

The Dairy Business

By **Newton Bair**

Liberty and Independence

With most of the publicity surrounding the Statue of Liberty nearly a month behind us, it should be worthwhile to do a little introspection about our own ideas and enthusiasm on the subject of Liberty.

Some of our ancestors may have first entered the United States of America since the Statue of Liberty was placed on Bedloe's Island in 1886. Most of mine came to these shores long before that. Very early in the eighteenth century, they fled the tyranny of war and religion - torn Central Europe, and at the special invitation of William Penn, settled in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. The history of that migration should not be forgotten by those of us who take for granted the meaning of Liberty.

In researching my own ancestry, I was reminded many times of the terrible hunger for freedom and independence that our forefathers harbored. Europe was a seething hotbed of political intrigue, stirred in a caldron of corrupt religious leadership. The Reformation led by Martin Luther had inspired many other Religious leaders to take issue with the established Church and its corrupt politicians, resulting in a surge of prosecution which touched nearly every family on the continent. The luckier ones left that mess behind, and sailed for freedom in the U.S.A.

Of course, we eventually had to fight for our freedom and independence. Not once, but three or four times, we declared war on tyranny and injustice. We still have an imperfect system of Liberty and justice, but it probably is the best system the world has to offer. The very idea of freedom, Liberty, and independence has always been the goal of most of the worlds people. The trouble is that they either were not willing to fight to attain it, or the sacrifice it required was too great to overcome the greed and power of those who would be masters rather than

servants.

We will always be thrilled by the words of the great Americans who expressed the love of Liberty in the highest terms.

Jefferson, in the Declaration of Independence used it first; "... to seek Liberty from Tyranny and Injustice..." Patrick Henry, going farther than most of us would care to today, said "Give me Liberty or give me death!" Abe Lincoln, in the middle of the Civil war, at Gettysburg, "... a new nation, conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Great orators have amplified and promoted the great idea of Liberty, and will continue to do so. Our forefathers didn't need oratory to persuade them of the value of the meaning of Liberty, they felt it in their very existance.

Lest we are inclined to question the reality of Liberty in our own lives today, we need to look carefully at the rapid changes in the world around us. Liberty has never given us the license to subjugate others. It only gives us freedom to pursue what is rightfully ours, without robbing our brothers. Freedom always demands discipline, and the degree of independence obtained is always proportionate to our ability to restrain and control our desires. That free lunch we look for, or a winning lottery ticket, or the inheritance of a rich uncle, happens only to a few freaks, and often leads to their downfall.

The dairy business may have to make some adjustments that look like we are losing some of our Liberties. But if we stand back far enough and take in the whole broad picture, we may be able to see that our present dilemma of TOO MUCH is the direct result of our Liberty to produce. Our Liberty to continue to produce must be disciplined by self-control. Otherwise some one else will control the game, and we will lose some of that Liberty.



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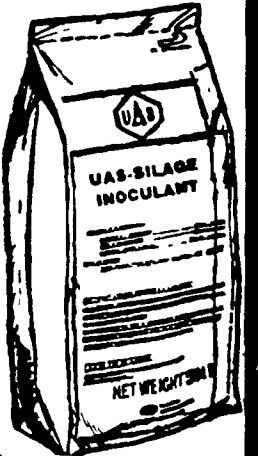
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