

Good Advice

Strange as it seems, one of the greatest boons to America in this environmentally-conscious, fuel-short age could be rediscovery by the public that railroads are one of the nation's greatest assets.

Elder statesman and former presidential candidate, Mr. Alf M. Landon has joined the ranks of those seeking to awaken the country to the unique virtues of a string of cars running on steel rails. He says the railroads are a " . . . necessity in meeting rapidly diminishing fuel energy supplies and rapidly increasing demands that will come to a head before the turn of this century." Mr. Landon stresses that, "costly and time consuming overlapping government agencies should be consolidated by the Congress if railroad managers and their union counterparts are to function efficiently in their responsibility to the

public, the employees and the investors." He comments on the views of those who believe that a government take-over of the railroads--nationalization--is the most fitting nostrum for current rail problems. He says such a move would "simply present a new set of problems--bigger and more complex and, in the end, far more costly to the public."

Mr. Landon is not a railroader, but he is convinced that what is needed, "is reorganization of government regulatory agencies for railroads so that they can operate on sound business principles. . . ." The words of this former presidential candidate are timely. They draw attention to the problems and potentialities of an industry that will have much to do with how well this country utilizes its resources for environmental improvement and economic advancement.

Small Price to Pay

Nothing can refresh the soul like a hot, spicy debate with associates over a political issue. But how often do we go beyond that and write our opinion to our Congressmen? Unfortunately, that answer is, "seldom or never." Too many of us fear that one opinion is barely audible in the hubbub of current events. Yet, as one legislator has said, "The mail box is nearly as important as the ballot box to a member of Congress."

A short, factual letter limited to one topic could be just what a Congressman needs to chart his course in the right direction, and you will never know unless you write. A major industry association gives some suggestions: "If you are writing about legislative proposals, explain how it affects

you. . . . Try to refer to a bill by number and subject. . . . Make sure your views get to your Congressman early in deliberation of the bill. If you wait for a crisis stage or try to change the legislator's mind later in the development of an issue, you are not apt to achieve your goals. Finally, if the replay to your letter comes from an assistant, don't be upset. Public officials have staffs so that requests can be dealt with effectively."

It's easy to rationalize your way out of writing to your Congressman, but the plain fact is that our democratic republic could not function without citizen input. Remember: "An official wants and needs to hear every point of view on an issue." An eight-cent stamp is a small price to pay for freedom.

Launching the Good Life

College enrollment will drop for the first time in ten years this fall. This may be one of the best things that has happened to young people in quite awhile.

During the past few years, plumbers, mechanics and carpenters seemed on the verge of extinction, because everyone was rushing off to college, and relatively few young people were bothering to learn these occupations anymore. But the fact is that these and other blue collar trades are

every bit as essential to the maintenance of society as are the professions--law, medicine, etc. A college education is still, for some, a prelude to chosen careers, and today's high school graduates should be encouraged to pursue the goals of their choice. But a college degree is not the only means to happiness and security. Young people should be made aware of other avenues that might better suit their needs.

"Grassroots Opinion"

The Public Service Company of Colorado reports a startling innovation: "General Electric Company has designed a new type of cooling tower for electric generating plants. It would propel thermal exhaust into the upper atmosphere. The tower, a hollow ring about 60 feet tall and 600 feet in diameter, also would ventilate the air over metropolitan areas. GE says the tower would reduce the need for cooling water, making it possible to locate power plants some distance from large bodies of water. GE estimates initial cost would be competitive with present designs."

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"A community is like a ship; every one ought to be prepared to take the helm."--Henrik Ibsen

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A National Association of Manufacturers editorial notes, "Once again, Congress is trying to legislate a yardstick to determine how big a business can grow before it is considered

Don't wait for a long, high-speed trip to find out your tires are unsafe. The Portland, Oregon, Traffic Safety Commission urges all drivers to inspect their tires now.

If there's any question, replace worn tires now, before tempting fate by high-speed, long-distance vacation driving.

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"Although I know that our world is a better place than the one in which our fathers lived. . . man still suffers from a tendency to take short cuts to acceptability, or success, and achieves only mediocrity thereby. Although mankind's total fund of knowledge has doubled, redoubled and doubled again since the start of the century, personal integrity is not patented and sold nor has it become an item of government issue. It remains an individual characteristic that each of us must strive to develop and then guard so tenaciously that not even those with the ability to cheat with both hands can dent it"--Mr. Louis W. Menk, chairman, Burlington Northern Inc.

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"Would you guess," says the FINAST RECORD, published by First National Stores, Inc., "that trees are one of the greatest dangers to drivers? It's because they grow in the middle of roads! At least that's what 514,000 American drivers claimed last year when they hit one."

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

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TO PROTECT SOYBEANS

The current soybean crop is being threatened by the green cloverworm; this is a light green worm about one to one-and-half inches long that is eating soybean leaves and blossoms. A number of growers have reported some damage; if at least 25 to 30 percent of the leaves are eaten, then an insecticide should be applied. Sevin, Malathion, or Methoxychlor may be used for control. The cloverworm is also reported in neighboring counties where spraying is already underway.

TO DO ESTATE PLANNING

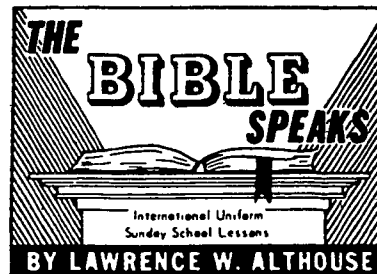
Due to higher land values, higher salaries, and higher insurance coverages, estates get larger and tax obligations become greater. Considerable time devoted to estate planning can reduce taxes, protect your family security, and reduce family quarrels. A new Extension bulletin, Circular number 557, "Estate Planning for Pennsylvania Families" discusses some of the important factors in planning a sound estate. Copies are available at our local Extension Office.

TO SECURE SEED SUPPLIES

It is not too early to be locating supplies of winter barley and wheat for this fall's seeding. At this time the supply of quality winter grain seeds is uncertain and growers are urged to make their needs known to their seed dealers. We still recommend the use of certified seed for best results. However, if the supply is not available, then growers might use some of their own grain. Such seed should be cleaned and treated and put through a germination test. The Seed Testing Laboratory, Penna. Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron St. Harrisburg, will run the test for \$1.50 per sample. Send one pound of grain. Feed grains are very much in demand; maximum acreages should be planted.

TO HAVE WRITTEN LEASE TERMS

There are many kinds of lease arrangements but all of them should be in writing. We are aware of so many verbal arrangements because people are friends and trust each other; this may be quite true and might work in some cases, but we still contend that it is best to put all of the agreements in writing so that each party has a copy of his or her responsibilities. Each person should have a more clear understanding of the lease if it is in writing. Many misunderstandings will be prevented. Take time to write down the terms and discuss them with all parties concerned.



WRONG COMPANY

Background Scripture: Matthew 12:43-45, Mark 2:13-17, Luke 15:11-32, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Galatians 5:25 through 6:5
Devotional Reading: James 1:22-27

About six years ago my wife and I became involved in an ecumenical coffee house ministry in a nearby city. Beyond providing a good atmosphere for refreshment, "The Source," as our coffee house was called, served as a



Rev. Althouse

place where people could meet for fellowship and, at times, to minister to one another's needs. It was an attempt to reach out beyond the four walls of the churches.

The "tax collectors and sinners"

Many of us were dismayed when the local council of churches refused support or recognition of this ministry on the grounds that the coffee house might be frequented by the "wrong kinds of people." The coffee house was located on the town's main street and there was a good possibility that it would be frequented by alcoholics, drug addicts, and people of unsavory character. To many of us, even worse than the refusal to support us, was the apparent outlook and attitude of many church people towards those who might be termed "the wrong company."

Actually, Jesus himself was on the receiving end of this kind of criticism. "Why does he eat with

tax collectors and sinners?" asked the scribes and pharisees (Mark 2:16). Nor is this an isolated reaction: Jesus was frequently criticized for his association with people whom the "righteous" regarded as sinful and unworthy of any contact whatsoever. People were frequently indignant that he would associate and even help prostitutes, drunkards, lepers, collaborators with the enemy, criminals, etc.

His reason for coming

They were no less shocked when he reminded them of the true nature of his mission (and theirs if they followed him): "Those who are well have no need for a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:17). If these people were really so immoral, than they needed him all the more. Unlike the Old Testament religion, the heart of Christianity is not judgement, but redemption. The New Testament is no less concerned with human sin, but it is even more concerned for sinners. Christ came into the world to save sinners, to redeem people with stained lives, not simply to gather up and certify the righteous.

Unfortunately, many of us are too often afflicted with the unredeemptive attitude of Jonah. Jonah agreed to preach to the people of Nineveh and pronounce God's judgement upon them. He was surprised, however, to find that these godless people heeded his preaching and repented, thus saving the city and themselves. Jonah would have preferred for God to rain down fire and brimstone upon them and, angered by this turn of events, he sulked in steamy silence.

Too many people, like Jonah, would rather use the Gospel to "divide the sheep from the goats," to pronounce judgement upon sinners, and enjoy their divine punishment. But the purpose of the Gospel, as Jesus demonstrated so clearly, is to save and redeem those whom we frequently judge to be "the wrong company."