

From Where We Stand . . .

The Hand Of Fate

Months ago, it was obvious that Presidential election year 1968 would be unlike any previous election year—from the standpoint of the behavior of candidates, issues and even campaign techniques. The volatility of the times made the prospect of a traditional campaign year exceedingly dim. Violence in the cities, inflation, a governmental financial crisis, and the war in Vietnam have made the political game a deadly serious business with the ultimate responsibility for a wise decision resting on the shoulders of the voters. If ever the fate of a nation may be said to turn on an election, this is the year that it could do so.

The very grimness of campaign year 1968 was brought home to everyone by the monumental tragedy of the Kennedy assassination. Of itself, coming as it did in the early weeks of the campaign, the assassination brought everyone face-to-face with the fragile nature of human aspirations — individually and collectively. One aspect of the election that appears to be receiving more than the usual attention this year are the polls. There is a high degree of interest not only in the odds they give to different candidates but in how they operate and in how much they may influence voting trends.

Already the polls this year have helped snare candidate behavior. According to reports, Mr. George Romney withdrew from the race on the strength of the polls, and the polls have been credited with the decision of President Johnson not to run again. Newsweek magazine recently featured a lengthy analysis of the new science of poll-taking. Like everything else in this sophisticated day, the methods of the pollsters have become intricate almost beyond description, with the computer playing an important part in their findings. No matter what people may think of polls, they have become an established part of the democratic process in the U.S.

Many of the polltakers now include consultants and advisory assistants to candidates as part of their services. And, it appears most candidates shape their campaigns, at least in some degree, in response to polls. Some criticize the polls, as Newsweek puts it, ". . . for corroding the hard edge of political leadership. Politicians, it is claimed, turn into parrots under the pollsters prodding." Others point out that the polls do no more than make a candidate acquainted with the views of his constituents. Knowledge of what the public thinks, they say, is essential in a democratic system. And, curiously enough, as Newsweek points out, party leadership in both parties at the present time leans toward support of candidates running slightly behind in the polls. The leaders contend the polls will change once the candidates are chosen.

As Newsweek concludes, "That may be so. But undeniably the polls have come of age. They have proven their dependability

as barometers of the public mood. And if their surroundings sometimes seem erratic, this reflects not their flaws but their faithfulness to the meanderings of public opinion itself."

In spite of the growing dependence on polls and the interest in the science of poll-taking, the general instability in human affairs, as we all know, makes projecting the outcome of the election an extremely risky business. There is no way the polltaker can measure the pulse of the hand of fate.

No Easy Way

In a highly significant article on politics and violence, the noted columnist and economist, Mr. Milton Friedman, shows how the tendency to turn to government for solutions to social and individual problems, rather than to what he calls the market mechanisms, promotes violence in three ways.

First, it aggravates discontent by enforcing conformity. Under a political solution a bare majority vote, determines a course to be followed by 100 percent of the people. On the other hand, with the market mechanism, if 25 percent of the people want to buy cars, for example, they can, each at his own expense. The other 75 percent neither get nor pay for them. Under the market system, each person gets what he votes for. In Mr. Friedman's words, "... every extension — and particularly every rapid extension — of the area over which explicit agreement is sought through political channels strains further the fragile threads that hold a free society together." Second in Mr. Friedman's analysis, the political solution to problems directs discontent at persons not circumstances. Thirdly, the political solution concentrates great power in the hands of identifiable individuals. This helps to breed violence and attacks on individuals — including assassinations.

In short, every time we try to find an easy answer to a problem by resorting to a political solution, the result is repression — and resentment. The voluntary way, as typified by Mr. Friedman's "market mechanisms" is still the best answer to most problems.

Across The Fence Row

LIFE UNDER THE GREAT SOCIETY — Pointing up the seriousness of lawlessness in the Nation's Capital, The Washington Post has purchased gas masks and gas-burn medication for reporters and photographers working in riot areas.

Columnist Walter Winchell reports that Poor People's Leader Rev. Ralph Abernathy stayed in a \$160-a-day penthouse at the Fontainebleau Hotel while visiting the GOP convention.

The old-time plumber was concerned with the coffeebreaks, feather-bedding and other slow-production factors: "When I was an apprentice we used to lay the first two lengths of pipe — then the boss would turn on the water and we'd have to stay ahead of it!"

Disposable income is called "take home pay" because after taxes and deductions you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

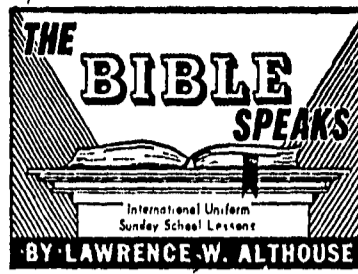
Keep smiling. It makes everyone wonder what you've been up to.

Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the
Rutshing State Airport)

The five day forecast for the period Saturday through next Wednesday calls for temperatures to average near normal with daytime highs in the 70's and over-night lows in the mid 50's to mid 60's. Cool over the weekend slowly moderating thereafter. Normal high-low for the period is 82-60.

Little or no rain is expected during the period.



THE IMPOSSIBLE
Lesson for September 1, 1968

Background Scripture: Nehemiah 1 through 6.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 122.

It would be interesting some time to go through the history books and make a list of the things that "can't be done" but were done! History has often turned on the accomplishment of what someone has called "impossible."



Rev. Althouse

"Lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness to Canaan? Impossible!"

"Unite the twelve tribe of Israel into one nation? Impossible!"

"Carry the Christian Gospel beyond Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and into the rest of the world? Impossible!"

"Print the Bible in the languages of the common people so that all may read it? Impossible!"

"Raise millions of dollars for missions? Impossible!"

An inspiring heritage

Christianity, it seems, has been the story of "impossibles." It has thrived on tasks too difficult for the capacities of mere men. Perhaps when we throw up our hands in the face of "impossible" tasks that confront the church today, we ought to recall Christianity's great heritage of "impossible" accomplishments.

Nor is this heritage limited to the New Testament. The returned exiles from Chaldea were confronted with such a situation. Their neighbors, the people of Samaria under Sanballat, saw how weak was the position of Jerusalem. There had long been

hostility between these two peoples and now that the defenses of Jerusalem were so weak, they intended to take advantage of the situation. Even when Nehemiah, the former cup-bearer (a position of great trust) to the King of Persia, arrived in Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, Sanballat was confident. The Jews would never be able to rebuild the walls, of that he was quite confident.

What a joke!

Why was he so confident? For one thing, the Jewish community was too weak ("these feeble Jews", Ezra 4:2). For another, the wall was broken beyond repair ("Will they restore things?"). Furthermore, the job would require more work and time than the Jews could give ("Will they finish up in a day?"). Besides, the materials they needed, the huge stones, were unobtainable in the quantity needed ("Will they revive the stones...?") Even if they did get the wall rebuilt, it would be so weak that prowling animals would knock it over in their curiosity. What a joke!

The laughter, however, faded into undisguised anger when the reports of Nehemiah's progress began to come back. The work had progressed much faster than they had imagined possible and the large, gaping holes in the wall were being closed up. So Sanballat went into action: they would prevent the Jews from completing the wall by constantly harassing the work.

A mind to work

It was a good plan but it overlooked some factors. It failed to take into account the strong leadership of Nehemiah, who not only was backed by the authority of the King of Persia, but who also had a way of inspiring men to try the "impossible." Then too, Sanballat had failed to consider the ready response of the people of Jerusalem: "So we built the wall... For the people had a mind to work." (Nehemiah 4:6 RSV) He had forgotten also that they were a praying people: "And we prayed to our God . . ." (Nehemiah 4:9)

A leadership to challenge us, a people who will respond and accept the challenge, and recourse to the power of God with whom everything is possible: Combine these and it will be amazing how the "impossible" tasks fall before us!

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Farm News This Week

Frank Yost Tops
State Hay Show — Page 1

Holstein Championships
Elude County Breeders — Page 1

Ohioans Make Clean Sweep
Of National Plowing Titles — Page 1

LANCASTER FARMING
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Lancaster Farming Ads Pay



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Seed Cover Crops

Soil covered with some type of vegetation during the winter months will usually be in better condition next spring, there will be less water and wind erosion from the topsoil and the organic matter added from the cover crop being plowed down will help maintain soil organic matter. Any of the winter grains, or rye grass, or field bromegrass may still be seeded following the removal of a row crop. Open ground during the winter is subject to many weather losses.

To Use Sudan & Sorghums Carefully

All livestock producers are reminded of the danger of using either sudan grass or any of the sorghum hybrids in a fresh condition after a killing frost, or after being stunted. The sorghum

hybrids are more dangerous than sudan grass. This forage may be used as silage, when allowed to ferment for a month, but should not be used as fresh material right after the frost. Horse owners should not permit their animals to consume sudan grass at any time.

To Manage Horizontal Silos Carefully

The success of using any type of horizontal silo largely depends upon the management of the forage into the silo and how good a job of packing and sealing. The forage should be chopped fine, packed solid and sealed immediately in order to get a minimum of spoilage. Trench silos or bunker silos will store silage economically and safely if managed carefully.