

From Where We Stand . . .

Some Statements On Policy

Because of the change in our editorial management we would like to restate some of our past principles and policies, and perhaps add a few new ones.

1—We will continue to represent the interests of farmers in general and Lancaster county farmers in particular.

2—We will continue to urge strengthening of your individual farm commodity groups (poultry, dairy, swine, etc.) in the county and in the state. We will vigorously support these groups, and will faithfully report their activities.

3—We believe that agriculture, the national economy, and Lancaster county can best be served by the independent, progressive, family farm. We don't believe that anyone can do that job better, or more efficiently, than you can.

4—In the future there will regularly appear on this page a column that you will write. It will be called "The Farmer Speaks". We want your ideas and opinions on what's going on in Lancaster county. If we are to truly represent you we must know how you feel on key issues. You can whisper your thoughts in our ear with a letter, and we'll broadcast them to farmers all over Lancaster county.

(Ed. note: It is our policy to accept only those letters which are signed. If you should wish your name withheld from publication we will gladly do that).

5—We also pledge renewed effort on news and feature articles aimed at the "business" farmer.

This list doesn't cover everything, of course, but it does cover the main principles that shape our policies.

The really important thing to keep in mind is that we're here to provide a local service for you. It's a service not obtainable thru any other news media available to you. Use it in any way that best suits your needs, but use it.

★ ★ ★ ★ Where Was NFO When Prices Were Really Low?

Until the day comes when the farmer can place his livestock in a state of suspended animation at times of low prices and market them only when the price recovers, we fail to see how a withholding action of livestock — no matter how widespread — can lead anywhere but to eventual economic loss for the producer

We realize that during the past four or five years there has been an increase in the number and size of feedlot operations, and that the percentage of total cattle fed out on the farm is decreasing. This means that there are more cattle concentrated into fewer hands and, therefore, more individual control over marketings is possible.

But we seriously doubt that such

control can be extended to include enough cattle marketings to substantially effect the price in the market place for any meaningful length of time. And how many farmers are going to benefit from a slightly higher price for a short period, especially if that brief recovery is followed by an extended period of below normal prices — as it surely would be when the withheld cattle were eventually marketed.

We've been talking about cattle. Let's talk about hogs. Everything we've said about cattle is just as true for hogs. Moreso. Hogs will become overfinished far more quickly than cattle. What do you do with them? What happens to your feed conversion while a hog is going from 200 to 300 lbs? You can imagine.

Let's look at the other side of the coin. The consumer. Assume a withholding action were effective, and that Mrs. Consumer was not able to get the meat she wanted for her family. Meat not eaten one day is not wanted as an addition to normal consumption on another day. The lost demand for meat during the withholding period does not accumulate. It's lost. Gone.

We feel that the farmers and ranchers who are persuaded to hold back their livestock marketings are being sold a bill of goods. And we don't like it. We don't like it because we believe that, as usual, the farmer is going to be the guy stranded on third base after the ball game is over.

We don't pretend to have the answer to this whole complex problem, but we do feel that the answer lies in the removal of some of the external influences — such as beef imports — and letting supply and demand stabilize the issue, as it must eventually do anyway.

What do you think?

★ ★ ★ ★ Know Your Own Mind

From now until November the political pots will be boiling in each party. Backstage maneuvering will reach an all-time level in interest and importance.

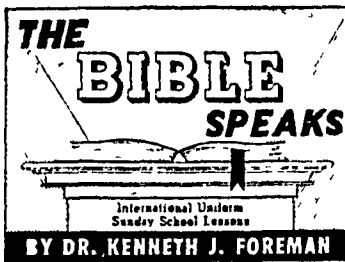
Which once again makes us realize how unfortunate it is that many citizens haven't taken the time and trouble to find out for themselves who's who and what's what.

Only by long careful following of events can anybody really discover for himself what's involved in the decision making, both on the record and off, that goes into making our political systems what they are . . . good and bad alike.

If you're interested in good government, and getting good people involved in it, now is the time to begin thinking about what's going on and observing how officials function.

The choice is your own to make, but you do a disservice to your fellow citizens, as well as yourself, if you fail to base your decision on facts instead of opinions.

They're not so hard to come by, if you care to take the trouble.



Promised Land Lesson for August 30, 1964

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1 through 6; 21:43 through 24:33. Devotional Reading: Psalm 76:1-11.

"PROMISED Land"—what does that suggest to most people who read or hear the words? To many it suggests a land of rest, a perfect paradise, the Utopia, the never-never land of heart's desire. This was not the original meaning at all. It referred to a definite area on the surface of this planet, about the size of the state of Vermont, land which most American farmers would consider far from the best,



Dr. Foreman a land without good roads, a land of very crude culture compared with our own. It was promised to a rather unpromising set of desert tribes, children of slaves. They needed a place in the sun, and the Promised Land was it.

The Land

The land is still there, much changed, with the dust of centuries of misuse thick upon it, and yet a land which today is beginning to blossom again. When the Israelites began to edge their way in, it was a fresher land than now. There were forests in which men might be lost, there were clear streams, there were wild beasts such as lions. Partly, it is still there. You can buy a ticket to places in it. Some of the towns mentioned in the Bible are still in existence. This writer has telephoned to Jerusalem from the top of Mt. Carmel. You can drive the length of the whole ancient kingdom of the ten tribes in an afternoon. But while the centuries have made many differences, and the wars and neglects of man have damaged the land in many ways, the Promised Land is still there, with the same rivers and mountains, desert and sea-

coast that were there when Joshua was fighting his way in. One notable difference between those days and these is that instead of being split into dozens of tiny city-states, each city almost a nation to itself, there are now only two, Israel and Jordan.

Conquest

Palestine is not now a peaceful country, it almost never was. If Jew and Arab are at each other's throats today, they are only keeping up with an ancient tradition. Joshua found the cities of the land in league against him, but if they had not been fighting him they would have been fighting each other. This brings up an old question. Today wars of extermination are regarded by all the world as criminal. We have a name for what Joshua tried to do: genocide, the complete slaughter of a nation. Can we today approve of genocide when Joshua committed it (or tried to—the attempt was not wholly successful), while thinking of it as a horrible crime today? One thing we can say: A Christian, even a non-Christian in a world which has long had the influence of Christianity, has a light which Joshua did not have. Joshua had never heard of the Sermon on the Mount.

In song and story

The "Promised Land" has captured the imagination of people who make poetry out of history. The conquest of Canaan has been idealized, romanticized, spiritualized, out of all resemblance to its actuality. One of the oddest uses of the Historical conquest by the Israelites is to take Jordan as a symbol of death, and Canaan (the Promised Land) as a type of heaven. Considering the bloody cruel ugliness of what actually went on, one hopes that heaven is not like what the Hebrews found and did in the Promised Land! It would be better to take those wars as an example of how God can bring good out of evil, using "the wrath of men to praise him." Let us be grateful that victory came not to the sprawling tribes who worshipped animals, but to a people who for all their faults and sins still were aware of a God of purity and justice, a God of truth, King of all the Kings and kingly of this earth.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Rent Farm Equipment

Farmers should always be looking for ways to reduce the cost of expensive equipment required to perform some of the farm operations. Present trends in agriculture indicate further increases in the investment in machinery and equipment. Many farmers are over-invested in machinery which makes a high overhead. We suggest the renting of equipment or the hiring of custom work for some of the operations.

To Fertilize Alfalfa This Fall

Alfalfa producers should include liberal amounts of alfalfa fertilizer in their fall orders. With the possibility of having to cut the first crop quite early next spring, it is strongly advised to have the crop in a high state of fertility in order to come back faster. After the last crop is removed this September or October the area should be top-dressed with 400 pounds of 0-20-20 or 0-15-30.

To Get Most from Corn Silage

Silo filling time is approaching and corn is the crop to make the silo investment pay off. Growers are urged to permit the corn to come into the full dent stage before ensiling. Corn is one crop that improves in feed value as it matures; from the milk stage to the full dent stage the moisture content and the dry matter losses decrease, and the feed value increases. Finely chopped (1/4" cut) will pack better in the silo than longer cut materials.

To Utilize Wheat Crop

Many wheat growers are undecided on the use of their crop; Livestock producers should realize that wheat is valuable as a livestock and poultry feed; there is a limit as to the amount in the ration but good use of the crop may be realized. Breeders who are having some breeding problems with their herds, and not able to get their females to conceive, should include wheat in the ration because it is high in Vitamin E—which is helpful to reproductive organs. The wheat should be coarsely ground or cracked.

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● Livestock (Continued from Page 1)

earlier this week, by James Dunlap to the effect that the supply of good quality cattle was below normal, and that this was the main cause of the price increase. Mr. Kunzler believed that some holding action was taking place in the Midwest, and he suggested that this action, if significant, would effect his company more through their hog purchases than beef. He referred us to a release by the American Meat Institute and said that over the years the Institute had established an excellent record for accurate analysis of marketing situations. The meat of the Institute's analysis in this current situation was that "the price of livestock is determined by basic economic laws that continue to operate despite all efforts to tamper with them."

Local opinion suggests that the NFO holding action has not effected the Lancaster market appreciably, but admits that the effects, at least over the short run, are not easily measured, and that it may be some time before they can be accurately evaluated.