BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

Agreeable to order,
The House proceeded to third consideration of House bill No. 3, printer's No. 8, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania further providing for the establishment of standards and qualifications for land used for agricultural purposes.

On the question, Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Butler, Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say a few words about this resolution. This is the same resolution which was passed in the past session. Now we have it before us for the second time. There is kind of a deadline on this that we must have this passed in both Houses before the 15th of February, and then it must appear on the ballot in the May primary. This will give this House and the General Assembly the responsibility or the opportunity to write enabling legislation to set standards and qualifications for agriculture land. I think that is as much as I have to say on this subject, unless there are any questions.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. Rappaport.

Mr. RAPPAPORT. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman from Butler, Mr. Kennedy, consent to a brief interrogation?

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Butler, Mr. Kennedy, permit himself to be interrogated?

Mr. KENNEDY. I shall, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. RAPPAPORT. Mr. Speaker, will this resolution, in and of itself, grant the exemption or will we have to pass enabling legislation later on?

Mr. KENNEDY. We will have to pass enabling legislation. All this does give us the opportunity to write the enabling legislation.

Mr. RAPPAPORT. And in accordance with this language, could we require in such enabling legislation that covenants, perhaps lasting for a number of years, against development of this land be required before an exemption could be granted?

Mr. KENNEDY. Yes, we can.

Mr. RAPPAPORT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.