

Across the

Editor's Desk

AMERICA'S FARM STRENGTH

An agricultural milestone was passed in 1971 when the American Farm Bureau Federation rang up its two millionth member family. This is almost certain to have a substantial influence on the continuing growth and stability of U.S. agriculture in the years to come.

It is a tribute to the American Farm Bureau Federation that it has grown steadily in membership during an evolutionary period in agriculture which has seen the number of farms decline from 6.8 million in 1935 to about 2.9 million in 1971. Moreover, the policies and programs of the Farm Bureau have played no small part in improving agricultural efficiency so that as the number of farmers decline food production in the U.S. is now greater than

it has ever been. The Farm Bureau represents—and advocates—basic principles of agricultural independence. And its members support a market-oriented farm economy. They believe in a minimum of government controls and regulations. Spokesmen for the Farm Bureau have reiterated again and again their support of federal farm legislation that would relieve farmers and all of the nation's taxpayers of costly politically-managed farm programs.

In passing the two-million member mark, the American Farm Bureau Federation gives evidence not only of its own vitality and continuing purpose but provides encouragement to those who believe agriculture and the American farm remain one of the strongest bulwarks of individual liberty and a primary source of this country's abundance.

A Confusing Situation

Believe it or not, but what goes on in the legislative halls at Harrisburg, affects every one of us here in this area. And right now the actions of our state lawmakers are a bit confusing, to say the least.

With an income tax which will turn a supposed recent deficit into one of the largest surpluses in history, the august members of the legislature aren't even discussing, seriously that is, any form of tax reduction.

Sure the Senate passed a measure to reduce the 23 percent income tax but while they were so doing, it was a known fact that the Democrats in the lower house would spike the whole affair — plus the open declaration by the governor that he would veto the whole thing if it ever did reach his desk.

And all of this goes on even before the state budget is drawn up, leaving many of us with the impression that all they are concerned with is **get the money and we'll find ways to spend it!**

One move by Senator Tighman to have the subject of tax reductions debated on a specific date was blocked when the Democrats presented a motion to adjourn, which takes precedence over all other motions and is not debatable. And thus any further business in the Senate was halted abruptly for the entire week.

In order to expedite the usually slow and

confused progression of business in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives the Assemblymen decided last Monday to conduct a month-long experiment in modern legislative management. Conceived in the hearts of frustrated legislators and modeled from the pages of "Toward Tomorrow's Legislature," new House procedures were adopted to "bring more order" to the House sessions while discouraging "legislator truancy" and snail-pace floor action.

The trial procedures will extend through the month of March and provide for a strictly run three-day legislative week. At the beginning of each session, the roll will be called verbally and each Representative is required to respond by saying "here" as he rises in his seat. According to the new schedule, Monday sessions will begin at 4:30 P.M. and are reserved for moving "consent" bills on the calendar. Consent measures are those which require no debate and attract less than five or six negative votes. Tuesday sessions begin at 1:30 P.M. and are reserved for debate and floor action on controversial bills. Wednesday sessions, beginning at 11:00 A.M., will also be reserved for action on controversial bills. At the close of the Wednesday session, House leaders will identify the "consent" measures to be considered the following Monday.

Compulsory Unionism Pays

The following item entitled "A \$20,000 Pay Raise? It's Easy When You Have Compulsory Unionism" appeared in the December Newsletter of Pennsylvanians for Right to Work:

No wonder George Meany calls his fellow members on the Pay Board and ad-

ministration officials "pipsqueak hatched men Little League umpires" when they discuss the 5½ per cent guidelines for wage increases. His fellow AFL-CIO union professionals, basking in the Miami Beach sun, just gave him a 28 per cent salary increase, from \$70,000 to \$90,000. But then why shouldn't they? Here's what some other union officials are "earning"

Frank E. Fitzsimmons, Teamsters, \$125,000, plus expenses

Joseph Curran, Maritime, \$102,102, plus expenses

James T. Housewright, Retail Clerks, \$73,708, including allowances and expenses

Peter Fosco, Laborers, \$71,132, including expenses

John Lyons, Iron Workers, \$77,674, including expenses

Hunter P. Wharton, Operating Engineers, \$93,200, including expenses
Is compulsory unionism worth fighting for? Just ask any union professional!

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Plow Down Manure

The time of the year is coming when most farmers will be hauling manure and preparing their fields for the 1972 crops. With the current interest in the proper handling of barnyard manure it is difficult to know the best way to store the manure until spring plowing arrives. But we are quite sure that once the manure goes to the field, that it should be plowed down or disced down deeply, as soon as possible in order to prevent much run-off. By this time of the year some liquid manure storage tanks are getting full and will have to be emptied very soon. When the several months manure supply goes out to the field, the quicker it is plowed down or mixed with the soil, the greater will be the benefits and lower will be the problem of pollution.

To Apply Winter Spray Oils

Many ornamental trees and shrubs are bothered with various kinds of scale; the time to start control for this year with a dormant oil spray is now. I'm referring to all types of ornamental fruit trees such as plum, cherry, and crabapple and to many varieties of euonymus, that are seriously susceptible to scale. Following the winter spray oil should be two sprays in early June and two sprays in early August with malathion or demethoate to control the crawlers that may hatch out in warm weather. Scale infestation

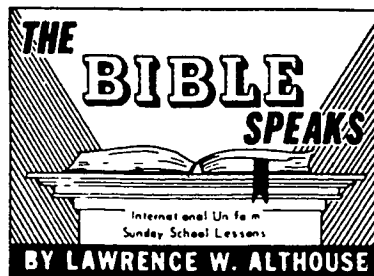
may be serious on some trees and lower their growth and vitality; sprays are necessary.

To Shear Sheep

Warmer weather will soon arrive when the sheep flock will become very uncomfortable with their crop of wool. We suggest that the fleece be removed within the next month and stored in a clean, dry place until sale time. It is not too early to shear sheep in this part of the country and most ewes will be better mothers when sheared. If the fleece is left on the animal until hot weather arrives, there may be some rubbing and loss of wool. If the wool clip is to be taken to one of the nearby wool mills to be graded, then the fleece should be tied with paper twine, with the flesh side out, and stored as suggested above. The sheep should be thoroughly dry when sheared.

To Order Fertilizer

This may be a late suggestion to many producers but continues to be important to those who have not ordered their needs for this spring. We are told of a phosphorus shortage in the fertilizer industry and some producers may not be able to have their needs met if they wait too long. Many local soils are low in phosphorus and this element is the one that controls yields of many crops; growers are urged to check their fertilizer needs and be sure that the proper kinds are coming your way. A complete soil test is the best way to learn the needs of a soil and there's still time to get a test on any soil where the needs are unknown.



REALLY ONE!

Lesson for March 19, 1972

Background Scripture Acts 4:32-37,
Romans 15
Devotional Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9

Some people don't read the Bible because they feel they can't understand it. Others don't read it because they do understand it and don't like what they understand!

The passage in Acts 4:32-37 is one of those that has the capacity to disturb some readers of the Bible. For one thing, the economic practices of that little band of Christians strikes some discerning readers as being somewhat Communistic. The writer of Acts seems to say that there was no private property — no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common" (4:32b)

"As any had need"

Furthermore, distribution of goods was not on the basis of labor or merit. . . distribution was made to each as any had need" (4:35) This does sound like a primitive Marxism where productivity does not provide for accumulation of private wealth and capital. Immediately we begin to think of those age-old questions: How can there be any

incentive in a society like this? Doesn't this encourage some people to live off the labor of others? Etc

Their method of holding "everything in common" and distributing goods "to each as any had need" had one overriding purpose to meet fully the needs of all who were in the fellowship! And apparently they were successful, for the writer of Acts tells us: "There was not a needy person among them . . . (4:34)

What we have here is not a primitive Marxist ideology, but an expression of Christian unity. This fellowship was a "company of those who believed . . . of one heart and soul." From this oneness there grew a concern for each other's welfare.

The reason for their power

Jesus had prayed for their oneness and had explained the spiritual basis for their unity. They knew they were called to be one fellowship, but it was in their evident concern for each other that they demonstrated their oneness was real Christian unity and fellowship may be prayed for, sung and preached about, and earnestly proclaimed, but if it is not evident in the way we respond to the needs of one another, we are not really one.

But does this mean that we too must possess "everything in common" and put our material wealth into a common pool? No, the method is not so important so long as we carry out the same purpose they had to care for one another's needs. What God calls us to achieve is a Christian fellowship where there are no needy persons because in one way or another we have shared what we have and demonstrated that we are really one.

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