

Hefner eyes textile law

Responding to the latest report from the Congressional Textile Caucus, Congressman Bill Hefner has pledged to redouble his efforts toward a comprehensive textile import bill. Hefner said he is "deeply involved" in the creation and introduction of textile legislation that is expected in early February.

Hefner has been working closely with Congressman Ed Jenkins, Chairman of the Congressional Textile Caucus, "to put together a bipartisan coalition along with several Senate cosponsors."

He said that "the goal is to create fair trade."

The Textile Caucus report said in 1984 textile mill closings led to a loss of 14,000 jobs, and a payroll decline of nearly \$200 million. Among the companies listed as having closed or phased out plants were J.P. Stevens & Co., Burlington Industries, and Cannon Mills of Kannapolis, North Carolina.



Corn growers honored

Fifty-six corn growers and their wives from Hoke County and across North Carolina were honored in Raleigh February 1 and 2 by DEKALB-PFIZER GENETICS. Recognized for their outstanding yields using DEKALB hybrids, the group was treated to a dinner/theater production Friday evening at the Governor's Inn in Research Triangle Park, and then on Saturday each grower was presented a plaque displaying the yield per acre he had achieved. The awards were based on the yield records submitted in the 1984 North Carolina Corn Growers Contest and the 1984 National Corn Grower Association Contest. Joe Napier (left) DEKALB-PFIZER representative for Hoke County presents the awards to growers from this area - including Neil McKenzie, (right) Z.V. Pate, Inc., Raeford, accompanied by Debbie Faircloth (center).

Southern eating changing

Prompted by evidence that Southern households of the mid-1960s were lagging in their intake of some nutrients, two economics researchers at North Carolina State University have analyzed newer information to find out whether that pattern has changed.

Dr. Ronald A. Schrimper and doctoral candidate Christine Hager found some significant changes in Southern nutritional patterns between 1965 and 1977, the year of the most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture survey of household food consumption.

"The trends are somewhat mixed," Schrimper said, "in that we saw improvement in some categories, no change in some and a decrease in nutrients in others."

The USDA surveys of household food consumption are made to find out how adequate diets are and what changes in nutritional patterns have occurred, Schrimper said.

Comparing the national surveys to the Census, he said it will be

another five to six years before updated information is available.

In their study funded by the N.C. Agricultural Research Service, the NCSU researchers classified nutrients into three groups: total food energy, or calories, from protein, fat and carbohydrates; minerals, calcium and iron; and vitamins A, C, thiamine and riboflavin.

Comparing changes that took place in the South with national trends, Schrimper and Hager cited these as among the most significant patterns:

- Iron intake in the South in the 19-and-under age group rose and for infants nearly doubled.

- Calcium deficiencies, except for the elderly, were greater in the South than in the rest of the nation.

- Calorie intake for most groups decreased in the South more than in the rest of the nation.

Increased iron for infants and children was the result of fortified infant formula and cereal, according to the USDA. And, said

Hager, between 1965 and 1977 the number of participants in the food stamp program also increased.

Hager, a former Peace Corps volunteer who taught nutrition for two years in Colombia to mothers of malnourished children, said the decrease in iron intake in women of child-bearing age was of "special concern." Women in this group were getting less than two-thirds of the USDA's Recommended Dietary Allowance, she said.

Southerners seemed to increase their intake of vitamins, especially A and C, said Schrimper, a research specialist in food consumption and demand. However, he added that people across the country increased their vitamin C intake.

Compared with the rest of the nation, calorie intake from all sources decreased more in the South, he said. "It's hard to tell whether this is good or bad since we don't know how many calories people require."

Research helping lupus victims

By Charles Blackburn
Duke Univ. Medical Center
"When I entered the room, everyone looked so healthy, I was on the verge of asking a woman: 'Do you know where the lupus convention is meeting?' Then I saw that scared and lonely look in her eyes, and I knew I was in the right place."

For Debbie Smith, 33, of Greensboro, that look at a recent state convention of lupus victims was all too familiar. The fear and loneliness have been a way of life for her for 12 long years.

She is among perhaps half a million nationwide suffering from this mysterious and sometimes fatal rheumatic disease, according to estimates by the Arthritis Foundation. But she's found strength in support groups, like the one she leads in her hometown and the convention in Raleigh.

Now she has extended her battle against the disease to the laboratory by establishing a lupus research fund at Duke University Medical Center to help scientists in their quest to identify the cause and find a cure.

"I want to tell fellow lupus victims to hang in there. Some of us who are physically able are out here working to find the answers," she said.

Lupus erythematosus causes the body's immune system to turn against itself, attacking healthy tissue and joints. It strikes women nine times more often than men,

Health Hints

usually in the prime of life, between the ages of 20 and 40. Although lupus is no longer generally fatal, as it once was, it is still a painful and disabling disease for many.

The Debbie Smith Lupus Research Fund was begun with a donation of \$22,000 in stock from Greensboro businessman Charles A. Hayes, chairman of the board of Guilford Mills, Inc.

"My mother works at Guilford Mills, and Mr. Hayes has known my family for some time," Ms. Smith said. "He knows that this disease has been hard on all of us, not just me. He's a very compassionate man, and I can't thank him enough for his support."

Additional contributions may be sent to the Debbie Smith Lupus Research Fund, Box 3892, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C., 27710.

According to Dr. Ralph Snyderman, Duke professor and chief of rheumatology and immunology, the fund will be used to support innovative research by young scientists.

"Due to the limited availability of research funds, worthwhile projects are often tabled for lack of support," Snyderman said. "We are delighted and grateful to have this additional source."

He said the fund would also be used to invite a distinguished scien-

tist in the field to Duke once a year as a visiting professor during Lupus Awareness Week in November.

Many lupus victims, like Ms. Smith, appear perfectly healthy. But they describe the disease as an endless roller coaster ride—marked by days during which they feel on top of the world, and days when the diseases leaves them bedridden, plunging them into depression.

"I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy," Ms. Smith said. "And I wouldn't want any child to go through what my son has had to go through with me. He's had to grow up fast, never knowing what was going to happen to his mother next."

In her early 20s, prior to developing lupus, Ms. Smith led an active life as a cosmetologist, a model, and an acting and dancing instructor. "I was into anything that had to do with the fine arts," she said.

But as the disease progressed, it became disabling.

"There were times when the pain and swelling were so bad my ex-husband had to bathe and dress me," she said.

Thanks to advances in therapy, she's doing much better now.

Up until the early 1970s, lupus was considered fatal, with kidney failure the primary cause of death, according to Snyderman.

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