

FROM WHERE WE STAND - Labor Unions And The Farmer

Some of the hard won privileges now enjoyed by organized labor would probably startle Samuel Gompers himself if he could be alive to learn of them, because he probably never dreamed of some of the labor reforms that have come about—not even in his wildest dreams

Gompers was a man ahead of his time in many respects. He fought bitterly, and made many enemies, to achieve for the working man many of the rights and privileges considered commonplace today.

The era of the sweatshop and the dictatorial employers who took full advantage of the economic pitfalls in which workers found themselves, were a fertile field for the seed of revolt planted by the early labor leaders.

Many of the reforms instigated by Gompers and other early organizers were long overdue, but there were thousands of people who thought the labor organizers were way beyond their domain in asking for hour limits and improved working conditions.

In more recent times, John L. Lewis came in for a great amount of criticism for his demands for the mine workers. There are many persons who believe the demands of the coal miners caused the coal producers to price themselves out of the market. There is also widespread feeling that present labor leaders are overstepping their rightful bounds.

Be that as it may, the efforts of the early labor leaders did set the stage for needed reforms which have made the lot of the laboring class easier.

There have been organizers with the idea that farmers could be organized into a labor union. Up to this time no one has ever succeeded in binding farmers into one united force.

There are many reasons why a union of farmers has not succeeded, and we do not propose to advocate the for-

mation of one; however, we do feel that farm families have been the direct beneficiaries of much of the work done by the early reformers.

As working conditions of the city laborer improved and wages rose, the laboring class had more and more money to spend for food and clothing. As the demand for farm products grew the price of farm products grew, and the farmer had to find ways to produce more and more for sale to meet the demand.

Competition for labor with the city factories forced farmers to seek more productive practices and labor saving devices. To keep laborers on the farm, the farm owner had to improve working conditions for his hired hands, and in doing so he improved his own lot.

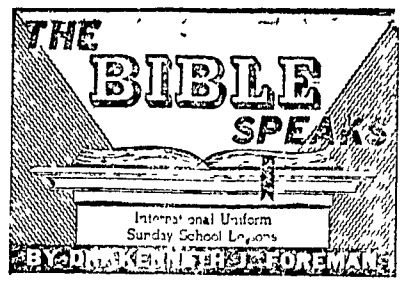
Most farmers in America are in the unique position of being at the same time the laborer and the management in the business. They desire for themselves the benefits of ideal working conditions, but they have themselves to look to for providing the conditions.

As organized labor looks forward to Labor Day celebration each year, we feel that farmers should pause in this early fall season to reflect on some of the advantages the labor movement has brought to the farm.

Of course farmers do not yet have the 40 hour week, (Which some economists predict will soon be shorter still) and likely will not have for some time to come. As Rural Rhythms at the bottom of this page pointed out several weeks ago, "For some men work and some men play, But cows get milked twice every day."

Maybe some labor organizer will come along and get Bossy on a 40-hour week—with daylight saving time thrown in. Until then, Bossy will still have to be milked every day—including Labor Day.

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



Bible Material: Isaiah 10 5-31, 14 24-27, 37 21-37
Devotional Reading: Psalm 37 1-9.

God in History

Lesson for September 4, 1960

GOD IN HISTORY can be seen only with the eyes of faith. There is no demonstrating either that God exists or that he is doing any particular thing. Nevertheless, once seen with the insight of faith, God is unmistakably there—everywhere in the story of the universe and of man.



Dr. Foreman

He does not play a minor role on the stage of humanity. He is out there all the time.

God's Will in History

What are God's intentions? Does he know what he wants and is he trying to get it? Does he know what he wants done and is he finding men who will do it? Such questions haunt the mind of one who has not yet become sure about God. They would haunt the mind of a believing man too, if the Bible did not help him with some answers. The prophets of "olden times" lived in a pretty modern era, after all. It was a time like ours in many ways. Nations were armed to the teeth, national wealth was being spent on defense, the common man was taxed right out of his sandals, the whole nation was morally weak and growing flabbier all the time.

At such a time arose prophets, men of God with insight into the mind of God. They did not know all God's "secret counsels" but they were quite certain on some points. First of all, they declared that God does have a purpose—a great all-embracing Purpose that includes every nation in the world. Translated into terms of our time, this means God has a purpose regarding Russia, China, Afghanistan, Canada, the State of Mississippi . . . there is not a territory

so obscure, there is not so great, as to be out of His purposes. Does this mean every "people and tongue and every substance" always does God's will about Russia? We would about Assyria? We would brew would ask God to with God's high intention.

This was a bitter one. Assyria was invading Israel, speaking for God, answer of chapter 10 of Isaiah, has said, "I will not punish the nation by avenging anger, but I will rebuke it with bolts. He punishes with a rod and the scourge of Assyria. It is a rod and a scourge; nations do not have a tragic fate when God has said, 'I will cast the rod of God's hand in the time, His hand held the Assyria. Since then there have been other nations.' Assyria carried out God's will without being a rod of Him. The reader may name some of these."

God's Character in History

The prophets saw more than a powerful handing the course of nations. They could see what kind of God was behind it. To the eye and mind of the whole course of history and fall of nations, the cause and effect in justice and mercy, a God concerned about the help of the depressed peoples of Nations as well as individuals, defy God's laws are just their own graves. In a word of the word, every nation fallen into the pit (and the pit is among nations, to 100%) has dug that pit. God's throne of justice is on some remote star, on the flying earth. "The patience he stands waiting exactness grinds he all." The judgments of God are not they are sure. From the is no appeal. His judgment not arbitrary, they come of the sin itself, the punishment fits the crime. For God's truder into history, he is History. In fulfilling His Good, for all men.

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THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson The Farm Vote

Which way will most farmers vote in the presidential election next November?

The answer to that question, veteran political strategists here agree, could determine whether Richard Nixon or John Kennedy is to be the next President of the United States.

Will they, as Kennedy strategists contend, vote their disapproval of lower price supports advocated by Republican Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson?

Or will they, as Nixon advisors think, vote their resentment against the Democratic majority in Congress that has failed to pass legislation that would stop the decline in farm prices and income?

Those are the farm issues, minus the oratorical dressing, which the two Presidential candidates and their running mates, will debate during the next couple months. Which will convince the most farmers?

Changes Are Promised

Both candidates, as well as the farm planks in the party platforms, promise that, if elected, they will do all they can to persuade the next Congress to adopt a new farm program.

What kind of a new program? A careful study of the farm planks, as well as campaign statements by the candidates, provides a fairly reliable clue as to the kind of a program that will be proposed.

The two parties are in substantial agreement on two major farm points. Both favor some sort of an expanded land retirement program aimed at shifting more land from surplus crops to soil conservation. Likewise, both propose greater use of surpluses to feed the hungry, both at home and abroad.

Both candidates believe that farm prices and farm income are unreasonably low and should be raised. They disagree, however, on how to raise prices and income.

Points of Difference

Democrats pledge that this would be done through measures including "production and marketing quotas measured in terms of bushels, barrels and bales, loan on ba-

sic commodities at not less than 90% of parity, production payments, commodity purchases, and marketing orders and agreements."

Republicans, although less specific as to support levels best fitted to specific commodities, in order to widen markets, ease production controls, and help achieve increased farm family income.

The principal differences are (1) degree of dependence on supports, and (2) to lesser extent, the methods of support and production controls. The objective of both, however, is "parity of income" for farmers.

The Democratic platform advocates production and marketing quotas in terms of units of production rather than acres, while Republicans propose measures to ease production controls. The best way to do that, Mr. Nixon contends, is to increase markets faster than farmers can expand production.

Whatever the merits of the two approaches, farmers should give them careful study and indicate by their vote in November which they prefer. Too many people pretend to "speak for" (Turn to Page 5)

Rural Rhythms

LABOR

By: Carol Dean Huber

"He who works to earn his fare Eats and sleeps without care." Thus an ancient rhyming lay Sings a song of Labor Day.

So a farmer sure must be From all want and worry free; For his food he work must do And feed the whole wide world too.

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

TO SPRAY POTATOES — Local growers who plan to store potatoes may combat sprouting of the tubers in storage by spraying in the field with MH 30 (methylmercaptan hydrazide). This chemical will prevent sprouting for six months longer than untreated potatoes. The spraying rate should follow manufacturer's directions and be applied 4 to 6 weeks before harvesting.

TO FERTILIZE LAWNS—Early September is a good time to apply a complete fertilizer to lawns in southeastern Pennsylvania. The application of a complete fertilizer containing slow-availability nitrogen will improve the grass later fall and build a more dense turf for next year. The fertilizer should be applied when the grass is dry and when temperatures are under 90 degrees.

TO PREPARE FOR CORN CROP—Many local producers may be prepared for storage space this fall if favorable weather conditions continue. For livestock producers, corn is one of the best forage feeds; trench silos are recommended for use in making temporary storage facilities. Additional corn cribs with good ventilation are better than piling extra corn on the barn floor or any other tight floor. Plans for all of these structures are available at the Extension Office.

TO IMPROVE CALF-RAISING PRACTICES — The proper care and feeding of young dairy calves needs additional attention on many local farms. These future herd replacements deserve the best of all things the first year. Spacious pens or box-stalls are suggested that are warm, dry, draft-free, and with a maximum amount of sunlight. Sturdy calves make disappointing cows.

TO CHECK DAIRY BARN VENTILATION—Many successful dairymen recognize the contribution of an exhaust system; with large herds this may be a problem. Cow comfort will increase production, decrease udder problems, help produce a better quality product. With the fall winter months approaching dairymen are urged to consider this practice.

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