

From Where We Stand . . .

Are States To Be Denied Their Right Of Self Government?

By ruling that both houses of the state legislature must be elected on a basis of population, the Supreme Court has said, in effect, that the people in the states have no right to decide how they shall be represented.

We doubt if even the most severe critics of the Court's decisions in recent years would have expected this august body to go as far as it has in rewriting the Constitution.

Granted, our Founding Fathers could not foresee all our modern problems when they composed our Constitution over 150 years ago, but they even anticipated their own fallacies by including the provision for amending the Constitution. We think they were wise enough to anticipate the day when, if population were the only basis for apportioning the vote in the state legislatures, a rampant majority could run rough-shod over the rest of the population, and therefore they left that phase of apportionment up to the individual states.

The bicameral (two-chamber) system has served us well over the years, both on a national and a state basis. However, it is true that some of the states have ignored their own constitutional requirements calling for reapportionment every ten years and this has, in a sense, brought the wrath of the Court down upon all our heads.

The repercussions of this legislative act of our Judicial body will seriously effect the voting strength of our rural populations. It means actually that now the big cities have clear sailing for whatever legislation they want to foist upon us. It means that many state legislatures will be controlled by big city machines, which are sometimes corrupt, and these machines will be able to perpetuate their own existence indefinitely. It means that these political bosses will tell state legislatures where roads will be built, how water is to be used, what land is to be seized for recreational uses, and how state aid for schools is to be distributed. In short, it means that small town people and rural residents will have little voice in the affairs of their state governments.

The U.S. Congress has reconvened primarily to settle Sen. Dirksen's proposal to postpone the Court's decision until it can be properly voted on by the people. We sincerely hope the Senators will be wise enough to support that proposal. Who knows, it is conceivable that theirs may be the next legislative body that the Supreme Court decides to reorganize!

It is worthy of note that some of the most thoughtful criticism of the Supreme Court has been coming from one of its own members, the highly respected Justice Harlan. In the past year he wrote 20 dissents, and the year before that 22. Representing the minority opinion in the Court's 6 to 3 decision on reapportionment Justice Harlan said, "The Court's elaboration of its new 'constitutional' doctrine indicates how far — and how unwisely — it has strayed from the appropriate bounds of its authority."

Following one of his earlier dissenting opinions he commented, "These decisions give support to a current mistaken view of the Constitution and the constitutional function. This view, in a nutshell, is that every major social ill in this country can find its cure in some constitutional 'principle', and that this Court should take the lead in promoting reform when other branches fail to act. If the time comes when this Court is looked upon by well-meaning people — or, worse yet, by the Court itself — as the repository of all reforms, I think the seeds of trouble are being sown for this institution."

To this we can only say, "amen". What Do YOU Think?

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Hi-Ho! Let's Go To The Fair!

It happens every September — tobacco harvest begins in earnest, school bells wake from their long summer's silence, and country fairs sprout from the streets and sidewalks of Main Street and from the cow pastures outside the small country towns.

The country fair is a real part of our heritage. It's a firm link with our past. It's a tradition that few of us would want to discard. Can you imagine your grandchildren growing up without knowing the joy of "goin' to the Fair"? It could happen. There are probably many reasons why it could happen, but there are two important ones that occur to us.

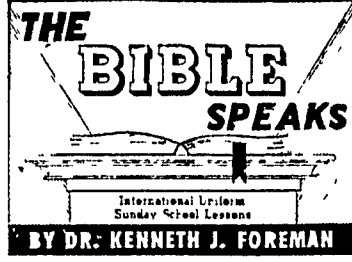
First of all, the wonderful homespun quality of the country fair could deteriorate, resulting in a gradual falling off of interest and attendance. We have seen many local fairs go this way. They seem to stagnate as far as the fair management is concerned; attendance falls off somewhat, and the management panics; they begin to bring in more and more of the hurdy-gurdy carnival atmosphere to attract their declining patrons. Before they realize how far they have gone, the carnival flavor has completely destroyed the country fair tone, and this is the beginning of the end. Carnivals may have their place, but they should be labeled as carnivals, not fairs.

The second thing that could kill off the fairs is your lack of interest and support of your local fair. These two points are probably closely related, but they are a little like the chicken and the egg — which comes first?

We think perhaps your interest comes first, for it is your participation as an exhibitor or as a visitor that will sustain your fair. Anything will suffer from neglect, and fairs are no exception.

So, support your local fairs. Demand that they be maintained as fairs, not as carnivals. Help your local fair committee constantly upgrade the quality of your fairs by adding new things that are appropriate and would be of interest to the fairgoers. Most important, don't wait to see if "Joe" will do it; you do it!

It will take everyone's help to keep the Country Fair tradition alive for our grandchildren, but we firmly believe it can and should be done.



Spokesman for God

Lesson for September 13, 1964

Background Scripture: I Samuel 1 through
Devotional Reading: Psalm 11.1-7.

WHAT DOES the word "prophet" bring to mind? Fortune-teller, tea-leaf reader, weather predictor, "Old Man Mose"? One meaning of "prophet," to be sure, is a man who can tell you today what is to happen tomorrow. In



the Bible this is sometimes the meaning of the word. Most prophets went in for prediction on some of the time, and most prophets' predictions sounded most unlikely to those who first heard them; but they came true. Indeed, according to Deuteronomy 18, one test of an alleged or self-styled prophet is the same as for a true one: Does what he foretells come true? If it does not, he is no true prophet. If it does, he is.

Exception to the rule

As a general rule, a prophet's contemporaries do not recognize him as such. Since most "prophets" are fakes, people suppose the true prophet is a faker too. Jesus said a prophet is not without honor except in his own country. Familiarity breeds contempt, the proverb says. How can an ordinary man we see every day be a prophet? Now Samuel, whose story is in the Old Testament, was an exception to this rule. In his own day, in his own country, his own people did recognize and honor him. Samuel was a man of many affairs and many talents. He was a soldier, revivalist, judge, historian, kingmaker. But he is best known as prophet. He had an extraordinary life. Every one knows the story of how his mother prayed for a child, and how this child was promised to the Lord before he was born. Well

known too is the story of his life in the shrine at Shiloh as a kind of apprentice priest; and how he first became a sensation by his denouncing High Priest Eli, the aged, respectable and venerable Eli, head (if we may put it that way) of the State Church. What most people don't know is the rest of the story. Did his later life prove a failure? Was he a wonder child, fading into obscurity after his one outburst?

Leader of man

By no means. That incident at Shiloh was just the start. Measured by immediate results, Samuel was perhaps the most successful prophet who ever lived. The people listened. When he led a revival, there were many conversions; when he led an army, the army won. When he selected a king, the people elected Samuel's man. As long as the king followed Samuel's guidance, he was a success . . . but that's another story. The point is, Samuel was a true leader; he was believed, obeyed, followed. His judgments were accepted as God's judgments. His decisions and his commands were obeyed just as if God had been literally speaking with Samuel's mouth.

No man lives forever

Samuel's successes as a military man did not make him a war-monger. His own battles were fought to set free his people from foreign domination; his aim was justice and peace. And justice and peace the Hebrews had for a generation.

And then what? Something slipped, everything seemed to slip. Not until the time of Solomon was there such a peace as in Samuel's time, and Solomon's peace, not being founded on justice, did not endure. There is a point here sometimes forgotten. No man lives forever; and no matter how good, brave, smart and successful a great man may be, sooner or later "his place knows him no more." Even a man who lives close to God must go the way of all flesh. We make a mistake if we think any man however good and great can arrange things so that the evils he has successfully fought will never return. The Philistines, the enemies of Israel, never came back in Samuel's time. But in later days they were even more troublesome than ever before. So unless there are successors to great men, the great man's good may die with him.

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Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH



MAX SMITH

To Seal Silo Promptly

All silos that are not to be fed out of soon after filling, should be sealed within 48 hours after filling. In the case of the trench silo, it is very important to seal at once in order to reduce the spoilage over the larger area exposed. On upright silos spoilage can be reduced, if not eliminated, by topping with poor quality green material, or by sealing off with plastic. The use of plastic weighted down has worked very well on many types of horizontal (or trench silos). The important thing is to keep the plastic down tight at all times. Proper sealing of the silos will save valuable feed.

To Lime For Small Grain

Small grain fields that are to be seeded to alfalfa or clover next spring or next summer should be limed this fall before the grain is seeded; by working the lime into the soil this fall we give the lime a chance to sweeten the soil before the legumes are seeded. The practice of liming the field after the legumes are started is not using lime most efficiently.

To Cut Sorghum

We notice some fields of sorghum are heading out and will soon be ready for making silage. Research work shows that sorghum will have its greatest feed value as silage when cut in the soft dough stage of the sorghum seed-head. The crop should be chopped fine and no preservative is needed. Sudan grass should be cut in the early boot to heading time. When either of these crops are allowed to ripen the feed value decreases.

The rashness of youth keeps the home sires burning.

To Maintain Herd Condition

Pasture growth on many farms has been reduced due to dry weather. This means that stored feeding of hay and silage will be needed in order to hold the flesh condition on the cows. This is very important in the late summer or early fall; if the cows are allowed to get thin in the fall now, it will take more feed to get them back to normal for high winter production. Many permanent pastures are only an exercise lot at the moment and all feeding should be on a winter-time basis.

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"LISTEN TO YOUR PLANTS

Someone once said, "If starved plants could only squeal like hungry pigs, we would pay more attention to their fertilizer needs." Even though plants cannot squeal, they have means of telling us of their plant food deficiencies, which we speak of as hunger signs. Of the 92 elements of which the earth is composed, plants require for proper growth considerable amounts of only 10 major elements and minute amounts of a number of others. The major elements are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen which come directly or indirectly

from the air and water, and phosphorus, potassium, calcium, sulphur, magnesium and iron which come directly from the soil. Copper, zinc, boron, manganese, and perhaps others which come directly from the soil, are required only in minute amounts but are important from the standpoint of plant growth or the well-being of those animals that consume the plants.

The symptoms of a mineral deficiency in the soil may be regarded as the language plants use to tell us of their lack of proper nourishment. At times, it is very difficult to

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