



ED ESHLEMAN'S WASHINGTON REPORT

The recent flood disaster was the greatest tragedy to hit our area in modern times. Whether seen in terms of lives lost, property damaged and destroyed, public services crippled or dreams shattered, the devastation was immeasurable.

The dollars and cents estimates of our losses hardly tell the story of the suffering and agony that accompanied the flood and its aftermath.

But, as is often the case, out of tragedy arose some sources of strength and encouragement,

too. The idea that people generally are not very concerned about their fellow man anymore was disposed of when thousands of citizens volunteered time and money to help flood victims. The idea that government can no longer respond to people's needs was dismissed when it became apparent that there were programs available to provide relief and that those programs could be quickly implemented even in the face of a disaster far more extensive than ever

imagined when the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 was enacted. And perhaps most encouraging was that the idea that individuals are always looking for the easy way out was laid to rest when the flood victims themselves showed a determination and a willingness to pick up their lives and start over.

It shouldn't have to take a disaster to tell us that the individual American is still mindful

of his neighbor's needs and is still willing to meet adversity with a large dose of self-reliance.

Nor should it be a tragedy that makes us aware that government is capable of getting help to people in need of help.

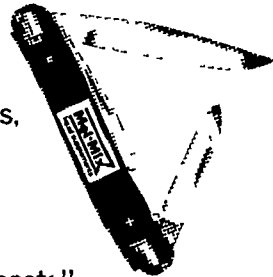
But because the flood emergency did make these things clear, we have a positive fact to build on in the future. We have been reassured that the strength that America always has called upon — the basic goodness of people and their rugged individualism — remains intact.

In the weeks and months ahead, the job of rebuilding will occupy much of our time and energy. It will stretch our patience at times, require a great deal of hard labor and cost vast sums of money. But, I think that the evidence already shows we are equal to the task and that the final product of our labor will be even better communities than we had before.

I want to make it clear that my offices and I stand ready to help flood victims, local officials, and all others who are involved with the work of rebuilding. Call on us whenever we can be of assistance.

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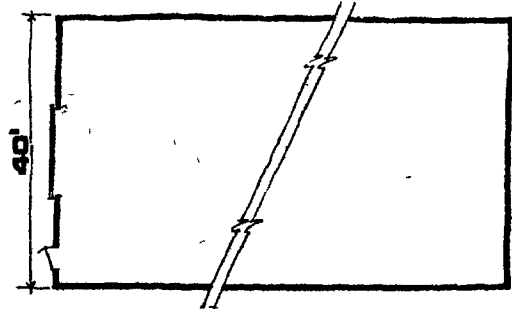
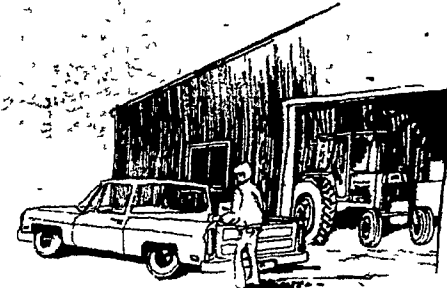
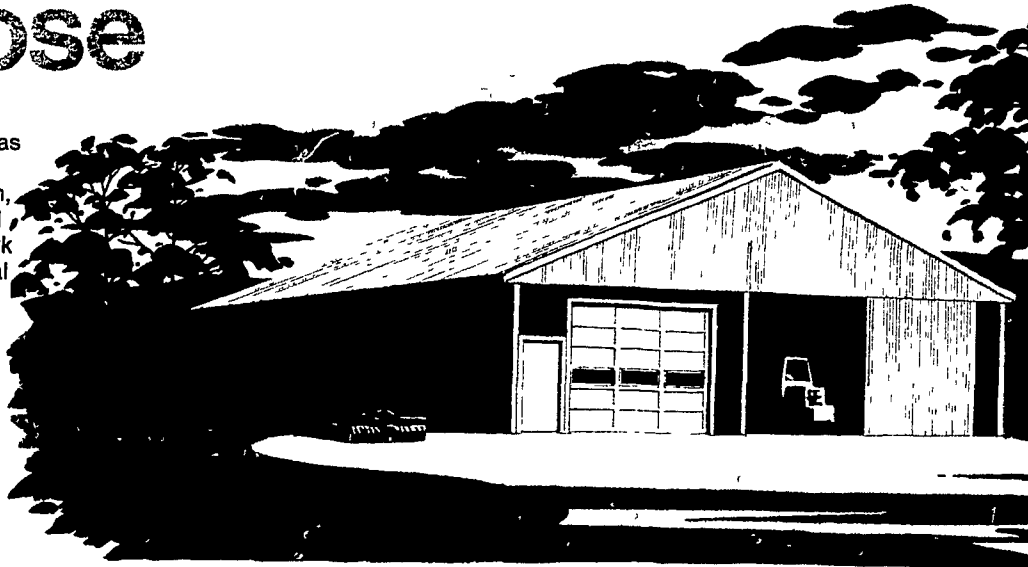
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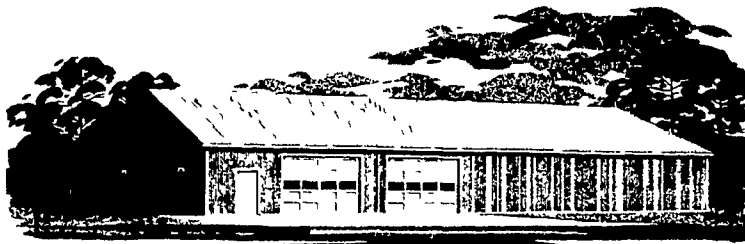
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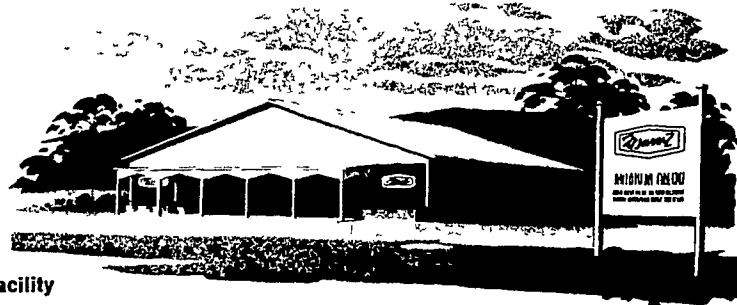


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