

From Where We Stand . . .

The Last Thing We Need

About the last thing farmers in Lancaster County (and farmers in every county in the nation as well) need, is for some meat packer to sell decomposed beef to a state hospital.

But that's what the charges are against the Diamond Meat Company of Philadelphia, according to Leland H. Bull, State Secretary of Agriculture. It seems this company sold meat to the Wernersville State Hospital that "was soft and silmy and analysis showed it to be decomposed and not fit for use."

What a blow to meat producers and the many fine packers who do produce tasty meat products for our consumers. Even if the state department's food inspectors regularly pick up food samples in retail outlets and check them "to avoid this sort of thing and to assure consumers they are getting wholesome products," there is still no telling how far reaching an incident of this nature has on the minds of consumers at large.

Even if the meat grader and company in this incident (reported on Page 6) are made to pay for their evil conduct, the harm done to the meat industry as a whole may never be completely erased.

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

A Citizen Speaks Out

To a society as large and diverse as this one, large government is a necessity. To a nation as strong as this one, strong government is indispensable. There are many things that can be done only by government and best by government.

There are other things, however, that can be done only by the private organizations and individual citizens working together and best by them.

There is a feature in the nature of government that keeps it from accomplishing many things that need to be done. An understanding of that factor both inside and outside of government would do much to explain the frequent frustration caused when well-intentioned programs do not live up to expectations.

The feature is that no matter how positive a government wants to be and no matter how positive the statements of its officials are, its efforts are often negative in execution.

Government can pass laws against theft, but no law can make a people want to be honest. Government can pass laws forbidding the abridgment of freedom of religion, but no law can make a people want

to worship God. Government can pass laws against drunkenness, but no law can make a people want sobriety.

Even in its attempt to assure basic civil rights to all citizens, which appears positive, government can only pass laws against denying a member of any race the right to live wherever he wants and to work wherever he qualifies. No law can make families, neighborhoods, employers or workers want to share what they have with members of another race.

Government can and does try to stop people from doing undesirable things, but it cannot make them want to do desirable things.

The real danger to freedom today, as well as the cause of much frustration, anger and bewilderment, is that too many people are looking to the government to grant freedom, assure rights, build prosperity and create brotherhood — things no government in history has ever been equipped to do alone. Many people expect the government to do what only they can do for themselves.

Our nation faces an apparent widespread deterioration in personal integrity, seen in practically every segment and level of society, from the repairman who does shoddy work to the factory worker who gives no thought to the quality of the product he is making . . . the clerk who takes office stamps . . . the salesman who pads his expense account . . . the manager who cheats on his taxes . . . the attorney who recommends an unjustified lawsuit . . . to the physician who might expand a medical report to inflate the insurance payment to himself and his patient. It also is seen at every level of government, from censure proceedings in our highest legislative bodies to a city where national guard troops are mustered to prevent election abuses.

Government alone cannot solve this problem. There already are laws against all of these things. The solution can come only from a heightened desire by all people to be honest themselves and a willingness to insist on integrity in their neighbors, associates and elected officials.

Leaders in government understandably see it as their duty to do for the people of this country whatever they believe, or whatever they are told by citizen groups, is not already being done equitably, effectively and efficiently by the private sectors of society.

When private citizens abdicate their responsibilities and ask the government to do a job, government responds in the only way it can: it passes more laws and usually appropriates more money. And every time another law is passed, it means another small or large restriction on somebody's freedom.

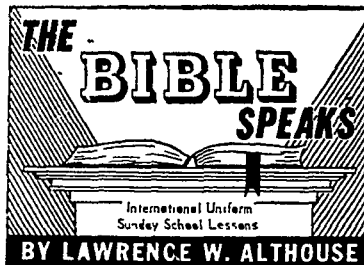
As citizens, in other words, we have this choice when facing a situation that needs correcting: We can do it ourselves, or we can ask the government to pass a law that says we must not fail to do it — and that sets up an administrative mechanism to enforce the prohibition. The former choice is by far the best way to meet a situation, at least from the standpoint of economy and independence; and often from the standpoint of speed, efficiency and effectiveness, depending on the nature of the problem.

The government will be called on to help. Its resources and responsibilities certainly cannot and should not be overlooked. But the initiative, leadership and work should remain in the hands of the citizens.

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday, calls for temperatures to average below normal. High is expected to be in the upper 20's to 30's and over night lows in the teens to low 20's. Generally cold through the period. The normal high is 39 and normal low 24.

Precipitation may total one-half inch water equivalent, occurring as snow or rain about Monday.



IN PERSON!

Lesson for January 28, 1968

Background Scriptures: John 4:1-42.
Devotional Reading: Luke 19:1-10.

"I can't find it anywhere," says the saleswoman. Though the package had borne my name and had been placed on the "hold" shelf, one of the clerks had obviously sold the item which was to have been held for me.



Rev. Althouse and it was obvious that she wasn't really. "All right," I replied in a way that implied it was anything but all right.

Chance Encounters

This brief encounter is but one of the great number of encounters that make up so much of our daily lives. A few words are spoken to someone, meaningful looks are exchanged, proprieties are observed, and that's it. Perhaps we never see these persons again or perhaps we see them regularly but the relationship remains essentially the same. They seem to us totally unimportant — not the kind of thing one would enter in a diary or a journal.

In John's gospel, however, we find that even the so-called "chance encounters" of Jesus were deeply significant. How well this is illustrated in chapter four when Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well. A thirsty Galilean, a hostile Samaritan woman, a request for water, a sarcastic refusal. Nothing extraordinary here and yet John asks us to look beyond the mere events and words themselves and see the transforming power of God at work in even this common situation.

Her reaction is hardly unexpected. She taunts him sarcastically:

Why should a Jew ask water of a Samaritan, if, as Jews so obviously believed, Samaritans were beneath their contempt? When Jesus does not make the anticipated hostile reply, she resorts to arguing with him, baiting him. And still Jesus refuses to become involved in a petty dispute.

"Go, call your husband, and come here," he suggests. Now he has struck a nerve: your husband! "I have no husband," she replies. Can you imagine how his next words shocked her: "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands and he whom you now have is not your husband." You are a prophet, she exclaims, but she soon realizes that he is more than that: he is the long-awaited Messiah.

Come, See A Man

Excitedly the woman dashes off. She is so excited that she forgets the water jug and leaves it at the well as she hurries to the city to tell everyone there of this strange man from Galilee. Often this is the way people are affected when they encounter Jesus Christ personally. He makes such an impression that lesser things are forgotten or put aside and there is felt a compulsion to tell others about him.

The woman's testimony was compelling enough to bring many Samaritans to him at the well. They ask him to stay longer and he does. As a result, "many Samaritans from that city believed in him." A simple encounter between two strangers at a well has become the occasion for people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Jesus might have accepted the woman's refusal and left it go at that, but he did not. So because Jesus persisted, because a woman witnessed to her encounter, because a town was receptive, a large number of people encountered the Christ.

Thomas Carlyle once said, "What this parish needs is what every parish needs, a man who knows God at more than second-hand." We all need a first-hand encounter with Christ. For the people of the Samaritan town, the woman's testimony was the beginning of their encounter, but "many more believed because of his word." A second-hand Christ may be all right for a starter, but what we really need is to encounter him in person.

(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.)

Lancaster Farming Ads Pay!



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Do Forage Testing

Forage testing is included in the new testing laboratory at Penn State University. This new unit handles both soil and forage. We have not had the activity in the testing of forage in Lancaster County that it really deserves. Some dairymen have experienced lower production this year from their cows could it be that both the quality of their hay and their silage is lower than in recent years? Forage testing is the way to learn the real feeding value.

To Repair Machinery

The new planting season is approaching rapidly when everyone will be busying around trying to get their crop planted first. I'm wondering if the farm

machinery including the tractors have been repaired and serviced since last fall. This work should be done now in order to avoid costly delays later in the spring.

To Use Pig and Lamb Brooders

The new crop of both pigs and lambs are arriving on many farms, the careful management of the new-born animal is very important especially the first few hours. We urge the use of brooders to keep the animals warm and to get them dry as soon as possible. Animals that get off to a fast start will grow rapidly with less trouble from other ailments. Special effort and attention is strongly recommended.

Farm News This Week

Hogmen Discuss Nickels For Profit Program — Page 1

Meat Packer Charged In Sale Of Decomposed Meat to Hospital — Page 6

Gartley Tells Dairymen Of Need For Return To Principles That Helped Make This Nation Great — Page 1

Farm and Home Sets Annual Meet January 29 — Page 1

Management Makes High DHIA Herd — Page 1

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