

## From Where We Stand . . .

### More Grateful

A Peace Corps volunteer and his wife who served in Guatemala, Central America, had something to say about the "apparent apathy" of the average U.S. citizen living in the richest society in the world.

Writing in a national farm magazine, this technical advisor to a United Nations milk plant said, "Perhaps it would be good for the striking auto workers to live for two years in Guatemala where a good wage for a factory worker is \$1 a day — try and feed a family on 17 percent of that!"

"Perhaps it would be good for the NFO milk dumper — and the people who love him to it — to watch a child wither to nothing from malnutrition and eventually die for want of . . . (milk)."

After raising a question as to the future endurance of the American Society as we know it, he concludes, "If we are too proud to thank God for our countless blessings and replace the greed in our hearts with genuine love and appreciation, the end may be closer than we all realize."

We can't help be reminded of the little saying which goes something like this:

"I complained in my misery

For I had no shoes.

Until I met a Man

Who had no feet."

We should be more grateful, especially as we approach the Thanksgiving season. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

### Youth Winners At Harrisburg

Just a few lines to say the Lancaster County youth showing steers at the 11th Annual Pennsylvania Livestock Exposition did very well this week. As reported on page 1, we had the best group of five and a grand champion. We understand quite a large number of our local boys and girls will be going on to the Eastern National Livestock Show at Timonium, Maryland, today. We certainly hope they do as well there.

### About Trading Stamps

A report came across our desk this week, telling of a study that was made of the trading stamp industry. It seems stamp redemption across the nation required stamp companies to procure mer-

### Farm News This Week

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Guernsey Men Set Annual Meet For November 17 — Page 19

Lancaster County Group Is Best At Exposition — Page 1

Farm-City Week Creates Better Rural-Urban Unity — Page 13

Farm Women Help Health Group With Christmas Seal Campaign — Page 1

**LANCASTER FARMING**  
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chandise from some 64 different industries about \$250 million worth of products. In one state alone (Missouri) the report showed the trading stamp industry accounted for approximately \$10 million of the manufacturers' sales and employment for about 1500 workers counting the stamp companies and the suppliers.

Now we realize the stamp companies pay taxes and the jobs and sales created by the use of trading stamps amount to a considerable contribution to the national economy. But we still can't help think the farmer is blamed for the increased prices added to Mrs. Consumer's weekly food purchases by the stamp gimmick.

If the trading stamps were discontinued say in the super market, they could lower food prices and consumers could take the money saved and buy the "stamp" merchandise from a local merchant. In the end the same amount of trading could occur but the farmer and the food industry would not be charged for the extra unrelated merchandise.

At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

### Spending Brakes Needed

The proposed surcharge on corporate and personal income is supposed to be a temporary measure needed largely to finance the cost of the war in Viet Nam. But, there have been temporary taxes enacted before, and a good share of them are still with us. If the rapid expansion in the size and cost of government now under way is not checked, any tax boost made will have little effect on budget deficits or the course of inflation. Both will remain with us to undermine the economic stability of the country and depreciate the income and the savings of the people. It is time to reconsider national fiscal policy. In the final analysis, it must be recognized that governments too have limitations on their ability to spend.

### Across The Fence Row

THE QUIET TRUTH. Self-respect cannot be hunted. It cannot be purchased. It is never for sale. It cannot be fabricated out of public relations. It comes to us when we are alone, in quiet moments, in quiet places, when we suddenly realize that, knowing the good, we have done it; knowing the beautiful, we have served it; knowing the truth, we have spoken it.

—A. Whitney Griswold in a speech

IT'S THE COST of living high, not the high cost of living that causes all the groans at the grocery checkout counter.

Then there's this story: A little city boy in the country for the first time saw the milking of a cow.

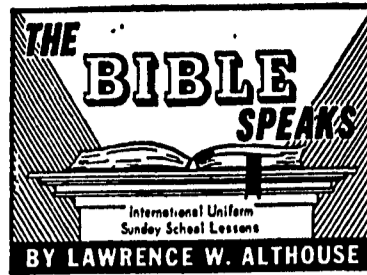
"Now you know where the milk comes from, don't you?" he was asked.

"Sure," he replied. "You give the cow some breakfast food and water and then you drain the crankcase."

### Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast calls for temperatures to average near normal with daily highs in the upper 40's to the mid 50's. The low is expected to be in the low 30's to low 40's. Mild at the beginning and cooler toward the end. Normal high is 54 and low is 36.

Rain may total 1/4 to 1/2 inch occurring as showers Saturday and as general rain near the end of the period.



### SUBTLE IDOLATRY

Lesson for November 12, 1967

Background Scripture: Hosea 4:8 through 10, Devotional Reading: Mark 12:28-34.

A patient in a hospital for the mentally ill thought of himself as a "God-maker." In his locker he kept a block of wood, a cube whose surfaces had been painstakingly smoothed and edges carefully squared. When some one came to see him, he would take it from his locker and display it, saying: "This is my God. I made him. I worship him daily."

One of his doctors tried patiently to explain to him that man does not create God, but God creates man. When at last the man grasped this, he began to recover his sanity.

#### A Thing of Wood

The prophet Hosea grieved over the national madness of the people of Israel. It too was the result of idolatry. "My people inquire of a thing of wood, and their staff gives them oracles." (Hosea 4:12 RSV) The people of Israel found strangely beguiling and fascinating the idols of their pagan neighbors. Though they did not formally renounce their loyalty to the God of Abraham and Isaac, they proceeded to make idolatry a part of their lives too.

Why? For one thing, a god made by our own hands is really an extension of ourselves. To worship a man-made thing is to worship man and his powers of creation. It is a matter of human pride: "See what I have made!" It is but the visible representation of something in ourselves that we desire to make dominant.

This is why pagan idols often represent a sexual motif. The idol is revered by those who long to set free all restraints on their sexual drive. Similarly, a god of war is worshipped by those who desire to give free reign to their own violent impulses. Idolatry is actually the worship of something

within ourselves, something that takes the place of God.

#### Infidelity and Decay

Hosea had seen a lesson for his nation in the fall of his own wife. She had become attracted to another man, had broken her vows to Hosea. In time, she became a prostitute, going from one man to another. Eventually, no longer attractive enough to be a harlot, she sold herself into slavery. When at last Hosea redeemed her from slavery, she is hardly the same woman either physically or spiritually. Infidelity has made its mark upon her.

The prophet saw the same process at work in the nation of Israel. The moral decay had begun with their allurements to the worship of idols. As Gomer's infidelity had broken her marriage relationship with Hosea, so the unfaithfulness of Israel was destroying her covenant relationship with God. Like Gomer, the people of Israel sold their heritage for sensual and material pleasures.

When the inner life of a nation or person deteriorates, there are outward signs. As the prostitute's body becomes prematurely old, so an unfaithful nation begins to show the outward signs of the decay within. "There is swearing, lying, killing, stealing, and committing adultery," observed the prophet.

#### Even More Dangerous

This is not ancient history! Today, as then, idolatry is an ever-present danger for the people of God. Our idols are even more dangerous because they are more subtle. We do not call them "gods" or build temples for them, yet these are the things, the man-made objects that we let become foremost in our lives, that motivate us, that receive the wonder and adoration that should belong to God alone. Have you never noticed the adoring, loving care people lavish upon man-made things?

The lure of other gods is no less a problem for us than the people of Hosea's day. Man-made things are still god's greatest rivals. The subtle idolatry of today's society is still the greatest threat to man's sanity.

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## Go To Church Sunday

## For Full Market Reports Read LANCASTER FARMING



### NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

**To Support Farm & Home Center . . .**  
For the past two months the officials of the Lancaster County Farm & Home Center have been conducting a money-raising drive among the farmers of the county. Funds are needed to pay for the building nearing completion. This is a project that should benefit our county for generations to come; we need this Center for Farm & Home activities. All folks are urged to again support this worthwhile effort.

**To Control Cattle Parasites . . .**  
The winter season is rapidly approaching. Many strings of feeder cattle have been brought into the county this fall. Many of these cattle are no doubt carrying body lice on

the outside and stomach worms on the inside. Either of these problems will reduce gains and decrease profits. Feeders are urged to give prompt attention to the elimination of all parasites from their cattle.

**To Control Winter Weeds . . .**  
Many hay fields will include new growth of winter weeds such as chickweed, winter cress, and shepherds purse. All of these weeds start growth in the fall and continue to develop until next spring. All of them are much easier to kill when small this fall than when mature next spring. Growers are urged to spray during November and December and eliminate the problem in the 1968 hay crop.