

From Where We Stand . . .

Greetings!

One of the first things that greeted every farmer with the dawn of the new year this week, was an increase in social security taxes. Social security payment deductions from self-employed persons such as farmers will rise to 6.9 per cent of earnings up to \$7,800. This means that any farmer with earnings of \$7,800 will pay \$538.20 in 1969 for social security taxes alone.

Of course, city people aren't exempt from the tax. Payment deductions from wage and salary checks will rise to 4.8 per cent and the employer must pay an equal amount. Thus, the total tax take in the name of "social security" will reach nearly 10 per of taxable payrolls. Nearly 10 percent of every dollar up to maximum taxable earnings will go to the federal government to pay for social security and medicare — as much as \$748.80 per employee. And more increases in this tax are coming in years ahead. By 1987, it will amount to 5.9 per cent for both employee and employer.

A little pamphlet issued by the Associated Industries of Alabama, entitled "Another Chunk Out of Your Check," explains why social security costs are increasing so rapidly. There are two main reasons. One, a great number of people are now getting benefits which come to more than the taxes they and their employers have paid into social security. Two, Congress has changed the law many times to (a) add more groups to the program, (b) make it easier to get benefits, (c) increase the benefits, and (d) add medicare. Each change costs both employees, employers, and self-employed persons like farmers more money.

So, you might as well keep in mind that among those who were first to greet you Wednesday, was the tax collector.

Laugh A Little

If you have a sense of humor, you will probably be able to cope with life's problems better than one who is too serious. And if the group of people with whom you work contains one or more persons who are witty, you all will be able to work better.

For example, it has been discovered that in small groups, the presence of one or two persons capable of coming up with witty expressions now and then, greatly enhances the ability of the group to solve its problems.

This bit of research-finding could have some practical value for farmers, their families and hired men.

The routine of everyday living and the problems this living produces, could many times be eased by telling an amusing story or incident. We believe a good laugh is one of the best medicines yet devised for chas-

ing "the blues". If your sense of humor has been suffering lately, now is a good time to begin cultivating a few good, hearty belly laughs.

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

Environmental Problem Number One

All that has been done so far and all that is envisioned so far for insuring the future of a good life are wholly irrelevant to grim reality. That is the studied opinion of Mr. Robert Lee, businessman, observer-philosopher and executive of a major timber corporation.

Mr. Lee believes the number one environmental problem is people. He even goes so far as to contemplate the hydrogen bomb as the savior of civilization rather than a destroyer. "Hundreds of millions of people," he observes, "may have to be evaporated in order that some other hundreds of millions may live. All cannot live." The very extremity of such a possible solution to our environmental problems suggest that Mr. Lee is trying to shock people into an awareness of realities, hoping they may then do something about it.

One reality is that in the next 15 years world materials requirements could equal all material used throughout history to date. Another is that scientists are now questioning whether the earth's oxygen supply will be able to continue to support our present population, or whether it too will be used up by man and all of his manufacturing activities. Oxygen comes from green plants, and they still remain the only natural source of oxygen. Mr. Lee points out that with our population of 200 million, we must dispose of one million cubic yards of garbage each day — enough to fill Mammoth Cave in Kentucky in just one month.

Mr. Lee suggests an arrangement of world councils with wide powers to deal with the food and population problem and recalls the words of historian Arnold Toynbee, "What is the true end of Man? It is to populate the earth with the maximum number of human beings — or is it to enable human beings to lead the best kind of life that the spiritual limitations of human nature allows?"

Across The Fence Row

Patience will accomplish most anything, it is said. In fact, you can even carry water in a sieve if you wait till it freezes.

He who holds his temper usually holds his job and friends.

The world is so full of so many things — it's hard to keep up payments on 'em all.

One of the dreariest days of adolescence is that time when Sonny or Dotter realizes that, in another 20 years, he (she) will be as ignorant as Mom and Pop now.

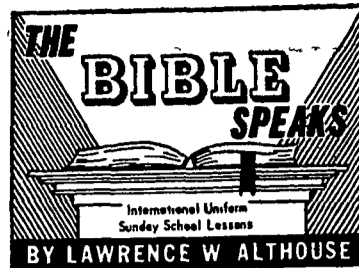
A rumor is like linoleum cement — easy to spread, but almost impossible to clean up.

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 much below normal with daytime highs in the mid 30's and overnight lows in the mid 20's. Seasonal temperature Saturday. Much colder Sunday and not much change thereafter. Normal high-low for the period is 39-24.

Precipitation may total one-half inch water equivalent with snow Saturday or late Saturday night continuing into Sunday. Snow again at mid week.



INTERNATIONAL UNION
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

ONE DAY

Lesson for January 5, 1969

Background Scripture: Mark 1:1-20
Devotional Reading: Galatians 4:4-9

What a difference a day makes!

Twenty-four little hours.

Twenty-four "little hours" are all that are needed sometimes to change a person's life, alter a nation's destiny, or redirect the course of the world's history. The popular song of a number of years ago, quoted above, is right: one day can make a tremendous difference! I myself can remember the day seventeen years ago when I responded to a call to the Christian ministry. What a difference that day has made for my life. Those twenty-four "little hours" were a significant turning-point in my life. And so it is for many of us. We can remember vividly the day or days when our lives were changed in some significant way.



Rev. Althouse

Important days

Historians are fond of choosing days that changed the world: the day the Spanish Armada was defeated, the day Napoleon lost his army at Waterloo, the day of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, the day the Wright Brothers flew the first airplane at Kitty Hawk, the day on which the first atomic bomb was exploded . . . the list seems endless.

In the life of a young carpenter of Nazareth in Galilee there came a day that was to drastically alter both the course of his life and the history of the world. It was on this day that Jesus found his life's mission. One day and what a change it made!

Like an iceberg

Yet, important as that one day may be, we must not assume that such an experience stands alone. Jesus's baptism, like most religious experiences, may be compared to an iceberg: what we can

see above the surface is only a small portion of the total bulk of the iceberg, most of which lies hidden beneath the surface. We can imagine that Jesus' discovery of his mission came as the climax to a long period of earnest searching and prayerful inquiry.

So to ask, "When did the call first come?" would be like asking for the precise point at which we move from adolescence into maturity. The process is long and often subtle. We are hardly aware of all the influences that play upon us. Surely the call of Jesus must have begun while he was yet a child. The incident of Jesus' experience in the temple at the age of twelve, of which Luke tells us, is an indication that he already had some sense of call.

But Mark goes back even beyond this: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet . . . (Mark 1:1,2) It begins, says Mark, back with the dreams of the prophets of Israel. Throughout his young years, Jesus had become increasingly familiar with their writings. Though long dead and gone from the scene, these men spoke to his heart and mind concerning his own mission in life.

Voices from present

Not only did Jesus find his call to mission in voices from the past, but also in voices of the present. Quite often God's call comes to us through the influence of people around us. There were probably a number of people through whom God spoke to this young man, but probably the most striking of these was John the Baptist. His message of God's coming kingdom stirred Jesus deeply and in pondering that message, his own mission came into focus.

The call of God comes to men in many different ways and our responses to that call are as varied as human nature itself. Both voices from the past and voices from the present may challenge us. It may happen suddenly one day, or it may be a gradual experience. The important thing is that when that day comes and God says, "Here, this is what I have in mind for you," that we may be ready to receive and respond to our marching orders.

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Chairmen Continue To Be Named To F & H Fund Drive — Page 1

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NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith

Lancaster County Agent

To Keep Accurate Records

Modern farming is a business that requires accurate records and we urge all producers to give special attention to this part of their management at the beginning of the new year. Good records are not only needed for income reporting requirements but for evaluating and planning the future. Several farm records systems are available through our Extension Service.

To Control Parasites

Most barns and feedlots are full of livestock at this time of the year. The efficiency of these animals largely depends upon their health and the freedom from both internal and external parasites. Stomach worms on the inside and body lice on the

outside may need controlled. Producers are urged to eliminate these pests for greater net returns.

To Learn From Farm Show Events

No doubt there are dozens of reasons why so many people attend State Farm Show each year. In addition to seeing new machinery and eating hot dogs, farmers should attend to learn more about their particular line of agriculture. There are many exhibits and educational meetings covering most all phases of Pennsylvania agriculture. Local farmers are urged to select the one in their field of production and learn of the latest recommendations. Farm Show Programs are available at our Extension Office.