

From Where We Stand . . .

Meat Inspection Evidence Misleading

Last year everyone was shocked by reports of federal investigators that many state-inspected meat plants around the country were unsanitary. News stories told of conditions of nauseating filth and disease that allegedly existed in some plants. The result was predictable. A federal meat-inspection law was passed to the accompaniment of demands for harsh and speedy action, most notably from the new advocates of consumer protection who believe in the superior wisdom and rightness of central authority in most matters.

No one appeared to question the accuracy of the investigator's reports. Indeed President Johnson, in signing the new meat-inspection law, quoted a federal inspector's words concerning a certain meat plant where ". . . Beef was being broken on an open dock, by a dirt road, in 95-degree weather. There were flies in the meat. Drums of bones and meat scraps were covered with maggots." With such reports carried by the nation's press, the states were as helpless to present a defense as a man fleeing before a lynch mob.

Normally, no undue significance would attach to this particular example of the extension of federal authority. However, surprising contradictions in evidence are showing up that may cast the motives and methods of federal action in the case of meat inspection in a wholly new light. Moreover, they could have broad implications for the whole issue of federal control versus state's rights.

The weekly newspaper, The National Observer, has been doing some checking on meat plants in different states and reports that, "State officials are convinced that the report cited by the President is at least misleading and perhaps wholly false, and the evidence they offer is convincing." As the Observer points out, "No one suggests that Mr. Johnson knowingly read a false report." But apparently in the fervor to push a federal meat-inspection law through Congress, ". . . the word went out to get evidence — any evidence." According to the Observer, state officials are busy pulling together ". . . an enormous collection of reports, letters, depositions, and other documents" to refute the findings of the federal investigators. Among the documents will be statements branding the particular report the President read from as an outright lie. State officials have said that the deceptive reports of federal inspectors have destroyed public confidence that ". . . we have spent many years in building. . ."

Farm News This Week

ASCS Signup Deadline Near — Page 1

Pennsylvania To Have A Dairy Princess In 1968 — Page 11

Frey, Landis, Lapp & Rutt Head Jan. DHIA — Page 10

2 FFA Banquets Were Scheduled For Last Night — Page 1

Bushong Is Elected President Of 4-H Baby Beef & Lamb Club — Page 1

Soil & Water District Has Annual Meeting — Page 1

In Kansas, the Food and Drug Director, charged with administering his state's meat-inspection laws, accuses the federal inspectors of forcing their way illegally into some Kansas plants. One federal report called attention to an allegedly unsanitary meat plant in Colorado. Colorado officials said the plant had been closed for at least 18 months before the time the report was presumably written. Other state officials assert that federal authorities tried to intimidate them, or used deception to gain their cooperation. A Florida official says that insinuations and innuendoes of bad conditions were lifted out of context and used by newspaper columnists and others ". . . to support a shotgun charge that all Florida meat plants are filthy unless federally inspected. . ."

The average citizen cannot be blamed for being more than a little confused by the conflicting evidence concerning the purity of one of the most important items in the family diet. Even more bewildering is the possibility that federal authorities might have used less than ethical methods to help push through a federal law. The case of the meat-inspection law may become a classic illustration of the arrogance of power and the wisdom of safeguarding state's rights.

A Sign Of Weakness

There is a Latin expression — argumentum ad hominem — which applies to much current acrimonious debate. The expression means argument to the man, or in plain English, drawing attention away from the main issues by indulging in personalities and vilification.

It is a poor substitute for logic and frequently indicates an attempt to gain by appealing to emotion and prejudice that which cannot be supported by reason and fact. This may explain why extremists of every stripe like to muddy up the waters with a lot of abusive language. Such tactics are a sure sign of weakness in the thinking processes.

We saw this happen the other week at the all-day milk hearing before the Pennsylvania Milk Control Commission when the lawyer for the milk dealers tried to discredit the Lancaster County Farmers Association representative.

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

Across The Fence Row

It is the business of the future to be dangerous. — Alfred North Whitehead

Credit is when one person who can't pay, gets another person who can't pay to guarantee that he can pay.

Many teen-agers today just go ahead and marry, expecting their folks to be good supports about it.

A woman patient asked her doctor, "Can you tell me why I'm seized with these restless longings for the glamorous and faraway?"

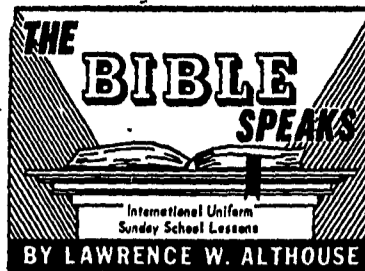
"My dear lady," replied the wise doctor, "they are the usual symptoms of too much comfort in the home and too much ingratitude in the heart"

— Capper's Weekly

Weather Forecast

The forecast calls for temperatures to average above normal for the five-day period Saturday through next Wednesday. The daytime high is expected to be about 50 and overnight lows in the low 30's. No marked day to day change. The normal high-low range is 48-29.

Rain may total less than one-fourth inch as showers over the late weekend and again at the end of the period.



HOW FAR? Lesson for March 10, 1968

Background Scriptures: John 12 and 13. Devotional Readings: Philippians 2:1-11.

Nothing is more sobering to a preacher than the knowledge that "what kind of love?" etc. were he usually "talks a far better taken care of by that one yard-game than he plays." He is aware stick he gave for measurement; that the moral dimensions of his "even as I have loved you . . ." preaching and teaching must go beyond the limitations of his own thing which they had already experienced in so many ways. Yet he did not rely upon their memories of the past, but instead gave saying in effect: them a new example that pin "Do as I say, not point the meaning of his command as I do," al-mand in dramatic form for the though actually rest of their lives: he "girded himself it is not "as I self with a towel . . . poured water," but as the ter into a basin, and began to Word of God in-wash the disciples' feet" (John 13:4-5 RSV). His preaching and

Rev. Althouse

The minister his practice were a single, indivisible who holds up himself as the mod-able message.

el to which the people should aspire is both thinking too highly of himself and pointing his people at too low a target. He may be merely commanding them rightly strive to "practice what he to practice foot-washing? No, he preaches," but he ought to aim was giving them "an example" of higher than "preaching what he the love which was implicit in his practices."

The Message

This is true of any Christian, particularly the Christian parent, us from sentimentality!). It was He ought to strive to set the best nothing they deserved or had a example possible, but not forget right to expect of him. It was it is Christ himself who sets the something done to them (not nec-example we need. Just as we our-essarily felt toward them), not be-selves ought to be continually cause they were "lovable," or be-dissatisfied with our level of spir-cause Jesus felt "loving." No, de-tual and moral growth, so we spite their unworthiness, he hum-need also to point our children to bled himself, doing what he didn't a level that is ever higher than have to do, performing some-thing he owed to no one.

With Jesus, however, it was If he, the Christ, could humble different. He not only had a mes-himself to undeserving, unlovable sage for his people, he was the men, his disciples were to respond message. He was the embodiment with no less a love than that of the Good News he brought, the "And how far should such love incarnation of all to which he ex-pected to go?" we ask, hop-ported his followers. His preach-ing and practice were all cut from "As far as he did," comes the un-the same bolt of cloth. To do settling, though not unexpected, what he said was nothing more answer: "As far as Calvary!"

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We see this at work in his last evening with his disciples. It is his plan to give them a "new" commandment: "that you love

one another" (John 13:34). Oh yes, THAT commandment! That's the ONE with which we have so much trouble and frustration. What do you mean by "love," Jesus, and how is it possible in a world like this? Aren't you asking for something beyond the grasp of we ordinary folk?

The Example

Jesus, however, did not intend for his "new" commandment to become just an interesting philo-sophical question. He left no doubt as to what he intended: "even as I have loved you, that you also love one another". The questions of "how much love?", "what kind of love?", etc. were he usually "talks a far better taken care of by that one yard-game than he plays." He is aware stick he gave for measurement; that the moral dimensions of his "even as I have loved you . . ." preaching and teaching must go beyond the limitations of his own thing which they had already experienced in so many ways. Yet he did not rely upon their memories of the past, but instead gave saying in effect: them a new example that pin "Do as I say, not point the meaning of his command as I do," al-mand in dramatic form for the though actually rest of their lives: he "girded himself it is not "as I self with a towel . . . poured water," but as the ter into a basin, and began to Word of God in-wash the disciples' feet" (John 13:4-5 RSV). His preaching and

The Limitations

What was he teaching them? Was he merely commanding them to practice foot-washing? No, he preaches," but he ought to aim was giving them "an example" of higher than "preaching what he the love which was implicit in his practices."

This love he demonstrated was not a mushy sentiment (washing dirty feet is guaranteed to keep particularly the Christian parent, us from sentimentality!). It was He ought to strive to set the best nothing they deserved or had a example possible, but not forget right to expect of him. It was it is Christ himself who sets the something done to them (not nec-example we need. Just as we our-essarily felt toward them), not be-selves ought to be continually cause they were "lovable," or be-dissatisfied with our level of spir-cause Jesus felt "loving." No, de-tual and moral growth, so we spite their unworthiness, he hum-need also to point our children to bled himself, doing what he didn't a level that is ever higher than have to do, performing some-thing he owed to no one.

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Make Straight Alfalfa Seedings . . .

Forage producers who are interested in getting a quick stand of alfalfa should consider the making of an early spring seeding of straight alfalfa this practice is becoming more popular and will give several cuttings this year with favorable weather conditions. The important thing is to make the seeding in March or early April, control weeds by spraying and to use the band seeding method.

To Plan for Alfalfa Insect Control . . .

Few changes have been made in the recommendations for the control of alfalfa weevil the preferred insecticide is methyl parathion at the rate of 1/2-pound of actual material per acre. Stands of alfalfa that are healthy and well fertilized are strongly recommended in order to get rapid growth in the spring and to give rank second and third cuttings.

Plans should be made for the chemical control of the weevil either before or after removing the first crop. A leaflet is available from the Extension Office.

To Top-Dress Winter Grains . . .

The extent of the winter injury to winter wheat and barley is yet to be determined; the extremely dry condition of the topsoil could hurt many stands. The use of a nitrogen fertilizer application on these areas when warm weather arrives and vegetative growth begins, will help bring the plants quicker and increase yields; however, if the plants are dead, or a large percentage killed, then the field should be planted to another crop. The extra fertilizer on wheat (especially Redcoat) has given good increases in yield.

Let us endeavor so to live that, when we come to die, even the undertaker will be sorry.

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