

Out of Kilter



Grassroots Opinions

"DuPage county, Illinois, has built a 150-foot-high ski mountain out of trash, Mount Trashmore, the highest point in the county," says a publication of the Public Service Company of Colorado, "will be laced with five 1,200-foot ski runs, five 1,000-foot toboggan trails, picnic areas, and other recreational facilities. Electric power will run the snow-making machines, refrigeration equipment for the runs, and the ski lifts."

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"If you are interested in avoiding fatal accidents," comments Cipsco News, a Central Illinois Public Service Company publication, "... and isn't everyone? ... statistics show that you are safest while at work. Of 114,000 accidental deaths in the United States during 1970, only 9.5 percent occurred while the person was at work, according to National Safety Council statistics. That compares with 48.1 percent in motor vehicles, 23.1 percent at home and 19.3 percent at play."

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"We must review with profound respect the infinite capacity of the human mind to resist the introduction of useful knowledge."—Mr. Thomas R. Lounsbury.

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More than half of the families in the U.S. had annual incomes of \$10,000 or more in 1971 for the first time in history, according to the Bureau of the Census. The new median, \$10,290, was 4.2 percent higher than the 1970 family income median of \$9,870. However, since consumer prices rose during the year, median family income in 1971 was about the same as the 1970 figure in terms of constant dollars. These Census Bureau income estimates are based upon a nationwide survey of about 47,000 U.S. households made in March of 1972.

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"A free nation must cultivate the talent of its people and increase the opportunities for free men to develop and learn their great individual potentials, skills and undiscovered talents."—Mr. John W. Gardner.

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Better packaging has contributed to

improved efficiency of handling food between farmers and consumers, and as a result saves the consumer about \$10 billion per year, reports an extension economist at Ohio State University.

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"There is today a distinct danger of nationalization of the railroads. If that happened, it would be a turning point in the long history of our country because if we can't solve the railroad problems under free enterprise, the rot will spread to the rest of transportation and from there to the electric utilities; from there to coal and from there to steel and who knows where it will end."—Mr. J.V. Springrose, vice president, Cargill, Inc.

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The National Association of Manufacturers states that, "The cost of running Congress has doubled. In 1968 appropriations for the legislative branch totaled \$277.5 million and for 1972 the figure was \$557 million."

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"Industry has been indiscriminately accused by some of ignoring the pollution problems of our times and being responsible for most of them. The charge is dead wrong."—Mr. Maurice H. Stans, former Secretary of Commerce.

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"Garbage is becoming big business. It's not just the back alley collection," says the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation, "but a whole new recycling of garbage and waste into different forms which can be reused and -or relocated. . . (In 1971) this phase of the garbage business grossed \$8 billion in the U.S.A. and involved hundreds of new corporations. . . Give Americans a problem and someone will solve it."

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The "Floodlight", an Iowa Public Service Company publication, forecasts, "Energy from the sun could someday supply our electrical needs without polluting the environment. It is still only a dream of mankind. . . some say a fantasy. But, enough solar energy falls on the U.S. every 20 minutes to fill the nation's entire power needs for a year."

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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To Beware of "Gib" Fungus in Corn

Due to the adverse weather conditions last fall at corn harvest time, there is a fungus infection present in some corn crops. Many of these cases have been found in corn imported from the mid-west. To the eye there would appear to be nothing wrong with the shelled corn but some hogs will not consume it. We have had a few local calls reporting this experience. Local feeders are urged to be on the alert for this problem and give it due attention because if some hogs do eat the fungus-infected grains they will be the loser. The diluting of this corn with two to five times as much good grain is suggested as a method of utilizing the corn

To Plan Waste Disposal Systems

Manure storage and handling will become more of a problem on many poultry and livestock farms as additional regulations are passed. We urge all producers to take the time to plan ahead for the storage and disposal of the manure problem. It has a great fertilizer value and is worth due attention. Even though the government program that did offer some financial assistance has been terminated, there is still need for planning and compliance with existing regulations. Run-off from feedlots and barnyards into public streams must be prevented as much as possible.

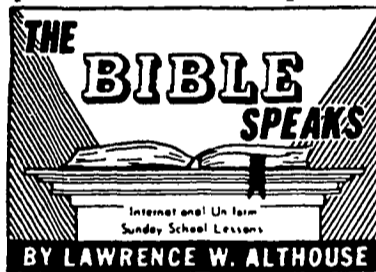
Agriculture must move ahead and meet these needs with or without government aid.

To Care for Dairy Heifers

The future of the dairy herd largely depends upon the replacements. Careful attention to the proper growth and development of the dairy heifers is most important. Even though some small dairy cows may produce as much as larger ones, it is accepted that good large cows are better than good small cows; the price of beef after the milking life of a cow reflects the value of having as much weight as possible to sell. Adequate nutrients to meet growing needs are very important the first two years. Growth measurements may be taken and compared to average for the breed. Good quality hay and silage should be the foundation of the ration. Some grain may be needed depending upon the quality of the roughage and the flesh of the heifer. Internal and external parasites must be eliminated. Dairy heifers are a very valuable farm commodity. Special attention is suggested.

To Prepare Farm Machinery

Even though we haven't had much severe winter weather to date, spring is approaching when every farmer will be anxious to get his 1973 crops started. With good machinery in a good state of repair he should be ready to get the work done; however, with poor machinery not ready for the work load, he will be delayed and handicapped for a good crop. If the machinery has not been serviced or replaced, it is time to get on it. Planting dates are important and delays will be very costly.



MY HARDEST LESSON

Lesson for February 18, 1973

Background Scripture: Zechariah 1:1-6, 4.
Devotional Reading: Micah 6:6-8.

Basically, I am an activist, a doer.

Usually, I would rather tackle a problem than debate it. Even when things seem bleak, I would rather, as the saying goes, "light just one candle, than curse the darkness."



Rev. Althouse

That is why it is particularly hard for me to "let go and let God." Intellectually I know better, but practically speaking, I forget that this is God's world and He, not I, will determine its course through time and space. Because I believe in "doing something" when confronted by a challenge, I neglect to remember, necessary as it is for me to "do something," that God also is at work in this world. For me, no matter how many times I return to this realization, this is always my hardest lesson to learn.

"Not by might, nor by power . . ."

There is nothing wrong in being an activist or in being a "doer," so long as we keep our own efforts in perspective. Singular reliance on our own efforts, our own resources can amount to subtle self-deification. There is in this attitude a conviction that "If I don't do it, it won't get done."

To carry this line of motivation a step further, what we are really saying, although usually without quite realizing it, is that we do not truly trust God. There is in our attitude the implication that God is not dependable, that we can't count on him when "the chips are down," that we are, in fact, the only ones upon whom we can depend

If that line of reasoning sounds somewhat blasphemous, it is because it really is! To fail to trust God, to trust only our ourselves, is definitely a rejection of God, whether or not we are aware of it. The man who needs no one else, not even God, has made a religion of himself.

"... But by My Spirit"

The prophet Zechariah is not trying to discourage the returned exiles from doing what they can do in meeting their problems and challenges. He is not counselling them to sit back passively and let God do it all. What he is trying to communicate to them is that when they have done their best, when they have exerted their "might" and "power," it is still the Spirit of God that makes the difference, that can turn defeat into victory, failure into success.

What I need to learn is what they resisted learning: that when we have used all our God-given "might" and "power," we must put it in God's hands and trust him to do even more than we ask. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord of hosts" (4:6). I ought to have that inscribed across the face of my wristwatch where hourly I could be reminded of it and approach life with the realization that I do not face it alone.

That is my hardest lesson. What about you? Have you learned it yet?