

Pa. Milk Marketing—More of Same

Recent statements by Harry E. Kapleau, successor to Lin Huber as chairman of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board have received enthusiastic endorsement by some of the urban press. We suggest Kapleau's comments deserve praise by those who would like to see lower milk prices.

We also suggest that Kapleau's comments should cause farmers to continue to view the recent changes in state milk marketing with deep concern.

In particular, Kapleau announced "reforms" in Milk Marketing Board procedures. While some of these reforms may be sound, we suggest that the overall impact will be, at worst, to force milk prices down, or, at best, to keep milk prices stable resulting in growing pressures on farmers as costs continue to rise.

One daily newspaper commented editorially on Kapleau's new policies as follows:

Both dealers and farmers will be asked to justify with audited figures any requests for price increases. The report declared that in the past "too much unaudited data, particularly the revenues and expenses of dealers were accepted by

the Board and put into the record." In the future, Kapleau said, "the auditing and investigative staff of the board will be utilized to the fullest extent in the verification of all financial data." And this will include not only the data on dealers' costs, but cost of production data from farmers, as well as other factors such as market supply, competitive prices in and outside the state. All "will be considered and verified by this Board," Kapleau said.

We suggest that neither dealers nor farmers will be willing to submit detailed audited figures asking for price increases—whether or not those increases are justifiable—to a state administration which has already committed itself to the proposition that lower milk prices are sound and essential.

Asking for milk price increases is a burdensome task under the most favorable circumstances.

Asking for them with the certain knowledge that the facts and figures presented will be used against you—that doesn't make any sense, does it?

Pa. Ag Community Concerns Grow

Concern within the farm community about Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture James McHale started almost from the time of his appointment.

Lately, growing numbers of influential farmers representing the most outstanding farm organizations in the state are speaking out openly against McHale and his programs and policies.

The open break with McHale stems from many causes, the break is deeply felt within the farm community; it comes only after repeated indications by McHale that he does not and will not represent most Pennsylvania farmers and their organizations.

The key Pennsylvania farm issues during the past year spell out the situation. These issues have included milk marketing, Farm Show, ag research funds, Penn State University Extension — more and more farm leaders are saying that these are only the most obvious and most important programs endangered by McHale.

Our experience is that Pennsylvania farmers in general have a live and let live attitude. They'd rather bend a little than get bogged down in a fight, particularly a fight within the farm community itself.

But the feeling is growing that McHale leaves only two alternatives: fight or surrender. He has repeatedly demon-

strated that he will not compromise, will not attempt to represent all of Pennsylvania farming.

Finally, realizing that McHale is a man who can be neither worked with nor ignored, growing numbers of farmers and their organizations are preparing for battle.

Pennsylvania farmers have not felt for many years that they're getting a square deal in Harrisburg. For years, they've been fighting a losing battle with higher taxes and a smaller share of state spending.

But no matter how small their share of state monies, farmers have always felt they had a spokesman in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture who could save them on the really crucial issues.

Now, that voice is gone.

And it's causing a mighty uproar.

So far, most groups outside the farm community itself have failed to acknowledge the intensity of the farm community's concern. And the determination of farmers to be heard has not yet been fully appreciated in the right places.

But the message is coming through loud and clear to those who are taking the time to listen.

And to those who can't or won't listen, we predict the message will get much louder.

The Mountain and the Mole Hill

Political hassling this week gives an indication of how farmers currently rate in Harrisburg.

While debate was proceeding on whether to lower taxes or simply find new ways to spend an estimated \$250,000,000 of surplus monies—that is, monies which are lying around after all budgeted expenses have been met.

Meanwhile, the \$400,000 of harness racing monies which go to Pennsylvania ag research, local farm fairs and many other important farm projects was being diverted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture into rural non-farm programs.

While Harrisburg wallows in money, Pennsylvania farmers are mounting a major campaign to keep themselves from losing the pittance they now get.

To put it in perspective, the entire \$400,000 of harness racing monies which go to farmers and farm programs in relation to the \$250,000,000 surplus is a ratio of \$1 to each \$625.

Since when has the farmer been worth so little on the Hill?

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Plan Your Estate

Everyone should give some thought to the settling of his estate, regardless of the size of his holdings and possessions. The common practice is to keep putting this decision off until something happens. We urge all farmers and all citizens to protect their families by making a will and have some definite plans in writing as to how their life's wealth is to be handled. For a number of years our Extension Service has held educational meetings on this subject and another one is scheduled for Thursday evening, March 2, in the Farm and Home Center. The general public is welcome to attend.

To Select Proper Varieties

The 1972 planting season is approaching and many purchases of farm and garden seeds are being made; the ideal of planting different varieties of field crops such as alfalfa and corn is a good one and several speakers at recent meetings advised this practice. If a large acreage of one variety ripens at one time, it is difficult to get it harvested or picked at the proper stage of maturity or moisture content. This often happens with hay crops and in recent years with corn that is to be made into hi-moisture corn for feeding purposes. Stage of maturity is very important to get the most feed value and should be staggered by planting several adapted varieties. Consulting with your local seed dealer will help accomplish this practice.

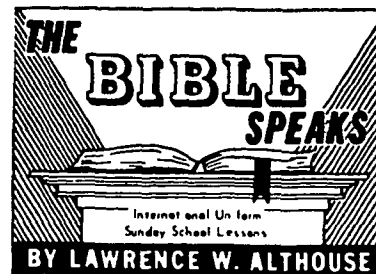
To Manage Livestock Wastes

The handling of barnyard manure is becoming more of a problem in many areas; it is a valuable farm fertilizer and deserves good handling; at the same time it is the subject of considerable controversy relating to both water and air pollution. We urge livestock producers to learn as much as possible about the way to manage manure, about the regulations in the community in regards to environment, and to make a special effort to get along with nearby neighbors. The practice of storing the waste for several months at a time and then spreading it just prior to plowing or working it into the soil is a good one, but does not suit on many farms because of the lack of storage space. Farmers are urged to become interested in community regulations and state laws that may be too restrictive in the practical handling of farm manure.

To Beware of

High Machinery Overhead

At a recent meeting of our cattle feeders Fred Hughes of our Penn State Farm Management Section reminded our farmers of the danger of getting too much overhead for the cattle to pay for. Since our farms are small in size, it is very easy to get a high machinery investment that makes it difficult to justify the ownership of some of the larger, more expensive machines; he referred to large tractors, combines, and crop harvesters. In many cases it would be more efficient to use custom operators or have joint ownership of the more expensive machinery. Good farms records will reveal the overhead load and the cost per unit of production.



A LIFE AFTER BIRTH

Lesson for February 27, 1972

Background Scripture: Luke 24:1-49.
Devotional Reading: 1 John 1:1-7.

In Lloyd Douglas' novel, *THE GREEN LIGHT*, one of his characters muses on the universal desire and belief in immortality. Most people, he notes, think of it only in terms of a "consciousness after death." "Only a few,



Rev. Althouse

comparatively," he says, "make use of the immortality concept as a practical measure available here and now . . . Whatever may be the value of it elsewhere, in some other pattern of life, its chief benefit accrues to us in our daily living."

No "cop-out"!

Karl Marx called religion "the opiate of the people." He believed that religion was used so that people, looking to the eventual bliss of heaven, would placidly accept the injustices of life on earth. For him, religion was, in the terms of today, a "cop-out."

What Marx and so many other have missed, however, is that one of the greatest benefits of the Christian belief in the resurrection of Christ is what that belief inspires people to do in the here and now of life. What we believe about eternal life has tremendous

effect in the way we live our daily lives. The resurrection of Jesus Christ speaks to us, not only of a life beyond death, but a life after birth as well.

Sophie Tucker, the singer, once said in tribute of songwriter Irving Berlin: "What a wonderful feeling it must be to know while you're still alive that you're immortal!" Actually, her statement had a deeper significance than she may have realized, because this is precisely what the resurrection faith means to us: that while we are still alive here on earth, we know we are immortal. And because we know we are immortal, we can live without the fear of death. As the writer of Hebrews puts it, Christ came to "deliver all those who through the fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage."

Linked with a living Lord

When Jesus walked with the two disciples on the Emmaus road, what he gave them was not a doctrine of immortality, but a living Presence. This is also what the resurrection means to German theologian Helmut Thielicke: ". . . this story is no longer a museum piece. At a single stroke it has altered my own life. For in such circumstances Jesus Christ is a living Lord with whom I may be linked at any moment, who now speaks to me and to whom I may speak . . ."

That is the beauty of the resurrection. It assures me of eternity and thus frees me to fully invest myself—all that I have and am—in the present. I don't have to be afraid to spend myself for I am linked with a living Lord who promises me the fullness of life, after both death and birth.

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