

Washington legislators deal with heavenly topics

WASHINGTON, D.C. — State lawmakers in Washington dealt with heavenly matters this week.

Of concern was sending things up to heaven and what was coming back down from the heavens.

School prayer and acid rain both occupied the Congress's time.

Lancaster County Congressman Bob Walker

has written a proposal which would forbid the newly formed U.S. Department of Education from using any funds to prevent voluntary prayer or meditation in school.

Walker said he intends to submit his proposal when the House considers the amount and size of the 1981 Education budget. That probably will happen later in

the summer.

At the same time, the U.S. Senate passed Maryland's Jesse Helms, voluntary school prayer bill, SB 450, by a vote of 51 to 40.

The legislation has been sent to the U.S. House where it will await action by the House Judiciary Committee.

Walker, joining Representatives Goodling, McDade, Murphy, Schuster,

and Yatron, signed Discharge Petition number 7 which would allow SB 450 to bypass the in's and out's of the Judiciary Committee and go directly to the floor for a final vote.

The Discharge Petition was filled by Illinois Representative Phil Crane and so far has been signed by about 150 members of the House.

Walker said he figures about 71 more names are needed to get the total of 218 required.

Meantime, a House-Senate conference committee has accepted legislation co-sponsored by Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania to establish an Acid Rain Task Force.

Studies have shown that parts of Pennsylvania receive the most potent acid precipitation anywhere in the United States and possibly the world.

Threatened are the delicate grape crops of Erie County, field crops across the state, and the sanity of farm water supplies—an especially touchy consideration for dairymen.

The Task Force is charged with studying the causes of acid rain and recommending steps to remedy its adverse effects.

Acid rain is the result of nitrogen and sulfur dioxides combining in the air with water molecules to form two of the most corrosive substances known: nitric and sulfuric acids.

The legislation will require the Task Force to come up with a 10 year plan to establish a monitoring network; to develop models to enable prediction of long-range transport of substances causing acid rain; to examine the effect of acid rain on soils, soil organisms, aquatic and amphibious

organisms, crop plants, and forests; make economic assessments of the environmental impact caused by acid rain on crops, forests, fisheries and recreational resources.—CH

Berwick Vegetable Co-op sets 27th annual meeting

BERWICK — The Berwick Vegetable Cooperative will host its membership and area farm leaders on the occasion of its 27th Annual Dinner Meeting, June 14, 1980, at the Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech School, R5, Bloomsburg.

The Cooperative's guest speaker of the evening will

be Mrs. Ruth Hand, Home Economist, Schuylkill County Extension Service.

Hand earned a B.S. Degree in Home Economics from Mansfield State College. She taught a course in Home Economics in the High Schools of Schuylkill County prior to her present responsibility with the Extension Service.

She is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in 1960 from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction and the Distinguished Service Award in 1978 from the National Association of Extension Home Economists.

The evening's activities

will begin with registration at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., and Hand's address entitled "The Upbeat Attitude" at 8 p.m.

Berwick Vegetable Cooperative was founded 27 years ago to provide a produce marketing service and a farm supply purchasing service to the vegetable and potato growers of several counties surrounding Berwick.

BVC now services producers in 22 counties of Northeastern Pennsylvania and three counties of Western Pennsylvania.

This annual event attracts many State Legislatures, Cooperative Extension Service dignitaries, and agri-business leaders of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Lewisburg vet named to Ag Department post

LEWISBURG — Max A. Van Buskirk, Jr., VMD, of R5, Lewisburg, Union County, has been appointed Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell. Van Buskirk, 48, assumed his duties on May 21, 1980.

"Max Van Buskirk has an extensive background in both agriculture and veterinary medicine," Hallowell said in announcing the appointment. "I am pleased that he has accepted the position. His expertise and understanding of animal health problems will be a great help to our efforts on behalf of the state's livestock and dairy industries. Dr. Van Buskirk also has a good understanding of administrative needs which will be essential to the Commonwealth's animal health program."

Dr. Van Buskirk has been

a general practitioner of veterinary medicine and surgery for 24 years. He is the owner of the Lewisburg Veterinary Hospital.

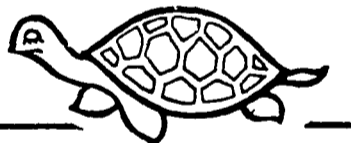
Van Buskirk is a past president of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association and a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association. He served as Area Director for the American Animal Hospital Association for Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

He has served as a member of the Regional

Health Planning Agency for the Susquehanna Development Authority and the Kelly Township Municipal Authority, where he served six years as chairman.

He was graduated from Lewisburg Area High School in 1949 and studied at Bucknell University in Lewisburg. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1956.

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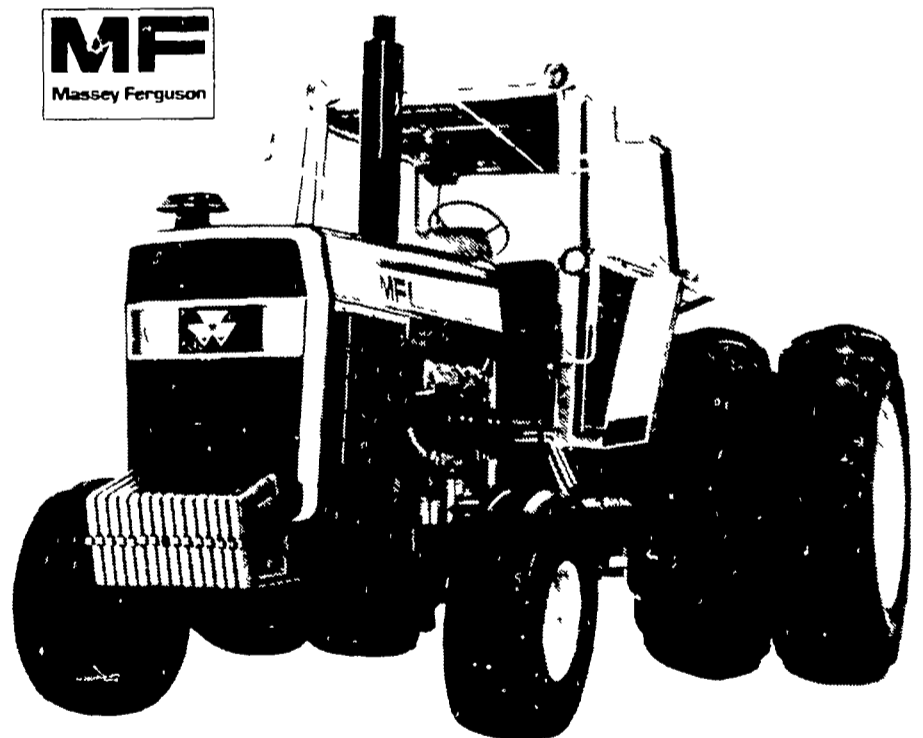
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