



WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania



When you ask a question, sometimes you get an answer you never expected. One thing in particular has come as a surprise to me in looking over the returns on the questionnaire on current issues which I had sent out to people in our District earlier. A number of those responding had the mistaken impression that the United States already has installed a defense system to protect us against missile attack.

The fact is that our country does not have an antiballistic missile (ABM) defense system in operation. So far, it is only on the drawing boards. And, although it has not been in the headlines much, a debate has been going on in the Con-

gress for several years on the question of whether to go ahead and build such a system.

The debate has taken on a great deal more urgency in recent months. Last November, Defense Secretary McNamara finally admitted there was "considerable evidence" the Soviet Union was installing an ABM system. It was really the Administration's first official recognition of this development, despite a number of reports to that effect ever since 1963 — also despite former Soviet Premier Krushchev's boast in 1962 that the Russians had an anti-missile missile that could "hit a fly in the sky."

No one contends that the Soviet ABM system completely protects that country or even

the major target areas. In fact, many experts claim that no defense of this kind could ever be entirely foolproof.

However, what if the Russians are on the road toward a system giving them optimum protection? What would happen then? The threat posed by our own offensive missiles would no longer be the deterrent against war that it is now. The Soviet Union could decide to exercise world-wide blackmail. Or it could launch a nuclear attack with a feeling of relative security against an effective counter-attack.

Emissaries of the Administration have been attempting ever since February to obtain an agreement banning anti-missile defense systems in both the United States and the Soviet Union. If this could be done, it would certainly avert the expenditure of a lot of money — up to an estimated \$40 billion over a 10-year peri-

od to provide a complete defense for our own country.

This would be in line with Mr. McNamara's opposition to the ABM. However, it occurs to me that if both countries retained their offensive missile capabilities, then the result as far as the United States is concerned is that we would still be left without a defense against missile attack.

According to one official estimate, a fully developed ABM system would save the lives of at least 150 million Americans in the event of a large-scale nuclear exchange. To me, that factor has real meaning. Unquestionably, it is also in the thinking of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who strongly favor a system protecting at least our major population and missile centers.

In my view, as long as there is any possibility of nuclear war, our country should proceed with the installation of

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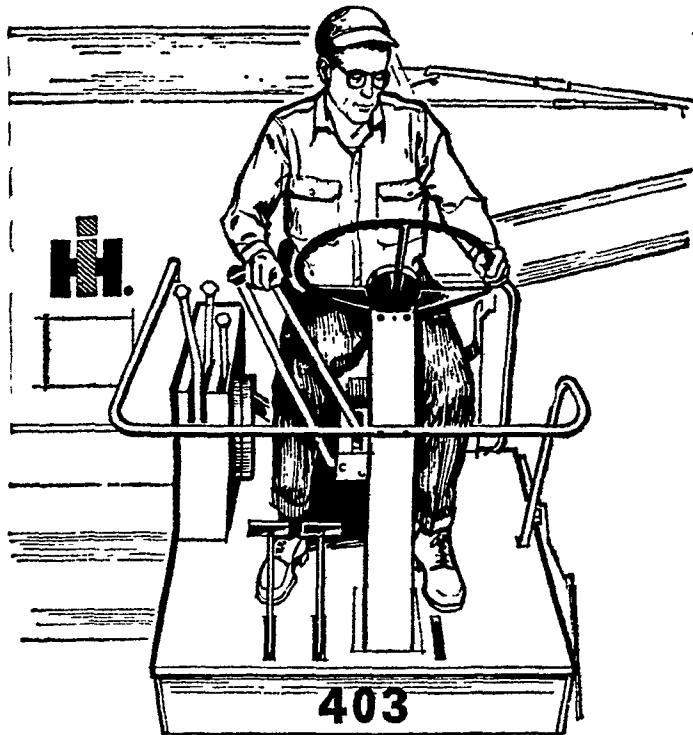
Using recipes from a well-known source and following directions accurately is the surest way to have jellies of high quality, but is no guarantee of success, says Louise Hamilton, extension foods and nutrition specialist. Because fruit varies widely in jelling quality, it's impossible to assure uniform results.

In 4-H, the H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

An ABM system — in stages — taking advantage of new developments in defensive technology as they come along.

Down through the ages, for every offense there has been developed a defense. The sword came first, and then the shield. When it comes to choosing between the lessons of history and the dubious judgment of Mr. McNamara, I shall look to history.

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