

From Where We Stand . . .

USDA Further Dilutes Farmer Emphasis

In a continuing effort to reorient and expand its functions, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced reorganization of its Economic Research Service this week. A new Economic Development Division has been created to conduct research on low income problems and the "opportunity gap" in rural areas.

In the words of Secretary Freeman, this is part of the over-all effort in the Department to place more emphasis on the problems of rural life. We might add it is a part of the Department's continuing effort to find places to go with its vast manpower and bureaucratic facilities in view of the shrinking number of farmers in the nation.

Some time back there was a strong indication that USDA would change its name to better match the apparent change in direction of its functions. However, it appears to be working the other way. The functions are becoming more and more oriented to serving the general consumer, all the while paying lip service to the non-farm rural problems, and the name change will probably tag along almost as an afterthought.

But these are mere mechanics. The important thing is that the Department of Agriculture can not be all things to all people. Either it represents farmers or else it misrepresents them. The apparent trend in USDA activities suggests the Department will go with the mostest — the consumer. Where does that leave the producer, we wonder?

We recognize that times change and that needs change with them. But it seems so typical of government organizations to meet these changes by duplicating services in other areas and by creating rather than answering needs. Wouldn't it make more economic sense to consolidate their manpower as old needs are outgrown, and even eliminate certain functions when they become obsolete?

If we seem continually critical of the USDA as a whole, we can only apologize to its many branches which perform a real service to the farmer day after day. Our major criticism is of its over-all intent and management; its lack of coordinated policies, and needless conflict and duplication of services. For example, there are some agencies within the USDA designed to ease marginal and sub-marginal farmers out of farming, other Department bureaus are working just as hard to keep the same low-income farmers in business.

Perhaps a federal agency is needed to represent consumers as a group. But one is also needed to represent farmers as a group — to set and police standards, aid in marketing problems, coordinate conservation aims, and to perform valuable research functions. In-

stead of the Department of Agriculture spilling its abundant self over into consumer areas, why wouldn't two distinct departments be a sensible way to meet two distinct needs? A good part of the second department could probably be supplied by a much needed streamlining of the USDA itself.

What Do YOU Think?

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Can't Fight "City Hall"?

There's an old defeatist slogan that has been around for far too many years. It is usually said with a shrug of futility — "Well, you just can't fight City Hall." It suggests an inevitable acceptance of entrenched authority as some sort of supreme power from whose final verdict there is no appeal. It is a saying that has time and again been refuted by one of the little people who had the courage to challenge self-righteous authority; but still the saying persists as a refuge and comfortable retreat for those who gave up.

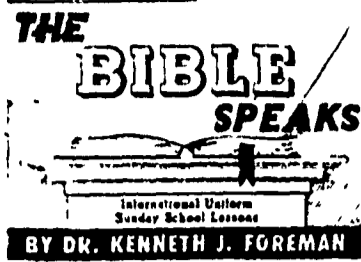
An example of some who didn't give up is very much in the local, state and national news at the moment — Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steward, Sr., of Chester, Pa. They protested a ruling of their local school board which stated that every student must avail himself of the 35-cent school lunch. The rule prohibits a student's bringing his own lunch, he must buy the federally-subsidized fare. The Steward children followed their parents' wishes and brought their own lunch, they were suspended from school. The Stewards decided to fight.

The wire services picked up the story and circulated it around the country, and the battle was on.

Local school boards have their problems — not the least of these is trying to fill unfillable young stomachs, and to do so nutritionally and yet economically. The simplest way to implement authority is to make an arbitrary ruling which permits no exceptions. That is the simplest way, but certainly the least acceptable way.

The school board claimed that to get the 6-cent federal subsidization on each cafeteria lunch all students had to cooperate. The Dept. of Agriculture has said that no federal regulation makes school lunch purchases compulsory (independent action like that taken by the Stewards will go a long way toward keeping the program voluntary). So it apparently amounts to the school board selling out the rights of individual citizens for a 6-cent federal dole. Doesn't it sort of set you to wondering in just how many other areas of citizen-government relationships our individual rights are being bartered away by our "representatives"?

Win or lose, the Stewards deserve our vote of thanks and encouragement for being willing to "fight City Hall", and for proving once again that it can be done!



A Good Mother
Lesson for November 7, 1965

Background Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:1 through 2:26
Devotional Reading: Psalm 37:1-11.

THE IDEAL mother does not exist, for no creature is perfect and women are no exception. An ideal mother would be one against whom no criticism could fairly be brought at any time or for any action in her life. Not the first mother of the race, not even Mary of Nazareth, could be rated perfect. But while no perfect mothers are to be found, good mothers are not hard to find.



Dr. Foreman. To be sure, just being a mother, merely bearing children, does not thereby immediately and necessarily make a woman a good mother. But that is another story. What we have in the story of Hannah is the story of a good mother, a much better than average mother. She lived long ago, and she had five other children besides the famous one; but her chief claim on our notice is how she lived out—though never outlived—her motherhood of her one famous son Samuel.

Her son was welcome

A mother's relation to her son begins, of course, before he is born. Indeed it begins perhaps years before, as was the case with Hannah. She wanted a son long before she had one. She wept bitterly as time went by and no son was born to her, though her husband's other wife (this was when polygamy was respectable) had any number of them. Now it makes a great deal of difference with a child whether his arrival in the family is looked forward to and hoped for and prayed for, or whether his birth is a sort of interruption in his mother's busy life. Is the baby to come as a blessing or a burden? The wanted child has a tremendous advantage, which only a mother can give him. To be sure, it is better if the mother is not the only person

in the family who will welcome the newcomer. In the story of Hannah the reader will notice the deep sympathy throughout between Hannah and her husband Elkanah. Even when she sends her little son away, her husband understands and approves. So we may be sure that little Samuel's father welcomed him even as his mother did, if not so intensely. Happy the child whose whole family rejoice when he is born!

Her son was cared for

"From each according to his ability; to each according to his need." The communists have stolen this motto from Christians and other religious people; but it cannot be enforced on a large scale, as any one can see. Where it really works is in the family. Every good family operates on this principle. When his mother took little Samuel his robe every year, she did not do a little arithmetic to find whether the lad had contributed to the family enough work to pay for the robe. On the contrary, like every good mother she provided for her child's need without sending him a bill.

Lent to the Lord

A mother never ceases to be a mother. But "mother-love can become smother-love." What is the great "bottleneck" of the Christian ministry? Why is it there are so few missionary volunteers? The answer is mothers. Mothers who suppose a man must choose between God and his mother; mothers who think that if their dear sons go into the ministry or into some "God-for-saken" heathen land, they are turning their back on parents and kindred. Hannah did not think so. At any rate, she was ready, even eager, for her son to begin "serving the Lord" in the way she understood best, at the Shiloh shrine. (He was destined to serve God in larger ways of which she could hardly have dreamed.) But she did not call it "giving up" the child. She called it lending. Hers he still was through all his years. A child lent to the Lord will be given back, with interest!

(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.)

Go To Church Sunday

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Evaluate Agricultural Programs

Government is in agriculture and no doubt will be there for quite a while. Local farmers are urged to look into the government programs that are adapted locally and to study the benefits that might be available.

To Protect Milking Udders

Ground temperatures are getting low enough that dairymen should not be allowing their milking cows to stay out overnight. The chilling of udders as well as udder injury, may bring on udder inflammation and a decrease in production. All effort should be made to keep udder irritation to a minimum.



SMITH

To Use Farm Records

There are many reasons for keeping a set of accurate farm records. One of these should be to use the records as a guide for future planning and development. Since most of the field work is done for the season, farmers are urged to spend some time going over their records and recognizing the areas of greatest returns or operations at a loss. Some "pencil pushing" is necessary for good planning.

H livestock programs in the state.

He is now serving as a director of the Pennsylvania Livestock and Allied Industries Association. In 1957 he received the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Superior Service Award for his work in the livestock field.

What Do You Need? A Lancaster Farming Classified Ad Helps

Extension Club Notes Two Social Events

The Lancaster County Senior Extension Club is sponsoring a Square Dance November 6 at 8:00 p.m. in the Leola War Memorial Building. The public is invited. Morris Groce will be the caller and a turkey will be given as the door prize. There will also be a pumpkin pie walk.

On Nov. 13 the Lancaster County Senior Extension Club is invited to the Berks Co. Senior Extension Club square dance at the Shartlesville Fire Hall in Shartlesville. Anyone interested in going along with the Lancaster club is asked to meet at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13,

at the Prudential Insurance Co. Lutz Pile (opposite the Glass Kitchen). Additional information can be obtained by calling 426-1106.

Smith

(Continued from Page 1) program in Lancaster County. He introduced a county Dairy Day program in 1950 which has been continued annually. He also conducted a series of milk marketing clinics for local dairymen to increase understanding of marketing problems and procedures.

Smith took the leadership in getting Lancaster County livestock producers to participate in the area brucellosis testing program in 1967. He also supervises one of the largest 4-

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