EDITORIAL

Photo by Jennifer Short

As I thought about what we might expect for 1986, the most important news affecting our industry is the tax revision bill just finished by the House Ways and Means Committee. Unfortunately, the final version of the committee's bill would eliminate or drastically reduce two of the most important incentives for the type of economic growth that pulled our nation out of the recession of the early 1980's — Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Accelerated Depreciation.

The committee has refused to couple tax revision with progress on the nation's most pressing economic problem, its $200 billion deficit, and they failed to consider the overall economic impact of their proposals. It seems that they closed or opened loopholes depending on the clout of the people affected, not on the need to generate more jobs and make U.S. industries more competitive in world markets. ITC and Accelerated Depreciation will be removed just at the time American Industry is struggling to stabilize its position in world commerce.

The AGMA, the National Association of Manufacturers and hundreds of other business groups are trying to get across to the President and Congress that the removal of these incentives are both dangerous and unhealthy to our economic well being. If you ever felt inclined to write to your congressman, now is the time. Tell the President, your Representative and your Senator that the removal of the ITC and Accelerated Depreciation would be injurious to your industry and our country. They should vote against this bill as written and, if passed, it should be vetoed.

No matter what 1986 holds for us, we cannot let up on the intense effort which we are making to change our machines, our companies, our products, processes, and managements. We must continue to reinvest our profits, no matter how meager, to try and ensure our own future.

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