

WASHINGTON REPORT

Congressman Edwin D. Eshleman

16th District—Pennsylvania



That contention ignores some very basic facts. No one can say that the Vietnamese brand of democracy is all that it should be or all that we would like it to be—and Thieu's tinkering with it is a prime example of its faults—but neither can it be said that the experiment with democracy in Vietnam is a complete failure.

Consider for a moment the other election which took place in South Vietnam in August. That was the election which many liberals have conveniently ignored. It was the election in which the Vietnamese people chose their representatives to a national assembly which is comparable to our Congress.

And, preliminary indications are that the August election was a pretty fair—not perfect, but pretty fair—example of democracy at work. Not only did nearly 80 per cent of eligible Vietnamese voters cast ballots, but they did so in a contest open enough that President Thieu's margin of support in the assembly was cut rather significantly.

Of course, our American way of thinking makes it difficult to equate a congressional election with a presidential election. But, anyone who is familiar with the Vietnamese knows that they don't necessarily think like Americans. In fact, they regard a vote for localized candidates as far more significant than a vote for president. Why? Because the concept of a nation and therefore of a president is new and strange for them, but the concept of voting for someone in their village is a matter of tradition going back 2,500 years.

Many experts will tell you that the way most Vietnamese assess whether or not all is well in their country is by asking, "Are they voting in the villages?" If the answer is yes, all is well.

What I'm trying to point out is that the August election deserves some attention as a sign that our years of sacrifice in Vietnam are producing some results. President Thieu may be giving democracy in South Vietnam a temporary black eye, but the fact remains that significant voting is taking place in the villages of his country.

And, if you don't believe that this fact has some meaning for free men everywhere, you might consider this question: Are they voting in the villages in North Vietnam?

The subject of elections in Vietnam has been focused primarily on the presidential race. Much has been said and written about President Thieu's willingness and intention, as this column



Power-operated tools are as common in the yard as in the workshop. Like any power tool, however, the equipment calls for proper care and maintenance to be useful. Power mowers, hedge clippers, lawn edgers, sweepers and similar items will continue to perform satisfactorily only if the maintenance instructions provided by the manufacturers are adhered to. In addition to telling you how to start the tool, the instructions will tell the best way to use it, when and where to lubricate it and how to adjust it.

is written, to run for re-election unopposed. The situation has been called a farce, which is mostly true, and called a betrayal of democracy, which is only partly true.

I think that Thieu legitimately can be criticized for consciously attempting to turn the South Vietnamese presidential contest into a one-man show. In so doing, he has provided his opponents and his critics with plenty of ammunition, specifically an opportunity to charge him with running his country like a dictator.

But if Thieu's strong-armed tactics have been wrong, so have some of the more irresponsible claims of his critics. Their contention is that democracy has been betrayed completely in South Vietnam, thereby rendering American sacrifices in that nation meaningless.

Make Manure an Asset, Speaker Says

Don't knock the poultry manure problem until you've looked at the way you can turn it into an asset, says Professor Charles E. Ostrander. The Cornell University expert

on poultry waste disposal, back from analyzing disposal techniques in England, Scotland, and Holland, will tell delegates to the 40th anniversary convention of the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council (NEPPCO) at the famed Concord Hotel at Kiamesha Lake, N.Y. "How We Might Capitalize on Our 4-Letter Asset"

the magnificent Catskill Mountain resort.

Professor Ostrander has been intensively engaged for a dozen years in finding solutions to the waste disposal problem. Granted long leaves from his instructional duties at Cornell to research the latest in disposal techniques in California and in England, the well-known expert in the field is convinced that poultry manure is a "4-letter asset" upon which industry men can capitalize.

Other experts from a dozen states will converge at the Concord Hotel to update delegates on the latest in the areas of disease control, new management techniques, marketing ideas and the political and economic outlooks.

Reduced-price registration (until September 8), and early order reservations at the Concord are still available and should be made through the NEPPCO office at 322 Oxford Valley Road, Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania 19030. Details can be secured by writing or by calling 215/547-0190.

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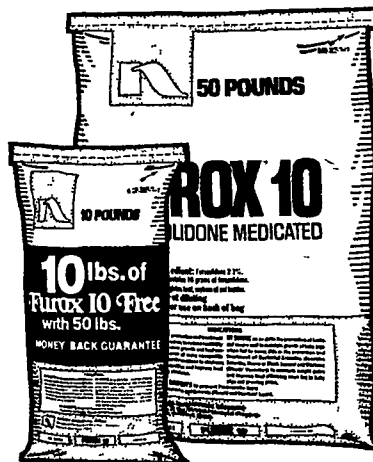
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