

From Where We Stand...

Indefensible

Coercive tactics and intimidation on a nationwide scale in an effort to organize agricultural labor show evidence of back-firing, judging by public reaction to attempts to boycott California grape growers who have refused to submit to union demands. During recent months, supermarkets and retailers all over the country, as well as consumers, have been made the victims of an unprecedented drive to bring so-called collective bargaining to the nation's farms — beginning with the grape producers.

The evidence that this type of organizing may do more harm than good from the standpoint of the unions comes in the form of a survey of consumers that reveals only 31 per cent approve the actions of grape boycotters. The survey covers a typical area around Minneapolis, Minnesota. One of the most objectionable phases of the boycott, according to the survey, has been the effort to enlist church support. Eighty-two per cent of those responding to the survey believe that it is not right for a church to ask its members to refrain from buying grapes. They do not consider it a church matter.

Using consumers and merchants as weapons to bring agricultural producers to their knees is indefensible. If a supermarket can be forced to remove grapes from its shelves under duress or threats, the same tactic can be applied across the board of production and distribution. The principle that has been at issue in the grape boycott is that of the free market and the right of merchants to operate in what they believe to be the best interests of their customers. Since the boycotts violate a basic principle of the marketplace, they deserve and should expect the disfavor of consumers, as well as merchants.

Are We Intelligent?

The late Adlai E. Stevenson, statesman and politician, once said, "We travel together, passengers on a little spaceship . . . preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and I will say the love we give to our fragile craft." Anyone who has seen the remarkable photographs taken of the earth by the crew of the Apollo 8 must humbly acknowledge the prophetic truth of Mr. Stevenson's words. From 200,000 miles or more out in space, the earth appears to be a body of transcendent and fragile beauty. The astronauts called it "the good earth." And as Mr. Stevenson intimated, it is a fragile earth supporting life as man knows it on a finely balanced combination of cosmic circumstances that are slowly being altered by man himself.

Only in recent years have scientists suspected the many ways in which human beings, by their numbers and technological achievements, are beginning to threaten human existence. A part of this threat

stems from ignorance of the nature of the life-sustaining forces of earth, plus a stunning lack of perception of the real meaning of what we are pleased to call the population explosion. Dr. John H. Rediske, former Atomic Energy Commission Fellow and now head of a forest tree sciences group at a large timber company, writes of people and resources in a manner that indelibly impresses a lay reader. He points out, "If one could compress all geologic time, the 4.5 billion years since the earth was born, into one year some startling facts regarding the recency of life on this ball of rock would become evident . . . let us assume that the earth is born on the first of January. . . . It is May before single-celled living organisms appear in the warm sheltered coastal waters. In the first week of December the primeval forests rise from the lowlands. Twelve days later dinosaurs are roaming the earth and the first mammals appear the day after Christmas. At 10 p.m. on December 31st primitive man makes his appearance. The pyramids are built a minute before midnight. Fifty-seven seconds later Christopher Columbus discovers America and we enter the Industrial Revolution about one second before the New Year."

These words of Dr. Rediske show how brief man's existence has been. He goes on to show that in spite of this briefness, man is multiplying at a rate and creating conditions that can terminate his sojourn on earth in a matter of seconds, geologically speaking. Again, he uses a dramatic analogy. To place population growth in an understandable framework, he compresses the 2000 years from the birth of Christ into one 24-hour day. And here is what he finds, beginning Sunday at 12 midnight. There are some 190 million people on earth at that instant. At 7:48 Monday evening, nearly 20 hours later, the population has doubled. It doubles again only 2 hours and 24 minutes later. And again in less than one hour. And yet again, at 11:36 p.m., the population doubles for the fourth time since Christ was born to yield the present figure of approximately three billion people. Twenty-four minutes later, at midnight (the year 2000), it will double for the fifth time and six billion human beings will inhabit the earth. And by the year 2070, at the same rate of progression, the earth's population will be an incredible 25 billion!

Dr. Rediske then goes into the real stickler, the resources of nature, about which most of us know little or nothing that will be called upon to support the teeming billions of persons who are just over the horizon. He tells how the most essential element of life, oxygen, is dependent upon the photosynthetic activity of the seas, the forest and growing plants. Most of us think of these resources in terms of food and forest products. But one of their main functions is to provide oxygen for present and future generations.

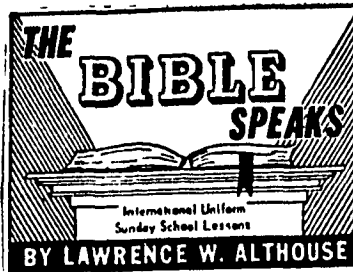
Observes Dr. Rediske, "It is alarming that, with his tremendous power to alter his environment, man does not even comprehend the questions involved in his survival, much less know the answers. Considering man's demonstrated talent for error, one might ask, half-seriously: 'Is there intelligent life on Earth?'" and if so, does it know how long it plans to stay?

Local Weather Forecast

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

The five-day forecast calls for temperatures to average much below normal with daytime highs in the 30's and over-night lows in the teens to mid 20's. Turning colder Sunday and continued cold the remainder of the period. The normal high-low for the period is 56-35.

Precipitation may total one-half inch in the North and West portions of the area to less than one-fourth inch in the Southeast, water equivalent. Chance of snow in the interior Saturday night and snow flurries the remainder of the period.



THE VICTOR

Lesson for March 30, 1969

Background Scripture: Mark 14:43 through 15:41.
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 53.

The twenty-four hours that comprised Jesus' last night and day, the first Maundy Thursday evening and Good Friday, were twenty-four hours of terrible suffering for the man from Nazareth.

The ordeal which we call his "Passion" began at the scene of the Last Supper when he darkly forecast the treachery of one of his own disciples. It grew in the garden of Gethsemane as he found them

Rev. Allhouse too fatigued to share with him the long night of prayerful preparation. That inner torment came to a climax when Judas, one of the Twelve, led the Temple soldiers to the very spot and betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

"He was despised . . ."

In his moment of great need his disciples fled from the scene, leaving him alone with his captors. None of them, not even the brave-talking Peter, stood by him as he underwent the ordeal of a hearing before the high priest and the Sanhedrin. As he stood before these authorities, he was slandered, abused, and struck on the face.

Without sleep, tired in body, and sorrowful of soul, he was forced to appear before the powers of Jerusalem and was subjected to the same disgraceful proceedings each time. He was stared at and mocked like an animal or madman. He was treated with brutal contempt and no one raised a voice of protest or concern.

While in the palace of Pilate, he was abused by the Roman soldiers who beat him and made sport of him. They put a robe on him and pressed down a crown of sharp thorns upon his head. Later, as he was exposed

to hostile crowds that had gathered at the palace, no one stood forth to defend him or plead for his release. Instead, the crowds loudly called for his death and chose a murderer to be released in his stead.

"And rejected . . ."

Exhausted by his physical and emotional ordeal, a heavy cross-beam was laid upon his shoulders and he was made to struggle with it up the narrow, winding streets of Jerusalem in disgrace before the cursing, jeering mobs. When he stumbled under its weight, none of his friends were there to help him, only a bystander who was forced to assist him with his burden.

Having reached the desolate Golgotha outside the city, he was subjected to even greater torture. Great nails were driven into his hands and feet. Roughly, the cross-beam was fitted to an upright pole and he was jerked into position. The weight of his body sent terrible pains racing through his hands and arms and shoulders.

He looked down from the cross. What he beheld made sharper the pain within. Several soldiers were casting dice for his clothing. Curious crowds gawked at him while others paraded round him, hurling taunts, curses, and insults. Some of them spit upon him to show their contempt. He saw also the pitiful form of his weeping mother and a few sorrowful friends, all helpless to their horror.

"A Man of Sorrows"

Added to the pain was a raging thirst the loss of blood, and a combination of symptoms that guaranteed to make his death one of slow agony. In the midst of all this, a hateful voice spat out at him from below: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." (Mark 15:31,32 RSV)

General Booth of the Salvation Army once declared that: "It is precisely because he would not come down that we believe in him." Jesus stayed on the cross because he was the Son of God, not in spite of it. Death could not take from him his commitment. Thus, the cross is the symbol of the victor, not the victim.

(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.)

Read Lancaster Farming For Full Market Reports



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Record Pesticides
I'd like to repeat the suggestion that it is very important for every farmer to keep accurate records of his use of all types of pesticides on both his livestock and his crops. Our Extension Service has record blanks available for this use; they are available for the asking. These records may be very useful if food products are questioned for chemical residues.

To Manage Herd Carefully
The pasture season is approaching when it is very important for milk producers to handle the milking cows very carefully; that is, if the herd is to be grazed or to be fed green-chopped material. Succulent forage may transmit a grassy flavor to the milk and cause quality-problems. Pastures including

wild garlic should not be used for the milking herd. Cows that are grazed on lush growth early in the spring should be given a feeding of dry matter first and then removed from the pasture area at least 4 hours prior to the next milking time.

To Beware Of Wild Pets
The keeping of wild animals as pets is to be discouraged. Monkeys, skunks, raccoons, lizards and snakes make unusual pets but they may be carriers of dangerous human diseases and infections. Tuberculosis may be carried by monkeys, rabies virus is often present in the saliva of skunks; bites from lizards and snakes may not be deadly poisonous but may produce dangerous infections. Domestic animals make the safest pets.

Farm News This Week

Gerald Martin & Solanco
Star In FFA County Meet — Page 1

Raising Prime Veal For Aristocratic
Restaurants Is Profitable Business — Page 1

LANCASTER FARMING

Lancaster County's Own Farm Weekly

P. O. Box 266 - Lititz, Pa. 17543
Office: 22 E. Main St., Lititz, Pa. 17543
Phone: Lancaster 394-3047 or Lititz 626-2191

Everett R. Newswanger, Editor
Robert G. Campbell, Advertising Director
Subscription price: \$2 per year in Lancaster County; \$3 elsewhere

Established November 4, 1955
Published every Saturday by Lancaster Farming, Lititz, Pa.
Second Class Postage paid at Lititz, Pa. 17543

Member of Newspaper Farm Editors Assn.