

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania



In my column two weeks ago, I began a discussion of the electoral reform issue. At that time, the coverage was limited to some background information and an analysis of the direct election plan as one means for revising the electoral college system. This column will be devoted to a look at three more reform proposals and some conclusions I have reached as a result of my own research.

An electoral formula with many proponents, including President Nixon, is the proportional plan. It would abandon the electoral college, but retain the electoral vote. Electoral votes would be apportioned on a percentage basis among the presidential candidates in each state in accordance with the number of popular votes received statewide. For example, in a state with 20 electoral votes, a candidate getting 60% of the popular vote would receive 12 of the 20 possible electoral

tallies. The candidate receiving the most electoral votes throughout the country would become President provided he attained a certain minimal percentage (usually 40%) established in the law.

Those who favor the proportional plan claim that the popular strength of the candidates would be reflected more evenly than under the present winner-take all system. But distribution of electoral votes by percentage would provide no assurance that the popular will would always prevail. In at least two elections since 1860 such a plan would have given the presidency to a minority candidate who was defeated under the electoral college system.

Another reform proposal that has been advocated in a good bit of my mail is the district plan. Under this formula, a state would be broken down into electoral districts, following congressional district lines. In addition, each state would have two electors at large. The electors would meet and vote, but would be bound to vote as their districts had voted in the popular tallies.

While the district plan is also one that appears to have the advantage of reflecting the popular vote more accurately than the present system, it

would present some new problems. For instance, the small states would achieve greater strength; whereas larger states would tend to split their electoral votes among the contenders the state with three electoral votes would deliver a bloc of votes to one candidate. In 1960 such a pattern would have changed the outcome of the presidential election.

This brings us to the final electoral reform plan, and the one that I have offered as a means of change, the non-electoral proposal. To be sure, this formula offers no radical revision, but it does appear to have the advantage of preserving Constitutional tradition, and also, has the best chance of ratification by 38 states.

The non-electoral plan would simply make the present system work automatically. The office of elector would be abolished, leaving us without the possibility of some individuals voting differently from what the public intended.

I have proposed another change that, hopefully, could be included in any of the electoral reforms that Congress chooses to consider. A runoff election procedure should replace the opportunity the Congress now has of deciding the outcome of deadlocked presidential contests. In cases where deadlocks occur, a Constitutional crisis should be avoided by permitting the people to select between the two frontrunners in a second election.

Electoral reform is one of those issues where conclusions are difficult to draw and direc-

tion is difficult to determine. I am one who has great faith in the ability of the people to decide best the leaders who are to speak for them. But, since I believe that it is imperative that the system be reformed for the better as soon as possible, my legislative research has convinced me to take a route that offers some desirable progress plus a real chance of winning approval of 38 states.

Old Belief

The oldest Greek translation of the Old Testament is called the Septuagint because it is supposed to refer to an early belief that the translation was made in 72 days by 72 scholars. Modern students of the Bible question this belief.

Classified Ads Get Results

CUSTOM SPRAYING

HIGH PRESSURE WASHING
and

DISINFECTING
in all types of poultry houses.

MAYNARD L. BEITZEL

Witmer, Pa.

Phone 392-7227

Royster NITROGEN SOLUTION

Top Dress Winter Grains
And Pasture Now For
Best Results

Custom Applied — Call Today

CHARLES K. NISSLEY

R. D. #2, Columbia

Phone 285-5506

ROHRER'S

Your Complete Seed Store

ALFALFAS — CLOVERS — GRASSES
DeKALB CORN — SUDAX
CERT. MAINE GROWN SEED POTATOES
ONION SETS

VEGETABLE & FLOWER SEEDS
ROHRER FANCY LAWN GRASS SEED

Ortho Insecticides —
Fungicides — Weed Killers

Atrazine, Loroax, Londax, Karmex, Simazine, Pramitol, Ramrod, Lasso, Enide, Trefflan, Amizine, Weedone, LV-4, Weedar '64, Butyrac 118, Chloro I.P.C., Dalpon, Alanap, Sinox PE, Eptam, Sesone, Vegiben, Paraquat, Diquat, Dachtal, Sutan, etc.

Ortho Unipel Fertilizer

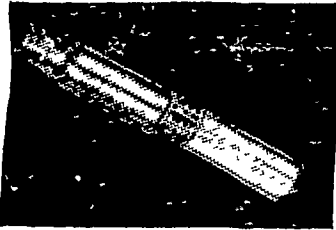
Premier Peat Moss
Michigan and Maryland Peat
Pa-lite, Vermiculite, Peat Pots, etc.

P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.

Smoketown, Pa.

397-3539

instant water



RED JACKET TOWN 'N COUNTRY SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS

Water service troubles needn't begin where the water mains end. You can enjoy on-the-main pressure no matter where you live with a Red Jacket Town 'n Country submersible pump. Don't put up with water service troubles . . . bring them to us.

PRICED AS LOW
AS \$135.00

BUCK

Wayne J. Byers
R. D. #1, Quarryville
Rawlinsville 284-4468

EAST PETERSBURG
J & J Plumbing & Heating
898-7174 or 393-5305

LANCASTER

Landis Bros. Inc.
1305 Manheim Pike
Lancaster 393-3906

STRASBURG

C. Robert Long
Rear 103 West Main St.
Lancaster 687-7281

INTERCOURSE

Noah N. Martin
Intercourse 768-3531

NEW HOLLAND

A. C. Plank Co.
129 E. Main
New Holland 354-8822

WILLOW STREET
Dombach Brothers
Lancaster 393-7658

P. W. STRICKLAND

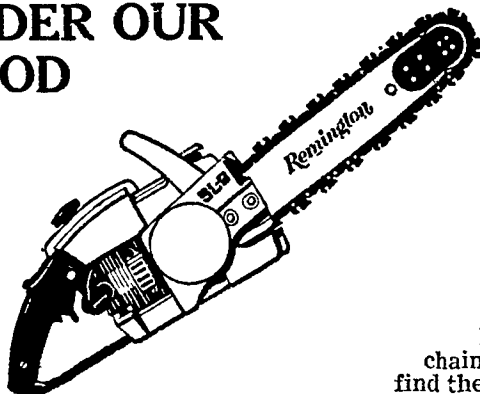
(Distributor)

31 S. Queen St., York, Pa.
Phone 848-2819

SPRING CLEARANCE SALE FANTASTIC SAVINGS

On All Models

HAVE A LOOK
UNDER OUR
HOOD



then
Check our
2 year/
24,000
tree guarantee

In a Remington chain saw you'll find there's plenty of cutting power to spare. One reason is Remington's full Roller-Bearing design. It's the best way to build a chain saw. And only Remington Chain Saws are made that way to increase cutting speed and reduce friction.

Whatever wood cutting job you've got to do, Remington has a chain saw powered and priced right.

And don't forget, we offer the longest, strongest guarantee in the chain saw industry.

... outcuts, outlasts 'em all

Remington



GEHMAN BROS.

SALES & SERVICE

1 Mi. North of Terre Hill on Rt. 897

EAST EARL R. D. 1

PHONE 445-6272