

## Somebody Must Pay the Bill

Taxes are not popular, especially with those who must pay them or whose business is affected by them.

So the march on Harrisburg by 300 Lancaster County tobacco farmers is understandable, because part of the pending Pennsylvania tax package is a levy on pipe and cigar tobacco.

There is a natural fear that this tax would result in reduced use of the product and therefore less income for those who grow and process the tobacco.

But there is another side to this coin.

If the same line of reasoning were followed, a case could be made for

elimination of taxes on beer and stronger beverages because Pennsylvania has breweries and distilleries.

Similar arguments could be mounted on other products and taxes, including the sales taxes imposed on any of a large variety of products manufactured in Pennsylvania and therefore subject to adverse marketing conditions if a tax is imposed.

Somebody must pay the bill for big government.

But that bill is not going to be paid if every group with its own special interest ax to grind can carry off a successful protest march on Harrisburg.

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## TAX ON CIGARS IS DROPPED FROM BUDGET

### Demonstration By Women Workers Leads To Abandonment Of Levy

Approximately 5,000 cigar workers, a large percentage of them from Luzerne County, traveled to Harrisburg in 100 chartered buses yesterday and staged a two-hour demonstration at the State Capitol in protest of a proposed 35 percent tobacco tax on cigars.

The tax legislation had been pending before the State House of Representatives, but last night it was announced that the proposed 35 percent levy on non-cigarette items had been abandoned by the Republican leadership.

Governor Raymond P. Shafer met with three Luzerne County women, Mrs. Ward Vail and Mrs. Sallie Smith, both of West Pittston, and Mrs. Mary Krupsha, Exeter, yesterday afternoon to discuss the reasons for proposing the tax increase.

In yesterday's caravan, there were 10 buses from Kingston, nine from Wilkes-Barre, and about 26 from other towns including Nanticoke and communities in the Pittston area.

In Harrisburg, the demonstrators gathered at and marched through the House. Later, they were assembled before the Capitol and were addressed by Representatives Fred Shupnik, Stanley Mehlichick and Frank O'Connell.

Subsequently, they met with Craig Truax of the administration's legislative staff and John Anderson, representing the governor's office.

The workers taking part in the demonstration reportedly received their normal day's pay for the day and were also supplied a luncheon. Approximately 75 per cent of the demonstrators were women, it was reported.

The demonstration was the second largest in the memory of veteran Capitol guides who said it was superseded only by a protest by bituminous miners against a strip mine bill four years ago.