

From Where We Stand...

Farmers Get Small Percent

You know, we hear a lot these days about how much the Federal government farm programs are costing the tax payer. And we agree, a sizable figure is paid in subsidies and other programs where farmers benefit.

But we don't feel so bad about the farmers part in the tax burden after reading just where the tax money goes as reported in a congressional committee newsletter.

Where does the money go? "The first 53 cents goes into defense, including 13 cents for the Vietnam war. Veterans programs take a nickel. Interest on our national debt takes 11 cents of every tax dollar. One penny goes for natural resources, two cents for housing and community development, four cents for education, nine cents for health programs and a penny for other social services. Foreign aid costs two cents, space three cents, agriculture three cents, commerce and transportation programs get six cents."

The report adds that a look at Federal income sources reveals that individual income tax payments make up 46 cents of the Government's tax dollar (or \$90 billion a year); corporation taxes, 19 cents; excise taxes, eight cents; social insurance taxes and contributions, 23 cents; licenses and other taxes, four cents.

A Tractor Is A Thing

For the farmer's wife (we wish she would have signed her name) who takes exception to our editorial several weeks ago entitled "That Tractor Is A Killer", where we called a tractor a "her"—. No, we can't tell if a tractor is a male or a female. No, we weren't trying to blame all man's problems on women.

The tractor could well be a "bull" of a thing.

We were only trying to do what little we could to get the males who read our paper and are responsible for plowing, planting and harvesting to not rip the "thing" around like he was fighting a bull but to handle his tractor safely and gently.

And surely you'll allow us men to affectionately call our tractors "baby" once in a while.

Begin With The Children

One of the most insidious and destructive influences on the price level of thousands of luxuries and necessities on retailers' shelves is something that few of us ever think about — shoplifting. Shoplifting is extremely costly to the retailing industry.

Farm News This Week

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4-H Dairy Champions Named At Two-Day Show — Page 1

First Tobacco Cut Thursday On Local Farm — Page 1

LANCASTER FARMING

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Chambers of commerce and retail associations sponsor clinics for merchants on shoplifting, and there are films which are distributed for use by service clubs and other groups.

Recently a spokesman for a large retailing concern offered the suggestion that it might be a good idea to encourage newspapers to comment on the subject so that parents can be made aware of the problem as it affects young people. His suggestion is eminently sound. Aside from the long term influence on prices, shoplifting has other far-reaching effects. It can change the life of a young person who might think of it as more of a prank than an offense against law and society. There are cases where a young adult, with an otherwise spotless record loses an opportunity for employment for the simple reason that his misdeed has found its way into the detailed history of his life upon which he must eventually depend to open the doors of opportunity. Any blot on this history is a handicap.

Shoplifting is but another example of the lack of respect for persons and property that is so prevalent in the land today. Shoplifting is not a prank. It is a symptom of character weakness and a warning light to parents and authorities. A basic rule of behavior that should be taught every child at home and at school is to keep your hands off other people and other people's property. This would pay rich dividends in years to come.

Across The Fence Row

In the early days of the country, Federal employees numbered in the low thousands. In 1816, for instance, President James Madison had only 4,837 people working in his administration. By 1871, the total had risen to 51,000 and then doubled the next decade. By 1914, the Federal payroll totaled 401,887 workers and continued to rise until it hit an all-time high of 3.4 million during World War II. Cut back to two million in 1947, it rose again to 2.5 million in 1951 during the Korean War and remained at about that level until 1966 when it rose to 2.9 million and stayed there. The present level, as of May 31, is 2,968,691.

"What's wrong, Henry?" asked his wife. "My razor," boomed the voice within the bathroom. "It doesn't cut at all." "Don't be silly. Your beard can't be tougher than linoleum."

One of the problems of rearing children is to know where and when to give a big hand.

A habit can change from a cobweb into a cable so easily.

Husband: "I say we're not going out tonight, and that's semi final!"

The hand that rocks the cradle now charges a buck an hour.

It's Difficult To Misquote Silence.

Even if happiness could be purchased, we'd be unhappy over the price.

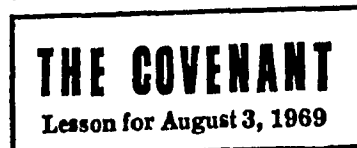
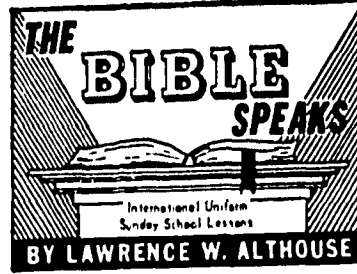
Many people speak from experience: Others, from experience, don't speak.

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 low to mid 80's and the over-night lows in the 60's. Temperature moderating at the beginning of the period with little change thereafter.

Rain may total more than one-half inch as frequent showers throughout the period.



Background Scripture: Exodus 19-24.
Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-10.

What is a covenant? The term is frequently used in both the Old and New Testaments, but what is it?

Perhaps the simplest explanation is that it is an agreement between two or more parties. If your neighbor were to say to you, "I'll sell you my power-mower for twenty-five dollars," and you were to respond with "O.K.," that would be a covenant. Yet we seldom use that term for elementary agreements. You would hardly say, "I covenanted with Mr. Jones to buy his power-mower." We usually reserve the term for the more important agreements that we make.

A promise

Many of you made a covenant when you united with a certain congregation. You were probably asked, "Do you promise... Will you faithfully endeavor to... Will you be...?" This was an agreement between three parties: God, yourself, and the congregation. In one denomination's ritual of membership, the minister asks the congregation: "Will you enter into a covenant with him to cherish him in brotherly love and kindness...?" God has already done something, I promise to do something, and the congregation accepts my promise to do and extends to me their promise in return.

Or consider matrimony. This too is a covenant. The bride and groom in the presence of the congregation make certain promises to each other and to God. They take upon themselves very solemn vows. Yet, there is more than vows involved; there is a relationship that precedes and follows the vows. The minister says, "Into this beautiful and holy relation-

ship these two persons desire now to enter... Thus a marriage is defined, not only by the promises which people make to each other, but by the new relationship they will share.

Privileges and responsibilities

This is also true when a person unites with a church. He begins with the realization that by his own sinfulness he has broken his relationship with God. He comes to understand that it is God's desire to heal this broken relationship, and so he turns to God and accepts the mercy already extended toward him by God. Thus, a new relationship between a man and his God are established. Entering this new relationship with God, he perceives a new relationship with other Christians and he thus joins a congregation, voluntarily taking upon himself new responsibilities.

God acts, then offers a new relationship that carries both privileges and responsibilities. It is up to man, then, to respond. God acts, man reacts. God always takes the initiative, but the covenant is still dependent upon man's response.

Therefore...

If we can understand this, then we can appreciate better the covenant between God and the Hebrews. In Exodus 19 we find them in the desert of Sinai. Behind them is their miraculous escape from the Pharaoh. God tells Moses to remind the people: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself." God had acted! Having acted on their behalf, he now offers the Israelites a new relationship of privilege and responsibility: "Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant you shall be my own possession among all the peoples... I am the Lord your God." They will be his people and he will be their God.

Now that he has acted and offered a new relationship, he spells out their responsibilities under this covenant: "You shall... You shall not..." Thus, remembering what he has done for us and is doing and has promised to do, we do as he requests, not out of slavish submission, but loving obedience. Because we accept his Fatherhood, we accept also his Lordship.

(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.)

For Full Market Reports Read Lancaster Farming



NOW IS THE TIME...

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Fish Farm Ponds

Farm pond owners are urged to permit fishing in their ponds at this time of the year in order to prevent over-population. Many local ponds contain too many fish, especially blue-gills, for the favorable reproduction of the bass. Many fishermen are only interested in the larger bass and will not try to catch any blue-gills; this will only lead to stunted fish, because of the lack of sufficient food, and low reproduction of the bass.

To Control Flies

Recent weather conditions have been favorable for the increase in fly infestation. All filth, garbage, and manure should be removed from the premises as often as possible to eliminate

breeding places. Sanitation is the first step in good fly control. The use of insecticides kill the fly maggots is recommended.

To Evaluate Soil Erosion Problem

Many farms have received the heaviest rainfall in the past decade during the month of July; this would be a good time to observe the amount of topsoil washed from the farm; close inspection immediately after heavy rains is encouraged in order to recognize the amount of run-off and soil losses. The establishing of contour strips, terraces, or diversion ditches can reduce this problem on many farms. Either fall or early spring are good times to get started.