

Capitol Report

From

State Representative
Paul Semmel

HARRISBURG OFFICE: Box 161, Main Capitol / Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028 / (717) 787-3017
DISTRICT OFFICES: 4525 Spring Hill Dr. / P.O. Box 235 / Schnecksville, PA 18078 / (215) 799-0187
Macungie Borough Hall / 26 S. Church St. / (215) 966-0187
12 Peach St. / Kutztown, PA 19530 / (215) 683-9199

Spring 1993

Hello Friends and Neighbors of the 187th Legislative District;

Many changes in state and federal government have occurred since my last newsletter to you--the shift from a Republican to a Democratic majority in the state Senate; the change of Democratic leadership in the House; and the inauguration of a new president and his agenda. Even the boundaries of the 187th Legislative District have changed.

Despite these changes, however, my commitment to representing the interests of the 187th Legislative District remains unchanged. To best serve you, there are four local legislative offices within the district.

Beyond offering regular legislative services such as assistance with PennDOT problems or PACE applications, the offices are there to listen and respond to your needs and concerns about state government.

As we face the changes and challenges of the future, there are many issues that we--as a community--will also need to address. Some of those issues, including land growth and development, are addressed in this newsletter. Should you have any questions or comments regarding any of the enclosed articles, or any state-related issue for that matter, please call my office.

As always, I look forward to working with you and for you.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Semmel
187th Legislative District

P.S. If your club or organization is looking for someone to talk with them about state-related issues and concerns, I would be pleased to have the opportunity to speak with you. Please call my local office at 799-0187. Three weeks advance time is requested. Thanks!

WE'VE MOVED!

As a result of reapportionment and the subsequent geographical changes to the district, Rep. Paul Semmel notes the following location changes.

SCHNECKSVILLE

Sand Spring Center,
4525 Spring Hill Drive
Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
215-799-0187
Fax: (215) 799-0188
Legislative Aides: Ms. Carol Archibald,
Ms. Jean Husack, Mr. Jerry Faust

PARKLAND

Upper Macungie Township Bldg.,
8330 Schantz Road
Tues. - Fri. 8 a.m. - Noon
215-395-8180
Legislative Aide: Ms. Joy Adams

KUTZTOWN

Fresh Cultures Building, 12 Peach Street
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
215-683-9199
Legislative Aide: Ms. Joy Adams

MACUNGIE

Macungie Borough Hall
26 South Church Street
Tuesdays and Thursdays
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
215-966-0187
Legislative Aide: Mr. Jerry Faust

All phones will be answered on a 24 hour a day basis.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Appropriations
Consumer Affairs*
*Sub-committee Chair of
Telecommunications

TUNE-IN

Look for Rep. Semmel's weekly columns in the Kutztown Patriot, the East Penn Press and Parkland Press and his report to the people on the local cable access channel.

BUDGET REVIEW

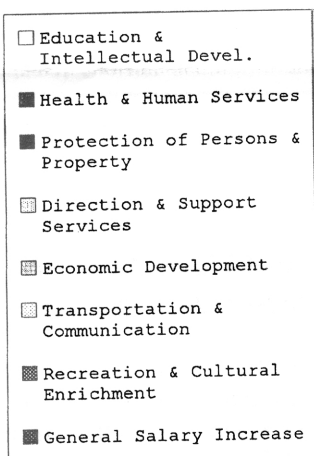
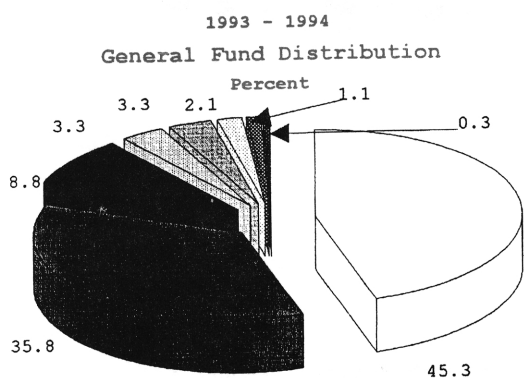
In February, Gov. Casey outlined his spending plan for fiscal year 1993-94. While there were some good points -- such as the governor's desire to share federal goals in improving health care, the increase in funding for the Ben Franklin Partnership and other economic development, and the improvement of the health and welfare of women and children through a variety of programs -- the whole plan boosts spending in the Commonwealth by \$830 million.

Despite the governor's promise for a balanced budget with no new taxes, the fine print of his budget document tells a far different story and shows its many inconsistencies.

Here are some "fine print" items of interest:

- Increased spending for community colleges but no increase for the state-owned and state-related universities.
- No increase for basic education subsidies.
- An increase in the Gross Receipts Tax on electric utilities that could cost consumers more than \$100 million.
- No funding for the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School and Delaware Valley College.
- No additional state assistance for tourism AND a 12.5% cut in assistance for agriculture, Pennsylvania's top two industries.

The presentation of the governor's proposed spending blueprint for the next fiscal year represents the first step in the lengthy process of crafting a fair and fiscally responsible budget. Many changes will be made before final passage. I will keep you informed.



EDUCATION ISSUES

Outcome Based Education

As a former educator, I am well aware that improvements need to be made to our education system. The academic changes under the ill-fated Outcomes Based Education (OBE) plan had merit. However, when combined with the more controversial aspects of OBE such as values-based education, a different thread was woven upon the skein. Furthermore, the regulatory changes proposed raised too many unanswered questions. Like many parents, I was not satisfied with the answers--or lack thereof--that were given for Outcomes Based Education (OBE). Some of those issues included the cost of implementation and the fate of students who don't measure up under OBE guidelines.

Also, the lack of significant public input on such an important public issue is inexcusable. The defeat of OBE in House Bill 129 sent a message to the Education Department that they can't formulate public policy without public involvement. It was therefore appropriate that OBE was returned to the drawing board when the House voted to nullify the proposed regulations.

Since that initial defeat of OBE, the governor and several legislative leaders have come up with what they call a compromise version of OBE, which they plan to have the State Board of Education consider and send back to the General Assembly. At the time of the writing of this newsletter, the details of the changes made were not clear. Suffice it to say that we must take a close look at this "new" version of OBE to see if it satisfies all objections and still has academic merit.

Special Education Funding

In addition to nullifying OBE regulations, House Bill 129 provides for special education funding. The failure of last year's budget to define the funding formula for special education resulted in school districts not receiving their January payment for special education. However, that oversight was temporarily corrected when the state was issued a court order to pay the districts.

Because the Senate has not yet approved House Bill 129 and its amendments, there has now been a rerun of this embarrassing scenario, as school districts missed their March special education subsidy payments. Unfortunately, when the House was considering HB 129, many amendments were added. They include the prevention of the Human Relations Commission from imposing a mandatory busing plan on the Philadelphia School District, the nullification of the current OBE regulations, and an increase in special education funding.

While many of these amendments are certainly worthwhile, these "extras" have provided fodder for further debate and controversy, and have led to a repeat of what occurred in January.

It is inexcusable that the education of our special-needs children is being held hostage because the Legislature has failed to act. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter reaches you this issue will be resolved.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Anti-Stalking

Recent stalking incidents that have sometimes resulted in murder have prompted the passage of legislation that creates the offense of stalking and strengthens Pennsylvania's protection from abuse orders. Stalking too often leads to barbaric crimes, mostly against women. This legislation will empower police to intervene, upon probable cause.

PROTECTING PUBLIC SERVANTS

Anyone who points a gun at police, firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), or other public servants will be convicted of a second-degree felony, punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$25,000. The proposal also stiffens the penalties for underage drinking.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Legislation establishing an animal nutrient management program for Pennsylvania farmers was approved early in February. The bill requires concentrated animal operations to develop and submit nutrient management plans for approval by local conservation districts.

DIVORCED PARENTS PAY THEIR SHARE

Legislation that would reverse a Supreme Court decision allowing courts to require non-custodial parents to share the cost of their children's post-secondary education has passed the House and is in the Senate for consideration. Since the court decision, parents have been petitioning the court requesting they be relieved of their responsibilities.

LOCAL INTEREST ISSUES

LAND GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In my last report to you, I included an article on land growth and development. As we are all aware, our community has undergone tremendous growth over the last couple of years and we expect that trend to continue. As a result, we must prepare for this growth so that we can maintain the quality of life we appreciate as well as welcome the development that will add to the richness of our area.

We are not alone in our concern about growth and development. Other areas of the state--similar in demographics to ours--are experiencing the same changes. That is why a House Select Committee on Land Use and Growth Management was established. After statewide public hearings and extensive research, the committee released recommendations to help areas such as ours manage that growth.

Among those recommendations is increased involvement from the state Planning Commission to help establish guidelines for communities dealing with developing. The board would also be responsible to review projects proposed by other state agencies to evaluate their impact on land use. Counties would be authorized to settle development disputes between neighboring municipalities. The groundwork must be in place before any development occurs, to avoid leaving the taxpayers with the bill.

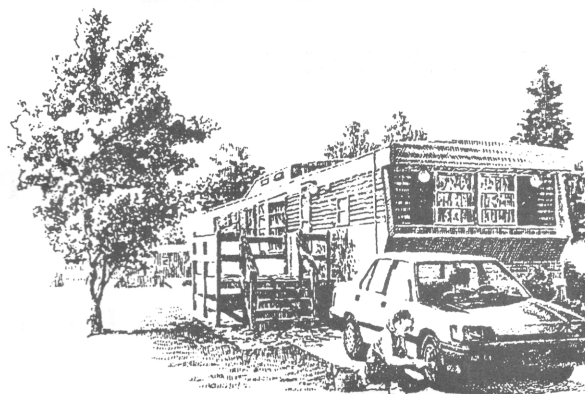
It is expected that in the very near future, legislation will be developed based upon those recommendations. However, none has been introduced at the writing of this newsletter. I will keep you informed of related proposals and ask that you become involved in growth and development issues. After all, it is your community and the future of it should be as much under your control as any local government entity. So please, get involved!

MANUFACTURED HOMES UPDATE

For whatever reason, conventional homeowners have more rights and protections than do owners of manufactured homes. Needless to say, these inequities are unjust and unfair. To crack down on unfair practices, legislation was introduced last year but failed to pass the House.

A revision of that legislation will be reintroduced to include a six-bill package from last session. The package includes a "Bill of Rights" to strengthen the rights of homeowners living in a manufactured home community. There are also provisions to end double taxation, protect and regulate public utility services, improve construction and safety standards, give the community purchasing power should the development come up for sale, and create the office of ombudsman and a hearing board to arbitrate disputes between landlords and residents.

It is hoped that this legislation will be ready for introduction in the next few weeks. It is important to members of our district who own manufactured homes, as well as residents all around the state, that something be done to help end the inequality.



LOCAL TAX REFORM..WHAT Do You Think?

Please note that this questionnaire is designed so that two persons in each household may respond. I ask that you take a few moments to fill out the questionnaire and return it to me, so that I may have the benefit of your thoughts and opinions. Thank you very much.

1. Which of the following taxes do you find burdensome or unfair?
(rank 1 to 10, with 1 being the most burdensome and 10 the least)

- amusement tax
- per capita tax
- personal property tax
- real property tax
- occupational assessment tax
- occupational privilege tax
- business privilege/mercantile tax
- earned income tax
- realty transfer tax
- dedicated taxes (e.g. fire tax, library tax, etc.)

2. Do you think local tax reform legislation should be enacted for all units of local government (counties, school districts, cities, boroughs, townships) at the same time or should reform be implemented on an incremental basis one or some units at a time?

all units at the same time.
 one or some units at a time.

3. If you believe local tax reform legislation should be considered for one or some local governmental units at a time, which unit(s) should be considered first? (Please rank 1 to 5)

- counties
- school districts
- cities
- boroughs
- townships

4. In order for tax reform legislation to be supported, many believe that such legislation must contain significant protection provisions for taxpayers against expanded powers to tax and spend by local units. Of the following, which mechanisms do you think should be included in such legislation?

a) Local tax study commissions that would review existing taxation system and make recommendations to governing bodies for tax change.

yes no undecided

b) Voter referendum before implementing changes in any taxes levied.

yes no undecided

c) Required public notice and hearings before implementation of any tax increases.

yes no undecided

d) Voter referendum before any tax increases above rate of inflation.

yes no undecided

e) Voter referendum on incurring future indebtedness/borrowing.

yes no undecided

f) Required dollar-for-dollar reduction in real property taxes for increases in income taxes.

yes no undecided

g) Required limitation on total revenues to be collected by local unit on a yearly basis.

yes no undecided

h) Required limitation on total spending allowed by local unit on a yearly basis.

yes no undecided

5. IF local tax reform legislation was to establish an additional power on the part of a local unit to levy a tax it may not now levy under current law, how much of the revenues generated from the new tax should be used to eliminate or reduce an existing tax?

- leave to board's discretion
- 100 percent
- other _____

IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

Please refold on dotted line, affix postage and mail. Thank you!

RETURN ADDRESS

PLEASE
PLACE
29¢ STAMP
HERE

Rep. Paul Semmel
 P.O. Box 161
 Main Capitol Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-0028

HERE TO SERVE YOU!



CAPITOL REPORT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PAUL SEMMEL

Serving the people of: Longswamp ○ Maxatawny ○ Richmond ○ Rockland ○ Kutztown ○ Lyons ○ Topton ○ Heidelberg ○ Lower Macungie (part) ○ Lowhill ○ Lynn ○ North Whitehall ○ Upper Macungie (part) ○ Weisenberg ○ Alburdis ○ Macungie

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P.O. Box 235

Schnecksville, PA 18078

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Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

215-799-0187

Fax: (215) 799-0188

Legislative Aides:

Ms. Carol Archibald,

Ms. Jean Husack, Mr. Jerry Faust

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Upper Macungie Township Bldg.
8330 Schantz Road

Breinigsville, PA 18031

Tues. - Fri., 8 a.m. - Noon

215-395-8180

Legislative Aide: Ms. Joy Adams

Kutztown

Fresh Cultures Building

12 Peach Street

Kutztown, PA 19530

Tues., Weds., Thurs.

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

215-683-9199

Legislative Aide: Ms. Joy Adams

Macungie

Macungie Borough Hall

26 South Church Street

Macungie, PA 18062

Tues., Thurs.

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

215-966-0187

Legislative Aide: Mr. Jerry Faust

Harrisburg

Main Capitol Building, Box 161

Harrisburg, PA 17120

717-787-3017

Secretary: Ms. Paula Hand

HELLO AGAIN...

A gentle reminder that school is back in session and that our children are crossing streets and boarding buses. So please, take that extra time to drive carefully and be especially cautious.

Having said that, I will move on to the issues at hand for state government. This, my second newsletter to you this session, will provide you with an update on workers' comp reform, the budget and new laws. Exciting developments about the progressive telecommunications legislation is also included. As the chairman of the Sub-committee on Telecommunications, I am particularly pleased to tell you of the progress that has been made in that area.

As always, if you have any comments or would like to provide input on any of these issues or other state-related matters, please contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Semmel

P.S. Please mark your calendars for upcoming constituent nights. Hope to see you there!

Welcome to Harrisburg



Rep. Semmel welcomes visitors from home to Harrisburg. Group tours are available by calling his office. Pictured above are 4th graders from the Maxatawny Elementary School.



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1993-94 BUDGET UPDATE

Where the Chips Fell

The Pennsylvania state spending plan for this fiscal year, beginning July 1, was approved in late May along a party-line vote of 104 - 98. Spending was increased by over \$800 million in the largest budget in the Commonwealth's history, a 5.72 percent increase in a year when the inflation percentage was hovering around 3 percent.

At a time when the state job climate is badly in need of improvement and when businesses are packing up and taking their jobs with them, no business tax cuts were even considered. Given that Pennsylvania business taxes are the highest in the nation, the unemployment picture remains grim.

Despite bi-partisan support to enact sweeping welfare reforms that would have saved taxpayers over \$200 million and put able-bodied workers back to work, no action was taken to reduce welfare spending. Instead, the governor increased it by \$234 million.

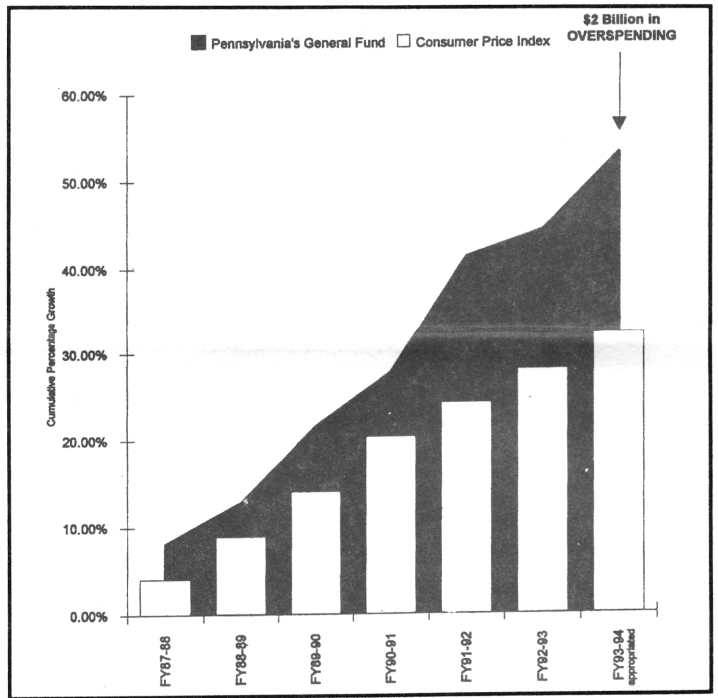
Where were the major increases in appropriations authorized? The Corrections Department, for instance, received a \$104 million increase, primarily to operate new prisons. Education, including \$130 million in basic subsidies, received a \$212 million increase.

The governor also approved a \$100 appropriation for a festival in Philadelphia and \$1 million to offset the costs of a "Welcome America" event in the city of brotherly love.

Given the fact that the budget was primarily drafted by two Democratic legislators from Philadelphia, it is little surprise that the city fared as well as it did.

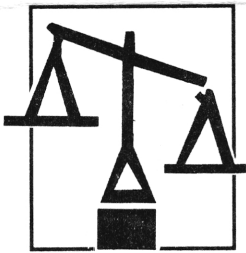
Unfortunately, there were very few, if any, attempts to cut spending. Instead, new programs that will require a significant increase in spending for years to come were implemented.

Cumulative Growth in General Fund Expenditures VS Consumer Price Index Under the Casey Administration



JUDICIAL REFORM

Restoring the Court's Integrity



Pennsylvania's Supreme Court, established in 1722, is the oldest appellate court in the nation. It predates the U.S. Supreme Court by 67 years. Decisions handed down by our state's Supreme Court were highly respected and at one time used as models for other states and in law schools.

That, unfortunately, has all changed. There has been an on-going dispute among the justices, both professionally and personally, that has made the court a judicial mockery. This turmoil has given renewed energy to the issue of judicial reform, specifically, the way in which judges are disciplined.

In a loud and clear voice, Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly approved a statewide referendum to amend the state Constitution to eliminate the old disciplinary board, in favor of two separate disciplinary bodies. The Judicial Conduct Board would investigate complaints of misconduct and decide whether to file formal charges, and the Court of Judicial Discipline would hold hearings and decide whether judges accused of misconduct should be disciplined.

Hopefully, the establishment of these two bodies will restore the integrity of the court and return the Commonwealth's justice system to the status it once maintained.

NEW LAWS

An Update

- ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACT-** The Education Department and the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) will now combine efforts to develop, establish, and implement an environmental education program for the state's school systems, agencies and commissions.
- PLAINLANGUAGE CONSUMER CONTRACT ACT-** Consumers will now understand certain consumer contracts as a result of the new law requiring that many contracts be written in plain, understandable language.
- ANTI-STALKING LAW-** Harassment is now a crime and stalking has been designated as a misdemeanor of the first degree. A second or subsequent offense shall constitute a felony.
- SUNSHINE ACT-** Political subdivisions and municipal authorities will be required to provide a public comment period for taxpayers and residents at regular and special meetings.
- DOMESTIC RELATIONS-** The new domestic relations law will permit counties to publish in local newspapers the names of parents who are delinquent in their support payments and will empower the courts, when appropriate, to order divorced, separated or unmarried parents to cover all or part of the child's post-secondary education. The law also provides more tools to the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) to establish paternity and to enforce child support payments.
- KEYSTONE RECREATION, PARK AND CONSERVATION FUND ACT-** Act 50 establishes a special funding program to provide for the acquisition, improvement and rehabilitation of parks, recreational and educational facilities, zoos, public libraries and historic sites. A referendum for the incurring of indebtedness of \$50 million will appear on the November general election ballot. Beginning, Jan. 31, 1994, and at the end of each month thereafter, a portion of the proceeds from the state realty transfer tax will be transferred to the fund created by this act to be utilized.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Moving Toward the 21st Century

REPUBLICANS UNVEIL AGENDA . . .

Partnership for Progress

The House Republican Caucus recently unveiled an aggressive, wide-ranging agenda for the new legislative session. The following outlines our priorities and our plan of action to put those ideas to work.

REPUBLICAN GOALS . . .

Welfare Reform

Remove able-bodied, work-capable recipients from the welfare rolls, saving the cost of year-round medical benefits and three months of cash assistance, which could save as much as \$200 million to use for job creation or education.

Economic Development

Reduce the heavy burden of taxation on the state's business community by gradually easing the CNI rate, restoring the Net Operating Loss carry forward deduction and reducing the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax rate. Strengthen state support for agriculture, tourism promotion and advanced technology projects.

The Bureaucracy

Eliminate outdated and duplicative agencies, boards and commissions, as well as maintain responsible level of state employees in the commonwealth's workforce.

Education

Provide appropriate state resources to all school districts to level-up the quality and efficiency of programs so that the focus is redirected to results rather than spending. Invest in strengthening our institutions of higher education so that a skilled work force for the future can be created to spur economic development.

REPUBLICAN PLAN OF ACTION . . .

Through Jobs

- Reducing taxes for business
- Collecting delinquent taxes
- Cutting red tape for new business
- Examining current business tax structure
- Heightening marketing and promotion efforts in PA's top industries
- Investing in tomorrow's workforce.

Through Reform

- Targeting State resources to most needy
- Selling unneeded State surplus property
- Cultivating business partnerships
- Fostering reciprocal responsibility among recipients of government aid

- Streamlining government operations
- Eliminating government competition with private sector.

Through Children and Families

- Increasing health insurance availability to the uninsured
- Safeguarding our Senior Citizens
- Reducing taxes for Senior Citizens
- Investing in our children's futures
- Making our neighborhoods safe
- Reducing crime
- Offering incentives to working women and two-income families.

UPDATES . . .

Welfare Reform

The House recently passed welfare reform legislation calling for a 90-day residency requirement in order to receive public assistance. It also removes from the welfare rolls healthy, able-bodied persons with no dependents. These changes could save Pennsylvania taxpayers more than \$200 million per year. However, the Senate failed to act on this House-adopted legislation and the governor refused to incorporate these savings into the budget. Consequently, we still have no residency requirement. A claimant needs only to provide a Pennsylvania mailing address to receive public assistance. Without the passage of the bill, Pennsylvania will also continue to provide year-round health care and \$615 in cash assistance per year to able-bodied people, rather than using this money to stimulate Pennsylvania's economy to secure its present jobs and create new ones.

Workers' Compensation

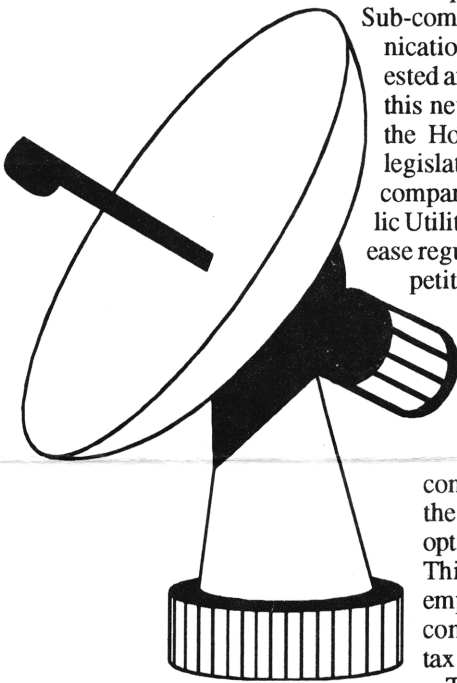
After almost two years of study and debate, a so-called workers' compensation reform bill was signed into law on July 2. While most are thankful that something finally has been done, the new law contains very little reform and no immediate relief for our state's hard-pressed businesses. For instance, the legislation does not roll-back or adjust the premium increases that averaged 24 percent. Further rate changes, if any, will not go into effect until next December. Factors which are intended to help lower rates without reducing care for injured workers include: capping medical payments at 113% of Medicare; eliminating the minimum rate guarantee of \$168.53 per week; reducing payments if the claimant is collecting both workers' compensation and unemployment compensation; denying payment when the injury was caused by intoxication or illegal drug use; increased penalties for fraud by claimants, lawyers and medical providers; and elimination of benefits for jailed workers.

SWIF —

The State Workers' Insurance Fund, established by the legislature along with the workers' compensation law in 1915, provides paid benefits to persons injured in the workplace. If Pennsylvania employers cannot afford the required coverage through a commercial insurance carrier, they must obtain it through SWIF, unless they can prove financial responsibility. For various reasons, SWIF is now the largest writer of workers' compensation in Pennsylvania. And it is losing money everyday. If it were a commercial carrier, the Insurance Department would be taking immediate action to protect policy-holders because of its shaky financial standing. If SWIF's assets reflected true market conditions and they continue to lose money at the rate of \$6 million a month, SWIF would be considered bankrupt. I am thereby supporting the call for an immediate independent study to determine SWIF's viability.

TUNING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Telecommunications Bill Passes



As the Republican chairman of the Sub-committee on Telecommunications, I am especially interested and excited about sharing this news with you. Recently, the House and Senate passed legislation allowing telephone companies to petition the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to ease regulations and create competitive services. Deregulation would allow phone companies to enter into the competitive market with the newspaper and cable industries.

In exchange, the phone companies agree to network the entire state with fiber optic cable by Dec. 31, 2015. This network will increase employment, personal income and state and local tax revenue.

The technology will eventually give consumers access to a wide range of information services, including video programs. The bill will make the technology available at least 15 years earlier than projected. Education and health care facilities will be targeted first.

Consumer use of the improved telecommunications system will not be difficult. Customers will have access to a new world of technology including being able to:

- ☎ See the person to whom you are talking;
- ☎ Access current resource material, schools and universities, computer-based training applications, all without leaving your home;
- ☎ Allow doctors to video-conference and examine X-rays and other medical records simultaneously. This increases efficiency and reduces health-care costs;
- ☎ Access movies, music and games on demand;
- ☎ Improve access to at-home work programs, home schooling and economic and social activities for the disabled;
- ☎ Increase efficiency, cost savings, cost competitiveness, production, employment and income in the business world;
- ☎ Enhance 911 and other emergency-response capabilities;
- ☎ Read a daily newspaper that's not on paper.

LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?

If your club or organization is looking for someone to talk with them about state-related issues and concerns, please call my Schnecksville office at 799-0187. I would be pleased to have the opportunity to speak with your group. Three weeks advance time is requested. Thanks!

TAX REFORM Of, For and By the People

Current laws force county and municipal governments and school districts to rely heavily on property taxes and other "nuisance" taxes, such as the \$10 occupational privilege tax and the occupational assessment tax. While everyone agrees that this system of taxing is inequitable and outdated, no one agrees on how to make it better—not even the voters when in 1989, they overwhelmingly turned down Gov. Casey's tax reform plan.

A renewed effort is underway in the House of Representatives to bring relief to overburdened local property owners. You are part of that effort and your opinions on tax reform will be considered. Following are the results of the survey you recently completed. I will keep you informed of the progress of the reform movement.

SURVEY RESULTS: What you told me...

THE MOST UNFAIR TAXES (RANKED IN ORDER):

Real Property
Personal Property
Per Capita Tax
Occupational Privilege
Occupational Assessment
Earned Income
Realty Transfer Tax
Business Privilege
Dedicated Taxes
Amusement Tax

TAX REFORM SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED:

All units at the same time	52%
Incremental implementation	41%

IF IMPLEMENTED INCREMENTALLY, THESE UNITS SHOULD BE FIRST (RANKED IN ORDER):

School district
Counties
Townships
Cities
Boroughs

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AGAINST REFORM SHOULD INCLUDE (RANKED IN ORDER):

Public hearings should be held before any tax increase
Voter referendum before any changes in taxing
Voter referendum before incurring future indebtedness/borrowing
Require limit on total spending allowed by local unit annually
Require dollar-for-dollar reduction in real property taxes for increases in income tax
Voter referendum before any tax increase above the rate of inflation
Require limitation on total revenues collected by local unit annually

HOW MUCH OF ANY NEW TAX SHOULD BE USED TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE EXISTING TAXES:

100 percent	65%
Leave to board's discretion	17%

MAMMOGRAPHY SAVES LIVES...

BREAST CANCER

What is a Mammogram?

A mammogram is a safe, painless procedure that involves an X-ray of the breast. It can detect breast cancer up to two years before a lump can be felt either through self-examination or by a physician.

The level of radiation exposure from mammography equipment is very small. It is far more dangerous to allow breast cancer to go undetected than to be exposed to the very low dose of radiation.

The American Cancer Society recommends that all women have mammograms on the following schedule:

- by age 40 - first mammogram
- 40-49 - every 1-2 years as directed by your health care provider
- 50+ - every year

What Questions Should I Ask?

Are the machines used specifically for mammograms and not for X-rays of bones and other parts of the body?

Is the technologist certified by the American Registry of Radiological Technologists or licensed by the state?

Is the radiologist reading the results board-certified and specially trained in mammography?

Does the facility perform at least 10 mammograms per week?

Is the mammography machine calibrated at least once a year?

Facilities accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) meet stringent professional requirements. To see if a local facility is accredited by the (ACR), call 1-800-422-6237.

FROM THE LEGISLATOR


Breast cancer is not just a woman's disease. That is why October has been named National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To help in that effort, I am sending you this report.

Science may not yet have learned how to prevent breast cancer, but it has discovered that early detection minimizes the effects of this vicious disease. Approximately 90 percent of breast cancer victims could survive if treatment is started early enough.


More and more women are practicing self-examination and that's an important first step. But what's more promising, is that more women are relying on mammograms. What's not good news is that approximately one-third of the estimated 600 mammography centers in Pennsylvania do not meet the guidelines of the American College of Radiology (ACR). However, efforts are being made to improve the standard of testing and detection and guarantee that the individuals reading the results are qualified. As a word of caution, please check to make sure the facility performing the mammogram is licensed.


After all, this lack of quality could mean the difference between life and death and it could mean the difference between a child placing flowers in her mother's hands or at her grave. Children, no matter what their age, deserve to have their mother here for them and women deserve to have accurate tests performed and peace of mind.

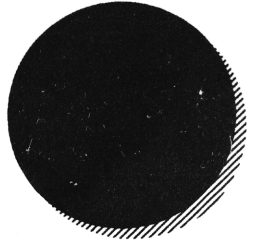
SIZE OF TUMORS FOUND BY MAMMOGRAPHY AND BREAST SELF-EXAM

Average-size lump found by getting regular mammograms 

Average-size lump found by first mammogram 

Average-size lump found by women practicing regular breast self-examination (BSE) 

Average-size lump found by women practicing occasional BSE 

Average-size lump found by women untrained in BSE 

Source: The Breast Health Program of New York

FACTS

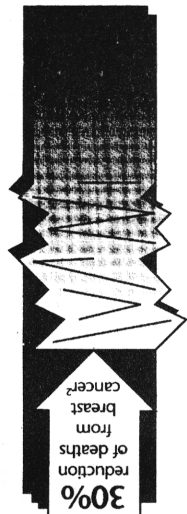
- One in nine American women will get breast cancer.
- Eighty percent of women who develop breast cancer have no family history of the disease.
- Up to 90 percent of women whose breast cancer is found and treated early, before it has spread beyond the breast, will survive.
- Ninety percent of breast cancer can be successfully treated if diagnosed early.

BREAST CANCER...

It's Not Just a Woman's Disease

Source: The National Cancer Institute, 1991
 2 - Projected reductions
 1 - Estimated deaths for 1991

Each year, the number of women who will die from breast cancer can be reduced by 30% if all women 40 and over follow the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines.



CANCER SCREENING COULD SAVE 13,500 WOMEN'S LIVES

Please pass this on to someone you love!

SAVES LIVES!



AWAWARENESS

SPECIAL REPORT

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