

# From Where We Stand...

## She Figured It Out

Much that's said by a number of "consumer protection" groups indicates rather low regard for the homemaker's ability to figure things out for herself as she purchases products — including food — for her family. The "Protectors" could very well have been selling her short. Take, for instance, the following letter from Mrs. Frank West, Glidden, Iowa, which appeared recently in the *Des Moines Register*:

"... Food is today's best buy. The cash register tape from the supermarket keeps going up but so does the number of non-food items. For example, my grocery bill recently was over \$24. This included: 59 cents, dog food — Rover used to eat scraps: \$1.79, bug spray — we used to swat, swat, swat: 29 cents, paper napkins — we used to have cloth and wash and iron; 89 cents, fabric softener — we used to hope for a windy day; \$1.59 Band-aids and shampoo — we used to go to the drug store for these; \$3.75, Thermos Bottle and light bulbs — used to go to a hardware store.

"Deducting these, my groceries cost less than \$16.

"I spend time in the supermarket to estimate the floor space devoted to food, luxury foods and non-food items. I was amazed to discover that one-fifth of the area was used for what I call luxury and prepared foods. We, the consumers, pay for this preparation and should not include the wages of a hired girl in the cost of food as such. Two-fifths of the store area was filled with non-food items. This leaves only two-fifths devoted to plain foods and yet we all complain of the cost at these 'food stores'.

"Many will think I do not use prepared foods, snacks, pop and candy, and non-food items. I do, but when I bring them home I break the bill down into the proper categories before listing it in the household account book which I have kept since 1959. This book shows that my food bill for 1960 was \$971.57 and the household items \$347.98; and for 1968, food cost \$975.65 and household items, \$725.82."

Hurrah for Mrs. West. At least this's the way it looks from where we stand.

## Don't Blame The Farmer

As everyone knows, the U.S. farmer is the most productive on earth. One farmer now produces enough to feed 45 persons as compared with 15 in 1948. The American farmer has increased his productiveness through the use of new techniques, hybridization of plants and animals and other advances that are products of agricultural research.

Logically, people wonder why, if output

## Farm News This Week

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### LANCASTER FARMING

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per farmer has increased so dramatically, food prices are so high. The truth is, as Mr. Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, points out that the U.S. Farmer, to achieve his efficiency, "... has had to increase his purchase inputs such as fertilizers, chemicals, machinery, and other equipment. These inputs make up more than half of the total resources that are used in farming and explain why farmers are so hard hit by spiraling inflation. . ."

Food costs as a percentage of our disposable income have declined from 23 per cent in 1951 to 17 per cent in 1968. If anything, the farmer deserves a higher reward for his efforts than he has been receiving. Individually, his productivity has been rising in relation to his earnings, while of late, the productivity relative to wages of those in many other lines of activity has been declining. At least that's the way it looks from where we stand.

## A Relative Term

Poverty is a relative term. What one person calls poverty, another would consider abundance. U.S. Representative Olin E. Teague of Texas calls attention to some interesting figures. A survey of one of the poorest regions of the U.S., where 8 out of 10 families live on less than \$3,000 a year, showed that 37 percent owned washing machines, 48 per cent owned cars, and 52 per cent had television sets.

Representative Teague points out that a major portion of the so-called poverty-stricken class of America enjoy fruits of affluence which the middle classes of Europe cannot afford—not to mention the rest of the world. He believes, "The core of the poverty problem often is psychological, not physical. We should be fighting human attitudes that cause poverty. . . We should replace the ethics of slavery—the brazen demands that 'somebody do something' and the slogans that 'the government owes it to us'—with the ethics of self-reliance." Money alone will not teach people that a balanced diet is more important than a shiny new car.

Points made by Representative Teague are well taken. They harken back to the fate of the "poverty-stricken" Indian tribes of long ago who sank into oblivion, not from poverty, but from the misuse of the tools and luxuries of the white man.

## Across The Fence Row

"Beer? I don't drink six beers a year," says Leo (Durocher). He pulls the towel off the bucket, points at the ice-covered contents. "Right here. This is what I have after every game — milk." So said the Chicago Daily News in a July 18 interview with the Chicago Cubs manager, written by sports-writer George Vass.

\* \* \*  
Little minds are wounded by little things.  
\* \* \*

Nothing drives out the little worries like a big worry.

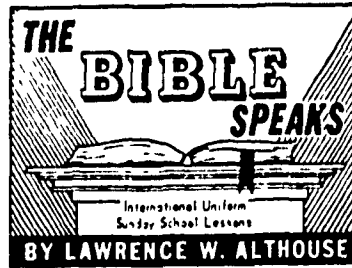
A person's weaknesses are often a truer index of his character than his virtues.

## 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 above normal with daytime highs in the low to upper 80's and over-night lows in the 60's. Generally warm over the weekend. Not quite as warm thereafter. The normal high-low for the period is 85-63.

Rain may total up to one-half inch with possible higher amounts over the South section occurring as showers Sunday and as rain at the end of the period.



## THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX

Lesson for August 17, 1969

Background Scriptures: Numbers 13 through 14.

Devotional Reading: Exodus 34 1-10.

Look out for the grasshopper complex! There are many Christians afflicted with it today. Even worse, it seems contagious, like a plague that is carried from one victim to another.

Of course, this is not a new malady to mankind. The Hebrews knew of it. The Old Testament books of Joshua and Numbers mention it, particularly in the story of Calab. He was, you will

Rev. Althouse remember, one of a number of spies whom Moses sent into the land of Canaan. When they returned to give their report, most of them painted a very dark picture. The people of Canaan were very large in size and well-equipped with weapons. Compared to the Canaanites, the spies said, the people of Israel would be as grasshoppers.

### Different perspective

There was a minority report, however. Caleb, though he had seen the same sights and had been to the same places, saw things differently. "Let us go up at once and occupy it," he urged, "for we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30). He saw no giants, just men; not a hopeless situation, but an opportunity.

Unfortunately, the Israelites rejected Caleb's view and accepted the gloomy picture drawn up by the other spies. They preferred to believe that the job was too big for them. But what a price they paid for this decision! Because of this choice, God told them they would not enter the promised land now, but would have to spend an additional forty years in the wilderness. Their grasshopper complex cost them their hope of crossing over into the promised land in their lifetime. This lack of faith had demonstrated them to be a generation unfit for the promise. Instead it would be given to their children.

### Not optimism

We must not make the mistake of thinking that God rewarded Caleb simply because he gave an optimistic report. Nor should we assume that the people of Israel were penalized simply because they had accepted the negative report. Optimism is not the issue here, for there are many times when an optimistic point of view is mere wishful thinking.

For example, there are many times in the later history of Israel when prophets like Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, and others, brought very negative reports to the people, prophesying great doom. Opposing these spokesmen for God were certain false prophets, who optimistically told the people what they wanted to hear, predicting prosperity and peace. In these times, it was the negative report that truly reflected the message of God to His people.

No, Caleb wasn't rewarded simply because he gave an optimistic report rather than a negative one, but because he reported what God had revealed to him. Thus, he "wholly followed the Lord." He reported what God revealed to him as the truth.

### A lack of faith

The Canaanites were strong and well-equipped for war as the other spies had reported, but Caleb remembered something which the others had forgotten: the power of God. With God's help the land could be won, despite the strength of the Canaanites. Their negative report therefore meant a lack of faith in God's promise.

Thus, the sin of the other spies, was not that they saw the Canaanites as great warriors, but that they saw themselves as "grasshoppers," for this was a reflection upon their God. People thus afflicted cannot hope to enter the promised land.

So it is with us today too. Our obstacles are great. Our difficulties are many. But let us not forget that we are not called to go forth alone. It is God who is with us to guide and empower us. With him at our side, let us throw off the "grasshopper complex!"

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## Attend The Church Of Your Choice Sunday



# NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith  
Lancaster County Agent

### To Buy Feeder Pigs Carefully

Hog cholera continues to be a threat to the swine industry; several eastern states are known to have serious outbreaks and are under quarantine. Local feeders should use extreme caution in buying pigs to be sure they are clean and from known sources. Also, hogs should not be fed garbage or food scraps of any kind unless it is thoroughly cooked.

### To Do Fall Soil Testing

Fall soil testing has the edge over spring testing in several ways and these advantages should be recognized at this time. Producers will have the entire winter to plan next season's fertilizer program and better buys might be obtained; also,

if a soil needs lime, fall is a good time to make the application because this will give the lime time to work and make the soil more alkaline. In more recent years farmers have made fall and winter applications of phosphorus and potash fertilizers when the ground is firm and to avoid the spring rush.

### To Control Weeds In Alfalfa

August seedings of alfalfa should be sprayed for weeds either just prior to planting using Eptam, or when the weeds are 1 to 2 inches high using 2,4-D, B. In many cases the farmer will not notice many weeds until they are too large to spray. Prevent weed damage by spraying at one of these times.