

FROM WHERE WE STAND - The Integrity Of Elected Officials

There is an old Italian Proverb that says, "The dog that licks ashes is not to be trusted with flour."

A group of New Jersey poultrymen have been, like many others in the business, having their troubles in the financial structure of this surplus laden economy.

The fact that they have troubles does not set them apart from the many other poultrymen in the nation. Even the fact that they are attempting to do something to improve their situation does not set them very far apart, but the way in which they are attempting to go, does, in our opinion, put them in a peculiar position.

These poultrymen have appealed to the president of the Teamsters, Union, James Hoffa, to help them organize themselves out of their difficulties.

That Mr. Hoffa is an organizer, no one could very well deny. However, we feel that the farmers can better serve their own and the public interest in marketing their produce by affiliating themselves with organizations and persons which have come in for less notoriety.

James Hoffa has but one thing to sell—himself. The union which he heads has service to sell. That service can not be readily replaced by another, but the food produced by the poultrymen in question can be pushed aside in favor of other food items. A small amount of unfavorable publicity about any food product can cause a wholesale substitution at the table by the American housewife. We saw it happen once recently with cranberries and again with poultry meat. A near catastrophe could develop if the same sort of situation should arise with eggs.

Local Logrolling

Finley Peter Dunne wrote, "Trust everybody, but cut the cards."

When a cooperative organization elects officers and hires a manager they should have faith that those officials will conduct the business to the best of their ability. The stock holders in the cooperative venture should trust those

officials, but it doesn't hurt to cut the cards occasionally, especially if those officials are doing all the dealing.

When the officers of any organization, from the smallest social club to the greatest nation on earth, attempt to influence the elections of that organization, democratic processes are very near destruction. And when those officers attempt to manipulate elections in order to perpetuate their tenure in office, democracy will die and dictatorship will rise in its place unless the rank and file members quickly take over the reins of government again.

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. If in your farm organization there is any question as to the legality of procedure in elections, or if there is any suspicion upon the integrity of elected officials, it is your duty to become informed at first hand—and then make sure your vote counts.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

"Since the first sputnik went sputtering into the wild blue yonder, there has been a great vogue for following the example of Soviet Russia in matters related to science, on the theory that the Communists have the last word.

"... Dr. Atkinson, was a delegate to the International Federation for Documentation, held in Warsaw, Poland, last September. He found the Russians were copying the American system and were decentralizing at the moment our scientists were urging that the Soviet method be followed. If we aren't careful we'll meet ourselves coming back."

—Norkwalk, Conn., Hour

The editor has served notice on his good wife that until she removes all traces of artificial color from her lips, he will have to forego the daily good-bye kiss. We have heard that lipstick kills rats, and We're not taking any chances.

(down 10%), and soy beans \$1.60 (down 25%).

The report does not explain how the 14% average decline is arrived at in view of the much larger decline predicted for commodities which make up 80% of all farm marketings.

College Conclusions

The college economists expressed the belief that USDA's projections of probable 1965 prices and income were "somewhat higher" than justified by the expected increase in volume of farm marketings.

They estimated net farm income would drop from about \$11.5 billion last year to about \$7 billion in 1965, a decline of about 40%, including both cash marketing receipts and government payments.

Other estimates included a 60% to 75% drop by 1965 in net cash receipts by wheat growers, 35% lower for cotton producers, 37% lower for corn-hog producers, 13% lower for dairymen, but not much change for beef cattle ranchers.

"The reduction is realized net income (40%) would be borne largely by the 2.1

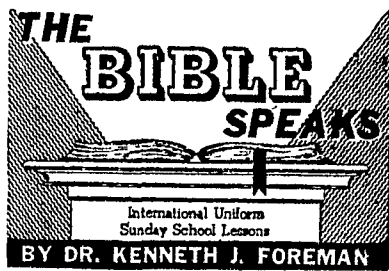
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Rural Rhythms

By Carol Dean Huber

THE WILD THINGS

What do little fishes do
When the stream is frozen fast?
What do little rabbits do
In the Winter's Icy blast?
We farmers feed our catt'le,
son
We see that they are warm;
God watches over wild things,
And keeps them safe from harm.



Bible Material: Acts 24 through 26.
Devotional Reading: Matthew 10 16-25.

A Day In Court

Lesson for March 13, 1960

WHEN a prisoner appears in court heavily handcuffed and with a chain attached to him, it is a sign he is known as an escape artist. Maybe his nickname is Slippery Sam. Now Saint Paul was no Slippery Sam, but he was forced to wear chains all the same. Further-

more, he was accused chiefly of being a rabble-rouser. Even a real rabble-rouser doesn't like to be called that; and Paul was anything else but that. Yet there he was in court, first before Governor Felix, later on before Governor Festus and King Agrippa. The charges were flimsy, but the chains were solid.



Dr. Foreman

What could Paul do about it? Two things he would not do. He would not complain that he was there at all. He could have kept his mouth stubbornly shut, he could have said that an Apostle cannot rightfully be tried by a civil court. On the contrary, he recognized the legal right of the court to pass judgment on his case. Again, he could have "fixed" the court. We know that Governor Felix hoped for a bribe. Paul had wealthy friends and they could have arranged it. But Paul did not do that.

The Church in Court

Paul's situation may cast some light on the relation between the Christian church and the civil courts, or the civil government in general, in our day. This is a very tricky subject and the churches which we will be studying this lesson are not all agreed on the solution. But we can venture a few general thoughts. The church certainly can rule out what Paul ruled out. The church has no right to say, "The civil courts and the civil government have no jurisdiction over the Church of God." If any body of people anywhere has a high

duty to comply with law and submit to proper authorities, the church of course the church's beliefs, and its mode of operation, the appointment of its members are its own affairs.

If the church must refuse to stand outside the law, it must also be scrupulous not to influence law and law-makers by illegal means. This goes all the way from preachers who try to "fix" their traffic-violation tickets, up to a great church that tries to get illegal tax reductions or exemptions.

What then can the church do? If it should not stay aloof from the world and government, and if it tries to please the Felixes and the capital with bribes, direct or indirect, what can the Church do as it confronts the state?

Again it might take a leaf from Paul. He did try to influence the court; but it was open and above board. He put his case truthfully and quietly, but persuasively. In these trials the court was persuaded against him at the start, he always won a verdict of Guilty. What he had on his side were facts, and he presented the facts so that even skeptical judges were convinced.

Getting the Christian Case

Here is something the church can do, or several things all combined. First, the Christian church needs to have, more than it has, a clear understanding of what "Christian ethics" means and is; that is, say, the church ought to have a clear and clearer understanding of what the Christian faith implies for social, business, education and all other realms of the modern society. Second, the church should be more aware than it is of the moral side of proposed legislation; which is to say in simple words,—the church should always be alert to ask, What is this situation, going to do to people? The church that is not interested in persons and what affects them, is a long way removed from its Master. And third, the church through as many of its members as are really interested, should keep governors, congressmen, senators, mayors and official bodies aware of the Christian viewpoint. Like Paul, the church needs to state the Christian position, to persuade by the highest method—presentation of the truth

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THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Into The Fire

The nation's top farm economists agree that if production controls were removed and price supports lowered to the free market level over the next 5 years farmers would be out of the frying pan and into the fire.

That is the conclusion reached by U. S. Department of Agriculture and Land Grant College economists in separate surveys made in response to a request by Sen. Allen Ellender, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Results of the studies are published in a 30-page report entitled Senate Document No. 77, free copies of which are available through the U S Printing Office,

Washington, D. C.

Both reports emphasize that the studies are the independent conclusions reached by the economists, and not necessarily the view of policy officials, in response to this question.

What would the effect be on farm production, prices, and income if government production controls were eliminated and price supports lowered to the free market level over the next 5 years?

Both surveys are in agreement that removal of production controls and lowering of price supports, as advocated by Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson, would result in an increase in production along with lower prices and reduced income for farmers.

Department of Agriculture economists think total farm production would increase at an average of 2% per year, somewhere near the average of the past 10 years. They think that by 1965 farm prices would decline another 14% but that cash income would drop only 9% because of increased marketing.

They estimate that by 1965 beef cattle would average \$15 (down 25%), hogs \$11.50 (down 20%), milk \$3.60 (down 20%), corn 80c a bu. (down 25%), wheat 90c a bu. (down 50%), cotton 25c (down 30%), eggs 29c (down 20%), broilers 15c

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO KEEP LIVESTOCK OFF PASTURE—Some livestock producers permit their animals to run out on the grazing area very early in the spring; there is little value in this practice and great harm will be done to the grass roots; in addition the livestock will tramp holes in the ground when it is full of moisture and soft. An exercise lot is recommended for all livestock but keep them off the pasture area until the grass is at the proper height and the ground more solid.

TO PLAN FOR SOWING SPRING OATS EARLY—Local growers of spring oats should make every effort to get them into the ground by the first of April. In southeastern Pennsylvania the weather usually gets too dry and too hot in early summer for top oats yields; therefore, very early planting will mean a big difference in the yield.

TO PROVIDE SEPARATE LOAFING AREA FOR COWS—Producers who are loose housing dairy cattle should not feed, hay, or water their cows in the loafing area. To maintain a good bedded pack, the important practice is to allow the cows to use it only when loafing and lying down. To permit any other activity in this clean, well bedded area will only bring on dirty conditions and use more bedding.

TO CREEP FEED SPRING LAMBS—Easter time is usually a rewarding market for lamb producers. Considering the favorable prices at this time of the year it is suggested that lambs be pushed along as rapidly as possible; the practice of providing extra feeds only for the lambs should be a profitable one. This feed is usually fed in a small creep feeder so that the ewes cannot get to it. A mixture of 3 parts of cracked corn, 2 parts of whole oats, and one part of wheat bran is suggested. These extra pounds increase returns from the lamb crop.