

## From Where We Stand . . .

"Too soon oldt, und too late schmart"

We learned this week that we are apparently old-fashioned and out-moded in our thinking. Actually, we suspected this all along. But it was brought home recently by the words of a farm leader of national significance.

It is his reported opinion that the good things of life should be distributed to each person on the basis of his NEED, not on the basis of his contribution. The Soviet Union has been floundering with that doctrine for nearly half a century. We must admit that the Communist Chinese regime has solved the problem more readily — they've got it figured out so that nobody gets anything!

Much of our economic thinking on supply-demand is no longer applicable, as this man says. But the main reason for that is that the federal government has so completely fouled the mechanism with its conflicting programs and its "end of the rainbow" philosophy that no sound system could remain in effective control.

But these points are for the economist "experts" to thrash out, and we don't pretend to qualify. The thing that shakes us is to be told by a farm leader that the old-fashioned virtues of hard work and thriftiness no longer apply. That farmers, one of the last bulwarks of real independence, no longer need dirty their hands with hard work, that the big, benevolent, federal government will provide for everyone according to his needs!

This farm leader seems to propose that now, with our great technological know-how, a farmer can expect to get to heaven in his own lifetime, and a god-like federal government will watch over

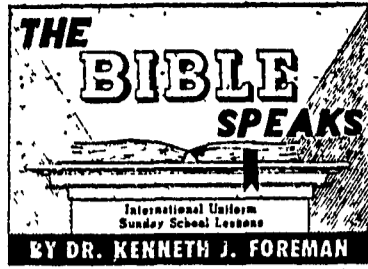
him all the rest of his days. Wouldn't that be great?

There are some people in our country who apparently think it would. If the "Great Society's" sweeping plans for rural rejuvenation are fully realized we may all eventually come to share benefits now enjoyed by some in the big cities — economic assistance, for example. If we were real lucky we might even get on the welfare rolls. Some "poor" city families have been enjoying that bounty on into the third generation a recent report showed. Some of them are sterling examples of what can be accomplished if one will but shed the antiquated virtues of work, saving, and human dignity and accept "the dole" as the proper way of life.

George Orwell some years ago wrote a book called "1984". We recommended it as pre-election reading. If you missed it then, pick up a copy at your library or bookstore now. He pictured life about the year 1984 with an omnipotent central authority called "Big Brother" watching over a rigidly structured society in which all citizens were property of the State from birth. The bureaucrats were the machines, and they "programmed" every step of each citizen's daily life. Far-fetched? Perhaps. But the year 1984 is less than a generation away, and considering the changes that we have seen during this past generation we had better soon decide what we want the next one to look like!

This reminder of our old-fashioned way of thinking about the value and rights of the individual and our regard for the virtues of life would have made us feel old and feeble if we had not remembered that we share these beliefs with some pretty important "old-fashioned-type" people.

What Do YOU Think?



### The One Cross

Lesson for April 11, 1965

Background Scripture: Matthew 27:27-66. Devotional Reading: Romans 8:1-11.

It was nothing unusual for three crosses to stand on the place called The Skull. That was where crucifixions always took place. Hymns have prettified it, but the ugly fact is that it was the city dump, and criminals breathed



their tortured last there, before their bodies were thrown into a common ditch and hastily covered up to keep the jackals out. So three crosses

were not an unheard-of sight. Yet how different were the three that April afternoon! Two were hanging there who were real criminals—only one knew he was getting what came to him, and the other did not. But the third cross held a man who in all his life had done no wrong, a man whose hand had never been laid on any other man in anger but always in blessing.

#### Many crosses

To this day all over the world when Christian people say "the cross" they usually mean that central cross and the Man upon it. The Cross means, as it ought to mean, the cross of Christ. That form of capital punishment has long since been abandoned; we see no more such cruel sights upon our highways. The memory of the countless crosses erected by the Romans has long since vanished; yet that one cross remains, in song and story and prayers.

But on the other hand, is it not true that there are today many crosses,—crosses to look at, crosses of the mind and spirit? They are to be found on the counter of every jewelry store—and it does not prove that the jeweler is a

religious man or a Christian. Crosses are used for ornaments on expensive gowns. They are used to decorate the interior of churches; yet there the minister is not always asked, but the architect is. How many crosses should we have, and where? This is not the true Cross; it was never an ornament.

Christians come nearer the meaning of the one cross when they speak or sing of the "cross of grief or pain," or sorrows, suffering or death, or of lighter things such as disappointments and frustrations, as "crosses." Yet—none of these things can be called the One Cross.

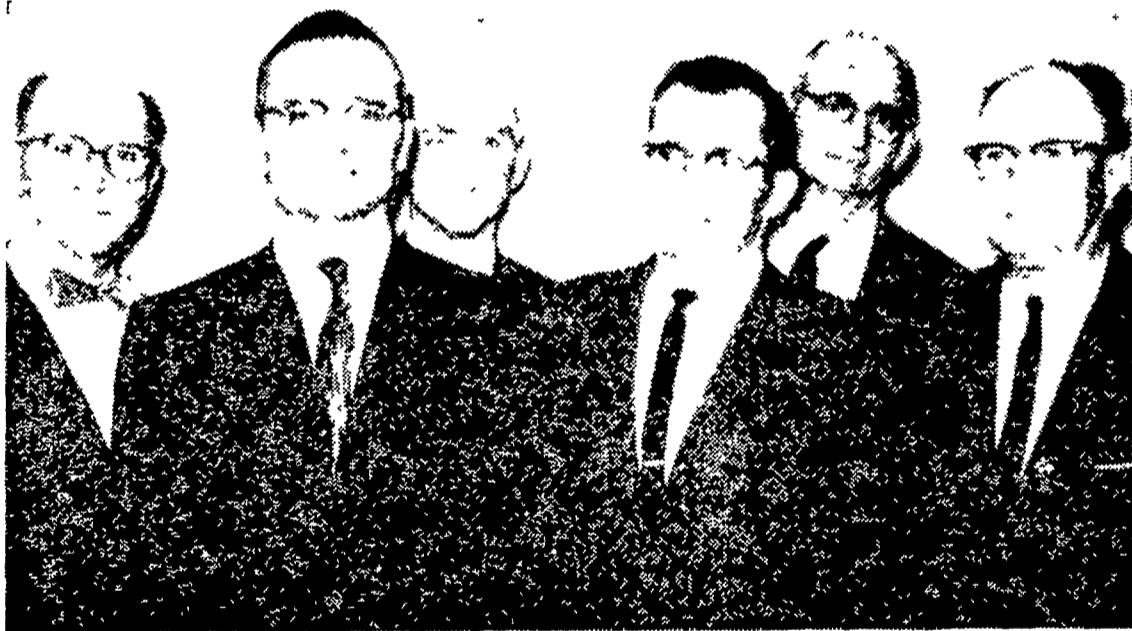
#### The true Cross

Through the Christian ages, there has been a kind of curiosity-seeking effort to find the "true cross," that is to say the actual wooden cross upon which Jesus died. The truth of the cross is not in wood, it is in the soul. And there are two meanings of the cross above all: tragedy and triumph. The Cross stands for the defeat of the Son of God. It is the tragedy of "but you would not" when Jesus would have gathered all men to him. It is the tragedy of man's saying No to the God of love. Yet in the true cross there is also triumph. It is the triumph of the God who in love refuses to take No for a final answer, the triumph of divine love over human stupidity, envy and hate. Christians have wept over the cross but they have never been ashamed of it.

#### The True Cross

It would be a study worth making to think out the meaning of the three crosses on Calvary; each of them has a different meaning. But let us only think of that cross which stood at the center there, and has been at the center of man's heart ever since, wherever men have found the way of God. No other cross than this has revealed the love of God so fully, so movingly, so simply. No other cross has brought God and man together. In no other sign or symbol, in no other reality, is there the harmony, the atonement, between the holy God and unholy man.

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A FEW OF THE LANCASTER COUNTYIANS PRESENT AT THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE at Harrisburg this week. (Front row, left to right) they are Melvin Stoltzfus; Paul Rowe, Willis Esbenshade; (back row) Snavely Garber, Victor Plastow; and Amos Funk. The meeting featured five speakers and a panel discussion before an audience of about 600 Pennsylvanians.

L. F. Photo

### Gov. Conference

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on increasing it or be priced right out of the market!"

Fallon noted that the need to produce more units has led to fewer and larger farms in Pennsylvania, with commercial farms dropping in number from 88,000 in 1950 to 53,000 last year. He received a scattering of applause when he remarked that one of the forces the farmer has to cope with is government programs "Taxes have to increase so long as we accept all the services offered. If we're going to accept them, we're going to have to pay for them," he thundered!

Bennett S. Chapple, Jr., vice president of U.S. Steel Corporation, told the farmers

that they had a larger capital investment than any other single industry in Pennsylvania, but that "as large and efficient as the State's farm economy appears to be today, it still has a long way to go to keep pace with the growth in the nation's economy, and it is challenged by direct competition with farmers in the rest of the country"

A panel moderated by Dr. R. E. Larson, dean of Penn State College of Agriculture, discussed some of the opportunities for agribusiness in the state. Panel member Samuel A. Dum, county dairyman, spoke of some of the agricultural barriers and potentials from a farmer's viewpoint. Other panel members were Alan R. Warehame, pres-

ident of Hanover Canning Company, Sigfried Weis, president Weis Markets, Walter E. Wilmarth, poultry producer.

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## Now Is The Time . . .

### To Prevent Scrap Metal Harm To Animals

No one can explain why farm animals seem to like to eat bits of wire, nails, scraps of hardware, screws and bolts. The costly fact is that many valuable animals have been lost by irritation or puncture caused by swallowing such objects. To a large extent these losses can be prevented. Remove fences of woven and stranded wire that are weak from rust before small bits of wire drop into the glass. After a construction job in the barnyard it is worth the time to sweep the area thoroughly. More difficult is detection and removal of trash metal from ground feed, hay and silage. Permanent or electromagnets in feed chutes from bins to feeders will remove a major portion of the trash. It is important that some type of magnet be installed in home-grinding mills and mixers.

### To Think Home Landscaping

There are many new, informative nursery and seed catalogs available that should be studied. Home owners should be sure to select plants adapted to the situation in which they are placed. Make certain that you order from a reliable source. It isn't necessary to spend a lot of money. You can budget yourself to buy those plants which are necessary to make the home grounds more attractive. Plantings can be made over a period of years—it doesn't need to be done all at once. You might want to do it this way, establish shade trees the first year; next, plant the front entrance; then the sides and

rear; finally, develop the outdoor living area.

### To Remove Strawberry Mulch

If you have a strawberry bed still mulched, it is now time to remove this covering from the plants and place it within the row. This mulch will aid in keeping the weeds under control; conserve moisture, and make a cleaner bed for the berries to lie on.

### To Properly Identify Calves

Good dairymen know the practice of properly identifying young calves born in their herds is a very important part of their management program. Proper identification is especially important for the many dairymen using artificial insemination sires. Many sires



MAX SMITH

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