

Corralling Inflation

The Gallup poll never fails to come up with some interesting items regarding the shifting course of public opinion. Quite predictably, inflation's effect on the cost of living is said to be the number one worry of over 60 percent of the people questioned at the present time.

If a majority of the people, in addition to worrying about inflation, also laid the primary blame for the problem at the door of elected officials responsible for massive government spending and mounting federal budget deficits and gave their

support to those who want to bring the federal budget under control, two thirds of the battle against inflation would have been won. Those of us who receive federal benefits either directly or indirectly must be willing to agree that those benefits should not be increased or expanded and should perhaps even be reduced. If this ever happens, the beast of inflation will be corralled. But, as things now stand, we've had to resort to another economic freeze, and it doesn't look like we know for sure even where to get a good hold on the animal.

Arbitration is a Better Way

Acting as an extra set of eyes and ears for the consumer has been the job of the Better Business Bureaus since their inception six decades ago. It has been a tough assignment, this closing of "...the gap between business performance and consumer expectations" and monitoring of business practices. But it has been a rewarding job for all concerned—especially since the formation of the Council of Better Business Bureaus in 1970 as a central leadership and coordinating agency, greatly strengthening the entire BBB system.

One of the most promising new approaches added to the BBB's list of services for consumers is arbitration. As the Council of Better Business Bureaus' Annual Report explains, "Arbitration is working for the consumer, for business...because it offers a viable alternative for those disputes that cannot be settled by the customer and the merchant, or through the...offices of the Bureau acting in its traditional role of mediator. In arbitration, disputes are presented to an impartial third party or

panel with the prior agreement by the parties than the decision of the arbitrator will be binding."

More than 165 cases have been heard by approximately 95 local Bureaus since the program was announced in 1972, with many of the remaining BBB's setting up more arbitration programs across the U.S. If the success of the arbitration program were to be analyzed, it could probably be traced to the attitude of the BBB organization. This cohesive group of businessmen, citizens and professionals believes in constructive consumerism. Its arbitrators are trained to be impartial fact-finders. Sometimes decisions favor consumers, sometimes business, or sometimes it is a compromise settlement for both parties.

It is this ability to look at both sides of a problem that has made the Council and its local Bureaus in 137 U.S. cities so effective. The BBB's have been an influential force for ethical standards in the marketplace, proving that competitive private enterprise can meet the needs of consumers better than anyone else, and on a voluntary basis at that.

"Grassroots Opinion"

HEALDSBURG, CALIF., TRIBUNE: "The country is moving ahead toward a cleaner, more ecologically pure balance. It can't be done overnight, as some woody wits would have us believe. Matter of fact, we have among us some instant-experts who by their gospel would like to see the country go back to its disease-ridden, often hungry wilderness state of 200 years ago. There's just one problem with this saving every weed, doing away with every pesticide and insecticide, fighting the cutting of any lumber tree, and eliminating fertilizers—200 years ago there were only a few million people in this nation; today there are over 200 million to feed and house. It's interesting to note that so many of the people against anything that might help improve the lot of their fellowman are people who are housed most comfortably, have extraordinarily fine jobs and have nothing but complete security in their future...yet often forget about the need for the well-being of other human beings."

WILLIAMSBURG, VA, GAZETTE: "The Treasury Department just sent us 26 pages of nonsense about Savings Bonds, all of it unsolicited. We aren't knocking Savings Bonds, but Uncle Sam could take a cue from business and ask newspapers first if they want promo materials like this before dropping the taxpayer's dollar into something that gets dropped into thousands of wastebaskets in newspapers all over the country."

BLOOMSBURG, PA, PRESS: "In one sense, the federal government has played a leading role in the battle to preserve our natural environment. Congress has taken significant legislative steps in this direc-

tion. The other side of this coin is quite different. Agencies of that same federal government are among the worst offenders when it comes to despoiling the scenic beauties of public lands and parks. The point has been freshly made by the General Accounting Office. Following inspection of 131 solid waste disposal sites operated by federal agencies in six states, the GAO reports that 91 percent of these sites do not meet federal standards for sanitary landfills. The agencies involved are the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Army. These agencies had better pay attention to the thrust of congressional actions in recent years, and take prompt remedial steps."

BURLINGTON, WISC., STANDARD PRESS: "It is important that people read newspapers with understanding, think for themselves, and take responsible action when they believe it is necessary. One of the best ways to take responsible action is to write a letter to the editor. This time-honored way of presenting differing viewpoints and ideas is an important part of our free society and our free press, but all letters cannot be printed. Oftentimes space is lacking; sometimes the words or ideas may be spiteful, abusive or even libelous. But, most readers and writers have the opportunity to say what they think. In this way, free speech and a free press will continue to guarantee a free and open society."

LENOX, S.D., INDEPENDENT: "A system that penalizes the workers with taxes and rewards the non-workers with hand-outs cannot work, because the work needed to support such a system won't get done."

NOW IS
THE TIME . . .

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
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To Keep Land In Agriculture

A popular subject of conversation at this time is how to prevent the loss of farm land going into non-agricultural uses. This has been happening at an accelerated rate in recent years and in many cases it is the very best farm land that is going out of food and fiber production. A simple solution to the problem has not been uncovered but if all present land owners would sell their agricultural land only to those who will continue to farm the land, it might put a stop to the loss of agricultural acres. I realize there are many complications and much opposition to this suggestion, but it would stop the trend of covering the good land with concrete and blacktop.

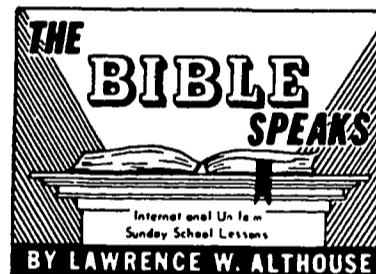
To Evaluate Grain Mixtures

Livestock and dairy rations reflect the increased cost of all grains and especially proteins in the last year. Many of these grain mixtures can be reduced in cost through the use of least-cost formulations. In the case of the dairymen the starting place would be a forage test on the hay and silage being fed. Soybean oil meal is generally too expensive to use in rations where protein quality is not of real concern. Feedstuffs such as gluten feed, brewers grains, and wheat bran may be used as both protein and energy sources. Cottonseed, or linseed oil meals, or urea may be

used to reduce protein costs. The forage testing program accompanied with the request for a grain feeding program could save many dollars in feed costs.

**To Apply
Pesticides Correctly**
Applications of spray materials for the control of insects, diseases, and weeds should be handled with special care and attention. Following of the directions in respect to amount applied and the timing of the spray is very important. Too much is a waste of material and could pollute the surroundings. The extent of the coverage is very important; in many cases the underside of the leaves should be covered as well as the top of the leaf. Dusts may be used instead of sprays but will take more material and may not get as good coverage. A regular spray application, such as the need for frequent sprays to control Japanese beetles, is needed for good protection. Good pesticide use requires advance planning and careful use and storage of the materials.

Try A Classified Ad!



WITHOUT WAX

Lesson for July 29, 1973

Background Scripture: Exodus 20:16, 23:1-3; Proverbs 19:9, Acts 5:1-11; Ephesians 4:25-32, James 1:26, 3:1-12.
Devotional Reading: Mark 7:14-23.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

Don't count on it! There are times when names and words may be just as harmful or more than sticks and stones. A few words

on your high-school or college record can shape your vocational life. The words, "I do," spoken before a minister or justice of the peace can mean a lifetime commitment. The rumor, however false, may wreck one's reputation. A few words spoken hastily may erect a barrier between two people. Yes, words can be very powerful.

Every careless word
It is not surprising, then that Jesus drives to the heart of the ninth commandment, "you shall not bear false witness..." when he says: I tell you, on the day of judgement men will render account for every careless word they utter" (Matthew 12:36).

Have you ever given any serious thought to that warning? My mind is staggered with the thought of sitting and listening to the playing of every careless word I've ever spoken! Doesn't it shake you — even a little — to hear Jesus warn: "For by your

words . . . you will be condemned?"

In ancient Rome when sculptors accidentally chipped their statues, they would often fill in the marred places with wax that was of the same color as the marble. Honest sculptors who desired to distinguish their works from those filled-in wax would stamp their works with the Latin words: sine cera, meaning "without wax." It is from this practice that we have derived our term, "sincere," for literally it means "without wax," or better: without deception.

Subtle lies

This is exactly the kind of speech Jesus wanted: without deception. Jesus knew that when one tries to distinguish between the so-called "big" and "little" deceptions, he usually loses his power to determine what is "big" and what is "small." Allow deception to enter a small part of our lives and we soon find that we have learned the dubious art of deceiving ourselves. Falsehood becomes a way of life that is no less dangerous because we cover it with a veneer of subtle sophistication. Just as a subtle thief is still a thief, so a sophisticated liar is still a liar.

Today in advertising, public relations, promotion, and politics, a certain amount of deception is tolerated and even expected. No one takes too seriously advertising claims or the public relations blurb. Nor is the politician or the promoter believed at face value. The sophisticated lie is taken for granted.

Truth, like human life, sex, and private property, is a gift of God that is intended to help man, not hurt him. As Ephesians puts it: "... speaking the truth in love..." (4:15).

This, then, is God's intention for human speech: with love and without wax!