

From Where We Stand...

Tax-Loss Farming

The Internal Revenue Service figures that 680,000 non-farmers (industrial firms as well as individuals) took over a billion dollars in tax losses in a recent year as "income tax farmers." The losses to the Treasury are exceedingly heavy simply because the more money the firm or individual makes the more money he contrives to 'lose' on his farm.

There are several ways this is done, but Carl Rowan writing in the Chicago Daily News gave a procedure that runs like this: "A movie star who falls into the 70 per-cent income tax bracket invests \$200,000 of 'current expense' money in the building of a breeding herd. He deducts the \$200,000 as a pure loss, thus reducing the taxes on his non-farm income by \$140,000. Later he sells the herd for just what he put into it: \$200,000. He pays taxes on this, but only at the 25-percent capital gains rate: \$50,000. Our movie star thus has a net savings of \$90,000 in what appears on paper to be a 'break even' farming transaction. The shrewd operators save even more by not really putting their own money into the transaction. They borrow that and deduct the interest on it."

Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) has introduced a bill to limit the amount of farm losses that can be charged off against other income by "hobby farmers". This bill is designed to protect the legitimate farmer, including one who earns several thousand dollars a year off the farm. Under the bill, a taxpayer could use farming losses to offset up to \$15,000 in non-farm income. The deduction would be cut, dollar for dollar, as non-farm income rises above \$15,000. Thus, a stock broker with \$30,000 in non-farm income would not be able to deduct any 'farming losses' except for deductions that are allowable to any taxpayer, such as interest, local taxes, or casualty losses.

With national tax payers in a huff over a recent announcement that a few wealthy persons manage to 'legally' get away with not paying any taxes, we believe support of this bill will be quite easy to get.

And since "tax farmers" are interested only in a "loss", they will do many things that undercut the normal farmer and his markets. Metcalf argues that if we save independent and family farmers by closing the holes in our tax laws to eliminate this gross mis-use we also save better communities, with more churches, better schools, and more business opportunities.

We support Metcalf in this with only the reservation that the laws that are made and all their fine-print implications be sure not to also hamper the real farmer also. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

Farm News This Week

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Agriculture Kept Economy From Busting, Empie Says — Page 1

Dairy Day Program Aims Health & Outlook Items — Page 1

Baby Beef & Lamb Club Sell Tobacco Project; Give To Fund — Page 1

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A Better View

Once a man walked up a hill and looked down upon his village. He could see the houses and paths spread out before him.

Some time later, a number of millenniums later, a man sat in a shaky birdlike affair and flew over his town. He could see much better than his early ancestor could see from a hill, for now he was directly above the town and could look straight down. He could see in greater perspective, for he could see the surrounding hills and valleys in relation to the town.

Still later, a man went up into the sky, this time in a jet, and in addition to seeing his own city, he could look out and see many cities, some as far as fifty miles away.

Then one day a man traveled up — out rather — in a space craft and could see whole continents. He traveled around the globe and reported to the earthbound creatures that Africa was coming up on the right, and Europe on the left. Thirty minutes later he would say, "I see Australia way down under." And still later, "Now the west coast of the United States is peeping over the horizon."

But man wanted a still wider view. So one day he set off again, and this time really went out — way out. When he looked in upon his earth, he saw not towns and cities, not even continents. This time he saw a world and he could see the parts in relation to the whole.

The new perspective we now have of our globe should help us — if we are ready to have our ideas about division, and clan, and wealth exploded. Perhaps now we will leave our provincialisms behind and see in one view that the world is not only suburbia, and school buildings, and freeways, but eroded hillsides, rocky trails, and leaking roofs; that the world is not full of doctors, and teachers, and agriculturists, but that disease, and ignorance, and hunger abound.

If we see in the right perspective we'll take up our tasks in a spirit that will help God's world become more like He wants it to be — Nathan B. Hege in Youth Messenger.

Across The Fence Row

"Mr. Laurence M. Gould, President Emeritus of Carleton College, said: 'I do not believe the greatest threat to our future is from bombs or guided missiles. I don't think our civilization will die that way. I think it will die when we no longer care. Nineteen of 21 civilizations have died from within and not by conquest from without. There were no bands playing and flags waving when these civilizations decayed. It happened slowly, in the quiet and the dark when no one was aware.' " — Denver, Colo., Herald-Dispatch.

Any child who knows the value of a penny is better at decimal fractions than most adults.

The man who agrees with everything you say may lie to others, too.

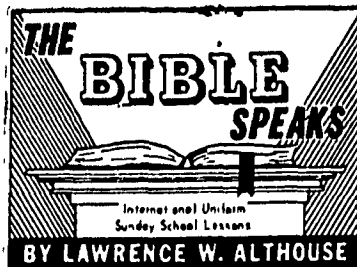
When a person can see both sides of a question, it doesn't involve him, his religion, or his pocketbook.

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 below normal with daytime highs in the mid 30's to middle 40's and overnight lows in the upper teens to upper 20's. Not much day to day change. Normal high-low for the period is 50-31.

Precipitation may total less than one-fourth inch water equivalent falling as snow flurries over the north portions during the weekend.



WHOSE AUTHORITY?

Lesson for March 16, 1969

Background Scripture: Mark 11 through 12.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

The date is Sunday, March 16, 1969. The time is 11:05 a.m. The place is the sanctuary of your church.

The service has just begun and the people are sitting down, having just finished the first hymn.

Suddenly, you are aware that a tall man is walking briskly up the aisle.

"An usher?" you wonder, though it occurs to you that you have never seen this man before.

As he comes to the head of the aisle, he turns and faces the congregation. "A pitch for the Building Fund," you decide, noticing some papers in his hand.

Marshmallow crosses

At first he doesn't say anything, although not from any obvious embarrassment; he seems to be looking briefly at each person sitting before him in the pews. The silence grows uncomfortable until at last he holds up a copy of the church worship bulletin and says: "The youth are taking orders for Easter candy. Chocolate bunnies, marshmallow crosses, and fluff eggs are attractively boxed and sell for only \$3.98 per box. The proceeds of the sale will be used to buy a new pulpit Bible for the church..."

Suddenly, the man is seen to have a box—a candy box!—and with a sweep of his arm he throws it upon the floor. Chocolate bunnies, marshmallow crosses, and fluff eggs scatter in small heaps on the wine-colored carpeting. There is not a sound around you. People are staring in wide-eyed disbelief!

Once again the man resumes reading from the parish notices: "Ladies, you have only five more days to join the new Women's

Circle "Hat Club." Members will begin payment next Sunday for hats to be delivered by Good Friday. This project will help the Ladies buy a new fifty-cup coffee-maker for the kitchen. Pick up your application in the devotional literature rack..." With these last words, the stranger throws a pack of small application cards just above the heads of those sitting in the first four or five pews.

"A house of prayer"

Now there is a small card-board fan in his hand. Turning it before him, he reads: "This fan is provided for your comfort by the Lovely Lane Funeral Home—where YOU come first!" With this, the stranger skims the fan over the congregation and you watch in fascination as it sails precariously near a prominent churchwoman's skyscraper hat. As you glance back at the stranger, you notice for the first time his face—it isn't so much anger you see there, as sorrow!

There is a constant flow of objects in his hands. There are tea-towels (a project of the "Willing Workers' Class"), the ZIPPER—Instant Fire Extinguisher for Home and Auto (sold by the men's Group), the radiant Christ's-head wall plaque ("It glows in the dark as you grow in faith!"), "Lord's Prayer ball-point pens—there seems to be no end to it all.

But there is. The stranger stops speaking, lifts his eyes upward and says: "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

When Jesus gets loose

If you can envision that little scene in your own church, then perhaps you can appreciate what it was that infuriated the temple leaders when Jesus strode into the temple courtyard and overturned the money-changers' tables and drove the legitimate merchants from their booths. No wonder they demanded: "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?" (Mark 11:28 RSV)

Isn't that the way we are still likely to react today when Jesus gets loose in our lives, our churches, and our world?

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service)

Attend The Church Of Your Choice Sunday

For Full Market Reports Read LANCASTER FARMING



NOW IS THE TIME...

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Practice Farm And Home Safety

The spring work season is approaching for all farmers and gardeners. All types of machinery will be put into action when warmer weather arrives. Most of these present accident hazards if not properly handled. Farm operators and parents are urged to outline definite rules about the use of machinery and the proper speed and manner in which the machines are to be operated. Safety measures should be established before a serious accident not afterwards.

To Prune Trees

All types of fruit and shade trees should be pruned during the month of March, if they were not pruned earlier in the winter. When the cuts are made while the tree is in the dormant stage, there will be less shock

and loss of sap from the exposed area. Evergreen trees should not be trimmed at this time with the exception of spruce trees that may be shaped. Cuts over one inch in diameter should be treated with tree paint to prevent fungus infection or rotting.

To Attend Livestock Day.

On Tuesday, March 25, the Penn State University campus will be the scene of the first Pennsylvania Livestock Field Day. This event will be for all beef, sheep, and swine producers. The session convenes at 10:00 A.M. with a joint program including national speakers on timely subjects. After lunch, each species of livestock producers will hold separate meetings and tours. All local livestock producers are urged to consider the benefits from this event.