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STAFF

Alfred C. Alspach Publisher
 Robert E. Best Editor
 Robert G. Campbell..... Advertising Director
 Robert J. Wiggins..... Circulation Director

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Business Down — Not Depressed

THE TREND IN business activity is downward as compared to the closing months of 1956.

Leading the decline are automobiles, household appliances, metals, leather products, lumber, textiles, building activity, furniture and floor coverings.

The total output of industry stood at an index of 147—1947 to 1949 equals 100—at the close of 1956. It's now 145.

The situation is not a matter of great concern, as the decline is likely to be moderate and relatively short in duration. Prices and the cost of living continue to rise—as do wages and disposable personal incomes.

Consumers have both money and credit and their desire to use them is reflected in increased retail sales. Business men are buying, too. Total business sales in July were \$57.3 billion—up two per cent from the previous month and up six per cent from a year ago.

Business inventories at \$90.9 billion were up slightly from the previous month and five per cent up from a year ago.

Employment is down about one per cent from a month ago and from the corresponding date in 1956. This is largely due to students and housewives withdrawing from the labor force and the reduced activity in the automobile industry.

The decline in number of wage earners has been offset by increased rates of pay. Hourly August earnings averaged \$2.07, five per cent above the previous August. Weekly earnings were \$82.59—up four per cent from the previous year.

A look at the entire economic situation leads to an attitude of cautious optimism.

Expenditures for modernizing plants are breaking all records this year although investments in new plants and equipment are below earlier estimates. The urge to expand quickly has declined. Consumer needs are being met and there is little need for adding to inventories.

The government is in an economy mood, but the effect will not become fully apparent for several months as unexpended appropriations will delay the effect of current budget reductions. Present plans for state and local outlays are below proposed federal cuts.

The question is, will private spending offset the decrease in government outlays? The answer depends upon money and credit policy both at home and abroad.

Recent modifications of regulations governing federal housing loans have revived interest in residential construction. Starts under private financing in non-agricultural areas rose to an annual rate of 1,010,000 in August—the highest since December 1956.

The reduction in minimum down payments has attracted borrowers despite an increase in interest rates to five and one-half per cent.

Several industries are not operating at full capacity. Among them are steel running at 82 per cent, copper at 76 per cent, synthetic rubber at 77 per cent, man-made fibers at 78 per cent, and automobiles at 64 per cent.

These rates do not indicate depression as operations at less than full capacity are normal. Full-scale activity would indicate the crest of a boom or urgent need for immediate expansion.

These five industries represent a considerable part of the total investment in factories and machinery. If investments in them are restricted to requirements for modernization, spending in other industries and for public improvements will have to be expanded to keep labor and construction equipment fully employed.

There are a few clouds on the economic horizon but they are not storm clouds. The recent decline in business indicates that the boom, temporarily, is short of steam. Some shifts need to be made in the expansion program, both at home and abroad.

People understand the functions of money, credit and exchange of goods and services better than ever before. The economy needs a little adjustment, but a deep recession isn't necessary and not likely to come in the near future.



BY JACK REICHARD
 50 YEARS AGO (1907)

During October, 1907, the postmasters throughout the nation were required to weigh all outgoing and incoming mail matter under a special ruling issued by the department at Washington, D. C.

The order required that all pieces of mail passing through the offices must be counted and designated whether of the first, second, or third class, and the number of stamps cancelled and the value thereof noted.

Department officials explained the action was taken in an effort to ascertain to what extent postal privileges were being abused and to try and determine the reason for the annual deficit in the postoffice department.

N. Y. TRUST CO. FAILURE HALTS SUSQUEHANNA RIVER DAM PROJECT

With the failure of the Knickerbocker Trust Co. of New York, hundreds of workmen employed on the construction of the big dam across the Susquehanna River at McCall's Ferry were laid off in October, 1907. The New York banking institution was the financial agent of the river enterprise.

When the project was started the Knickerbocker Trust Co. became the trustee of a \$10 million mortgage raised for the work.

A spokesman for the McCall's Ferry Dam Co. stated the company had \$800,000 to its credit when the trust company closed its doors.

BUMPER APPLE CROP IN 1907

Fifty years ago this month apple growers in Lancaster County were busy gathering the fruit of an unusual good crop.

From an orchard owned by A. L. Stively, near Collins, a carload of choice fruit containing 928 bushels of apples was shipped to Bloomfield, Iowa. Previous to the shipment to the west, Stively had shipped between 800 and 900 bushels of apples to Philadelphia.

Elsewhere in southern Lancaster during the 1907 apple picking season arms were broken.

"Rosey" Ashby suffered a fracture of an arm while picking apples from a tree on the Jackson property near Oak Shade. He was standing on a ladder with a sack of fruit suspended on his neck and shoulder, when the ladder turned, throwing him off to the ground on top of the sack filled with apples. He was taken to a physician who set the fracture.

Near Union, Claude Swisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Swisher, had the misfortune to break his arm half way between the wrist and elbow while hauling in a load of apples from the orchard on the Allen and Alex White farm.

In descending a hall one of the traces broke, frightening the team of horses which plunged out of the harness. Fisher, fearing the animals would get away, jumped from the wagon, fell and met with the misfortune. A physician was summoned and set the arm.

During the 1907 potato season one buyer paid New Jersey growers \$52,000, another \$61,000 and another \$6,000, making a total of \$119,000 paid out by the three buyers.

Fifty years ago this week several boys roaming a woods in the area near Tamaqua, Pa., found the body of a man which had been later identified as David Hoban, a miner of Coaldale, who had disappeared 14 months before.

25 Years Ago

The National Bank at Marienville, Pa., was robbed by five bandits of \$7,500. F. R. Johnston, the cashier, his wife, daughter and

friend, Fred Pickens, were bound in the Johnston apartments during the night and kept captive until the time lock on the vault opened at 7:30 the following morning. The handits obtained the money, then cut the telephone wires and left in three automobiles.

3 DEAD, SCORE WOUNDED FIRST DAY OF GUNNING

Three persons were known dead and more than a score of others reported wounded at the close of first day of Pennsylvania's small game season Nov. 1, 1932.

Frank L. Miller, 55, a Lemoyne butcher, suffered a heart attack while gunning in the Adams County near Gettysburg, dying almost instantly.

Mrs. Daniel Kusher, 35, of Honey Brook, was killed when the gun she was cleaning for her husband's hunting trip was accidentally discharged when the cloth she was using caught in the trigger.

Near New Bethlehem, Pa., a father who failed to see his 12-year-old son as he fired at a rabbit, shot and killed the boy.

Henry Ressler, 22, of Littitz, was wounded near his home. He was removed to a Lancaster hospital.

Lawrence Rerder, of Middletown, suffered wounds of the face

and chest, by stray shot from another hunter's gun. The identity of the shooter was not determined.

REV. GIPSY SMITH, EVANGELIST, AT LANCASTER

The Rev. Gipsy Smith, Jr., noted evangelist 25 years ago, opened a two week's series of sermons in Lancaster's St. Paul's Reformed Church in October, 1932. The Rev. Gipsy Smith, Jr., was the son of the eminent English evangelist of the same name, who made England to ring with joy and hope with his messages following World War I.

Following a statement from Mr. Darmstetter, head of the Lancaster County Welfare forces, in 1932, refuting the report of high salaries being paid to welfare officers and workers, W. F. McSparran, of Furness, raised some questions. McSparran state in a published article given here in part:

"Mr Darmstetter in his refutations says there are no officials receiving over \$4,000 a year. He does not vouch-safe us the information as to how many persons are drawing less than \$4,000 a year in being overpaid in this work of sweet charity.

"It is quite time that we get down to fundamental brass tacks in this business of spending taxpayers' money. I am not alone in holding the opinion that there is not a man for a woman in Lancaster City and County in a public capacity that is worth a salary of \$4,000 — no one so valuable that he could not be replaced by some one to do the same work for \$2,000, and be mighty glad to get it."

tians are not unanimous in their verdicts.

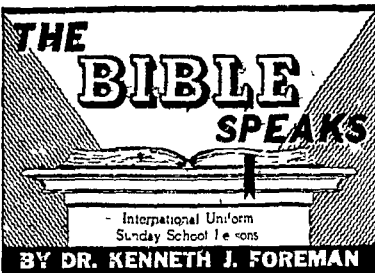
Abusing Freedom

We can get a good deal of light on at least part of the twilight zone, by reading Paul, and the Gospels. Paul gives us a guiding line which can appeal only to Christians; but for Christians it is a strong directive. At Corinth, for example, there was a peculiar sort of twilight-zone problem, the question of meat that had been offered to idols. In every Greek butcher shop there were cuts of beef, veal, lamb and so forth, just as in our super-markets, only of course much less sanitary. When the 20th-century housekeeper goes shopping for a steak, she does not inquire how the cow died. Presumably it was killed by some one paid for doing such things. But there is nothing religious about a slaughter-house. In Corinth, in the First Century, on the contrary, the cow from whose dead body the steak was taken, very likely had died in a religious ceremony, killed in sacrifice on altars dark with blood and black with fire and smoke. After the ceremony in the temple, most of the dead animal would be taken and sold in the market-place . . . and so find its way to the tables of the ladies of Corinth.

The problem was: Could a Christian eat steaks and chops from animals slaughtered in heathen religious rites? It was a twilight-zone question. Many Corinthians were saying, "Certainly I can eat without sin. Idolatry is bad, but if a cow breathed her last in an idol's temple, that doesn't infect the roast beef with sin!"

Using Freedom

Wait a minute, Paul says in effect, when they ask him about this. You are free, to be sure. This particular twilight-zone thing is not a sin. Eating such meat is not an approval of idolatry at all. But suppose some weaker brother knows what you are doing, and concludes that you are approving idol-worship? Then what? Then the question is not any longer, Is this particular act right or wrong? The question for you is, What will be the effect on my brother if I do this thing I am free to do? This brother may be weak, he may even be stupid; but Christ died for him. Are you going to drive back into sin this man for whom Christ died? So it is with many twilight-zone acts today. You may be strong, and free, doing them will not hurt you at all. But what about other people? I am never so free, if I am a Christian, that I have a right to abuse my freedom by leading some one else into what for him is sin.



Background Scripture: I Corinthians 5: 9-13-27, 10
 Devotional Reading: Galatians 5: 13-25

Christian Freedom

Lesson for October 27, 1957

LIFE would be simpler if it were all in clear black-and-white. There is no mistaking one for the other. Daylight and dark can't be confused. But twilight is confused and confusing. There are some actions, some ways of living, which are evidently and undeniably good; there are others which are just as plainly bad.

(Quoting again from Billy Sunday: "If a man starts arguing with you that stealing isn't a sin, don't argue with him — search him!") But there are many problems in living which can't be solved by simple rule. There are many actions about which sincere Christians may differ, some saying Do, others saying Don't.



Twilight Zone

In the twilight zone are many actions, or proposed actions, which are really unprecedented. The Bible says nothing about them, even the state's legal code may not mention them. One day a woman threw a whiskey bottle at the door of England's prime minister. She was arrested and fined. But she said to the judge: "I'll be back with another bottle. The government is throwing hydrogen bombs, and throwing bottles is nothing near so wicked as that. This is my protest against the wickedness of the H-Bomb." Well, it is certainly against the law to throw bottles. It's not against the law to experiment with H-bombs. But many people would feel the woman was right, no caldoad of glass bottles can do a small part of the harm that one H-bomb can do. But it's in the twilight zone. More simple, personal matters are also in the twilight zone. Is it right or wrong for a Christian to attend the theater? to read a book of fiction? to use tobacco? to drink wine, beer, whiskey? Chris-