

Lancaster Farming

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR

McHale cooked own goose

Pennsylvania's lame duck Secretary of Agriculture, James McHale cooked his own goose, as far as I'm concerned.

My own opinion of him over the years has been something of a "pluck a couple feathers out of him today, and give him one for in his hat next month" type of situation if all things are considered. In other words, for every three or four points against him, he'd occasionally score a point favorably. That's understandable. He nor any other person can be expected to "win 'em all."

McHale's overall scorecard comes up decisively negative, in my opinion, for most of the same reasons that have been mentioned by others who have opposed him - farmers, agribusinessmen, senators, and extension officials, alike.

McHale cooked his own goose because last Summer, when the State Senate first began to really put the heat on him, and eventually voted against him, McHale came back fighting with words which went something like this (expletives deleted).

"I will serve the governor and do whatever he asks me to."

That, Mr. McHale, is getting your priorities mixed up.

True, Governor Shapp appointed McHale, which in a way makes him his boss. But a Secretary of Agriculture should be responsible to farmers and to agriculture as a whole - not to the governor or his welfare - oriented

ideas. Serving Pennsylvania agriculture and serving the state's governor are two different things. McHale stated himself he would do whatever the Governor wanted him to do. What about agriculture then?

Having been kicked out of office by the very people he was supposed to be representing, McHale was handed what might be termed a "dishonorable discharge."

I can't help but wonder what might have happened if this entire situation were turned around 180 degrees. Suppose McHale had been the true spokesman for farmers, as he perpetually claimed to be, and he had the enthusiastic support from Pennsylvania's agricultural circles. He would probably have received the wrath of Governor Shapp, because what most farmers want and what Shapp wants are two different things.

If this hypothetical situation had arisen, McHale might have lost his job, as he did now, but he could have left with honor. McHale apparently decided he's rather have the majority of Pennsylvania's farmers angry with him, instead of the Governor.

With an attitude such as that - choosing the Governor and politics instead of farmers and agribusiness, I have some reservations about McHale's constant claim that he spoke for the farmer. He spoke and acted on behalf of the Governor, and when he openly admitted that fact last Summer, he cooked his own goose.

No great expectations

The ouster of James McHale as Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture deserves a certain amount of sympathy. He was only doing his job, and I doubt it's an easy one. Unfortunately for him, and much of Pennsylvania agriculture, he was most likely doing his job as Governor Shapp would like to have him do it.

With McHale out, we can only hope that we'll receive a Secretary of Agriculture who will perform on behalf of Pennsylvania agriculture to a greater degree than did his predecessor. We can hope, but we can hardly expect it. The same man who appointed McHale, Governor Shapp, will also appoint the next man.

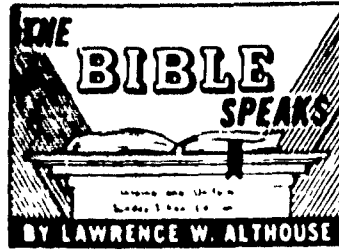
If McHale's replacements turns out to be a carbon copy of him, and opposition is voiced from the grassroots level, it'll most likely take a few years to remove him. After all, it took five years to oust McHale. So all we may end up with is two different ball carriers for the same game plan.

Governor Shapp has demonstrated he is not a man to give up easily. Pennsylvania agriculture must now show that it is equally determined. That means scrutinizing each possible candidate for the job very closely and making as much noise as possible if an individual is not the

right one. The ultimate goal should be to divorce the Secretary of Agriculture position from the Governor's office.

Chances are that most governors nowadays are as unfamiliar with farming as what most farmers are with nuclear physics. A governor may make the headlines in the papers because he raised his own tomatoes last summer, but when was the last time he raised a couple of blisters and a bunch of callouses? When was the last time he got up at two o'clock in the morning to help deliver a prized calf? Has he had to contend with grain prices which are sharply lower than last year's even though costs of production are up significantly? And no fair having another business on the side to make up for farming losses. Does he know what it's like to have an "Excellent" daughter of Arlinda Chief crawl through the barbed wire fence one night and when he gets her back he discovers her udder is a bloody mess?

Farmers know what their problems are and what they need. They and agribusiness are the ones who should appoint their spokesman in Harrisburg, otherwise the sign on the door might just as well say "Secretary" rather than "Secretary of Agriculture."



HUMBLE SOVEREIGNTY

Lesson for December 14, 1975

Background Scripture: Matthew 12:15-21; 13:34,35; 21:1-5.

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Just a little less than a year ago I walked the road upon which it is believed that Jesus rode on the first Palm Sunday, from Bethphage where he mounted the ass, to the so-called "Golden Gate" by which he entered the walls of Jerusalem.

As I hurried down that road (Americans in the Holy Land hurry so that they may "chalk-up" more holy places during their visit!), I paid little attention to the gravel street beneath me. Suddenly I felt myself lurching forward and hitting the ground with a terrible thud.

For a few moments I lay stunned in the dirt. Then, painfully I picked myself up and did my best to brush the dirt from my bleeding hands. Palestinian children on their way home from school glanced indulgently at me as they went by. I was embarrassed, for it was evident that I had stepped into a deep pot-hole in the road.

The humble king

As I sheepishly resumed my walk, hobbling on my swollen ankle, I felt chastized by my fall and into my mind there came the words: "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass" (Zechariah 9:9). Jesus did not stride down this road in a hurry, he proceeded as a humble sovereign! It was with far greater respect and reverence that I walked the Palm Sunday road that day - because of a pot-hole!

Christians often bear their discipleship with a kind of benevolent arrogance. Their rationale seems to be: If you have the truth, act like it! Church people often "turn-off" others because they are simply overbearing.

Matthew paints a different picture for us in his Gospel.

Isaiah's "servant"

Messiah

Even more interestingly, he chooses his colors from the Old Testament.

For example, there is the image of the Servant - Messiah portrayed by the prophet Isaiah. In a day when many people looked for a bold and mighty warrior king, Isaiah prophesied a different kind of Messiah. He would be not so much the mighty conqueror, but a servant: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased..." (Matthew 12:18).

Humility, not arrogance, seems to be the key to the Lord's anointed one who is to come as God's Messiah:

He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets, he will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick. (Matthew 12:19,20)

Matthew sees this image fulfilled in Jesus's own conduct. Even his entrance into Jerusalem is accomplished with humble dignity: "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble..." said Zechariah the



NOW IS THE TIME...

Max Smith
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To Obtain Farmers Tax Guide

Income Tax reporting time is approaching when all available records and assistance will be needed to make the proper report. Again the Tax Guides are available through the Internal Revenue Offices or from our Extension Office. We urge farmers to get one of these guides and to get them to the person filing the income tax report. Frequent changes in the regulations make it necessary to keep up to date in order to receive proper credits and concessions. Training sessions have been held for Income Tax folks and we urge that all farmers give proper time and effort to this required obligation.

To Salute Local Dairymen

Dairying is the leading farm income in Lancaster County as well as in the state of Pennsylvania. At a recent meeting of the County Dairy Herd Improvement Association it was stressed that over 245 herds had produced over 500 pounds of butterfat per cow during the past year. The high herd produced an average of 19,216 pounds of milk and 709 pounds of butterfat per cow on 35 cows. This is progress in dairy production and is in line with the trend that farmers are aiming to produce more food and fiber per farm unit. The dairy herds in this county have long been recognized as including some of the best animals in the country and the local DHIA group can be proud of their accomplishments. The demand for breeding stock from local herds going into other states and other countries continues to bring fame to local dairymen.

To Utilize Corn Cobs

A generation ago corn cobs were a useless by-product with very little attention. Now they are in strong demand on many fronts and should be utilized as a valuable farm product. In beef and dairy rations this source of fiber is one of the very best; corn and cob chop should continue to be used rather than shelling the corn. Recent trends in the corn storage business have favored the shelled corn because of the less space needed. However, the cobs used as a filler and as a

prophet, and Jesus was the perfect portrayal of that picture.

Yet, the portrait has two dimensions: humility and sovereignty! Jesus' ministry combined both these elements. Through his humility there shown a sovereignty, an authority that could not be mustered by even the most arrogant and powerful of men. There was power in Jesus, but it was a quiet, humble power that persuaded rather than coerced.

It is to that same humble sovereignty that you and I are called.

source of fiber and roughage has considerable merit. Ground corn cobs are also in strong demand as livestock bedding and as a mulch around trees and ornamentals. Cobs left in the field are useful as a fertilizer but warrant additional utilization before being returned to the soil.

To Consider Correspondence Courses

The winter months would be a good time to gain more knowledge about certain enterprises on the farm. Most all of the land-grant universities, including Penn State in Pennsylvania, offer correspondence courses in all areas of agriculture and home grounds. These lessons are sent and returned by mail at a nominal cost and are very practical. We urge local folks to consider this source of additional information while performing their normal occupational duties each day. Circulars describing the various courses and costs are available at our Extension Office.

Farm Calendar

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Ephrata Young farmers meeting for a Christmas party at the Ephrata Junior High School auditorium 7:45 p.m.

National Farmer's Organization will be showing a film "Hard Times in our Country" at the Union Fire Hall in Walnuttown - Berks County. 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Hinkletown Adult Farmers will meet for a program on conservation practices for the Clean Stream Law at the Summit Valley Elementary School - Brimmer Ave., New Holland 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 31
Mid-winter No till convention in Hershey.

