



## WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman  
16th District—Pennsylvania



Our nation's foreign aid program is getting the biggest dressing down it has had in its 20-year history. In my view, it is high time.

The foreign assistance program has come up in the Congress this year with two strikes against it.

First, it has a long history of being abused by a number of the countries benefitting from it. Second, it represents still another failure by the Administration to impose strict priorities on government spending at a time of enormous war costs and huge budget deficits. It is also unreasonable to expect the Congress to approve so much more spending abroad when there is such a loud clamor here at home for more money to combat poverty and urban problems.

The President this year requested \$3.4 billion for foreign aid. The House of Representatives cut the amount down to \$2.8 billion week before last. I supported the reductions. Even at that, the House bill would

be up \$200 million higher than the bill passed by the Senate, and I voted against its passage.

Vital decisions on this year's program are still to be made. Differences in the two bills passed by the House and Senate must be ironed out by a joint conference committee before final enactment.

Also, it should be kept in mind that this is the authorizing legislation, dealing with policy matters and setting ceilings on the amounts that can be appropriated. The program still has to go through the appropriation process, where it is virtually certain to be cut some more. I will support additional reductions.

House debate on the authorization bill ranged over a five-day period and finally ended in the wee hours of Friday morning, August 25 — at 3:36 a.m., to be exact. Many amendments were offered. Successful amendments which I found of great interest — and which I supported — included these:

program were authorized for one year only, instead of the two years proposed by the Foreign Affairs Committee. My view is that, particularly at this time, every aspect of the program should receive critical scrutiny by that committee every year.

No weapons could be sold to, or purchased from, any country supplying equipment or commodities of any kind to North Vietnam. The committee already had approved a flat prohibition against economic or military assistance to such countries. I do not see how we can tolerate helping any country which is helping the Communists to wage aggression and kill our young men in South Vietnam.

Restrictions would be placed on aid to 56 countries which have failed to pay United Nations dues and assessments.

Under this amendment, offered by fellow Pennsylvanian Richard Schweiker, aid would be denied until the President gave a complete explanation as to why the country requesting it is economically incapable of paying its share of UN costs.

Other amendments of particular interest included those denying aid to any country which has severed diplomatic relations with the United States,

### Consumer Must Make Shopping Decision

A decision you face many times is whether to buy all your food in one store or to shop several stores. The decision is not an easy one, reminds Harold E. Neigh, Extension consumer economics specialist of The Pennsylvania State University.

When you shop several stores and take advantage of the "good buys" in each one, you can cut your food budget. But other costs are involved besides money.

You spend time and energy when you buy food. Sometimes you can save time and energy, when you spend more money. A large part of the decision

facing you is deciding the value you place on your time and energy.

If you shop several stores for their "good buys," you can save money on what you buy and you can choose from a wider selection of brands. To make the most of this wider selection, you'll have to increase your knowledge of how the different brands fit your family's needs, says Mr. Neigh. You'll also be exposed to a variety of merchandise you perhaps didn't intend to buy. If your willpower to resist impulse buying is low, you may end up with many items not on your shopping list. This could wipe out any savings.

It will cost you time and effort to shop several stores. You'll have to consider if you have the time to do the job of comparative shopping and if you're willing to expose yourself to the added time and effort needed.

It costs money to shop several stores, Mr. Neigh points out. The estimated cost of driving a car one mile is about ten cents. If you have to drive any distance between stores, automobile expenses will eat up your savings. Also you may lose your savings to the garbage pail if you leave tender fresh fruits and vegetables or meat in your car while you shop from store to store. But you, alone, will have to make your shopping decision, Mr. Neigh adds.

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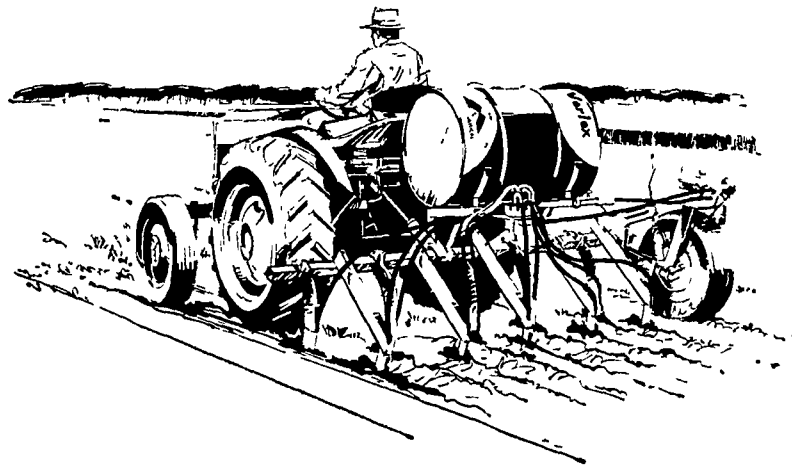
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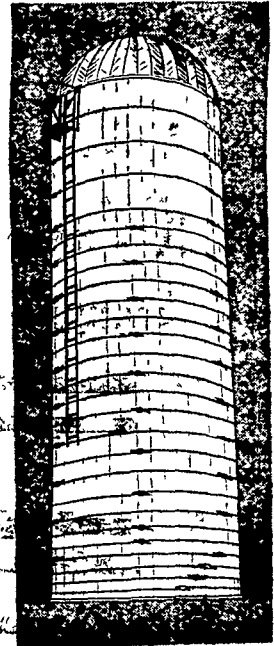
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