

THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. RULE IS A VERY SPECIAL PROGRAM I HOLD CLOSE TO MY HEART.

ALLOW ME TO BEGIN BY NOTING SOMETHING I READ IN A RULE BROCHURE: "RURAL AREAS ARE CHANGING FAST AND CHANGE BRINGS PROBLEMS -- PUBLIC PROBLEMS THAT NEED PUBLIC SOLUTIONS."

IN MY ROLE AS A STATE LEGISLATOR, AND AS A PENNSYLVANIA FARMER, I KNOW THAT TO BE TRUE.

AND THANKS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA RURAL LEADERSHIP (RULE) PROGRAM WHICH WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF PENN STATE AND THOSE OF THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS IN THE COMMONWEALTH, RURAL AREAS NOW HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

ANOTHER SUBJECT OF UTMOST IMPORTANT TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IN THIS ROOM IS OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND HOW WE CAN ALL HAVE AN IMPACT ON IT.

NOT TOO LONG AGO WE CELEBRATED THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT WAS AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE EFFECT AND EXTENT OF GOVERNMENT IN OUR LIVES AS INDIVIDUALS, AND AS A NATION.

WHEN THEY CREATED THE CONSTITUTION SO LONG AGO OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED THAT GOVERNMENT DID NOT OVER-EXTEND INTO OUR LIVES.

THEY WANTED TO WRITE A DOCUMENT THAT SET LIMITS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT COULD ENTER THE LIVES OF CITIZENS. FOR THE MOST PART, THEY SUCCEEDED.

AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE PENNSYLVANIA RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF HOW MUCH GOVERNMENT IMPACTS ON ALL OUR LIVES. AS AN ALUMNI AND MEMBER OF THE STATE HOUSE SINCE 1983, I TOO AM FULLY AWARE OF THAT IMPACT.

ALSO, WE ALL KNOW OUR GOVERNMENT HAS ITS GOOD AND ITS BAD POINTS. BUT, WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT OUR REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT WE HAVE IN AMERICA TODAY IS VERY SPECIAL AND SOUGHT-AFTER WAY TO GOVERN.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE SEEM TO TAKE FOR GRANTED THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THE PEOPLE CAN HAVE AN IMPACT IF THEY SO DESIRE. IT IS WHEN "WE THE PEOPLE" SPEAK.

THIS IS WHAT RULE IS ALL ABOUT -- SPEAKING OUT. TELLING GOVERNMENT THAT THE NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA DOES HAVE A VOICE.

WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE OUR VOICE BY THE LEADERSHIP SKILLS WE HAVE OBTAINED.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID: "OUR DESTINY IS FASHIONED BY WHAT ALL OF US DO, BY THE DEEDS AND DESIRES OF EACH CITIZEN, AS ONE TINY DROP OF WATER AFTER ANOTHER ULTIMATELY MAKES A BIG RIVER."

THIS IS NOT EMPTY RHETORIC...IN THESE WORDS IS THE MESSAGE THAT WE CAN BECOME INVOLVED...AND WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

YES!! WE AS FARMERS AND RURAL RESIDENTS CAN MAKE AN IMPACT ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES.

LET ME SHARE SOME EXAMPLES WITH YOU ON LEGISLATION THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR RURAL COMMUNITY.

LAST FEBRUARY THE HOUSE PASSED A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (DER).

HOUSE BILL 872 AMENDED THE MILK MARKETING LAW TO REQUIRE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE MILK MARKETING FUND TO THE MILK MARKETING BOARD TO COVER ITS NECESSARY ANNUAL EXPENSES. THIS ELIMINATES THE GOVERNOR'S POWER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND IN ORDER TO OFFSET BUDGET DEFICITS. THIS IS NOW ACT 48.

ANOTHER NEW LAW, ACT 33 OF 1991 CREATES A STATEWIDE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

THIS MEANS WE NOW HAVE A STRUCTURED PROGRAM TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

NOW, TURNING YOUR THOUGHTS TO ANOTHER MATTER, I'D LIKE TO SPEND A FEW MOMENTS TALKING ABOUT NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT.

THIS ISSUE CONTINUES TO GENERATE THE MOST INTEREST AMONG THE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY. ONE PROPOSAL--HOUSE BILL 496, OF WHICH I AM A COSPONSOR--WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IS NOW IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE INFORMS ME THE CONSENSUS REACHED AT A HEARING IS THAT WE NEED TO DO MORE WORK ON NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION SO AS NOT TO SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE AGRICULTURE ECONOMY.

WE'RE ALSO INTERESTED IN THE PROTECTION OF OUR FARMLANDS AND ENVIRONMENT. I'VE COSPONSORED A BOTTLE BILL THAT HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE. (FYI: HB 829).

THE MEASURE WAS APPROVED BY THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

ANOTHER MATTER THAT'S MUCH ON OUR MINDS THESE DAYS IS WHAT THE CASEY ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE TO AGRICULTURE AGAIN IN IT'S 1992-93 STATE BUDGET PROPOSAL.

I AM ESPECIALLY DISCOURAGED BY THE MESSAGE GOVERNOR CASEY HAS SENT TO AGRICULTURE IN THE NEW STATE BUDGET. ONCE AGAIN, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS IGNORED THE NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA.

IN THE PROPOSED 1992-93 BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR HAS ALMOST SHUT OUT OUR NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY AND WANTS TO ELIMINATE ANY INCREASES IN AG RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

THIS MARKS THE FIFTH YEAR HOUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE CALLED FOR BUDGET INCREASES FOR AGRICULTURE-RELATED PROGRAMS. WE'VE DONE THIS BECAUSE WE FIRMLY BELIEVE MORE MUST BE DONE TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY.

THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU AS GRADUATES OF THE RULE PROGRAM HAVE ACQUIRED SKILLS THAT WILL HELP YOU DEAL WITH RURAL ISSUES IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY. YOU CAN BE A PART OF INFLUENCING THE PROCESS, AND THAT'S VERY SIGNIFICANT!

SINCE 1970 THIS PROGRAM HAS HELPED HUNDREDS OF RURAL RESIDENTS BECOME STATE LEGISLATORS, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND LEADERS IN CHURCH, CIVIC AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS...BY SIMPLY HELPING THEM GAIN THE LEADERSHIP, PROBLEM-SOLVING AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELD.

SO FELLOW ALUMNUS, LET US CONTINUE WITH THE EXCELLENT SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM BY ALWAYS KEEPING IN MIND DARYL HEASLEY'S 20 QUALITIES FOR EFFECTIVE RURAL LEADERSHIP.

GET INVOLVED! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!

AGAIN, THANKS FOR ASKING ME TO SHARE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS WITH
YOU HERE AT RULE'S ANNUAL MEETING.

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(NOTE: PLEASE PLUG IN YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WHEREVER YOU
FEEL APPROPRIATE.)