

Worst Shortage of All

The federal price freeze fiasco of 1973, especially in regard to meat, was a classic example of how NOT to tamper with the free enterprise system. The question is, did we learn our lesson well enough so that the mistake will not be repeated in the future?

Frustration over inflation seems to have been the catalyst for a torrent of verbal sniper fire, price freezes and consumer boycotts. As a meat industry spokesman notes, a situation was created "...in which prices inevitably must go up—beyond the levels that would prevail in a free market... (Freezes and boycotts) discouraged production. Both made it impossible for ranchers, feedlot operators, processors and distributors to realize a reasonable profit. In many instances, operations had to be suspended or conducted at a loss."

Taken in context of the entire economy, the pointlessness of the price ceilings and freezes becomes evident. As the

spokesman explains, critics do not mention "... that while retail food prices went up 33 percent from 1967 to 1972, per capita income rose 62 percent. They pass over the fact that annual beef consumption in the United States has increased in ten years from 88 pounds per capita to 116 pounds. Nor do they pay any attention to the skyrocketing demand for prime American red meat in Western Europe and Japan."

Repercussions from the economic freezes will be felt for quite awhile. For example, the restraints on beef prices and operations may have disrupted the chain of supply significantly in the long run, making beef a somewhat scarce item for the next two or three years. To say, "We told you so" would serve no useful purpose, but maybe out of this, the worst shortage of all—public understanding—will be corrected. The free market is the best regulator of the nation's economic life. More people know that now than ever before.

Fighting Heart Disease

Shoes can help stamp out coronary heart disease and early death or disability! If the average American adult will follow the "Watch your SHOES!" health formula developed by Mr. Andre Rhoads, a food industry authority, they may add years to their lives.

His formula represents "risk factors" which, if carefully controlled, could very well lower the chances of heart attack significantly. In the magic word "SHOES," the "S" is for smoking; "H" is for hypertension; "O" is for obesity; "E" is for

exercise and "S" is for stress. As the originator of this formula for self-preservation notes, each factor is "... subject to a good deal of personal regulation, provided one's will to live is strong enough to induce him to modify his life-style to lower his risks." Regular medical checkups will enhance the effectiveness of the SHOES concept. This is one prescription you can fill yourself, with better health as the reward—a goal well worth aiming for.

Winter

Winter is hard to define. It conjures up the usual thoughts of snowflakes, Santa and swarms of little ones romping through mud puddles. But the spirit of the new season, which descends upon us December 21 this year, has changed somewhat. For many, the lean, rough edge of Winter suggests a Spartan-like quality which must be revived and cultivated if we are to overcome problems such as shortages of essential energy supplies, inflation and alarming leaps in federal control over our lives.

Modern problems have not dimmed the squeals of youthful sledders, the colorful Christmas pageantry or the chocolaty goodness of a hot cup of cocoa after a brisk walk outdoors. Such enjoyable Winter scenes should not, however, divert us from doing what we can to improve our own corner of the world. That could mean a return to ways which exalt efficiency and scorn wastefulness, or a vigorous plunging into community affairs. Whatever path is taken, new dedication to the common good should benefit us all in the long run.

Grassroots Opinion

LENNOX, S.D., INDEPENDENT: "We all cuss inflation and are convinced that our income will not keep pace with rising prices, but how would you like to be a farm worker in Russia? It would require 60 years' wages to purchase a new car. Well, that takes care of private transportation problems for most Soviets. No wonder their public transportation is used extensively. With rising gasoline prices and growing traffic problems in this country, the one man - one car concept may be a thing of the past in a few years, but if we are to 'attain' the same standard of living as now exists in the Soviet Union, we are going to have to work at it. Step number one, of course, is to inject even more socialism into our system, tax more businesses out of business, and put the bureaucrats in control of everything."

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SIKESTON, MO., STANDARD: "It's incredible. The butchers claim they're not making any money. The wholesalers claim they are not making any money. The meat packers say they are not making any

money. The ranchers also say they are not making any money. So who's making the money? Sometimes we get the uneasy feeling that somewhere there are cows buying mutual funds and gold stocks!"

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CHICAGO, ILL., SOUTHWEST NEWS-HERALD: "Some people place a lot of stock in statistics, but we feel that statistics don't always tell the truth because it's so simple to juggle figures. For example, one could point to today's longer life expectancy and offer it as proof that the automobile is safer than the horse."

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BELTON, TEXAS, JOURNAL AND BELL COUNTY DEMOCRAT: "States-righters, of which I am one, have always said we should not rely on Washington to solve all our problems. At present I'm willing to compromise with the strong central government advocates, if they will agree to let Washington create fewer problems than they solve, if any."

**NOW IS
THE TIME . . .**

Max Smith
County Agr. Agent
Telephone 394-6851



TO LEAVE FIREWOOD OUTSIDE

Fireplaces may be getting more use this winter due to the fuel conditions; however, insects are likely to hitch a ride into the house when it is brought in several days in advance. Insects may hibernate in the wood pile when cold weather arrives. When these pests are brought into the warm house on wood that is not burned immediately, they become active and the house may need an insect eradication treatment. Fortunately these insects and beetles will not reinfest wood or lumber in the house but they are a nuisance. Don't store firewood in the house or in any other heated room.

TO ELIMINATE RODENTS

During our visits on a number of farms in recent weeks, we notice evidence of considerable rat infestation. As the weather gets colder these rodents will come to the buildings and cause more trouble. Every property owner should try to kill every rat and prevent their reproduction. A clean-up program is the place to start and then repair concrete floors, walks, walls, and foundations. Rats are filthy, destroy large amounts of feed and food, and should not be allowed to stay under any conditions. Poison bait stations can be set up to help keep down the population.

TO EVALUATE FARM RECORDS

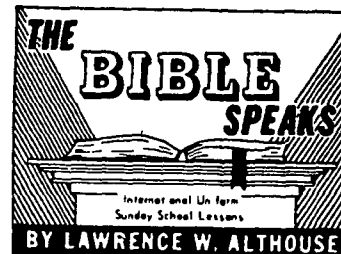
The year is drawing to a close and figures will reveal the success or failure of various farm enterprises. In addition to giving the cash values the records should be used to plan for the future. During the winter months good farm managers will spend time studying their records and planning what should be done in the future. "Pencil-pushing" is needed to utilize farm records as a tool to guide expansion or reduction activities.

TO PROVIDE OUTSIDE EXERCISE

Nearly all species of farm animals prefer daily outside exercise, if given the chance. In most cases this is advisable for the health of the animals. Dairy cows, beef cows and steers, sheep, breeding swine, and horses all should be given outside exercise. In the case of young stock an open-sided building with an exercise lot is strongly suggested. Sheep need the exercise in order to produce a good lamb crop. Most animals prefer the outdoors to confinement when given the chance.

Editor's Quote Book

"A thing is not necessarily true because a man dies for it."
—Oscar Wilde



ON TELLING AND SHOWING

Lesson for December 9, 1973

Background Scripture: John 1:29-51,
10:22-39

"If you are the Christ," said the crowd to Jesus, "tell us plainly" (John 10:24). Has it ever occurred to you in reading the gospels how frequently Jesus seemed to resist all attempts to make him define himself by the use of the popular title of Messiah (Christ)?



Although he didn't absolutely reject the titles that men gave him, neither did he seem anxious to claim them. In fact, there were numerous occasions when he steadfastly refused to discuss the matter. He seemed to have a definite aversion to telling people "plainly" who or what he was.

The problem with names

One reason for his reticence was that certain religious factions had different expectations concerning these titles. For many, the designation Messiah meant a political or military leader sent by God to restore the Hebrew nation. Although Jesus seemed to see himself as the fulfillment of the messianic expectation, he obviously had no intention of assuming either political or military leadership. He believed he was appointed (what Messiah means) by God, but his understanding of his role and purpose was considerably different than what many people expected. He was therefore hesitant to use a title that conveyed the wrong expectations to people.

Another reason for his avoid-

ance of titles was that he did not want to be bogged down in theological dispute. A good example of how this could happen is found in John 10 where we find him referring to God as "My Father . . ." (10:29). Immediately, his critics pounce on his words, saying: "We stone you . . . for blasphemy; because you, being a man, make yourself God" (10:33). It is the word "Father" and the implication that Jesus is his "son" that is at the heart of their contention with him. Jesus attempts to show them in the scriptures that his use of the term is not blasphemy, but they are too immersed in their theology and doctrine to see his point.

Let me show you

Usually we find that Jesus refused to "tell" people who he was. Instead, he preferred to "show" them. For example, in response to their challenge to "tell us plainly," he says: "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness to me" (10:25). Later, when they attack him, he says: "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of these do you stone me?" (10:32).

Jesus preferred not to get involved in theological and doctrinal dispute, but instead wished to let his works speak for themselves. So, once again, Jesus is emphasizing the fruits of his ministry instead of doctrinal words: "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the 'Father'" (10:38).

Like Jesus, we would probably be more effective in our discipleship if we did less telling and more showing.

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