

# Editorial - - -

Some information currently making the rounds of farm magazines and newspaper editorial pages refers to farmers' steadily deteriorating position in the nation's "expanding economy."

In a recent issue of the mid-western "Capper's Farmer", these points were presented to inform farmers of the truth about themselves. They might do for Lancaster County farmers to study.

In 1957 some 60 cents of every American consumed on food-dollar went to "middle-men", buyers, handlers, processors and retailers of food. Less than 40 cents of the dollar went to the farmers, who during the past 18 years, boosted productive efficiency as much as in the preceding 120 years.

In 1946, the typical "market basket" of food cost \$767, with the farmer getting \$397, or 51 per cent. By 1957, that same basket cost \$1,010, but the farmer was still getting only \$400, only \$3 of the \$243 increase, while his percentage share was only 39.5 per cent, an actual decrease of 11.5 per cent.

But the real blow comes when you consider that this 11.5 per cent is actually one-fifth of the farmer's share. The increase of "middle-men's" take comes from these sources: Labor, \$296, up \$130—or 43 per cent, Transportation, \$73, up \$33—or 45 per cent; other costs, \$178, up \$69—or 38 per cent, and increased federal income taxes were unaccountably credited with adding \$4, although they are collected on "net."

At the same time farmers have been reviled for "living off the government." The truth is that in the past 50 years, less .05 per cent—that's one-half of one per cent—of federal subsidies went to farmers. The other 99.05 per cent went to airlines, the petroleum industry, housing, shipping, schools, veterans, industry in general, business in general, railroads, ship lines, etc., etc.

Not only that, but half-truths hurled at the American people concerning the annual "farm budget" of the federal government overlook such things as inspection programs for pure-foods, the crop and livestock reports and estimates that are used more by businessmen than farmers, the federal school-lunch programs, disaster food-relief, normal food relief, foreign food relief and even foreign agricultural technical service administered by USDA.

In short, even in the .05 per cent subsidy share, farmers have been charged with being "un-American" for receiving federal subsidies. Maybe the accusations are true. Maybe the U. S. farmer is "un-American." Looking at the record and considering the population figures, farmers should have received at least 32 times as much in subsidies, in order to be 100 per

cent American!

Capper's goes on to stress that U.S. farmers need to cut production by eight per cent to bring it in line with demand. Yet, by the latest USDA figures, our over-production is costing many times its value, due to sharp price reductions for all product on.

They ask also, "If farmers farmed today as they did in 1940, the consumer's food bill would be at least \$13 billion a year higher than it currently is. Which is better, to have a surplus costing the consumer \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year in taxes, or to save him \$18 billion a year on food?"

"Farmers realize we live in an era characterized by the minimum wage and generally stabilized industrial prices. Farmers want to protect themselves against the increasing costs of production and distribution. They want to mobilize their strength to bargain on a more equal basis with highly organized industry and labor," Capper's concludes.

Recently a farmer in Lancaster County remarked: "With prices of things we buy what they are and manufacturers raising them every chance they get, the farmers have got to do something. Labor is being given everything they ask for and there seems no stopping them. Farmers have got to start asking for a fair shake too."

"We'll buy that. With one exception. 'Labor' hasn't been given anything. Labor is in the present 'top dog' position, because of one thing. Labor organized and 'got tough.'"

We certainly don't subscribe to some of the methods and practices used in Labor's struggle to pre-eminence, nor can we find sympathy for employers who used the same "unethical" methods to battle them. As the saying goes, "Mud is mud, no matter whose boots it is on."

But we do subscribe to the theory that organization is the only way American farmers can retain the least semblance of their present society in years to come. Not the box-social type of organization, nor weed-control groups, or even political-study groups. For the fact remains, farmers soon will represent less than two per cent of the nation's electorate and it is doubtful if that small voting power will carry much weight.

Big business is well-known for cold-blooded, business-like methods. When you are required to show a profit for absentee-owners, the stockholders, it is required. There is nothing illegal or immoral about this. It is the "free enterprise" system.

For family farmers to survive and the family farm to remain a basic pattern of American agriculture, control of their own business is imperative.

submit a bill of sale with his application for direct payments.

5. Impose a maximum of \$25,000 as the amount of government payments any one farmer could receive in one year.

How much would such a program cost? Sen Talmadge estimated that the cost would range from \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion a year. Other estimates, however, have ranged up to \$10 billion or more a year.

**Cheap Food**  
Similar farm plans over (Turn to page 5)



## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson— PIE IN THE SKY

A bill introduced recently by Sen Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia would guarantee every farmer an income up to \$25,000 a year in direct payments out of the Federal Treasury.

This Utopian pie in the sky proposal has been placed before the Senate Committee on Agriculture for study and hearings along with some 200 other farm measures designed to "cure" the low-income complaint of farmers.

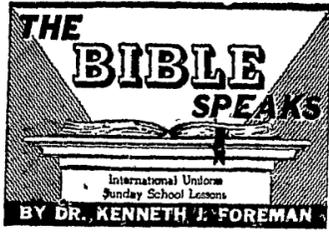
The colorful former Georgia governor, in presenting his bill, told the Senate farmers cannot be the only group placed in the position of having to "root, hog or die" while others have collective bargaining and protective tariffs.

Critics of the bill compare it to the ill-fated Brannan Plan offered 10 years ago by the then Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, but emphatically rejected by

Congress and most farm groups at that time. It has, however, been brought up again in every Congress since 1949. **Five-Point Program**

Sen Talmadge said his plan would "restore American agriculture to a free-enterprise basis, bolstered by a system of compensatory payments limited to domestically consumed basic commodities. The five points of the plan are:

1. Eliminate all acreage controls and government loans.
2. Assign each farmer a domestic production quota based on units, (bushels, bales, pounds, etc.) of production.
3. Guarantee and pay to each farmer an income bonus of the difference between the price he receives for his quota and 100% of parity.
4. Require each farmer to



Bible Material: Mark 12 28-34

Devotional Reading: 1 John 3 1-11.

## God and Neighbor

Lesson for February 15, 1959

**SUPPOSE** the world had grown so wicked that you could not find any one who could be guaranteed to keep more than one of the Ten Commandments? And suppose you wanted to be married? Which commandment would you feel your future wife or husband simply must keep, regardless? If you can answer that question, you have answered another question: What, for you, is the most important commandment in the law of God? It is a very old question. Teachers of the Law used to debate it at length. Jesus himself was once asked the question directly: "Which commandment is the first of all?"



Dr. Foreman

### My God, My Neighbor, Myself

Jesus did not answer the question by quoting a single one of the "Ten Commandments." He quoted two verses from parts of the Old Testament which to us are less familiar. First from Deuteronomy 6:4,5; and second from Leviticus 19:18. (The reader might well look these up and mark them in his Bible; for if Jesus could be said ever to have boiled down the whole Old Testament into two sentences, these are the two.) One commandment unites the two: LOVE. Jesus did not, of course, mean to say anything so absurd as that a simple command can produce love. The sergeant can say, One, two, three, March! The music teacher can say, One, two, three, Play! The lion tamer can say, One, two, three, Jump! But not even God says, One, two, three, Love! Human beings are not made that way, and no one knows it better than the God who made us.

What Jesus did mean is that this is what God requires of us, nothing less. We cannot fulfill his other commands till we have made

an honest effort at the Jesus' selection of commandments shows a take of taking either arately. There are those not understand what it means, and so try to do it by loving people. But possible to love people God's children, and at time ignore their heavens. Also there are those much impressed by the of God and the littleness of the holiness of God and follies of man, that the loving human beings and their affection on God need Saint John's reminder can a man love God, who not seen, if he does not love beings, whom he has seen there are the numerous who love only themselves, by contrast the people who we, should never love (This overlooks the point neighbor AS thyself if I myself is sinful, so is love for!) The true ideal is not of these with the others but all these three—love to say, concern for the the welfare) of God, out ourselves.

### How This Works

From the numberless of this central law let us select one which is appropriate to Temperance Sunday is a problem: What should Christian's attitude to liquors? Suppose a man answer that question of love to himself alone? question will be simple, going to do ME any harm answer is No (if—!) then proceed to drink like a suppose he tries to solve them on the basis of love alone; then he may ask, alcoholic content of my blood or low, going to hurt God he thinks, of course not he is mistaken); so he proceeds to drink like a suppose he opens his eyes enough to take in his own his children, his family, he have weaker will-power himself, those who look to be example, those who will be by the clearness or fuzziness mind as he makes decisions then he will look at his habits quite a different man lives on an island a Christian love keeps the ways bright in the mind

(Based on outlines copy the Division of Christian National Council of the Christ in the U. S. A. Community Press Service)

## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



**TO PROTECT LEGUMES**—New crops of legumes such as alfalfa, red clover, trefoil that failed to get the desired six inches of growth last fall may be injured by extreme cold winter without snow injurious; sub-zero temperatures and with strong winds may injure crowns of the plant. Winter applications of straw, well-shredded manure (no lumps) will add some cover and protection.

**TO BEWARE OF INTERNAL PARASITES IN CATTLE**—Excellent care, feeding, and management will make poor returns if animals are infected with stomach worms or other internal parasites. This may exist on far more farms than are realized. Heavy application for a number of years accelerates the degeneration. Manure samples submitted to a local veterinarian will determine the need for treatment.

**TO FEED QUALITY HAY TO CALVES**—Scientific feeding practices have not altered the fact that calves deserve the best hay in the barn, in most cases calves do better on quality hay and less grain than on poorer hay and more grain. Feed amounts to develop depth and capacity.

**TO EXPAND FARM BUSINESS**—With fewer farms among a growing world population and mounting production costs the trend toward larger units continues. The farm isn't disappearing or passing out of the picture but it is becoming larger. The expansion of all major enterprises to utilize more fully present overhead costs requires good management. More animals per barn, more tractors, and more output per man reflect a more favorable outlook.

## Lancaster Farming

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