

WASHINGTON REPORT
Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman
 16th District—Pennsylvania



During the First Session of the Ninety-first Congress, I have sponsored over fifty pieces of legislation (probably too many). Most of these bills have been introduced without much fanfare, and therefore may not be familiar to you. It is probably past time for me to give you an accounting of the legislation which I have been responsible for, and present you with a status report. This column is devoted to

presenting a list of some of my major legislative efforts.

(1) **Legislative Reorganization Act of 1969.** This is a bill designed to bring about reform of the Congress. Legislation on the same general subject is due to be considered by the House of Representatives, but the compromise bill does not deal with some of the most badly needed changes.

(2) **Social Security Reform.** A bill to permit married couples to use the earnings of both partners in calculating their Social Security benefits. The legislation is pending before the Ways and Means Committee.

(3) **Drug Abuse Education Act of 1969.** Legislation designed to

help increase public knowledge and concern about the use of dangerous drugs. The bill has passed the House and awaits Senate action

(4) **Support of President's Vietnam Peace Plan.** Resolution endorsing President Nixon's efforts to achieve an honorable peace in Vietnam. At this writing, the resolution is due for prompt House consideration.

(5) **Electoral Reform.** A bill intended to revise the electoral college procedure for selecting a President. The House favored direct election to the plan I presented, and I eventually voted for the direct election formula.

(6) **Exemption of Ammunition from Registration Procedures.** This is legislation which is meant to relieve sportsmen from the burden of filling out forms to buy ammunition. This bill has cleared both the House and Senate and awaits the President's signature.

(7) **Special Education Programs.** Two different bills I have co-sponsored are designed to help children on both ends of the education scale — those with learning disabilities and those who are specially gifted and talented. Both bills have cleared the House.

(8) **Promotion of Health and Safety.** This legislation, which has been signed into law, helps protect workers on all Federal and federally financed construction projects.

(9) **Increase Personal Income Tax Exemption.** This bill asks that the personal exemption on federal income tax be raised from \$600 to \$1000. Such a provision was not included in the tax reform proposal passed by the House, but it is being considered in the Senate.

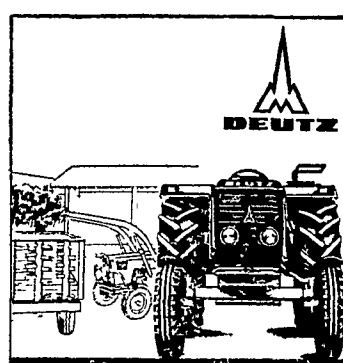
(10) **Prayer in Public Buildings.** The legislation would lead to a Constitutional Amendment to assure that an individual is free to offer non-denominational prayer in public buildings, in particular, the schools. This resolution is pending in committee and, in all honesty, does not appear likely to move in the 91st Congress.

(11) **Anti-Pornography Act.** This bill would seek to protect the private home from receipt of unwanted, sexually provocative mail. Similar legislation was the subject of committee hearings now completed in the House.

(12) **Humane Treatment of Vietnam Prisoners.** A resolution calling on our own government, the United Nations and other world nations to ask North Vietnam and the Viet Cong to comply with international law relating to the treatment of American prisoners

In spite of all legends to the contrary, there is no proven record of any matriarchal society (government by women) ever having existed

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