

Peach Market Referendum

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale has scheduled a hearing on the advisability of calling a referendum among state peach growers.

Testimony will be taken at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 20, 1972, Room 309, Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg.

The referendum would be on a Peach Marketing Program within the provisions of the Agricultural Commodities

Marketing Act. The proposal calls for an assessment of four cents per hundred pounds of peaches sold for fresh market use.

Money collected under the proposed program, estimated at about \$30,000 annually, would be devoted to the promotion of fresh peach sales. A similar program has been in operation with state apple producers for several years.



ED ESHLEMAN'S WASHINGTON REPORT

Recently, I joined several of my colleagues in sponsoring legislation to set a voting attendance requirement for Members of Congress.

What this bill would do is make Representatives and Senators show up to vote at least 70 per cent of the time. If they failed to

do so their offices would be declared vacant so that new Members could be selected.

It is a sad commentary on the legislative process that the need for such a bill has arisen. The people who send someone to Washington to represent them certainly expect that representation to be more than part-time. Congressmen are paid good salaries to be full-time voices for their States and their districts. But the wishes of the people and the salaries do not seem to be enough to persuade some Members to be on hand most of the time to vote on the business before Congress.

How bad are the absences? There is one Senator who made only 30 per cent of the votes in that body last year. That means he was gone more than two-thirds of the time, and in my opinion, his office should most definitely be declared vacant. Otherwise, if that Senator continues that

record, the people of his State can look forward to six years of non-representation.


A 70 per cent requirement is not very demanding. Most of us maintain attendance records in the 80 to 90 per cent range. Even when I was out with a heart attack last year for nine weeks, my overall attendance did not fall below 70 per cent. Of course, leaves of absence for official business or sickness should not be figured into one's attendance record and would not be under the legislation we are proposing. But, I offer my personal example as proof positive that you really have to be gone a great deal of the time to fail to meet a 70 per cent requirement.

You might wonder what Members could be doing if they're absent for something besides sickness or official business.

This year, some of them are out campaigning for higher office. That might be a very worthwhile endeavor, but I still question whether it is more important than doing the job they were previously elected to do.

Others cannot even claim the excuse of campaigning. After one very close vote in the Senate recently when there was a great deal of absenteeism, a study was made of where the various absentees were. Many of them were campaigning, or were on business back in their home States. But some were vacationing on the ski slopes, in Europe or other places more exotic than Capitol Hill.

It's time to blow the whistle on that kind of behavior. It's time for Congress to begin policing itself so that it deserves the respect of the American people.



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Nelvin B. Empet
Sire Power Staff

Empet Named to Sire Power Staff

Nelvin B. Empet of Kingsley, Pennsylvania, has been appointed director of membership Relations and assistant Sales Manger for Sire Power, Inc. of Tunkhannock, Pa. In this capacity he will work closely with breed and farm groups and will be responsible for the development of sales and service programs throughout the Sire Power member co-op. areas of NEBA, the Maryland ABC and the West Virginia ABC.

Upon graduation from Penn State in 1965, Empet served as state fieldman for the Pennsylvania Holstein Association. He later taught vocational agriculture at Mountain View High School and worked in the family farm operation. Active in the community, he has served as a director and diary superintendent for the Harford Fair in Susquehanna County.

Nelvin and his wife Carol plan to relocate in the Wyoming County area.