

## WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District-Pennsylvania



One of the growing political issues for the 1970's is health care in America. It is an issue that has become one of the most talked about items on the agenda of the 92nd Congress.

Like so many other issues that come to the political and governmental forefront, much of what is being said about health care has more emotional impact than factual content.

While it is true that the delivery of health services in this country is limited and grows ever more expensive, it is not true, as one prominent Senator put it, that "America is an also ran in the delivery of health care to people." There is a need for creating a more efficient system of distributing medical services, but that need does not necessarily translate into some of the drastic solutions being proposed on Capitol Hill.

Those who are the advocates of the more unrealistic measures

seem to come up with the most emotionally packed arguments. In general, these advocates want a total nationalization of health care in the United States. And, because they want government to provide medical care for everyone, they talk about matters with impact on everyone.

What those who want government health care for everyone do not talk very much about is the cost of their proposals. Some cost estimates range as high as \$77 billion of Federal money each year. That is the equivalent of a health tax of \$1,000 per year for every family in the country. And, such costs are totally unrealistic when the inadequacies of our medical system can be treated with less drastic measures.

I lean toward a plan that would give health protection to those who literally cannot pay for it themselves. In some areas of the country there is the reality

## Local Egg Flocks Disease Being Researched

Local poultrymen and extension agents have been cooperating in recent weeks with Penn State University poultry officials to determine the nature of a disease found in some egg laying flocks.

Jay W. Irwin, associate Lancaster County ag agent, said the disease includes boil-like cysts on the birds, the birds turn pale in color and have diarrhea Production drops.

The disease has been under investigation for several days and confirmation of its nature

of poor people unable to get proper treatment.

But we should not use this reality to justify a program where tax dollars buy health care for those who can afford to pay for it themselves. The health delivery system can be adjusted to assure that poor people have access to proper medical care. But those who can pay for such care themselves should continue to pay

Other health delivery services could also be improved, perhaps through Congressional action

It might be useful to work on improving medical insurance coverage—particularly for catastrophic illnesses costing thousands of dollars, so that families can be assured that their life savings will not be wiped out by illness.

And, there is a real need to train more medical personnel to end the present shortages of doctors and nurses and, therefore, be certain that we are prepared to handle the growing health needs of a growing population.

In summary, I favor certain facets of a program of national health care, but stop far short of advocating a nationwide program of socialized medicine.

is expected shortly. Irwin said Penn State poultry specialists feel they know what it is, but are running lab tests to confirm it.

He said it is believed that the disease existed in the past but has been overlooked because of Merek's disease. Poultrymen probably thought flocks had Merek's when the disease occurred in the past, he explained.

It was noted that some breeder flocks have the disease and ultimate solution may rest with the breeder flocks.

Irwin noted that production can be off to such an extent that with recent low egg prices the farmer may be better off to sell his flock than to try to fight the disease.

The disease is being researched by Dr. Dwight Schwartz,

Penn State poultry veterinarian and Dr. Robert Gentry of the Penn State poultry disease research staff.

Irwin noted that with the new Merek's vaccine and the solution to Merek's disease, it will become possible to detect and deal with other diseases which were hidden by Merek's and overlooked in the past.

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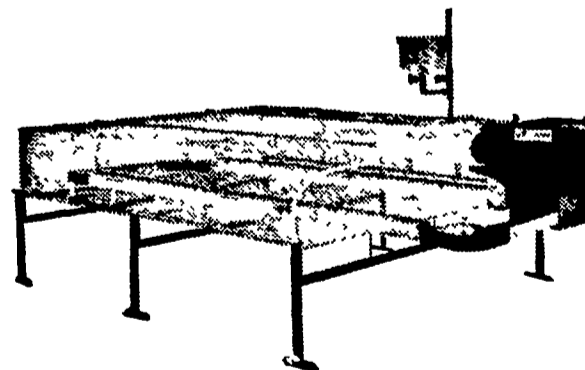
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