

EDITORIAL COMMENTS By DIETER KRIEG, EDITOR



Agriculture Secretary Bergland stands out

Comparatively few farmers ever have the opportunity to meet the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture. Earlier this week, I had the privilege of meeting him for the third time within a year. And each time I come away more impressed with the man. The man deserves a lot of credit and respect.

Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bergland is a man unlike most men in government. He's an individual who immediately comes across as an honest, sincere, down-to-earth type of fellow. Whereas many others in government have a habit of talking in circles and leaving the visitor more confused than ever before, Bergland talks straight. Whether one likes USDA's policies or not, that's a characteristic which deserves



Bob Bergland

applause.

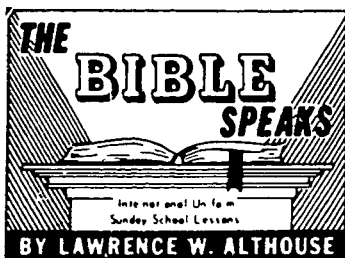
The head of USDA isn't one to put on airs either. On each of the occasions that I have had a chance to meet with him, Secretary Bergland comes prepared for action. "No holds barred," he announces as he faces members of the Newspaper Farm Editors of America.

The USDA secretary deserves applause for both the kind of presentations and answers he gives, as well as the way he conducts himself. Knowledgeable in his field and straight-forward in his approach, Secretary Bergland consistently gives his audiences something worth writing about and an experience that's pleasant rather than boring and frustrating.

Robert Bergland doesn't consider

himself to be "too high up" for anybody and he doesn't think of others as being unworthy of his time. He steps up to you with arm outstretched, introduces himself, and will take time to chat. Furthermore, he's been known to remember names of people he only sees occasionally -- like members of the Newspaper Farm Editors Association.

Robert Bergland stands out as one fine person in government. That's something that can't be said of everyone in Washington, D.C. Friendly, dedicated to his job -- an unmercifully tough job -- and straightforward, he's a man who farmers can be proud of.



THE OTHER ANANIAS

Lesson for April 30, 1978

Background Scripture:

Acts 9:1-31.

Devotional Reading:

Phillippians 3:3-11.

There are three men with the name of Ananias in the

Book of Acts. One of these, the husband of Sapphira, was struck dead as he was discovered in the midst of attempting to deceive the apostle Peter. His example hardly provides the name with a good impression.

Another Ananias appears near the end of Acts when Paul appears before the Sanhedrin. While Paul is speaking, this Ananias, the high priest, orders him struck across the mouth and Paul turns on him, calling him a "white-ashed wall" (23:1-5). Although he occupies a place of great religious prominence as high priest, this Ananias hardly

improves the image of the name in Acts.

A damascus disciple

The third Ananias in Acts, however, is a different man altogether. We know very little about him except that he is one of the Lord's disciples in Damascus at the time when Saul journeys there to continue to harass the church. Of course, on the Damascus road Saul has an experience in which he is struck blind.

Luke tells us that God spoke to Ananias in a vision and this tells us that Ananias was at least a man who was receptive to God's presence. Although he probably did not

seek visions from God, he did seek God's will and he was open to the leading of the Spirit. Thus, when God speaks to him, he hears and responds.

Thus, although we know little about this Ananias, what we do know makes him distinctive. Although God speaks to many people and would send them visions, visitations and voices, many never hear or see because they are not expectant and open.

"Here I am, Lord," Ananias responds when God calls him. Some of us might reply with a more cautious, "Yes, what do you want?" or

an annoyed, "What is it this time?" When Ananias heard his name called, however, his answer indicated his commitment to the Lord.

An evil reputation

Ananias must have been floored when he realized what it was that God wanted him to do. The last man he wanted to visit was this Saul of Tarsus who had an evil reputation as a persecutor of the church. We can sympathize with the objection Ananias raised.

Nevertheless, God prevailed upon him to do precisely what he ordered for this Saul would be "a chosen instrument of mine to

carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel" (9:15). Despite Ananias' personal fears and misgivings, he subjected them all to God's will. If God ordered it, he would do it.

We can be certain that he carried out his mission with some fear and trembling. Despite God's assurances, it was hard to overcome his feelings. But he did it and because he did, Christianity gained its greatest missionary and apostle.

That is the last we ever hear of the other Ananias, but it is enough to gain our admiration, respect, and emulation.

NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

Phone 394-6851



TO CONTROL JOHNSON GRASS

One of the good times to help eliminate johnson grass from a field is in the spring before it is planted to corn. However, the corn planting should be delayed until after May 20th in order to do much good. The material is Eradicane worked into the topsoil with several discings. This will prevent the johnson grass from growing. If it is done earlier in the spring, the material will not do much good, because the johnson grass is not far

enough along. Fields in winter grains can be treated after grain harvest by waiting until the grass grows several feet high and then spray with materials such as Roundup. Don't allow johnson grass to spread any further. It will take over a field in a few years.

TO MANAGE ALFALFA WELL

More acres and more tons of alfalfa should be the goal of every alfalfa grower. This forage crop is one of the most important in this part of the country and deserves

the best of attention. Old stands need to be well fertilized both spring and fall. New stands warrant both lime and fertilizer testing and application. Alfalfa will produce many tons of good livestock feed when given the chance. The market is very favorable for selling any surplus. Don't short-cut any good practices toward the objective of getting maximum yields. Insect control needs attention and growers are urged to be alert for infestation, and for the proper control. The prevention of insect injury is

needed; don't wait until the damage is done and then try salvage measures.

TO EXPECT NO-TILL INSECTS

Corn growers who are using the no-till method and growing continuous corn, should expect more problems from insects. This has often been true in the past. At planting time the corn should go into the ground with applications of insecticides for protection. Cutworms, army worms, and stalk borers can be expected to enter the picture where there is considerable

trash and organic matter on top of the soil. Growers should become acquainted with these insects and learn about the control suggestions.

TO SECURE

FARM POND PERMITS

Before any ponds are treated in Pennsylvania with any chemical, the owner should get a permit from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. This permit will require the making of the material to be used and the amount. Many ponds have both algae and weed infestation. As the

weather gets warmer these pond plants will begin to grow. Permits are needed in order for the owner to use the proper material, and to protect livestock downstream from the pond. Applications for the permits are available from any Pennsylvania Water Patrol Office, or from our Penn State Extension Office.

Farm Calendar

- Today, April 29**
Maryland Pork Producers Association Feeder Pig Show, Carroll County, Ag Center, Westminster, 12 noon.
Eastern Shore Spring Cattle Show, Queen Anne's County 4-H Park, Maryland-Delaware Ayrshire Breeders Dairy Cattle Field Day and Sale, 9 a.m. at the fairgrounds in Frederick.
Little International Exposition at Penn State, all day.
- Sunday, April 30**
York County observance of Rural Life Sunday, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center, Bair.
- Monday, May 1**
Dauphin County 4-H officers' training session.
- Wednesday, May 3**
Hearing concerning future use of Lancaster County streams, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Penn State Capitol Campus Auditorium, Middletown.
New Jersey Agricultural Society Annual Dinner, Cedar Gardens Restaurant, Mercerville, 6 p.m.
- Lancaster County Conservation District board of directors meets at the Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.**
- Lancaster County Conservation District will hold its monthly meeting, at the Farm and Home Center, 7:30 p.m.**
- Thursday, May 4**
Organizational meeting of the Lancaster County 4-H Photography Club, 7:30 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.
- Friday, May 5**
Dinner meeting of the board of directors of the Lancaster County Conservation District, 1 p.m. at the Cloister Restaurant, Ephrata.
- Saturday, May 6**
Eleventh annual Ag Alumni Society meeting, at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Hotel Hershey. Banquet starts at 6:30 p.m.

Rural Route

By Tom Armstrong

