

From Where We Stand... Freedom To Market

Freedom of choice in the marketplace is fundamental to the principal of economic freedom and in the final analysis inseparable from political liberty. This is why the current attempts to promote union organization of agricultural workers by forcing removal through boycotts of table grapes from the shelves of retail merchants is a national issue of the first importance. If consumers are deprived of the right to buy grapes in this manner, they may also be deprived of the right to purchase any one of the 8,000 or more items found in a modern supermarket. If the strategy of the grape boycott proves successful, a precedent will have been set that could lead to the undermining of the mass production, mass distribution system—beginning with agricultural products.

Recognition of this threat has come from many knowledgeable individuals and organizations. An example is the American Farm Bureau Federation's opposition to the boycott of farm products as an infringement on the vital "freedom to market." The president of the Farm Bureau declares, "... We regard the food boycott as a highly critical issue not just to agriculture but to the total economy. Farmers know that if special interest groups can successfully boycott table grapes from California, they can successfully boycott farm products anywhere in the nation. Farmers regard the boycott of food as totally alien to the economic freedom Americans have always enjoyed in the marketplace. It denies farmers a market—whether or not they are directly involved in a dispute, and it also denies consumers their rightful choice of what to buy or not to buy at the food store. ..."

Yes, the table grape boycott is far more than a local issue between California grape producers and California agricultural workers. It is an attack on the basic right of free choice—and the long run economic well-being of every U.S. citizen.

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

Wages Up; Purchasing Power Down

Seldom does economic news rate the headlines, but inflation has changed all of that. The rate of inflation in terms of price increases was recently running at more than 7 per cent annually. Most competent observers expect a gradual slowdown in this rate. But in the meantime, inflation is taking a heavy toll. Every pocketbook is hard hit. Thus, not only are people complaining, but they have suddenly taken a new interest in the subject of inflation wherever it is discussed—news magazines, financial journals and newspapers.

Under the appropriate heading of "The

Farm News This Week

- 4-H Livestock Team Wins 2nd Consecutive Year — Page 1
- Manheim Youths Take Home FFA Hog Championships — Page 1
- Plowing Contest Held — Page 1

LANCASTER FARMING

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New Recession," The Wall Street Journal gives the latest box score of price inflation versus living standards. It points out that what is going on now is not a recession in the usual sense. Gross national product and other major indicators still point upward. But, the buying power of weekly earnings for millions of people is in a definite downward trend. In the terms of 1957 to 1959 dollars, after federal income and social security tax payments have been subtracted, the statistics for the months of September, 1968, through April, 1969, do not make pleasant reading. Weekly pay rose from \$110.87 to \$112.13. Weekly purchasing power during the same period declined from \$79.86 to \$77.62. In other words, although the latest weekly pay figure of \$112.13 is a record, the purchasing power it represents is not only \$2.24 below last September's total but, according to The Wall Street Journal, "... is below the yearly averages for 1968 (\$78.81), for 1967 (\$78.13), for 1966 (\$78.39) and for 1965 (\$78.53)."

As long as inflation continues at recent high levels, purchasing power and living standards will continue to decline irrespective of wage increases. That seems to be the view of a number of analysts. One warns that the country is "in the early stages" of a new type of depression in which rising prices and taxes will erode the "real" earnings of American workers. He believes "an increasing proportion of the population will find itself ... pushed to ever lower economic standards of living," even though total pay will continue to increase. Attempts to gain wage increases to be absorbed by employers is almost certain to backfire, in the opinion of the analysts. The profit squeezes would almost certainly lead to layoffs.

Time magazine in appraising "the critical fight against inflation" reviews the moves toward tighter money, higher taxes and the possibility of extensive wage and price controls. The ways in which inflation distorts and damages the social and economic fabric of the United States are varied and far-reaching. As Time points out, "Companies find it increasingly difficult to lure employees from field offices to headquarters cities where prices are highest ... construction costs aggravate the nation's shortage of modern housing and put homes beyond the financial reach of many people."

Where does the blame for inflation lie? Of course, its roots go back many years when government spending beyond tax revenue, on a gigantic scale, became a way of life. As for the more virulent form of inflation which we have today. Times says, "... the blame belongs to the Johnson Administration ... Between 1965 and 1968, federal spending jumped 47 per cent, and the government put much more money into the economy than it took out." Regardless of where the fault lies, nearly everyone, at last, recognizes the menace to order and progress embodied in inflation. Controlling it is another matter. It can only be controlled by the acceptance of widespread sacrifice and discipline.

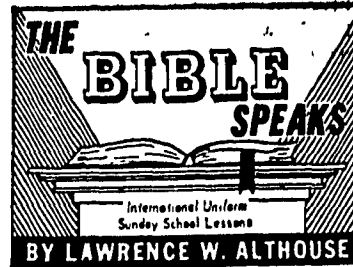
As Time points out, the danger is that if the present Administration's "... anti-inflationary measures are strong enough to produce even a mild recession, the President may find himself in serious trouble with manufacturers." However, one thing seems clear. The voters must either accept the stern anti-inflationary measures of this Administration or pay a constantly rising price for more inflation.

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 low 80's and overnight lows in the upper 50's. Seasonable over the weekend turning cooler thereafter. The normal high-low for the period is 85-64.

Rain may total greater than one-half inch falling late Sunday and Monday.



YOUR RESPONSE

Lesson for August 10, 1969

Background Scriptures: Exodus 25:1-9, 28:1-3, 29:43-46; 35:1-19, 40:16-38; Leviticus 16:19-34; 26:11-13, 19:1-4.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 90.

This Sunday morning millions of Americans will go to church, but how many of them will go to worship?

That may seem a strange question, but we must realize that "going to church" and "worshiping" are not the same thing, just as there is a difference between "leading a horse to water" and "making him drink." Many people enter church buildings on a Sunday morning, but that entrance, their presence there, are not guarantees of worship. This may even be true when people sit and listen attentively to a worship service. Worship is more than mere passive submission to a ritual, or occupying a seat in a "holy place."



Rev. Althouse on a Sunday morning, but that entrance, their presence there, are not guarantees of worship. This may even be true when people sit and listen attentively to a worship service. Worship is more than mere passive submission to a ritual, or occupying a seat in a "holy place."

Missing the point

That many people go to church without worshipping is sometimes evident in the things they say about worship services. Some will find the service a failure because the pastor's sermon was too long, too boring, or both. Others will judge the service on the basis of how well the choir sings its anthem or how softly the organist plays his offertory. Still others will be preoccupied with irritations over unfamiliar hymns, rituals, or "other changes." For these people, obviously, the worship service is largely a program that is expected to be "interesting" and "uplifting."

Of course, these people miss the point. They do not really understand what worship is, and, not understanding, they do not worship. They do not realize that the sermon, the hymns, the choir, the ritual are all secondary in importance to the encounter of God himself. When men truly worship, they acknowledge and experience the "worship" of God.

A visible reminder

God had promised the people of Israel that he would be with them, that they were to be his people and he would be their God. He would daily share their lives, guiding them and their nation, moving them toward his purpose. Of them he asked that they would respond with offerings and worship. The tabernacle itself would be a visible reminder of God's presence in the midst of the people.

Worship would be a means whereby they acknowledged and responded to the presence of God in their lives. They were to go to the tabernacle, not to hear a good sermon, to sing the "old hymns," "get inspired," be entertained, or wallow in nostalgia and sentimentality. The tabernacle was to be a place where they would commune with God on a deeper level: "And let them make me a Sanctuary that I may dwell in their midst" (Exodus 25:8).

This Sunday morning millions of Americans will go to church, but how many of them will go to worship? The answer to the question is anyone's guess, but many of us suspect that there will be far more church-going than worshipping. There will be more bodies present than spirits engaged in communion with the Lord. More people will talk and sing about God than will meet him and respond to him.

The presence of God

If there is anything wrong with our worship, it is not so much that we are using the wrong liturgy or ignorant of better techniques, but that we fail to acknowledge and respond to the presence of God. We are more aware of the pastor, the organist, the choir, the ushers, and the woman in front with the strange-looking hat, than we are of God. Unaccustomed to looking for him in our daily lives, we find it difficult to recognize him on Sunday mornings.

The covenant promise which God gave to Israel is still ours today. As he called them to be his people and promised to be their God, so he calls and promises us. As he desired that they would come to the tabernacle to commune with him, so he desires our communion today. What he wants from us is a worshipful response, not just church attendance.

What will you offer him this Sunday?

(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.)

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NOW IS THE TIME...

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Apply Lime

August and September are two good months to apply lime. For land that is to be seeded to legumes in 1970 now is the time to start correcting any acidity. Lime will work best when mixed with the soil and when given several months time before the seeding is made. Sod ground to be plowed for 1970 and then go to small grain in 1971 can be limed now so that the lime has time to sweeten the soil. A soil test is the best way to learn the amount needed.

To Permit Alfalfa To Bloom

Stands of alfalfa that are to be retained for another year should be allowed to come into at least 75% bloom at one of the later cutting this season. This

will strengthen the stand and help yields next year. An application of a potassium-potash fertilizer this year, after the removal of the crop, will also improve the yield next year.

To Cure Tobacco Carefully

Due to the favorable moisture conditions in recent weeks the tobacco crop should be heavy and full of sap; this means that special effort is needed in order to get rid of the plant juices just as quickly as possible after cutting. If this is not done shed burning or rotting may occur. The use of fans to move the air through the shed or barn is suggested, or place the lath on an outside scaffold the first week or so to reduce moisture more rapidly.