FROM WHERE WE STAND -

Tongue In Cheek About Surplusses

This week we clipped the following editorial from a paper called "Industrial News Review".

WHY NOT ?

From National Review: "Tongue-in-Cheek Dept.: Bill submitted to congress by New York publisher to authorize the government to buy and store all overprintings of books from all publishers, at public expense.

"Why not? And why not extend the law so that government will buy all unsold automobiles, radios, newspapers and everything else that is produced in excess of demand? It certainly makes as much sense as for the government to spend billions for farm surplusses for which there is no market."

WHY NOT, INDEED

And why not authorize the government to make it as easy for the farmer to control the weather and the productive ability of his crops and livestock as it is for the publisher to stop his presses when he has completed the terms of his contract with book distributors.

Why not make it as simple to harvest crops during severe weather conditions as it is to put a roof over a printing press or automobile factory. Or make is as easy to store fresh milk until needed as it is to store a book or automobile..

We could go on and on, but you get the idea.

We are disturbed that anyone would put such nonsense into print, even with the heading of Tongue-in-Cheek. We would certainly hope it was not done in seriousness.

The whole point we would like to make is this: Farmers do occasianally come in for some very unfavorable publicity in urban periodicals, and most of it is totally unjustified.

There was a time in this country when farmers were a majority of the population, and later on when they were no longer a majority, many city dwellers had had their origins on farms or were otherwise closely associated with the country life.

Today as never before the farmer needs to make his case strong to the urban dwellers.

It is easy for the uniformed person to look at the budget of the United States Department of Agriculture and imagine that the entire thing is going to the farmer in the form of handouts and never realize that the school lunch program, foreign aid, military kitchens and a host of other regulatory agencys which protect the nation's food supply from unscrupulous food processors and distributors take their share before any of it ever goes to benefit the farmer. Even then a large slice goes toward research to provide better food and fiber for the consumer.

We get a little tired of hearing about the aids to agriculture when almost any other segment of the economy you can name has come in for its share of subsidies—some of them for much more and for a much longer time.

A recent release from the University of Delaware says, "By applying new scientific facts and methods the farmer probably has done more than anyone to keep the costs of living from rising even higher."

The report continues, "Over the past ten years the various food items consumers buy (based on figures of the USDA) increased by $243, but the farmer got only $3.00 of it."

Most of this is not news to any farmer, but it disturbs us to see such proposals in print, even when they are in only semi-seriousness.

We have a strong case. We should present it to the consumer at every opportunity.

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

Davidson

THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

Educated Illiterates

Are we becoming a nation of educated illiterates?

You can find evidence to support an affirmative answer in almost any grade or high school in the country, as well as in many colleges and universities.

The evidence is in the themes and other written work turned in by students. These, in the opinion of many educators, represent a "high degree of illiteracy" and a "basic lack of Knowledge of the use of the English language"

At the root of this serious deficiency in our educational system is an alarming decline in reading by younger people Good books have almost disappeared from many homes and have been replaced by television programs that contribute almost nothing to an understanding of the proper use of the English language.

Surveys of what little reading most grade and high school students do show a marked decline in quality and use of English prose. even from the Horatio Alger and Frank Merriwell books popular with young folks a generation ago. Much of the reading now consists of comic books and other just plain literary trash.

An Educator Speaks Out

The seriousness of the sorry situation in many schools was emphasized recently by Washington, D. C, School Superintendent Carl F. Hansen at a special meeting with English teachers in the Washington schools;

The current level of student writing. Hansen told the teachers, falls far short of meeting the goal of education—the creation of an enlightened and literate citizenry. Too often, he said, compositions turned in by students are "poor in form, slovenly in organization and shallow in content"

The low degree of proficiency in writing, Hansen warned, if not improved, "threatens a break-down in communication of thoughts and understanding" in all phases of business and social life He urged that teachers place greater emphasis on both the number and quality of themes in both grade and high schools.

He noted that although there are "gratifying exceptions," most high school students who enter college are "woefully deficient" in English, a condition, he said which "places a serious handicap on them in all of their studies." Too many colleges, Hansen said, are forced to teach English that should have been learned in high school.

Too Little and Too Late

A report on college students last year showed the percentage of low grades and failures was greater in English classes than in any other subject. It blamed high schools for poor preparation of the students.

Hansen, a former English teacher, indicated agreement with that report. A study of 5,000 English papers turned in by Washington high school students in one month last fall showed, he said, these deficiencies:

"In matters of style, including such elecents as maturity of thought and sentence structure, and qualities of fluency and purpose, much improvement is needed.

"The students seemed to have little skill in organization of thought in appropriate structural relationships. Short, choppy sentences or indiscriminate coordination in run-on sentences were all too common.

"There was little evidence that the students had learned

(Turn to page 12)

Lancaster Farming

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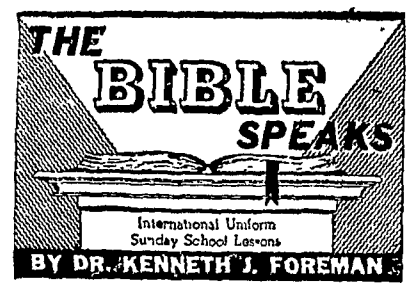
Rural Rhythms

STRAWBERRIES ARE RIPE

By: Carol Dean Huber

Once again it's Strawberry
time!
Even prose writers break
into rhyme.
Succulent - Juicy - sweet -
and red -
Hungrier words were never
said.

Shortcake, preserves, pie
and jam -
Any one hungry? I know I
am.
Only one thing is my defeat,
Who doesn't pick - doesn't
eat



Bible Material: Matthew 7 1-12, Luke 10 25-37.

Devotional Reading: James 2.8-17.

The Golden Rule

Lesson for June 5, 1960

WHAT IS THE Bible driving at? What is the essence of the Bible, what is it that can't be thrown away or left out? Jesus put the answer to this pretty strongly once. He did not quote any verse from the Old Testament (his Bible). He gave a single sentence of his own, and said **"This is the Law and the Prophets."** He never said as much about any other sentence.

Dr. Foreman

No wonder the Christian church hit on the name "Golden Rule" for this sentence which Jesus boldly identified with the Law and the Prophets. It is indeed golden But "rule" can be misunderstood. Most rules are designed to save people the trouble of thinking. Applying rules is a scientific procedure. But this "Golden Rule" is of such a nature that applying it is an art, not a science. So far from saving any one the trouble of thinking, it demands thought. The Golden Rule, in the life of a stupid and selfish person, produces only a mess, and can do great harm.

At least three things are necessary in order to make the Golden Rule work. What is this Golden Rule? **"Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them."** This is a challenge, first of all, to **intelligence.** It is really a principle, not a rule. It does not tell you to do any particular act. It does not describe any particular situation. It is open to being misunderstood (as all wise sayings are) by the foolish and the stupid. What could we say of a man who would give his wife a shotgun just because he would like to have one?

Imagination

The Golden Rule calls for imagination as well as intelligence the man who gave his wife shotgun would try to put himself into his wife's place, he would "If I were my wife, what would present would I want?" might remember that she had something about wanting bathroom curtains Or, if he an even stronger power of imagination, he could think his way her mind and guess, at some she had never so much as tioned—an extension telephone a trip to her old home When you would wish people to do —if you were in their place so to them That is the real ing of this rule.

Sometimes it calls for the of imagination that can look the future. Parents and teachers need this greatly You can imagine what this child, this dent, wants you to do now wants you not to punish him wants you not to require hard of him. Now you can let the do as he pleases without hand against him, and that will his down to the ground But years from now you—and he may sorely wish you had given him good when spanking was some good Likewise the teacher can be easy on the class—with consequence that they learn ing. Years later they may competition with those who studied under harder-driving ers Then they will wish the had put on the screws.

The Christian Heart

The Golden Rule calls for thing beyond, or rather underlying, intelligence and imagination Its right use calls for the Christian heart, that is to say, a heart tune with the heart of Jesus heart wherein dwells the Spirit; a heart sensitive not to the wants of others but to needs. Jesus himself gave an tration of this when the paralytic man was brought to him man's four friends who let down through the roof The thing Jesus said to him was sins are forgiven" Some would have criticized Jesus that. Where was any evidence this man wanted his sins forgiven Would his friends think a trick been played on them? A foot cripple weighs just as much unforgiven cripple, doesn't But our Lord knew what the needed most of all was forgiveness. Only a Christ-like heart see through want to need

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Now is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

MAX SMITH

TO SIDE-DRESS CORN—After weather conditions permit the planting of your corn crop, and if no nitrogen was plowed down on stalk ground, it will pay to side-dress corn when under 12 inches tall with a nitrogen fertilizer. This is especially true in ground of low fertility and where no manure was plowed down, from 30 to 40 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre when the corn is small is recommended for improved yields.

TO KILL THOSE WEEDS—Every effort should be made to kill weeds when they are small. We realize weather conditions have not permitted much of this practice in the past month; however, weeds compete for moisture and plant food; every effort should be made to kill them while they are small.

TO USE AMINE FORM OF 2.4-D—The post emergence spraying of corn (after it is up) is permitted providing the corn is not to be fed for 30 days; many fields will be needing this spray due to recent rains. However, it is very important that all spray operators be sure they are using the amine form of 2,4-D and not the ester form Many crops are injured by the fumes or drift of the ester form and great risk is taken when used at this time of the year

TO MAKE HAY WITH COLOR AND LEAVES — A very difficult taks in the last three weeks but every effort should be taken to hold the green color and the leaves Raking into a small window before the top leaves in the swath are dry and crisp will help keep them from shattering, also get it into a windrow over-night so the dew will not bleach out the green color Air movement through the windrow will also help in the drying process. Fluffing or tedding when too dry will reduce the amount of leaves and the feed value.

TO SEED SUDANGRASS FOR SUMMER PASTURE — Many livestock producers have ample pasture now but may be short during July and August. Sweet sudangrass (Piper) is the variety will make a maximum amount of high quality summer pasture on most farms Seeded during early June at the rate of 25 to 30 pounds per acre, this crop in weeks time should give excellent summer pasture Do not permit grazing until the growth is 16 to 18 inches tall and stop grazing after a killing frost in the fall.