

From Where We Stand . . . Y'all Come Over To The White House

"We have an appointment at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue at five o'clock tomorrow," said one of the officers of the National Farm Editors Ass'n.

This was pretty heady air for a little old barefoot farm boy like this writer.

But we got there all starry eyed at the appointed time prepared to get a distant view of, or hopefully a quick handshake with, the man who holds the most important job in the whole world.

Well, we did get the handshake — three times. If this seems odd, let us explain. We shook hands upon meeting President Johnson in the conference room in the Whitehouse. After the short prepared talk, he walked over toward us and we shook hands again thinking this was the dismissal, but were greeted with, "Would you farm folks like to come into my office for a few minutes?"

Would we like to!

Well, after about a half hour of chatting about crops, and weather, the strain of the presidency and the fast pace the president has been setting, and folksy news about the first family, President Johnson said casually, "I have a few minutes before I have to meet with some congressmen. Would you all like to come over to the Whitehouse with me?"

Well, can you imagine our response?

We walked out through the rose garden, into the private rooms of the executive mansion and onto the elevator with the tall Texan. We were shown through the presidential bedroom, sitting rooms and other private rooms occupied by the president's family.

On the bedroom wall we saw the picture of the little share cropper's house where Lyndon Baines Johnson was born 56 years ago.

"I look at that picture every morning when I wake up" The president said, "Because I never want to forget where I came from."

When the time came for the President to meet with the congressmen, we shook hands again. His remarks made us feel that he was sorry he could not spend the rest of the evening with us. His southern hospitality was sincere, humble, and gracious.

The visit with about 30 farm reporters might not have won him many votes, but it certainly didn't make any enemies. It was a visit this reporter will not soon forget.

We have to agree with one of our fellow writers who said, "I never thought it would happen to me."

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

★ ★ ★ ★ Can It Be Solved?

Is the solution of the farm problem beyond human ability?

At least one U. S. Congressman thinks so.

Representative Benjamin Rosenthal of New York City told the National Newspaper Farm Editors this week that

the farm problem is not likely to be solved in the foreseeable future.

"The reason the problem has not been solved," said Rosenthal, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, "is that we have entrusted the problem to rural legislators."

Rosenthal, who calls himself a reluctant member of the Agriculture Committee, said rural congressmen have not been able to present a united frontal attack on the problem. "You need a third party," he said, "and the city legislators are not anxious to be that third party."

Rosenthal said there is no longer a "farm block," and no farm program can be passed without the help of city congressmen.

In the past, he said, rural members of congress have told us (the urban congressmen) that we did not understand the problems, and that we would have to accept their programs or none at all.

"If the rural members of congress will accept us as equals on committees and let us help in the formulation of programs, I think we can make some progress," he said.

He continued, "Rural legislators are trying to perpetuate two myths. We have been told that without programs the farmers will go down the drain and the ripples in the economic lake will take the rest of us with them. This is a myth."

"Farm legislators still believe the family farmer is the great American hero. This too is a myth. I think the family farm is dead. Farming has become a big industry."

Rosenthal continued, "Farming must recognize that capital is now more important than labor, and we are going to have to treat farming just like any other business."

While we certainly can not agree with all Mr. Rosenthal said, we must realize he spoke the truth when he concluded, "Without city congressmen no farm bill can be passed and city congressmen are becoming more and more reluctant to pass farm legislation."

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

★ ★ ★ ★ WILL HISTORY REPEAT HERE?

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. These nations progressed through this sequence:

- From Bondage to spiritual faith
- From spiritual faith to great courage
- From courage to liberty
- From liberty to abundance
- From abundance to selfishness
- From selfishness to complacency
- From complacency to apathy
- From apathy to dependency
- From dependency back again to Bondage

In 16 years our United States will be 200 years old. This cycle is not inevitable — it depends upon YOU!

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Farm Prices Down 3%

Prices received by Commonwealth farmers in mid-April for farm products declined 3 per cent from mid-March, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. The usual seasonal decline is 2 per cent.

Contributing most to the decline were lower prices for wholesale milk and eggs. Partly offsetting were higher prices received for potatoes and apples coming out of storage.

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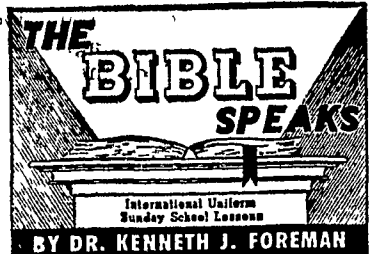
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Take A Stand Lesson for May 17, 1964

Background Scripture: Proverbs 22:29-35; Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 12:11 through 14:23.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 40:1-8.

THE BIBLE was written in a simpler era than ours. Many people would think the Bible world ideal. At least it would seem like a world which lacked many of what are now often considered sources of human evils. It was a rural world; in Palestine there were comparatively few cities and none that would be recognized as such today. It was a world where alcoholic drinks were everywhere used



Dr. Foreman even by the best people. It was a time before the invention of whiskey and other beverages high in alcoholic content. Drinking was confined to wines and beer or their equivalent. It was an age without motor cars or machinery, a leisurely hand-crafting age. Yet even in that world, the writers of the Bible had something to say about drinking. The point of all this is: If alcoholic drinks were known to be dangerous in a simple rural world, how much more dangerous it can be in our complex civilization!

The speed of the problem

There was once a stage magician who used to say over and over as he was doing his stuff, "It's the speed of the problem and not the problem itself." Something like that is true of the world we live in. This has a great deal to do with the alcohol problem. For instance: Time was when men would gather in taverns or at parties, just as they do today; and some of them would get drunk, as many do today. But when the party was over, in the good old days the friends of the man who had had too much would dump him into his wagon and get the

horses started. That animal knew his way home and (being sober) knew enough not to speed. (Did you ever hear of horses organizing a race meet by themselves?) But nowadays—whoosh!!! That noise you heard was the sound of our friend who was just telling us that one more drink couldn't do any harm. He took off in his high-powered car and he's likely to be a statistic by morning. There's nothing funny about this. It happens. Now the stories reported don't always tell the whole truth; but the police will tell you if you ask them that alcohol figures in many smash-ups on the highways.

Why men drink

It is said often that the real problem is not drinking itself, but in the question: What drives men to create for themselves a drinking problem? Again the speed of our civilization has something to do with it. The intensity of competition, tension on the highways, tensions at home, the sense of being pushed all the time, get on a man's nerves and he starts to drink just a little more and a little oftener than he would have otherwise; and the first thing he knows, he not only has all the worries that pushed him at the outset, but he has the alcohol problem besides. Every problem drinker you find is (perhaps unconsciously) expressing hate and contempt for the kind of civilization he is forced to live in. Rather than contribute to it or to work for a better kind of life, he tells the world a rude, crude farewell, all he thinks of is to get out. So he takes the route of temporary suicide. There's no essential difference between a man who seeks refuge in alcohol and one who seeks refuge in opium or marijuana.

Well, somebody says, you are talking about alcoholics. Yes, and more besides. Alcoholism—if we call it a disease—is a disease more widely spread than any other disease in America except three and the number of alcoholics is increasing yearly.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

● Wheat

(Continued from Page 1)
port ones will be worth 25 cents a bushel. Domestic certificates will be based on 45 per cent of the farm's normal production while the export certificates will be based on an additional 45 per cent.

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

To Destroy Ivy Poison

This plant causes considerable discomfort to many people each summer, those who are extremely allergic to ivy poison suffer varied complications. The plant may be destroyed by spraying or sprinkling with any form of 2,4-D weed killer or with aminotriazole. Land owners with ivy poison growing should make a special effort to spray the area once or twice each spring.

To Clip Pastures

Good pasture management states that the area should be mowed after each grazing period; after the animals have eaten down the current growth, the clipping should remove the mature growth, keep weeds from developing, and encourage new, more uniform growth of grasses and legumes. As the grasses and any weeds go to seed, it is important that they be mowed in order to get new growth and to keep the weed seeds from developing.

To Use Atrazine Springly

Corn growers who are using atrazine to control grassy weeds should keep in mind that too much atrazine in any one area might damage the next crop. We often see this result in small grains where the sprayer was allowed to deliver too much material while stopped for repairs. Also, if a cover crop is to be planted this summer (ryegrass or bromegrass), the atrazine will prevent seed germination. Some growers only spray over the row with atrazine in order to permit a cover crop to grow between the rows.

To Seal Silos

After grass silage or hay has been put into the silo, it is best to make some effort to seal out the air and prevent spoilage. In the upright silo this may be done with several loads of poor quality forage weeds, or with plastic material. For the horizontal silo the use of black plastic weighted down has given good results. The seal should be put down within 48 hours after the silo is filled.

Landscape shrubs and trees need different amounts of water and vary in their resistance to poor drainage and to drought.