

FROM WHERE WE STAND Our Farmlands Are Being Urbanized

For many years farmers have been moving to the city. Now the city is moving to the farmer and all the developments are not advantageous to the farmer.

Urban sprawl is taking over more and more farm land each day. Housing developments are springing up like mushrooms in farming sections at a terrific rate.

This is not news to anyone who has had his eyes open, but some of the developments that go along with the urbanizing of rural areas is not so obvious. Some farmers are waking up to find themselves in a very undesirable position without knowing exactly how they got there.

With housing developments spreading into a farming area, the population can double, triple, quadruple, or spiral out of sight in a very short time. Then, in a predominately agricultural area, the farmer finds he is in the very small minority among the registered voters.

Until recently, a large percentage of our legislators, both local and state or national, were rural people, or at least had a rural background. Now more and more, we are finding elected officials with urban backgrounds. Even out local township officials, sometimes in predominately agricultural townships, are not farmers or have little interest in farmers' problems.

In Lancaster County at the present time, there is a movement afoot to seriously impair the functions of four high school departments of vocational agriculture. This is, we believe, a very grave mistake and one not likely to be corrected if it is put into effect.

Up until recently many of the school

administrators were rural boys who had gone on to school and come back to the areas in which they grew up. They had the interests and ideas of the community ingrained in their make ups, and they looked at things from the farmer's point of view.

Several of the school administrators involved in the curtailment of the work of vocational agriculture in Lancaster County are city-bred and fail to understand many of the problems of rural living. We do not mean to imply that they are poor administrators. We simply mean farmers should be on the alert as to the political situations around them and take more active part in the functions of local governments.

It is, we believe, the duty of the farmer to express his views to the school administrator, or to members of the school board, when situations arise that are not in the best interest of the students involved.

No longer is farming a way of life for those not fitted for anything else. We all know it takes intelligence, ability, and a vast amount of knowledge to compete in the highly complex business of farming today.

Unless farmers are aware of their situation, and take a more active part in local political activity, they will soon find themselves the victims of severe zoning restrictions and other legislation designed to please the rural non-farm population which was recently transplanted from the city.

Farmers have already lost much of their representation in state and national governments. They are in danger of losing more on the local level.

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

effective deterrents to the exercise of the constitutional right of every citizen, to freely express his views, Rep Boggs said.

A 1958 ruling by the U. S. Supreme Court held that "speech can be effectively limited by the exercise of the taxing power" and that "the denial of a tax exemption for engaging in certain speech necessarily will have the effect of coercing the claimants to refrain from the prescribed speech"

Rep. Boggs pointed out that the section of law in question is not for the purpose of raising revenue, but that "it is punitive taxation — which limits the right of free and continuous access of all of the people to their elected representatives."

We do not believe that Congress ever intended the law to be used to restrict the right of the people, as guaranteed in the Constitution, to petition the Congress. It should, therefore, repeal the law.

SETS AYRSHIRE RECORD

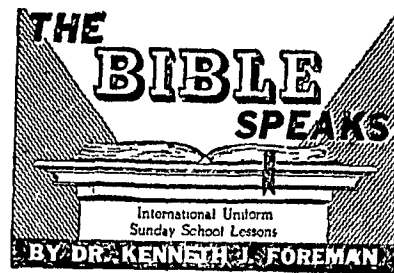
Penstate Approval's Dutchess, a registered Ayrshire owned by the Pennsylvania State University, recently completed a lactation record ranking highest for milk of all junior two-year-old Ayrshires in the State. "Dutchess" produced 13,784 pounds of milk and 519 pounds of butterfat on twice-a-day milking, not exceeding 350 days.

RURAL RHYTHMS

THE FARMER'S EASTER

By: Carol Dean Huber

God came down to Bethlehem so very long ago,
Ask the shepherds and the wise men; they are sure to know
They had faith to see the star and hear the angels say
A babe was born to save the world on that happy day.
Men took a tree and made a cross, and hung Him there to die.
He died and then arose again and so shall you and I.
The farmer has his faith renewed, each Easter, as he sees
The leaves begin to grow again on dead and barren trees.



Bible Material: John 20, 21.
Devotional Reading: I Corinthians 15: 14-22.

Our Living Lord

Lesson for April 2, 1961

JESUS CHRIST is not a historical character in the same way that most such characters are. For historical characters are by definition figures out of the past. Whether the revived character, or the "image" of him that is now cherished, resembles the original man or not, still the historical character is always a dead-and-gone character. But Jesus Christ is radically different. He is not dead-and-gone. He did die, to be sure; but he rose again from the



Dr. Foreman

dead, as millions of Christians will be saying and singing this Easter morning. Yet this is not the last word about him. His rising-again in Joseph's garden was far away and long ago. The strange and most significant truth about Jesus Christ's resurrection is that he has risen over and over again—in the hearts of those who love him.

From Sorrow to Joy

Jesus Christ is a living person, our contemporary, one with whom we can speak in prayer and high moments of meditation. People outside the Christian religion do not always realize this, that Christ is as well as was,—that what he is and what he wants and what he approves are questions to which we can find answers. He is a person of the present and future, not only of the past. And not present as a mere ghost, a haunting spirit out of an ancient tomb, but a vivid, vital, present person. Have you ever known people whose very entrance into a room seemed to change the climate? Jesus was and is that kind of person.

What kept happening during the forty days after the first Easter has kept happening since. The disciples after Calvary were in the depths of a grief close kin to

despair. A darkness deeper than Good Friday's "darkness at noon" had settled over them. But at the first shock of the Easter discovery that their Friend still lived all the shock and sorrow turned to joy. So it is when Christ comes into a life. The darkness fades, the sun comes in, the tears are bitter no longer.

From Doubt to Faith

If the story of Mary Magdalene illustrates the change from doubt to joy in the living Presence of the Lord, the story of Thomas illustrates a passage from doubt to faith. Now there is something we need to remember about Jesus' appearances after the Resurrection that may help us with the story of Thomas. It is often proposed that various people met Jesus after the resurrection, because they saw, they believed. As a matter of fact, a study of the four gospels is likely to convince the reader that it was another way around: Jesus did not appear to people to make them believe in him; on the contrary, there is no record that he appeared to unbelievers such as Caiaphas and Pilate and the Roman soldiers. Was Thomas an exception? On the face of it, Thomas was an unbeliever. Jesus appeared to him. What moment—let us straighten it out. Thomas was (he said) an unbeliever in the resurrection. He was a believer in Christ. He believed enough to be there with the disciples the Sunday after Easter. He was ready to believe more than he thought, as the story shows. He had doubts, but he was still in heart a disciple. So the living Lord to this day turns doubts into faith—it happens somewhere every day of our world.

From Discouragement to Devotion

With Simon Peter it was another kind of story. He was a disciple and a believer in the resurrection besides. But it did not at first seem to make much difference with him. He went with Jesus to Calilee, to the old family vineyards, to the old family job. For Peter, as for so many, Christ had to knock him down to hear. No true disciple can see the risen Christ and say, "So what?" The living Lord says still today to many a wayward believer: "Do you love me... Feed my sheep."

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Davidson

THIS WEEK

—In Washington

With Clinton Davidson

Censorship By Taxation

We are on dangerous ground when the government uses a tax law to restrict the right of citizens to advise Congress on legislative proposals of vital interest to them.

Yet that is being done under a 1954 Internal Revenue Code (Sec 162) which holds that "expenses lawfully incurred in supporting, opposing or otherwise influencing legislation . . . shall not be allowed as a proper deduction from gross income."

The law applies not only to "lobbying" before Congress, but also to similar representations to state and local legislative or rule-making bodies of the various governments by citizens or non-government groups.

Administrative officials and agencies of the various government bodies are however, let completely free to maintain expensive and powerful lobbies, at public expense, to influence the actions of legislative branches.

The Boggs Bill

Rep Hale Boggs of Louisiana, in a House speech, called the law "censorship by taxation" and a serious threat "to the democratic processes by which we remain free." He introduced H. R. 640 to repeal that section of the tax laws.

The best way to build up a dictatorship is to rule that no one except the administration in power shall have the right to lobby. Congress, far from discouraging advice on pending legislation, seeks it constantly.

"Today," Rep. Boggs said, "the scope and pace of our activity in Congress and other legislative bodies is such that infinite care must be exercised to prevent our being insulated from public opinion."

"Silenced by restrictions, no facet of our economy can carry on a trade or a business on a basis of equality with those working on the other side of the street," Rep Boggs said.

In The Public Interest

The imposition of punitive taxes is one of the most ef-

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

*TO SET OUT STRAWBERRY PLANTS—

Early spring is the best time to start a new strawberry patch; these early plants will get a better start and develop earlier runners than those planted late spring or early summer. Runners that set early in the summer will bear heavier next year than those rooting later. Applications of rotted manure and complete fertilizer should be worked into the soil prior to planting. Lime should not be added

TO WAIT FOR DRY GROUND—Working in the soil before it is dry enough might mean hard and lumpy soil for the rest of the summer; this often happens when heavy equipment is put on to clay soils that are too wet. A simple test is to grab a handful of the soil, give it a hard squeeze in the palm of the hand, and then give it a toss along the ground; if it stays in a ball, the soil is too wet to work, if it crumbles, then the soil is dry enough to prepare

TO INSPECT SOIL DRAINAGE PROBLEMS—The spring of the year is a good time to be on the alert for poorly drained areas on the farm or property. Wet weather or wet spots should be evident at this time and in many cases these areas will limit, if not ruin, good crop yields. The installation of drain tile is recommended to take off the surplus moisture and allow normal cropping

TO TAKE TIME TO BE SAFE—Outside field work will be starting on most farms within the next several weeks. Tractors and machinery will be moving both day and night. All operators are urged to follow the recommendations of the manufacturer relating to shields and guards and drive slowly and safely. Most accidents are caused by too much speed and being careless. Discourage extra rides on tractors and most farm machinery.

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