

# A Job Well Done ?

ONCE AGAIN THE American farmer is producing news as well as crops and livestock

Front page of the WALL STREET JOURNAL, headlines and editorials across the nation

From the smallest cultivated and pastured acreage in modern US farm history this nation's farmers are producing the all-time record high in farm commodities.

This is an era when official federal policy has been encouragement of production reduction and controls A time when the FARM PROBLEM has been discussed, argued, cursed, exploited, and uncontrolled.

Six times the Sept. 1957 total of federal wheat-storage loans are in effect today, seven times the Sept 1957 cotton loan totals, and the same type reports are given for flaxseed, oats, rye, barley and sorghums

Federal expenditures this year, for support loans, the soil bank, school lunch programs, exports, and the rest of the farm program, are expected to reach \$5 billion Predictions had been for a \$3.3 billion expenditure

Of course, farmers, and most people close to agriculture, realize much of this cost will be repaid when commodity stores are sold Much of the cost is in research designed to guarantee this country's swelling population plentiful food supplies twenty years from now Much is in soil conservation work

But don't try to tell the man on the street that the farmer isn't sitting back on Easy Street letting the government pay him high prices for things there was no market for in the first place

The American farmer has performed a tremendous job this year Even with the recession hanging on in some places, few Americans will need be hungry.

But, don't expect any thank yous, bouquets, or applause

This nation, the best-fed, best-clothed in history, will reward her food and fiber producers with every form of villification at her command

Once again, the farmer can expect to return to his hearth from morning chores in the chill of a winter blizzard and learn through every form of communication that First he's un-American Second, he's a parasite Third, he's inefficient Fourth he's lazy Fifth, and Sixth, and Seventh, ad infinitum

In this respect it will be a long winter. Long and rough

Who will be responsible? Labor unions, desirous of low living costs for their members Hardly, although most labor lead-

ers want all within reason they can get for their members, they still know farmers are the best customers for products of industry. Food processors are about as low-paid as any organized labor group.

Industry itself? This is unlikely for the same and many more reasons.

Politicians? Hardly. Most politicians are of the "there go my people, and I must hurry after them, for I am their leader" caliber. Urban politicians realize the farm problem is a nice, safe and advantageous issue. The farm boys haven't been slow to catch on to this either. But over the years, they all have been too confused and afraid to do much, except change the name of USDA bureaus. Remember AAA, PMA, etc.

Food retailers? It's doubtful The corner grocer has been in trouble for years, and basically because the chain stores have been underselling him by a large margin, while building huge super markets and paying higher — not exorbitant — wages. There is profit involved in large-scale food retailing, but not as much as in foreign cars, for instance.

What about the farmer? He has remained aloof and unconcerned with what happens to his product when it leaves his ownership He has remained stubbornly independent — often refusing to join in such small joint efforts as watershed control for conservation, disease control, local co-ops, or marketing groups

What is even worse, in this age of the "hard sell", he has heard himself called every name in the book, and usually reacted by mumbling, "Ah, they don't know what they're talking about"

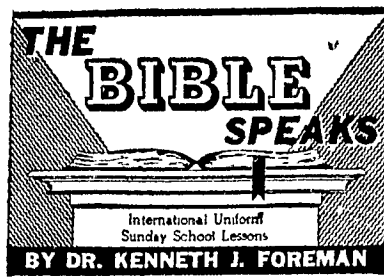
He has been 100 per cent right in saying that But he has been just as wrong in not attempting to do something about it

The average American doesn't know what the farm problem is all about Because no one has told him It is a subject of vital interest Any theorist in the country can get newspaper space for his ideas and people often buy them, as silly as some of them are

The farmer is not a theorist He is of necessity, a realist It is about time he faced the reality of getting "his side" across to the consuming public

If he doesn't, and all farm programs are abandoned, the farmer may find himself in the role of an urbanite; when in a few decades, the nation's farming is done by fewer than 1,000 economic units, closely knit in a powerful, omnipotent, agriculture combine, evoking every possible bit of profit from their products At least, this is the claim of one theorist.

But then, who cares? DM



Bible Material: Deuteronomy 15 7-11, 24 19-21; Isaiah 58 4-12; Matthew 9 35, 36; Luke 4 14-22; Hebrews 13.1-3; I John 3 11-24.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 42 1-9.

## Justice for ALL

Lesson for September 21, 1958

THE LAST man on the totem pole is still a man. The man at the bottom of the ladder, the man underneath the heap, the last man the least man: if there is no justice for him then there is no justice for the ideal of justice, as the Bible upholds it, is that ALL men shall be treated with fairness, and more—with consideration, pity and helpfulness in the name of God If everybody gets fair treatment except the bottom layer, then when you who have been fortunate all these years slip into that bottom layer you will discover there was not so much justice as you thought In Mark Twain's story "The Prince and the Pauper" the prince thought everything was smooth and fine but when he changed places with the pauper and looked at things from the seamy side, he could not find justice anywhere.



Dr. Foreman

### Who they are

So-called justice which only divides the spoil with the strong leaves no share for the weak, only so-called. It is precisely the persons who cannot fight for themselves, the little people without votes, the unimportant people forgotten and obscure, those who live and die in the shadows of precisely these whom a true Christian justice will not forget. The strong will get their share or more besides if they can get it with it. It is the weak who need protection and defense

The Bible lines them up for a and a sorry rag-tag lot they are to look at. Here is the poor man who needs a loan and (as everybody knows) will never be able to pay it back Here are the people so poor that they cannot buy food but have to live on the wheat they pick up from somebody else's har-

field, the grapes they pick off some land-owner's vines. Here is the family uprooted, wanderers on the face of the earth, without home or job. Here are the nameless, faceless people totally obscure, for whom history has no name except in the lump—"the multitudes" Here are the sick people too poor to have a doctor; here is a woman some doctor has made poor. Here are the people in prison, here is a beggar shivering at the back door.

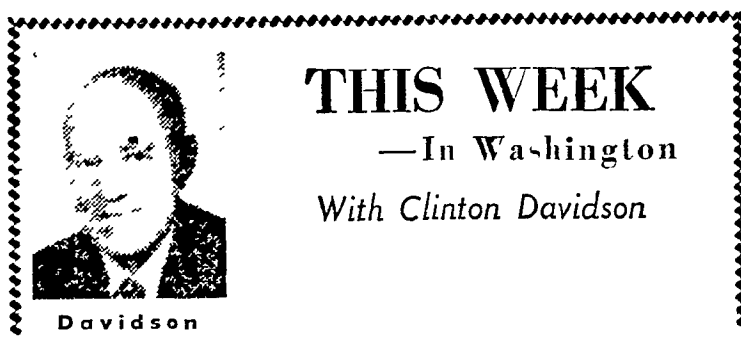
### What they need

Of course, such helpless people need not have been so helpless if perhaps society had been differently organized, or if there had been better laws. Such desperate situations ought to be prevented in the first place, to be sure For example: it has not been a lifetime since there were beggars on all roads The tramp and the hobo were common sights. Now how long is it since you have seen a tramp? How many beggars do you know by sight? The reason why we have fewer beggars now even in a depression than we used to have even in times of prosperity is partly due to the fact that the man who lost his job in hard times used to have nothing; now he draws unemployment insurance. Prevention of poverty is much easier than curing it. Nevertheless, with all the prevention we have the wit and the courage to provide, we still have the problem cases, the hopeless and helpless ones

### Forgotten Folk

It is not only individuals who have run into personal hard times who need help, but whole groups and classes of people in trouble, need more help, more fair treatment, than they usually receive. There are, for example, the people in the mental hospitals of America, a half million of them at a recent count. Unless your state is a most unusual one, such patients in your state do not have nearly enough doctors, nurses, attendants, or attention. Then consider that for every patient who can get into a mental hospital, even the understaffed, overcrowded ones we have, there are numbers of others who cannot be admitted What is being done for these people by your church, your community, your state? Or consider juvenile delinquents, or adult lawbreakers on parole. Does your community ignore these bottom-rung derelicts, or does it do anything to help them, or to prevent their being derelicts?

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## THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

In Washington last week the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported that American farmers this year will establish a new all-time record high production of foods and fibers

In most nations this would have been good news and an occasion for feasting and rejoicing that the harvest had been so bountiful It would have meant genuine relief from the ever-present fear of hunger

To farmers in those countries the bumper crops would have meant increased profits and prestige The government would honor them and the people would be pleased and appreciative

In Washington this week the reaction to the news that farmers are producing more than we can eat and export during the next 12 months was anything but joyous

### What A Difference!

Washington is neither pleased nor appreciative of the record harvest It has spent billions of dollars in an effort to reduce production and it will have to spend more billions to dispose of the surplus

Already there are more than 58 billions worth of farm commodities stacked up in government leased warehouses cold storage plants and under loan on farms More billions will be added to that stockpile during the next few weeks

Our total supply of wheat will be almost two and a half billion bushels enough to meet our food needs for the next four years. We will have more than seven billion bushels of corn and other feed grains enough to last us about two years

The remarkable part of it is that this record has been established by the fewest number of farmers in more than 75 years on the smallest number of planted acres since the Civil War We have in fact learned to produce not two but three blades of grass where one grew before

### Cost of Plenty

Most Americans unfortunately emphasize the "cost" of this super-abundance without stopping to think about \$5 billion a year on all types of so-called farm programs

But farm prices of foods and fibers have not because of the

## Lancaster Farming

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large supplies, gone up comparable to other living costs Had food costs gone up as much as automobiles, for example the past 10 years our annual food bill would have been \$25 billion a year more than it is

The \$5 billion a year is money well spent to assure the American people the best and cheapest — in hours worked — food and clothing in the world Moreover about one-third of that is the cost of sending food and fibers to the less fortunate people in other parts of the world

We should be thankful for the bountiful harvest which God and Mother Nature has bestowed upon us, rather than being resentful We should be grateful that no American ever need to go to bed hungry, thanks to the best farmers in the world

## Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH

County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO FEED LEGUME CROPS — Late September or October are good times to apply phosphorus and potash fertilizers to pastures or hay crops containing alfalfa or any of the clovers Fall treatment with 30 to 400 pounds of 0-20-20 or 0-15-30 will eliminate the need of a spring application and will give the plant roots ample time to store the soil elements.

TO SOW LESS SEED — Winter grain crops in which seedings of alfalfa or clover are to be made early next spring should be thinner in stand than those planted for top yields only Experience has shown that in the average year it is very difficult to get both a bumper crop of grain and a good stand of legume Many successful wheat growers get good yields of wheat when sowed at the rate of 4 to 6 pecks per acre and the stand is useful as a nurse crop. Six peck per acre of barley is recommended if lodging is not a problem, thicker stands make poor nurse crops and disappointing legume stands.

TO SEAL TRENCH SILOS CAREFULLY — Many silos are being filled at this time and the upright presents little problem to avoid considerable spoilage, however the trench silo operator cannot afford to leave the top of the silo open Careful sealing with plastic covers or other air-tight paper is strongly recommended After the silo is filled and the top mounded higher in the middle the trench should be packed from 24 to 48 hours with a tractor or other means, and then sealed tightly Plastic covers are very popular and should be fastened down tight and then covered over with chopped silage, weeds, or low-quality green crops This protects the plastic and prevents the wind from getting under the cover Animals should be fenced from the area

TO BE CAREFUL IN CATTLE BUYING — The mixing of newly-purchased steers with cattle already acclimated is always a dangerous practice This is especially true with cattle shipped any distance through public stock yards When both lots of cattle are able to touch noses or drink from the same watering trough the risk is increased The best plan is to keep the animals entirely separate for at least two to three weeks time