

Social Security exemption sought for Amish

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) has introduced legislation to exempt the Amish and certain other groups from paying Social Security taxes.

As part of their religion, the Old Order Amish oppose all forms of Social Security, including old-age pensions. Their objection is based on the belief that Social Security is a form of in-

urance, and participation in an insurance program would show mistrust in the providence and care of God to meet future needs. This belief is embodied in the Dordrecht Confessions, which predates the U.S. Constitution.

"The groundwork for an exemption for the Amish has been laid," Schweiker said. "The Internal Revenue Code already provides an

exemption from self-employment tax if a person can show he is a member of a religious sect which follows the practice of making provisions for its dependent members," he said. "Now we must extend the exemption to cover those who work for others.

Schweiker's legislation (introduced Friday, August 5) provides that any member of a recognized religious sect in existence since at least 1950, who can show that he is an adherent of established teachings which cause him to be conscientiously opposed to acceptance of Social Security benefits, may file an application to be entitled to a credit or refund of the wage tax. The applicant must also show that the religious sect has made it a practice to care for its

elderly and dependent members.

Employers would continue to pay into the Social Security Fund, thus eliminating any chance that the exemption would make one employee more desirable than another.

There are currently some 19,000 Old Order Amish in 19 states. The exemption is also expected to apply to some 5,000 Old Order Mennonites and smaller groups such as the Hutterites and the Exclusives.

Schweiker began his efforts to exempt the Amish from the Social Security tax in 1961 while a Congressman. In the Senate, he introduced legislation in 1970 and 1972 that passed the senate but it was dropped in conference with the House. "The issue incorporated in this bill

is fundamental and I will continue my efforts to see it enacted into law," Schweiker said. "I feel strongly

that this government must not ride roughshod over the religious rights of a minority."

Juniors seen at rodeo

WOODSTOWN, N.J. - Junior Bull riding was featured at the Cowtown Rodeo August 6. Randy Hiles of Bridgeton, N.J. was the only junior cowboy who managed to ride the full six seconds to win first, however a second, third, and fourth place was awarded for the efforts of Steve Woodruff, Scott Fowler, and Wade Shidner respectively.

Kaye Kirby, Woodstown, N.J. and Jack Meli of St. Cloud, Florida, both scored a mark of 67 in the bare back bronc riding.

Andy Harris, Cowtown, N.J. scored a 65 in the bull riding.

Joe Merola of Penns Grove, N.J., this season's constant calf roping winner, was tops again with his 14.4 seconds.

Sherman Shidner of Sharptown made one of the best throws of the season in the steer wrestling event. Sherman's quick time of 5.3 seconds has been exceeded only once in the arena this year.

Lorraine Alexander, Newtown, N.J. continued her winning streak. She ran the barrel racing in 17.60 seconds.

Complete results of the rodeo follow:

Bare Back Bronc Riding:
1. Jack Meli, St. Cloud, Fla., 67 mark split; 2. Kaye Kirby, Woodstown, N.J., 67 mark split; 3. Glen Yeo, Nevada, 65; 4. Jimmie Lee Walker, Woodstown, N.J., 64.

Calf Roping
1. Joe Merola, Penns Grove, N.J., 14.4 seconds; 2. Andy Jackson, Peach Bottom, Pa., 18.7; 3. Smokey Smith, Townsend, Del., 25.8; 4. Grant Harris, Cowtown, N.J., 40.6.

Saddle Bronc Riding
1. Grant Harris, Cowtown, N.J., 63 mark; 2. Don Reeder, Woodstown, N.J., 62; 3. Bryson Wagner, Lewistown, Pa., 57; 4. Ground Split Tom Swenson, Willie Ed Walker, and Dan Aurand.

Steer Wrestling
1. Sherman Shidner, Sharptown, N.J., 5.3 seconds; 2. Butch Dase, Staton Island, N.Y., 6.0; 3. John Reno, Irvington, N.J., 8.7; 4. Dan Cummings, New Zealand, 9.3;

Brahma Bull Riding
1. Andy Harris, Cowtown, N.J., 65 mark; 2. Kaye Kirby, Woodstown, N.J., 63; 3. Chester Lloyd 3rd., Pedricktown, N.J., 60; 4. T. J. Hawkins, Scott Aurand Split, 59.

Barrel Race
1. Lorraine Alexander, Newton, N.J., 17.60; 2. Kathy Trost, Lebanon, N.J., 18.22; 3. Pat Arent, Vincentown, N.J., 18.42; 4. Karne Baily, and Pat Mills Split 18.51.

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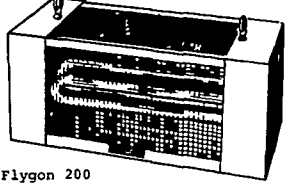
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