

ED ESHLEMAN'S WASHINGTON REPORT

It has become apparent, as our economy has faltered, that one of the real problem areas is the increased costs caused by government. This is not just the problem of big

government spending, serious as that is but also the impact of Federal programs and regulations on the private sector of the economy.

The price of the automobile has risen dramatically because of Federal pollution control and safety requirements. The increased car costs are, at least, partially responsible for the downturn in automobile sales.

Highways, power plants, public buildings and many more projects cost more because of Federal environmental mandates. Nearly all consumer items - meat, poultry, fabrics, land, boats, paint, and credit, to name a few - are higher priced because of government regulations passed within the last ten years.

The increased cost of everything has made us take a look at where prices are being pushed upward. Political liberals have been shocked to find something that moderates and conservatives have been saying for years; that nearly every new program government undertakes is expensive not only in terms of the tax

money it uses, but also in terms of its effect on the whole economy. Therefore, some liberals are beginning to say that maybe the economic impact of programs should be considered before they are rushed into law. As someone who has been concerned about this problem for a long time, I could not agree more.

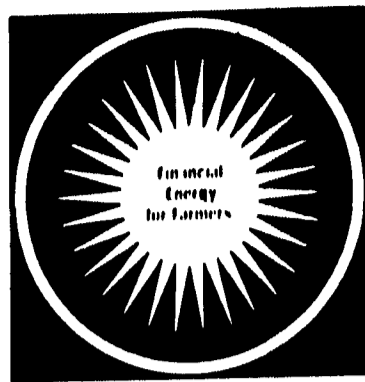
When the liberal Washington Post came out editorially the other day in favor of economic impact statements prior to legislating, I was surprised, probably even shocked. The Post said, "This is not to suggest that things like health insurance or safety regulations or meat inspection programs should be postponed or abandoned. Rather, it is to suggest that Congress and the public should be aware of the full

costs of the legislation it approves - and of the individuals or institutions that will be made to bear those costs."

In other words, it is high time that Congress does more than simply give in to every pressure group that comes along with an expensive new program. Attached to the bill that proposes that program should be a complete statement of what it is going to cost and who is going to pay the bill.

If the American people are aware in advance of the total expense that the Nation will be footing, there will be a good deal less enthusiasm for many legislative ideas. But it is only fair that they be given that information,

because we are seeing right over and over again, and the now that they pay the bill is very expensive.



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Pullet Producers Meet

Plain and Fancy Egg Ranch, Elizabethtown, R3, its pullet growers and producers met on Monday, March 10 at the General Sutter Inn, Lititz.

Guest for the evening was Dr. John V. Shutze, Head of the Extension Poultry Science Department at the University of Georgia, College of Agriculture in Athens, Ga.

Dr. Shutze spoke and showed slides on nutritional requirements, manufacturing, quality control, handling and feed quality on the farm. A round-table discussion followed.

PEOPLE BOOM

At the time of Christ the world's population was between 200 and 300 million. About 9 million lived in Egypt, 54 million throughout the Roman Empire and 60 million in China. A thousand years later there were not many more people on earth than there are in the United States today—about 275 million. In 1900 the world's population was only 1.6 billion, less than half what it is today.

The United States' share of world energy consumption is on the decline. In 1950, the U.S. consumed 44.5 percent of the world's energy. In 1970, it used 31.4 percent.

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