

EDITORIAL

Before us is a release from the Governor's office in Harrisburg concerning proposed legislation "... in connection with a four-point program to advance the marketing of Pennsylvania farm products."

Basic purpose of this proposed legislation appears to be the promotion of farm products produced within Pennsylvania — probably in regard to Pennsylvania consumers — since other states are likely to be somewhat skeptical of any sizable campaigns to push "Keystone Farm Goods" in their urban areas. Especially since it appears most of the surrounding states are thinking along these same lines—telling their city dwellers to buy New York, or New Jersey, or Maryland, or Delaware farm products; because they are juicier, fresher, richer, riper, more flavorful, better for you and cost less.

The actual size of the consumer dollar being what it is, more than likely the cost of "home grown" foods will carry more weight, when compared with "foreign" commodities, than the other items of sale appeal mentioned above.

Which brings us down to the one point we wish to toss into the political clambake.

Just how much difference is there going to be between perishable farm products arriving at the Philadelphia Food Distributing Center from 20 different states ten years from now;

What degree of freshness or staleness will producers in Lancaster County have for a sales talk in competition with foods trucked almost a thousand miles—OVERNIGHT?

The buyer is going to make little distinction between eggs laid in Lancaster County on Monday evening and eggs laid in Wisconsin on Monday morning. Yet he will have his choice and promotion or no promotion that buyer is going to reflect the housewife's demand.

Quite frankly, we doubt if very many Philadelphia housewives are going to show great concern about whether her eggs bear a "Penna. Dutch" or "Land O' Lakes" stamp. She'll buy one of each the first few times she has a choice. Then she'll start buying the one that offers the most quality at the lowest cost.

Again quite frankly, we doubt if she finds any great quality difference. Which means the final choice will be on cost.

Which means the man who delivers those eggs, or milk, or butter, or potatoes, or broilers, or beans will be cutting his costs to the bone. Without regard to where he starts from, his purpose will be to show the largest possible profit. He'll use bigger trucks and the shortest routes; with the best drivers he can find. Those

drivers will be expensive—they already are. So will the trucks.

When he arrives at Philadelphia, or New York at the end of each trip, whether it be 100 or 1,000 miles, he'll find the competition for the buyers' dollar just a little rougher. When his truck gets back home, he'll try to send it out with food that cost just a little less than the previous load—at the farm.

It won't matter whether the farm is in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania or Nebraska. Farmers in both places and about 3,500 other rural counties will find the money spent promoting their individual state's farm products over other states' was effective only to the extent it sold all.

We're very much in favor of market promotion for farm products. The National Dairy Assn. has a very good campaign going at present. They are simply trying to sell milk and milk products. No artificial flavoring for their milk and no artificial boundaries on where it is produced or sold. They are not claiming superior qualities for milk produced by one farmer over that of another. If it comes from a Holstein, or Guernsey, or Jersey, or Hereford—they couldn't care less. If it is good milk, that is what counts and they want to sell all of it they can.

The situation is only too obvious. If Eastern farmers and Western farmers start to cutting each other's throats—they'll succeed in cutting each other's throats. The city housewife will benefit as farmers undersell each other—right into bankruptcy. UNTIL food production is concentrated in the hands of a few corporate farm units; then everyone will "pay the piper."

Why not spend our money, state, federal and private, in eliminating phony political barriers between farmers. Let Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern farmers join forces in seeing that every one who can do a good job of food production will have a chance to sell his product at a fair price.

Why shouldn't each commodity group have the chance to see that quality products from all parts of the country reach the market; where they return a quality price to the farmer.

It would appear far better to have organized marketing, administered by farmers for farmers, than the compounding of today's chaos into unrestrained price slashing.

Eventually this country will need the full productive capacity of every family farm in every state. This time is not far away. Let's devote our efforts to maintaining those farms as near peak level as possible, without regard to artificial political boundaries and concepts.



THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson STORK VS SCIENTISTS

The stork and agricultural scientists are engaged in a life and death race in which the scientists are ahead, but in which the stork is gaining.

That, in a nutshell, is what is back of all of the arguments in Washington over appropriation of more than a hundred million dollars a year for continued agricultural research.

Why, some are asking, should we spend huge sums to find ways to increase crop yields, or make hens lay more eggs, or make cows give more milk, and then spend more billions to get rid of the surpluses?

Those who are betting on the stork to win in the long run counter with figures to show that while crop output per acre is increasing by only 1% a year, the population is increasing by 1.7% a yr. **Land Is Limited**

Even with the addition of two new states, Alaska and Hawaii, we have only about 350 million acres of cropland

on which to produce food for 175 million people at present. That exactly is two acres per person.

We are diverting approximately two million acres of "hat cropland" to roads, new housing developments and factory sites annually, and at the same time adding some three million persons to be fed each year.

Population experts say that "under extreme pressure" we perhaps could add no more than 100 million acres to our cropland total, through irrigation, drainage and the clearing of forests. That would take care of the population increase for only about 33 years.

They argue that by about the year 2,000 the United States will either have to grow more food per acre or provide a diet of more grains and less meat, milk and eggs. **On The Other Hand**

The research scientists, however, argue that there is no reason to become concerned over the possibility of a

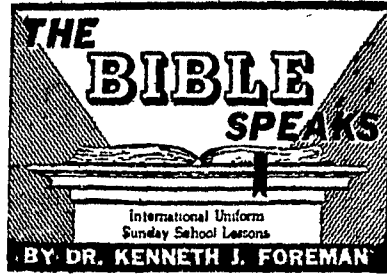
food shortage. They contend we can, through research, expand our food production to feed as many as a billion people in this country.

We are eating more and better food today, because of research, than ever before. Twenty-five years ago it took seven pounds of feed to grow a two-pound broiler. Today it takes only about three lbs. of feed.

We are also producing more milk, pork and beef per pound of feed, and we are growing more corn, wheat and other crops per acre. And the scientists point out, we are not farming now nearly as well as we know how. (Turn to page 5)

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Bible Material: I Samuel 8-11.
Devotional Reading: I Samuel 12 19-24.

Officer Material Lesson for April 12, 1959

THE NAVY HAS a word for a school where men from the ranks are studying to be commissioned officers: the "Officers' Material School." Not every enlisted man can be admitted; only those who seem to have what it is going to take to be an officer, and that is a good deal.

The Bible tells a story of a man from the ranks who was good "officer material" but who (like some Navy candidates) flunked out. He did not fail, however, for lack of the stuff of which success can be made. Next week's study concerns his failure; this week's thought is given to what could have been his success. He held a good hand, we may say, but he played it badly.



Dr. Foreman

Head and Shoulders

Look over the cards he held. First, he had what everyone noticed the first moment they looked at him: he stood out in any crowd, head and shoulders above the rest. He would have sat tall in the saddle (only no one around there rode horseback); he stood tall on the ground. He was strong enough to butcher and cut up a yoke of oxen by himself, and in a fight he had proved himself a lion. Men have been successes in life without extraordinary strength; but for a leader of men, a store of extra power and energy is important. Some investigator found that executives in business are on an average, taller and heavier than the men lower down the ladder. The executive needs the extra power for the extra drive. But of course a giant can be a fool. You cannot predict how much of a leader a man will be merely by measuring the distance from his crew-cut to his heels.

"When they molded him, the molder broke the mold," it is said

of some people. It is said of Saul. He was and shoulders taller than any man in the land. Good brains, original high cards in the hand. Some people with such are quiet, mousy. If to originality the force of character, of decision, a forthright to all problems—the the makings of a great Saul started out as a We read of him in the army was besieging Jabesh, and there came a "treaty" by putting the eye of every man in Israel heard about it. It was loud wailing in the when the news came did not weep a tear of oxen, cut them by hands, sent pieces to the tribe, with the name Jabesh, ready to fight oxen made into a "this!" It may have been it got results.

A Modest Patriot

Above all, the man looking for a man in the country, the whole land of Israel. Saul by Gilead had proved his person. He not only a sacrifice for his country he had the ability to do also. He had shown that he placed the interests of his country as a whole above the interests of any one tribe or city, and he had the ability to do so. He had shown that he placed the interests of his country as a whole above the interests of any one tribe or city, and he had the ability to do so. He had shown that he placed the interests of his country as a whole above the interests of any one tribe or city, and he had the ability to do so.

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

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



Max Smith

TO SHEAR SHEEP—For the profit from your flock the sheep should be sheared during March and April. The practice of allowing the fleece on the sheep until May or June is to be discouraged. The fleece will be just as heavy now as it will be later. The ewes will milk better and be better because they will be more comfortable in the weather similar to the small lamb weather. Old weather or rains will drive the sheep helter more promptly if they are sheared which in turn will be better for the lambs.

TO CONTROL YOUR DOG—All dog owners are responsible for their dog regardless of where he is, and the dog who roams the community is of little value to the owner. He may do considerable damage. Your dog is subject to be killed if caught in the act of injuring any other person's property regardless of the license. Keep your dog under control and teach him to be of some value.

TO TOPDRESS HAY AND PASTURE CROPS—If your crops were not treated last fall with phosphorus and early April is a good time to make the application. In county pasture fields, especially old bluegrass fields, give good response to an application of 400 pounds of 5-10-10 this month. During the past several years in many pastures the areas near manure droppings are easily noticed by their more rank growth. If these pastures will pay big dividends to application of complete fertilizer. Plenty of good pasture from now until October is a vital asset to all livestock men.

TO PLOW DOWN CORN FERTILIZER—Since one of our deep rooted crops it is important to get fertilizers, (especially nitrogen) down near the root of the plant. The best method of doing this is to plow down the fertilizer; applications may be made anytime during the month preceding plowing; if a clover crop is present the fertilizer will give more rank growth to plow down than straight nitrogen fertilizers that will furnish the nitrogen. Nitrogen fertilizers are very important where corn, or another row crop, in the rotation