments across the state, Buzby said.

"Crime prevention is something very difficult to measure, but by the very nature of getting people to report more suspicious activity in surrounding homes and businesses and encouraging them to report more crime, we think that's bound to have some impact on the rate of crime that occurs," he said.

The reported decrease occurred in the state police departments' Part I offenses category which is composed of both violent and property crimes.

The report defines violent crime as murder, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault. Property crimes such as burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson are thought to be reported more frequently, Hoffman said.

Although the number of murders committed throughout the state dropped below the 700 level for only the second time in ten years, incidents of aggravated assault in-

creased throughout the state for the fifth consecutive year.

"Why it's just aggravated assault, I really don't know," Hoffman said.

Each police department in the state submits annual records of all criminal activities that occurred in the district to state police bureaus.

The state police, in turn, compile the data and send the results to Harrisburg where the Uniform Crime Report Statistics are compiled.

"I don't see any major change in the way the state police compile their statistics," Hoffman said.

"There has been some decrease in the number of departments reporting, and some of that is just physical consolidation of departments and shouldn't affect the reporting," he added.

In addition, there have been no major staff cutbacks or changes in technology used to compile the statistics that could possibly account for the decrease, Hoffman said.

"The reporting system itself is not to blame," he said. "If crimes are being reported less to police, that's a possibility."

Pennsylvania is just starting to "get a good historical criminal statistics record" detailing all types of criminal activities, Hoffman said.

Good data and complete reporting are essential to accurate statistics, he said.

"People go out and say what should be changed based only on their personal experiences," Hoffman said. "Personal experiences differ."

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