

From Where We Stand . . .

Pennsylvania's Future In Agriculture

A very important second step was officially taken this week in the continuing effort to further the state of agriculture in Pennsylvania.

Governor Scranton's agriculture committee reported on the many factors affecting that area of the state's economy, after having studied the situation and gathered evidence over the past year.

The issue of competition for rural resources in Pennsylvania is a subject of vital concern to every citizen of the state, particularly those who will be involved in agriculture in the coming years. As our population expands, the nonagricultural sector of the economy will require more and more land. Land for houses, for stores, for schools, for recreation, and for highways. The committee studying this problem reported that 15,000 acres of farmland is being lost each year to the pressures of urbanization. In a report delivered by committee chairman Amos H. Funk of Millersville R1, it was recommended that land other than Class I, II, or III, be used for highways and for recreational purposes wherever possible.

As Funk reported, in the long run land will go to its most economical use — if it's worth more for growing houses than for growing food, houses will be the crop. This is an economic fact of life that can not be entirely thwarted, but, as Funk said further, we also have to consider the short run in plotting the use of our natural resources. And in the short run it is important that we lay guidelines which will shape the best development of our state for the long range picture.

These sub-committees have worked hard in meeting the challenge which the Governor threw down a year ago. They have given him many good, hard facts and recommendations. The matter has been deferred to agriculture secretary Bull for further study. It is important that it does not rest there. A good start has been made, but it is only a start. We hope Scranton's, and succeeding administrations, will continue the effort to preserve and improve agriculture in Pennsylvania.

Dirksen Amendment Goes Down Swinging

The anti-reapportionment team of Senator Everett Dirksen came up with a lot of hits but lost the second game of the series to the Senators from Washington this week. Analysis of the defeat shows the Dirksen forces left too many cards on the table on basis of the last election. Although they seem fated by

seven votes to get the necessary two-thirds majority for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would over-rule the "one-man-one-vote" edict of the Supreme Court, a change of only four votes by the opposition would have carried the day.

Pennsylvania Senators Scott and Clark split, with Clark opposing the amendment. Three Republican Senators from other populated eastern states were also in the enemy camp — Boggs from Delaware; Case, New Jersey; and Javits, New York. Those four Senators alone could have righted the wrong done by the Court to the U.S. Constitution, had they seen fit to do so.

Is this the end of the Dirksen drive to preserve the rights of states? The lion-hearted one says NO. He says his forces will carry the fight to the people all across the land in an effort to defeat the foes of this important measure. Addressing the opposition in the Senate, Dirksen said, "You're afraid to have this issue go before the people (for a vote) and we're going to tell the voters you're afraid of the people".

Hopefully, the Dirksen team will do just that, and, hopefully, the people will vindicate the faith that Everett Dirksen has in them.

"Zero Tolerance" Concept Doomed

We commented in an editorial in Lancaster Farming on October 3, 1964 that the old concept of "zero tolerance" and "no residue" had become meaningless because of the development of highly sensitive techniques for measuring residues. This was the conclusion of the President's science advisory committee. The matter was then turned over to the Food and Drug Administration and Agricultural Research Service for further study.

The latter agencies completed their study last June and recently released findings and recommendations. These amount to a first major step in dumping the whole zero tolerance concept for safe public pesticide use, and legalization of some residues in food crops.

The government has ordered that where a chemical may reasonably be expected to leave a residue in or on food, registration will not be granted until and unless the manufacturer can prove that some of the chemical residue in food is safe for humans. It has ordered the use of many of the questionable chemicals in food products off the market by December 31, 1967.

The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act which defines the use of the terms "zero tolerance" will have to be changed before the terms can be abandoned, but this appears to be a mere formality.

Calendar
April 23-24, 1966
Lancaster County Extension
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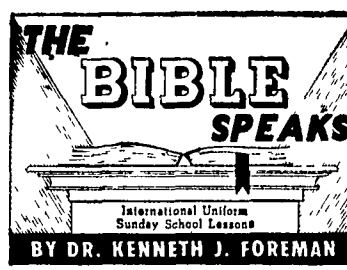
Weather Forecast
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into the hands of mean or malicious men. Another reason why state religion is dangerous at worst and low-grade at best is that when religion comes under the control of government it is managed like any other department of the state with the result that religion becomes a branch of politics.

State Religion Lesson for April 24, 1966

Background Scripture: 1 Kings 12:25 through 14:20. Devotional Reading: Proverbs 2:1-9.

State religions are older than the Pharaohs. Wherever in the world you find a particular religion or denomination supported and protected by the state to the exclusion of all others, there is a state religion. Perhaps a state religion is better than none, but



this is an arguable point. One thing is sure, the founding fathers of America had seen state churches in action, and they were determined that this kind of religion should

Dr. Foreman never take root in America's free soil.

Even if the founding fathers had never seen state religion in practice, they could have read their Old Testament and learned much by its light. State religion is dangerous because it depends for its success on the character of the man who happens to be the big boss or dictator at the time. Solomon was head of his church as well as of his nation. The same can be said of David, who appointed some of his sons to be priests though (not being Levites) they were not eligible for church office. At any rate, the Jewish people of those times were long used to having the kind of religious observances and worship which the king prescribed. So when a bad king came along, Jeroboam, the masses of the people in Israel followed him without asking questions. If Jeroboam said bull calves were quite all right as objects of worship, then that was all they needed to know. State religions tend to run down hill whenever the government gets

Disaster in Israel

How did religion fare when it got into the hands of that enterprising young organizer, Jeroboam? After that silly speech by Rehoboam, there was a great uprising among the Israelites and found himself only barely holding on to two tribes, while Jeroboam had in his tight grasp all the rest of the nation. He set out to make new centers of worship, and new methods and forms of worship. Disgusting as it seems to us, he actually told the people that the gold-plated calves in the new holy cities of Bethel and Shechem were the gods who had brought their ancestors out of Egypt.

Made Israel to sin

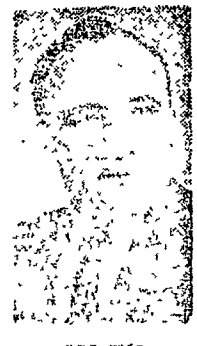
There were good traits in Jeroboam, as the story shows. But his good points were scrubbed out by the bad. Always afterwards, calf-worship would remind people of Jeroboam. The tag that got attached to his name was "who made Israel to sin." He did not force Israel to like the hooves of the gilded calves; he just set the example. Our ancestors used to think it would be one of the joys of the redeemed saints to visit the brink of hell and see there the torture of poor lost souls. More sensitive souls would find the sight intolerable, for one might readily picture a lost soul crying-out to the sightseer, "You should be here! You were the first who made me sin!" Could one endure it, even in heaven, if one knew what every one else knew: This is a man who encouraged his brother in sin?

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Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Consider Minimum Tillage
When preparing your ground there are many degrees of tillage that farmers can perform in getting their ground ready; this will range from the plow-plant operation to the farmer who disc and cultipacks his ground several times and get it very fine and firm. The latter practice is being criticized because it is more expensive, breaks down the organic matter more rapid, and causes the water absorption rate of the land. In some fields the plow-plant operation might be used successfully, however, on heavy lands a minimum amount of tillage prior to corn planting is suggested.



To Prevent Corn Injury
When livestock are turned to pasture for the first time in the spring there is a danger of grass toxicity, or toxic poisoning. This is more likely to occur on pastures that have been heavily fertilized. We suggest that animals be acclimated to the new pasture gradually and that both grain feeding and dry matter intake be maintained or slowly increased.

and have 6 to 8 inches of space between each stack of bags; do not stack the bags on dirt or concrete floor because it will draw moisture and hasten rot. Keep away from doors or windows to prevent drafts from getting on it, the stored stored fertilizer is kept out of the reach of livestock.

To Store Fertilizer Properly
Fertilizer being held on the farm should be protected from any kind of moisture

The whitening knife-edged blade of a rotary lawn mower is dangerous. Choose a mower that is shielded well down toward the ground and treat it as you would a buzz saw. Save your toes.