

Walker introduces reform measure

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Pennsylvania's 16th district Congressman Bob Walker Monday announced that the first piece of legislation he introduced at the opening session of the 97th Congress was the Food Stamp Reform Act of 1981.

The Walker proposal would convert the current program into one entirely run by the states at an anticipated savings of some \$500 million in duplicative administrative costs.

One of the top priorities of the new Congress and Administration must be to eliminate wasteful federal spending practices. This Food Stamp Reform proposal speaks directly to this problem by initially saving half a billion dollars in unnecessary administrative costs. Over the long run it could cut \$2 billion from a \$10 billion program and still provide nutritional assistance to the truly needy," Walker commented as he submitted his proposal following the swearing-in ceremonies today.

Walker explained the Senate Agriculture Committee has already indicated its desire to revise the Food Stamp Program and that routing social welfare programs of waste and fraud is a top priority of the Reagan Administration.

The program currently being administered by the Department of Agriculture has increased 30,000 percent since its creation 17 years ago. Yet in the crush of this expansion, the administrators have lost sight of the program's original purpose of providing nutritional assistance to the truly needy, Walker said.

"This proposal presents a real alternative to the failure of the present Food Stamp Program by requiring states to include nutritional

components in their programs and by permitting states to establish workfare requirements to tighten eligibility," he added.

The Walker Food Stamp Reform proposal contains language similar to legislation he introduced during the previous Congress.

It finances the food stamp program with block grants to the states thereby eliminating much administrative overhead cost and assuring a more efficient program.

It provides for significant reductions in fraud, waste, and abuse by encouraging the states to run tight programs so that they would qualify for discretionary use of excess funds.

It requires the states to include a nutritional component in their programs to assure reduced costs and to reestablish the intent of the program - that nutritional needs be served.

It permits the states to establish workfare components with stricter work requirements than presently exist, a concept which has been shown in demonstration projects to significantly reduce caseloads and costs.

I am cosponsoring separate pieces of legislation to provide tax relief to small business and to index personal income taxes. I have also agreed to cosponsor a Constitutional Amendment proposal requiring a balanced federal budget and the Administrative Rule-making Reform Act - a bill which provides for a legislative veto option on federal agency regulations," Walker explained.

All these proposals are clearly in line with the plans the Reagan Administration has for its first several months in office.

McConaughy wears National Southdown crown

SMICKSBURG — Darlene McConaughy, daughter of Clyde & Lois McConaughy, Smicksburg, has been named the 1981 National Southdown Queen at the North American Livestock Exposition.

Darlene was selected on the basis of personal appearance, poise, knowledge of Southdown Sheep and garment appearance. Her self-made garment was a 100% wool Pendleton suit of teal blue jacket and a matching plaid skirt.

During her reign as National Southdown Queen Darlene will assist with various Southdown promotions, including participation at local, county, state and national shows handing out ribbons and taking care of a Southdown Promotional booth which she will set up.

She is currently the owner of 35 head of sheep and has exhibited sheep both locally and at the Keystone

Livestock Exposition.

Darlene has been on The Indiana County 4-H Livestock Judging Team for the past 4 years. She has won the county judging contest twice as high individual. She has also won Master Fitting and Showman awards for the past 8 years in County 4-H Shows.

Other honors are Penna 4-H Sheep State winner 1979, Outstanding County Livestock Member, Pennsylvania Outstanding 4-H Livestock Producer, Vice-President for County Council, Member of The County Lamb and Wool Growers Board of Directors, and 1980 Pa State Commodity Marketing Winner.

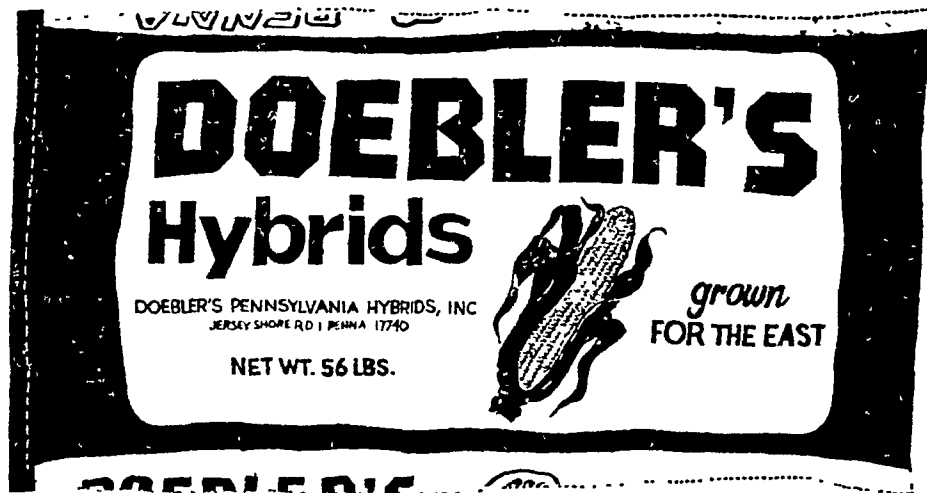
Darlene is a senior at Punxsutawney Area Senior High School, Punxsutawney.

The McConaughy family was the Commonwealth's first farm family to be honored by a Pennsylvania Governor. Richard Thornburgh as The Farm Show Family of The Year of 1980.

In the future, Darlene will attend Penna State University where she will major in Horticulture.



Darlene McConaughy



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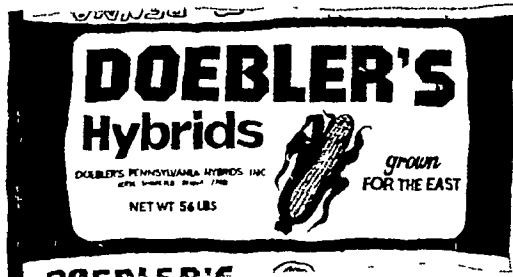
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