

# FROM WHERE WE STAND - Surplus - A Rose By Any Other Name?

What's in a name? Shakespeare asked.

And we might well ask the same thing. Is it surplus or a temporary overabundance?; a security reserve or a burdensome storage headache?

Perhaps there is no significance in what we call the supply of feed and food we have in America today, but if the name by which we call these stored supplies affects the way in which we think about agricultural production then the name could be highly significant.

We have been under the barrage of expletives laid down by the alarmists for so long that we are in danger of beginning to consider top production of any agricultural commodity something to be ashamed of.

We have heard so much adverse comment about surpluses and the high cost of storing them that we are in danger that farmers may soon consider it unpatriotic to produce agricultural commodities efficiently.

We talked with one agricultural writer recently who had received a letter in which he was criticized for writing a story of efficient corn production. The writer of the letter rebuked the newsman for telling his readers how one farmer planned to grow 200 bushels per acre.

The letter writer said their farming program would not produce any 200 bushels of corn per acre because they used the methods the grandfather had used on the farm. The newsman was assured that the surplus problem would not be aggravated by production on that farm at least.

We feel this is dangerous thinking. We do not believe any good ends will be served by farmers being deliberately inefficient. If a farmer can grow his corn needs on 25 acres, we do not believe he should use outmoded practices on 50 acres to grow the same quantity of grain. If the acres not used for corn production can not be converted to the production of a commodity which is in demand, then we believe they should be retired to some soil building or conserving crop.

Another example of the same kind of thinking was voiced recently by a manufacturer who advocated reducing beef cattle herds as a means of aiding the cattleman to get higher prices for his produce.

On the surface this appears to be a sensible solution, but lets look a little closer. The manufacturer who made the proposal knows he can cut back his output in times of slow sales and speed up production when sales call for more volume. And he knows he can make these production changes on very short notice.

He does not have to count his production machinery as current inventory. He can keep his production machinery in a state of idleness—not producing, but able to be called into production immediately—for a considerable length of time.

The case is not so with the livestock producer, nor with the crop grower to a somewhat lesser extent. When the farmer reduces his inventory, the breeding flock, he reduces his production capacity, and in rebuilding his capacity to produce, he temporarily reduces his output for consumption.

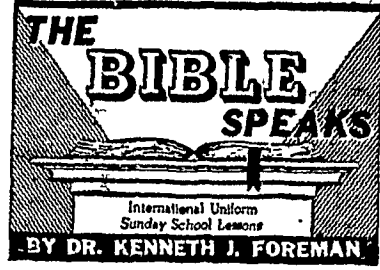
We feel it would be disastrous if the American farmer should be panicked into a vast reduction of producing capacity. We do not attempt to minimize the seriousness of the overproduction of agricultural supplies at present. We know a problem exists, but we feel there is greater danger in the possibility of being caught short in agricultural potential if we should encounter a national emergency.

If use of the term "surplus" causes a widespread feeling among farmers that inefficiency should be encouraged, we suggest the use of another term. If reference to the supplies of stored agricultural products by the term "oversupply" or "reserve" will cause farmers to realize there is a slow market, perhaps we should say oversupply or reserve.

If the alarmists seize on these terms and shout them with the fervor they have shouted "surplus", then we would have to agree with Shakespeare that, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet". (or as foul).

But by whatever name it is called, there does exist a problem. We feel that the farmers of America can overcome any problem of production they face, and we believe they will not be panicked into cutting production potential to the point of jeopardizing the national security.

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



Bible Material: Ecclesiastes 1:12; 12:11; Timothy 4:6-8  
Devotional Reading: I Timothy 6:11-16

## Two Views of Life

Lesson for June 11, 1961

THERE is something we all dread, and yet we all want: Old Age. That is to say, the normal person wants to live a long time, and you certainly can't live a great many years without growing old. But on the other hand,



when we see some old people, we say to ourselves, "I'd hate to be like that." Now our study for this week is about old age; as seen by two different old men, the author of Ecclesiastes, Dr. Foreman and Saint Paul. We said last week that Ecclesiastes does not have the last word in the Bible, and this is true of his views on old age as it is of other matters. What he said about old age is true, yet Saint Paul holds a higher truth.

### Let's Have No Illusions

Both these men agree on a most important point: If you hope to have a happy or peaceful old age, you'd better be preparing for it. Ecclesiastes says this plainly; Paul (as we shall see) says it not in words but by his example. Every reader of this page has an old person who is going to be dependent on him or her; namely, himself, or herself. Other people may have to take care of you, you may be dependent on them for food and shelter. Or you may be financially independent in your old age. Either way, though, the important part of being old is how you feel on the inside. For this, you and only you are responsible. If you turn out to be a gloomy, morose, complaining old nuisance, that's the fault of you yourself, now, not some time later. If you are cheerful with bright sunny thoughts, that also will be something you are arranging for, now.

"Remember NOW thy creator, in the days of thy youth," he says.

This does not mean call him to mind once in a while. The expression means to let the mind dwell on something or some one in modern simple language. Get the habit of thinking about GOD, while you can still form a habit. Don't put off thinking seriously and happily about God, you are old if you do, God seems a stranger. Think about while you are young, remember you owe your very life to him, is your Creator. If Ecclesiastes cannot say that God loves you, has redeemed you, he still lives in God, and knows the old age the happiest though sometimes the only happy thoughts possible, are those can have of God.

### An Old Man's Thoughts

Now listen to "Paul the Apostle"—Old Man Paul as people would say today. At the time he was Timothy, he was not only old, he was expecting death to some day. He was not well, and he was in jail. Isn't it bad enough to be without having all those troubles besides? But Paul does not complain. During most of this life he says nothing about being old. He is thinking of other people, future generations even more than of himself. When he came to speak of himself, he thought runs backward as a man's thoughts do; but not in earnest, not even in the quiet ancholy of old Ecclesiastes. He thinks of life as a fight to the death, a race, a test. It's nearly in the past now; but he looks in his memories. He fought the fight, he won the race, he passed the test. You see Paul had been preparing for old age in one of the best ways possible, namely, he had not spent any time complaining about it, he had not deliberately prepared for it at all. He simply lived out every minute of the full, putting everything he had into the race, the fight, the test. By the time he reached old age he had long had the heart of a champion, and of love. He did not need to learn how to be uncomplaining in old age. He was already that way. Old age was good because life had been good. We must be sure that when the last hour comes to him, "Heaven with love did not seem strange, to him

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## Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

**TO BE CAREFUL WITH CHEMICALS**  
Proper identification and safe storage are very important in handling all farm chemicals. With the large number of chemicals being used on every farm, and each for a specific purpose, good management requires caution in handling and applying each one. Herbicides such as 2, 4-D are often confused with other sprays and damage is done. Spray operators, as well as individual farmers, are urged to be careful.

**TO SPRAY ALFALFA FOR LEAFHOPPERS**—The seed crop of alfalfa is on its way on many farms; we recommend that this crop be sprayed for the control of leafhoppers when the new growth is 4 to 6 inches high; the material used is 1½ quarts of 25% Methoxychlor per acre this will prevent the stunted, yellow growth that is found in unsprayed fields.

**TO PREVENT MOSAIC IN TOBACCO**—One of the tobacco diseases that has been appearing quite frequently on a number of farms in recent years is mosaic, or "foxy" tobacco. This virus disease seldom appears until the plants are fully grown and out in the field. One of the causes is the handling of tobacco by smokers or chewers while pulling or transplanting the small tobacco plants. All tobacco should refrain from using any kind of tobacco while working with the plants, or be required to wash their hands thoroughly with hot water and soap after smoking or handling chewing tobacco. The new strain of tobacco, Penn State is mosaic resistant.

**TO KILL WEEDS WHEN YOUNG**—Experience has shown that all weeds kill easier when quite young than at maturity; this is true with mechanical cultivation as well as the use of chemicals. With row crops and regular cultivation it is urged that the job be done as soon as possible and frequently in order to keep the weeds from getting much of a root system, also, producers should wait until the soil is fairly dry before cultivating; when the cultivation to kill weeds is done when the ground is wet the weeds are merely transplanting most of the weeds. When chemicals it has been found that small weeds growing are much easier killed than older weeds.



## THIS WEEK —In Washington With Clinton Davidson

### Food Costs

Senator George D. Aiken, a Vermont Republican, has been a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry for almost twenty years, during several of which he was Chairman.

This typical Vermonter is a kindly, soft-spoken man who seldom is aroused to the flamboyant oratory that sometimes characterizes debate in the Senate of the United States. Other Senators respect his calm wisdom on

farm matters. Not long ago Sen Aiken was discussing, and deploring, the lack of general understanding by city people of farmers, farm problems and farm programs. He especially resented talk of "abolishing" farm programs.

"It is not the farmer so much as it is the public that would pay dearly if farm programs were abolished," he said. "Only the fact that some surpluses are produced holds retail prices for foods as low as they are today. Even a slight shortage would result in skyrocketing consumer prices.

**Farm Property Essential**  
"It is the economy of the United States," the Senator remarked, "the security of America and the preservation of our soil and water resources that necessitate the operation of a basically sound and prosperous agriculture."

When most people think of farmers at all, Sen. Aiken said, they think of the \$6 billion a year they're told farm programs cost; of the \$9 billion worth of surplus held by the government, and of the taxes they pay to

support that kind of a program.

"Do the millions of mothers in our cities realize that the lunches their children receive at school are charged, in part, to the farm program?" he asked.

"Do you internationally-minded citizens know that in the aggregate, billions of dollars worth of foreign aid programs and military assistance for other countries are paid for with agricultural commodities, the cost of which is charged to farm programs?"

**Farmers Finance City Jobs**  
"Does the merchant seaman realize that his job and part of his pay comes from our Department of Agriculture appropriation? Does anyone realize that part of the cost of milk and dairy products used to feed our armed forces is charged against the farm program?"

Do those who are concerned with maintaining the soil and water resources of our nation realize that nearly all of the cost of the conservation work is charged against the farm program?

"Does the housewife realize that much of the research work done on the preparation and handling of food to assure purity and wholesomeness for her benefit is charged to farm appropriations?"

"The greatest stabilizing influence of the world's economy today is the agriculture of the United States," Sen. Aiken declared, "Take away our assurance of plenty of food and international chaos could result."

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