

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Ag is too important to shove around

"Agriculture has grown so big in its non-farm programs, which are essentially welfare, that a lot of the fellows working in the U S Department of Agriculture aren't really close to agriculture."

That statement comes from a Washington-based staff member of the American Farm Bureau Federation and was made in reference to a news story concerning proposed reorganization of USDA

That gives us reason to be concerned

Although most any move to streamline the workings of government should be praised, some questions may be raised if that so-called streamlining interferes with a direct relationship

The Cooperative Extension Service is one branch of USDA which may be altered In its proposed new capacity, this long-time agency of service and help to farmers will take in the needs of city folks as well If the city people need educational assistance, let them get their own Let's not dilute the Agricultural Extension Service by spreading it all around and allowing it to be saturated with ideas and

programs which might end up neglecting the needs of farmers

The Extension Service belongs to farmers, and others directly involved in agriculture Let's not allow it to be taken over by interests which aren't tied in closely to the farming and gardening scene Too much of that has already taken place at USDA

Another proposal made by Secretary Bergland suggests placing the USDA's Office of Communications under the Office of Congressional Relations Such a direct political connection between USDA communications and Congress might seriously jeopardize credibility of news releases That's not to say, however, that present news releases put out by USDA are everything a journalist or farmer would want to ask for

A third area of concern to AFBF, and cattlemen in particular, is the proposal to place the Packers and Stockyards Administration under the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service It's presently an independent agency AFBF challenges that removing its

autonomy would reduce its effectiveness

Secretary Bergland may have a good idea in wanting to reorganize his Department, and he's well within his legal responsibilities to want to do so But any plan which would take away from the present effectiveness of agricultural agencies needs reconsideration

The Agriculture Department has been diluted and burdened enough with people and programs which are a far cry from the farmer's interests. If such a trend is allowed to continue, we may eventually have USDA replaced by something like USDHNN

"U S Department of Human Needs and Nutrition" We've already seen how a Select Committee with similar name treats agriculture And it's a well-known fact that government is trying to gain more and more say in what we eat Reducing the effectiveness of direct farmer services and programs will in effect put farmers further into the shadows of urban consumer groups and others who have little or no understanding of the workings of agriculture

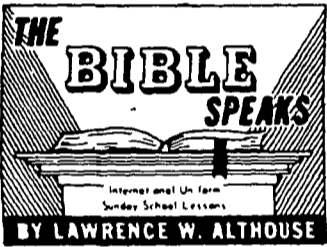
Thoughts for the season

All the seasons of the year are beautiful in their own way, but Autumn is - to say the least - a lot more colorful Like the grand finale of a July Fourth fireworks display, Autumn's colors are an awe inspiring event which is followed by rest, sleep, and silence

Man has witnessed this beautiful season for thousands of years, and

yet year after year it's a scene which captivates his sense of beauty. Autumn's beauty is one of those things you want to see again and again, and you always appreciate it, whether you're five or 105

Every season, and every magical happening in Nature is beautiful So beautiful, in fact, that man, in all his (Continued on Page 35)



DAY OF RECKONING

Lesson for October 30, 1977

Background Scripture:
Luke 12:35-48.

Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 5:1-7.

In the movies, on television, and in novels we are always happy to see the

hero rewarded and the villain punished. Usually, that's the way it happens in fiction: justice is done at last.

In real life, however, it doesn't always work out that way, it seems. The villains "get away with murder," both figuratively and literally. The bad guys often continue to win and some even seem to die happy and prosperous. Then too, there are some "good guys" who go to their graves without vindication.

Bigger and better barns
Because the above state of affairs is obvious to all, there are many who live their lives with an "every-man-for-

himself" attitude that once might have been called "ruthless," but today is likely to be dubbed as "aggressive enterprise." Why not? If there is no justice in the world - particularly if you can afford to buy it - why not get as much as you can as often as you can.

Jesus, however taught his followers that this "dog-eat-dog" approach life is simply an illusion, a rather dangerous illusion at that. Life in this world only appears to be without justice because our perspective is very limited. Unable to see beyond the grave, we assume that there is no

reckoning beyond that. But, said Jesus, there is!

We please without any fear of judgement.

More than food

When people begin to believe that there is no divine judgement, they often live in a completely selfish and ruthless manner. So it was with the servant in the parable, but while he was beating the hired help and living like a glutton and drunkard, the master suddenly and unexpectedly returned. Though he had thought he was getting away with something, the unwise steward was judged and punished severely.

One of the central themes of Christianity is that, regardless of how things

may seem in the world, there is reckoning - a reckoning, not just for some, but for all. The reckoning will be completely equitable: "Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more" (12:48). The key is to live life with an awareness of the reckoning that will ultimately come. Then, "Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing."

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



To Protect Trees And Shrubs For Winter

Trees and shrubs can get through the winter, but they can do it better with a little help from you. This information on winter protection might help save some of your valued trees and shrubs.

Thin-barked trees can be damaged by sunscald in the winter. That's why it's a good idea to wrap the trunks of such trees as sugar maple, (Continued on Page 16)

To Pick and Store Apples
This is apple picking season but it is also important on how to store them.

Remember, cool apples will keep longer. Ideally, they should be stored at 33 degrees Fahrenheit, at 90 percent humidity, and in dim light or darkness. Since many people can't provide these perfect conditions, the next best thing is a family-type refrigerator Just put apples in a plastic bag, then close the bag loosely or punch a few small holes in it so air can circulate.

Now as to picking - it's a good practice to store the fruit in shade as it's picked,

then allow it to stand in the orchard overnight to cool. Then, place the apples in storage early in the morning before the temperature rises too much.

If you leave apples in a packing shed or in piles under the trees for one week, you'll shorten their storage life by about five weeks.

To Be Alert For Hunters
The small game hunting season will open on Saturday. I would like to remind hunters to be courteous and considerate while hunting on farms and to encourage better relations between farmers and hunters. Criticism of hunting often starts because of few hun-

ters forget the landowner is his host. If hunters will observe a few sensible hunting manners, they will keep themselves from becoming unwelcome guests.

Most landowners permit hunting when they are asked permission. Asking permission to hunt is a small courtesy in return for a pleasant day in the field, yet too few people follow this rule. Landowners may actually need protection from indifferent, careless and destructive hunters. When the trouble starts, many farmers post their land for protection from irresponsible hunters. It takes very little time

and costs nothing to observe a few common courtesy rules while hunting: ask permission before hunting, close gates, pick up litter after eating lunch, and stay out of unharvested crops.

Keep a safe distance from buildings and livestock and be sure to respect the property of others.

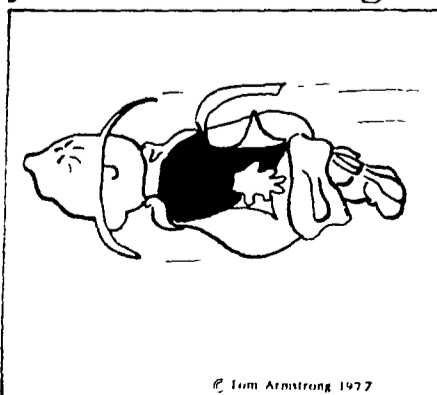
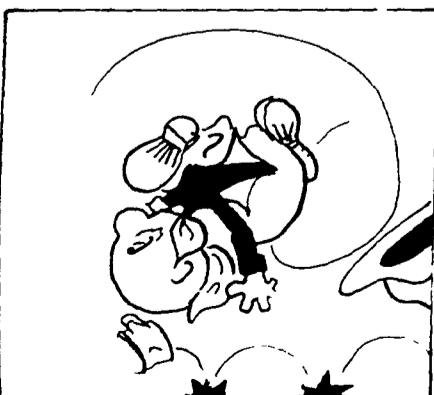
To Identify Next Year's Weed Problems

When you walk through your corn fields this fall and winter, you may be looking at next year's weed problem. Now is the best time to make field by field inventory of weeds that have not been controlled. Weeds that are present

should be identified and listed for each field. Often you will find a few weeds that have produced seed. Some of the annual grasses are prolific seed producers, and a minor infestation of the foxtails or fall panicum can be serious next year if not controlled.

If you are growing continuous corn and relying heavily on one herbicide, beware. Weeds that escape control will build up very rapidly and cause serious reductions in corn yield. By taking a weed inventory this fall, you can select the proper combination of herbicides to effectively control weeds next spring.

RURAL ROUTE By Tom Armstrong



Farm Calendar

Today, Oct. 29
District 1 of Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers holds annual meeting, North Harford High School, Pylesville, Md., 7 p.m.
Adams County Beef Producers Feeder Calf Sale, 6 p.m. at South Mountain Fairgrounds. Social hour, with Rep. Bill Goodling as guest, will begin at 5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 31
District 3 of Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers holds annual meeting, Carroll County Ag Center, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 1
Lebanon County DHIA banquet, Schaefferstown Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
District 8 of Maryland (Continued on Page 16)