

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Photo courtesy of Jim Sumner

Meeting President Ford in the Roosevelt Room of the White House was a memorable occasion for NFEA members, including Lancaster Farming Editor, Dieter Krieg, right.

The President made himself available for a 35-minute press conference during which he fielded all questions in commendable fashion.

## Ford was very impressive

A visit with the President of the United States is perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime experience. And it's a memorable and impressive occasion in more ways than one. Not only because the President happens to be the leader of more than 200-million people, or that I and others have shaken his hand, but because the President has to be so well versed on every subject that it's almost inconceivable. President Ford demonstrated extraordinary familiarity and knowledge of America's agriculture when members of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America met with him last Tuesday morning. That isn't just my opinion, but that of others as well.

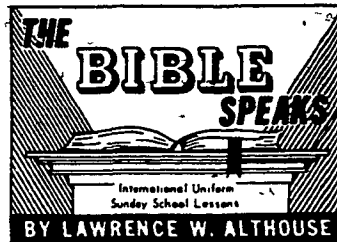
Equally noteworthy was President Ford's relaxed and cordial personality. Many of us might be tempted to throw a little weight around when we achieve a position of power or influence. Mr. Ford, however, made no attempt to put on any kind of a show. He visited with us as though we had known one another for years and we were all on equal terms. He was not nervous or hesitant with any of his words - thereby helping some of us to overcome our own bashfulness. The President was exemplary in many ways, displaying remarkable intelligence and poise, and yet he was totally unpretentious about it all. That's something Americans and the rest of the world can be proud of.

## Symposium well attended

The symposium in mid-April on cooperatives, milk marketing, and regulations is still making news. That's good to know. The National Milk Producers Federation, which organized the two-day event, has compiled a list of all media people and organizations who were present. Among them were five national consumer groups, six congressmen, 40 government or state agency employees, six representatives from colleges, and 36 newspaper reporters. Among the latter were staff members from the

National Black News Service, The Minneapolis Tribune, The Altoona Mirror, Thomson Newspapers, Vance Publishing, Richter News Service, The Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, Lancaster Farming, AP and UPI news and radio wire services, Kiplinger Letters, Business Week, The Washington Post, The Washington Star, and The Des Moines Register. With that sort of coverage by the press, it can be said that NMPF and its member cooperatives did very

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BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE  
**KEEPING THE FAITH**  
Lesson for May 2, 1976

**Background Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:1, 8-16.  
**Devotional Reading:** Psalms 139:1-10, 23-24.  
"Keep the faith, baby!" has become a commonplace expression in our society. Along with "Hang in there man," it may be delivered lightly and thoughtlessly. At the same time, however, it may be most appropriate and significant, for "keeping the faith" is one of the great tasks of life.

As in a foreign land Particularly "in a foreign land."

The writer of Hebrews reminded his readers that Abraham had "kept the faith" when he responded to God's call to leave his familiar surroundings and journey to an unknown land which "he was to receive as an inheritance" (Hebrews 11:8). His response may seem not all that remarkable to us today, unless we put ourselves in his shoes and consider how we might react if in some way God called us to leave our homes and go off into a foreign land virtually unknown to us.

But Abraham also "kept the faith" in what he did when at last he arrived in and began to dwell in that "foreign land" which today we know as Israel. It had taken great courage to leave his homeland for the unknown, but it took also great courage to maintain his faith in those unfamiliar surroundings.

Perhaps this was an even greater test of his faith, for there is nothing so debilitating to our faith than an environment either indifferent or even hostile to that faith. It is relatively easy to "keep the faith" when people around us are keeping it too.

When I was a teenager we used to say that our church youth camp was "a miniature kingdom of God," for it seemed easy to be a Christian in these supportive surroundings. The trick, of course, was to maintain that same level of Christian commitment and character when we returned home from church camp. That's when "keeping the faith" became much more difficult.

**The City of God**  
Actually, this is the problem that confronts every Christian: to keep the faith in an environment that may not be conducive to faith and may, in fact, be even hostile to it. There was a time in our nation's history when most communities were heavily influenced by the presence of their local churches (of course there were glaring limitations to this influence, too). Today this is less likely to be so. Most of us—including many rural people, too—live in what Theologian Harvey Cox called "the secular city." Whatever is the meaning of that "city"—and there is much disagreement on that score—it is obvious that the Christian feels much more like a "stranger and exile"



NOW IS THE TIME...

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### To Be Alert For Alfalfa Weevil

Reports already indicate some heavy weevil infestation on young alfalfa; the extremely hot weather of a week ago brought this insect out ahead of schedule. Growers are urged to inspect their field several times each week to check on the infestation. When more than 50 percent of the plants are being damaged by the insect this early, then some insecticide application will be needed. The 1976 Agronomy Guide gives recommendations for materials to use. Later in the spring when the plants are larger, it is possible to cut the crop when infestation appears, then spray the stubble. At this time the plants are too young to cut.

### To Be Careful With Left-Over Seeds

Seed grains are intended to be planted in the soil and not fed to poultry or livestock. Most of them have been treated with either or both insecticides or fungicides. They are not to be fed to livestock or poultry in any amount. We are aware of serious damage to youngsters when hogs were fed left-over corn several years ago in Texas; the pork from these hogs was not fit

there than ever before.

Many people mourn the loss of our religiously-oriented communities, yet, as Hebrews makes clear, the Christian can never be truly "at home" here, but "keeps the faith" in this "foreign land" so that at last he may know that "better country"—the City of God!

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for human consumption. As soon as the crop is planted, left-over seeds should be kept in the original bag or container and stored in a safe place away from livestock, children, and

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## Farm Calendar

- Saturday, May 1**  
Fulton Grange 66 will host tri-county visitation, 8 p.m.
- Sunday, May 2**  
11th annual spring and horse carriage drive sponsored by the Red Rose Horse and Pony Club. To be held at the Glatfelter Pony Farm, midway between Neffsville and East Petersburg. 2 p.m.
- Monday, May 3**  
South Schuylkill Young Farmers gardening class  
The Lancaster County Poultry Association will hold their monthly directors meeting at 8:00 p.m. in the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.
- Wednesday, May 5**  
New Jersey Agricultural Society Annual Reception and Dinner, Cedar Gardens Restaurant, Route 33, Mercerville, N.J.
- Thursday, May 6**  
Municipal Land Use Law discussions sponsored by the Hunterdon County (New Jersey) Planning Board. 8 p.m. Little Theater, Hunterdon Central High School.
- Saturday, May 8**  
Feeder Calf Sale (New Jersey) Hackettstown Auction, 1 p.m.  
Four-Wheel Drive Pull sponsored by the Rough and Tumble Historical Association in Kinzer. 7 p.m.

## RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong

