

## FROM WHERE WE STAND - Get It In Writing Is Good Advice

"Get it in writing," has been one of the admonitions handed out ever since the invention of paper to anyone dealing with another person who might not be considered exactly honest.

We agree that any kind of an agreement must be in writing if one is dealing with strangers, but how about friends and family.

Farmers are notoriously slow to ask neighbors and family to put any kind of agreement on paper. "His word is as good as his bond," they say, and we are happy that there are still a few people in this world who have confidence in their fellowman.

But we feel that a written agreement is in no way a reflection on the integrity of the parties to the agreement. In actual fact, persons with nothing to hide and no personal axes to grind will be most willing to have agreements on paper.

We realize that even with written agreements differences of opinion arise but they do not compare to the differences that come about because one or both of the parties to an agreement do not understand the terms of a verbal contract.

Verbal contracts are just as binding as those on paper, and can be enforced to the letter—if the letter can be determined.

We think it is important to have a written agreement regarding wages, tenancy, privileges, or other benefits to accrue in the future, because it is easy to promise many things orally to

make a good impression without intending to deceive or mislead. Many farm workers have worked for years at a sacrifice in wages on the employer's promise that someday "You will be treated very well."

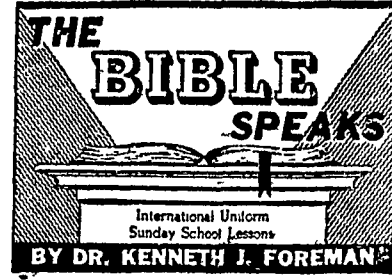
Furthermore, many have learned that a man's word or good intentions mean not a whit after his death.

In these days of enormous capital investments, the advice to get it in writing is doubly important for wills. We know many farmers who have an idea of how they would like to have their property divided when they no longer have a need for it, but unless it is in writing, many heartaches may result when survivors begin to settle the estates.

We know of no situation calling more strongly for written agreement than the partnership between father and son, and yet, these two seem most hesitant to put their terms on paper. Many family relationships have been trained, and in some instances broken entirely, because father or son felt that the other one did not fulfill the verbal agreement. Too many times these verbal pacts are too vague to mean much to either party even when they are made, but each feels that nothing could change their working relationship.

So many situations are changing in this fast-moving society we live in that the advice to "Get it in writing," is more important than it has ever been.

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



Bible Material: Amos 5:14, 15; 6.  
Devotional Reading: Proverbs 3:5-12.

### False Security

Lesson for July 17, 1960

**A**LARM whistles blew, sirens sounded, signals flashed. The whole city should have been in an uproar, but it was going about its business as usual. Excited officials telephoned everywhere—a mistake has been made, this is no drill, just pay no attention. But nobody paid attention to the apologies, because nobody had paid attention to the alarm. Headquarters had many phone calls that day, but—and this is the interesting point—everybody supposed there must be some mistake. Not a soul took it seriously.



Dr. Foreman

That little story, if true (it got into the newspapers at any rate), shows up very nicely the American state of mind. We can't believe anything is wrong with us, we can't see how anything can go wrong with us. People who drive out a few miles from any city in America may see signs: Evacuation Route . . . Feeding Station, and so forth. But how many Americans actually expect ever to stand hungry at a feeding station?!

The prophet Amos, speaking for God, faced a nation (Israel) smaller than ours by far, but just as complacent, just as sure that nothing could go wrong, just as gently cushioned by a feeling of national security. The facts and factors that made them feel so safe and happy are familiar to any who take time off to observe the American scene. For one thing, they were a nation operating by military power. Many of its kings, if not all of them, had been generals of the army. In case of rival claimants for the throne, the man with the most troops usually got the prize. The country had knocked off its enemies one by one. Just at Amos's time, the boundaries of the coun-

try were wider than at any since Solomon. What armies done, armies could do again, thought . . . and so do we have never been beaten in war shall never be beaten." For coaches know that no streak lasts for ever.

### Wealth and Culture

The little country of Israel not only safe at the moment of military attack, it was prosperous. People built homes of ivory—as to say, decorated with ivory in lavish way. They had money in summer and winter homes, they drank the finest wines, they money and leisure for the arts. Amos pointed out, all this was only on certain streets. There were other streets where people went hungry and cold. But people Amos talked to were from the country-club suburbs. They never did believe what Amos told them, that prosperity is the same thing as security. There is no point in throwing a big party if the house is burning down on your head. We are a little like Israelites, aren't we? Many Americans think we can buy our way out of any trouble, we can spend money with any nation just spending money there.

### The Enemy Within

After all, enemy armies are not the greatest danger to Israel as a nation. When a wind blows down a tree in the forest, we blame that the wind was to blame. It was the wind, or was it the rotting inside the tree-trunk? The same wind struck other trees they did not fall. This one fell because it was hollow, a little hole sent it tumbling. What concern Amos most, looking through God's eyes at Israel, not foreign politics and wars, but conditions inside Israel. Oh, people would have said to conditions are not bad here. At the temples, they are filled every week. The number of sacrifices never been greater. But Amos was not impressed. God did not care all their religion; it was only hypocrisy, which is another thing. God is more impressed by justice and righteousness than he is by elaborate "worship service." Amos made it clear that church attendance is no guarantee of a nation's safety. The burning question is: What do the people do to church do to other people remaining six days of the week? If the nations hear this, what use are her deities?"

\*Based on outlines prepared by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. (Lancaster Community Press Series)



## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson Union Ballots

Shortly before Congress adjourned Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota introduced a bill that would require a secret ballot of workers prior to the calling of a strike.

Although no hearings were held and no action was taken on the bill, and the idea of secret strike ballots is not new, the objective of restoring control of unions to workers is one that deserves consideration.

Many unions, as a matter of common practice, do hold secret votes to approve or reject use of the threat of a strike as a bargaining weapon. A considerable number of them do not.

It is a common practice among many unions, as Sen. Mundt points out, for union leaders to ask for a strike vote before they go to the bargaining table with an employer, for use as a club in obtaining their demands.

The record of labor disputes in recent years contains many flagrant abuses of the strike authorization. Union leaders in many instances have called and con-

tinued strike without giving members an opportunity to vote on acceptance or rejection of employers' offers.

"In many cases," Senator Mundt said, "employees vote to strike merely to strengthen their representatives' bargaining position. However, once a strike is authorized, employees find themselves striking without the opportunity to vote on the real issue—acceptance or rejection of the employer's offer of settlement of the dispute."

Once the strike weapon is placed in the hands of union leaders, the members are powerless to do anything except what their leaders tell them to do. Strikes are sometimes continued for months with no opportunity for the members to vote on an employer's offer of settlement.

Sen. Mundt's bill is designed "to strengthen democratic processes within labor organizations and to protect union members against unjustifiable pay losses in strikes through providing for impartial secret strike ballots."

### Settlement Procedures

The bill provides that before a strike could be called a vote by secret ballot would have to be held on acceptance or rejection of the employer's offer. Voting would be supervised by an election committee consisting of one union representative, one employer representative and a third member agreed upon by the first two.

No strike ballot could be taken until after at least "60 days of honest collective bargaining negotiations in an atmosphere free of a strike threat." The effect would be to prevent union negotiators beginning bargaining talks with a strike authorization in their pockets.

"The bill," Sen. Mundt told the Senate, "is sound and workable and will not inter-

fere with, nor diminish, the legitimate exercise of the right to strike, but will afford protection for the affected workers, employers and the public against arbitrary and unreasonable strike action."

Unless something is done throughout organized labor to make all union leaders responsive to the wishes of their members—as is done now in many of the larger and more democratically operated unions—abuses by unscrupulous labor bosses can do further serious damage to labor unions and the national welfare.

## Farm Safety Week Set

President Dwight D. Eisenhower has proclaimed the week of July 24-30 as NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK throughout the nation.

In his proclamation, the President called upon the people, urban and rural, to observe the week beginning July 24, at NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK, and urged "all farm families, all organized farm groups, and all persons allied with agriculture to join their efforts to begin this new decade of the sixties with an exemplary record in farm safety."

The President pointed out that the health and prosperity of rural America have a profound effect upon health and prosperity of the Nation, while "accidents cause death and disability, suffering and hardships to thousands of our farm people annually and substantially reduce the productive capacity."

## Rural Rhythms

### THE COW'S OPINION

By Carol Dean Huber  
Never mind if Shep has four young pups  
Or h'f a dozen or eight  
They're not so grand as my one young calf  
Standing there by the gate.  
Her coat's so smooth; her eyes are soft;  
She's lovely; don't you agree.  
I'm sure she'll win a ribbon some day  
And be a credit to me!

## Now is The Time . . .



MAX SMITH

**TO PREPARE FOR AUGUST SEEDING—**Local alfalfa growers expecting to make a mid-August seeding should be starting to prepare their ground. One of the very important practices in getting a good alfalfa stand is to have a firm, weed-free seed bed. By plowing or discing during the month of July and then discing or harrowing every 10 days to two weeks until seeding time you will get a good seed bed. A complete soil test is also very important at this time in order to work in the lime and fertilizer prior to seeding.

**TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF BAND SEEDING—**The seeding of a alfalfa in mid-August by the band seeding method is strongly recommended. This attachment may be purchased from local machinery dealers for the grain drill. The objective is to drop the alfalfa seeds on top of the ground behind the drill and directly over a band of complete fertilizer. When this operation is followed by a roller or cultipacker in the same direction, the soil and the seeds are pressed together and the fertilizer is under the seeds where it is quickly available to the new plant. Many of the better stands of alfalfa have been seeded by this method in recent years.

**TO FEED HAY OR SILAGE—**Many dairymen have increased their milk production in recent years without being able to increase their acreage of pasture. This means that hot dry weather will present a shortage of good pasture for the milking herd. If production and herd condition are to be maintained, either hay or silage (or both) should be fed several times daily to supplement the decreasing pasture production. Dairymen should make every effort to hold production and cow condition in the late summer because of the more favorable fall milk prices. If cows are permitted to get thin and down in production in the summer, fall and winter production will suffer.

**TO CLIP NEW GRASS FIELDS—**If the small grain crop was seeded down to clover or alfalfa, it is advisable to clip the stubble during late July in order to control weeds, and also to increase the chances of getting a cutting of hay before mid-September. Mowers should be set rather high in order to have some of the legume plant left for new growth.

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