



WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania

The business of the Congress will begin officially again on January 15th. Our adjournment break is nearly over and the issues and problems to be faced seem to be mounting daily. The New Year has not by any means brought with it a solution for all of the old areas of national concern. Perhaps, and we may be hopeful, as 1968 progresses, at least some of the problems will be meaningfully resolved.

One subject of heated debate has most definitely carried over into the new year—the draft. During the past month or so, the controversy has grown extremely intense on the matter of drafting young men for military service. Most of the recent arguments centered around the Selective Service ruling which would end the deferments of youths participating in illegal demonstrations and make these young men eligible for the draft. However, looking beyond just this present disagreement, the real issue would seem to be the desirability of keeping the Selective Service System indefinitely.

With the war in Vietnam making demands on manpower strength, the basic question of the possible elimination of the draft system must be deferred for a time. But, it is a matter which should be considered in any discussion of future military needs. The draft was created to produce manpower for the armed services. If today we can devise a better method for accomplishing the same purpose, then we should begin to reevaluate the Selective Service System.

I tend to believe that some worthwhile suggestions have been offered toward the creation of a volunteer army. These plans would significantly boost the rate of military pay and therefore increase the desirability of a military career. The number of young men volunteering to serve in the military would then rise to such levels that the draft would no longer be needed. Of course, the matter is not quite as simple as it might appear. For instance, the cost factor would be of tremendous significance. The higher pay levels would increase defense spending by several billions of dollars which would be offset only by the reduced costs

brought on by the draft elimination. Nevertheless, when the national welfare in times of crisis is considered, the professional military concept would seem to be vastly superior to the series of protests and illegal actions with which we are faced today.

It might be well to stress again that revision of the present draft law could not be accomplished at least until the hostilities in Vietnam are ended. Our present efforts in Southeast Asia direct that our manpower procurement remain basically unchanged. Also, it should be stressed that any draft revision is not a sign of giving in to the demands of misguided youths. Their behavior presently is deplorable and in many cases illegal. Whether or not they are to be punished by the courts or the draft is yet to be determined. There is no doubt that these youths should be properly penalized for their actions. However, their display of disrespect should not prevent us from making a meaningful study toward the possible future elimination of the Selective Service. The end result of such a study could be a valuable contribution to the armed forces and the nation as a whole.



Amos H. Funk

Funk Reelected Conservation Dist. Chairman

Amos H. Funk, Mollersville R1, was reelected unanimously Monday evening, to his 16th term as chairman of the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Also reelected at the directors meeting at the County Courthouse were vice chairman Henry H. Hackman, Manheim R2 and secretary-treasurer Richard Hackenberger.

In other business at the regular board meeting a letter from Robert G. Bartlett, Pennsylvania



Henry H. Hackman

secretary of highways, was read, announcing a public hearing Thursday, Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. at the Lampeter Strasburg High School about Legislative Route 36007, from Smithville to Willow Street. The letter said in part: "The purpose of the hearing is to determine the economic effect on communities affected by the construction of Legislative Route 36007, Section 5, Traffic Route 272, Lancaster County, beginning on Route 36007 at a point south of Smithville and terminating at a point north of the traffic Route 272 at Willow Street." The plans for this route can be viewed at the Lampeter High School on Feb. 6 & 7 from 3 to 8 p.m.

J. Everett Kreider, board



Richard Hackenberger

member from Quarryville R1, announced the District annual meeting will be held Tuesday March 5, in the Quarryville Methodist Church. The reservations will be limited to 250 persons.

Farmers and township governments who submitted applications for approval as new co-operators included: Ivan S. Walter, Blue Ball; William F. Grube, 112 E. Main St., New Holland; W. Roger Thome, Elizabethtown R3; Joseph Russell, Mt. Joy R2; Preston H. Harshbarger, Lancaster R6; C. Walter Hassel Jr., 2153 West Ridge Dr.; Wayne Maller, Mt. Joy R1; Chester D. Ranck, Paradise R1; and Lancaster, East Hempfield and Paradise Township.

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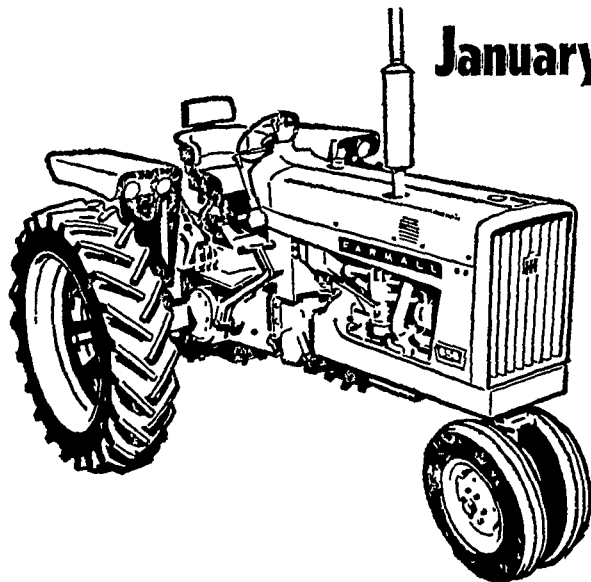
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