

Making Schools 'Accountable' To Citizens Will Revitalize Education, Educator Says

Referring to President Nixon's Education Message of last March, Dr. Leon M. Lessinger told Pennsylvania school directors at their statewide convention in Pittsburgh

"A growing number of influential people are becoming convinced that it is possible to hold the schools, as other important agencies in the public

and private sector are held, to account for the results of their activity."

He charged that, basically, accountability is a policy declaration by a legal body, such as a school board or state legislature, requiring regular outside reports of dollars spent to achieve results

"To achieve this," Lessinger said, "is to shift the principal focus in the school system from input to output, from teaching to learning"

Lessinger believes that placing the emphasis on learning will lead to a by-product of accountability, a revised educational national commitment.

He also noted that the challenge of accountability will lead to a 'can do spirit of enterprise, a willingness to change a system which does not work and find one that does"

Also he said a third major effect of accountability centers on the technology of instruction "From an organizational, managerial and technological point of view, education is a cottage industry"

As an example, he said, "Teachers and students barely understand the breadth of use to which the household telephone can be used to gather knowledge

"While the telephone is being redesigned to operate in milliseconds under automated commands for slave effort, education is just beginning to cope with the manual dial"

He said the "energy of accountability" is available capital in a predictable and secure manner for responsible investment

This news release by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association presents the highlights of a speech at the Association's annual convention October 15 by Dr. Leon M. Lessinger, Georgia State University. Dr. Lessinger is a former Associate U.S. Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education.

"Business typically budgets amounts varying from 3 to 15 per cent for improved products, services, sales or capability. Until recent federal legislation, there was virtually no comparable money in education. Now it is estimated that there is approximately one-third of one per cent available as developmental capital."

Recognition of expanded assessment of results is a fifth

major effect of accountability on school reform, Lessinger said. "For too long many have confused measurement of results in education with standardized achievement testing of paper and pencil of the normal curve-based variety. Not everything in education can be — or ought to be — quantified in such a manner," he added.

Besides listing several methods of measuring educational results, Lessinger pointed to the outside review component as the most "vital mode of proof of accountability."

"An outside review tied to a public report probably explains the popularity of the emerging concept of accountability to the public at large"

He added, "Schools in America serve and are accountable to the citizenry, not the professionals."

Lessinger pointed to the

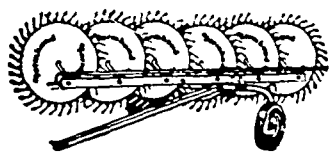
change process that requires adaptation of good practice and adoption. He said, "educational engineering" is the rapidly emerging field designed to produce personnel with competence in this change process. "This development of a coherent body of knowledge and procedure represents another step in accountability."

"The heart of the education engineering process is the performance contract," he said. "Performance contracting is not new to education. But the concept of holding an educational agency accountable for results is."

Pursuit of accountability may (Continued on Page 11)

FARMHAND WHEEL RAKE

Famous for fast, clean, gentle raking



This is the rake famous for raking corn fodder.

Taking orders now for spring delivery on

BALER TWINE

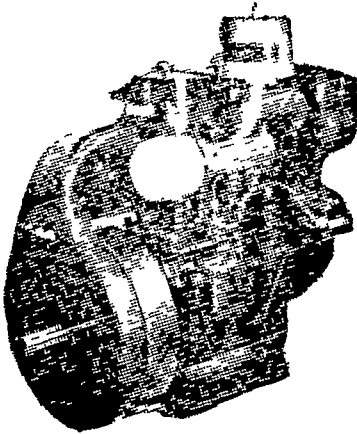
\$5.85 per bale

Authorized Farmhand Dealer

CLYDE E. KEENER

Intersection of Rt. 72 & 230
Lancaster, Pa
Ph. 569-9861

★ "Petter Power Pays" ★
WORLD LEADERS IN
DIESEL ENGINE DESIGN



1½ to 45 H.P.
Continuous Rating

MAKE US PROVE IT!

Over 1,000 Amish farmers already have. They have found that Petter delivers all it promises. Our diesels provide long working life, dependability and good cold starting characteristics.

IT GOES
**MUCH BETTER
POWERED
BY PETTER**

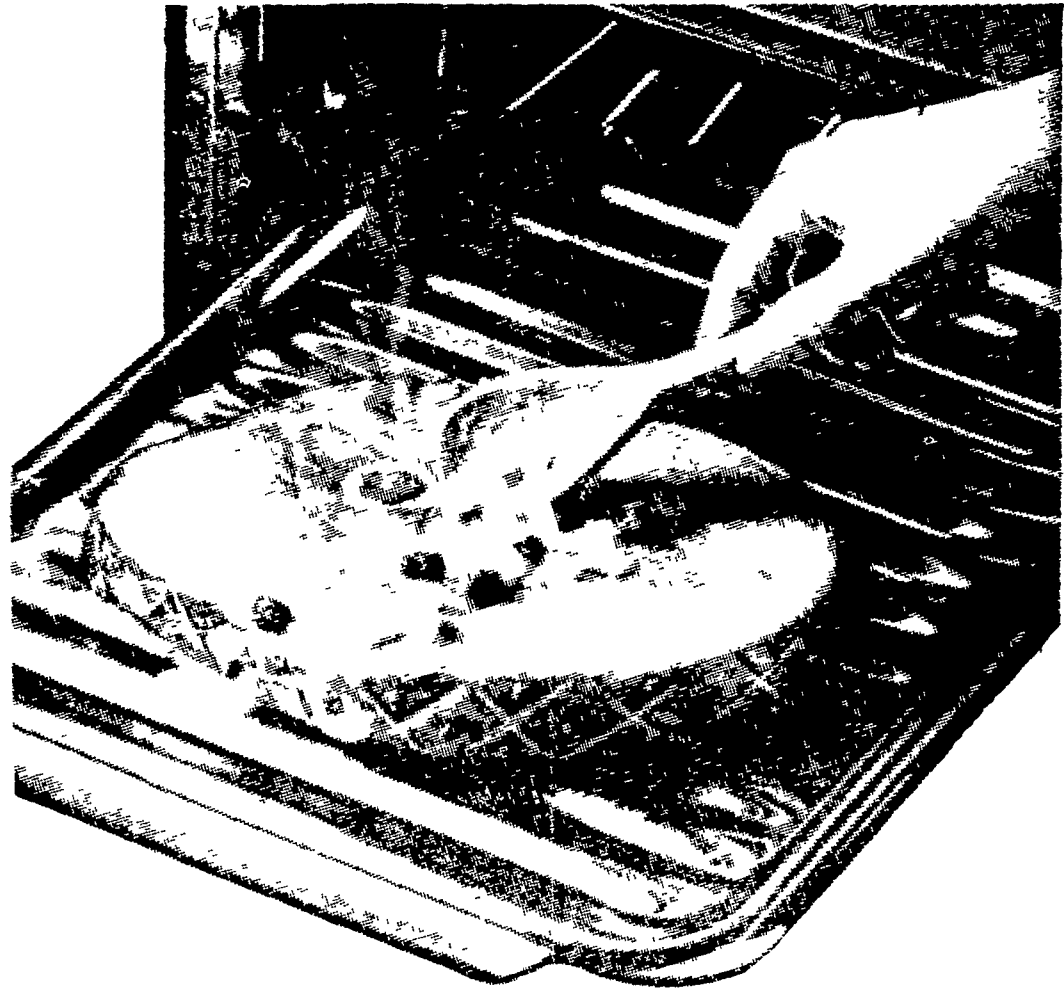
For Prompt and Efficient Service Call
YOUR AUTHORIZED PETTER DISTRIBUTOR

GEHMAN BROS.

Gas and Diesel Engines Sales and Service

1 Mile North of Terre Hill on Route 897
East Earl, R. D. 1, Pa. Phone 215 445-6272

We are as close as your telephone



we help farmers
produce delicious
Pork

When you are trying to produce wholesome, top quality pork you know it takes healthy, fast gaining hogs. How to get them? Only with the best nutrition—and the added help of Tylan. If you've got a quality pork goal in mind, we've got the better feeds and we've got the Tylan.

TYLAN®
(Tylosin, Elanco)

GEHMAN FEED MILL, INC.

Denver, Pa.

Ph: 267-5585