

# Editorial

We had almost—not quite—managed to forget the season for new farm program ideas is upon us, when the first "new" suggestion was brought to our attention. This one being proposed by a University of Chicago economist, D Gale Johnson.

We haven't obtained a full outline of this proposal, but here are some parts and our comments.

It contains six basic points for curing U. S. agricultural ills. Excuse our cynicism, but we have an automatic distrust for any and all programs for an incredibly complex farm problem, which would erase the problem with six basic points. Maybe the problem is simple to an economist, but it still involves all plant, animal and physical sciences, human relations, politics, social and economic factors and even includes implications dealing with international politics.)

Postwar agricultural programs are at fault, Johnson claims. They have increased farm output and governmental costs while reducing net farm income. (This thesis ignores such factors as World War II and Korean War programs, when high farm production was a major military weapon. It also ignores non-government improvements in farm research, communications, equipment and philosophy. It ignores private industry demands for increased farm production to furnish needed industrial raw materials. It ignores national and international inflation; the domestic unemployment problem; automation, and a number of other influencing factors.)

We should stop ALL programs which increase farm output and which cannot be justified on a basis of providing benefits worth what they cost. (All right professor, where do we start. Shall we scrap the extension service's work? It costs money and increases production. The conservation programs? After all we do not need "surplus" land and water resources this year, so let's quit trying to hold on to them. Supervised farm loans of the Farmers Home Administration might be said to cost money and it they are succeeding in their purpose, they increase production. Why try to hold intelligent, responsible young families on the land where they can lead productive and valuable lives? The REA? After all it costs money and only opens entire new markets for countless manufacturers, merchants and labor. But then, there is little question that electrified farms are more productive. Of course, one problem with both FHA and REA programs is that they pay their own way and return a tidy profit to the government—a very rare happening for federal programs.)

Facing this point realistically. It offers very little First, there are too many political "pork barrels" involved. Second, these programs, which result in greater production are primarily designed for far more important results. Third, without any one of these "costly" programs, the U. S. would have a different farm problem—food shortage. Fourth, new federal services can prove value comparable to that of the USDA research, service, education and guidance and administrative bureaus. Fifth, these "surplus-creating programs" cost relatively little in

themselves and as we have said, several pay their own way and then some.

Johnson says CCC surplus stocks should be withdrawn from the U. S. market and disposed of through foreign aid. (This is by far the best suggestion of his program. Especially, if the cost is tabulated in national defense for foreign aid expenses, rather than being loaded on the farmer's back. Food, technical training and guidance and sensible aid programs are more valuable in the "cold war" than any other weapon.)

Johnson also calls for a five-year "transition period" of lowering price supports, rather than suddenly doing away with them, allowing farmers time to adjust to lower prices. Along with this would be a program to speed the transfer of labor from farm to non-farm jobs. (There are currently 3½ million jobless Americans. Flooding the labor market with unskilled farm workers won't help them. Continuing programs designed to ultimately curtail farmer spending won't open new industrial jobs. The only way to move a "dyed-in-the-wool" farmer from the land is to prove to him over a period of years that he can't survive. The end result means decreasing farm spending, requiring fewer farm supplies with a host of bankrupt farmers joining the ranks of the unemployed.)

Logically, if farmers receive reasonable incomes from their products, they will buy manufactured goods, offering new investment and labor outlets. Programs to produce a prosperous national economy—where better farmers may buy out their neighbors and permit them to move off the farm smoothly, without hardship and glutting the labor market—would seem sounder than efforts to "push" farmers out of business.

There's another point. Price supports wouldn't be used to influence the level of farm prices. (With this one we're writing for his complete program. How you can establish a price support level without influencing prices is beyond us. We received our information on his program second-hand and just hope the go-between made a mistake. If he didn't, Dr Johnson did.)

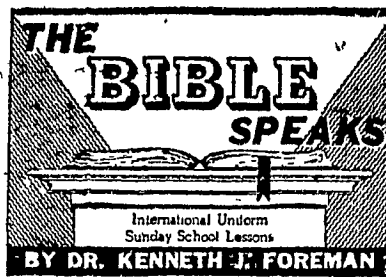
Johnson emphasizes his program would take at least five to ten years. (Five to ten years seems a reasonable period for wrecking the SCS, ASC, FHA, REA, extension service and USDA—and, bankrupting many of the nation's farmers. From here, this would appear to be the goal of the Johnson Plan.)

Which brings us to one last point.

The Johnson Plan's appearance merely serves to illustrate once again that there is only one person who can solve the farm problem. That person is, —the American Farmer.

Economists, sociologists, politicians, unionists and editors can't do it. When the American farmer gets sick and tired—enough—of losing up to 80 per cent of the market value of his products, because of a one or two per cent "surplus" in production, a workable program will come forth.

Until then, we will see suggestions for price supports designed to "not" influence prices.



Bible Material: Mark 10 17-31  
Devotional Reading: Matthew 6 19-23.

## All the Way

Lesson for January 11, 1959

LAST WEEK'S study was about a miracle that happened; this week—the story is about a miracle that didn't happen. This miracle—if it had happened—would have been more astonishing than the successful one. It would have been spectacular, the whole country would have been talking about it. The big news would have been that a rich man had become a poor man, not by losing his money or getting it stolen, but just by giving it away, everything he had. But the news would have been the real miracle. It would have meant the absolute changing of a man's mind. What would have to happen to the rich man's mind would be far more of a wonder than what happened to his property—and more important too.



Dr. Foreman

### Leave All

But those are all only if's, Might-have-beens's or Would-have-beens. The fact is, the rich man did not change his mind, he held on to what he had. He wasn't happy about it at all; "he went away in great distress" as one modern translation puts it. And Jesus, who watched him go, must have felt an even deeper regret, for Jesus loved the man. It is not easy to see some one you love choose the road to darkness rather than light.

The young man—for he was young and influential as well as rich—had asked Jesus what he ought to do to "inherit eternal life." That was his way of asking the question that comes in many forms: How shall I get right with God? How shall I be saved? How can I find life's meaning—and live by it? Where is the road to Light? How can I fulfill my highest destiny?

The young man's friends have thought that question less; for he was an extraordinarily good young man. He told Jesus Jesus did not doubt him, he had been keeping the Ten commandments ever since he was a member. But Jesus said, "You are missing one thing—only one—but a terrific one thing! Get rid of it, own, Jesus said, give it to the poor, then come follow me.

### Follow Me

Perhaps the young man could hear that last sentence could hear was "leave all that you have and follow me." This very day by people who are away from being Christians is a Christian now an old man for more than the first sixty of his life refused to be a Christian. He resisted all that the Lord of his family could say to him. His reason was at least an honest one. He knew that the way he made his money—or to be more precise, he knew that the way he tried to make money—namely by gambling—was not a Christian way of living. He was not going to pretend to be a Christian and a gambler to his trouble was that in his mind a Christian was chiefly not something he very much enjoyed, at the racetrack or on green tables in a club room. As long as you think of the Christian life as a giving-up, a cutting of some habit or possession you cherish, you never do a right slant. The heart of the Christian life, what makes it different, is in that "Follow me

### Major Operation

Would Jesus say to even "Sell all you have and give to the poor"? Is it out of the question for a man or woman with money to "inherit eternal life"? Is there something evil in itself? This hardly be true, otherwise Jesus would not have said to give to the poor, but to throw it away. Jesus counted among his friends many persons with money, and this was the only way he ever advised to get rid of money. It is very likely that money was a kind of baby for this young man—hardly enough at first but destined to become a roaring killer. Two operations may be the only cure for this man. The main point is that of whatever keeps you going all the way with Christ.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Council of the Christian Churches in the U. S. A., Religious Press Service)

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



Max Smith

TO LEARN VALUE OF FORAGE CROPS — A new Forage Testing Service is being started at Penn State University; this will be conducted similar to the complete soil testing program. The farmer is to secure a forage test carton at our Extension Office and a special drill with which to collect the sample. The forage is then sent to Penn State for the test. Information on the actual nutritive value of the hay, silage, pasture, or some grains will be returned to the farmer. Additional details may be secured at the County Extension Office.

TO PLANT CERTIFIED SEEDS — In the production of any crop it is best to start with the best seed available. With other kinds of seeds a mixture of varieties may be secured and result in lower yields of lower quality crops. Order seeds early so that the variety may be secured. The 1959 Agronomy Guide available from our office is strongly recommended as a help in all farm crops.

TO CONSERVE FERTILIZER VALUE IN MANURE — The practice of allowing any kind of farm manure to rot in a pile and leach away is to be discouraged. If it is to be done, then a manure pit is suggested so that liquids may be retained and much of the fertilizer value saved. In spite of increased use of commercial fertilizers the value of barnyard manure is to be recognized as a definite farm asset.

TO KEEP FARM ACCOUNTS — Start the new year off right by keeping a good set of farm records, many successful farmers have found this quite essential. These farm account books are available through our Extension Office at a normal cost and we recommend this record keeping as one of the most important farm management practices. With production costs mounting in most agricultural enterprises it is very helpful to have farm records to reveal leaks in your business and to learn of the phase in the program making the greatest return.

## No Friday Meetings Slated

More than 120 meetings, sales, judging events, contests and banquets are included in the 1959 Farm Show schedule.

A schedule of educational meetings of farm organizations shows that for the first time in many years, no groups have planned meetings for Friday, final day of Farm Show Week.

The Farm Show program includes a warning that Harrisburg has instituted a new traffic system in the downtown area. Many streets are one-way and special pedestrian lights have been installed at crosswalks.

**Lancaster Farming**  
Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly  
P. O. Box 1524  
Lancaster, Penna.  
Office: 31 North Duke St  
Lancaster, Penna.  
Phone: Lancaster  
Express 4-3047  
Dan McGrew, Editor,  
Robert G. Campbell Advertising  
Director & Business Manager  
Established November 4, 1955  
Published every Saturday by  
Lancaster Farming, Lancaster, Pa.  
Entered as 2nd class matter at  
Lancaster, Pa. under Act of Mar.  
3, 1879 additional entry at Mount  
Joy, Pa.  
Subscription Rates \$2 per year  
three years \$5 Single copy Price  
5 cents