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MARYLAND FARMERS SCORE ROADS BODY AND GAS TAX DIVERSION

"UNALTERABLE OPPOSITION" FARMERS VOTE

Nice Tax Diversion Condemned at Maryland Convention

"Unalterable opposition" to diversion of gas tax receipts other than road debt service, was emphatically voiced by delegates to the 21st annual convention of the Maryland Agricultural Society and the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc., held in Baltimore.

The delegates reelected Harry H. Nuttle, of Denton, president of the bureau.

P. C. Turner, president of the Baltimore County Farm Bureau, was named vice-president to succeed Wilbert L. Smith, of Knoxville. C. E. Wise, Jr., was selected by the board of directors for the position of secretary-treasurer.

Governor Nice's plan to expand current diversion of gasoline taxes into the general government account became the special object of attack.

After criticism of the State Roads Commission for slow progress in building farm-to-market roads in the State, as authorized by the Federal Works Progress Administration, some debaters laid the delay to a lack of cooperation between the State body and Federal authorities. They urged that the State Roads Commission and the boards of county commissioners make every effort to avail themselves of Federal aid.

This was followed by the adoption of a resolution as follows:

"As the statute governing the control of county roads by the State Roads Commission expires in the fall of 1937, we recommend the continuance of the maintenance of roads by the State Roads Commission providing that the receipts from the 1½-cent gasoline tax be apportioned to the counties and the city of Baltimore on the basis of 30% to Baltimore city and 70% to the counties to be allocated on the basis of the county road mileage in said counties and that legislation of a mandatory character be passed giving to the various boards of County Commissioners the power to determine how and where the funds allocated to the counties shall be spent."

The organization also adopted a joint tax committee report recommending enactment of a State income tax and continuation of the present relief taxes. The Maryland State Grange, which joined in the committee, previously had adopted the report.

A report that Governor Nice was expected to back an annual diversion of $4,000,000 from the special gasoline taxes, motor-vehicle revenues and bond issues, or a total of $8,000,000 in the two years covered by the forthcoming budget, started the opposition into action, and culminated in adoption of the following resolution:

"Whereas, There is continued agitation of the use of monies raised from the tax on gasoline and automobiles for the State's general expenses and for other purposes, and

"Whereas, The farmers of the State are deeply interested in the maintenance and extension of our road system and the reservation of adequate funds for the building of new roads.

"Therefore be it resolved, That the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc. . . . do hereby express our unalterable opposition to any diversion of the gas-tax receipts other than road debt service and urge the recapture of tax funds previously diverted to meet the outstanding need of our road system today."

Silver Spring Women Plan Non-Political Organization

The Women's Improvement Club of Silver Spring met last week at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Y. Beers, and after discussing proposed changes in the liquor laws of the County, went on record as against any amendments to the present law.

After urging installation of lights in Jesup Blair Community Park, the ladies devoted the evening to consideration of a plan to organize a non-political group of women whose business it would be to investigate conditions and activities in the community and county.

BETHESDA P. O. SITE SELECTED

New Building to Be at Montgomery Lane and Wisconsin Avenue

L. C. Martin, secretary of the Interdepartmental Committee of the Post Office and Treasury Departments, has announced selection of northeast corner of Montgomery Lane and Wisconsin Avenue, as the site for the new post office building to be erected in Bethesda. The site is adjacent to the State Theatre and diagonally opposite the Montgomery County Building. The site was purchased for $45,000 from the Edgemoor Land Office, of which Walter R. Tuckerman is president. The tract has a frontage of 103 feet along Wisconsin Avenue and 107 feet along Montgomery Lane.

The building is to be constructed under a $115,000 appropriation made by the procurement division of the Treasury Department last October following months of effort on the part of Bethesda civic leaders.

It will provide Bethesda with a post office which is modern in every respect and will relieve congestion which has handicapped post office employes in their present quarters, a half block north on Wisconsin Avenue from the new site.

Plans for the building, which were held up until the site was chosen, are to be begun at once.

Radio Makes Cows Eat Less—Give More

An Associated Press dispatch from Greenfield, Ind., says:

Almon Wickard installed a radio in his cowshed a week ago so he could listen to his favorite programs while milking.

It didn't occur to him that the cows would pay any attention to the contraption. But it had some surprising results.

Before the installation a 3-gallon bucket would hold all the milk his two cows gave, Wickard said, but now their lacteal output shows a daily increase of 2 gallons.

And the farmer finds that while turning away from the feed box to listen to the radio the cows eat only about half as much as they used to.

Liquor Law Changes Urged Upon Assembly

That our readers may have a clear understanding of the proposed changes in the liquor laws, urged by the Montgomery County Beer Dealers' Association, the following is the program as described by Troy M. Waldrop, President of the Association:

(1) Eliminate county beer taxes of 10 cents per case and a special 6-cent case relief tax as well as the county tax on barrel beer, and permit dealers to buy anywhere and not just through the dispensary.

(2) Permit the sale of alcoholic beverages by licensed dealers in the county under a control system, the liquor to be purchased through the county dispensary.

(3) Extend the closing time for selling beer from midnight to 2 a. m.

(4) Change the designation of "light" when referred to wines from wines of 14 per cent alcohol to wines of 21 per cent.

(5) Make it illegal to open bottled or packaged liquors in any public establishment.

Troy M. Waldrop, president of the association, said the program was simply an effort to enable the county beer dealers to equitably compete with Washington and Prince Georges County dealers and also to permit the sale of hard liquor in the county by the drink.

The latter proposal, he said, would bring thousands of dollars of tax revenue into the county treasury and also give local merchants a vast volume of business that is now going outside of the county.

Wild Life Refuge Established in Md.

The Agriculture Department announced today establishment of a 2,200-acre wild life refuge about fifteen miles from the nation's capital.

It said a Presidential order had created the Ptauxent Research Refuge in three adjoining tracts which formerly were part of a plantation owned by the Snowden family through royal grants from England.

An old-time Southern mansion, Snowden Hall, is on the land and will will be reconditioned for use of scientists who will study wild turkeys, grouse, deer, beavers, quail and other wild life which is native or will be restored.

32 Job Vacancies Await Applicant Tests

State Employment Commissioner Harry C. Jones announced today that tests would be held in the near future to fill 32 vacant State jobs.

Many of the tests are for positions in the public health and welfare service. Salaries range from $520 a year for office boys to $3,500 for a physician with experience in child health work.

The jobs open included junior bank examiner, $1,600 to $2,000; case supervisor, $1,800; classification director, $2,400; clinical pathologist, $1,500 to $2,000, with maintenance; executive secretary of county welfare boards, $2,000; industrial supervisor, $2,400.

Medical social worker, $1,500 to $1,800; parole officer, juvenile correctional institution, $720 to $1,000, with full maintenance; physician, child health work, $3,500; physical therapist, $1,200 to $1,500; public health nurse, $1,500 to $1,800; public health nurse with experience in obstetrics, $1,500 to $1,800; senior assistant deputy State health officer, $1,800 to $2,400 and conservation inspector, $800 to $900.

Junior license examiner for motor vehicles, $1,200; mate, conservation patrol boat, $800 to $900; seaman, State boat, $648 to $840; junior clerk, $800 to $1,100; junior stenographer, $900 to $1,200; junior typist, $850 to $1,150; messenger, $900 to $1,200, and office boy, $520 to $700.

AAA Buys Eggs To Boost Prices

A dispatch from New York, dated the 15th, reports the purchase of 1,600 cases of eggs. William Cohen of the purchasing section of the AAA, said the agency bought mixed colored Western firsts at 24¾@24½ cents a dozen, ½ cent above Thursday's price, and nearby mediums at 25 cents, up 1 cent.

He added he did not know how much more buying the Government might do, explaining this would depend on day-to-day market conditions. The Government is interested in stabilizing the market, he said.

Mrs. Fairchild To Give Recital

Mrs. La Vergne Fairchild of Takoma Park, Md., will give a song recital, sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary for the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, at the Takoma Community Hall Thursday night at 8 o'clock.

Mme. Gerster Gardini of New York, well-known concert and opera singer who sang in European opera, will be the guest artist. Mme. Gardini is the daughter of the late Stella Gerster, who sang with Adelina Patti in opera many years ago. Mme. Gerster will be the house guest of Dr. and Mrs. Julian Howe during her visit in Washington.

Members of the Junior Auxiliary who will usher are the Misses Elizabeth Swimley, Thelma Smith, Jeanne Burdine, Fay Brenneman, Anne Sampselle, Peggy Warlick and Irene Pumphrey.

Bethesda Needlework Guild Holds Meet

The Bethesda Branch of the Needlework Guild held their annual in-gathering Wednesday and in celebration of the occasion they held an informal tea at the Battery Park Club to show the garments collected by the guild. Mrs. George F. Hane of Alta Vista presided at the tea table, where she was assisted by Mrs. Robert Leipold.

About 40 of the Campfire girls, who contributed more than 100 garments to the guild, attended the tea with the leader of their group, Mrs. Paul B. Ledig of Battery Park.

The Needlework Guild is one of the largest of the groups in the neighborhood who are doing charity work and after Wednesday's tea several hundred garments were turned over to the women's clubs in the community for distribution.

Mrs. E. F. Kohman of Battery Park is the leader of the Needlework Guild and is in charge of the work done in this community.

STATE TAX USE UNFAIR SAY TOWNS, INC.

State Road Commission Charged By Seven Towns With Wrong Gas Tax Distribution

Charges that the present method followed by the State Roads Commission in distributing gas funds is unfair to the county's seven incorporated towns, were made last week at a special gathering of town mayors, held at Kensington.

Mayor Edward R. Saunders of Kensington was chosen to direct efforts toward the formation of a permanent association of municipal officials. As delegates to the meeting, officials of the incorporated towns pledged themselves to get behind a drive for a law giving a larger share of gas tax proceeds for maintenance of lateral roads. No specific method of such distribution was adopted at this meeting, as it was decided to wait until the various town councils discussed the proposal, after which some plan would be adopted and sent to the State Legislature for action.

The association is expected to decide next month whether it favors allocation of gas tax proceeds that are dedicated to maintenance of lateral roads on a road mileage, assessable basis or population plan, three methods advanced by nearly a score of officials.

It was agreed that the present method followed by the State Roads Commission in distributing gas tax funds is unfair and the State Legislature should act to change it.

At present, the highway body allocates the funds among the various boards of county commissioners throughout Maryland and they in turn allocate any amount they see fit among the towns.

During the past two years the municipalities in Montgomery County have been shut off without any share of the fund because of the overdraft in the county's account with the State Roads Commission and they have had to maintain lateral roads within their corporate limits without State aid.

Councilman Ernest R. Houghton of Glen Echo told the conferees he felt the towns also should share in proceeds from fees collected from the sale of beer and wine licenses sold within their corporate limits.

Houghton said the fees are enjoyed by the county exclusively and some action should be taken for the municipalities to be given a share of such receipts.

It was voted to take up the questions more fully at the meeting in February.

Mayor Saunders, who presided, appointed Councilman Edgar Reed of Rockville, Mayor William McRaim of Gaithersburg, Mayor John Adams of Takoma Park and Mayor Henry T. McCuen to serve as a Committee on By-Laws and Constitution and submit a draft of their proposals at the next session.

Other resolutions called for jail sentences for drunken drivers, restoration of budget cuts imposed on the University of Maryland and return of administration of relief to local units.

The State Farm Bureau pledged its support to the national organization and to Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, "in develop . . . a permanent program for agriculture through the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act."

32.7