

The National Outlook Continuing Problems Of Small Business

By RALPH ROBEY

Small business problems have had top billing for many months in Washington. Some of the concern has been political. There are, however, some real problems facing small business and the Congress did try to help solve them.

Congress made the Small Business Administration a permanent agency and also passed a law making it possible for groups to be established, with government aid, for providing equity capital or loans to small business. It liberalized the depreciation charges which a small business may make and, in the case of closely held organizations, provided that estate taxes may be spread over a period of years. There also is a law which makes it possible for a partnership to pay taxes as a corporation and vice versa, if it is so desired.

Now what are the problems of small business? Fundamentally the problems of all sizes of business are the same—obtaining adequate capital, profits, research, and labor. But there is a significant difference in the impact of these problems upon organizations of various sizes.

On the question of obtaining adequate capital, some of the best credit risks are small businesses, but they do not have the same entry to the capital markets as medium or large business. One of the reasons is that it costs almost as much to make the underwriting investigation for a hundred thousand dollars as it does for a million or ten million dollars.

A company which wants only a modest amount of capital finds the charge much larger percentage-wise than a company which wants a large amount. In fact, the charge may be prohibitive to the small concern, and yet there may be no other source of funds available.

On sales the difference is that small business cannot put on the same kind of campaign that a large unit is capable of conducting. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, because large sales campaigns are not always successful. The small business, however, may well feel this is an operational handicap.

On profits the difference is not too clear cut. At times large units are the most profitable, at other times the most profitable are the

as much of the small business problem as we did this past year.

SUNLAY SCHOOL LESSON

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searching for him, the child answered: "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:19). Thus we see that Jesus, himself, saw himself not as a Messiah to the Jewish nation, but a Saviour to all mankind.

When Jesus came into the world redemption took on a new dimension. It was for everyone, not just a chosen few. How can we forget the rebuke Jesus thrust out to those who felt spiritually secure when he said: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." (Matthew 9:12). Both his words and his actions throughout his life constantly showed that his heart was filled with love for all mankind. Jesus revealed God to all people—to the lowly as well as to the highest in the land.

The essence of Christianity is that God became flesh in order that men may behold the glory and grace of God. It is through the Incarnation that God expressed himself. Jesus, through entering the flesh, proclaimed that God is among us, and that our bodies, too, may become God's living temples. The Word, in becoming flesh, pointed to the spark of divinity in our own lives.

We would do well to pause and ask ourselves if our church is doing its share in witnessing for Christ. Are we holding fast to our sense of Christian fellowship? Are we passionately concerned, as a body of Christians, for the salvation and welfare of others? When Smeon said that Jesus would bring glory to Israel, it was because Israel would help show the TRUTH to the Gentiles. Likewise in our own day the church's sharing of our gospel with others brings to it the only lasting glory. No truth is more plain than this: Any Christian church that does not possess missionary concern is disloyal to the gospel it proclaims. We must, each one of us, be on guard against indifference. We must remember that it was the passionate concern of one man, William Carey, preaching in England against the criminality of supineness to the cause of God, that started the first missionary

society, from when comes our modern missionary movement, whereby we carry the love and concern of our Saviour to peoples all over the world, bringing them hope—a precious commodity indeed, in these dark days when there are so many oppressed and despairing peoples in this world of ours.

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission).

Weekly Publisher Writes Book On Status of Indian

A Kentucky weekly newspaper publisher is the author of a book that exposes the sordid economic, social and political position of the American Indian after a long history of governmental control. He is Carlos B. Embry of Beaver Dam, Ky., and the title of his book is "America's Concentration Camps—The Facts About Our Indian Reservations Today" (McKay's, \$3.50).



C. B. EMBRY
—The Facts About Our Indian Reservations Today (McKay's, \$3.50).

Today's reservation Indian remains under the guardianship of Uncle Sam. He is an "incompetent" without effective control over his land or affairs, Mr. Embry says. As a result, he is ill fed, ill clad, ill housed—and illiterate.

Widely reviewed, the book is having a definite impact on American thinking. It is "a newswoman's provocative... challenge to the American conscience," says The Christian Science Monitor.

Under the new law the production of peanuts on a farm for which no allotment is established will no longer make the farm eligible for an allotment in the succeeding year. Such production under the new law shall not be considered as peanut producing experience for any producer on the farm.

According to Ratcliff, another provision of the new law provides that production of one acre or less of peanuts on a farm without an allotment will not incur a marketing quota penalty only when the persons to share in such peanuts do not share in the peanuts produced on any other farm. If the persons to share in the peanuts produced on a farm where the acreage is one acre or less also share in peanuts produced on any other farm the peanuts produced on such farm, on acreage in excess of their allotment, if any, shall be considered as excess peanuts and shall be subject to the marketing quota penalty.

Ratcliff said, "it is the desire of the ASC folks in every peanut producing county in the state that these changes in the law be thoroughly understood by farmers in the county." If peanut farmers have questions as to how these changes will affect their farming operations they should contact their local ASC office before planting their 1959 crop, he said.

making the announcement, Zeno O. Ratcliff, Jr., chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation State Committee, explained that these changes were brought about by new legislation passed by the 85th Congress and recently approved by the President.

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Planting Trees Is Source Of Income Under Soil Bank

"Planting trees under the Soil Bank may be a good idea on your farm," says H. V. Mangum, program specialist for the State ASC office.

He points out that all crop or tame hay land is eligible to be placed in the conservation reserve, and planted to trees. It is estimated that the average land in North Carolina will earn five dol-

New Law Affects Peanut Farmers

Tar Heel peanut farmers are advised of several changes that will affect their operations beginning with the 1959 crop. In

"Wisdom of the Ages"

"Perfect I call Thy plan: thanks that I was a man. Maker—remake—complete—I trust what Thou shalt do."

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