

Questionable Decision

In a commentary on the banning of virtually all use of DDT after 1972 by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Business Week observes: It is true that the dangers of DDT—its buildup in the environment, in the food chain, in human tissues—have been raised as a public health issue for a decade. But in the last half-dozen years, enough evidence has come in to cast doubt on some of the earliest indictments . . ."

Business Week called attention to a six-year-old research effort of the National Pesticides Monitoring Program which has failed to detect rising levels of DDT in human fat tissues. It reports that other government scientists have found that

methods used to detect DDT in animal tissues pick up the presence of other toxic chemicals that until recently could not be distinguished from DDT. Antarctic penguins that were said to show evidence of DDT residue back in the mid-1960's, it has now been determined, contained no DDT residue at all.

The examiner who conducted the DDT hearings has concluded that: "Too many of the environmental witnesses who appeared at this hearing (offered) words that were not those of a free mind. Nor did they express a proper respect for the discipline of a free science . . ." It begins to look as if DDT were condemned by a kangaroo court.

Understanding Meat

The U.S. has the most abundant meat supply the world has ever known. Per capita meat consumption in the United States over the past 20 years has increased spectacularly, thanks to the availability at fair prices of a steadily rising supply of meat. The meat industry is a perfect example of the pressures of a free market working in a constructive way to encourage an industry to respond most effectively to the needs and preferences of consumers.

This year, one of meat's oldest industry organizations, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, is observing its 50th Anniversary. In the course of that observance, it has endeavored to tell the public of some of the things that the industry and the Meat Board have done in behalf of consumers, as well as the industry during the past five decades. The Board has consistently followed a program of promotion,

education, information and scientific research. It has sought to stimulate the efforts of the meat industry to present a desirable, palatable, high quality and nutritionally acceptable product to the American people, and the industry has done its job well. It has solved its problems without government help, built demand for its products and advanced the cause of independence in agriculture. Success in all of these areas has meant one thing to the consuming public—the availability of a bounteous meat supply, no matter where we may live in our three million square mile nation.

By telling of the achievements of the meat industry during the observation of its Golden Anniversary, the National Live Stock and Meat Board is helping to build public understanding of a vital industry at a time when that understanding is most critically needed.

The God of Nature

Part of the reason for a nostalgic desire to return to yesterday is an imaginary conception of what yesterday was like. Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, in discussing the place of chemicals in food production, struck a realistic note that should help bring the dreamers back to Earth. He said, "It would be absolutely impossible to feed 207 million Americans, even on a subsistence level, without a substantial input of chemicals, of pesticides, of antibiotics. Food today is more healthful. We've banished the scab from the potato, we've taken the parasite out of the pig, we've taken the worm from the apple. The basic problem with us in

America, I think—and one of the reasons we get so much drive for organic agriculture—is that two thirds of Americans are so young that they never had the experience of biting into a wormy apple and looking at the worm hole and wondering, 'Is he still in there, or did I get him?' Those people think that the god of nature automatically made nice, red, juicy, plump, nutritious apples. As a matter of fact, the god of nature put the worm in the apple and man took him out."

What is true of the apple is true of many other phases of life where man has removed the traps that the god of nature has placed in his way.

Grassroots Opinions

FULTON, MISS., ITAWAMBA COUNTY TIMES: "The people who work for a company have a far larger stake in its success or failure than the people who own it. U.S. Government figures show that most companies pay out more than ten times as much in wages, salaries and employee benefits as they do in dividends to stockholders. If a company doesn't do well, a stockholder may have to go without his dividends, perhaps lose a part of his savings; but an employee may lose his job and his means of earning a living!"

BEACH HAVEN, N.J., TIMES: "The disillusionment of many of the bitter critics of every administration is testimony to the fact that those who take party platforms too seriously invite disappointment. The average voter, therefore, should be prepared to accept the two parties' platforms in August with at least a grain of salt."

RUSKIN, NEBR., LEADER: "For a long time this country has been trying to im-

prove the poor man's lot by raising the minimum wage. It has only succeeded in spawning two more categories of parasites—the lazy relievers at the bottom and the lazy overpaid officials at the top."

NAPOLEON, OHIO, NORTHWEST-SIGNAL: "I reckon it's a good thing that outer space is infinite. Man has not been aware of his ability to litter the vast area to a saturation point, but you gotta give him credit for trying. Tis said that already man has a couple thousand discarded devices floating in the heavens."

GETTYSBURG, S.D., POTTER COUNTY NEWS: "Just what is the destiny of our inflated dollar? Three Harvard professors took the dollar to task in a recent research problem: Based on the dollar being worth 47 cents in buying power in 1970, they figure by 1990 it will be worth approximately 6 cents in honest to goodness buying power. I guess when the dollar inflates down to a big fat 'zero', we'll all return to the forest to fight he squirrels for whatever nuts are left on the trees!"

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



To Fertilize Alfalfa Stands

The fall application of a phosphorus-potash fertilizer to established stands of alfalfa is strongly recommended. Since alfalfa is a very heavy feeder of both phosphorus and potash from the soil, it is important to replace these elements at least once each year; for maximum yields it is suggested to fertilize both in the fall and then again after the first cutting. Well-fertilized stands of alfalfa will produce more tonnage of forage and will be less likely to be damaged by improper management such as cutting at the wrong time of maturity. Alfalfa continues to be the major forage crop in this part of the country and every effort should be made to get maximum tonnage every year.

To Manage Horizontal Silos

The use of trench, bunker, or other types of horizontal silos is quite common; this means of storing silage is one of the most economical methods, providing good management is used. It requires more careful attention to fill and seal a horizontal structure that it does most tower silos; this is because it is more difficult to get the silage packed tightly and to seal out most of the air. Silo fillers are urged to have smooth sides to the silo so that the silage will pack without air pockets; also it is very important to fill the silo as rapidly as possible, chop the forage fine, pack it solid and seal out the air within 48 hours of completion of the filling operation. Careful

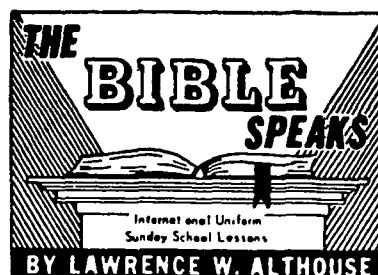
attention to these practices is most important.

To Use Herbicide On New Alfalfa

Alfalfa growers who were able to get their August seeding made, and with the recent showers, it will soon be time to give some attention to the control of weeds in this new stand. Unless Eptam was used on the field just prior to seeding, the small weeds will be coming along with the alfalfa and need to be eliminated. This requires a spray with a herbicide such as 2, 4-D, B (butyric acid) when the weeds are 1 to 2 inches high. If the weeds are allowed to get larger, then it will be very difficult to kill them without harming the small alfalfa plants. We suggest that the field be sprayed even though very few weeds are noticeable; in many cases the spraying is not done and then in a few weeks the weeds are noticed and are too large to control. Weed control is needed in order to keep the weeds from smothering out the alfalfa plants.

To Plan Carefully for Remodeling

Many producers of all kinds of food and feed products are thinking of expanding or remodeling their buildings in order to stay in the farming business. This decision has confronted many producers in the past decade and will reach many others in the future. Before any definite building plans or decisions are made, it might be a good idea to visit a number of operations in order to observe what others have done and benefit from their experiences.



HIDDEN WISDOM

Lesson for September 17, 1972

Background Scripture: Job 38: 42; proverbs 3 13-20, 1 Corinthians 1 through 2
Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31.

In the early days of the twentieth century, a young school teacher named Scopes was fired from his job in Dayton, Tennessee because he had attempted to teach his class some aspects of Charles Darwin's concept of evolution. Believing this new scientific theory to be contrary to the Bible and religious doctrine, the elders of that town were determined that it would not be taught to their children.



Rev. Althouse

Among the mature

Though young Scopes was defended by the renowned attorney, Clarence Darrow, the elders of Dayton, Tennessee prevailed and many other communities followed suit. The ideological "cold war" between science and religion soon became a "hot war."

Much has happened since those fearful days. To be sure, some people are still fighting that war, but many people have come to realize that science and religion do not have to be enemies. In fact, both science and religion are enhanced when they have due respect for each other's contribu-

tion to life. A mature mind today has room for both.

One of the things we have come to learn is that science and religion are often different perspectives on the same reality. They cannot be paired against each other, but rather are complementary to each other. In very generalized terms, science tells us "how" and religion tells us "why." The book of Genesis, for example, does not give us a scientific or technical description of Creation, but it does tell us the "why" of Creation and, even more important, the "Who."

Beyond eye and ear

The wisdom of religion and the wisdom of science are different kinds of religion. Paul says: "Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age . . ." (1 Cor. 2:6). Science takes the material things and processes of life and analyzes them. "But," says Paul, "we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God . . ." (2:7).

Our problem is that we forget that there are many levels of reality. If the scientist is to answer the psalmist's question, "what is man . . .?", he will speak of man's physical components. If the educator answers the question, he will do so in terms of his intelligence. So, also, the sociologist will speak of his social behaviour and the psychologist his emotional state. There is also the view of the economist, the political scientist, and the anthropologist. And yet there is more to man.

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived . . ." (2:9).

The "secret and hidden wisdom of God" speaks to us of a reality that exists beyond the eye and ear of man.