

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania



Last year a bruising fight took place in Congress over the ABM issue. After a battle royal, the House and Senate decided that deployment of an anti-ballistic missile system was in the national interest and that the building of that system should be begun immediately. But, the decision was a close one, and now, after a year of anti-ABM sloganeering, the opponents of the program are again ready to attack this newest sector of the national defense.

Of course, those who oppose the ABM claim that their position could not jeopardize the security of our nation. Their reasoning is that a defensive missile system is not needed, will not work, and in fact, is a waste of money. The evidence of need based upon the rapid Russian and Red Chinese expansion of offensive missiles does not sway the opinion of these opponents. The assurance of experts that the ABM is workable does not satisfy the opposition. The argument that failure to build an ABM could result in a cost measured in American lives is considered ridiculous by some of those who would like to spend the money for other things.

At the base of the anti-ABM arguments are some cherished world policy assumptions. Perhaps an examination of these as

County Farmer Has Top Jerseys

The 609-cow herd owned by Robert Ulrich & Son of Lancaster County topped all Jersey herds on DHIA test for both milk and fat last year with an average of 11,163M—549F. The herd is 95 per cent Atlantic-

second-high for milk level was the Carl Walker, Indiana County, 354 cow herd with an average of 10,761M—547F, which is 92 per cent Atlantic-

An SA18 Preferred daughter owned by John Tschudy of Lebanon County was second-high producer for milk and fat last year in Pennsylvania DHIA. Ayishue records with a 7-ly, 505d 2X lactation of 19,590M—833F.

assumptions is in order before we accept some of the other points made against defensive missiles. Columnist Joseph Alsop recently did an excellent job of digesting the theories into three basic observations.

The first theory, or illusion if you will, is that a liberalization process is underway in Communist countries which eliminates them as a threat to the United States. Some little evidence is available to support this contention. But, the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the increased suppression of dissent in the Soviet Union and other similar contrary evidence should make us wary of completely accepting this argument and letting down our guard.

The second theory is based upon the reasoning that the other side will never do what you would never do. It is the sort of reasoning that produced a Pearl Harbor, but, nevertheless, continues to be a prominent part of some people's thinking on foreign policy.

In other words, we are supposed to accept the idea that because we would never launch a nuclear attack against Russia or China, they would never launch a nuclear attack against us. Given the evidence of a heavy buildup of nuclear weapons behind the Iron Curtain during the last several months, I think we must raise some serious questions about the validity of such contention.

The third observation offered as world-policy fact by ABM opponents is that complex political processes can be measured by scientific analysis. This leads them to the conclusion that we really do not have to be very concerned about an arms balance in the world. All we have to do is calculate the amount of power needed to assure destruction of our enemies and then keep our offensive capabilities at that level.

But, there are certain fallacies in this theory too. For example, if Russia and/or China could claim arms superiority, could we really expect them to refrain from using that position to threaten world stability?

This question, of course, brings us back to the reason for ABM. An anti-ballistic missile system

New Holland Firm Cited By National FFA Group

The Future Farmers of America have honored New Holland Division of Sperry Rand Corporation for 75 years of service to agriculture, and for being one of the group's "greatest friends" for many years.

Harry W. Bidwell, FFA national president, presented a plaque noting the honor, to Sperry Rand vice president George C. Delp during ceremonies at New Holland Friday. Bidwell and five other FFA national officers visited the local farm machinery manufacturer and spent most of the day in a question and answer session with the company's top executives.

The plaque presentation came during the meeting when Bidwell, of Fletcher, Oklahoma, told Mr. Delp that the FFA owed a debt of gratitude to New Holland for the company's many activities in cooperation with the farm youth group. Bidwell said the company "has been one of our finest friends and supporters."

Other National officers who attended the session were Dennis Pharris, of Hillsboro, Texas, national secretary, regional vice presidents David H. Dietz, Canby, Oregon; Steve Zumbach, Manchester, Iowa; Charles S. Postles, Jr., Milford, Delaware; and C. W. St. John, Redfield, Arkansas.

is a shield to protect us and our offensive missiles from any kind of crippling attack. The ABM is necessary insurance against the present and anticipated offensive weapon capabilities of Red China and the Soviet Union. It helps assure that the United States always will be strong enough to counter threats to world peace.

Therefore, opposition to defensive missiles based on the kind of assumptions discussed in this column is just not good enough, in my opinion.

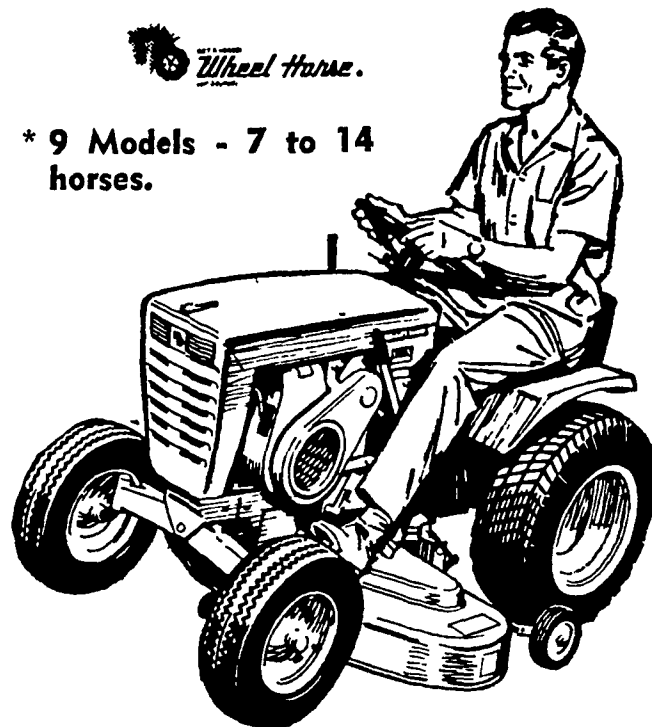
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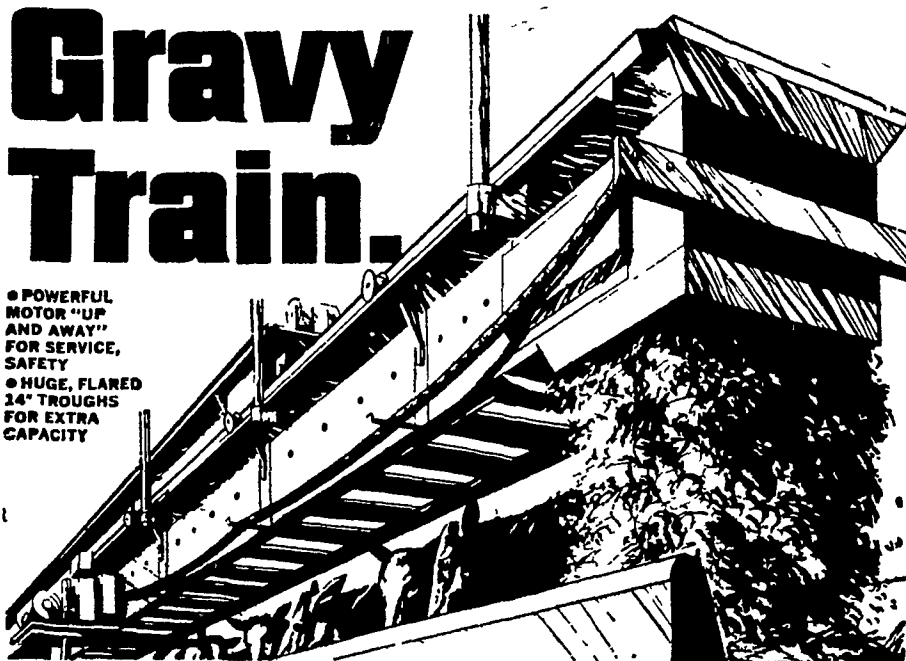


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