

Correspondence: Bluer, Bernard, 1972 August
-1973 January

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chamber of Commerce Building

Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

Phone (717) 344-3913

Chairman
ROY STAUFFER

President
VICTOR C. DIEHM

Vice President
MAJOR LEE WHITE, JR.
STUART F. PIPHER

Executive Director
BERNARD B. BLIER



July 12, 1972

Dr. Henry C. Wallich,
Special Consultant to the Secretary,
Department of the Treasury,
Room 3025,
Treasury Building,
15th and Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Doctor:

If you recall, you toured Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley when you were a member of President Eisenhower's Council of Economic Advisors. This tour of our then economically depressed area was arranged by the late Charles Weissman, whose son, Oscar, now has continued in a top community leadership role.

Wilkes-Barre and the entire Wyoming Valley are critically stricken, as you are aware, by flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes.

It now remains for the federal government, as Senator Hugh Scott called for last week following his tour of the devastation, to provide immediate and massive federal monetary aid designed to bring back this inconceivably damaged area just to a survival level.

Would you be able to come to Wilkes-Barre in the immediate future to survey what no person can communicate in a letter and meet with a very few community leaders in an unpublicized session so that you might, in your high position, realistically inform some of your key Treasury people on the impact of this regional distress in the hope of giving our people some encouragement.

Sound REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT Supports
Regional Government, Business, Cultural and Educational Progress.

Page Two

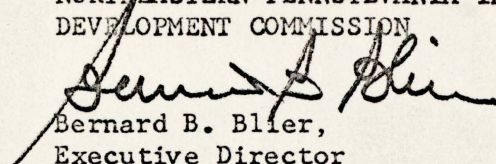
July 12, 1972

To: Dr. Henry C. Wallich,
Special Consultant to the Treasury,
Department of the Treasury.

May we hear from you soonest in this hour of chaos.

Respectfully,

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION


Bernard B. Blier,
Executive Director

BBB:AK

cc: Judge M. Rosenn
Oscar Weissman

P.S. We sent appealing letters similar to the attached to other Treasury
and Internal Revenue Service officials.

BB

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July 12, 1972

Mr. Edwin S. Cohen, Assistant Secretary, Tax Policy,
Department of the Treasury,
Treasury Building - Room 3430,
15th and Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley are devastated,
and other areas throughout northeastern Pennsylvania are, likewise, criti-
cally affected as a result of Hurricane Agnax.

The total economy is crippled and survival, not
alone basic recovery, is dependent upon imaginative accessment by the
Treasury Department of the most dire industrial, commercial and resi-
dential distress conceivable and positive remitting action of federal
taxes.

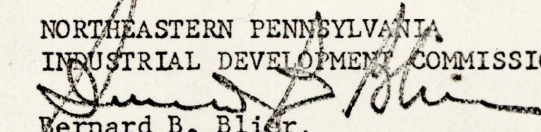
Please send us some hope through your indication
of the most expeditious and effective tax refunding and abatement methods
available through the Treasury Department or contemplated by the Internal
Revenue Service.

This crisis - - - and veteran Office of Emergency
Preparedness and American Red Cross disaster officials term it the great-
est domestic disaster ever - - - must have top Department action on policy
and field operation to mitigate and substantially refund federal taxes for
the past several years and in the years ahead.

Give us the latest - - - and hopefully encourag-
ing - - - information on just how the IRS and the Treasury Department can
help this stricken area.

Respectfully,

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BERNARD B. BLIER



July 12, 1972

Mr. Albert W. Brisbin, Assistant Commissioner,
Plans and Research,
Internal Revenue Service,
Room 3032,
12th and Constitution Avenue,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Brisbin:

Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley are devastated,
and other areas throughout northeastern Pennsylvania are likewise critically affected as a result of Hurricane Agnes.

The total economy is crippled and survival, not alone basic recovery, is dependent upon imaginative assessment by the Treasury Department of the most dire industrial, commercial and residential distress conceivable and positive remitting action of federal taxes.

Please send us some hope through your indication of the most expeditious and effective tax refunding and abatement methods available through the Treasury Department or contemplated by the Internal Revenue Service,

This crisis - - - and veteran Office of Emergency Preparedness and American Red Cross disaster officials term it the greatest domestic disaster ever - - - must have top Department action on policy and field operation to mitigate and substantially refund federal taxes for the past several years and in the years ahead.

Give us the latest - - - and hopefully encouraging - - - information on just how the IRS and the Treasury Department can help this stricken area.

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July 12, 1972

Mr. Edward J. Gannon, Assistant to the Under-Secretary,
Department of the Treasury,
Treasury Building - Room 3425,
15th and Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Gannon:

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and other areas throughout northeastern Pennsylvania are, likewise, criti-
cally affected as a result of Hurricane Agnes.

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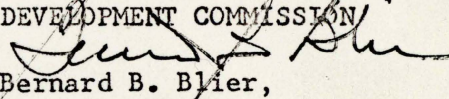
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Executive Director

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from the desk of . . .

Bernie Blier

Judge-----

I send out a few letters
to intensify the "economic
factors" involved....

B

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July 12, 1972

Mr. Robert L. Joss,
Deputy to the Assistant Secretary, Economic Policy,
Department of the Treasury,
Treasury Building - Room 3025,
15th and Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Mr. Joss:

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and other areas throughout northeastern Pennsylvania are, likewise, criti-
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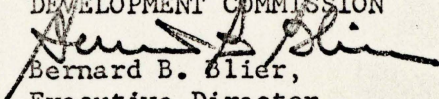
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July 12, 1972

Mr. Anthony G. Chase,
Deputy Administrator,
Small Business Administration,
1441 L Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20435

Dear Mr. Chase:

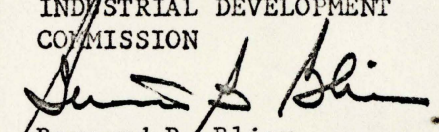
Congressman Joe McDade, a member of the House Special Committee on Small Business Problems, suggested that we write you directly, to obtain five (5) copies of all informational material on your critical disaster program together with an equal number of publications, etc., on your non-disaster (regular) programs.

Also, after discussions held here on Friday with Senator Hugh H. Scott, he recommended that our Commission ask SBA for a special grant to monitor post-recovery programming in northeastern Pennsylvania for future action related to recovery efforts in new disaster areas.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION


Bernard B. Blier,
Executive Director

BBB:DB

cc: F. O'Gorman/Cong. McDade
R.E. Hetherington/Sen. Scott

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Treasury Building - Room 3025,
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Congressman **BILL MILLS**

**Reports
from
Washington**

1004 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel. (202) 225-5311

*Judge Avenue
from B. Bluer*

Volume 2, Number 4
August, 1972

LONG RANGE DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPERATIVE

Tropical Storm Agnes was the most expensive natural disaster this country has ever known. As a result, major changes in disaster relief programs are sorely needed. Temporary and token assistance is no longer acceptable for families directly and indirectly affected.

Refinancing, vocational training, job placement and other long-term remedies are a must. Victims who did not suffer actual material damage, but who were affected by the aftermath of the storm are prime examples. I strongly support such programs, and have already introduced legislation aimed at revamping some of the standing relief regulations, which I hope will directly affect those whose livelihood has been taken away indefinitely.

The President's assistance program, known as the Agnes Relief Act, will allow the funding which is so desperately needed. I supported this legislation. In the interim, various federal agencies, including the Small Business Administration, the Department of Agriculture and others are rendering limited assistance, which is helpful, but cannot hope to cope with the problem on a

long-term basis. I will continue to press for additional aid from the federal government. I should also like to point out that First District businesses and agriculture, which have experienced storm damage, will be greatly aided by passage of the Agnes Relief Act.

WHAT THE 1969-71 TAX LAWS DID

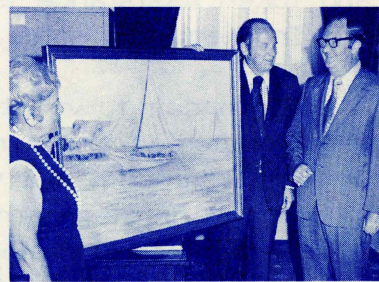
There is much talk that the 1969 tax reform act and the 1971 corporation tax law gave an unfair break to corporations. The U.S. Treasury Department has advised me this is not true. During the four calendar years of 1969-72, corporation income taxes are up \$4.9 billion while individual income taxes are down \$18.9 billion and excise taxes on cars and telephones are down by \$3.5 billion. So, while corporations were paying nearly \$5 billion more in taxes, individuals were paying \$22.4 billion less in taxes compared with the pre-1969 rates. Taxes for persons earning \$3,000 or less are down 82 percent, for those making from \$3,000 to \$5,000 are down 43 percent and for persons from \$5,000 to \$7,000 are down 27 percent.

This has been offset to some extent by increases in social security payments and an accelerated deduction schedule. Additional deductions will result in about \$6 billion being returned to the individual when the 1972 income tax forms are filed.



George White, Capitol Architect and I meet Mrs. Sarah Jump, artist, from Easton

MARYLAND ART IS EXHIBITED IN THE CAPITOL



Mrs. Katherine Lessner, Kent Island artist, meets Rep. Wayne Hays and myself at exhibit

My heartiest congratulations go out to Mrs. Sarah Jump of Easton and Mrs. Katherine Lessner of Kent Island for being invited to display their Eastern Shore paintings recently in the Capitol. This is a singular honor and we should be proud to have had these examples of Maryland art on exhibit here for the entire nation to see.

YOUR VIEWS WILL ENABLE ME TO SERVE YOU BETTER

So that I may know your views on the major issues facing us, I would appreciate your filling in the following questionnaire and returning it at your convenience. Your cooperation will be a great help.

1. DO YOU BELIEVE federal farm controls and supports should be: (a) phased out within five years, (b) continued substantially as is, (c) made permanent with increased supports, (d) made permanent with supports reduced? _____
2. DO YOU FAVOR federal legislation to prohibit the busing of school children to achieve racial balance? _____
3. DO YOU FEEL federal aid to higher education (\$6 billion this year) should be: (a) increased, (b) decreased, (c) eliminated, (d) remain the same? _____
4. WOULD YOU FAVOR a review and change of present hunting regulations? Please include any comments. _____
5. DO YOU BELIEVE that proposed offshore oil drilling will be harmful to our environment? Please include any comments. _____
6. WOULD YOU SUPPORT legislation that has been introduced into Congress that would create a National Agricultural Bargaining Board which would provide for agricultural bargaining by representative groups? Please include comments. _____
7. DO YOU FEEL our Vietnam policy should be: (a) Escalate, (b) Continue withdrawal, (c) Get out upon return of POW's, (d) Pull out now? _____

In forthcoming newsletters, I will be featuring other questions on pertinent issues undergoing consideration by the Congress. I hope you will fill out this questionnaire and return it to me since your comments will be beneficial in enabling me to serve in Congress.

CLIP OFF THIS PAGE AND MAIL IT TO:

Congressman William O. Mills
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

This summer, I was fortunate in having on my staff seven interns from the First Congressional District. They were: Timothy Meredith of Federalsburg, Daniel Williams of Federalsburg, Robert E. Greene of Churchville, Linda Sultenfuss of Centreville, Timothy E. Wyman of Easton, Mark W. Lewis of Easton and Jon P. Sherwell of Salisbury. All except Dan Williams, who is going into the Air Force, will return to college this fall.

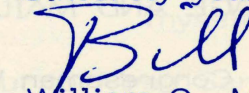
In addition, I'm happy to announce that John Cochrane, also of Easton, will join the staff this month to assist in Legislative Research in my Washington office. John will be working with me until he returns to college in February.

I hope this summer has been as rewarding for these fine young interns as it has for me. They have been a tremendous help to me and my staff, and I can honestly say it would have been difficult without them. In addition, they are all residents of the First District and it is hoped that by working in my office they have had a chance to become aware of some of the problems facing our region. I think it is a wonderful thing for these young people to give up their summers in an effort to learn more about the operation of their government. I wish them well in their continued endeavors and hope I might have the opportunity of working with them again.

BAY MODEL SOON TO BE A REALITY

I am extremely pleased to advise you that Congress has given final authorization for the expenditure of \$4.35 million for the construction of the Chesapeake Bay Hydraulic Model and Technical Center. This legislation is now awaiting the President's signature and if all goes well, construction of the model's shelter should begin this Fall.

Sincerely yours,



William O. Mills
Member of Congress

recycled paper

not printed at government expense  10

Flord

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Room 305 Chamber of Commerce Bldg., Scranton, Penna. 18503

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VICTOR C. DIEHM

Vice Presidents
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FRANK J. BLEWITT
RICHARD D. EDWARDS
RULISON EVANS
HARRY L. MAGEE
FRANK C. MUELLER
ROY STAUFFER

Treasurer
JAMES F. KOCH

Executive Director
BERNARD B. BLIER

August 2, 1972

Senator Hugh J. Scott,
Room 260,
Old Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Hugh:

Would you please have Roy Ogburn arrange to send us five (5) copies of all Senate and House Bills which have been introduced as a result of Hurricane Agnes.

Also, a similar number of accompany committee reports and hearings where they were held.

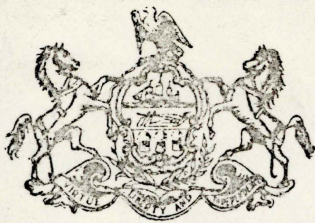
Max Rosen continues to provide splendid leadership here but the problems are overwhelming. Federal cash is the only answer.

Roy performed most admirably at Hershey before representatives of all the stricken industrial development groups at a session arranged by state Commerce Secretary Walt Arader.

Again many thanks...

Regards,

B. Blier
Bernie Blier



MILTON J. SHAPP
GOVERNOR

Judge Rosen for B. Blise
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

NEWS RELEASE
EMBARGO UNTIL: IMMEDIATE

Thursday, September 14, 1972

Governor Milton J. Shapp today named William H. Wilcox, Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs, to direct the work of state agencies in the flood stricken Wilkes-Barre - Wyoming Valley area.

"While not losing sight of the many problems being faced now by flood victims in the Wilkes-Barre area, we have to begin working harder and faster on the long-range rebuilding of their communities", Shapp said. "Bill Wilcox's job is to make sure that happens."

Wilcox will head the Governor's Council of State Agencies for Flood Recovery in the Wyoming Valley. Ten State departments are represented on the Council which has headquarters at 36 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre.

Wilcox also will be chief liaison between State and Federal agencies in the Wilkes-Barre - Wyoming Valley area -- the section of the State hit hardest by last June's record flood. He already has held a series of meetings with Federal officials in the area.

He succeeds Elliot R. Knauer, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, as head of the Governor's Council. Knauer will be devoting full time to directing the United Services Agency of Pennsylvania, set up by agreement between the State and the Commissioners of the Luzerne and Wyoming Counties to finance and administer social services in those Counties.

Wilcox, 53, was Executive Director of the Greater Philadelphia Movement for sixteen years before being named Secretary of Community Affairs by Shapp in January 1971.

- 2 -

Wilcox is a graduate of Myers High School in Wilkes-Barre, the University of Connecticut, and Wayne State University in Detroit. During World War II he flew 47 air combat missions in Asia and the Pacific and was awarded the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. He is married and has two children.

Judge Rosen *To From Flood*

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October 23, 1972

Mr. George M. Stafford, Chairman
Interstate Commerce Commission,
12th and Constitution Avenue, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Penn-Central Attempt to Re-route
Post-Flood Freight Traffic

Dear Chairman Stafford:

This Commission asks your Interstate Commerce Commission to order the Penn-Central Railroad to accomplish two actions immediately.

First, that it institute an emergency track restoration program along its vital Wilkes-Barre to Sunbury segment; and secondly, that it be forced to return all pre-flood traffic to the Lewistown to Schenectady route.

The arbitrary action by Penn-Central in asking your Commission to abandon its Wilkes-Barre/Sunbury line would create and extend great economic distress to a district already burdened through the natural devastation of Hurricane Agnes.

While other federal and state agencies are working hard to return affected flooded areas to their pre-flood capabilities, we are asking ICC to join them by immediately ordering "under the Commission's emergency powers" full trackage restoration and freight traffic return to the former operating system.

Sincerely submitted,

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
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B. B. Blier
Bernard B. Blier,
Executive Director

BBB:AK

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October 23, 1972

Mr. George I. Bloom, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission,
North Office Building,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Re: Penn-Central Attempt to Re-route
Post-Flood Freight Traffic

Dear George:

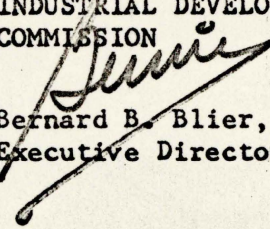
While this Commission's appeal had been directed to the Interstate Commerce Commission as indicated in the attached letter to its chairman, Vic Diehm feels that we should ask Public Utilities Commission support for the immediate Penn-Central restoration of damaged trackage on its Wilkes-Barre/Sunbury segment. The rationale is that while the system is interstate, this important link for Canadian and New England freight from Lewistown to Schenectady moves over at vital intra-state section affecting the economy of Pennsylvania.

In very simple terms, help the ICC to return Penn-Central to its pre-flood operation and traffic routing.

Fully aware of your dynamic leadership where the transportation economy of Pennsylvania is at stake, we are depending on prompt PUC assistance in this flood-identified appeal.

Sincerely submitted,

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
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Bernard B. Blier,
Executive Director

BBB:AK
ENCL:

Sound REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT Supports
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January 10, 1973

Mr. Bernard Blier
N.E. Pennsylvania Industrial
Development Commission
Chamber of Commerce Building
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

Dear Bernie:

I thank you for your letter of
January 8th and your very kind comments.
It has always been so with you.

I deeply appreciate your continued
interest in our problems down here. Your
reassurance and concern from time to time
has been most helpful.

Warmest regards and best wishes
on the New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

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Executive Director
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January 8, 1973

Judge Max Rosemn,
Federal Building,
197 S. Main Street,
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Dear Max:

These were an accelerated past six
months, Max.....

All of the pathos which could be
envisioned must have visited the good people of
Wyoming Valley since June.

But, the true reassurance to all
stricken came with your appointment as head of
the recovery force and in the depth of your per-
formance.

For the rest of your life, you will
be most content knowing of your great emergency
achievements.

Best in health and luck to your family
and yourself...

Regards,

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Bernie Blier

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00-235-555
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