

CAPITOL REPORT

from

Rep. PAUL SEMMEL

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Hamburg, PA 19526
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178 West Main St.
Kutztown, PA 19530
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Dear Friend,

Spring 1987

It has been my pleasure representing you in the General Assembly for the past four years and I look forward to serving you again. I will continue to represent the views of my constituents and I will fight hard for the residents of the area.

With this newsletter, I have listed a few accomplishments of the past legislative session and hopefully will provide some insight to what I believe the burning issues during this session will be. We faced many challenges in the past and we will face many more in the next two years. We have taken great strides to improve the state's highways, improve its economy and lower personal and corporate income taxes.

We have worked diligently to improve the state's environment and to improve educational opportunities for our youths. We have aided senior citizens, veterans and local volunteer fire and rescue squads. However, more needs to be accomplished.

In the upcoming session, the liability insurance crisis will continue to dominate the headlines, along with local tax reform.

Other issues before the House will be efforts by the new administration to break-up the Commerce Department and create a new public-private corporation to take its place. Efforts to improve solid waste disposal techniques and the siting of a low-level nuclear waste dump will be top priorities. Another sensitive subject, that in all likelihood will be addressed, is the state's mental health laws.

As in the past, I will continue to have my district offices open and available to constituents. I look forward to your input and your opinions on issues, or if you have any state-related problems.

Finally, 200 years ago the U.S. Constitution was adopted by our forefathers. As we celebrate this momentous occasion, I ask that you remember the principles that our system of governing was founded on. It has given us a direct voice in the operation of our government; local, state and federal. 1987 is a special year in our country's history and in Pennsylvania, the keystone state of this nation in 1787 and in 1987.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Semmel

Fighting Crime . . . You Can Help



There's a new crime fighting organization in Pennsylvania in which citizens play the most important part. "Pennsylvania Crime Stoppers, Inc." is a volunteer, non-profit corporation dedicated to the reduction of crime, the solution of unsolved crimes and the apprehension of wanted criminals. Citizens who provide information leading to solving of a crime or apprehension of a wanted criminal receive rewards of up to \$1,000 for their assistance.

To provide completely confidential information on unsolved crimes, a person may call Crime Stoppers' toll-free number 1-800-4-PA-TIPS. Each week Crime Stoppers releases, through the news media, information about a particular unsolved crime and asks citizens to help in solving it.

Although the program is new to Pennsylvania, the national Crime Stoppers network has solved more than 90,000 cases, successfully convicted more than 21,000 felons and recovered more than \$533 million worth of stolen property and narcotics. In Pennsylvania, the program is a joint effort of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Police Chiefs Association.

Crime Stoppers is a unique opportunity for all of us to help make Pennsylvania a safer place to live.

Measures Expanded To Assist Senior Citizens

● **Income Tax Benefits For The Elderly** — Persons over age 55 will be permitted a one-time exclusion from taxable income on the capital gains realized from the sale or exchange of a principal residence. To qualify, the residence must have been used by the taxpayer as his or her principal residence for at least three of the last five years prior to the sale. The maximum amount of the exclusion would be \$100,000 for persons filing jointly or \$50,000 for married persons filing separately. The special tax exclusion, which is similar to one already provided on federal income taxes, will apply to sales or exchanges made after July 1, 1987.

● **Reduced Automobile Registration** — Retired persons with a total income from all sources not exceeding **\$14,999**, are eligible for reduced automobile registrations. Under the program, those qualifying only have to pay \$10 for their automobile registration, rather than the usual \$24. Passenger cars and Class 1 and 2 trucks may be registered at the lower fee. Only one reduced registration per family is allowed. I have forms available at my district offices.

● **Recreational Benefits** — Persons age 65 or older are entitled to certain recreational and cultural benefits in Pennsylvania. The cost of hunting, furtaking and fishing licenses is reduced. A hunting or furtaking license costs \$10.50, a lifetime hunting license \$50.50, a fishing license \$2.50 and a lifetime fishing license \$10.50. Proof of age is required. In addition, free fishing licenses are available for Pennsylvania veterans with 100 percent service-related disability. Information can be obtained by contacting the state Game Commission (787-4250) or the state Fish Commission (657-4519).

Persons over 65 are eligible for free admission to the Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum Commission's museum and other sites. Those over 65 or over are eligible for reduced camping fees at state parks Sundays through Thursdays.

● **Expanded Income Eligibility** — More senior citizens are able to qualify for the Property Tax/Rent rebate and PACE programs, because of expanded eligibility requirements. The maximum income for rebate and inflation dividend has been increased to **\$14,999**. The same limits now also apply for the PACE program.



Rabies Legislation: A Reality

Many headlines dominated the newspapers during 1986. However, one of the most prevalent headlines in Pennsylvania dealt with the rabies epidemic that reached record numbers. According to statistics from the state Department of Health, 583 cases were confirmed in 1986.

Late last year, legislation was enacted that should reduce the spread of rabies. The bill requires petowners who have dogs and cats over three months old to be vaccinated against rabies. Stray or "barnyard" cats are exempt from the bill.

Another section in the law requires the state Department of Agriculture to assist in establishing low-cost inoculation clinics throughout Pennsylvania. Kennel owners are allowed, under the bill to inoculate their own animals instead of taking them to a veterinarian for the shots. Persons caught violating the law will be fined \$300.

During 1986, there were no reported cases of rabies in Berks County, while Lehigh County reported one case.

The rabies epidemic continues to pose a serious threat to the general population. By mandating the vaccinations of family pets that threat should be reduced.

Seeking Answers To Mental Health Problems

Last year a legislative task force was established to study the state's mental health laws, and to see if revisions are necessary. Several hearings were held throughout the Commonwealth and testimony was received from a wide variety of sources, including mental health professionals, clergymen, members of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, and families who have members with mental illness. As of this writing the task force is still conducting its investigation and is expected to release its report this spring.

Mental health and the law that regulates proper mental health procedures are complex and must be dealt with carefully. Any changes made must not violate the rights of the mentally ill individuals, however, conversely the safety of the public must also be a top priority.



Committee Assignments For The 1987-88 Session

I am pleased to announce that I have been named once again to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Mines and Energy Management Committee. These two committees are very important to my legislative district and it allows me to voice my satisfaction or concerns about certain legislation that is discussed before the committees. I have also been renamed to serve on the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission.

Rep. Paul Semmel District Offices Ready to Serve

My district offices in Schnecksville, Hamburg and Kutztown have received thousands of inquiries from the people of the 187th Legislative District.

Those offices serve as important listening posts to let me know about the concerns and problems facing over 58,000 people that I represent. They also remain busy helping people with state-related problems.

Few representatives have more than one district office, but by sharing offices with state Sen. David Brightbill, I'm able to have the three locations convenient to different portions of the district. The offices are staffed with experienced professionals who work with me in answering your questions and solving your problems related to state government.

The locations, hours, telephone numbers and district aides for each of the offices are listed below:

SCHNECKSVILLE

3 Spring Hill Drive
P.O. Box 235
Schnecksville, PA 18078
(215) 799-0187
Hours: Monday - Friday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by appt.

District Aide:
JoAnn Heiney

HAMBURG

31 North 3rd Street
Hamburg, PA 19526
(215) 562-3411
Hours: Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 12 noon
Mon. Eve. 6 - 8
or by appt.

District Aide:
Sandra Christman

KUTZTOWN

178 West Main Street
Kutztown, PA 19530
(215) 683-9199
Hours: Tuesday - Friday
Tues. - Fri. 8 - 12
Tues Evenings 6 - 8
or by appt.

District Aide:
Joy Adams

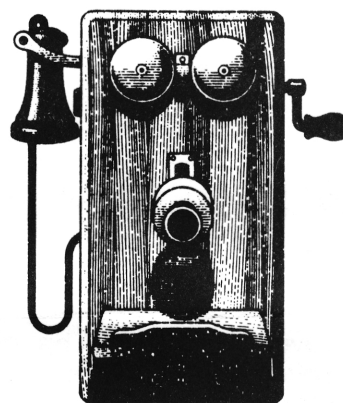
NOTE: All phone lines are answered 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.



I am pictured here with a group of Lehigh County vo-tech students during their trip to the state Capitol last fall. If your group is interested in visiting Harrisburg please contact any of my district offices and we will arrange the details. I encourage everyone to visit the state's Capitol.

Useful Consumer Toll-Free Telephone Numbers

Auditor General	800-692-7391
Auto Safety	800-424-9393
Bureau of Provider Relations	800-932-0698
CAT Fund Information	800-228-8885
Child Abuse	800-932-0313 or 800-422-4453
Child Find	800-426-5678 or 800-I AM LOST
Connect Handicapped Child Info.	800-692-7288
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	800-932-0912
Environmental Protection Agency	800-438-2474
Fair Housing (HUD)	800-424-8590
Food Stamps	800-692-7462
Governor's Action Center	800-932-0784
Health	800-692-7254
Health T.T.Y. (Hearing Impaired)	800-932-4639
Homeowners Emergency Assistance	800-342-2397
Insurance Consumer Info. Service	800-222-1750
Internal Revenue Service	800-424-1040
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation	800-223-1138
Licensed Professions	800-822-2113
Liquor Control Board	800-932-0602
Nat'l Down's Syndrome Society	800-221-4602
Nat'l RUNAWAY Switchboard	800-621-4000
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	800-638-8282



PA Travel Bureau	800-847-4872 or 800-VISIT PA
PACE	800-225-PACE
PHEAA Student Loan/Grant Info.	800-692-7435
Public Utility Commission	800-692-7380
PUC Telephone Service	800-692-7380 or 800-PUC-FACT
Treasury Wasteline	800-932-0609
Veterans Outreach	800-352-0915
Vietnam Veterans	800-222-1993
Welfare	800-692-7462
Welfare Fraud Hotline	800-932-0582
Workmen's Compensation	800-482-2383

Biography of a Bill

CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE



1. A member submits his ideas in writing to the Legislative Reference Bureau which drafts and types a bill in proper legal form. The member signs the bill, thereby assuming sponsorship and may solicit additional sponsors before filing it for introduction on the House Floor.

SPEAKER



2. The Speaker refers the bill to the appropriate committee and reports reference of each bill to the House. When the bill is introduced and referred, it is numbered and printed for distribution.

COMMITTEE



3. There are 21 House standing committees, some of which are divided into subcommittees (for example, the Health and Welfare Committee has a subcommittee on Health, a subcommittee on Welfare and a subcommittee on Youth and Aging). The committee Chairman assigns bills to the proper subcommittee for study prior to consideration by the full committee. The committee makes a careful study of the bill and may hold public hearings when necessary. A bill is reported to the House as committed or as amended by a majority vote of the committee members. The committee may also decide not to report a bill. Rules do provide a discharge procedure to remove bills from committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE



HOUSE



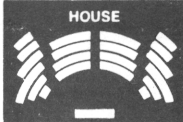
4. The Pennsylvania Constitution requires that a bill receive consideration on three different days. Therefore, when a bill is reported to the House, its number and title is read by the Speaker (first consideration) and printed on the tabled calendar.

RULES COMMITTEE



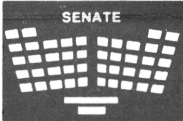
5. A first consideration bill may be removed from the table by a vote of the Rules Committee members. If Rules Committee does not advance the bill to second consideration or if a member does not make a motion on the floor to move the bill, after 15 legislative days, it moves to second automatically.

HOUSE



6. After the House agrees to a bill on second consideration, the bill moves to third consideration, is amended and/or debated and prepared for a vote on final passage. The House passes a bill by a majority vote of 102 members, except in the case of certain appropriations bills requiring a constitutional majority of 2/3 of the elected members.

SENATE



7. A bill passed by the House is sent, by messenger, to the Senate, where it is referred to committee and follows the same course of passage as it went through in the House. If the Senate passes the bill exactly as it was passed by the House or if the House agrees to Senate changes, it is ready for signing and transmittal to the Governor, however

CONFERENCE



8. If the Senate amends a House bill and the House does not agree with the amendment, the bill is referred to a conference committee made up of three members from each chamber, appointed by each presiding officer. The committee then resolves the differences between the two chambers, and reports to each. A conference report requires a constitutional majority vote in each house to adopt.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SPEAKER



9. When a bill has passed finally in both chambers, it is signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate in the presence of each House. It is then transmitted to the Governor for his consideration.

GOVERNOR



10. If the Governor approves, he signs the bill into law. If the Governor disapproves, he vetoes the bill and returns it to the both houses with an explanation of his action. The General Assembly may pass a bill over the Governor's veto by a constitutional majority of 2/3 of the members elected to each house.

VETO



GOVERNOR



11. If, however, the Governor does not act on a bill within ten calendar days after he receives it, while the General Assembly is in session, it automatically becomes law. After the legislature's final adjournment, the Governor has thirty days to act on bills passed by both chambers. If he fails to do so the bills become law automatically.

STATE DEPARTMENT



12. The official certified copy of each bill approved by the Governor is sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to be filed in the Department of State. It then becomes an "Act of the General Assembly" and is prepared for publication in book form, known as the Pamphlet Laws, for public distribution.



How the State Budget is Decided

When the governor delivered his annual state budget message to a joint session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in early March, he started the ball rolling in the fiscal decision-making process.

In that address, the governor proposed state spending and taxes for the 1987-88 fiscal year which begins July 1, 1987. The governor's proposal laid out what each department of government should be allowed to spend and how revenues should be raised.

Shortly after the governor's fiscal plan was unveiled, the House Appropriations Committee began hearings on the budget. They invited the various departments of government, state agencies and many special interest groups to present testimony, pass judgement on the governor's proposal and make budget recommendations of their own.

After consideration of various views, majority parties in the House and Senate are expected to introduce budget proposals, debate them, amend them and approve one of them by July 1. Whether the House or Senate develops the first proposal, whether it resembles the governor's plan or something entirely different, **the budget must balance income and spending as required by the constitution.**

The final version of the budget bill often ends up in a conference committee which develops a report that can be accepted or rejected, but not amended by both the House and Senate. This forces senators and representatives to practice austerity in state spending and avoid the addition of hundreds of "pet projects" which tend to tip the budget out of balance.

Once the budget is finally adopted by the General Assembly, it is still subject to change by the governor. The governor has three options: approve the budget, veto it or exercise a "line item" veto and remove portions of it.

\$6 Billion Saved With General Assembly's Assistance

Pennsylvania has reduced taxes for the past four years, but has continued to provide all important state services by instituting a careful program of cost reductions in government operations. **In fact, state government has reduced spending by \$6.1 billion** over the last seven years, a savings greater than the state's 1978-79 General Fund budget.

This savings to taxpayers has been made possible through a variety of innovative measures. For instance, the Department of Revenue saved \$743 million with improved collection of delinquent taxes. Personnel reductions throughout the state government resulted in the elimination of 13,000 positions, and the state now requires agencies and departments to provide stronger justification for hiring new personnel. By automating the Department of Welfare's medical assistance claims, the state saved \$72 million.

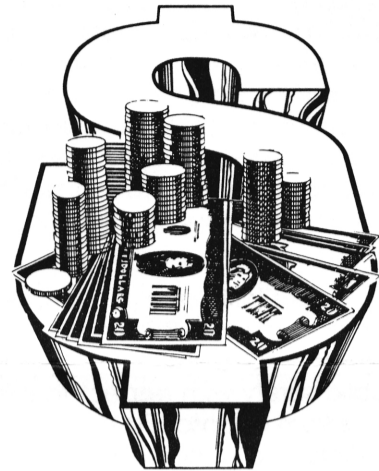
The state has also revised bidding and purchasing methods, reduced paperwork, computerized some processes and eliminated obsolete institutions, equipment and functions. In other words, the state has found ways to streamline governmental processes and avoid duplication by different departments.

Pennsylvania's governmental creative approach to cost reduction is intended to give taxpayers their money's worth — efficient management without a loss of necessary state services. Because of this sound fiscal management, Pennsylvania has actually been able to increase spending for certain programs while cutting back personal and corporate taxes. In addition, state education subsidies to local school districts have increased by \$2.2 billion this year alone.

Our conscious efforts to demonstrate financial accountability have not gone unnoticed outside the state. Pennsylvania was given an improved bond rating on Wall Street. This should help to convince business and industry nationwide that Pennsylvania is becoming more fiscally stable and a good place to invest and do business.

It is impressive that the state has been able to trim \$6.1 billion in just seven years. However, the challenge to hold down government spending will not disappear. The taxpayers of Pennsylvania deserve a continued commitment to fiscal management.

As your state representative, **I intend to continue to do my part to guarantee that the state maintains its obligation to eliminate waste** and that you, as Pennsylvania citizens, continue to receive the best state operation for the money.



Some Facts About Pennsylvania's Highway System

Pennsylvania has one of the most extensive highway systems in the country. It is the fourth largest system, containing 43,000 miles of highway. It is very expensive to keep the roads in shape for residents and travelers use. Over the past several years, the federal highway funding portion has decreased from a level of \$805 million in 1984-85 budget to \$643 million during the past fiscal year.

A study conducted by the state Department of Transportation advisory committee noted that Pennsylvania is approximately \$2 billion shy of what it actually needs to complete all the projects. In addition to that shortfall, the growing liability costs have also been skyrocketing from \$3 million in 1981-82 to \$27 million in 1985-86.

It is estimated that PennDOT spends \$90 million a year to keep roads and bridges safe. It is evident that Pennsylvania needs more money for dollars for road maintenance.

Late last session, Congress failed to pass a highway bill that would have brought additional funds to Pennsylvania. Observers say that if a highway funding bill isn't passed early this session that it will severely slow the construction season. As of this writing a new bill is being considered in Congress and action is expected on the proposal soon.

Construction and continued maintenance of our vast highway system is a top priority to improving economic development throughout the state. Pennsylvania is moving forward and we can not allow this lack of funding to hamper our growth.



Bicentennial of The U.S. Constitution

In secret sessions held in the Assembly Room of Independence Hall from May 25 until Sept. 17, 1787, fifty-five men from 12 states listened and debated interrelated issues. And many instances compromising positions of individual interest for the larger goal of creating a new government united strong and under law. The document they created is the longest lasting written constitution in the world, the Constitution of the United States.

Many events have been scheduled to celebrate the 200th anniversary of this historical document. Congress is slated to meet in session in Philadelphia on Sept. 17 and the Pennsylvania General Assembly is scheduled to meet the following day.

Communities and non-profit organizations, including libraries, colleges, universities, historical societies and school districts are encouraged to develop projects which focus on the meaning of this historical document and seek recognition of their plans through the state's commission on the Bicentennial.

Additional information and application forms for official recognition and/or designation by the Commonwealth Commission are available by writing to:

**Bicentennial Commission, PA Dept. Of Education,
333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17126-0333.**

The Solid Waste Crisis Continues...

Municipalities throughout the Commonwealth continue to face a solid waste crisis. The increasing volume and variety of solid waste being generated throughout the state, coupled with the often inadequate existing methods of managing such waste, are creating conditions which threaten public health and safety by contributing to air, water and land pollution, to the waste of dwindling natural resources and to the general deterioration of the environment.

One of the major problems facing the Commonwealth is the lack of a comprehensive policy dealing with our solid waste problem. To rectify that problem, I am once again introducing legislation that would create a "Solid Waste Resource Management Board" composed of individuals representing government and private industry. Members of the board would be able to lend expertise from the different fields involved— local and county governments, industry, engineering, natural resource conservation and resource recovery.

The board would be responsible for selecting one or more sites suitable for the establishment of facilities to convert solid waste to energy, synthetic fuels or reusable materials. They would also be charged with conducting a feasibility study of recovering methane gas from landfills. Other responsibilities include:

- Conducting a feasibility analysis on developing a project to convert agricultural wastes to synthetic fuel;
- Insuring public safety with respect to migration of combustible gas from disposal sites;
- Identify markets and encourage development of new uses for recovered materials and;
- Providing technical and financial assistance to support such projects with the approval of the General Assembly.

I believe that a well-coordinated governmental effort would lead to easing the solid waste crisis facing the state today and provide us with an efficient process for the conversion of solid waste into energy, synthetic fuels and reusable materials.



Letting Public Officials Know How You Feel

Face-to-face meetings with federal, state and local legislators and other public officials are not always possible, so you may want to communicate with us by letter.

You don't need to be an expert writer to get your point across, but there are some general guidelines that can help you be most effective. You may find them helpful in correspondence with me or your elected officials in Washington, Harrisburg or the county courthouse.

A few tips:

- ✓ **Identify the issue or legislation.** Thousands of bills are introduced in both the state General Assembly and in Congress and even local officials consider many issues relating to a similar topic. Give specific information about the issue or a bill number for legislation if available. Popular descriptions, such as "the dangerous juvenile offender bill", would be helpful in cases when the bill number is not known.
- ✓ **Explain your reason for writing.** Be sure to discuss how the issue affects you. Your personal experience is most important. If you have expert knowledge on the topic, share it. It's not possible for public officials to be experts on every issue they must decide and they appreciate expert advice.
- ✓ **Express your own views.** An individualized, personal letter from a constituent means much more to a public official than a form letter or name on a petition. A letter in your own words indicates to legislators and others that you are genuinely concerned about the issue or legislation.

✓ **Time your letters right.** Be certain to contact public officials while they're still in a position to act! In the case of the legislature, let representatives and senators know how you feel about a bill while it is in committee.

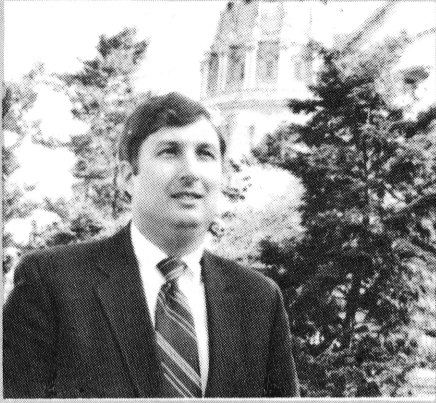
✓ **Offer constructive criticism.** If you feel that a bill or proposal is not the best solution to a problem, explain what you think is the best solution. You may be in the best position to offer the right approach.

✓ **Be reasonably brief.** Many legislators and public officials receive hundreds – or even thousands – of letters in a given week. Be sure to be as brief as possible. Your letter will stand a better chance of receiving attention if it is short, clear and concise.

✓ **Include a return address.** Since public officials may want to respond to your letters or send you information about an issue, put your return address **on your letter**. At the very least, this will allow a public official to acknowledge receipt of your letter.

✓ **Place quality above quantity.** Write about the most important issues – those that affect you the most. Constant correspondence on every issue will reduce the impact of your letter writing.

✓ **AND ALWAYS REMEMBER,** if time or other circumstances don't allow for letter-writing, **CALL!** My phone numbers are listed with my local office addresses in this newsletter. Other public officials are usually listed in the phone book.



Questionnaire from Rep. Paul Semmel

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Box 162, Main Capitol
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(717) 787-3017

3 Spring Hill Dr.
P.O. Box 235
Schnecksville, PA 18078
(215) 799-0187

31 North 3rd St.
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(215) 562-3411

204 West Main St.
Kutztown, PA 19530
(215) 683-9199

Dear Friends,

This fall, a number of important matters are being addressed by the Pennsylvania legislature.

Please take a few moments of your time to advise me of your opinions on these issues.

This questionnaire has been designed so that two members of a household may answer. If there are more folks at home who wish to respond, please call my District Office for an additional copy. Enclosed you will also find a guide to some of the ways in which I may be able to serve you. I hope you will review it and keep it handy.

After completing this survey, please refold the page so that my name and address are showing on the front panel, affix appropriate postage and mail.

Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Semmel

DIVESTITURE

1. Legislation has been proposed to require all state agencies, including our public pension funds which hold assets of more than \$15 billion dollars, to withdraw their investments from companies doing business in South Africa.

Supporters of this legislation claim that this step will not only help end apartheid but that it is also a symbolic gesture expressing our moral outrage at the oppression of Blacks by the South African Government.

Opponents claim that divestment will harm the people it is intended to help and will undermine the gradual development of a Black middle class needed to support a stable, majority controlled government in South Africa in the future.

Additionally, they assert that it will cost Pennsylvania taxpayers millions of dollars in extra pension fund contributions because of the loss of investment earnings.

Do you favor (check one):

- a) Complete divestment in the securities of any company doing business in South Africa;
- b) Divestment of securities of companies doing business in South Africa except for those companies which adhere to the "Sullivan Principles", an anti-apartheid code of conduct for companies operating in South Africa modeled after the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Code by Reverend Leon Sullivan approximately a decade ago;
- c) No divestment at this time.

SEAT BELTS

2. During the last legislative session, a bill to require mandatory use of seat belts fell short of passage in the State House. Similar legislation is pending again in this session. Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia now have mandatory seat belt laws. Proponents say seat belts save lives; opponents say such laws are an intrusion upon a person's individual rights.

Do you (check one):

- a) Favor enactment of a mandatory seat belt law which would allow "primary enforcement", meaning that a police officer could stop a driver and issue a citation for failure to wear a seat belt.
- b) Favor the enactment of a mandatory seat belt law providing only for "secondary enforcement", meaning that a police officer could issue a citation for failure to wear a seat belt only if such a violation is encountered at

the time of a stop for another motor vehicle code violation.

- c) Oppose the enactment of any mandatory seat belt law in Pennsylvania.

SPEED LIMIT

3. A substantial number of states, including several in the Northeast, have increased the maximum speed limit to 65 MPH on rural limited access highways. Governor Casey, however, has stated that he would resist such legislation in Pennsylvania.

Opponents of the measure cite increased safety and reduced gasoline consumption and argue that since the present speed limit is widely ignored, increasing the speed limit to 65 MPH will only result in increasing traffic speeds still further. Proponents argue that a law which is already ignored by many citizens breeds contempt for laws in general and contend that improvements in vehicle design and not slower highway speeds are responsible for the safety and fuel saving benefits claimed for the 55 MPH speed limit.

Would you favor or oppose 65 MPH speed limit for selected rural limited access highways in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

- FAVOR OPPOSE

RECYCLING

4. Both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and our local municipalities are presently coming to grips with the problems of solid waste disposal. The conventional solutions to the solid waste problem - landfilling and incineration - pose serious threats to groundwater and air quality.

a) The most obvious alternative to landfilling and/or incineration of waste is recycling. Most experts agree that the key to successful recycling programs is the establishment of a reliable supply of the recycled material so that markets for these material can be established.

Experience in other areas of the country suggest that voluntary recycling programs are not able to meet these requirements and that only mandatory programs can succeed.

Do you favor or oppose legislation which would require you to recycle glass, tin, aluminum, newspapers, tires, used motor oil and other recyclable products?

- FAVOR OPPOSE

(Continued on back page)

b) Despite the inconvenience, are you willing to participate in trash disposal programs which would require "source separation", meaning that you would have to place discarded glass, cans and other metal wastes, newspapers, and compostable garbage at the curb in three or four separate containers?

YES NO

SMOKING

5. Several bills are pending in the Pennsylvania Legislature which would impose restraints upon smoking in public places.

Do you favor or oppose:

a) Legislation which would ban smoking in all public places, including the work place;

FAVOR OPPOSE

b) Legislation which would ban smoking in restaurants, hotel lobbies, airports, and other public areas without prohibiting smoking in work places;

FAVOR OPPOSE

c) Legislation which would ban smoking in all of the above areas but establish exceptions for individual offices or designated areas in which persons would be permitted to smoke.

FAVOR OPPOSE

LOCAL TAX REFORM

6. For various reasons, many taxpayers believe it is unfair to raise revenues for municipal services and school districts based solely from property taxes. They feel that the revenues should come from a tax formula combining property value and income level. In doing so, people such as senior citizens who own property but who may live on a fixed or low income, would be taxed more fairly.

After years of discussion, there seems to be a significant commitment on the part of the Governor, and many members of the General Assembly to bring about local tax reform. When people speak of local tax reform, they generally think of eliminating intangible personal property taxes and taxes based on occupational privilege or assessment, as well as a variety of other nuisance taxes. Tax reform should also involve capping or reducing real estate taxes levied by school districts and local governments.

As part of the budget enacted for fiscal year 1987-88, \$140 million dollars was set aside to help ease the transition required to accomplish local tax reform. Such a sum, however, is a drop in the bucket when compared to the revenues presently generated by local taxes statewide. Therefore, the central question of local tax reform is finding fairer taxes to replace the monies raised by the unfair taxes we wish to eliminate.

Since the legislature will be addressing local tax reform this fall, it would be helpful for me to have your reaction to various alternative taxes which may be used to replace revenues lost by local municipalities through tax reform. The following is a series of some of the most likely options.

Please indicate your preferences in the space provided.

a) Grant authority to school districts and local governments to impose tax on salaries (earned income) at whatever rate they consider necessary.

FAVOR OPPOSE

b) Grant authority to school districts and local governments to impose a general income tax on all income including investment and interest income as well as salaries.

FAVOR OPPOSE

c) Increase statewide sales tax revenues by reducing the sales tax rate to 2% or 3% but broadening the base of transactions upon which the tax is imposed to include food, clothing, medicines and other presently exempt items.

FAVOR OPPOSE

d) Increase the statewide sales tax by increasing the 6% rate but retaining current exclusion of necessities such as food, clothing and medicine.

FAVOR OPPOSE

e) Increase the state income tax by roughly 1% (the state income tax is a flat tax having relatively few loopholes and a substantial exclusion for those with low incomes.)

FAVOR OPPOSE

f) The public should elect a blue-ribbon committee that would study and recommend a fair mix of taxes based on property value and income level. The needs of each municipality would be evaluated and therefore the taxes would vary according to the needs. The new taxing structure would ultimately help each community in different ways.

The success of the committee's recommendations would be determined by the voters through a referendum. In other words, the voters would have the final word on their local tax policies.

Would you favor or oppose such a plan?

FAVOR OPPOSE

g) Other - Please give your suggestions: _____

7. A movement has begun to raise the gasoline tax by four cents to accelerate road repairs and construction in Pennsylvania. Do you support, at this time, this effort to raise the gasoline tax to increase funding for additional highway repair and maintenance in the state?

a. YES b. NO UNDECIDED

8. What is the most important problem facing our community today and what should I be doing about it?

(To conform with Postal regulations, please fold along dotted line, stamp and mail. Thank you.)

ADDRESS

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HERE

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