

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



The meaning of Thanksgiving and the traditions should never be forgotten or neglected. Have a happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Precious families, wonderful friends, delicious food comfortable homes, welcome opportunities, beautiful surroundings, healthy bodies bountiful products, good fortunes, priceless freedoms, and our needs met in so many different ways -- these are just a few happenings of our daily lives which we have to be thankful for

The list could go on and on From the smallest and seemingly in-

significant drops of water to the big blessings of a healthy family We have a lot to be grateful for

As we approach another holiday of Thanksgiving we should remember that Nov 24 isn't just a turkey feast Thanksgiving meant much more than that to the early settlers who came to this country centuries ago They did not and could not take anything for

granted due to the circumstances which brought them to this land

Our duty on Thanksgiving -- and really every day -- is to remember the many blessings we have, and to live and work in such a way so that the blessings may be passed on to coming generations It's often said that we're in danger of losing some of our blessings, and it's generally acknowledged that if we do -- it'll be because we took them for granted

COMMENTS FROM READERS

Farmland preservation urged

Editor, Lancaster Farming: I was certainly very pleased to find your editorial on "Preserving good farmland" on the front page of your newspaper. This, or a similar editorial should be upon every front page of every newspaper each week until something constructive is done to preserve good farmland throughout our nation. How can a nation of people, who supposedly are the most intelligent people on Earth, permit such wanton destruction of our

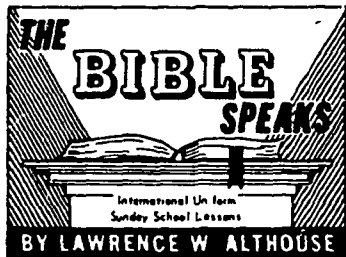
most important natural resource; the land which provides us sustenance? We foresee a doubling of world population within a 25 year period and already are conducting annual world food conferences hopefully to solve the problem of starvation throughout the world at this present time. How can we ever hope to feed twice the people within another generation with a dwindling of the Earth's resources which can and will affect food production; and

yet condone the taking of the finest soils for non-agricultural development? Certainly there is much concern expressed by politicians as well as editors and environmentally concerned people. However, little or no action is taken to stop the conversion of land use, or should I say, in setting up a wise land use program nationwide as well as state wide. Clearly, of course, this is because of politico-economic reasons. If would be political

susicide for any legislator to dare suggest that we place restrictions on what we consider as private property rights. Infact I, as a property owner, would and have resisted what I consider as too much governmental intervention in rights which to us are nearly sacred. However, I knew at the time of purchase that I was buying the title to a piece of this Planet Earth, a bit of God's creation and not a renewable commodity which can be freely traded over the counter. I also realized that this bit of Earth would be here for someone to treasure long after my journey here has ended. Therefore, I

would not and should not be bitter knowing I could sell the good land with good agricultural capabilities for none other than so noble a purpose. To put this all together, I am too well aware that restrictions on land use are unpopular with farmers as a whole. We tend to be fiercely jealous of property rights. Therefore I would suggest another approach be taken to solve the problem. An approach not as immediately effective to be sure, neither anymore painful or disdainful. To understand better what I am about to suggest, review in your own mind

what down through the years has brought development into the agricultural regions and what is attracting further development in these regions. Certainly one of the reasons was good roads which helped to develop commerce. Another was industry which at first may have been agriculturally related although this relationship has long ago disappeared. Therefore, I am about to suggest that we press first for a responsible state agency to fairly map soils capabilities within counties and the State and designate agricultural land versus for (Continued on Page 29)



GOD AND/OR CAESAR?

Lesson for November 20, 1977
 Background Scripture: Luke 20:19-26, Acts 5:27-32, Romans 13:1-10.
 Devotional Reading: Romans 12-1-8.

"Than render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
 What kind of answer was that?
 Was Jesus giving his flowers a rule-of-thumb that could be used whenever faith and state seemed in conflict?
 Well, yes.....and no.
 It was the beginning of an answer, but not the whole to it. To those Jews who believed that any cooperation with the Roman authorities was contrary to their allegiance to God, Jesus was indicating

significant disagreement. His answer, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's...." says plainly that God's children do have responsibilities to the state. Since it was the question of paying taxes that precipitated this question, Jesus is obviously saying that taxation was one of them.
 Not either/or
 To those, on the other hand, who feel that the believer must in every situation and choice be obedient to the state, Jesus was also saying that there are areas of life in which man owes his highest obedience to God alone.

Thus, Jesus was not agreeing with either extreme. He did not believe that a person had to choose to obey only the state, or only God.
 The problem for us is that, apart from the obvious reference to paying taxes, Jesus' response does not spell out just what belongs to God and what belongs to Caesar. So how can we know Jesus' view on these knotty conflicts between faith and state?
 The answer, I believe, is that we must not look for this one utterance--on "Caesar" and "God" - to provide us

with all the answers. All Jesus is saying in it is that it does not have to be God or Caesar. As he responds it is evident that it is God and Caesar. Beyond that, we must look elsewhere.
 What comes first?
 If we look at the rest of his life and teachings we begin to see more of the answer. For one thing, it is evident from his whole life that, although he was generally a law-abiding citizen, his greatest allegiance was always to God. He followed the commands of Caesar so long as they were not in conflict with the commands he received from God.

Therefore, there were times when he was critical of state officials (Luke 13:32). There were times when he was not cooperative with public officials and was even sharp in some of his replies (Luke 22,23). He obviously could have saved himself before Pilate, but he refused to go back on his God-given mission. So, Jesus was executed by the state as a common criminal, a gross miscarriage of justice. Thus, from his own life we find the full answer he gave: God and state, but when these two are in conflict, then God!



NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent
 Phone 394-6851

TO BE CAREFUL WITH BIG BALES
 We are aware of the increased number of big bales of hay and corn fodder being made during the past Summer and Fall. These bales usually weigh from a half a ton up to a ton and can be the cause of accidents and fatal injuries. If they are to be moved by a front-end loader on a tractor, then be careful they do not overturn the vehicle, or roll down from the loader onto the driver. Also, we have heard of them rolling down steep slopes into fences, buildings, or farm machinery. This is a

new way of storing and handling roughages, but requires some special safety measures in order to avoid an accident.
TO CHECK FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
 The Winter season is at hand when barns are full of livestock, machinery, and feeding materials; also, more time is being spent around the barn than last Summer. This requires fire prevention methods on everyone's part; also, condemns smoking in buildings which I feel is done too frequently. Several good fire extinguishers in the

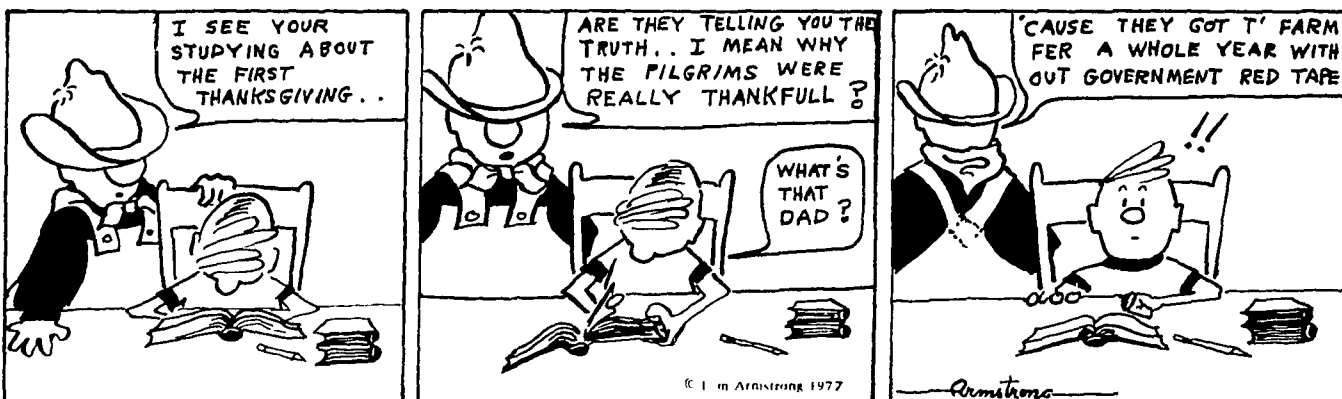
buildings is strongly suggested to help keep the fire under control until the fire truck arrives. This means that the extinguishers should be in working order and every member of the family know where they are located and how to operate them. Don't be caught with a fire extinguisher that won't work.
TO CHECK DAIRY BARN VENTILATION AND INSULATION
 We have had our first touch of Winter weather and no doubt many walls and windows were wet with condensation; this is dif-

ficult to completely eliminate, but efforts should be made to prevent this condition as much as possible. When foul air is moved out of the barn with exhaust fans, there should be less condensation; also, with adequate insulation in both ceilings and side-walls, there should be less dripping. Any type of farm animal that is housed in confinement will give off body heat that can't escape from the building unless some special means is provided. Open buildings, or cattle in open feedlots, have plenty of natural air movement and should not

require any type of ventilation.
TO PREPARE FARM PONDS FOR WINTER
 Owners of farm ponds might be giving some attention to ice-skating safety, and the use of the pond as a fire fighting tool. In the first case, emergency rescue equipment should be at the pond in case a skater breaks through ice; this can be wooden raft, a wooden ladder, rope with inflated inner-tube, or several planks or wide boards. Any of these might be needed quickly and

should be on hand. Referring to fire fighting with the pond water, owners should keep in mind that the fire truck must get within 25 feet of the water in order to pump water to the scene of the fire. Be sure there is all-weather lane or road to the edge of the pond. The heavy truck may mire down in the mud and be useless.

RURAL ROUTE



By Tom Armstrong

Farm Calendar

Today, Nov. 19
 Farm-City Week in Chester County. Tours will be given on Chester County farms today and tomorrow. Other activities of Farm-City Week continue through Thursday.
 Sunday, Nov. 20
 Chester County farm tours.
 Monday, Nov. 21
 Farmers Union meeting, Snyder County, ASCS

Building along Route 104 at the north end of Middleburg, 8 p.m.
 Montgomery County Dairy Day, 10:15 a.m. at the Collegeville Inn. Topics to be covered are: poor conception rates, silent heats, infected uterus, retained placentas, abortions, making best use of home-grown feeds, maintaining

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