

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

BY DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



What are we, the people, doing wrong?

Shocking news arrived in this office this week. So shocking, that it needs to be shared, with hopes that a small effort can be launched to straighten out the problem.

Many of you readers may have noticed an Associated Press news story earlier this week about 111 ninth-graders in Hawaii who were asked to write the Pledge of Allegiance. None could do it.

At about the same time, that article hit the wires, American Farm Bureau president Allan Grant revealed a study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce which documents further ignorance among American high school students. To lessen chances of your missing the story, it begins on page 1 of this week's issue.

Grant is upset by these kind of trends. So am I. So are millions of other people, I'm sure. The attitudes reflected in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce survey are shameful and indicative of rough sailing for a great country and great people. That includes agriculture.

America's young agricultural

society would undoubtedly score much higher than did the students in the U.S.C. of C. survey, but that's no big consolation. We must remember that we're outnumbered about 20 to 1.

Let's take a closer look at the Pledge of Allegiance test. The teacher who conducted the inquiry called the results "frightening." Some students were so far off the track that they wrote phrases such as "under guard" instead of "under God," and "for richest stand" instead of "for which it stands."

Twelve of the 111 students couldn't spell the word "America."

The teacher exclaimed "I'm sick, I don't know where to turn," adding that she was convinced educational standards are not high enough. "Students are being passed regardless of their skills," she charged.

Coincidentally, I recently had a Lancaster County teacher tell me that she's the only one in her class who recites the Pledge of Allegiance each morning. The students themselves just don't care.

As for the U.S.C. of C. study, the percentages of ignorance suggest very strongly that education in the United States isn't worth a whole lot when it comes to teaching principles which have made this country free and great.

What are we doing wrong?

We're letting some educators get away with murder.

Murder of a way of life, an economic system, a free society, and a country.

Impressions from our nation's capital

The White House was bathed in warm sunlight while a group of agricultural writers from all over the country visited there two weeks ago. It was a gorgeous day. No one ever forgets a visit to the Executive Mansion, I believe, especially when the occasion includes a session with the President himself.

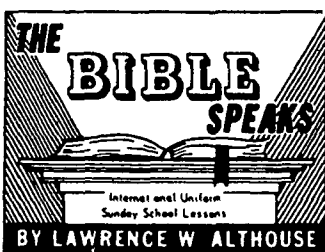
The great weather was appropriate for the occasion. Anyone who has

respect for the United States of America, and the Presidency, and the President feels privileged and honored to set foot on the White House grounds. The sun was shining and so were our feelings of pride and satisfaction.

We walked through a hallway in the White House which reflected history and highly respectable stateliness. Then we gathered in the

Cabinet Room, the windows of which faced the Rose Garden. The visitor can't help but be impressed by the decor of the large room -- the paintings, drapes, furnishings, woodwork, chandeliers, and much more. It's a beautiful place and conveys a feeling of warmth.

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EASIER DONE THAN SAID

Lesson for October 16, 1977

Background Scripture:

Luke 10:25-37.

Devotional Reading:

Matthew 20:16-21.

I realize that the title of this week's column may seem, at first glance, a

typographical error. We are accustomed to saying or hearing said that some things are "easier said than done." And, often, this is so.

That is evident in the religious atmosphere of Jesus' own day. People talked about religion a great deal. In fact, it was easily their favorite pastime. Some people even made a profession out of it - just as some of us still do today. There was nothing the people loved so much as a good debate on some minor point in the law.

How do you read?

Last February while in Jerusalem, as I was taking a group of people through the

building that is the traditional site of both David's tomb and The Last Supper, an old rabbi insisted that we come with him to see a very old and valuable Torah. As we entered the room there was a group of Hassidic Jews engaged in loud and animated discourse (the word "conversation" would be inappropriate). While we examined the scrolls, they became so loud and animated that I took the rabbi aside and asked what was the matter. Smiling broadly he informed me that "Nothing is the matter; they are just discussing the scriptures!"

I really shouldn't have

been so unsuspecting for I have seen and heard Christians "discuss" the scriptures with the same degree of heat and volume. Human beings truly love to talk about religion.

Without being too hard on the lawyer who questioned Jesus in Luke 10, it seems to me that that was what he wanted too. He wanted to talk about religion and so he raised one of the familiar questions with which the religious debaters and authorities like to become engrossed: "...what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The lawyer wanted to see how Jesus would answer the age-old question.

To justify himself

He must have been surprised when Jesus turned the question back to him and said, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" (10:26). Asked his opinion, the lawyer gave a textbook answer: "You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself." Hearing this answer, Jesus said he was on the right track.

But the lawyer wasn't satisfied for he knew that it was an answer that wasn't an answer; it left too much unanswered: "And who is my neighbor?" Lord, it is easy to say but how do we

apply it? How do we live it in our lives?

It was in response that Jesus told the remarkable story of "the Good Samaritan" in which he demonstrated dramatically that we can debate these questions all our lives, but

until we stop talking (the priest and the Levite who "passed by" were talkers), and start doing, as the

Samaritan did, we will never learn that love often is, in truth, easier done than said!

NOW IS THE TIME...

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agr. Agent

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TO MAKE LAST ALFALFA CUTTING

Several inquiries have related to the merits of taking the final cutting of alfalfa at this time of the year; in many former years we have suggested to wait until after the first killing frost. At the time of this writing we have not had a killing frost here in southeastern Pennsylvania; however, many crop experts feel there is little value in waiting until after the middle of October to remove the last crop. New Stands (seeded in 1977) no doubt will be better off if this final

cutting is left on the field; the plants will hold the snow better and give more winter protection. Old stands are more able to stand the removal of the plants late in the Fall. Under all conditions it is suggested that the field be topdressed with a 0-20-20 or 0-15-30 fertilizer yet this fall. This extra plant food will strengthen the plants and give greater yields next summer.

TO BEWARE

OF JOHNSONGRASS

As the current corn crop is being harvested we suggest that growers be on the alert for Johnsongrass plants.

These are similar to sorghum plants and should be eradicated at once before another cropping season. I have had farmers say they noticed one or two plants one fall and the next summer noticed several dozen plants. This grass-type weed will soon take over a field and no crop can be harvested. Farmers with stands of Johnsongrass should consult their local County Extension Agent for treatments next spring and summer.

TO BEWARE

OF ACORNS

The word of caution may be a bit late for some areas

but fallen acorns are not good dairy cow feed. In fact, they are not good for consumption of any type of bovines. Our veterinarians report serious digestive troubles when cattle eat acorns and the loss of milk flow for the current lactation. We realize that many dairymen do less grazing of their milking herd than in previous years; however, some areas are suitable only for grazing and in the presence of oak trees, careful herd management is essential. Along this same line, cattle should not be permitted to graze legumes

such as alfalfa or clover when frost is on the plants; serious bloating can result. After the frost has melted and the plants are dry, then grazing may be done normally.

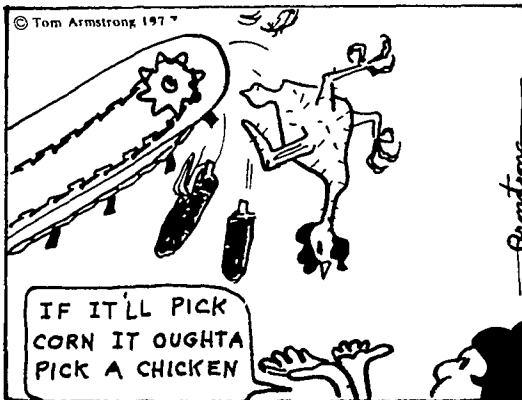
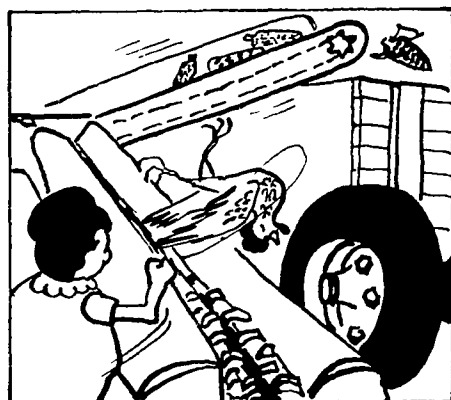
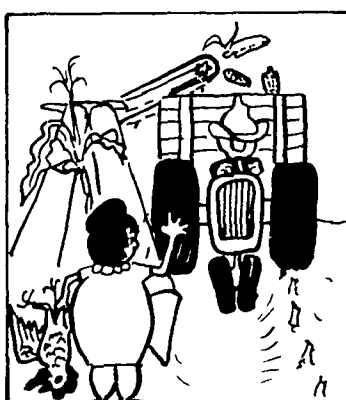
TO HARVEST

LIVESTOCK BEDDING

All types of bedding materials are scarce and expensive; prices at auctions and sales are very high and are worth the effort to utilize all kinds of materials. We hope that all types of small grain straw is harvested and under cover. Currently, the corn stalks are a potential bedding

material and we urge all growers to attempt to harvest them for bedding purposes. Shredded corn fodder makes good bedding for all types of livestock, where bedding materials can be used. The stalks can absorb large amounts of liquids and still can be returned to the soil for higher organic matter content. Don't waste any bedding materials this fall.

RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, Oct. 15

Thomasville 4-H Club has hay ride, beginning at the Rodney Eisenhart farm, 7:30 p.m.

Oktoberfest at Rough and Tumble Engineers Museum grounds, Kinzer. Many old-time pieces of farm machinery will be shown and demonstrated. Old-time crafts will also be a part of the activities, which begin at 10 a.m. and last until 5 p.m.

Pa. Polled Hereford Sale, York Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 17

Lancaster County Farmers Association begins week of promotional activities and displays at Park City Mall, Lancaster.

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Adams County Holstein banquet, New Chester, 6:45 p.m. at St. John's Church.

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