

From Where We Stand . . .

No Substitute For The Family

There is an old law in the state of Hawaii which requires adult children to support indigent parents to the extent of their financial ability. According to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, this law has become a bone of contention between Japanese-U.S. citizens and the State Department of Social Services which administers various government assistance programs.

It seems that the old Hawaii law is in conflict with such innovations as medicare, under which children can't be forced to provide medical care for indigent parents. Regardless of the merits or demerits of the Hawaii law, pressure for its removal is but another sign of the times. As the state assumes heavier and heavier responsibility for the security and welfare of everyone, many changes in the social structure are inevitable and the weakening of family ties and family responsibility is just one of those changes.

The family on the farm is also experiencing pressures that would draw it apart. High costs demand greater and efficient production. And off-farm jobs compete with farm labor, especially for our youth.

At any rate, the state may be able to supplant the family so far as financial responsibility is concerned, and outside pressures may pull at the farm family, but it is certain that nothing will ever be able to supplant the family in providing the discipline and respect for the rights of others that are prerequisites of good citizenship.

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

It's That Time Of Year

The Indians lived close to nature. They measured time by the buds and sprouting leaves on the trees and bushes. They did not need to look at a calendar to see on which day spring was to arrive. If they had had any April 1 bills to pay they would have calculated the due date by the phase of the moon. The ways of the Indians had their virtues.

In case you haven't noticed the Easter flowers and the sprouting magnolia bushes, spring is here. There are many pleasant things about spring. The new season of planting and reaping has begun on the farm. The sun seems to be coming up a little earlier and the robins greet the mornings with happy calls.

Meanwhile, as the days grow longer, we wonder, will the summer be wet or dry? The almanac calls for some showers in June, July and August but the weather has confounded the experts and the almanac more than once. We'll see.

Farm News This Week

Farm & Home Foundation Is Offering Scholarships — Page 1

Beef And Lamb Club Sets \$1000 Goal; Selects Council Members — Page 1

Poultry Directors Announce Queen Contest Deadline — Page 1

Dairymen Visit Fabric Weaving Co. — Page 1

There Ought To Be A Law

We have all heard the phrase "there ought to be a law." It pops out of our mouths almost automatically now whenever something occurs that we personally do not think should be permitted. This psychological confession of willingness to accede to government fiat is no longer a joke. Nearly 16,000 bills have been introduced in Congress so far this year. When these are added to the blizzard of laws that sweep through legislatures of the 50 states, the total becomes awesome. Included in the deluge are all the spending measures.

It is useless to blame our elected representatives for grinding out more laws than can be administered, enforced or paid for, as long as the performance of Congress and the legislatures are judged by the number of bills that go through their hoppers. They are only responding to "there ought to be a law" psychology. The next time you are tempted to use the phrase, stop and think. Do you mean it?

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"A young person today, dissatisfied with school and anxious to get out and work for the money he wants, is heading down a dead-end street if he pursues his dreams without a high school diploma. He finds out too late that the job he longed for will be at best a dull, dirty one with little opportunity for advancement. Or, the jobless rate of 13 per cent for school dropouts suddenly becomes very real to him as he discovers that he doesn't have the ticket he needs to get through the employer's doors. . . For many of these young people, there is still time. They can go back and finish high school. For others, it is too late. . . The education they get now charts the course not only for their individual lives but for the welfare of our country in the coming decades."

— South Boston, Va., Gazette-Virginian

Across The Fence Row

Everyone in America didn't come over on the Mayflower, but we're in the same boat now!

When all's said and done, too much has been said and too little done.

Going on a wild goose chase is a mighty poor way to feather your nest.

Every human is an open book, if one knows how to read it.

Bright people do not cast reflections.

Want to keep your mind clean? Change it occasionally.

One must listen to learn, and be quiet to be appreciated.

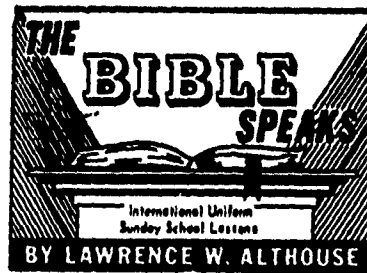
Silence is the only completely successful substitute for brains yet found.

One proven way to avoid losing your shirt is to keep your sleeves rolled up.

Weather Forecast

The five-day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average above normal. Daytime highs are to be in the low 60's and over-night lows in the mid 40's. Cool Saturday and milder thereafter. Normal high-temperature for the period is 60-38.

Rain may total one-fourth to one-half inch, during the last half of the period.



THE STUMBLING-BLOCK

Lesson for April 7, 1968

Background Scripture: John 18 and 19.
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24.

Little Billy's mother was appalled. While doing some cleaning in Billy's room, she had spied his new Sunday school quarterly, picked it up, and thumbed through it. What she found on its pages shocked her sensibilities and stirred her anger. She found it hard to believe that Billy's teacher would deal with something so unpleasant as the crucifixion! That might be all right for adults, she reasoned, but hardly fifth grade children.

"Billy!" she called. Absorbed in his favorite television program, "Vampire Man," little Billy did not respond immediately. When at last he did appear, he simply confirmed that "Yes, that is what we are studying in Sunday school now." Armed with this answer, his mother decided to call on the pastor and voice her complaint. The pastor waited patiently while she stated her objections. "In other words, Reverend," she concluded, "I don't feel there's any place in the children's department for a subject so distasteful as the cross. Reserve that for the more mature students and delete it from the children's department." The minister waited until she was finished speaking and then said, "Mrs. Niap, if we take away the cross, there is nothing of Christianity left. Surely you understand that?" Surely, she didn't.

Stumbling block

Nor is Billy's mother alone in her feeling about the cross and all that." Paul himself acknowledged that "the cross was a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles." A well-known actor of several decades ago once admitted that he appreciated the story of Jesus "up to the point

of the crucifixion." That he found to be personally obnoxious. "Take away the cross; it's the story's one weakness."

Without the cross

Yet it cannot be done. Assume for the moment that, after Jesus had prayed for his disciples, he left them and disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again. Would that have made any difference for the Church? We would still have his wonderful teachings, would we not? We could still practice and live by the "Golden Rule," couldn't we?

The answer ought to be obvious: it is the cross which makes Christianity both unique and possible. Others may debate the nature of God, but the cross translates into action what the words about God can only suggest. As Christians, we do not have to speculate about God, he has already shown us what he is with the cross. He has said it as dramatically and plainly as it can be said.

Without the cross, then, there would be no Christianity. Extract the cross from the New Testament and, no matter how cleanly you snip with your scissors, you will find that there is little left. The teachings of Jesus, the "Golden Rule," are taken seriously only because of the cross.

Do as I do!

Unlike most of us, Jesus did not ever ask his disciples to do what he himself would not do. His approach was not one of "Do as I say, not as I do." If anything, his whole ministry was founded upon the invitation to "Do as I do." This had been evident in the upper room when he washed his disciples' feet to demonstrate the humility they should practice in their love for one another. Now, on the cross, he was demonstrating both the power and the endurance of God's love.

Delete the cross? No, it cannot be done; it must not be done, for this "stumbling block" is really the gospel's power; not its weakness.

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Go To The Church Of Your Choice Sunday

TRY A CLASSIFIED AD!



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Shear Sheep . . . Little will be gained by delaying the clipping of wool from sheep at this time of the year, in fact, there could be some loss of wool and less gain or milk production from the sheep. The sheep should be dry when sheared and the wool tied with paper twine. Wool pools both in Berks and Cumberland counties are good outlets for fleeces that are properly handled.

To Ventilate All Barns . . . When warm weather arrives in the spring, farm animals notice the heat the same as humans. Owners should make an effort to open doors and windows and operate exhaust fans as much as possible. Cattle on feed should be given a chance to run outside at will rather

than housed in the building. Most dairy barns have exhaust fan systems to remove both the humidity and the warm air. Animals comfort will increase gains and milk production.

To Be Careful with Pesticides . . .

With the start of the cropping season, many spray materials will be used both in gardens and on the farms. These materials are beneficial and will benefit the grower if used properly. All producers are urged to use extreme care by following the instructions on the container; they should be followed accurately both as to the time and amount of application. Store all chemicals safely away from children and livestock. Don't be careless and sorry; better to be careful and pleased.

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