

Editorial

Included in "farm news" originating from the USDA this year, is word that the farmers' share of America's food dollar shrank to 39 cents in 1958. At the same time, the processors' and distributors' shares increased.

These same releases make a major point of the fact that processing and distributing costs are rising, requiring a bigger share of the "dollar" for these industries. These people, USDA reports, must have a reasonable profit, or go broke — just like farmers.

Yes, it gives a farmer a nice warm feeling to know the publicity of "his" governmental representative is directed to justifying profits for other folks in the food business, while ignoring his somewhat unpleasant predicament. Could it be that word has not yet reached Washington that farmers' costs also are rising? Or is that important?

There is a continuing and growing clamor for farmer control of agriculture. This is all well and good, but the first logical question is — Who will lead in gaining this control?

The relatively young, but remarkably mature and successful, Commodity Council and its member groups have gained considerable backing, but still lack enough active membership to carry weight where needed. Namely, among farmers.

The "old line" farm groups—Grange, Farm Bureau and Farmers Union—are still in there battling. Only thing is, the most effective punches often are landed on each other; although Grange and Farmers Union occasionally work together in Washington on farm legislation. This "big three" of farm political groups is seldom seen together, unless in regard to such programs as the "Agricultural Hall of Fame."

In fact, it hasn't been too many years since a Federal court in Utah awarded NFU \$25,000 in libel judgment from AFB, as an aftermath of propaganda battles in the west.

Also, FB now is decidedly cool toward commodity organizations, staunchly supported by the Grange, after early claims that a commodity-by-commodity approach couldn't succeed without FB organization and guidance.

NFU has had relatively little effect on the present administration's farm program, despite the "formality" election of NFU's president, James Patton to head the International Federal of Agricultural Producers (opposed by the single vote of FB). They reaped publicity with the Cattleman's March during the southwestern drought, but newspaper clippings make poor fodder, even mixed with molasses.

Grange is still hobbled by its "19th Century" secret-organization status in many areas, with the elaborate ceremonies repelling many prospective members; although the middle-of-the-road Grange program is looked upon with favor by many farmers.

The possibility of farmer-cooperative is clouded by the circumstances of competition between groups and individual leaders. Human nature being what it is, many leaders of minor or splinter farm groups are reluctant to unite for fear of losing power and position. Employees are likewise opposed to unity talk for fear of losing their jobs and security. With so many key figures placing personal interests ahead of the common goal, both co-ops and political groups are handicapped in the leadership role.

Which leaves us with the original question of leadership for American agriculture.

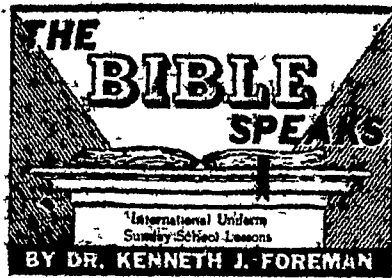
Despite the miserable chaos of the federal "farm program," it still appears the USDA must supply unifying leadership at any time in the near future. It is the only organization with administrative bodies in every rural county of the U.S., providing the framework for unification.

Such an all encompassing organization is an absolute necessity for uniting U. S. farmers. It must provide decisive power, arbitration systems and administrative personnel to coordinate the divided complexities of American agriculture.

We feel these divisions today, with Pennsylvania farmers competing with "cheap" milk, eggs and meat; while plagued with the "high" price of supported feedstuffs. At the same time, farmers near major markets are pressured by need to expand marginal operations; while remote farmlands are idled by acreage allotments, the Soil Bank or sheer economic necessity.

Every segment of the American economy receives some governmental subsidies; be they tariffs, fast tax write-offs, minimum wage laws, public roads, cost-sharing or cash. Agriculture is included. Virtually every segment of the American economy is organized for protection in some manner, doctors, lawyers, merchants, industrials, labor, truckers, railroads, airlines, newspapers; the list is endless and includes all major industries — except agriculture.

All of these groups voice objection to subsidies for agriculture, while demanding more aid to themselves. The fact remains — American agriculture as we know it today, cannot survive unaided, unorganized and controlled from outside. BUT — Who shall lead?



Bible Material: Mark 14:53 through 15:15.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 22:1-19.

Jesus' Trial

Lesson for March 15, 1959

THE COURT tries the prisoner, for so it is intended. Sometimes his story reverses the court's verdict. In such cases, those who look back at the trial can see that the prisoner was really trying the court. That is to say, in the eyes of posterity and (we may well believe) often of God himself, every one connected with the trial will be judged by his attitude to the prisoner; not the other way around.



Joan of Arc, for example, had Dr. Foreman a spectacular trial. She was condemned and cruelly executed, apparently to every one's approval. But today she is called a Saint. Students of her life and times feel that if any one in that grim courtroom where her death was decreed deserved to die, it was not she, but some who betrayed her, some who judged her.

The Judge's Question

Jesus' trial before Pilate is the supreme example of such an upside-down trial. If any one had asked the governor that evening how he thought history would rank him and his young prisoner of that morning, he would have smiled his grim Roman smile and perhaps said, "Hmph! History will not be interested. But if history wants to know, it's on the record. I had the man executed. That settles it, doesn't it?" Pilate could not have known that his own sole claim to fame would be the fact that every seven days, all over the world, in hundreds of languages, men and women would repeat the words almost like a curse... "and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who... suffered under Pontius Pilate."

In the course of that wicked farce of a trial, Pilate asked a question which has more echoes

than he guessed. I do with Jesus question by which in that trial were question that Jesus. What will you do?

The Mob's Answer

Pilate asked the what to do with the judge, he had the. He never would asking a Jewish on statesmanship. Yet he goes through farce of asking a bloodthirsty mob, this innocent prisoner thought they were tending; but they were sentence on themselves of the people is not history, it is not the nor the voice of it is; but not there Jerusalem. Mobs have wills, they have brains, they have brains, judges. The verdict of his God, is seldom in

The Fact-Finders

Of course, even some brains behind it was that dignity of chief priests scribes. These were finders. Pilate was Roman; he cared for local customs, notions. He did not understand why this the object of so much Pilate said, "What done?" It is very was not "stalling" really was puzzled scribes and the elder priests were his research team when out of their court occasions were requiring reporter of those chief priests noon of Good Friday they had in the trial perhaps have said were there. We must consult. We were consulting the advice that character's mind. That have been at large it had not been for. But is was murder. For these fact-finders. All they had was position, name-calling. The result; but not we say we are never crime?

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



THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

Time To Quit

Agriculture Secretary Benson has told Congress he is ready to toss in the towel and give up the battle to support farm prices and control production.

"You must admit," he told the Senate Agriculture Committee, "that our attempts to control production have failed."

"Why," he asked, "continue a program that is bankrupt?"

He says farm products this year will cost taxpayers almost \$7.5 billion and that all the country has to show for that is "artificially high" prices and \$9 billion worth of excess farm crops in government storage.

The way to correct the situation he contends, is to let farm prices seek their law of supply and demand level. It doesn't make sense, he says, to pay farmers to produce for the government.

It is bitter medicine that Benson is prescribing for farmers. It is the kind of blunt talk that few farmers

ever expected to hear from a Secretary of Agriculture.

Benson told Congress that if it will give him a free hand he will start slashing price supports to the point where production will move into use rather than into storage, the cost of which is almost a billion dollars a year.

High price supports, Benson says, are the cause of excessive production. Lower prices, he argues, would cause some farmers to quit farming and others to reduce their production. Food prices too, would go down.

Congressmen who are opposing his proposals argue that their adoption would bankrupt at least a million farm families and drive them penniless into cities where already there are almost 5 million unemployed.

A Difference of Opinion

Not everyone, and that probably includes a majority of Congress, agrees with Secretary Benson. They point out that in the past six years prices received by far-

Lancaster Farming

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P. O. Box 1524
Lancaster, Penna.
Offices:
53 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
10 cents.

Member, Pa. Newspaper Publishers
Association, National Editorial
Association.



Max Smith

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

TO USE LAMB AND PIG BROODERS
These brooders that furnish additional dryness are very good, many have been saved through their use, is bad for any new-born creature. is one way to get them started in a way. Should be a good investment worked for others.

TO SPRAY FOR WILD GARLIC
men should be on the alert for the of wild garlic; in some years the March has been the time to start

weed control with the ester form of 2, 4-D. This much easier to kill while young and before pasture get started.

TO GET READY—MAKE QUALITY HAY—Spring came fast one of these times and you will be very Do you have the proper equipment to make top hay this year? One of the hay conditioners (crimper) will surely reduce the drying time in the the mow hay finisher either with or without heat to cure your hay and maintain feeding quality. We anything about the weather at hay-making time practices help reduce the weather risk

TO STOP SOIL EROSION—Spring-time is one good times to establish either straight strips or strips on your farm; if you are still farming up and the grade, you might consider the strips and one improve your farm as well as your farm income prevention of soil and water losses from your farm is ant; don't think that it is not happening to you difficult to recognize on some farms.

(Turn to page 11)