

## Reassuring Power Cushion

A pamphlet published by The Chase Manhattan Bank entitled, "Outlook for Energy in the United States to 1985" presents an exhaustive analysis of energy consumption trends and potential energy sources of all kinds - coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear, etc. The pamphlet's foreword contains a few paragraphs pertaining to our dependence on energy that are startling reminders of what that small light switch on the wall signifies.

It is pointed out that, "Because there would be virtually no agricultural activity without energy, very little food could be produced and the food could not be cooked even if it were available. Lacking energy, homes and all other buildings could not be heated - or cooled. Except for walking, there would be virtually no means of transportation without energy - not even bicycles could be manufactured. Private automobiles, aircraft, trains, trucks, busses, ships, and rapid transit systems

would all be halted. Neither people nor freight would be able to move. Most of the activities of government could not be carried on if there were no energy. Schools, churches, hospitals, doctors, and dentists could not function effectively . . . communication would cease."

In the light of the foregoing, some figures released by the Federal Power Commission on electric energy reserves are comforting. During the winter of 1972 and 1973, the FPC forecasts that only two regions of the country will have less than 25 percent reserves - the Southeast and the West. The Southeast, the FPC estimated, should have a 16 percent excess of supply over demand, and the West should have 20.9 percent. These reassuring figures reflect the continuing determination of the investor-owned electric industry to carry out its primary obligation of meeting U.S. energy demands. When the chips are down, there is no alternative either for the industry or for the nation.

## We're Better Off Than We Think

Higher beef prices - a particularly sharp thorn in the side of most household food budgets - have been caused by many things. Relatively heavy demand for feed grains due to foreign sales, weather delayed harvests, and the general progression of inflation continually fired by federal government deficit spending have had their effect. One of the most important factors is high consumer demand for beef. And here is the key point: Supply and demand in the marketplace set the price for beef regardless of farmer-rancher cost of production.

As an authority in the industry has pointed out, beef, unlike most manufactured products, has a fluctuating price level. It goes both up and down. When supplies are reduced, prices tend to rise because consumers are bidding against each other for available meat. Higher prices provide the incentive for farmers and ranchers to invest in bigger herds and

expand their facilities. The effect of this is to increase supply which, in the long run, has the effect of bringing lower prices. All this is going on right now, but it takes 20 to 24 months to produce a 1,000 pound feedlot-finished steer ready to be sold to a packer. U.S. beef production has been boosted 2.5 times in the past 20 years, and it is estimated it will have to be doubled again by the end of the century. This can be done, but those who raise beef cattle will have to make enough from their effort to pay their cost of production plus enough profit to encourage them to expand herds and production facilities.

Now is the time for a little patience, a little shopping judgment and effort and an understanding of the incentive-producing free market forces that can be counted on to continue to produce the meat abundance to which we are accustomed. Also, it should be kept in mind that Americans still pay less of their income for food than any other people in the world.

## Grassroots Opinion

"If we suppose that the taxpayer or his tax service spend four hours on the average on each return, the total time amounted to the horrendous total of 300 million man-hours, or the equivalent of 150,000 men working 40 hours a week for 50 weeks a year—," Mr. Milton Friedman is said to have remarked, according to an Otter Tail Power Company publication, "and this does not include the time spent by employees of business enterprises in withholding taxes and preparing W-2s or by high-priced lawyers and accountants advising clients on tax matters or by the governmental employees on the other side of the Internal Revenue desk."

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The National Safety Council has noted that safety belts are now available to about seven out of eight of all passenger car occupants, but the belts are being used only about 40 percent of the time, on the average. As a consequence, slightly more than one out of three car occupants are indicated to have been using their safety belts at any given time. Current information indicates that if all passenger car occupants used belts at all times, such use would save 8,000 to 10,000 lives annually.

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"A man should always consider how much he has more than he wants, and how much more unhappy he might be than he really is."—Joseph Addison.

The Kansas Power and Light Company reports an interesting development in the coal industry. In a company publication it was said that, "Scientists at the U.S. Bureau of Mines' Coal Research Center are looking for ways to use fly ash, the waste product of coal-fired boilers. Some 20 million tons of fly ash accumulate every year, largely from electric power generation. One use holds promise of making winter driving safer. Preliminary tests indicate that when about two pounds of fly ash are formulated with tire tread rubber, traction and skid resistance on icy roads are improved, yet the tire's wear properties are not impaired."

CLAYSVILLE, PA., RECORDER: "The world of business is a mystery to too many of us and more companies should undertake programs to acquaint students and the general public with their operations."

NEW ALBANY, MISS., GAZETTE: "A friend offers these statistics revealed at a meeting where women were surveyed on their feelings about deceptive packaging in retailing. Unexpectedly, the survey showed that 15 percent of the women tinted their hair; 38 percent wore wigs; 80 percent wore rouge; 98 percent wore lipstick; 25 percent had on eyeshadow; 22 percent false eyelashes; 93 percent wore nail polish; and 100 percent approved a resolution condemning any kind of false packaging."

**NOW IS  
THE TIME . . .**

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### To Plant Corn Carefully

Corn planting time is at hand and some fields have already been planted. Growers are urged to take time to have their planters dropping kernels at the desired rate. Don't forget to allow for some mortality due to birds, insects, etc. Also, corn for silage can be planted 10 percent thicker than corn for grain on most farms. The use of insecticides at planting time is a good way to control such insects as cutworms, rootworms, and stalk borers. Some of these insects have been giving considerable trouble in recent years. The treatment at planting time is a good time to get this protection. Further details on corn insect control is found in the 1973 Agronomy Guide.

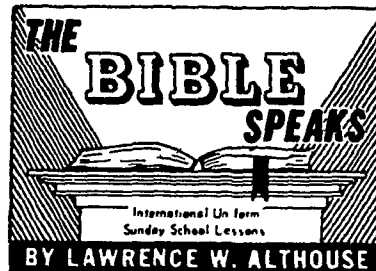
### To Recognize Stage Of Maturity

Forage crops are growing rapidly and some may be ready for harvesting in the next few weeks. Winter rye for silage should be cut when the head is emerging from the top of the plant. Other winter grains may be cut at their top feeding value after heading, and when in the blossom stage. All grasses are best when cut at heading time. Mature plants may give more total pounds but will not contain as much real feed value. Legumes should be cut in the bud to early blossom stage on established stands. New Alfalfa

should be showing at least 25 percent of the plants in bloom. Quality hay or silage has always been very important but this year with the higher values on protein feeds, top quality forages are most important. The Extension publication, "Silages and Silos" is available from our Extension Office and includes helpful suggestions regarding proper time of cutting.

### To Be Careful With Left-Overs

After the planting season, left-over seeds and chemicals should be carefully stored for later use, or discarded. The seeds from crops such as corn and oats should not be fed to livestock of any kind; if these seeds were purchased from a seed dealer or if they were treated with any fungicide or insecticide, they are not to be fed to livestock. They should be kept away from children and all livestock. Surplus fertilizers or chemicals must be stored safely in a dry place and again out of the reach of children and animals. Fertilizer should be stored in a dry place and not on earthen or concrete floors. Pesticide safety is very important at all times.



## THE LAST BEATITUDE

Lesson for April 29, 1973

Background Scripture: Matthew 16:13-16; John 20:24-31; Acts 16:25-34; Romans 10:5-13.  
Devotional Reading: Psalms 46.

Most of us are familiar with the beatitudes which are given to us in Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount. Perhaps we had to memorize them in church school or confirmation class:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth . . . Etc. Because we may not

understand too well the meaning of that word "blessed," the New English Bible translates it as "How blest . . ." and the Today's English Version makes it "Happy . . ." ("Happy are the poor in spirit . . ."/"How blest are the poor in spirit . . .").

### Do not be faithless

Yet, as well known as these beatitudes are, there is still another one that is often overlooked by most of us. It is found, not in the Sermon on the Mount, but in one of the resurrection appearances of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel According to John. It is the last of all the beatitudes of Jesus given to his disciples. We know the familiar story of

Thomas, the one whom we call "Doubting . . ." The facts are simple: while he was away, the other disciples claimed to have been visited by the risen Jesus. Thomas found that too good to be true and refused to believe his co-workers. So dubious was he, that he announced that he would believe only when he could touch and feel this apparition.

When Jesus returned again to the upper room, he challenged the startled disciple to go through with his tests and see for himself whether or not he was real. Most people assume that Thomas then did touch the wounds of Jesus, although the writer, John, gives us no such evidence. In fact, as John records it, as soon as Jesus has given him the challenge, Thomas's doubt is overcome and he pours out his overdue confession: "My Lord and my God!"

### Believing without seeing

Jesus uses the slowness of Thomas's faith to lay down a great principle: the higher blessedness comes to those who can believe without proof . . . "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

This may seem strange to us and many of us may well assume it is an invitation to believe recklessly, but it is not. It is based on the assumption that we cannot afford to live on only that which is definitely proven. There is so much more to life than that. Often the greatest realities are those that require some sort of "leap-of-faith."

Even if science were able to prove most of the claims of the Christian faith, there would still be a need for faith. Man cannot live without faith; deprived of it, he withers and dies. It is that fact that makes the last beatitude so powerful: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe". (John 20:29).

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