

Time to Speak On the Freeze

By driving farmers out of business, the Administration's freeze on retail food prices could seriously curtail this country's food production in the months and years to come. As fast as food prices have risen in the past year, they haven't risen as fast as the farmers' cost of doing business.

The White House says it is limiting only retail prices, not the prices farmers get for their products. This is a specious argument, for it's apparent that food retailers can't sell food for less than they pay for it. Prices to farmers have historically been pegged more to the retail price than to the farmers' cost of doing business. Retailers aren't going to change their ways in order to assure farmers of a profit. They aren't going to change even to help farmers break even. And if the prices of feed and other farm inputs keep going up without a commensurate increase in retail food prices, a lot of farmers will go out of business.

Farmers have always been at the rusty end of the marketing chain. They've learned to live with the fact that they're going to accept what the buyer wants to

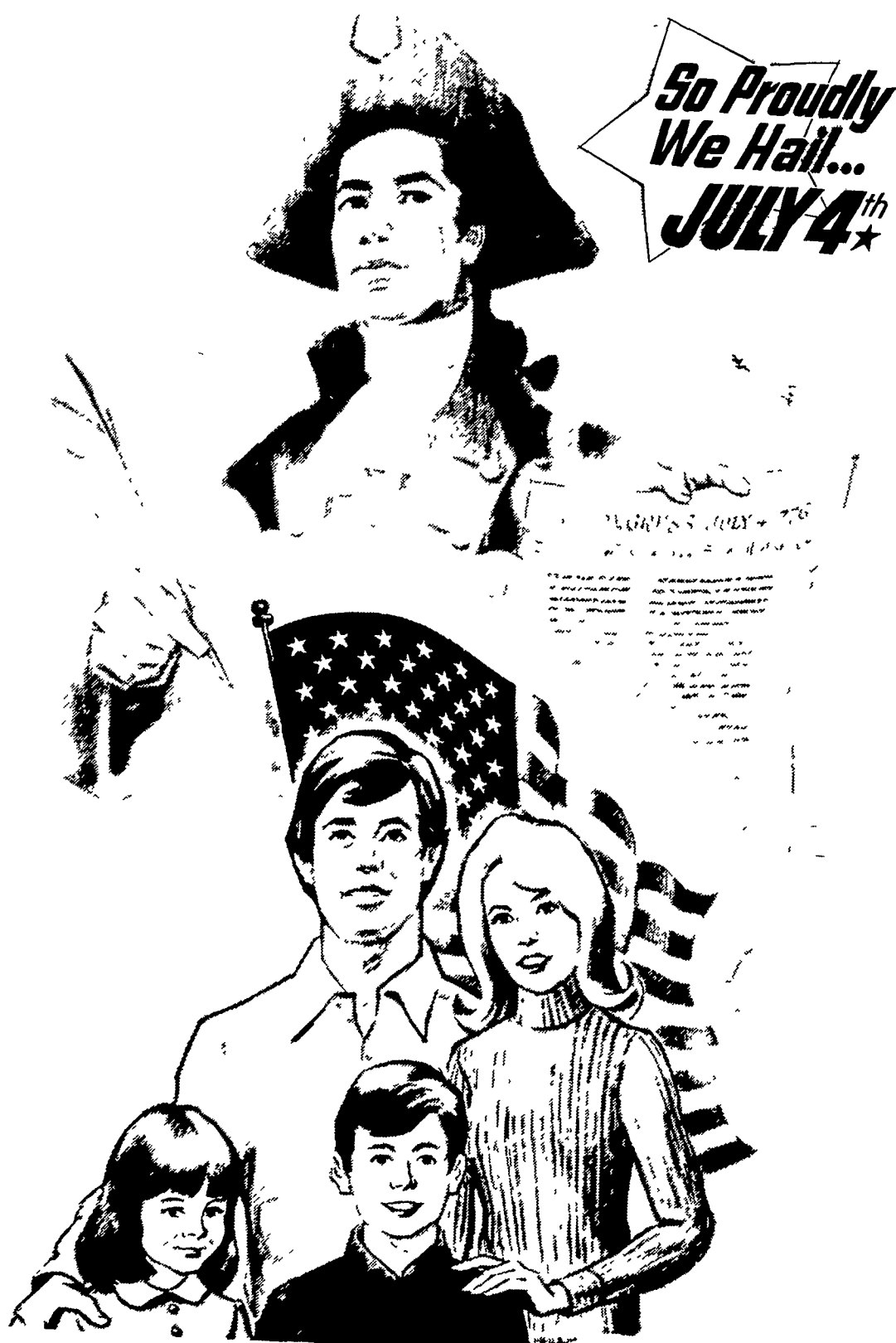
pay them for their produce, and most years they've managed to make a profit. There is no manager in the world, though, who can make a profit when he's selling his eggs for six cents a dozen less than it costs to produce them, or his milk for \$1.00 a hundred less than the cost of production.

Farm organizations around the country have raised their voices to the powers that be in Washington. They're calling for an immediate end to the freeze, and they may be having an effect.

Even more effective, though, can be the collective voices of farmers speaking as individuals. Tell your Congressman how high prices for feed, fuel and other inputs are limiting your ability to produce. Tell the President and the USDA what you think of a policy that limits or even cancels your profit without giving you protection against crippling losses. Tell your Senator why you don't like being a sacrificial goat in a blatantly political gesture to quiet the strident voices of consumers.

While you are the rusty link in the food chain, you are the most important link. This may be the time to rattle that chain loudly enough to be heard around the world.

REW



**NOW IS
THE TIME . . .**

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



To Consider OSHA Regulations

Last fall many farmers received a small pamphlet regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; for convenience this program is referred to as OSHA. This regulation concerns the health and safety of employees of anyone including farmers. Farmers are urged to obtain a copy of these regulations and become familiar with the various requirements. If the copy received last fall has been mislaid, another copy is available at our Extension Office. One very important part of this act is that the Safety and Health Poster (center pages of the pamphlet) is to be posted on the premises where the employees can see it. Fruit producers have been informed about some strict regulations concerning the spraying of their fruit trees; these regulations have now been suspended. Farmers should be concerned about future OSHA regulations because they may be very restricting, you might let your lawmakers know how you feel.

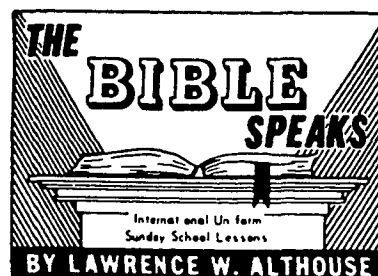
To Alternate Fly Insecticides

Fly control time is here and the weather has been favorable for rapid fly reproduction. Clean sanitary premises are very important to try and prevent a heavy fly population. When

residual sprays are used in the barn or other buildings, it might be a good idea to change insecticides during the summer, or from one year to the other, in order to prevent the flies from developing a resistance to one material. The residual sprays may include either cygon, baytex, korlan, or rabon. Any of these should keep the flies under control for a four to six week period, unless there is a resistance built up against one material. Pyrethrins or DDVP sprays may be used as space sprays; combinations of Ciodrin and DDVP can be effective against flies when applied to livestock.

To Keep Dogs Under Control

A stray dog can be regarded as a menace to agriculture and to the entire community. Many dog owners permit their dogs to run free and this is the cause of attacks on sheep, chickens, and other domestic animals. To the sheep producer a stray dog could mean serious damage to his flock; also, many local poultry producers have experienced considerable damage from stray dogs. During the spring and summer many forms of wildlife are reproducing and stray dogs and cats prey upon these small birds and animals. Dog owners are urged to keep their animals confined to their own property and kept tied, if they want to wander over the community. Some livestock producers will shoot stray dogs on sight and then inquire of the details.



THE PROMISE

Lesson for July 1, 1973

Background Scripture: Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverbs 23:22-25; Mark 7:9-13, Ephesians 6:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:5.
Devotional Reading: Psalms 78:1-7.

For many years I regarded the Fifth Commandment, "Honor your father and your mother . . .", as an arbitrary requirement imposed upon children for the sole benefit of their parents. It seems that way, doesn't it? The meaning is simple, it would seem: Obey your parents because God says so.

Yet, some years ago I discovered that this commandment is not arbitrary in the least. Of all the commandments, it best spells out the purpose behind it. Our problem is that in pronouncing this commandment, we stop too soon, saying, "Honor your father and mother . . .", and we ought to continue on with the whole sentence " . . . that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you" (Exodus 20:12).

Behind the commandment

I first realized this one day in reading Ephesians 6:2. The writer of that passage quotes the Fifth Commandment, "Honor your father and mother," and then goes on to make this commentary "(this is the first commandment with a promise)". A promise?

Looking back to Exodus 20, I found it: "Honor your father and mother that your days may be long in the land which the Lord gives you."

What this means is that when children honor their parents, they are much more likely to have a fuller, richer, more fruitful life. The writer of Ephesians expands upon this promise: "That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth" (6:3). Thus, once again, we see that the commandment is given to us, not to impose upon us an arbitrary style of conduct, but to establish a principle in our lives that will be beneficial for us.

Out of respect: harmony

So, the Fifth Commandment is not imposed upon children for the sole benefit of the parents, but for the benefit of the children, too. Absolutely necessary in the family is respect, beginning with respect for parents. From this respect there grows a family harmony and unity. This doesn't mean that it is guaranteed — for there are always other factors that may intervene — but that where there is respect in a home, there is also much more likely to be unity and harmony, too.

The writer of Ephesians makes it clear that the commandment did not intend for this to be a one-way respect. Immediately following the admonition, "Children, obey your parents, for this is right," (6:1), is an instruction to the parents. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (6:4).

It is not enough for children to honor and obey their parents. From the parents there must be a reciprocal response. And for both parents and children there is a promise that from this mutual respect, there shall be a deeper, fuller life for all.

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Rev. Althouse