

State Senator Jess J. Present Reports

Two related bills drawn to give tax relief to real property owners in designated disaster areas suffering property damage by Hurricane Agnes, passed in both houses of the New York State legislature.

Technical and complicated bills, they not only provide for municipalities to grant such tax abatement with state assistance, they also include provisions to compensate local governments and school districts for the loss of property tax revenue resulting from such grants, according to Senator Jess J. Present R-Jamestown.

Senator Present co-sponsored the Senate bills with Senators William T. Smith, R-Big Flats, Warren M. Anderson, R-Binghamton, Bernard C. Smith, R-Northport, and Bernard G. Gordon, R-Peekskill.

Co-sponsoring the Assembly bills were Assemblymen Charles D. Henderson, R-Hornell, L. Richard Marshall, R-Elmira, and James L. Emery, R-Genesee.

The main provisions of the bills are as follows:

Upon application by a property owner, the State Board of Equalization and Assessment would determine and certify to the appropriate local assessing officials the percentage of full value of property damaged as a result of the disaster.

Requests for damage evaluation already filed with the state board would be deemed to be applications for tax abatement. Property owners who have not filed such requests would be given an additional period of time to make applications for tax abatements.

Local government review boards would conduct hearings on the percent damage determined by the state board and would have the power to increase or decrease the percentages.

The determination of the local review board would be binding with respect to the individual tax abatement, but increases in the percent abated would not be binding for the purpose of state and federal aid.

On the basis of final determination of the percent damage, appropriate local officials would determine the amount of tax abatement and proceed to collect the amount due or to refund overpayments to those taxpayers who have paid their taxes prior to the granting of tax abatement.

Penalties and interest which may have accrued prior to the granting of tax abatement would be forgiven.

In the first local fiscal year of impact, state assistance would be paid to local governments, school districts and special districts in an amount equal to the loss in revenue resulting from the tax abatements granted.

In the second and third fiscal years of impact state assistance would be fifty and twenty-five percent, respectively, of the first year amount.

Any federal assistance received by a local government, school dis-

trict or special district in connection with revenue losses resulting from the disaster would be subtracted from the state assistance which such local unit would otherwise receive.

LATE RELEASE

Governor Rockefeller has signed into law a bill approved by the Legislature which provides tax abatements on real property damaged by floods in the wake of Hurricane Agnes of 1972 and also makes State aid available to local governments and school districts to help offset the resultant loss of tax revenue.

The Governor reported in his memorandum of approval that an estimated 25,000 parcels of real property suffered substantially from damage to privately owned real property.

March 19 Deadline Set For Tree Orders

Anyone wishing to order tree seedlings from State Nurseries should complete their order from by March 19, announced Julius J. Eckert, Regional Forester for the Department of Environmental Conservation in Jamestown. The March cut-off date allows time for processing orders and packaging seedlings for distribution in late April. Trucking commitments must comply with the March date, Mr. Eckert said.

Tree order forms, trucking information and planting instructions are available from the Region 9 Lands & Forests Office, RD 1, Box 4, Jamestown, N. Y., 14701. Cost is \$20.00 per 1000 seedlings enough to plant approximately one acre.

Nearly four million seedlings had been ordered by mid-February on a State-wide count. Region 9, which includes counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming, accounted for 576,000 seedlings.

Adequate supplies remain to satisfy most planting requirements. White pine, red pine, Norway spruce, and larch are desirable timber species. Scotch pine, white spruce, Austrian pine, Douglas fir and balsam fir are planted for Christmas trees. The only hardwood species, black locust, is an old standby for farm fencing needs. There is still time to put a few idle acres to productive use obtain your order form now.

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Commissioner Schuler Cites Legislators' Support For Tier Expwy. Progress

Raymond T. Schuler, New York State Commissioner of Transportation, has commended the support by Southern Tier legislators for Southern Tier Expressway progress which has led to the letting soon of additional projects to complete segments of the express highway. Authorization of funds for this project comes from the 1972-73 State Budget.

"The State Department of Transportation," Commissioner Schuler said, "will open bids on March 22 for paving two important segments of the Southern Tier Expressway — more than ten miles in Cattaraugus County, between Olean and the Allegany County line, and five miles between Almond and Hornell, in Allegany and Steuben Counties.

"These projects will complete nearly one-third of the 48 miles of expressway in Allegany, Cattaraugus and Steuben Counties where earth-grading contracts have been in progress. Provision of paving and allied work under the completion projects will enable the Department to prepare these expressway segments for service.

"The continued assistance of legislators representing this western area of the Southern Tier have provided the essential backing to allow the Department to progress these projects to letting", Commissioner Schuler said.

He cited the untiring efforts and support of State Senators Jess J. Present of Jamestown and William T. Smith of Elmira and Assemblymen Charles T. Henderson of Hornell, James L. Emery of Genesee and John W. Beckman of Westfield.

On March 22, the Department will open bids for paving 10.3 miles of the expressway from just north of the Olean city line north easterly to the Cattaraugus-Allegany County line, plus five miles from the Almond interchange in Allegany County easterly to the Hornell interchange with Routes 36 and 70 in Steuben County. Each segment will be a four-lane divided highway on embankments constructed under previous contracts.

The Cattaraugus County project will include installation of signs on the ten-mile segment plus an-

other 5.6 mile section through Olean, now nearing completion. The Allegany and Steuben Counties job will include paving a scenic overlook along the eastbound lanes near Almond Dam plus installation of guide railings and median barriers.

The Hornell-Almond segment will extend by five miles the 243 miles of multilane, divided highway open on the Southern Tier and Route 17 Expressway from Hornell eastward across the Southern Tier, past Binghamton and through the southern Catskills to the Thruway at Harriman. This mileage is all continuous except for 10 miles planned to be opened this summer between Waverly and Nichols in Tioga County. Nearly all is completed to full expressway standards although some segments — in the Elmira and Corning area — are to be rebuilt.

Commissioner Schuler has said that the Department plans to undertake paving contracts during the next two years on the 48 miles of expressway being prepared thru grading contracts in Allegany, Cattaraugus and Steuben Counties.

Veterans News

LISTEN VETERAN

Specially Adapted Housing — Mortgage Protection Life Insurance — Veterans who receive a VA grant for specially adapted housing are eligible for a life insurance. Those eligible may buy an amount equal to their outstanding mortgage balance, or \$30,000, whichever is the lesser. This decreasing term amount stops when the mortgage is paid off, or the property is disposed of so the veteran no longer has a mortgage, or he stops paying the required premiums or he reaches age 70. A low-cost premium has been made possible by Government paying the administrative costs, as well as the claims costs which exceed the premium payments. For those receiving compensation, premiums will be deducted by VA; otherwise, the veteran pays directly. The insurance covers not only the first home purchased by the disabled veteran but any unused portion may be applied to a subsequent purchase after the first home has been disposed of.

It's Making The Rounds Again — that false rumor that a special GI insurance dividend is being

Scout News

Men who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout are now eligible to join the new National Eagle Scout Association, according to Lawrence P. McCarthy of Hornell, Advancement Chairman of the Steuben Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. McCarthy explained that the new association provides the opportunity for all Eagle Scouts regardless of age, race, creed, or economic status to retain an association with Scouting through service to the local councils in which they live.

Nationally, of the 52 million members of the Boy Scouts of America since 1910, there have been over 700,000 Eagle Scouts. About 31,000 earned the award last year with a total of 30 in the Steuben Area Council.

"When a boy earns the Eagle award and as he grows into adulthood, he wants to continue his active involvement with the national movement that has provided many of his most enjoyable experiences," McCarthy said.

"He maintains the many fine friendships he's made with other Scouts and leaders and wants new experiences that will enable him to meet and enjoy additional friends of Scouting. Through the National Eagle Scout Association, the boy or man can reaffirm his pledge of service to others through Scouting."

paid to World War II Veterans. Even a mimeo form is being circulated to apply for it. If you get one — don't waste your time and money completing and mailing it. It's worthless. Dividends on GI insurance are paid automatically on an annual basis to holders of GI insurance policies of record. Get the FACTS on GI insurance at the local counseling center of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs located at City Building, 108 Broadway, Hornell, N. Y., on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and at the Municipal Bldg., Wellsville, N. Y., on Tuesdays.



To: Vincent Burrows, Chairman of the
Maple Festival Display Committee
Andover, New York, 14806

Date

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Andover Village Election

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GRANGE HALL

If you would like a ride to the Polls — call 478-5060