



WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman
16th District—Pennsylvania



One of the most important functions of the Congress is to oversee or act as watchdog over all of its legislative enactments to make sure they are operating properly.

Actually, this might be said to be a two-pronged function. One part of it is to review the laws to refine their meaning and plug any loopholes. The other is to ride herd and supervise the programs administered by the bureaucrats.

This function has taken on a great deal of added importance recently. Many new programs are showing signs of mismanagement or are failing to accomplish the results intended.

The Democratic Majority Leader is the Senate Majority Leader in the Senate, Mike Mansfield, appeared to see the handwriting clearly on the wall in a statement he made late last December. He said, "I would hope to see in the First Session of the 90th Congress the beginning of a major re-examination of what we have done in legislation during the past few years." He expressed the hope that the "rough edges and overlaps" could be eliminated.

How, nearly nine months later, this job remains seriously neglected. In fact, there is a strong feeling in Washington that the savings resulting from a thorough review and evaluation of the various programs could have lifted the threat of a tax increase that we face today.

A prime example of Congressional failure to follow through on supervision of a program arose just recently in the House Banking and Currency Committee Arms scales to other countries, totaling \$2 billion, were financed by Export-Import Bank credits without the knowledge of members of that committee, which has jurisdiction over Export-Import Bank affairs.

Many other cases of waste and extravagance have come to light in recent times, particularly in the poverty and foreign aid programs. Yet far too little has been done to restore the proper degree of Congressional control over these programs and to revise their operation and the ways in which they are managed.

One problem is that the Administration too often keeps the facts on the operations of these programs from becoming known to the Congress. A rosy hue is put on program activities that actually ought to be exposed to a bright light. This is a natural tendency, but it is unfortunate. All too frequently, it means that mismanagement must become really scandalous before the truth out.

Several proposals for strengthening the watchdog function of the Congress have my support.

One of those is to establish a subcommittee within each standing committee of the House to investigate and report on the operations of the programs over which it has jurisdiction.

Another suggestion is to designate at least two days each month when committee chairmen and ranking minority members could report to the full House on program operations. A third proposal is to increase each committee's power to obtain full and current information from the executive agencies.

I believe these and similar steps are necessary if we are

to keep the Federal government from turning into nothing but a bureaucratic machine. It is vitally important to the taxpayers and to our whole system of government that the Congress assert its rightful role in supervising the programs it sets up.

\$3,000 Paid For Quarter Interest In Jersey Bull

Harrisburg — A quarter interest in Marlu Milad Symbol, a two-year-old Jersey bull, was sold for \$3,000 Wednesday (Sept. 13) at the fourth Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show.

The quarter interest was purchased by Walebe Farms, Inc., of Collegeville, RD2, Montgomery County. The other three-quarter interest in the

animal is owned by Key Cherm was \$453.25.

Farms, of Covent Station, N. J., and James Mabry, of Norwood, N. C.

Marlu Milad Symbol was sired by Marlu Milad; the dam was Marlu Stylist Souvenir.

Officials of the Pennsylvania State Jersey Sale said the previous record price was \$3,600 paid for full interest in an animal.

Forty animals were sold for a total of \$30,540 for an average of \$763.50. Last year's average price for 40 animals

Mrs. Katherine Thomas, of Rockville, RD 28, Md., paid \$1,050 for a two-year-old bred heifer, Marlu Stylist Advancer Etta. Mrs. Thomas also purchased Marlu Warspite Lassie, another two-year-old bred heifer for \$700. The animals were sold by Marlu Farm, of Lincolnton, N. J.

Ray A. Metzler, of Martinsburg R2, Blair County paid \$875 for a calf, Vaucluse Basil. It was sold by Vaucluse Farm, of Newport, R. I.

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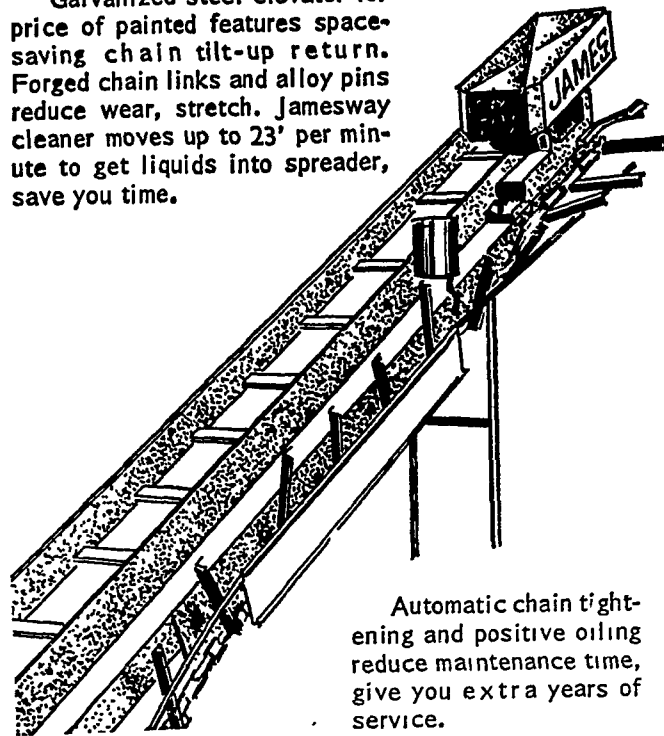
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