

From Where We Stand . . .

Change The State Constitution?

At the primary election next Tuesday probably the most far-reaching choices voters will make will be on the nine-point Constitutional question.

The first question is: do we want a Constitutional convention to study and rewrite articles and sections of the State Constitution?

If approved by the voters, the 150 convention delegates who will later be elected from the 50 senatorial districts, will be charged with rewriting four sections of the Constitution — the articles on judiciary, local government, reapportionment and taxation-finance. They will be specifically prohibited from changing the Constitution's uniformity clause which the courts have held bars a state graduated tax of any kind.

Proponents of changing the Constitution have tried for voter approval six times since 1892. And six times the bid for change was rejected at the polls — although it only lost by 39,600 votes in 1963.

The approach this time is on a bipartisan basis with former governors Scranton and Leader heading the Committee for 9 Yes Votes.

And this time proponents of the change are not trying to push a complete rewriting which would have to be accepted or rejected by the voters as a package.

Now they have selected certain specific articles and sections for revision. After these are rewritten, each must be presented in the 1968 primary for individual approval or rejection.

So, there is no question involved here that anything is going to be "put over" on the people through a Constitutional convention. There is also no question but that several of the articles proposed for revision should be revised. We see no reason why the amendment machinery presently existing in the Constitution couldn't have been used to update the document. But, aside from the added cost of a convention, we can see no danger inherent in such a limited convention.

So much for the first question. There will be eight other questions on the ballot which you should accept or reject according to your individual views. These are presented as amendments to the Constitution and, if approved by the voters, will become law.

Items referring to having the legis-

lature sit in continuous two-year sessions permitting the governor and lieutenant governor to succeed themselves for one term, reducing the residency requirements for voting, and repeal of article seventeen of the Constitution (referring to canal and railroad regulations) — with these, we have no argument. The articles are obsolete and probably do impede progress.

Question 6-A, however, asks your permission to streamline the process for amending the Constitution "in the event of a major emergency". But, the term "emergency" is too loosely defined in the question. Passage of this amendment could be dangerous without more specific definition of the term emergency. A "no" vote on question 6-A would throw it back to the convention (if one is held) for further clarification.

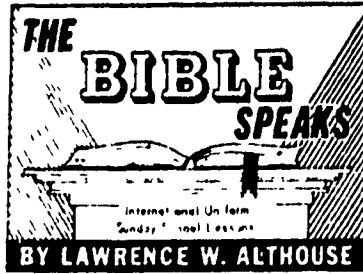
Question 8-A asks for a \$500-million bond issue to wage war on pollution and to create a land and water conservation and reclamation fund.

While we're 100 percent for conservation and reclamation of our natural resources, we don't want to see any more Class I and Class II farmland taken out of production through the Project 70 land acquisition program. We realize that, more and more, we will have to share our fair countryside with city folks and tourists. Such land sharing will be in the form of parks and other public lands. But we'd like to see greater discretion used in purchasing land — certainly increases plenty of land in Pennsylvania that would be suitable for little else. Purchases should be limited to such land, and productive farms must be allowed to remain in farms.

Someday we're going to need all the "good" farms to feed the people who today require the parks.

So, our answer on question 8-A? — Yes, but with reservations. If it is approved, our legislators will have to carry the ball and press for farsighted use of the land acquisition funds. But the good outweighs the bad in this question, we think.

What you, the voters, will think and do with these constitutional questions remains to be seen. Some updating of our Constitution is unquestionably needed. While a convention may not be the best possible way, it does appear to be the best way so far offered since the Constitution was written in 1873.



Of God or Man?

Lesson for May 14, 1967

Background Scripture: Acts 5:1-11
Devotional Reading: 1 Peter 2:13-17

Let's assume that your pastor is involved in the drive to secure equal opportunities in employment and housing for Negroes in your community. Let's assume further that he has refused to heed official warnings to cease this activity and is imprisoned. Finally, assume that he has escaped from prison and has resumed his activities in this cause. What reaction would there be from you and your church to such a pastor? Is this not civil disobedience?



That is what we call it today. In the day of Peter and John it may have been called something else, but it was really the same thing. These men believed that their obedience to God made it impossible to obey civil authorities in a particular situation. In this case, you will remember, it all started when Peter and John healed a man by the Beautiful Gate and then witnessed to the power of Jesus. Dragged before the Council, the two disciples were warned not to heal, preach, or teach any more in the name of Jesus.

Impossible to Obey
Peter and John, however, did not stop their public witness. They continued and, because they continued and thus defied the ruling of the Council, they were thrown into jail for their civil disobedience. Furthermore, by the help of God, they escaped from jail and resumed the very work they had been forbidden to do.

There is really a parallel here, isn't there? Peter and John got into trouble with the civil authorities when, in response to God's guidance, they helped a man who was the victim of a physical disability. Some Christians today have gotten into trouble with the

civil authorities when, in response to what they believed to be God's guidance, they have helped men who are the victims of prejudice and injustice. In both cases there is civil disobedience, an attempt to "obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29 RSV)

Perspective of Time

Strange, isn't it? Today we remember Peter and John as great heroes of the faith because they obeyed God rather than men. Yet, at the same time, we look down our noses at those who would seek to do the same thing today. Why is it that civil disobedience appears so much more holy in the First Century than in the Twentieth?

Unless we want to reject much of the New Testament, we Christians can hardly say that civil disobedience is never justifiable. Jesus himself participated in civil disobedience when he strode into the temple, overturned the tables of the money changers, and drove them out. That wasn't even a passive act.

Ah yes, we say, but Jesus and Peter and John were doing the will of God. Yet, isn't this also the motive of those engaged in controversial issues of conscience today? True, we argue, but suppose we don't agree that this is the will of God? Then what?

God Always Prevails

There's the rub, isn't it? How do you respond to someone who believes he is doing God's will, when you don't agree or aren't sure? This was the same problem that confronted the leaders of Jerusalem. Peter and John believed that they were doing the will of God, but the men of the Council were certain that they were not. Then it was that wise Gamaliel reminded the Council that if something is of God, nothing will defeat it in the long run; if it is not of God, nothing we do will make it ultimately succeed. God always prevails. So, let us see whether this is of God or of man.

There are bound to be issues over which Christians will not agree concerning the will of God. Let us respect the Christian conscience of one another and follow our own convictions, confident that in God's own time his will prevails.

(Based on outline copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Attend the Church of your Choice Sunday

Controls Cited For Tentmaking Insects

Unlike the Arabs, tent caterpillars and fall webworms won't just "hold their tents and silently steal away." These tent makers are unattractive nuisances that will soon be noticeable in looks of wild cherry or apple tree branches.

The tent caterpillar is often confused with the fall webworm according to Dr. Dale Bray, chairman of the department of entomology and applied ecology at the University of Delaware. Despite its name, the fall webworm is around from late spring until fall, so you can't tell the insects apart by the time of year. However, their nests are different: the tent caterpillar seldom includes leaves in its tent, while the fall webworm spins its nest around many leaves.

The inch-long webworms are very hairy and pale yellow with black spots. After wintering in cocoons under trash on the ground or under tree bark, the moths lay eggs on leaves in the spring. The first generation makes its webs and feeds for a month. The second generation works in late summer,

these webs are usually larger and more numerous than the spring webs. Bray explains:

Tent caterpillars feed on cherry and apple tree leaves for a few weeks; the tents grow larger as the insect gets fatter and longer. On a warm day in May they desert their trees, tents and all. Two and a half inch brownish caterpillars with white stripes down their back crawl around the countryside. Occasionally they climb into houses, annoying tidy homemakers. Most of them, fortunately for the homemaker, find some dark protected place to change from caterpillars to their resting stage or pupae.

In June small reddish-brown moths come out from the sulfur yellow cocoons and fly to the wild cherry or apple trees. Each of the females lays between 150 and 300 eggs one next to the other, completely girdling the twigs. The eggs do not hatch until next year in late March or early April.

To control both tent caterpillars and fall webworms, spray or dust the tents with a small amount of DDT, lead arsenate or Carbaryl (Sevin) when the tents are still small. You don't need to spray the whole tree; just cover the tent and branches close to it. The entomologist said:

Tearing the nest out by hand at night is another way to control the pests: toss the entire tent into a small pail of kerosene or gasoline. Remove the nest at night because the caterpillars leave the tent during the daytime to feed on leaves. Old-timers thought the best way to control the tentmakers was burning them with a ball of flaming rags soaked in kerosene. This injures the tree and could very easily end in a frantic call to the fire department about an out-of-control fire. So spray with insecticide instead. Bray advises:

● DHIA

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Ronks R1 That herd of 322 registered and grade Holsteins averaged 1762 pounds of milk and 67 pounds of butterfat.

Second high cow honors went to a registered Holstein owned by John C. Groff, Quarryville R2 with a record of 19,487 pounds of milk and 828 of fat in 305 days.

Runnerup for high herd for the month was I. Eby Hostetter of Gap R1. His herd of 254 registered and grade Holsteins averaged 1716 pounds of milk and 66 pounds of fat.

Most of us accumulate birthdays much faster than bank balances.

Now Is The Time . . .

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agent

To Keep Spray Records

Financial farm records are essential in modern agriculture and more farmers are recognizing their importance and value. However, we'd like to call attention to keeping accurate account of all spray materials applied to both livestock and farm crops. With the many kinds of spray materials used we cannot depend upon memory to support what was done. Special record forms are available from our Extension Office for both livestock and crops. We urge all farmers to keep records of applications made in respect to date, material, and amount per acre.

To Make Small Grain Silage

If severe lodging is taking place with winter barley or winter wheat (haylage) but the important thing is to permit some of the plant juices to escape before putting into the silo. Feed additives will help increase feed value of all kinds of grass silage.

To Will Hay-Crop Silage
If the first cutting of alfalfa or clover is to be made into silage, it is very important that it be wilted rather than directly cut into silage. The wilted silage will be more palatable, have higher feed value, and do less damage to the silo. The amount of wilting will vary down to less than 50%.



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