

## From Where We Stand . . .

### It's For The Birds

As someone remarked recently upon emerging from a Washington conference on the Viet Nam problem, "You couldn't tell the Dawks from the Hoves." The tendency today seems to be more than ever to label anyone who demands instant peace as a "dove", and anyone else as a "hawk". No matter how you look at the question of our being in Viet Nam, it is a situation that is "strictly for the birds".

There are probably few individuals in the country who could be neatly filed in either "bird" category. We're all, as the man said, dawks or hoves - - cross-breeds of the two extremes. Certainly the doviest among us would rather see this fight waged in Viet Nam today than in Lancaster tomorrow. And certainly the hawkier among us would have no objection to a worthwhile peace arrangement which would stalemate recent communist offensive gains in southeast Asia.

The clamor for peace talks have come from all corners of the globe recently, with the notable exception of southeast Asia. The pressure on the Administration for some sort of a peaceful settlement has been intense. The President has walked the tight-rope very skillfully. He has opened the door for negotiations, convincing at least most of the free world of our willingness to talk with the enemy, while maintaining our military position in Viet Nam.

Hanoi's refusal to talk may well contain the seeds of its own destruction. The future course of the war will have to change at this point. We can't get out now; the stakes are too high. Several choices are open. We can continue the troop buildup, and continue the "limited" war which sacrifices our troops one man at a time to the enemy; or we can resume bombing North Viet Nam, but this time hit their cities and ports, eliminating them one by one, and move toward a military conclusion of this war. The main fear over the latter course is intervention from China. General MacArthur offered us the answer to that problem at the time of the Korean War, but we foolishly rejected it. Each time we further reject it, it will come back stronger and uglier, and the cost of the ultimate solution will "escalate", to use a currently overworked expression.

Diplomacy can sometimes head off small conflicts; more often on the big problems it merely postpones the inevitable. From somewhere back in the more vigorous days of our history echo the words, "Is peace so sweet that we would buy it with out freedom?" Unfortunately, there are some among us who would have us make such a bad bargain.

If China will be satisfied with nothing less than our ultimate ruin, why should we give them the advantage of time? We assumed the initia-

tive when we moved into southeast Asia in force. If we really want peace for future generations we will have to pursue that initiative to a definite conclusion, or live forevermore under the shadow of fear and uncertainty.

### ★ ★ ★ ★ Too High On The Hog?

There are some who feel the unrealistically high hog prices which have prevailed in recent months, and which give every indication of continuing through much of this year, will speed up the trend toward market contracts.

Some of this contract production is reportedly being done in the nation's hog belt now. The theory is that many packers have been badly hurt by the long run of high prices, and will move faster toward marketing contracts to protect themselves in the future.

By integrating, raising their own hogs on contract at a guaranteed price and quality, they can take some of the extreme high and low fluctuations out of the hog market.

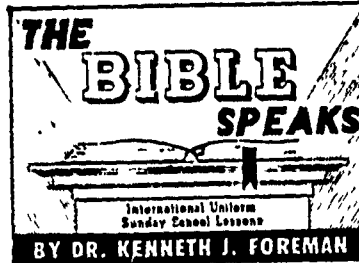
An increase in this practice seems a certainty in the big hog areas. Who will actually do the final integrating remains to be seen. Some of the farm organizations, notably the National Farmers Organization (NFO), are pushing very hard over a 25-state area for new members. Their aim is to control livestock production so the packers and processors will have to negotiate on contracts with NFO if they want to do business. What price they will extract from the grower for this service, we don't know. A farmer who commits his future production to such an organization may gain a little monetarily, but will it offset the loss of one more freedom of personal decision? Each individual must answer that question to his own satisfaction.

Another alternative would be for local farmers to organize their own marketing arrangements with local packers. This would seem more desirable from our viewpoint; NFO would undoubtedly label such a move too insignificant to be effective. It would largely depend on the integrity of all parties, and upon the ability of all to compete satisfactorily under the terms of the agreement.

The situation in our area has not yet reached quite the critical proportions of the midwestern farmers. Here we have many small hog growers and many buyers, large and small. All are free to buy and sell on the open market, with supply and demand setting the price. However, while there is no question that Lancaster County farmers with hogs to sell during the past six months or so have done well, our packers have been hurt just as badly by the high prices as have packers in the midwest.

Changes in the methods of producing and marketing hogs in the hog belt will sooner or later effect us here in Lancaster County. Good sense dictates that we watch these changes with considerable interest as they progress.

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### God Is Redeemer Lesson for January 30, 1966

Background Scriptures: Deuteronomy 7:6-11, Isaiah 43:1-3, Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 1:3-10, Hebrews 10:19-22; Revelation 5:9-14.  
Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-11.

THERE IS probably no way to write about this week's topic without sounding like a sermon, and these columns are not intended as sermons. Anyhow, sermon or not, brace yourself, for we are dealing here with the



most profound and troubling questions man can ask, and the most profound answer that has ever been found.

When we hear bright and cheerful talk about the love of God, his grace and mercy, and how wonderful it is to have him for a companion, protector and guide, when we hear such a line, we are sometimes troubled by a dark suspicion. This is lovely, but is it realistic? The truth is, man is bad. The great barrier between God and man — between God and me — is sin. How can I be in harmony with God? How can I love him? Can God even pretend to love me without seeming to condone what is worst in me? How can my sin ever cease to be an iron curtain between me and the love of God I hear about?

#### God the Redeemer

The answer in one word is: Redemption. That is a short-hand expression for whatever act or process it is that destroys my sin and swings me back into the great mainstream of God's loving will. Now in all the world's religions there are really only three answers to the question: How is redemption possible? One answer is — There's no problem. Sin is an illusion, man doesn't need to be redeemed, he is doing all right, thank you. This answer is an impossible piece of optimism for people who know what depths of evil man is capable of. So there is another answer, found in some churches though not in the Bible: Man needs redemption,

but he can redeem himself by the good things he does. That's like saying a drowning swimmer needs no rescue, he can swim for himself. A helpless man cannot help himself, that is just the trouble and the tragedy. So the third answer is. Only God is the redeemer. This is his nature, this is in his character, this is in his power and his alone.

#### Redemption in Christ

The New Testament writers, it may be said, wrote on some phase or part of the same subject always: redemption. They have different ways of putting it, but they all agree that redemption is "in Christ". How can God be Redeemer and also Christ be the same? This question overlooks the fact that according to the New Testament, Christ and the Father are One, Christ is both God and man, as the church has always believed. Christ identified himself with the Father, and on the other side he identified himself with man. Jesus both lived and died as the God-man. Jesus identified himself with man as he is — sinning, rebellious man. And in so doing accepted and took on himself the consequences of man's sins. He who knew no sin of his own was "made to be sin" for our sakes. He took to himself all the misery and sin of man and on the Cross died not for himself, but on behalf of every man. (He "tasted death for every man," one writer puts it.)

#### The life outpoured

Often in the New Testament the blood of Christ is spoken of, as the way or means by which we are redeemed. This is not a repulsive thought as some persons think. The Blood, in Scripture, means or stands for Life. Being saved or redeemed by or in Christ's blood, means by his outpoured life. Christ is pictured in the New Testament as the Lamb sacrificed for the world. His shed blood is the life poured out in service and obedience. The church has always believed that Christ's life was perfect, but the crowning perfection was his death for others.

## Attend Church This Sunday

## Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

### To Check Milking Equipment

Winter is a good time for dairymen to make a thorough check of their milking system equipment. No other machine in agriculture gets used more often or comes into closer contact with animals, than the milking machine; therefore, its mechanical condition is very important. Vacuum lines and pulsators should be cleaned and checked, inspect the vacuum pump for oil level, belt tension and alignment and be sure it is delivering the right amount of vacuum at the teat cups. Many milking machine servicemen have special equipment to check these items.



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### To Kill Brush With Chemicals

The winter months are timely to spray unwanted trees and brush for good root kill in the next growing season. The use of the ester form of 2,4-D plus 2,4,5-T brush killer along with fuel oil will do a good job of killing most any kind of bush or tree. During the dormant season there is no danger of harming other crops and good control has been accomplished by spraying or painting the lower 24 inches of the stem or trunk.

### To Stretch Your Fertilizer Dollar . . .

A complete soil test is necessary for the most efficient crop production. The most accurate fertilizer recommendations for any farm and for one specific crop, can be made only on the basis of a complete soil test. General recommendations may hit or miss the proper needs. The most of the soil test (\$1.50) is very low compared to the increased yields from properly fertilized crops.

### To Creep Feed Early Lambs

The Easter market is usually one of the very best for selling spring lambs, local producers that have early lambs coming, or now on the ground, will be ahead to provide a feed trough with free access to a grain mixture for the small lambs; this area should be constructed so that the ewes cannot enter but the lambs may come and go as they wish. A

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### Lancaster Farming

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### Weather Forecast

The five-day outlook, Saturday through Wednesday, calls for temperatures to average much below the normal range of 38 to 23 degrees. The cold temperatures will persist throughout the period with little day-to-day change.

While the frigid temperatures are a certainty, the amount of precipitation is uncertain. Another coastal storm is expected about Sunday, but amounts are uncertain. Snow depth will vary according to how far inland the storm comes. Best advice is be prepared for the worst.

## 4-H Club News

### BROKEN BIT CLUB REORGANIZES

The Broken Bit 4-H Club held its reorganization meeting at the home of Debbie Gregory, Clay, on January 21. The main item of the evening was the election of new officers. They are president, Cherk Risser, vice president, Steve Enck, secretary, Barb Miller, treasurer, Debbie Hartman, and the news reporters for Vanheim and Ephrata are Carl Mease and Lois Enck, respectively.

The Horse Show Committee also gave their report. They decided to hold the show on either May 1 or May 8 at Mt Airy. The judge is to be Robert Church.