

citizens ask to be heard

"I have to sell my crops to live"

says P. D. Frantz, Farmer of Egypt, Pennsylvania

"I was born on a farm in Pennsylvania that my father and grandfather worked before me. My family has dug its living from the soil of this State for seven generations. My neighbors and I grow potatoes — lots of them. But it is just as important to a farmer to sell his crops as it is for him to have crops in the first place. What Pennsylvania farmers need is better selling.

"We're just starting to get somewhere here in Pennsylvania through the chain stores, and we don't want this thing spoiled just as it amounts to something. We've worked out a selling program with the chain stores that put nearly three million dollars extra cash into the potato growers' pockets last year. And it's going to be bigger next year. That comes from an official report of the potato growing industry.

"For the first time since potatoes were grown in Pennsylvania, we're getting higher prices than the Maine farmers. That's because instead of taking them to somebody who didn't give a darn about us, we take them to the chain stores, who understand what we're up against. I think even the farmers who don't sell to chain stores will say that the way these Pennsylvania chains have got together with us has brought higher prices to every potato grower in the State. I've heard the growers of other crops say the same thing.

"The chain stores have been a godsend in helping us move surplus crops. Finding somebody who can sell you potatoes, when there are so many that nobody wants them, is like watching it rain after a dry spell. And it helps people in the city, too, because it lets them share in the abundance which Nature sometimes thinks wise to produce.



"The National Administration is doing all it can to help farmers fight such things as droughts and floods—things which keep the farmer from growing his crops. I can't see why any Pennsylvania Senator should want to injure the farmer at the other end—the selling end. The Store Tax Bill would be almost as big a blow to Pennsylvania farmers as no rain during the growing season. It would cripple the companies that are doing the best job we've ever had done for us. I hope that every Pennsylvania farmer who wants to protect his best market will sit down now and write his Senator a sizzler against this Store Tax Bill."

"I have a good job and a good chance to get ahead"

says Al Love, Manager of a Chain Store at 3301 Spring Garden Street

"I am 26 years old and a graduate of South Philadelphia High School. I have a wife and a baby. I have a comfortable home, a car, a radio — more than most men of my age can afford. I am a chain store manager. I enjoy my work, and I like the company I work with.

"I have a great many friends who went to high school with me, and I know that I am making more money than most of them. I think I have a better chance for advancement than they have. The chain store grocery business is one of the few businesses in the world that still insists that its executives come up through the ranks. The next step ahead of me is a larger store, with a larger income, or a job as a supervisor. Among all my friends, I know of no one who has a better chance of immediate promotion, or a better opportunity to work into an important position in the future.

"I am the manager of a very small chain food store that is making about \$400 a year for my company. My clerk earns more than twice that. The landlord receives exactly twice as much as that in rent for my store. Yet your Senator may vote to tax my store \$500 a year.

"It is all right to talk about the profits my company makes in other States. But what would happen to the branch of the company in which you, yourself, work if it were taxed more than it earns? You can't expect a company to operate any part of its business at a loss. The Senators who are in favor of this tax would not run their own businesses in that way.



If they did, they would not be in business long. Some of them are very successful.

"I am an American citizen. I was born in Philadelphia. I work in the city where I was born. I think I'm a good citizen. I'm sick of seeing a company that gives me a decent living put on the spot every time the legislature meets. I can't understand the reasons behind laws that threaten my job and everything I have worked for since I got out of school. There are over 62,000 chain store employees plus their friends and customers in the State of Pennsylvania who are starting to wonder."

Space does not permit the printing of more than a small percentage of those opposing the store tax

- M. L. Claster, Lock Haven, Pa.
- H. A. Grubb, State College, Pa.
- A. C. Henninger, State College, Pa.
- Fern Struble, Lemont, Pa.
- Earl Myers, Port Matilda, Pa.
- Chas. Gummo, Port Matilda, Pa.
- A. F. Smith, Balesburg, Pa.
- N. S. Berger, Balesburg, Pa.
- W. W. Albright, State College, Pa.
- N. B. Mantz, Balesburg, Pa.
- H. W. Rocky, State College, Pa.
- G. W. Spicer, State College, Pa.
- Samuel Evarhart, State College, Pa.
- Fred Cox, State College, Pa.
- John B. Meek, Port Matilda, Pa.
- Earl Crust, Port Matilda, Pa.
- H. G. Ebbs, Port Matilda, Pa.
- Lane Sampsell, Bellfonte, Pa.
- Charles Spicer, Bellfonte, Pa.
- Kings Farms Co., Norrisville, Pa.
- DEALERS IN FARM PRODUCTS
- J. M. McCalley, Loganston, Pa.
- S. Hoffman, Avon, Pa.
- G. W. Cramer, Hubersburg, Pa.
- Fred Kyle, Mackeesville, Pa.
- Otto Milk Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Nathan Crigger, Altoona, Pa.
- Lafferty Bros., Altoona, Pa.
- Lawrence Hesser, Altoona, Pa.
- J. E. Nelson, Altoona, Pa.
- W. E. Hoffman Co., Altoona, Pa.
- Sanitary Milk Co., Curwensville, Pa.
- Clearfield Dairy, Clearfield, Pa.
- Purity Milk Co., Philipsburg, Pa.
- Gust Janke, Winburne, Pa.

- Green Ridge Dairy, Irvona, Pa.
- Roy H. Fimk, New Millport, Pa.
- O. M. Shaffer, New Millport, Pa.
- Blain Byers, Mahaffey, Pa.
- James Irwin, Curwensville, Pa.
- O. H. Goss, Curwensville, Pa.
- Lewis Hauck, Curwensville, Pa.
- Amos Tate, Mahaffey, Pa.
- G. S. Watts, Bellwood, Pa.
- Geo. F. Sheraw, Altoona, Pa.
- CHAIN FOOD STORE
- American Stores Co., Pennsylvania.
- A. and P. Food Stores, Pennsylvania.
- Cassell's Stores, Reading, Pa.
- Shaffer Stores Co., Altoona, Pa.
- Weis Pure Food Stores, Sunbury, Pa.
- P. H. Butler Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Kroger Grocery & Baking Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.
- REAL ESTATE DEALERS AND LANDLORDS
- W. J. Moore, Erie, Pa.
- L. W. Borland, Altoona, Pa.
- L. E. Leopold, Altoona, Pa.
- Louis Shapiro, Clearfield, Pa.
- W. Martin Insurance & Real Estate Co., Lewistown, Pa.
- E. G. Burket, Altoona, Pa.
- B. F. Thorne Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Jenkinson Realty Co., Bellevue, Pa.
- Peter E. Knabel, Erie, Pa.
- Isabel Chaffee, Wesleyville, Pa.
- Chas. Blackshaw, Erie, Pa.
- Richard J. Seltzer, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Edwin W. Blair Inc., Philadelphia, Pa.

PENNSYLVANIA SPEAKS!

The Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia:

"PENAL TAXATION. . . . A member of the Legislature may choose to stand with the group of individual merchants who think they are to be benefited by the chain-store tax, or he may stand with the large number of consumers who know they are to be hurt by it and protest. But no one can dodge the vital issue presented in this bill and stroke his chest in contented thought that he is voting some extra salary for the poor, forgotten, public school teacher."

The Scranton Tribune:

"HARD ON THE POOR. . . . The proposed store tax indicates that the time has come when the poor are expected to pay. State Senators will be likely to give serious thought to that."

Wilkes-Barre Record:

"REGULATION BY TAXATION. . . . To illustrate this in the case of the chain stores, one can now wonder what will be the fate of unprofitable units in large chains which have been carried along by the profitable stores and although unproductive to the owners, have yielded income to landlords and have been sources of employment. Whether a heavy tax will force abandonment of such stores is a question inevitably raised by the new tax law under discussion."

Allentown Morning Call:

"A TAX THAT HOUSEWIFE WILL PAY. . . . The rising tide of prices is particularly evidenced in the costs of food-stuffs and therefore most acutely affects the poor and the poorly paid groups of every community in the country. The rich can endure advances in food prices. The poor cannot. . . ."

The Evening Ledger, Philadelphia:

"CONSUMERS WILL PAY. . . . As the main interests affected by the proposed bill are food concerns, the natural outcome would be an immediate increase in the cost of living. And as usual the burden will fall on those least able to pay. . . . The tax is branded as an indirect sales tax and the Democratic Party in Pennsylvania is on record as opposed to sales taxes. . . ."

Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre:

"A TAX ALL WOULD FEEL. . . . The net results will be an affliction to the very people whose needs have been most considered by benevolent administrations. These very people will feel this added and unwelcome burden, in the price of sugar, of lard, bacon, fruits, meats of all kinds, and staple and fancy groceries. The question then occurs, as it has occurred so many times, so often, is it a wise thing to do?"

Carlisle Sentinel:

"TAX ON FOOD STORES. . . . The Earle administration is dedicated to 'the greatest good for the greatest number,' and in this matter it should look well to the interests of the consumers. . . ."

Pittsburgh Press:

"THE CHAIN STORE TAX. . . . Even if the chains did not cut down the number of stores or lease them, it is ridiculous to assume that they would completely absorb this tax. It would be passed on to consumers in the form of higher food prices. . . . They simply would be paying another form of a sales tax upon that most basic of all commodities, food. . . ."

Record Herald, Waynesboro:

"TAX ON STORES. . . . This might be only a step toward the imposition of taxes on other businesses. The bill will bear watching whether you believe in chain stores or whether you do not."

Daily Times, Beaver:

"HOUSE BILL No. 228. . . . Already, too many industries have been driven from Pennsylvania by unfavorable and excessive taxation. . . ."

Dispatch, York:

"THE 'SOAK THE POOR' BILL. . . . We hold no special brief for the chain stores, but we do hold a brief for those to whom the economies made possible by the chains spell the difference between having enough to eat and going hungry. . . ."

Altoona Mirror, Altoona:

"THE STORE TAX BILL. . . . These stores give employment to large numbers of people in this state. They rent many buildings. The proposed tax may result in much unemployment and vacant store rooms everywhere. Moreover, the tax will be reflected in higher prices for the necessities of life with a corresponding reduction in the purchasing power of a dollar. . . ."

Brownsville Telegraph:

"CHAIN STORE TAX ATTACK. . . . Many thoughtful independent merchants, as a matter of fact, know now the chains taught them how to be successful merchandisers. For these lessons they have cause to be genuinely grateful. Moreover, they know that from a burdensome tax on chain stores it is only one step further to an equally burdensome extra tax on their own establishments. . . ."

Times, Chester:

"PENNSYLVANIA WAR ON CHAIN STORES. . . . For a number of years in this vicinity, the American Stores and the A & P Stores have supplied food to residents. Their prices have been low and the quality high. Why must they be punished? . . ."

The Sunbury Daily:

"THE PUBLIC WILL FOOT THE BILL AGAIN. . . . The fate of the bill will eventually rest with the public, which will or will not make itself heard, but, if enacted, the public will, of course, foot the bill. . . ."

Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph:

"EFFICIENCY PUNISHMENT. . . . Such hobbies make the cost of merchandising greater, and the public pays the bill. . . ."

The Philadelphia Inquirer:

"ANOTHER TAX ON THE MARKET BASKET. . . . This form of taxation as a means of raising revenue has been suggested before. It cropped up at the two last sessions of the Legislature, but was disowned by the State Administration and got nowhere. . . ."

Tribune, Johnstown:

"ATTACKING THE CHAINS. . . . The inequality of this measure is at once apparent. It means that the small chain store doing a neighborhood business will be assessed \$500, while a large department store doing many millions of business will pay \$1. . . ."

The Evening News, Wilkes-Barre:

"A TAX ON STORES. . . . The tax on stores would not be a luxury assessment. If it were, it would not cause the concern that a levy on food and other essentials does. . . ."

Philadelphia News:

"STORE TAX BODES MORE HARM THAN GOOD. . . . This will soak the people on relief just as hard as it will those who are working for their wages. . . ."

WRITE TO YOUR SENATOR TODAY
HE WILL PROBABLY VOTE NEXT WEEK

The Senators elected from this territory are:

ANDREW J. SORDONI
LEO C. MUNDY

Address your Senator at Senate Chamber, State Capitol, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Tell him to vote "NO" on the store tax bill

Last year, California passed a Store Tax just like this one. Then they put it up to the people to vote on. The people voted against it in 57 out of 58 Counties. You can defeat it now in Pennsylvania before it becomes a law. Let your Senator know what you think before it is too late. He WANTS to know.