

Walker Visits Lancaster, Chester Farms

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standards.

"The way we regulate is changing," Walker said. "We don't need bureaucrats making decisions at the federal and state level and getting in each other's way. We are spending more for legal costs than we are for environmental clean up. We need a series of national standards and allow the states to enforce these standards in a way that makes sense to the local areas. But if you pollute the streams, for example, we are going to go after you. We are eliminating layers of bureaucracy, but we are not going to lower environmental standards. "In regulation reform, you need to make certain that there is good science to take the suggested action. Are the benefits large enough to justify the cost? EPA should be required to apply the economic test every time it goes with a regulatory package.

As for tax reduction, Walker said he believed the new tax package would be likely to contain two things: a reduction in capital gains tax down to about 19 or 20 percent and a \$500 per child tax credit.

"We are acting across the board to eliminate a lot of spending," Walker said. "But you can't cut the budget without cutting the budget. You need to do litigation, taxation, and regulation reform at the same time you cut the budget. That way everything comes together, and you can end up with a more profitable agriculture."

Walker said he opposes a sales or consumption tax because it hasn't worked in other countries. He favors a flat tax but said there is no simple answer to this question because exemptions in the flat tax lead to the same problems we have now.

Walker said he expected a new farm bill to be formed by the end of September so it could be part of the reconciliation bill to get the farm bill provisions into the budget. But he said there is a lot of disagreement by segments of agriculture and those outside of agriculture about what should go into the farm bill. The debate will be "an interesting brawl before we find the approach," Walker said.

"Farmers need to be good business people," Walker said. "The wealth of the future is going to be



Farmers gather on straw bales to discuss political issues with US Representative Bob Walker.

created by cleverness, manipulation of information. You could do it by muscle. But in the future it will be done by brain power. The individual farmer that is the most

clever in using the information that is available will make money."

Also on the tour were the farms of Leroy and Lloyd Welk, Quarryville; Harry and Dorthy Troop and

Dave and Becky Troop, Cochranville, and Dave and Bob Hodge, West Chester.

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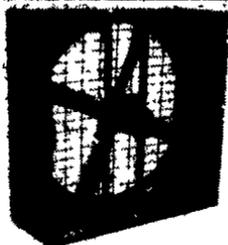
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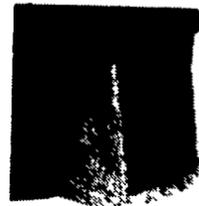
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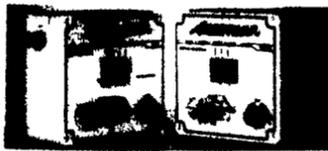
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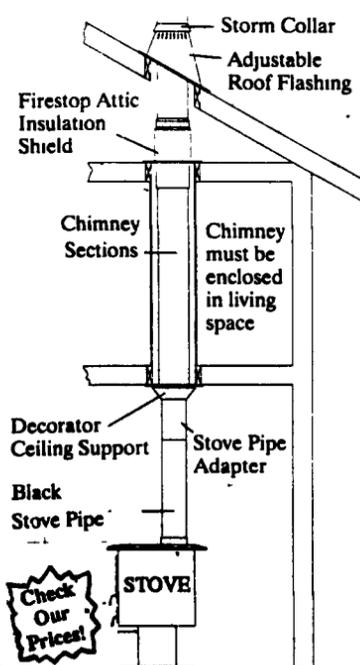
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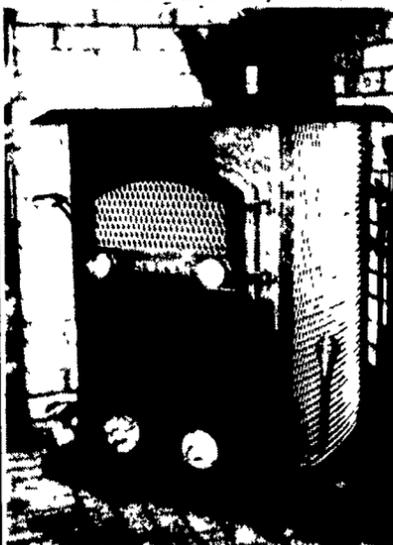


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