

## Is Parity Obsolete?

A significant and little known farm bill was voted on in the U S Senate recently

It was a bill that called for the elimination of the parity concept from all farm legislation at a set future date.

When farm leaders in the early thirties, representing both parties and a number of commodity groups, met to draw up farm legislation, they concluded that some standard with which to measure farm income in relation to non-farm income was essential. As a result the parity concept was born — the legitimate child of intelligent economic planning.

In all farm legislation from the early 30's to the present where farm prices were in any way involved, the parity concept was recognized. Federal reports of farm prices or incomes are usually stated in terms of the parity concept. It has come to be almost universally recognized, and accepted as the standard by which farm prices were to be expressed.

We do not contend that the parity principle is a perfect measure of farm prices. It is not, and it has been revised, and will no doubt need further revisions from time to time.

But it is one thing to correct the errors on a measuring rod and another thing to throw the rod away. We don't throw away the yardstick because the bean stalk does not stand as high on it as the sweet corn stalk.

This Bill before the Senate was a case of attempting to throw the whole parity principle overboard.

Who desires this?

It has been surmised for some time that the parity concept was embarrassing

to some in highest policy making positions. Specifically, we have in mind those who regard lower farm prices as the panacea for farm ills—especially farm surpluses.

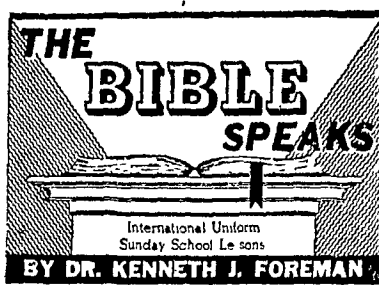
It is clear that they have been moving gradually toward a position where parity was to be regarded as of diminishing importance. The role of the future farmer as they envisioned him was that of a producer of cheap food. Prices to him were not to be measured in terms of prices of goods and services he must buy. This would be increasingly embarrassing.

At first they just wanted to revise the original parity formula — that is adopt a later date than 1910-14 as the standard. This was done, but it was not enough. The farther they went down the road of lower prices, fewer farmers and cheap food the more obnoxious the whole parity idea became. Even when we accept parity of income — instead of parity of price — as the goal, we are still dealing with parity. The whole parity idea must be thrown overboard.

It was this that the Dirksen (Rep Ill) Bill was designed to do. We may be quite sure that the Senator was not merely indulging a personal whim when he introduced his bill. While to our knowledge no organized group openly espoused the bill, its passage would have been heartily applauded by some in highest policy making positions in Agriculture, the grain trade and industry generally.

The Bill was decisively defeated. We may confidently expect that this is not the end of the effort to abolish the parity idea. The effort has friends in prominent places.

—The Farmers Exchange



Bible Material: Matthew 3:3-17, Luke 3:15-22  
Devotional Reading: Romans 6:1-11

### Uncelebrated Day

Lesson for October 19, 1958

THE DAYS we celebrate are milestones, turning-points. They are days marking a line between Before and After. A birthday, a wedding day, a Declaration of Independence, these are days worth celebrating. So the church does right in celebrating, as we do, various important events connected with the life of Jesus. Not all churches observe all these days, but over wide areas of Christendom they are celebrated by many congregations.



Dr. Foreman

the annunciation to Mary the Virgin, the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the temple when he was 40 days old, his crucifixion, his resurrection, his ascension. But his baptismal day is uncelebrated, that day when he, then about 30 years of age, was baptized by his cousin John.

#### A Decisive Day

It seems all the stranger that the church should not celebrate this day, because it was such a turning-point in the life of Jesus. On the one hand, this was the day before which Jesus was a private citizen, a carpenter, a home-town man, but never again. This was the day after which Jesus was the dedicated Teacher, the mysterious Messiah, as never before. This was the line between Jesus' private and his public life. On the other hand, on the day of his baptism and from that day forward, Jesus was endowed with the Holy Spirit as never before. Whether you take the story of the dove literally or as a symbol, it is clear that John, who had a keen spiritual eye, realized that this was the day the Spirit came, an event as definite as the settling of a dove on a man's shoulder. Immediately after this great day we read in one gospel the Spirit "led" Jesus. For another gospel writer the word is not "lead" but drive. Why should the church not

celebrate that high day?

#### Embarassing Baptism

The reason for the church's peculiar silence about this great day is perhaps that we are embarrassed by one thing that took place then: Jesus was baptized! This baptism of John's was distinctly understood to be a baptism "of repentance, for the remission [forgiveness] of sins." But what sins did Jesus commit? How could he need forgiveness? The church finds it easy to understand the Spirit's coming, the Voice from Heaven may be harder to understand, but it "fits" what we believe. But the baptism does not appear to fit. It looks as if either Jesus was a sinner after all, and confessed his sins in being baptized, or else he was making people believe he had sinned—which of course would be a sin in itself.

This is indeed a puzzle, but we may be able to find an answer. Let us be bold enough to rule out three possibilities at once.

Jesus was not baptized in order to have his own sins forgiven. The church is surely right in affirming that Jesus lived without blemish, the one perfect man in history.

Jesus was not baptized to fulfill the Old Testament law, for no law in the various codes of the Old Testament requires all men to be baptized. "Fulfilling all righteousness" is not the same thing as obeying a specific law.

Further, Jesus was not baptized as if he were playing a part, encouraging others to do as he did. A perfectly healthy mother will sometimes encourage a timid child to take medicine by first taking some herself. Is Jesus our considerate Elder Brother who takes a "cure" he does not need, in order to coax us to take it because we do need it?

#### Calvary Began There

No, no to all these theories of the why of Jesus' baptism. The real reason lies deeper. This was the day (so far as we know) Calvary began. Jesus became known in his lifetime as the "friend of sinners" and afterwards and ever since, he has been called the savior of sinners. The Bible shows us that he did this by becoming one of us, identifying himself with us, even the worst of us, so that as St Paul says, "he who knew no sin was made sin—for us." Jesus publicly, dramatically, decisively, by his baptism declared and declares that he sides with the repentant sinner, always, rather with those who in their own eyes need no repentance.

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Davidson

## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson THE BENSON BOOM

A man Republican party chieftains wanted lined only three months ago. Ezra Taft Benson this week is being quietly groomed for entry into the 1960 presidential race.

As recently as last July many of the top Republicans in Washington labeled Benson a failure. Secretary of Agriculture and no big a liability to carry into the 1958 election campaign.

Why this sudden reversal? What has happened to change the quiet-spoken church official from Utah into a political hero almost overnight? His is beyond doubt one of the quickest political come-backs on record.

There are several reasons given but the most plausible are: (1) the farm revolt against him has quieted down; (2) he is popular with many cities voters; (3) he is a good speaker and campaigner.

Benson has been one of the most controversial men in President Eisenhower's Cabinet. He is taken without thinking of the fact that would have discouraged many men. He has unwavering confidence in his principles.

#### Farm Program

The Administration farm program which features more free commodity for farmers from government pricing and production controls has been more popular with consumers than with farmers on the matter with Congress. Despite lower supports for many crops, the index of farm prices now is 5% above a year ago, although still 15% below 1952. Benson recently released figures to show that farm income for this year has been 19%

higher than in the same months of last year.

Late in the past session of Congress Benson teamed up with congressmen from urban areas to defeat a farm bill backed by the Democratic majority, and then push through a bill which it was claimed will result in lower farm and food prices.

#### A Taft Man

Benson was a close friend and political supporter of the late Sen Robert A. Taft, a distant relative. His middle name, Taft, is a family name. It is reported that Sen Taft recommended him to President Eisenhower.

The quiet campaign to promote Benson for President is being backed by many of the former Taft supporters. They comprise what is generally described as the conservative wing of the Republican party.

Although Benson has been a staunch supporter of President Eisenhower, he has not become too closely identified with Eisenhower-Republican branch of the party. He however campaigned for the re-election of Mr. Eisenhower in 1956.

Benson is a tireless and convincing campaigner. Since the close of Congress he has been making three and four speeches a week in support of his farm program and Republican congressional candidates, some of whom have in the past been critical of him.

He is a deeply religious man. Having taken leave as a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to become Secretary of Agriculture in 1953.

## Lancaster Farming

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#### Admission to the Pennsylvania National Livestock Exposition

November 10 through 14 at the State Farm Show Building, Harrisburg will be free this year. William L. Medford, Exposition chairman, has announced.

Medford explained that admission was charged last year at the first Keystone International but the management this year has decided that the big 1958 open livestock exposition will be free to the public.

Another free feature of the show this year will be the first Mid Atlantic Truck Show. This show will feature much farm equipment as mounted feed mills, cattle and horse vans and cattle feeding equipment.

Back for the second time will be the Tommy Steiner World Championship Rodeo. It is the only part of the Exposition for which a charge will be made. Seven performances have been scheduled in the Farm Show Arena each night from November 11 to 15 inclusive with matinees on Veterans Day, November 11 and Saturday, November 15. For ticket and reservation information write Rodeo Chairman, 1831 North Cameron St., Harrisburg, Pa.



## Now Is The Time . . .

By MAX SMITH  
County Agricultural Agent



Max Smith

TO FERTILIZE LAWNS — Late September or October is one of the best times to top-dress lawns for better turf. Applications of 25 to 30 lbs per 1,000 sq ft of 0-20-20 or 0-15-30 are recommended. Apply during periods when the grass is dry or wash into lawn thoroughly.

TO BE CAREFUL WITH NEW CORN — New corn is high in moisture and may bloat or scour livestock if fed too much at the start. Grind frequently to avoid heating and use only 20 to 30 per cent of total amount for the first week or ten days. Hog products need not be concerned about danger of feeding new corn. Sheepmen should be especially careful.

TO UTILIZE SHREDDED CORN FODDER — Many livestock men regard shredded corn fodder as one of the best bedding materials. It will absorb maximum amounts of moisture and may still be returned to the field for fertilizer. Some growers use rota-beaters or shredders in the field and then rake and bale for easier handling. Care should be used to have it dry to prevent molding and heating.