

The Pennsylvania Story: Tourist Business Important To Economy Of The State

By MASON DENISON
Pennsylvania News Service

Harrisburg — Just how quickly and perhaps unthinkingly a Governor—or most any other noted character in public life for that matter—can put his foot in his mouth was illustrated recently when Governor Leader said in Pittsburgh:

"Pennsylvania is not essentially a tourist state."

We're inclined to agree with the Governor that the Keystone State is not "essentially" a tourist state, but at the same time we believe that the tourist industry is a very important factor in the economy of the Keystone State.

In fact when the administration drafted its streamlined "economy" budget for Pennsylvania for the 1955-57 biennium, we think they cut off their noses in eliminating the promotional and advertising budget for attracting tourists to Pennsylvania.

However it wasn't long after Mr. Leader made his utterance that balding, bespectacled Assemblyman Edwin W. Tompkins from Cameron County rumbled to the microphone on the floor of the House to refute the Governor's assertion. What the venerable Mr. Tompkins said never drew any big headlines, but some of it seems to be worth recounting to give the other side of the picture at least.

Just how important is the tourist trade to Pennsylvania?

According to Assemblyman Tompkins, nationally tourist trade is a \$23 billion—not million—affair, and to quote him further industrial production of mills and factories in Pennsylvania, using statistics from the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs in 1951 amounted to \$23 billion.

Snapped Assemblyman Tompkins to the listening House of Representatives:

"A national economy equal in dollars to the total industrial production of Pennsylvania,

and yet we turn our backs on it."

He went on to point out that latest available figures on tourist travel in Pennsylvania amount to \$800 million a year which he noted is equal to the industrial production of 26 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

The lad from the so-called "rural" county of Cameron undoubtedly has a few points.

He noted further that last year there were some 58,000 non-residents fishing licenses issued in Pennsylvania; that an estimated 700,000 persons will visit Gettysburg in Adams Co. alone during 1955, and that 61 per cent of the population of the United States and 64 per cent of the Nation's payroll are within 500 miles of the center of Pennsylvania.

"It seems ironical," he scowled at Democratic administration forces across the aisle of the House, "that the second legislative session of (Democratic) Governor George H. Earle (1935-39) appropriated \$500,000 for a two-year period to be spent in the promotion of the Commonwealth's vacation attractions and that the next succeeding Democratic administration completely reverses the field."

Frankly, we think the Cameron County Assemblyman has a point, and so no doubt will thousands of Pennsylvanians dependent directly or indirectly on tourist travel. In any event it illustrates how easy it is for a gubernatorial foot to be misplaced.

TWO PROPERTIES SOLD

Mr. and Mrs. Ragnar Hallgren Jr. purchased at private sale the Mr. and Mrs. George H. Brown III property at 154 N. Market Street.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stohler purchased the property located at 144 New Haven Street from Mr. and Mrs. Earl Myers and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Myers.

Thursday, September 29 7
THE BULLETIN, Mount Joy, Pa.

LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP

Harrisburg — Pennsylvania lawmakers this week wind up their ninth month of sessioning and prepare for at least a month's recess with the legislative scorecard still reading 0 to 0 insofar as tax and budget matters of the Commonwealth are concerned.

Republican legislators insist upon slashing the near two-billion-dollar budget offered by Democratic administration forces, while Democratic lawmakers as vigorously oppose any such cuts.

On the tax front, debate continues to rage as to the type of tax to be levied although indications are that many lawmakers are leaning more and more heavily in the direction of a sales tax or a combination sales and income tax.

On the legislative agenda this week is the proposal to levy a tax on the basis of federal income tax payments—generally regarded as unconstitutional although no court test has ever been made.

Little legislation of major importance has been passed by the 1955 session notwithstanding the nine months the lawmakers have been in Harrisburg. Basically this is due to the fact that nearly all major legislation in one way or another is tied in with the fiscal picture which of course remains to be solved.

Legislative leaders are hopeful that with an upcoming month-plus recess, compromise talks on tax matters will produce some area of agreement between administration and anti-administration forces.

Meanwhile on the legislation front itself, a smattering of new bills continue to appear, among the latest of which are those which would:

Provide that public works contracts shall require the payment of prevailing labor wages;

Authorize microfilming of court records ten years old or older and providing for the sale of photostated copies;

Limit reimbursement for de-

ANOTHER CLASS BEGINS TRAINING AT FIRE SCHOOL

Harrisburg - PNS - Another class of Pennsylvania volunteer firemen this week began training in advanced fire fighting techniques at the now nationally famous Pennsylvania Fire School at Lewistown.

A total of 57 firemen from all sections of the state are enrolled in this week's class, according to officials of the school, who said the class will receive the first full treatment of advanced fire fighting.

Unique is the fact that the trainees will have many actual fires in the famous Fire Training Building - specially designed for full-scale fires as well as oil and ordinary combustible fires on the outside.

Three other classes for Pennsylvania firemen have been scheduled for the remainder of the year, as follows:

October 10-14: Fire Apparatus Operation and Maintenance;

October 17-21: Standard Fire Fighting; October 24-28: Advanced Fire Fighting.

There is no registration fee, according to the State Department of Public Instruction under whose jurisdiction the school falls administratively, the only expense involved being individual living expense.

Registrations for upcoming classes are now open.

October 17-21: Standard Fire Fighting; October 24-28: Advanced Fire Fighting.

There is no registration fee, according to the State Department of Public Instruction under whose jurisdiction the school falls administratively, the only expense involved being individual living expense.

Registrations for upcoming classes are now open.

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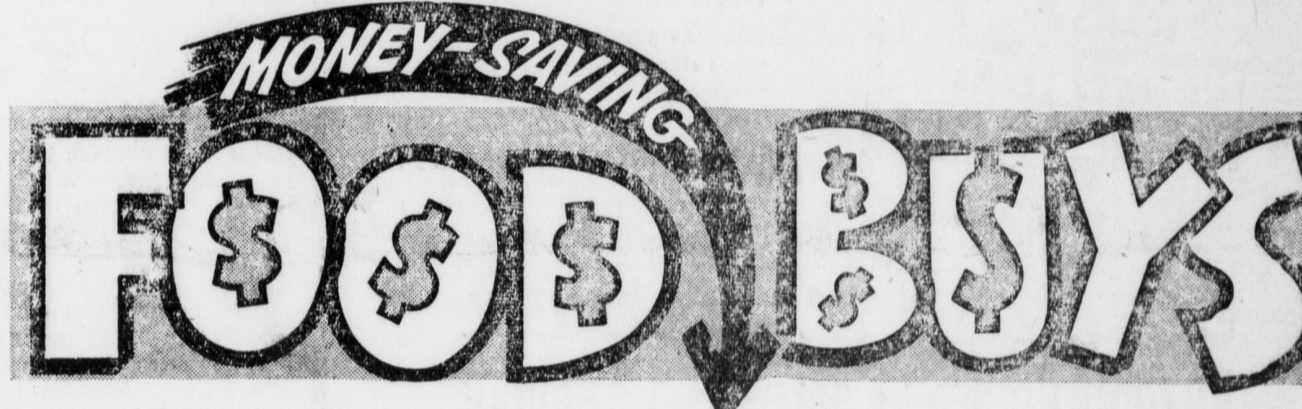
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