

ED ESHLEMAN'S
WASHINGTON REPORT

Anyone who uses our Nation's rivers, streams and lakes recognizes the need for strong and effective water pollution control. Very recently the House of Representatives passed legislation to meet the need. If the legislation becomes law, it will be the most comprehensive and far-reaching measure ever to clear Congress for the purpose of restoring and enhancing the quality of our waterways and to insure their future as a lasting national asset.

But there is doubt in many minds around Capitol Hill about whether the President will get such a water quality bill for his signature this year. The problem stems from the fact that the Senate also has passed a bill to control water pollution and the Senate legislation is very different from that of the House. It is up to a conference committee to resolve the difference, but many people seem to feel that the committee is faced with an impossible task.

There would be hope of compromising the two versions of the legislation if there were not a fundamental difference between them. That basic clash is between idealism and realism.

The House bill is a realistic approach to the water pollution problem. In other words, it authorizes the spending of Federal funds in a variety of ways to improve water quality, and it sets goals for the kind of

quality standards to be obtained. But it does not set impossible standards. It recognizes that to conquer the problem we will need the cooperation of industries, municipalities and, above all, individuals.

The more idealistic approach to water quality would substitute coercion for cooperation. It would force business, local governments and others to meet goals that only the most ardent conservationists feel are practical. And it would ask them to do so with less Federal money. Essentially that's the Senate version.

The bleak outlook for compromise between these two approaches was obvious when the House passed its water bill. At that time several amendments were offered that would have brought the House legislation more in line with the Senate bill. Each of those amendments was rejected, most by wide margins.

Some of the amendments I personally supported where I felt the language would strengthen the bill without making it unrealistic. But because they failed, it should not be assumed that the House water bill is an anti-conservationist approach. Its devotion to realism may produce that which all people concerned about the environment want most — action.

Shropshire Breeders Announce Spring Meeting

The second annual Shropshire Bred Ewe sale will be held in conjunction with the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in November.

Several prominent breeders from the midwest have already indicated their intention to consign ewes to this sale.

The average price of bred ewes

sold in the first sale last November was \$92. Even greater response to this

years sale than last year is anticipated. It is time now to plan on participating in the sale.

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