

From Where We Stand . . .

Support Grape Growers

The attempted nationwide union boycott of California grapes in an effort to compel grape growers to sign contracts with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee is of direct concern to all farmers. This initial endeavor could be the precedent used to try to force compulsory unionism on producers of any farm product, particularly perishables.

During recent weeks, representatives of UFWOC and food trade unions have contacted food chains and other retail stores and wholesale market concerns in Eastern cities to get them to stop handling California grapes.

Such efforts have been undertaken in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Washington, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, Cleveland, and other Eastern markets. Some of the chain stores and wholesalers in these markets are cooperating with the union program by eliminating or curtailing purchases of grapes. Most independent stores and a few chain stores have not joined in this effort. In many cases independent stores — and in a few cases chain stores — have stepped up their purchases and display of grapes.

THE PEAK PERIOD for distribution of California grapes is from the middle of August to November 1.

BEHIND THE BOYCOTT of California grapes is the three-year effort of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, headed by Cesar Chavez, to enlist farm workers as members of the union and to sign contracts with farmers providing for recognition of the union as bargaining agent for workers and for dues checkoffs for all farm workers employed by farmers. The grape industry has been selected as the initial target.

UFWOC has not been successful in this effort. Only one or two percent of the farm workers in California have joined UFWOC. Most of these are workers employed by a few large wineries who have signed contracts with UFWOC requiring union membership of farm workers they employ in the production of grapes for wine.

VIRTUALLY NONE of the workers employed in the production and harvesting of grapes for the fresh market are union members. In fact, in recent months, other organizations of farm workers have sprung up to oppose UFWOC's organizing campaign. One of these is the Agricultural Workers Freedom to Work Organization which has organized for the stated objectives of opposing union harassment of workers on the job and of ending demonstrations at workers' homes at night by union organizers or sympathizers.

On a number of occasions, UFWOC has called what it terms a "strike" of grape workers. These have been more in the nature of demonstrations. The workers actually employed have continued to work

and have not participated in the strike. The grape crop is being harvested without particular difficulty despite the harassment of workers by union organizers. Grape workers are not on strike.

THE MINIMUM WAGE in California for farm workers is \$1.65 an hour (\$1.35 for minors). Wage rates paid by California grape growers to employees paid on an hourly basis are about \$1.70 an hour. But most grape harvest workers are paid on a piece rate basis and are easily able to earn \$2.00 to \$3.00 an hour, depending on their production.

California farm workers are also covered by workmen's compensation, state disability insurance, comprehensive regulation of farm labor housing, and other measures.

HAVING FAILED to sign California grape workers as union members, UFWOC has sought, with the active support of national and local food trade unions, to force growers and farm workers into union shop contracts by getting food distributors to stop selling grapes in Eastern markets.

The partial success of the boycott is reducing the sale of California fresh grapes and the average prices received by growers.

The critical nature of the problem and its potential impact upon all farmers by exposing them to the same union treatment necessitates action by all of us. It's time to buy and eat grapes. Now!

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

A \$10 Haircut!

The National Observer starts off a feature article on inflation with "Haircuts for \$10, minus tip. Food bill for a family of four: \$115 a week. Cost of a 'medium-priced' car: \$9,900. An average-quality man's suit: \$250." The Observer points out that such prices appear fantastic, but they are what we may expect to pay within a very few years if the present course of inflation and the depreciation of the dollar continues unabated.

Even more alarming than the steady advance of inflation is the apparent indifference of the people — or at least many of them — to what is going on. The Observer accounts for this indifference by drawing attention to the fact that during the past 10 years, on the average, personal income (except for farmers) in terms of purchasing power has kept ahead of inflation. Until very recently, most individuals have enjoyed a complacent ride on the inflation bandwagon, but the day of reckoning is near. During the past two years, inflation — price increases — has been catching up to productivity. During the past two years, the purchasing power of the paycheck of a man with three dependents has declined.

As The Chase Manhattan Bank of New York observes, "For many Americans the apparent economic gains of the past two years have been only an illustration created by inflation." The price of unlimited government deficit spending is cheaper dollars and lower living standards. The remedy lies in bringing government spending into line with taxpayers' ability to pay.

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

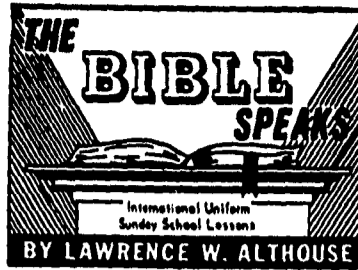
Across The Fence Row

A good measure of wealth is: "How much would you be worth if you lost all your money and property?"

Local Weather Forecast

(From the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Harrisburg 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 mid to upper 70's and overnight lows in the 50's. Normal high-low temperature range for the period is 80-58. Rain may total greater than one-half inch with showers likely Monday and Tuesday.



A PERSONAL MESSAGE

Lesson for September 8, 1968

Background Scripture: Nehemiah 8 through 10. Devotional Reading: Psalms 111.

Soren Kierkegaard, the great Danish thinker of the nineteenth century, called the Bible "a letter from God with our personal address on it." The lives of many men have been changed because they have found some portion of



the Bible to be a personal message from God. One of these was a young man who many centuries ago lived in Milan, Italy. Despite his mother's deep concern for his soul, the young man had lived a fairly uproarious life. Yet he was concerned with the search for truth and had sampled many of the world's great philosophies and studied under some of the finest teachers in Italy and, for that matter, in the world. Still he had not found what his restless heart was seeking.

Take up and read!

One day he heard from an adjoining garden the voices of some children at play. Over and over again they sang two Latin words as part of their game: "Tolle, lege," which means "Take up and read." Acting impulsively, he picked up a New Testament lying close by and let it fall open to Paul's letter to the Romans. He began to read and as he did there settled over him the peace for which he had so long sought.

Not only did the scriptures bring him peace, however, but they also changed his life's vocation. He entered the church and later became the bishop of the church in North Africa. He is still known to us as one of the most profound thinkers of the Christian faith . . . today we call him St. Augustine.

The singing of children had caused him to take up the Bible and read and in so doing he felt convicted of his many sins. Asking God's mercy and forgiveness, he made a new commitment of his life. This was hardly a new phenomenon, but an experience which Augustine shared with many who had come before him and also many who have followed him.

Several centuries later, for example, a German theology professor made a serious study of Romans in preparing some lectures. His study changed his whole concept of the faith and when he declared these convictions, they revolutionized the Church. The Reformation began because Martin Luther found in the scriptures something that seemed personally addressed to him.

A renovated people

Nor was this the first reformation that took place because someone discovered the scriptures. In the seventh century B.C. the Temple had fallen into disrepair because of a succession of evil kings on the throne of Judah. When Josiah became king, however, he gave orders for the temple to be restored and as the renovations were being made, Hilkiah, the priest, found some ancient scrolls that comprised much of what we know as Deuteronomy. When the contents of the scrolls were revealed to the king, he proclaimed that they should be read to the whole nation. Hearing the long-lost law, the people repented and the reformation of Josiah began. The result was more than a renovated temple; they became a renovated people.

Our name and address

Something of the same nature happened three centuries later when, in the re-establishment of Jerusalem, Ezra read the Hebrew law to those who had been denied it during the Babylonian exile. Once again, shown what God required of them, the people repented and entered into a covenant with God, pledging themselves to live henceforth as his people.

This is what can happen when people turn to the scriptures. They find that something God has said to someone else at some other time has also their name and address on it. It has a personal message and if we take it seriously, it is likely that we too will be led to repent, renew our covenant with the Lord, and live new lives.

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Farm News This Week

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Beware of Silo Gas
I'd like to repeat this warning as we go into the silo filling season. With larger silos and with more liberal use of commercial fertilizers, we seem to have more dangerous accumulations of silo gas. Most of these gases are odorless, heavier than air, and some are colorless, however, one of the most common is nitrogen dioxide which is yellow. Farmers are urged to beware of these gas conditions at silo filling time and for 10 days afterwards.

To Seed Certified Grains
Small grains will be seeded in the next month and growers are urged to use the best seed avail-

able; in most cases this means certified seed; the other inputs into a grain crop will be the same such as labor, fertilizer, and overhead; therefore, the greatest returns have the best chances with certified seeds. Don't plant the unknown; it may be very costly.

To Save Nitrogen on Barley
On many farms the problem of lodging with winter barley reduces the grain crop. In most cases this is due to high fertility and too much nitrogen; growers are urged to use only phosphorus-potash fertilizers on barley this fall and do not top-dress with any kind of manure.