

# Bob Walker

visits East Donegal,  
talks with citizens about issues

Bob Walker, our congressman, visited Harold Ney's farm near Maytown last week. About 20 people gathered at Ney's to hear Walker speak off the cuff and answer questions.

The visit was sponsored by Lancaster County chapter of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. Harold Ney is on the board of directors of the PFA.

Mr. Walker, accompanied by several aides, was spending the day traveling to various farms. For this reason, most of the questions asked him at Ney's residence concerned farmers' problems. Many of those attending were farmers.

Our congressman arrived late, but immediately began speaking animatedly in response to a variety of questions. He never seemed to be at a loss for words.

When it was time for Walker to leave, it became evident why he had been late in the first place — he wouldn't go. "One last question," he said, and then proceeded to answer three more. Mr. Walker obviously enjoys talking. Finally, an aide stood beside Mr. Walker as a reminder that he had another appointment, and he was gone in less than five minutes.

Here are some of the questions addressed to the congressman, and his replies:

**What is the impact of the current farmers' strike?**

Mr. Walker said that, while the strike is focusing attention on legitimate problems, it could lead to more problems for farmers in the long run. Walker is against any sort of guaranteed farm income: he pointed out that if farmers were paid by the government, they would become government employees and lose their independence. Farms are small businesses and should be left alone.

Walker sees as one solution a guaranteed market for farm produce, and feels the public should be educated about the relationship between produce prices and retail food prices. Many of the proposed solutions, he feels, would be devastating to farmers as small businessmen. Excessive regulations would attend these solutions.

**Is Carol Forman doing a good job?**

Walker thinks Ms. Forman doesn't understand the basic issues, as is typical of people in government who have taken a side to stand for. He gave

her approval of the use of food stamps in restaurants as example of a bad decision she has made.

**Do legislators recognize farmers' problems?**

Legislators from farming areas are well aware of the problems, he said, but those with urban constituents ignore farmers. The situation would be better if everyone, including legislators, were aware of how dependent they are on food production, and how inter-related all Americans are in this area. A typical breakfast, he noted, is composed of orange juice from Florida, butter from Wisconsin, and cereal from the Midwest.

**Why are produce prices fixed?**

The problem, Walker said, is lack of competition. If more markets were available, prices would be more fair.

Certain imported foods are competing unfairly due to government interference. Subsidies should be removed and uniform standards imposed. Food should not be a government business, he said, adding, "the only business the government runs outright is the post office — and we all know how efficient the post office is."

In the last few years the government urged farmers to increase grain production, he noted, and then shut down the market when the farmers produced.

**What can farmers do about their land being taken for government projects?**

"I'm opposed to government control," Walker reiterated again. "I like Ken Shirk's idea of letting landowners waive all rights to sell land for development in return for tax credits. The county would hold the land in trust." He said that Amishmen he had talked with liked the idea also. Under this plan, the deed could perhaps be permanently changed, to keep the acreage in farms forever.

**What about people living in developments who complain about the noise or smell of farm operations?**

"Whatever the court says, goes," Walker said, noting that he gets many complaints about farm operations from people who are "too cheap to hire a lawyer." He said that he has little sympathy with people who move to "the country" and then bring their neighbors into court for carrying on their business.

**Can you shed any light on the new Social Security bill?**

"If you love taxes, you'll live this bill," Walker said. He said that, by the mid 1980's, Social Security taxes will be doubled. The reason for this, he said, is that Congress didn't want to pare the system down to its original scope, i.e., old age pensioning. Walker noted that Medicare, welfare, and other programs have been dipping into the Social Security fund for years.

The increases taxes will "devastate our economy," he said, within ten years.

He said that Barry Goldwater favors abolishing the system entirely, but he himself feels that Social Security is necessary in some form.

**Why are we importing so much steel?**

Walker indicated that foreign subsidy programs are responsible for the sad condition of the domestic steel industry, although our steel manufacturers did make a bad mistake by not keeping up investments in efficient modern equipment. Governments of foreign steel making countries subsidize the product to keep employment up, and America should levy tariffs to give our steel makers a fair chance, he said. Even with the huge cost of pollution controls, we could compete without the foreign subsidies, he said.

**Other topics**

Mr. Walker spoke in favor of a balanced Federal budget, and criticized president Carter for not keeping his campaign promise to lower the national debt. Carter's budget calls for \$15 billion more debt this year. Inflation is the fault of the unbalanced budget, Walker asserted.

Speaking of Federal programs, he said that "programs don't serve the people, they serve the constituency." Programs should be combined to make them more efficient without eliminating services. Here again he criticized Carter for increasing the number of Federal jobs.

Among those attending the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Allen Esbenschade, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Breneman, Howard C. Sipling, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Charles, Donald Mowrer, Dwight Hess, Donald Drager, Grace Bixler, Harry B. Blessing, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. Garber, and Mrs. Richard Bromer.

Members of the congressman's entourage were Ivan Yost, Mark Phillips, Earl Newcomer, and Helen M. Wivell.



Sherri Kinsey (in white) grabs a rebound for Donegal. The Indian girls are making all the right moves this year

## Indian girls look good

Donegal has had a girls' basketball program for the past two years, but until this winter, the girls' play was so clumsy that it was almost painful to watch. There was no elementary-level basketball program for the girls, and they had to learn the game in varsity competition.

This year, things are different. With plenty of experience under their belts, the Donegal girls have become a polished, competitive team.

The games are fun to watch. Plays are run with smooth precision.

None of the Donegal girls seem to be outstanding outside shooters, but their ball-handling and teamwork make long shots unnecessary.

The team's ball-handling expertise is backed up by a hustling defense. The girls have plenty of stamina, and they can shift into a running game whenever they want to — which is often.

Not surprisingly, they are winning games.

The fans are beginning to wake up to the fact that, this year, girls' basketball is a very exciting sport at Donegal High. The crowds are not nearly as big as the throngs at boys' games,

but they are bigger than last year's handful.

They will undoubtedly get bigger.



Miss Keffer sinks a basket.