

## WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman  
14th District—Pennsylvania



The final few weeks of the 91st Congress were a disgrace. The spectacle of filibustering, stalling, and dawdling must have outraged millions of Americans.

The final record, which lacked much in the way of solid accomplishment, should have convinced those same millions of the need for congressional reform.

The breakdown of the legislative process was most evident in the Senate. There, appropriation bills, which should have been passed six months before, were bottled up until the waning hours of the session. The filibuster was used to block consideration of several pieces of legislation concerned with some of the most vital issues of our time. In many cases it seemed as though the public interest had to give way to the publicity sought by several prominent Senators.

The Senate, if it is to regain public confidence, must change its rules and procedures to reflect the modern legislative workload.

Last year, the House of Representatives recognized the need for this kind of change and passed a legislative reorganization bill.

But reforms on only one side of Capitol Hill are not enough. The House and the Senate both must reform if Congress is to become more responsive and effective.

Specifically, the Senate needs to scrap the filibuster. This outmoded practice has been discredited by the constantly increasing demands on legislative time. The "luxury" of extended debate can no longer be permitted when so many issues of national scope are deserving of prompt attention. The Senate also needs to do away with seniority. No longer should a legislator's longevity by the sole factor in determining his power and influence on Capitol Hill.

The House of Representatives has gone part way down the reform road but must go further. A former Congressman has made a valid criticism which points up the need for greater reform. He said, "I've seen efficiency sacrificed for democracy and democracy sacrificed for efficiency, but the House of Representatives gives up both and ends up with neither."

The reorganization bill passed last year will help correct some of the problems to which he re-

fers. But last year's work must be supplemented with some additional effort, primarily effort directed at changing the seniority system.

There is a good chance that there will be action in the House on the seniority issue early in the 92nd Congress. Both parties have drafted proposals which would change the procedure for picking committee chairmen.

The Republicans are almost certain to take action to end "rule by old-timers" on their side of the aisle. The Democrats seem likely to have a more bitter fight over the issue, and the outcome is less certain. But, nevertheless, movement finally will be underway in the proper direction.

In addition, there seems to be some sentiment in favor of placing a retirement age requirement on Congressmen and Senators. Such a change also would go a long way toward shaking some of the cobwebs out of the Congress.

## U. S. Rejects Bottled Milk Pricing

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has decided against use of a proposed "economic" formula for pricing bottling milk to dairy farmers under all Federal milk marketing orders.

This issue was considered at a public hearing at Clayton, Mo., in January 1970 and at New York, N. Y., in February 1970. A tentative, or recommended, decision was issued on Sept. 29, 1970.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said the recent final decision affirms the findings and conclusions of the earlier recommended decision that no action should be taken to adopt the proposed pricing formula. Officials said the formula is a composite index of 12 economic indicators, which would gear milk order bottling price changes to movements in the general economy.

The decision states that the hearing on the proposed formula

did not establish that the "economic" formula would reflect accurately needed changes in bottling milk prices; maintain appropriate price relationships among markets and uses of milk; and be compatible with other program responsibilities of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Following the recommended decision, a period was provided through November 10 for submission of exceptions to the recommended decisions. In addition to their exceptions, interested parties were asked to file views on whether the hearing should be reopened to take further evidence. There were no requests to reopen the hearing on the proposed formula.

Copies of the final decision will be available from the market administrators of the various orders, or from the Dairy Division, Consumer and Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

## Agway Holds Dairy Day

About 225 to 250 local farmers attended the Agway dairy day Thursday at the Holiday Inn. Purpose of the dairy day, according to Jack Reed, area farm sales manager, was to share with those in attendance the results of the joint Farmer-Agway projects and how they affect new Agway programs, as well as how they were helping to keep young people on the farm.

Nick Lerrant, local crops specialist, used a slide presentation to show what is happening in the fields of No-Til and Minimum-Tillage in corn, weed control and insect control.

A report on the practical use of the many types of profile projects in the area was given by Ray McMinn, local profile

specialist. Special emphasis was on the Monthly Herd Profile and its \$500 guarantee.

Jess Smith, local dairy specialist, talked about what is happening with the bunker type feeds. He included tips on managing these feeds and the need for a complete program.

Dave Wood, Manheim mill manager, invited farmers to visit the mill with local Agway representatives and see first-hand what projects are currently in operation. Wood also outlined future plans and hopes for the mill facilities.

Summarizing the meeting was Bob Weindel, Harrisburg farm sales manager, discussing the new complete programs available to farmers.

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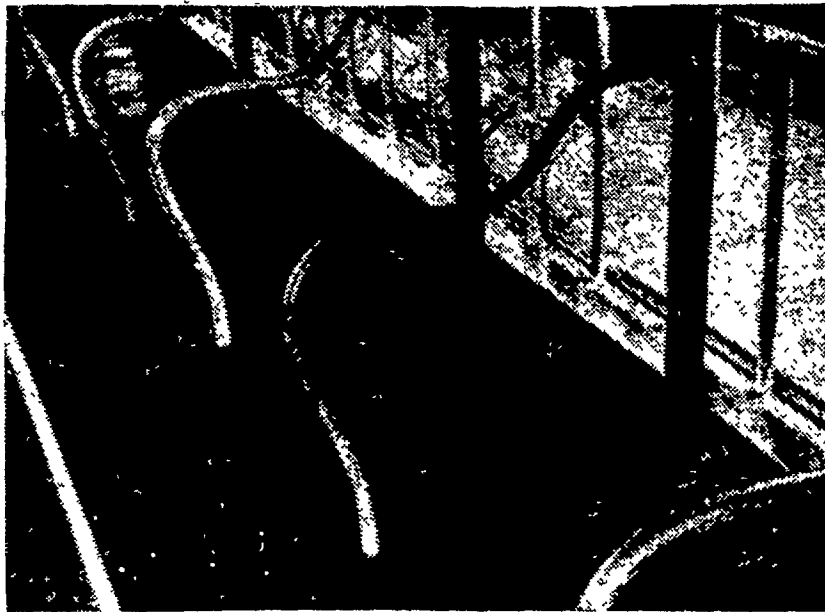
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