

# ED ESHLEMAN'S WASHINGTON REPORT

The issue of welfare reform is still with us as it has been ever since I came to Congress in 1967. Therefore, I think it is my responsibility to continue to explore avenues to accomplish that reform in the proper direction.

One of the areas that I have found disturbs great numbers of my constituents is welfare work requirements. There is a general feeling that no one should collect welfare who is able to work. To my way of thinking that logic should be carried even further than

some people are willing to go and we should require that persons on welfare should be required to take any job offered them that they are capable of doing, not just jobs that happen to be in their particular line of work.

To that end, I recently introduced legislation which, if passed, would force both the Labor Department and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to put such a requirement in their welfare regulations. Under my proposal, a person collecting welfare would have to take any job

available that he or she was physically and mentally capable of performing. It would stop this nonsense of allowing welfare to support people who are unwilling to consider good, honest work that happens to be outside their area of speciality. The taxpayers - many of who are working at jobs which are not their first choice either - cannot afford to continue this inequitable system.

In addition to my own bills, I have joined more than fifty other Congressmen in introducing a comprehensive welfare reform measure that is aimed primarily at correcting deficiencies in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. AFDC is both the nation's most costly welfare program and the one most subject to abuse. What our bill intends to do is close the loopholes and end the abuses that are costing us so many tax dollars. All told, it has been estimated that a total of \$1.8 billion could be saved if this legislation is enacted. There are several specific

things that the National Welfare Reform Act sets out to achieve. First, it is designed to stop the practice of permitting persons with relatively high incomes to remain on the welfare rolls.

Second, it would eliminate ineligible people from the rolls and curtail opportunities for fraud.

Third, it would require that the outside resources available to recipients be carefully identified and that they be calculated into the need formula.

Fourth, it would base its provisions on the concept of family responsibility and strengthen child support requirements thus making absentee fathers pick up their fair share of the cost of raising a child rather than throwing the burden to the taxpayer.

Fifth, it would strengthen work requirements and give the States greater opportunity to develop programs designed to move people back to self-sufficiency.

While there is considerable doubt that these welfare ideas will get serious consideration in this Congress, we must make the effort. In these times of rising costs and dwindling confidence, our welfare system stands as

## Lockey to Address Beekeepers

Dr. Stephen D. Lockey, Sr., a specialist in allergies, will talk to the Lancaster County Beekeepers on hymenopterous venom allergies at the first seasonal meeting Thursday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Dr. Lockey is world renowned for his work in all types of allergies. He recently addressed an allergy symposium in Paris, France. Dr. Lockey has an office on West End Avenue in Lancaster.

The discussion and talk will include information on the risks of beekeeping and the signs of severe systematic anaphylaxis. Interested people are welcome to attend.

A beekeeper's business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. prior to Dr. Lockey's address. The program committee has planned a series of seasonal meetings

a prime example of government failure both for those in real need and for those who must pay the bill. It must be changed.

oriented toward the beginning and prospective beekeepers.

A free will offering will be taken at the meeting.

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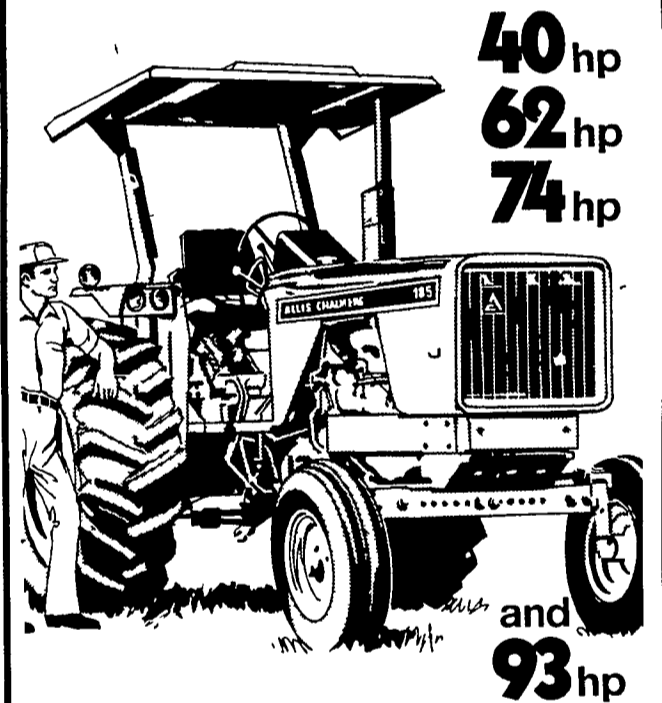
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