



# Off the Sounding Board

By Sheila Miller, Editor

## Reflections and resolutions

The dawning of a new year is a time for making resolutions, and reflecting on the events of the past 365 days.

We all look forward to a brighter 1982 for farmers, and fortunately we are not alone.

U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, who sits at the helm of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, has come up with his New Year's resolutions, too.

"We are shaping a legislative agenda which will provide for a more productive and more profitable agriculture now and in the future," Helms stated.

"Throughout most of this year, we dedicated much of our efforts to the 1981 Farm Bill. Completing this piece of agricultural legislation was a monumental and worthwhile task.

"The Committee was successful in completing 8 additional bills. We held numerous hearings on agricultural issues as well as a number of hearings for executive appointments by the President," he said.

"In 1982, the same commitment and dedication to agriculture and feeding the world will be instrumental in the major legislative initiatives of the Committee."

Outlining the tasks ahead, Helms noted that in the forefront would be the arduous job of trimming the budget for 1983. He pointed out that the Committee would once again play a major role in trimming an already gaunt federal agricultural expenditure allotment.

Another area of important Committee action will be beginning early in the Congressional session, Helms predicted. He stated the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Agricultural Research and General Legislation will begin hearings for the reauthorization of the Commodity Exchange Act which provides the framework for the regulatory responsibilities of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. "The legislation is the basis for regulation of the commodity futures trading industry and its activities," Helms explained.

The already controversial food stamp program will be on the Committee's agenda for close scrutiny in 1983, Helms added. "The 1981 Farm Bill extends the food stamp program for one year. Therefore, it will be necessary to renew the program." He noted that Committee will be holding hearings on whether this support program should be reauthorized, and will be in-

vestigating ways to reduce waste and fraud that this program has become notorious for.

Along with Senator Hatch, who chairs the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Helms outlined his plans to hold hearings on legislation introduced by the two Senators which would "revise the nation's antiquated food safety laws."

"The full Committee and the Subcommittee on Foreign Agricultural Policy will continue discussions on the trade policies of the European Economic Community," Helms reported, adding hearings are planned for early 1982. And the Subcommittee will continue to look into expanded markets for agricultural commodities.

One area that is sure to stir up a beehive of activity is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act reauthorization. This act regulates the agricultural chemical industry and the use of pesticides. Helms projected hearings and mark-up sessions on the renewal process will be one of the key topics in 1982.

Other areas that are sure to be watched closely by the agriculture community include Committee action on soil conservation, Federal Crop Insurance and other disaster programs, and new agricultural technology.

"The Committee will be taking a closer look at the Administration's proposed soil conservation initiatives and programs," said Helms. "We'll be looking for the reactions from farmers."

He noted the Committee will be studying the effectiveness of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and its interaction with other federal programs. And it will be looking at no-till conservation practices, bio-mass energy potentials, leaf proteins and their uses, and biogenetic engineering advances.

"Throughout these hearings, our ultimate goal will be to provide the most effective and productive legislation for the nation's agricultural producers," concluded Helms. "I am committed to seeing that those goals are met by this Committee."

Only time will tell if Helms' resolutions become reality. For our sake, let's hope Congress' 1982 "commitment to the nation's agricultural producers" sees us through potential embargoes and price-support cuts, and legislation that only ties the hands of the farmers whose calluses are 'medals of honor' won in feeding this nation and helping it grow strong.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**  
BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

**DOING YOUR "THING"**  
January 3, 1982

**Background Scripture:**

John 20:26-29; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3; Colossians 1:15-20.

**Devotional Reading:**

1 Timothy 1:8-14.

We live in a "do your own thing age."

It was an idea whose time had come. There was a need for an emphasis urging people to take responsibility and control for their own lives. There was a need to break out of patterns that had become meaningless, whose purposes had long been forgotten.

But as with any new current of human thought, we have tended to push a good thing to absurd extremes. Many people have wrongly assumed that "doing their own thing" somehow freed them from responsibility and commitment to other people. It also became a justification for blatant selfishness and irresponsibility.

**THE FREE CAPTIVE**

What we need to realize is that when we have taken both responsibility and control for our own lives it does not mean that we therefore need to go it alone. For one of life's paradoxes is that when I live only for me, I am not free at all. I am a prisoner to my own dark emotions, deep suspicions, hurts and unrecognized motivations. No one is more surely a prisoner of him or herself than the one who tries to live in isolation.

At the same time, if I am really a free person—my own person, so to speak—then I have the capacity to commit myself to something beyond myself without the loss of my freedom or sovereignty. The old hymn puts it clearly:

Make me a captive, Lord,  
And then I shall be free;

If we would really be doing our own thing, we need to give ourselves in commitment to Christ.

But that's where many of us have a problem: commitment. We don't want to commit ourselves. Jealous at our sovereignty, we don't want to give ourselves to anything or anyone. We want to run our own lives, little realizing that, without Christ, we cannot experience freedom.

**SAVIOUR AND LORD**

Many people want the benefits of Christianity without making the commitment those benefits require. We are all happy to have Christ as our Saviour, one who frees us and heals us of the evil that touches our lives. But Christ is not offered to us as just a Saviour. When the angels announced his birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, they proclaimed: "for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Jesus came as both Saviour and Lord. And when the Apostle John confesses Christ in the upper room, he cries "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26).

So Jesus came, not only to save us, but to rule our lives. If we want to be his followers, we need not only to allow him to save us from our sin, but also to be Lord of our lives. That means that we put our lives into his hands, letting him direct and guide them. When we have allowed ourselves to do that, then, and only then, will we be doing our own thing.

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

### Turn the other cheek?

An advertising campaign of the Humane Society of the United States against veal consumption is a slap in the face of the livestock industry, which has attempted to explore concerns of animal welfarists about confinement production of livestock and respond to them.

This campaign, if successful, would jeopardize the livelihood and investment of some 1,200 U.S. family veal producers.

Producers and others in the livestock industry, and particularly the veal industry, have been listening to the animal welfarists in an attempt to un-

derstand their concerns. The veal industry has responded, with a study of the system the animal welfarists have proposed as an alternative to the traditional calf raising system. That study is just now getting underway.

For HSUS to embark on what amounts to encouragement of a boycott of veal, completely ignoring attempts by the livestock industry to respond and without waiting for the results of that study, makes me wonder about their real goals.

Are they really interested in the  
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## NOW IS THE TIME

By Jay Irwin

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**To Know Tax Report Timetables**

Farmers planning to estimate what their tax is going to be for 1981 should file Form 1040 ES by January 18. If you file your Estimated Return by January 18, you have until April 15 to file a complete tax return on Form 1040 and pay any tax still due or request a refund if the tax was overpaid in making the estimate. However, farmers who do not file and pay an estimated tax must file the completed 1040 form by March 1 and pay in full whatever tax is due at that time. Non-farmers have until April 15 to complete their 1040 and pay any tax due. Farmer Tax Guides are available at the Extension office to assist in filing your reports.

**To Recognize Our Reliance Upon Agriculture**

Agriculture promises to be one of the most exciting growth industries in the next decade or two. This was the prediction made by Gilbert Porter, of Agway, Inc. as he addressed the Annual Meeting of the Red Rose DHIA. Several things prompted this prediction. World population is expected to double in the next 40 years, and all of these people will have to be fed. The key to this lies in the hands of agriculture.

Extension Agent Glenn Shirk emphasizes that few countries have as much fertile land and a climate as suitable for agricultural production as does the U.S. Couple that with technology and useful knowledge in the hands of free

people, and you'll quickly discover that the productivity and efficiency of American agriculture is unsurpassed. Evidence of this is the fact that most of the grains - about 75% - exported on the world markets are grown on U.S. soils. To continue to help supply the world demand for food, the development and adoption of agricultural technology must be even more rapid than the record breaking pace set in the last decade or two.

**To Prepare For Slippery Conditions**

Slippery roads, walks, and steps will be a common hazard in the next few months. Many people use salt too freely in cutting the ice; it

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## HAY HAWS



"We've managed to make both ends meet in 1981 — what worries me is this gap in the middle."