

## Veto No. 1981-1

HB 456

July 10, 1981

To the Honorable, the House of Representatives  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

I return herewith, without my approval, House Bill 456, Printer's No. 1890, entitled "An act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled 'An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the Executive Department thereof and the administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof, including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative officers, and of the several administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards, and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation of the deputies and all others assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and commissions shall be determined,' abolishing the Valley Forge Park Commission, imposing restrictions on the Department of Transportation relating to auto emissions inspections and making repeals."

The need to veto this measure arises from the provision concerning vehicle emission inspections, which would place this Commonwealth in violation of Federal law and jeopardize our much-needed Federal highway funds.

While the administration totally sympathizes with the sentiment for such a bill, there is real concern over enactment of such a measure at this time. Such an action could complicate the efforts we are currently pursuing in Washington and the courts. Moreover, it would immediately jeopardize desperately needed Federal highway and other funds for Pennsylvania. However much we disagree with the Federal emission program or with the Shapp Administration's decision to enter into a voluntary court decree consenting to implement it, we should not risk "cutting off our nose to spite our face."

I resent the choice that current Federal legislation, the Federal court and the action of the prior administration impose on me. I am forced to veto this bill which would block a program that I agree is unfairly burdensome and unnecessary, or face the loss of over \$400 million in Federal funds.

My administration is fighting the precipitous implementation of this program through the courts. At the same time, we are actively supporting efforts in the Congress to abolish the program and to prevent the loss of Federal funds to states which decline to implement it.

I continue to believe that states should be permitted to set their own air quality standards and adopt their own means for implementing them. Moreover, I am convinced that the currently mandated program is not the best means of ensuring appropriate air quality in the Commonwealth. Before resorting to the drastic measure represented by this bill, however, I feel that we should at least pursue to conclusion our efforts in the courts and the Congress.

DICK THORNBURGH