

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Presidential impressions

With all due respect to President Carter, the Presidency has lost something if first impressions are any indication. It may be the way the man from Georgia wants it to be, but it disappointed most of the 30 farm editors from across the country whom he invited to the Executive Mansion on Sept. 30. Many of them had been to the White House before to meet leaders of previous administrations.

I, for one, can only compare him to former President Gerald Ford, who hosted a similar group of farm editors in April of 1976.

The very first impression Carter makes is that he is attempting to be very thorough with his management of government and grooming of an image. It's something Americans have come to know since before the election last Fall. Carter must be given credit, for example, for his reaching out to groups such as farm editors and for his expressed desire to work for a better America. That's a hollow statement, however, since most of us left the White House

briefing Sept. 30 wondering why in the world we were there.

Granted, an invitation to the White House is not taken lightly. Regardless of which party is in power, it's an honor and all of us felt privileged to share the President's company. I'm sure we give Carter credit for trying, but somehow many of us expected a little more than that we got it from Carter's predecessor.

To this writer, at least, the image of the Presidency fell when the President walked into the Cabinet Room, where we were gathered to meet with him. The initial reaction is, of course "There he is... the President," but somehow something was missing.

During the campaign for the Presidency, Carter capitalized on the common image with which most people could easily identify.

Now, as this nation's chief executive, he unknowingly or deliberately carries that image along with him. If one 30-minute meeting can be used as a measurement of leadership qualities, Carter scores

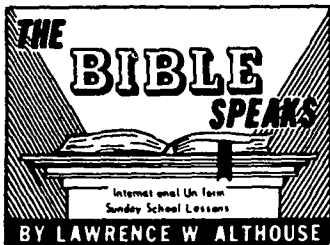
significantly lower than the man he replaced. Ironically, former President Ford was often criticized as a man who was too much of a nice guy and not enough of a leader. To this writer, that assessment is completely turned around. The former President not only conveyed the image of being a nice guy, he came across as an able statesman and knowledgeable leader. Ford impressed his audience of farm writers with his knowledge of even remote agricultural issues while Carter failed to make such a dynamic impression.

The President and his office deserve respect. This editorial is not intended to be disrespectful, but rather an assessment and comparison of two visits to the White House.

The image of the Presidency fell when Carter walked into the Cabinet Room because he entered completely unannounced. A door opened, and there he was, a few seconds later he was sitting in his chair. With Ford, on the other hand, a White House aide preceded Ford's entrance with the announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States." Is that too much formality and courtesy, to warrant abandonment of the practice? I think

not. In my opinion, it took something away from the Presidency, as well as the President. For those who may want to argue that cutting this kind of formality out of government is part of Carter's plan to reduce the federal payroll, I have the news. According to a recent article in *U.S. News and World Report*, Carter added 66,763 people to the federal payroll during his first eight months in office. The former President, surprisingly enough, reduced his inherited figure by 42,604 during his first eight months in office. Clearly, this serves as one example that we're not getting what was promised. Carter really hasn't been all that more willing to hold news conferences either, than was Ford. Again, during their first eight months in office, Carter has held 14 news conferences while Ford had 12. Ford had 296 bills signed into law at the end of his first eight months in office, while Carter scored 116.

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THORNS ON THE FRUIT TREE

Lesson for October 9, 1977

Background Scripture:

Luke 6:43-49

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 7:21-29

Many Christians today seemed obsessed with Satan.

They look for him in every nook and cranny - particularly their neighbor's nook and cranny! As some of our forefathers imperiled their own souls with their inquisitions and witch-hunts, so there are many who are today "hooked on" the Devil.

Whenever these people find themselves in some theological or doctrinal disagreement with another follower of Christ, they begin to sanctimoniously wonder-out-loud whether their "brother" might not be the "tool of Satan"? Let their fellow Christian perform some act that puzzles them or fails to fit into their own

prescribed Christian lifestyle and they begin to intone the words, "counterfeit works of the Devil!"

Of figs and thorns

The problem here is not that there is no evil in the world, no demonic force, for Jesus himself acknowledged this reality. But, though he acknowledged the reality, he did not focus upon it. What he focused on was the Spirit of God working in the world. He chose to accentuate the positive - God's presence and power - instead of the negative disposition to see Satan wherever he looked.

The key to this approach was extremely pragmatic.

There were no chemical, psychological or mechanical tests or devices to determine who or what had the demon.

So, Jesus employed a simple but profound rule-of-thumb: "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit" (Luke 6:43,44). The proof was to be found not in our judgement of each other's theology, doctrines and religious lifestyles, but by our evaluation of the fruits that issue from these. In other words, a lifestyle that bears good fruit, that issues a loving service to our fellowman must be a good

tree. Thorns do not bear fruits. Satan-possessed people do not live loving, redemptive lives.

Why call me Lord?

For me the only test of the authenticity of another's faith must be its fruitfulness. If a person comes to me with a "new discovery" in his spiritual life, claiming "I've found it!", who am I to question the particulars of that spiritual style so long as it is productive of Christlike love and service? Of course, if you really have "found it," then the obvious results should be a humility and love that finds its fruition, not in

judging others, but in serving them.

Because the term "Lord" means one to whom we give our obedience, there is nothing more ludicrous than a Christian who runs around saying "Lord, Lord," but doesn't live the redemptive life to which he or she is called. If we are truly Christians who have found our Lord, we will not only hear and know his words, but we will do them and there will be no thorns on our fruit tree.

NOW IS THE TIME...

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agr. Agent

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TO PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR'S CORN CROP

It's that season of the year to plan for next year's crop of golden ears since the harvest at present is pretty well along. Corn growers can now see the results of the planning, fertilizing, planting, pest control efforts and related practices in producing the crop coming out of the fields. What contributed to the success of satisfying yields or possibly lowered the final outcome? It is often a question of adding the pluses and minuses to determine the results. Evaluate what was done right and subtract the things

which may have gone wrong. The corn borer worked overtime this growing season. Weed control was erratic. Rainfall distribution lacked uniformity. Many factors determined the success of the crop.

TO BREAK DAIRY HEIFERS INTO HERD EARLY

Working dairy heifers into the milking string routines often presents a problem or two. At best, a heifer must undergo a great amount of stress at the time of her first calving. Add to this the new experience she must undergo to join the milking herd. The result frequently

is a frustrated, excited animal. A good way to make the transition a lot easier for both the heifer and the dairyman is to introduce the expectant "cow" into the herd 2 to 4 weeks before she freshens. This will allow her to become accustomed to her herdmates, the new feeding schedule, milking and all other routines gradually without the stress of calving. After she freshens the only real new experience will be the application of the milking machine. Likely, she won't rebel over that routine.

TO SOW THE WHEAT CROP

Weather always plays a

key role in the production of any crop. After the weather-related problems of last fall, it should be imperative to take advantage of any breaks in the present fall season to put in the wheat. We are presently in a favorable situation to take advantage of existing conditions. The fly-free date of October 10th can almost be ignored since most wheat varieties now have Hessian fly resistance. Sowing wheat soon will insure adequate fall growth before cold weather arrives.

TO ENJOY THE FALL SEASON

Autumn has a lot of pleasant delights to enjoy

and participate in. Those chilly, somewhat longer nights, and sunny days have an invigorating effect

on us as the season's shift gears. On the home and garden fronts there is an extra measure of eagerness

to get the last of the harvest safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. "Many hands make light work", is an old adage brought into good use here in the Fall. The beauty of this season shows everywhere.

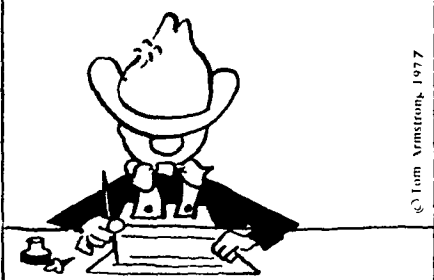
Woodlands, road and hillsides, are splashed with their Autumn hues. Wind-

shield surveys of favorite trees and shrubs in their full colorful glory can easily be spotted and admired. Lawns, hay fields and pastures, soon to be joined by newly sown small grains, take on a deeper green as a result of rains and cooler growing conditions to which all grasses respond favorably. Fall beauty is everywhere in the great outdoors. Take time to enjoy it.



RURAL ROUTE

DEAR SON: I KNOW THERE ARE MANY DECISIONS TO BE MADE AT COLLEGE IN YOUR LAST LETTER



YOU SOUNDED A LITTLE CONFUSED AS TO WHAT COURSE TO FOLLOW. IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE...



DO YOU WANT TO BE RICH, OR DO YOU WANT TO BE A FARMER?



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Today, Oct. 8
Adams County Apple Harvest Festival continues at the South Mountain Fairgrounds near Aarendtsville.
York County Farmers Association meets at Colonial Valley, Menges Mills, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 9
Adams County Apple Festival continues.
York County 4-H

Achievement Day, 4-H Center, 2 p.m.
Charolais Association holds annual meeting, immediately following the Eastern National Charolais Show (approximately 3:30 p.m.) in the basement of the administration building of the Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md.

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