

Southern Blight Spreads in County

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quently suffer losses of 5 to 10 per cent from various causes and never even know it.

What should farmers do about the blight?

They should be studying it and learning all they can about it.

Farmers should know what it is. This might help some farm-

ers get it in the silo ahead of the damaging stage," Irwin said.

In order to reduce the danger of mold and the formation of poisonous gases in the silo, farmers should use a silage preservative such as sodium metabisulfite or kylage, Smith said. Both can be added at the blower and are recommended.

It's always good to chop silage

fine (one-fourth inch cut). All the silo as rapidly as possible. use distributor and seal out the air if the silage is not to be used immediately, Smith reminded.

The official word from Penn State so far is that blighted corn makes an acceptable silage, but some local corn from the Henry Hostetter farm, Washington Boro RD1, was taken to University Park this week for further study.

Penn State plant pathologists are warning, however, that plants dying of blight may contain excessive amounts of nitrates and nitrites, basic materials of silo gas. So farmers are warned to be extra careful. A blower to draw the deadly gases out should be run at least 10 minutes before entering the silo.

Fortunately, many farmers already are filling their silos and many more plan to start next week, officials indicated. Lueck noted that about 80 per cent of the county crop will become mature within two weeks.

Meanwhile, Yellow Leaf Blight, which was a problem for some farmers last year and which some growers feared would be a worse problem this year also has been found in some fields, but isn't considered much of a problem. It shows there's room for hope.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania



Earlier this year I wrote an article for the magazine AMERICA on the topic of congressional reform. The title of that article was "Reforming Itself — The Issue Congress Won't Face," for at the time of publication it appeared that another term of the House of Representatives would go by without any effort toward legislative reorganization.

But to the amazement of many of us who have long called for fundamental changes in the rules and procedures of the House, reform did get a hearing in 1970.

Modernization of the legislative branch has been necessary for a long time. A noticeable decline in congressional power has been the result of 24 years of unwillingness to revise and update the legislative machinery of the House.

Since the Congress is the branch of government closest to the people, it is ultimately the people who partially lost their voice because of the complete stand-pat attitude on Capitol Hill.

Failure to reform for more than 20 years brought about many undesirable features in the legislative process. Voting secrecy on the floor of the House and in House committees has been practiced in an era of demands for more open government. Authoritarian leadership procedures have characterized some House committees so that minority staffs have been either non-existent or very limited. Antiquated rules have governed the conduct of House business during a time when great social changes have altered the face of America.

Even some small things have been wrong like charging tourists 25 cents apiece to be guided through their Capitol when all other major public buildings in Washington are open free of charge.

The Legislative Reorganization Act brought up for debate during the past several weeks was meant to deal with some of the congressional problems. The bill as originally proposed was fairly weak and certainly inadequate.

It included some desirable aspects—opening more committee meetings to the public, more severely limiting proxy voting in committees providing free Capitol tours, requiring pages to be of college age and changing some of the House rules which needed updating—but the legislation as reported from committee did not go far enough down the reform road.

A series of amendments were needed to bring about some of the basic reforms so badly needed. These included the attempts to increase minority staffing on committees, abolish the teller vote (the tally on the House floor where the Congressman's vote is not recorded) get public

disclosure of record votes in committee, and create a permanent committee to study and recommend changes in congressional operations.

The movement toward real legislative reform was highlighted by its bi-partisan nature. The dedicated efforts of Representatives of both political parties were needed to even get the reorganization bill to the floor.

This recognition of a real need and then the pressure applied to correct it by some Democrats and some Republicans is a hopeful sign that the legislative function can be restored to its rightful place as a coequal partner in government.

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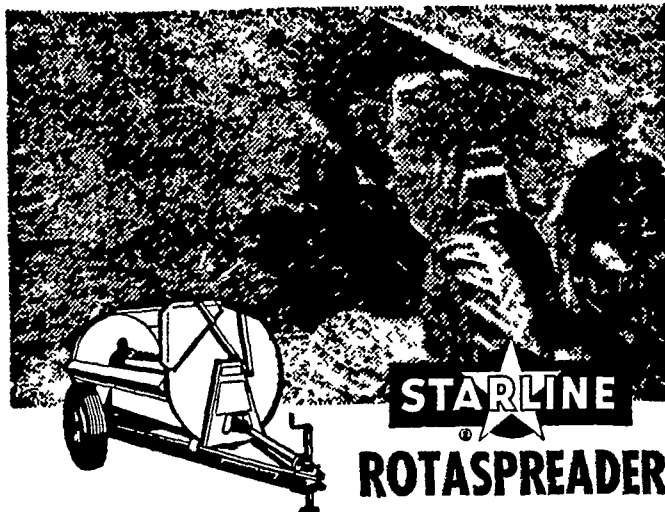


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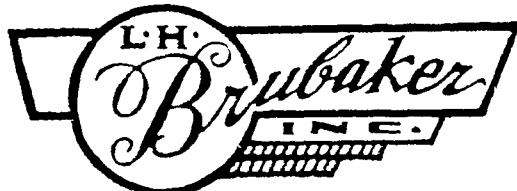
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