

## It Seems Inappropriate

In a feature on "The Fallacy of Price Controls for Food," Mr. Leo Melamed writing in The New York Times observes, "How often is it explained that although food prices have risen significantly, they have risen far less than most goods? Or how often is it pointed out that while prices for all consumer items rose by 58 percent during the last 20 years and housing prices rose by 64 percent, prices for retail food went up only 47 percent since 1952 and the price of food eaten at home rose less than 40 percent? Even this... is not the full story, since our average food bill, which took 23 percent of our after-tax disposable income in 1952... Who has had the courage to point out that during this same 20-year period, while home food prices rose by 40 percent (but took 7 percent less

of our after-tax income), the hourly wages received by laborers went up 140 percent?"

Mr. Melamed observes that it is not his intention to be critical of wage increases, but simply to emphasize the unfairness of using today's rise in food prices as a reason for even higher wages. It is a simple fact that if food prices had kept up with wages since 1952 a quart of milk today would cost 55 percent more, a dozen eggs 161 percent more, a pound of hamburger 151 percent more and a pound of round steak 267 percent more. In the light of figures such as these, a freeze on food prices but none on wages hardly seems appropriate. In the long run, such policy can only breed scarcity and black markets.

## "Grassroots Opinion"

WINSTED, CONN., EVENING CITIZEN: "When a woman gets a job traditionally held by a man, or enters a field heretofore dominated by men, that's news. Lately there's been much news of this nature; it's getting to be about as old hat as dog bites man. Comes now a man bites dog item--and we hasten to say that this figure of speech is not intended in the slightest degree as an insult to the ladies, for whom we have the most extreme regard. But consider if the characterization is not apt: For the first time in its 112 years, during most of which time it enrolled only women, Vassar College has a male student government president. Ah, well, a little men's liberation is not a bad thing, either."

NEW LONDON, IOWA, JOURNAL: "About the high cost of living--cigarettes sell for about \$2.89 a pound and I don't recall anyone complaining about them being high--yet to pay \$1.89 a pound for beef steak drives some shoppers right up the wall. It's a funny thing, but I know people who'll pay 90 cents or \$1.25 for a drink and never say a word about the 'high cost of drinking' but to pay over \$1.00 a pound for hamburger... is a different story!"

GLENWOOD CITY, WIS., TRIBUNE: "Imitation, artificial and fake seems to be the way we are living these days. I don't mind so much about jewelry, furs and material but when it comes to food I wonder how healthy it is for a steady diet. I never realized how much of the food products are imitation until last week when I paid for and carried home a jar of imitation peanut butter, because I didn't look at the label close enough. One taste of it and in the garbage it went. If the price was half as much I could see using it but for a few cents more you can get the pure stuff and that maybe is none too good."

ALBEMARLE, N.C., STANLY NEWS AND PRESS: "The fuel shortage is no myth. Just how serious it may become in the months ahead cannot be accurately foretold. It is important that we get ourselves conditioned mentally for such a shortage and come to realize that we may not be able to go as nearly everywhere we desire as we have in the past, and our homes and other buildings may be a couple of degrees cooler in the winter than formerly. With these things we can become accustomed, even though we may dislike the idea."

HYATTSVILLE, MD., PRINCE GEORGE'S POST: "Life must be worth living. The cost has more than doubled and we still hang on."

CENTRAL VALLEY, CALIF., VALLEY TIMES: "A wise commentator on the social

scene says that instead of congressmen getting free postage so they can write to us taxpayers cheap, we should get free postage to use when writing to our congressmen. This, he says, would put things in their proper order, based on the alleged relationship between employers and hired help. We pay the lawmakers' wages; we pick them for their jobs; our money subsidizes all postage franking, and we should be telling them instead of them telling us."

LAMONT, OKLA., VALLEY NEWS: "The Watergate incident has proved one thing; there is still much need in our society for a free and critical press. Without the perseverance of a few reporters in keeping at the story despite the pressure involved, the unscrupulous tactics involved would never have been found out. Totalitarian tactics, as those employed in the caper, do not belong in our democratic, political process. If they really do, then we are much closer to becoming a totalitarian state than many of us believe."

FARIBAULT, MINN., NEWS: "A lot has been said... about the declining value of the dollar. Nevertheless, we don't know of any country that has declined American aid!"

"Some families in Burlington, Wisconsin... conducted an experiment to see how they could get along," reports Cipsco News, a Central Illinois Public Service Company publication, "if a crippling shortage developed. They used candles for light, did not use any electrical appliances, left their cars in the garage and generally pretended that the worst had happened. Perhaps some of the government officials who deal with energy problems should have participated, too. If they knew what it was like to do without gasoline or electricity, maybe it wouldn't take three years, as it often does now, to get through the red tape and obtain a license for a new power station. Do you think they still would take as long to decide if the polar bears and caribou would be disturbed by an oil pipeline in the Arctic? We doubt it."

According to The Wall Street Journal, "Cost of attending college rose about \$100 to \$150 during the past year, the College Entrance Examination Board said. The average yearly cost of college can range from \$1,637 for commuter students at junior colleges to \$3,279 for residents at private four-year schools."

"Courage is a virtue only in proportion as it is directed by prudence."--Francois De Salignac De La Mothe Fenelon.

## NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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### TO BEWARE OF LIVESTOCK RUSTLERS

With the high current values on all types of livestock, the temptation to steal animals might increase. We have heard of thefts in other parts of the state and the country. The scarcity of red meat will increase the danger of animals being stolen. It's difficult to know how to protect livestock against rustling, but well-lighted premises at night will make it more difficult. Also, a good watch dog should challenge any intruder; loading ramps and chutes should be locked. If the family goes away for a day or an evening, nearby neighbors should be alerted to watch for strangers. Animals on pasture should be checked often and persons living nearby should be alerted to inform owners of strangers near the livestock. Producers should try to make it difficult for anyone to steal their animals.

### TO FLUSH EWE FLOCK

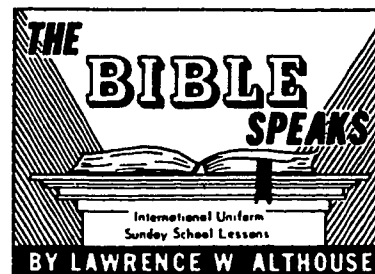
The sheep breeding season is approaching and a healthy ewe flock will help get a larger lamb crop next spring. Several weeks prior to the breeding time it will help if the ewes are given additional grain or placed on a lush pasture containing a large percentage of grass in the forage mixture. Straight legume pastures should not be used because of the danger of bloat, and grass pastures have given better breeding results. If the ewes are in a gaining condition at the time of service, they will usually produce more twin lambs.

### TO PROTECT MACHINERY

It's not time to be putting the machinery away for the season, but it is time to be planning on a good storage place for all pieces of farm equipment. If a new machinery shed is needed, and we prefer a separate building for machinery storage, then plans should be made for construction before winter arrives. The investment in machinery requires that it be stored out of the weather when not being used. Since rust is the major enemy of most farm machinery, winter protection is a good investment. When the main barn is used for machinery storage, the risk of greater losses in case of a fire increases. Good farm management includes proper machinery storage.

### TO SPRAY ALFALFA

Far too many local alfalfa fields are turning yellow at this time of the year when they should be a healthy green. In most cases this yellowing is due to either leafhoppers or aphids. Both of these insects are working in alfalfa fields at this time. The use of Malathion, Parathion, or Diazinon should control the aphids; leafhoppers can be eliminated with Methoxychlor or Parathion. Best results can be attained if the crop is sprayed when 3 to 6 inches tall. If the cutting is nearing maturity (bud to blossom stage) then it should be harvested and sprays held for the new growth. Alfalfa is still a very important protein crop; maximum yields are needed and will help reduce the feed costs.



## THE ANSWER WITHIN

Lesson for August 12, 1973

Background Scripture: Proverbs 23:19-21; 29-35; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13, 31; Galatians 5:13-24.  
Devotional Reading: Philippians 4:4-13.

American adults, shocked and bewildered by the cancerous growth of narcotics addiction in the United States, often are overheard to ask: "Why? Where did we go wrong?" One observer, John Charles Cooper, thinks we

ought not to be so puzzled. In his book RELIGION IN THE AGE OF ACQUARIUS, he says: "Most young people taking drugs today really learned about pills and the possibility of drug relief at home,



Rev. Althouse

not on the streets with their peers. A drug-oriented culture such as upper- and middle class America was bound to end up with child addicts sooner or later—and it has come very soon indeed" (Westminster Press, Philadelphia, 1971).

### Where God should be

Without necessarily agreeing with the extremity of his conclusion, I would agree that we must look more deeply in trying to assess the lure of the drug culture among youth and young adults today. Like many adults in the world about them, they are

looking for the answers to life's problems and frustrations in things outside themselves. They have been conditioned by television and other media to believe that whatever is our difficulty, there is a pill or drug to be taken for its relief. The resource you need, they have learned, is something outside you, something you can ingest and absorb:

Do you have pain? Here's a pill to bring relief!

Are you unpopular? Here's a mouthwash that will change all that!

Do you need prestige and admiration? Our car will bring you that!

Do you want to be a man of distinction? Drink our whiskey and you will be!

The answer, we are lead to believe, is always outside us.

Yet, in fact, the answers we seek are more frequently within us. Even medically speaking, pills and drugs are not the answer, but often simply allow the healing power in the human body to do its work. The answers to most of our problems are not "out there," but as close as the God who dwells within us. Pills, drugs, alcohol, and all kinds of material goods may very well become substitutes for God. They occupy the place in our lives where God alone should be.

### Beyond drunkenness

Narcotics, alcohol, and other things outside of us are often used as the means whereby people try to cope with the problems and frustrations of life. Yet, as the writer of Ephesians puts it, "... do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the spirit" (5:18). These "outside" things may be alternatives to God's Spirit.

Drunkenness and addiction are bad enough by themselves, but the issue really goes beyond this. Addiction and Christianity are competing religions. Both are a total way of life.