

From Where We Stand . . .

Favorite Washington Game — Pin The Tail On The Farmer

On March 31, the U.S. Department of Agriculture put out a news release saying that farm and food prices had leveled off. The report showed that average prices received by farmers between mid-February and mid-March were down somewhat, and lower retail food prices were promised with the prediction that farm prices would show further price declines as the year goes on.

On the same day, March 31st, President Johnson told the nation that one of the primary culprits in the current inflationary spiral was food prices. Food means farmers, so, in effect, Johnson was saying to the nation of consumers that the farmers — not Johnson's own wild spending spree — were causing inflation. He urged American housewives to boycott foods that were too high-priced.

Now is it possible the President isn't on the same USDA mailing list that we are? Or perhaps he just wasn't briefed by agriculture secretary Freeman. More likely, he was simply looking for a scapegoat, and who makes a better federal scapegoat than the farmer?

This "pin the tail on the farmer" game is also played another way. It's called manipulating surpluses. The way it works is to encourage farmers to create surpluses of certain products and put these into government storage. Then, when the market price for these commodities gets too high, in the Administration's judgment, government stocks can be dumped at below parity prices to drive down the open-market price.

A current example of this technique is the recent increase in the support price on soybeans. Freeman announced it was being raised 25 cents per bushel to a level of \$2.50 cents for the 1966 crop to give farmers more incentive to grow soybeans. He said the annual carryover of beans was insufficient to meet demand. What he meant was it was insufficient to put enough beans into government storage so he could dump them on the open market when he felt the price was too high next year.

In recent months, both Johnson and Freeman must have been considerably frustrated for they had no surpluses with which to drive down some of the first equitable farm prices in years. Thus the other gambit, tell the housewives it was their duty to boycott the higher-priced farm products.

It should be evident to even the most near-sighted citizens that the present administration doesn't care two figs for the farmers' well-being. To the Johnson-Freeman team the farmer is

simply a food-growing machine designed to nourish the Great Society flock at cost, or less.

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When Money Flows Down, Power Flows Up

Gov. George Romney of Michigan recently addressed a group of Young Republicans on the subject of the "new centralism", or super-federalism, of the Johnson administration.

Romney pointed out that "Federal funds for federal projects built to federal specifications are being poured into big cities. And as the money flows down, power flows up." It has ever been so, but now this trend seems to have taken on the momentum of a national drive.

Romney expressed the fear that the federal coordinators who will supervise each of these projects locally will eventually become as "federal mayors". He predicts they will one day, if this trend is allowed to continue, supplant local, elected authority, and will become the real policy makers and operating heads of the major cities.

As one alternative to this direct federal pipeline to our major cities, Romney suggests federal tax money should be fairly distributed to include state and local governments. Another, and more basic alternative, is that when problems can be solved on a local level of government this should be done, rather than running to Big Daddy every time there is a community crisis.

Basic decisions, as charity, should begin at home. If we want our decisions made by bureaucrats in Washington, the latter will be only too happy to comply. If we continue to grab greedily at the tainted bait of federal money, we are wantonly giving away our most prized possession — freedom. And one by one that will include all the freedoms.

Want a prediction? We predict that by 1968 this over-federalized approach to government will be the key national election issue. And while we're predicting, we would not be surprised to see Gov. Romney in the role of the Republican Presidential Candidate. He is building an attractive image — successful businessman, successful administrator of a major state; vigorous and dynamic personality; but above all, a man of principle who has had a snootful of federal waste and paternalism. The fact that he openly denounced the conservative Republican candidates in 1964 may also work to his advantage.

Time will tell, and there will be dozens of candidates on the scene between now and 1968, but we've just got a dumb hunch that Romney looks like a winner.

Incentive For More Soybean Production Seen In Support Hike

In addition to extending the wheat and feed grain signup time to April 5 last

week, Secretary of Agriculture Freeman also announced an increase of 25 cents per bushel in the support price for soybeans, bringing the price level to \$2.50 per bushel for the 1966 crop year.

In making the announcement Freeman said "Today's action gives soybean producers an incentive for added planting by providing definite assurance of a substantial increase in the minimum price level for the coming soybean crop."

He suggested that soybeans offer farmers a good cash alternative to corn with the latter continuing in surplus. In spite of the increasing bean supply in recent years it is not keeping up with demand, Freeman said. He wants more annual carryover of soybeans.

Freeman said the higher support price will be reviewed prior to any 1967 support announcement.

● Beekeepers

(Continued from Page 2) chairman of Horticulture Extension at Penn State. He has been fruit specialist since 1947.

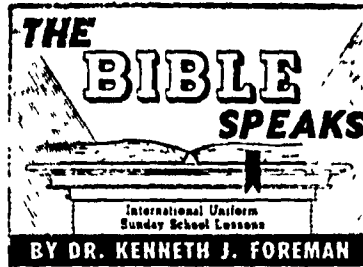
Bittner is a member of several professional societies and the Pennsylvania Horticulture Association. In 1965 he traveled around the world observing fruit production in various countries.

A smorgasbord dinner has been arranged at \$2.75 per person. Reservations should be made before Monday.

Weather Forecast

Fair skies rate high on the weatherman's list of promises for the next several days, particularly for the Easter weekend. However, temperatures will average a little below normal through most of the five-day period.

Precipitation is expected to be very light for the entire period, with perhaps a total of .1-inch occurring as showers Saturday night.



BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Victory View

Lesson for April 10, 1966

Background Scriptures: I Corinthians 15, Ephesians 1:5-23, Revelation 7:9-17, Devotional Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Within the lifetime of living men it could be truly said that Christianity was growing faster than any other religion in the world. This was true, but not now. Other religions are creeping up on us. Look at Japan for example and figure it out for yourself. One half of one percent of Japanese are Christians. In other words, the non-Christians outnumber the Christians 200 to one.



Dr. Foreman Suppose that for each pair of Christian parents now living, there will be four Japanese in the next generation. Then 30 or so years from now there will be, or can be, twice as many Christian Japanese as there are today. But by that time, there will be twice as many non-Christian Japanese as today. If the non-Christians outnumber the Christians now 200 to 1, how much will they outnumber them in the next generation, assuming they all have about the same number of children?

Population explosion

All over the world the population explosion works against the Christians. We are presently becoming more numerous, to be sure, but no as fast as our rival religionists. It is not only the population growth that is bringing that about. Christianity was enjoying a great prestige in the days when the "Christian" nations were running the world. Now with the decline of colonialism the prestige of western religion has likewise declined. Not only so, but here

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE SUNDAY

where our religion has more prestige and influence than ever, the world is very stubborn in its resistance to the ideals and the life of the church. The church stands for God; the contemporary world lives as if God were dead. The church honors the home; the world tears it down. The church preaches chastity and calls unchastity sin; the world (to judge by the movies) finds unchastity merely funny. And so it goes. The church is low-rated so much that even some of her leaders are beginning to call this the post-Christian era. Even the Christian with an optimistic faith must admit that this is for the church a time of weakness and defeat.

Whose victory?

But there is no need to be a pessimist. The Bible's view of the church is a victory view. When we speak of the victory or defeat of the church, what do we really mean? It is not the church alone whose future concerns us. This is the church of Christ. Every true church is his, every defeat and every victory are his also. The church cannot win unless he wins. That would be as absurd as for an army to win while their general was defeated. And if he wins, the church will win. For in spite of every discouragement and setback we persist in believing that Christ will win over all his and our enemies. It is Easter, and one meaning of the Resurrection is a sign and pledge that the God who conquered death, the "man of God's own choosing" whom death could not hold, will in time conquer all other forms of evil, all that is hostile to God.

What Will victory be?

Victory we hope for, but not triumphalism. Triumphalism means the victory of one party over another. A world in which some one denomination had wiped out all the others, so that there would be one Established Church, would be triumphalism, and this is not promised us in Scripture. But if triumphalism is not the shape of Christ's victory, what is? The victory of God when complete will be what and where it is now: in the hearts of men. Christ promised that if he were lifted up he would "draw all men" to himself. No man can be forced to follow Christ. The kingdom of heaven for which we pray will not come by force or bargaining. It comes only where men freely give their heart to the Son of God.

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Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Fertilize Shrubbery

Early spring is the best time to trim many shrubs and trees (excluding evergreens). When this is done, it is advised to fertilize the plant to encourage new growth and to get the desired shape. This is especially true when shrubs have been severely trimmed or thinned. A complete tree and shrub fertilizer may be used.

To Practice Herd Management

When the milking herd is turned to pasture for the first time in the spring, very careful handling is needed to prevent off-flavored milk. Lush pasture may give milk a "grassy" flavor if the herd is permitted to graze close to milking time, or if the barn is poorly ventilated after the cows come off the grass. Pastures containing any amount of wild garlic require very definite grazing restrictions to maintain quality milk flavor. Removing the herd 4 to 5 hours before the milking time is one very important practice.

To Review Insurance Coverage

As the thunderstorm season approaches, we are reminded of the danger of lightning striking farm buildings and the need of full fire insurance coverage. The adjustment of insurance coverage to protect the replacement costs rather than the original cost is needed on many farms. A brief call to your insurance agent can obtain this added protection so badly needed under present building conditions.

To Sharpen Lawn Mower Blades

The mowing of the lawn will soon be a weekly chore. A sharp set of mower blades is a very important requirement in doing a good job of mowing. This is especially true with the blades on rotary mowers. Many homeowners fail to keep them sharp and the grass is beaten off instead of cut. Blades should be sharpened several times during the season if large areas are to be cut weekly.



SMITH

Lancaster Farming Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P O Box 266 - Lititz, Pa. 17543

Offices:

22 E Main St. Lititz, Pa 17543
Phone - Lancaster 394-3047 or Lititz 626 2191
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Robert G Campbell, Advertising Director

Subscription price—\$2 per year in Lancaster County, \$3 elsewhere

Established November 4, 1955. Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.