

BY CURT HARLER, EDITOR



# Lancaster Farming says...

## Keep free enterprise trucking

Last week the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee favorably reported on S-2245, the Motor Carrier Reform Act.

This is a piece of legislation which will find farmers and consumers fighting on the same side against the trucking industry and the Teamsters Union.

Reform of trucking regulations could save farmers as much as \$5 billion per year by removing some of the complex web of regulations governing interstate trucking.

These regulations reportedly waste 500 million gallons of fuel a year. They cover such picky things as granting authority for some truckers to carry instant chicken noodle soup, but not onion or bean soup.

Trucking regulation has outlived its usefulness. Hauling prices are inflated because competition is blocked. Trucking firms are free to engage in legalized price fixing.

The rules began with the Motor Carrier Act of 1935 to protect the then-fragmented trucking industry during the Depression. Since then truckers have prospered, but the 1935 law still is on the books.

Why no reform? Mainly because

the American Trucking Association and the Teamsters together have

contributed \$759,899 to congressional candidates, according

to Common Cause, a nonpartisan citizens' lobby. And money like that makes Congressmen dance.

The National Grange supports trucking reform. So does Farm Bureau. In fact, they have been active in the fight and have backed several pro-farmer sections, including provisions to exempt from ICC regulation livestock, agricultural, seed, fertilizer, and other farm commodities.

New standards will make it easier to enter the trucking industry. Some rate freedom is provided.

It all should add up to less freight charges on many of the everyday items we use on our farms, from tractors to tool bars, from combines to calf hutches, as long as truckers continue to serve all areas and not only the high profit major centers. Remember, few farm communities have central terminals.

The measure could be on the Senate floor before the April 4 Easter recess. The controversy will make a sizable financial difference to farmers. In basic terms, the fight will come down to a battle with farms and free enterprise vs unions and bureaucracy.

It'll be interesting to see which side our lawmakers embrace.

## How to cap food prices

All sorts of publicity is being generated about the voluntary food price ceiling clamped on supermarket products.

The White House this past week issued a report on the program which can only be termed supportive.

Numerous food stores, including A&P, Giant Food, Pantry Pride and others, have announced their cooperation to fix prices in 5000 stores to assure the consumer that prices will not go up for periods of from one to five months.

Supposedly, the ceiling means that prices will not go up even if the retailer's costs go up, but that they could go down in response to decreased producer prices.

Come now, what producer has decreased prices? Fuel, seed, trucking, storage, labor and a host of other farm expenses have soared—last month energy costs alone went up a dizzying 7.5 percent.

Is this some kind of premature

April Fools joke on the farm community?

In effect, this move will clamp a tight lid on farm prices. No businessman will consider bidding prices up on raw materials like beef, pork or vegetables if he knows he is committed to holding the line on his sales price.

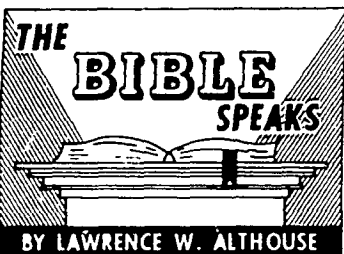
Chain stores work on thin margins and they will do nothing to squeeze profits any tighter than they already are.

The bottom line, of course, is that farmers can hope for no adjustment to the prices they receive no matter what the market would dictate.

Once again, agriculture is being used as a political tool to placate the consumer voting block.

Any cap on food prices has to be read as a cap on farm prices, and therefore farm prosperity. It's an insult to farmers, another example of political expediency.

It makes for good reading in all sorts of newspapers—except for farm papers.



### PILATE

Lesson for March 23, 1980

Background Scripture: John 18:28 through 19:16

Devotional Reading: John 12:27-36.

Almost everyone who has

ever been to the beautiful city of Lucerne, Switzerland, has seen or been to the top of towering Mount Pilatus. The local people tell a legend in which it is said that Pontius Pilate was buried on the top of this awesome mountain. Troubled by his guilt, they say, his spirit is often restless and the periodic storms that thunder around its summit are said to be the result of Pilate's troubled soul.

If, indeed, Pilate's soul does still writhe in anguish it is likely because his was a sin knowingly committed. Annas and Caiaphas and their compatriots were

blinded by their own prejudices and greed for power, but Pilate himself had realized the enormity of his evil, even as he was in the midst of committing it. **Take Him Yourselfes**

From the very beginning Pilate recognized that Jesus was not guilty of any crime. What Jesus was guilty of was offending the religious authorities and breaking some of their rules. Thus, acknowledging his innocence of crime, Pilate said: "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law" (John 18:31). It was clearly not a case for Pilate to judge.

But the enemies of Jesus knew that only Pilate could give them what they wanted: "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." The Romans had taken that power from the Jewish authorities. They were not seeking justice, Pilate realized, but vengeance.

Pilate had the power to keep this sordid affair from going any further, but perhaps having the naked power was not enough for him, perhaps what he wanted as well was the approval or admiration of the people whom his nation had conquered. He would not be the first or the last

conqueror to want that "something more". So, he wavered from his intention and began to question Jesus, looking for some way to both serve justice and please his subjects.

...But You Have A Custom

The conversation with Jesus only strengthened his certainty: "I find no crime in him" (18:38). If only he had stopped right there with that affirmation, Jesus' life might have been spared and Pilate's soul would have escaped eternal anguish. It was the answer of his heart and he knew in his heart it was the right answer.

But, he went on, following

the guidance of his wily mind: "But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?" (18:39). But the crowd called out, "Not this man, but Barabbas!"

In his own mind, Pilate thought that he could let the crowd make their own decision and still keep his conscience clear. The other Gospel writers tell us that he symbolically washed his hands of the whole affair. But Pilate was to find out that the blood of Jesus was not so easily purged from his conscience.



## NOW IS THE TIME

By Max Smith, Lancaster County Agricultural Agent  
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farm machinery. We urge farmers to take the time to be safe; in many cases, haste has been the reason for farm accidents. When we get in a hurry we overlook safety measures and face additional hazards. Most pieces of farm machinery have safety guards to be kept over dangerous places. To operate the machine

without these guards is a "No-No" and should not be done. Take the time to be safe—otherwise you may be sorry for the rest of your life.

### TO BE A GOOD MONEY MANAGER

If you have just recently sold a string of cattle, or other livestock, and have some money left, what should you do with it? Some

farmers may invest it back into other livestock; others may go on the money market and invest it in short-term paper. Some of the returns in interest from this money is amazing. No doubt savings accounts are getting to an all-time low when there are so many other ways to have money working for you. I am not in a position to say what is the best way to invest your funds; however, I feel that more farmers need to give

more attention to their money management. Perhaps some counseling with your banker, or other financial authority, will be of help. For those who have to borrow money at current interest rates, it looks like a full-time job to meet interest payments.

### TO COMMUNICATE WITH LEGISLATORS

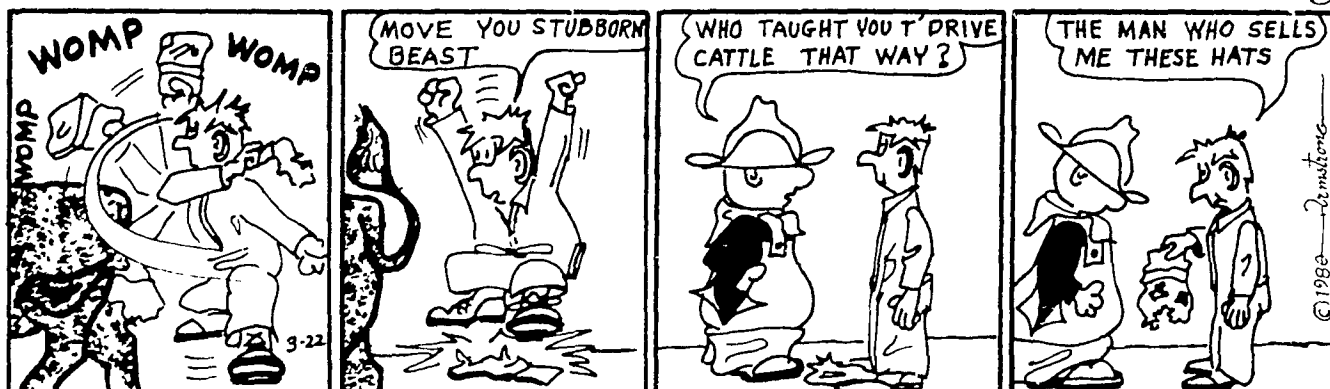
I'll admit that I'm not much of a politician; (Turn to Page A14)

**TO FARM SAFELY**  
According to the calendar spring is here and field and garden action will soon begin. With a few more days of sunshine and wind, some

gardens and fields will be dry enough to be worked. On the farm front there are many chores to be done before planting starts; most of these require tractors and

## RURAL ROUTE

By Tom Armstrong



## Farm Calendar

Saturday, March 22  
Hunterdon Co. 4-H roller skating party, Whitehouse Rink, 10:00 a.m.  
Rising Sun, Md. Milk Squatters 4-H Holstein tour of Lancaster County; 9:00 a.m.  
Pennsylvania Maple Festival, Meyersdale,

through the 30th; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Monday, March 24  
Red Lion Young Farmers meeting, 8:00 p.m.; at the school ag shop.  
National DHIA convention, Columbus Sheraton,

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