

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania

As the 92nd Congress begins its August recess, the legislative slate remains overloaded with important bills that have not been acted upon. Most of these unacted bills are part of President Nixon's legislative program.

President Nixon, perhaps more than any other Chief Executive, has attempted to meet the times we live in by reforming Government. He recognizes that our Federal system has operated for decades with rigid procedures that do not work well in our swift-changing society of the 1970's.

But the President's recognition of the problems and his proposals for reform have had no apparent effect on Capitol Hill. The reforms are meeting with delay, are being ignored, or are being twisted into programs that do not fill the bill. The impression of many observers is that the majority of Congress is unwilling to act even in areas where action is greatly needed.

As Congress left Washington for a month it left the following bills languishing in committees:

Government reorganization, Selection Service amendments, Social Security reforms, new controls on pesticides, strip-mining legislation, Federal Executive Service Act, national land use policy legislation, hazardous substances and noise control acts, land and water conservation funds, power plant siting and ocean dumping legislation, new water quality standards, health maintenance organizations and assistance act, waste treatment grants and financing authority, higher education opportunity act, general revenue sharing, several special revenue sharing packages, and a new wilderness preservation act.

That is not a complete list but is a representative one. It is legislation which deserves action. Certainly it is legislation which has had adequate time for at least some movement because much of it has been in the mill for better than two years.

There are many of us who have urged the congressional

leadership in the majority party to get moving on these important programs. Further delay only postpones their becoming effective instruments for making Government serve people better. But so far our urging has fallen mostly on deaf ears.

It can be hoped that when we return from recess in September, the legislative logjam will be broken. Meanwhile, we are saddled with programs that have failed people and that will continue to fall short of their purpose until they are abolished or reformed. It is time for the Federal Government to recognize that its future role must be one of increased effectiveness. And, sadly enough, it appears that it is the Congress which must be kicking and screaming into that future.

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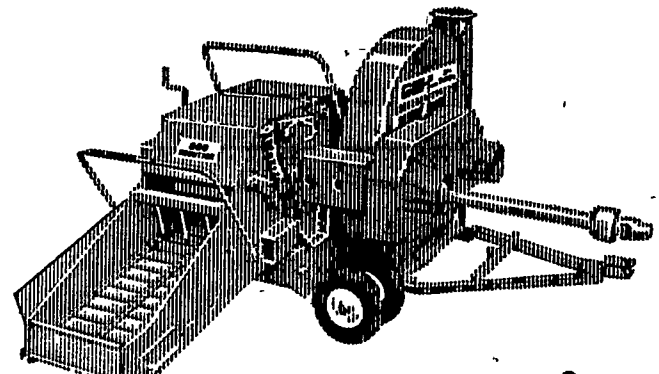
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Spice CABINET

BARLEY KUGEL

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 2 tbsps. chicken fat
- 2 raw onions, diced
- 1/2 lb. raw mushrooms, chopped
- 2 tps. kosher salt
- 4 cups boiling water
- 1 cup pearl barley

Stir barley into boiling water. Bring again to a boil; add salt, cover and cook over low heat 45 minutes or until soft. Drain.

Saute mushrooms and onions in the chicken fat. Add to the barley with the pepper and eggs. Turn into greased casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until browned and set. Makes six portions.



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