

From Where We Stand . . .

Tight Money; A Check-Rein On Runaway Spending?

The recent action by the Federal Reserve Board to raise the discount rate of money to banks from 4½ to 5 percent has incurred the royal wrath of the Administration in terms ranging from "premature" to "intolerable".

President Johnson shuns the word inflation as though it were the plague itself. He fears that too much talk about inflation will actually bring about the condition from an otherwise sound economy. He's probably half right — that is, talk may lead to belief, and belief might speed up the process. But not talking about it isn't going to make it go away, and the Administration's downhill, deficit spending rush has created the atmosphere in which inflation grows best. In spite of the President's wishful thinking, if a budget deficit of seven billion dollars isn't inflationary, then there is no such word and all the talk is about nothing.

But to say there is no inflation in the USA today is somewhat like saying there is no Santa Claus. "No Santa Claus, Virginia? Why the spirit of Santa Claus is all around you! It resides the year around in the hearts and minds of your congressmen and administrators of government cure-all 'programs'. It flows from the streets of Washington to all corners of the globe. Why, you are witnessing the greatest Gold Rush since 1849! And everybody wins. No inflation, Virginia? Consider a few simple figures"

1—The consumer price index over the past few years had a yearly average increase of 12 percent. In the past year it increased 18 percent, with .2 percent of that increase coming in October alone. These are little numbers, and not very frightening, but they really stand for very big and very real numbers. While almost all commodities showed increases over the past year, two essentials, shoes and clothing, were among the front-runners.

2—After more than four years of relatively stable wholesale prices, an upward movement is also apparent in the wholesale price index. In the last 12 months it averaged a gain of 2.2 percent.

3—And, again, the fiscal budget originally calculated at \$100 billion, is now figured to run a deficit of at least seven billion dollars — and that's not a little, unfracturing figure!

The Federal Reserve Board rates some praise, we think, for having the integrity and courage to "buck the trend". Whether its move will have the desired effect of "keeping the boom rolling without jumping the tracks", or whether it will, as some government economists suggest, bring the whole train to a screeching halt, remains to be seen. We think its effect will benefit the over-all health of the economy.

Unfortunately, a rise in interest rates hits everyone who borrows money, and with our expanding farm economy, this means farmers too. Reportedly, farmers paid a record amount of interest on loans this year, fully ten percent ahead of last year's figure. But

with all the purchases of machinery and equipment the modern farmer must make, any slowing of the trend toward inflationary prices has to be beneficial to him in the long-run.

★ ★ ★ May All The Fire Engines Be Toys

We sincerely hope that this Christmas season the only fire engines at your house will be in the form of toys for the children. Each year at this time newspaper editors echo the cautionary words of the lighting specialists, home economists, and others regarding fire prevention at Christmas. And yet each year, the headlines bear grim testimony to people's carelessness with trees and lights. Each story reflects the same shocked — "It-couldn't-happen-to-me" sort of surprise.

Faithfully following a few simple precautions will go a long way toward assuring that it won't happen to you.

Last year we talked about reducing fire hazards by buying a fresh tree and keeping it that way. Test for freshness by pulling lightly on some of the needles, and by bouncing the tree butt on the ground. A fresh tree should absorb this treatment without showering the ground with needles. Once you have selected a fresh tree and taken it home, cut the butt on a slant. Then bore a hole about four inches deep through the stem, and pack this opening with cotton. Place the tree in a bucket of water and store it in a cool place until you are ready to put it up. This procedure will not only keep your tree fresher, but will increase its resistance to fire.

Many fires at Christmas time are caused by careless lighting. Only electric lights are recommended for Christmas trees, never candles. Make sure the lights and cords you use bear the safety seal of the Underwriter Laboratories. There comes a time when Christmas tree lights should be thrown out. Look at yours; chances are you've been saying for the past several years — "Well, I ought to get one more year out of these old strings." Maybe you will!

Overloading is another hazard. Most home outlets are rated for about 1500 watts. This will safely handle six to eight strings of 25 lamps each, so long as no other equipment is drawing power from the same circuit.

The outlet should never be located under the tree, and the switch for turning the lights off on should be located away from the tree. If the tree is extremely large, split the electric load by plugging the lights into two separate outlets.

Another safety suggestion concerns selection of bulbs. The metal part of the bulb socket should not stick out far enough to come into contact with tinsel hanging close by. In fact, tinsel should be kept away from the bulbs entirely.

Now that you have taken all of these precautions, take one more. Disconnect the tree lights before you go to bed at night, and before you leave the house for an extended period.

Following these precautions is no guarantee of a safe Christmas, but it will certainly bend the odds in your favor.



Whispers of Hope Lesson for December 19, 1965

Background Scripture: Jeremiah 1; 11; 33: 37 through 39
Devotional Reading: Luke 1: 68-79.

ONE OF THE most difficult and puzzling books in the Bible, and yet one of the most fascinating, is the book of the prophet Jeremiah. As a suggestion to new readers of the Bible, I recommend not staying in the



snags, but pushing on to what you can understand, and coming back to un-snag the tangles by the help perhaps of your pastor, perhaps of one or two good books. For many a good book has been written about this strange man Jeremiah. Yet don't depend on one book alone to help you. And certainly don't expect this column to explain all that needs explaining!

Hope for your future

In printed Sunday school quarterlies and other literature for church school classes, at this Sunday's lesson you will notice they have printed just a short trio of quotations out of the long book of Jeremiah. At first sight, one wonders what possible connection these three passages can have. (Look them up for yourself: Jeremiah 31:15-17; 33:14-16; 31:31-34.) After you have sat and read these passages several times, perhaps a little clue will catch your notice. The verbs, the action-words, are in the future tense, as a grammar would put it. But there is something more than bare grammar here. All these verbs in the future tense tell us that Jeremiah is not (so far as these verses go) mainly telling about what has happened, but something yet to take place. The focus of what he is saying is in the future. It is the note of hope, the note of expectation, of assurance, that unites these and many other passages from the prophets. Other religious idealize the past, and their only hope is some kind of

re-creation of the past, living the past over and over again, like a wheel endlessly turning. For the prophets of God, history was no wheel; it is more like an arrow, the arrow of hope. "There is hope for your future" is a sentence from Jeremiah which might be a title for all that the prophets said.

The righteous branch

This hope takes many forms and shows many a facet, like a great jewel with many gleaming surfaces. Almost always the language about the future is obscure to our ears. The strange middle-east style of writing twenty-five centuries ago adds to our confusion. Yet nothing quite conceals which way the prophet is straining his eyes. He says "There is hope for your future" without saying when that hope will be fulfilled. Probably he did not know. We have good New Testament backing for believing that the prophets did not always know just to what or to whom their prophecies referred. But as we pore over the ancient utterances and riddling symbols in mystic poesy, some features begin to become clearer. One is that the hope of the future centers in one Man. Sometimes he is a royal hero, another David; sometimes a Servant, sometimes a great Sufferer. Jeremiah's word here is "Righteous Branch" Branch of What? God's people? David's family tree? of the tree of life? At any rate this hoped-for Branch will bring righteousness and justice to a land of wickedness and injustice. Obviously this refers to some person. The Christian church has always been convinced that it means no other than Jesus, the hope of the world.

Covenant of the heart

For there are three things linking these prophecies into one: The emphasis on the future, the personalizing of this hope in one man; and now the third: the wide outlook of the prophet who sees not only his beloved Judah or Israel, but the wide world. Jeremiah looks and longs for a time when laws, even God's laws, shall no longer be confined to books, but written on the hearts of men, when the will of God shall not be a doom falling from without, but a devotion growing within; a time (still so far away!) when there shall be no need to explain about God to any one, for all men shall know him.

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Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Soak Evergreen Shrubs

One of the best ways to prevent winter injury to evergreens is to soak the root area well before freezing weather arrives, this is especially true in case of recently planted shrubs. Since we have not had liberal amounts of rain or snow this fall, owners should be sure that the area around the roots is well soaked. Evergreens that hold their needles or leaves over the winter months will be strengthened by this extra moisture.

To Exercise Dairy Herd

Many barnyards and exercise lots do not get sufficiently used by dairymen. The milking herd will be healthier and will respond to being turned out at least once a day during the winter months. With the exception of very bad storms or blizzards, the weather will not be too cold for the cows for at least 10 to 15 minutes each day. The exercise lot should be free of injury hazards and paved areas are preferred. The outside exercise permits dairymen to detect heat periods and any other special herd health conditions.

To Use Special Ration for Brood Sows . . .

Most swine producers need to give some attention to the possibility of their brood sows becoming overweight when this occurs the litter of pigs are often small, weak and the sow is big and careless at farrowing time. The sow should get enough proteins, vitamins, and minerals by the use of a commercial sow supplement feed, and the amount of feed to each sow should be limited. Daily outside exercise is needed to keep the sows trim and healthy.



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To Use Correspondence Courses . . . Many local folks may benefit and learn about many phases of agriculture by taking some of the Penn State Correspondence Courses this winter. These practical lessons by mail are not expensive and will present some of the important points and management practices in nearly all kinds of farming and landscaping. Those interested should write to . . . "Correspondence Courses" College of Agriculture, Box No 5000, University Park, Pa.

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● Agr. Enrollment (Continued from Page 1)
ly two-thirds of the graduate students have part-time assistantships or fellowships. Associate degree two-year students now number 174 compared with 148 a year ago. Dr. Swope says these students, studying forestry or agricultural business, take their first year in forestry at the Mont Alto Commonwealth Campus, or their first year in agricultural business at the Commonwealth Campuses in Altoona or Uniontown. All two-year students in agriculture take their second year

work at the University Park campus.

● Farmers Union (Continued from Page 1)
ed Lee Graver, chairman of the membership committee; Bus Shoemaker, Fred Frey, Paul Beckinstrater, and Phil Kauffman to the publicity committee.
The two-county association plans to hold its annual banquet at Oxford on February 18, 1966.