



ED ESHLEMAN'S WASHINGTON REPORT

Since the mid-1930s it has been illegal for Americans to own gold. This year there has been a bill moving through Congress to repeal that right.

Many of the reasons originally given for abolishing the right to gold ownership are no longer valid and have not been for some time. The only real excuse for continuing the ban has been that if American citizens were allowed this right, they might drain the Treasury of so much gold that it would be impossible for our government to fulfill its solemn obligation to convert dollars into gold for foreign central banks.

But, the recent changes in the international money market have largely eliminated the conversion to gold formula. Therefore, it would appear that no excuse exists for keeping gold out of the hands of American citizens.

The Treasury Department tends to disagree with that analysis, at least for now. The Under Secretary of the Treasury has said that he sees a certain amount of logic in allowing U. S. citizens to own and hold gold. But he does not believe this is the right time to make the change.

His reasoning stems from the Treasury Department's fear, among other things, that gold in public hands will be hoarded. But the question is just what difference that would make? We are told over and over again by this same department that gold has no effect on the nation's economy at all. Why then would hoarding gold be any more serious than if citizens began hoarding something else like safety pins or shoe strings.

Another objection of the

Treasury Department is that if the restraints on gold ownership were lifted now, it would cause speculation in the international money market and might further weaken the dollar abroad. But it is hard to see how things could get any more speculative than they already are — the gold price has gone to over \$100 an ounce from a \$40 price in April, 1971.

The only real economic effects I can see resulting from renewed gold ownership are pretty positive. First, gold ownership would give citizens the confidence of owning something of established value. Second, it might provide added incentive to the mining industry to go back into production and benefit our economy by opening the potential of new jobs.

But, there is another factor to be considered, too. Since there is no longer much logic connected with the ban on gold ownership, the issue is one of government limitation of individual rights versus individual freedom. In our free society we have assumed that law should be on the side of individual freedom unless there is an overwhelming case in favor of placing certain restrictions on that freedom.

Congress at one point felt that a case was made in favor of limiting the right to gold ownership. There is no such case today.

An examination of the evidence seems to make a pretty strong argument that Congress has moved in the right direction by moving toward renewing the right of every American to own gold.

Where to Store Toys - Providing good storage space for your child's toys will help him keep them in good condition. James Van Horn, Extension family life specialist at The Pennsylvania State University, says low, open shelves help your child learn to stack his toys neatly. A toy chest looks attractive, but too often a child simply tosses all his toys in the box in the corner. Soon dolls have missing arms and cars lack wheels. And when the child wants a certain toy, he usually turns the box over to find it quickly. Open shelves leave all toys in view so that your child can easily see and choose the one he wants to play with.

Medicare Extended to Many Disabled Starting July 1

Starting July 1, Medicare coverage will be extended to 1.7 million disabled people under 65.

Go With The Wind!

Energy hunters are on the prowl for new ways and means to help solve the energy crisis.

Scientist Frank Rom of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration says that wind carries enough energy to provide half the country's electrical power.

So, he is examining the possibility of building 100,000 windmills to make use of that energy.

Rom, a member of NASA's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, O., said a typical power plant can produce 1,000 megawatts and about 100 windmills would be needed to provide this much power.

He said that NASA is designing wind generators that are efficient and operate at low cost. Some will be constructed on a trial basis.

Serving Cheese - For best eating, Extension dairy specialists at The Pennsylvania State University say to serve cheese—except cottage cheese—at room temperature. Approximately 30 minutes before serving, cut off the amount you need and return the remaining portion to the refrigerator.

Disabled people who have received social security disability payments for two years or more will be able to get help from Medicare in paying their hospital and doctor bills and other covered services, according to Charles T. McCoy, social security district manager in Lancaster. Medicare was previously available only to people 65 or over.

In Lancaster County, more than 1,700 disabled persons will have Medicare coverage starting July 1.

"Those eligible for coverage," McCoy said, "will include disabled workers, disabled widows and disabled dependent widowers between 50 and 65, disabled mothers 50 or older who get social security benefits because they have young or disabled children in their care, and people who get benefits because they were disabled before age 22."

People getting monthly social security checks because they are disabled will be notified if they are eligible for Medicare. Widows 50 or over who have been severely disabled the last two years but haven't filed a claim because they're getting checks as mothers caring for young or disabled children should apply for disabled widows benefits to see if they can get Medicare.

"People under 65 who need kidney transplants or dialysis will be eligible for Medicare too, if they've worked long enough

under social security," McCoy said.

"This health insurance protection will also be available to insured workers' wives or husbands and dependent children who need dialysis or kidney transplants," he said.

Eligibility can begin in the third month after dialysis begins and can last through a year after the month dialysis ends or the patient had a kidney transplant, McCoy explained.

Starting July 1, the basic monthly premium for the medical insurance part of Medicare will be \$6.30, an increase of 50 cents a month over the current rate.

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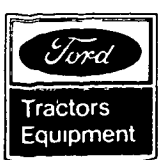
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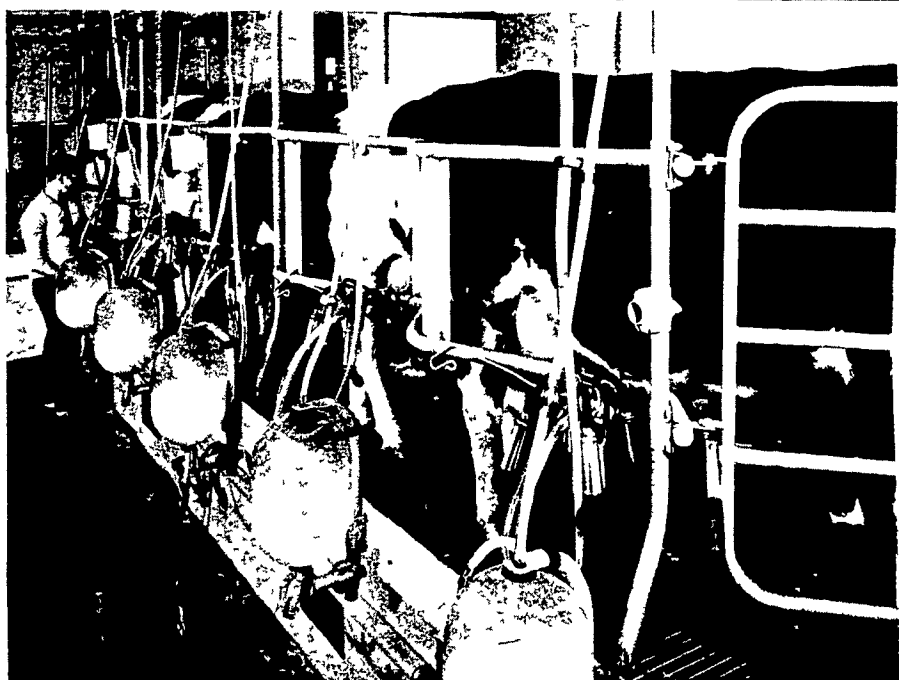
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