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W. N. R. Kenansville, N. C.

Uncle Pete From Chittlin Switch

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

My old lady told me at breakfast this morning I was barking up the wrong tree by always hollering about politicians. She allowed as how there ain't nothing wrong with the politicians, claimed what this country needed was a new set of people.

I couldn't figger out if she was serious or gitting sarcastic, so I just said pass the butter please and it looks like we might git a nice shower today. Me and my old lady 24 along fine, despite the fact we've been hitched now for 40 year. And one of the reasons there ain't been no talk about divorce in our family is on account of when things git ecky around the place, I just set me a chair out in the front yard and start counting the shingles on the roof till the storm blows over.

Sitting along in married life is like handling a pair of mules, you got to work as a team, keep the single-trees even to git a good, steady pull. But it's a sight in this

world the married couples this day and time that can't keep the single-trees even. I was just reading yesterday where a woman in New York told the Judge she killed her husband to keep him from running around. Well, that'll stop it ever time. And I see where another one of them Hollywood movie stars is gitting a divorce in Reno. That must be a mighty busy highway from Hollywood to Reno. I don't see why some big promoter ain't thought of moving Niagara Falls about half-way between the two places. That would make it nice for all concerned, git married in Hollywood, stop over at Niagara Falls for the honeymoon, then on to Reno for the divorce. They could set up a dual highway, newly-weds traveling east on one of them, the newly-divorced going back west on the other.

Getting away from the domestic situation for a moment, this television feller Jackie Gleason said the other night that the formula for success was to work half as much and git twice as much for it. That seems to be the national trend in recent years. I reckon history is mighty puzzled over us, keeping the country strong and free and broke all at the same time. We're the only country in the world that's ever been able to pull this trick. We do it by using a slight-of-hand tax system. They say we got three million laws in this country trying to enforce the Ten Commandments. No matter how many we got, Mister Editor, it's a safe bet that more'n half of them has to do with taxes. And I ain't never saw nothing in the Ten Commandments about taxes.

Yours truly, Uncle Pete,

CHANGES IN SOCIAL SECURITY

By M. H. Moore (Field Representative, Social Security Office) Workers who are reaching retirement age in 1961 may now receive more in combined social security benefits and earnings even though



"NOW, NOW JACKSON... DON'T GET TOO FAMILIAR!"

they exceed the \$1200 limitation.

This is so because the method of charging excess earnings over the \$1200 limitation has been change by recent amendments to the Social Security Act. The new method provides that \$1.00 in benefits will be withheld for each \$2.00 earned between \$1200 and \$1500; and for every \$1.00 earned over the \$1500, \$1.00 more will now be withheld from total family benefits payable.

This important change will now make more workers eligible for some social security benefits in 1961 and future years than under the old law which disqualified a worker for any payments if he was working in all months of the year and his earnings exceeded \$3080.

Here are just two examples of how the new retirement test works:

(1) A man and his wife receiving monthly social security payments of \$180, the highest amount payable to a retired couple, may receive some benefits during the year if the husband earns less than \$3510. Under the old law, he and his wife would have been disqualified if he had worked in all months of the year at this level of earnings.

(2) A worker receiving \$120 a month in social benefits could earn up to \$2790 in 1961 or a future year, and still receive some of his benefits.

The provision also remains that a benefit is payable in any month in which the beneficiary does not earn more than \$100 in wages or render substantial services in self-employment regardless of his total earnings during the year. Benefits may also be paid for months in which a worker is age 72 or over.

All workers who are nearing retirement age (age 65 for men, 62 for women), or have reached retirement age and have deferred filing a claim for benefits because they were earning over \$1200 a year are urged to call at the Social Security District Office.

A free pamphlet entitled "If You Work While You Get Social Security Payments" (OASI-23), which explains the new retirement test in detail, may be obtained upon request.

BIBLE FACTS OF INTEREST

By Ella V. Priggen THE BIBLE

The Bible is made up of five general sections. Three of them are in the Old Testament the Law, the Prophets, the Writings. In the New Testament there are two-The Gospels and after them the Acts, and Epistles and Revelations.

If one will examine the Hebrew Old Testament, which was originally written in Hebrew, he will discover the three divisions already referred to clearly marked - the Law, the Prophets, the Writings. These divisions are not preserved in our English versions. The original order was changed, and the books arranged in an order more convenient to the reader. The pro-

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Almost 10,000 Pension Payments Are On Verge Of Being Stopped, VA Says

Almost 10,000 monthly pension payments to disabled veterans, and dependents of deceased veterans, are in danger of being stopped.

J. D. DeRamus, Manager, Veterans Administration Regional Office, reported this very critical matter today. He had reference to the fact that approximately 30,000 pension payments in North Carolina require income reports to be made by January 31. Failure to submit the report, which is in the form of a tabulating card, means automatic suspension of the monthly payments.

Mr. DeRamus pointed out that these income questionnaires were mailed to pension recipients together with their December checks. No income questionnaire is sent to veterans or widows who are receiving services-connected benefits. Over 27,500 questionnaires have been processed by the VA Regional Office. In addition, some 2,000 of the reports have had to be re-mailed to veterans or widows because all items were not properly completed. The questionnaires must be completed accurately as well as promptly, Mr. DeRamus said.

"Regulations require payment to be stopped if the income report is not returned to the VA within 30 days," Mr. DeRamus said, which makes it imperative that the forms be returned immediately. My Office has no alternative but to apply the regulations. Veterans, and dependents, and those who advise and counsel with them, are urged to get this report to my office now. Waiting until the last day of January to submit the report is useless subjecting the payments to the danger of being stopped.

"The veterans and widows receiving these payments might face a hardship if the payment is stopped," Mr. DeRamus continued. "To insure that the payments are continued requires a very simple action - return the report NOW!"

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...the program was completed at least a century before the birth of Christ.

The oldest of the three divisions of the Old Testament is the Law. It consists of the first five books of the Bible-Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Later, a collection of Books, called the "Prophets", was included in the Hebrew Scriptures: Joshua, Judges I and II, Samuel I and II, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the twelve minor Prophets, the twelve being combined in a single book, about 100 B. C., another section, known as the "Writings", was added. Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and I and II Chronicles. This completed our Old Testament.

There is no formal grouping of the books of the New Testament. They divide themselves quite naturally into two sections. The Gospels, which tell the story of the years of our Lord on earth; the Acts, The Epistles, and Revelations. The road that leads from the Hebrew people's early conception of God to later revelations in the New Testament. We get the increasing knowledge of the glory of the Eternal from the earliest records in the Old Testament to the God and Father of our Lord-Jesus Christ portrayed in the New Testament.

...in place every Sunday. I think that you can come regularly after this. If the message of the church is to be read by this world, we cannot afford to have any broken keys.

Before the wonderful work of God on the day of Pentecost, we read in Acts 2:1: "they were all together in one place", Department of Bible, Presbyterian Junior College.

FROM PUPLIT TO PEW

"When I sat down to write a pastoral letter, I found that out of the keys on my typewriter was broken. But I will go ahead and do the best I can.

"We had a good service Sunday. A large number of people were at church.

The music was excellent. The congregation joined heartily in singing great hymns of the church. The sermon must have been helpful, for several persons passed to tell how it had helped them in some particular problem they were facing.

"Perhaps you were not present. It may have been impossible for you to be there; I am not questioning the reason for your absence. I am sure at the time you felt that it was a satisfactory one. I am only writing to say that your work is good.

"I guess you have figured out which of my typewriter keys is broken. Maybe you have had difficulty in reading this.

But it is all because of the broken key. And this shows how greatly the fellowship of the church is impaired when one member is not

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Life's Hunger Lesson for February 5, 1961

Life's Hunger

IF CHRIST could turn stones into bread, if he could somehow start with a boy's lunch and build it into a meal for five thousand men with their wives and children, why did he not keep on doing it? No doubt he could have turned stones into bread; but he never tried to do it. Nobody who was out there in the wilderness the day Jesus fed the five thousand had the least doubt that Jesus' powers were unlimited.

No wonder that Dr. Forrester (as John tells us) they tried to make him king by force. But Jesus steadily refused to repeat the miracle. Jesus loved people, but he was not one to do everything he was asked to do. He was not even asked to do all the kind things he was asked to do. For surely it would have been a kindness to make life easier for the poverty-stricken people of Galilee? Surely there must have been really hungry people there. You know there were, because we hear of no one crying for cake, or bread with butter (they would have said, olive oil) on it. Just bread, again, - case, again! But there was no one. Was Jesus heartless? Had his power failed him?

Hunger For Bread Now hunger for bread is one of the elemental things in life. Quite, civilized people, once they become really hungry, act like savages, act like wild dogs. One would think Jesus would not have rebuked the people for wanting what human beings, living creatures, cannot help wanting. We were not there, so we cannot interview any one and find out for certain just why Jesus spoke as he did; but from various hints, we can guess. For one thing, he knew that all the people in Galilee who were sharing in the great "miracle of the loaves"

claim that he is the world's leading authority on railroads, or financial methods for political campaigns, or food-control, or Chinese music. There was a time when Jesus was considered by many people to have superhuman knowledge, even perfect knowledge about everything. But the church never took this notion seriously. What the church does take seriously, and does claim, is that our Lord was and is the greatest authority over what is more vital than railroads or politics, more urgent than food control, more fundamental than Chinese music. He is our authority over life, because he is an authority on it, the authority on it. By life we mean in particular and in general all that is concerned with and grows out of human relationships, indeed all that is concerned with and growing out of the relationship we have to God.

Authority Over Life

Jesus himself, we may be certain, had won his authority by actual living. His graduate degree in life was an earned degree, not an honorary one. It was not rolled out from a "degree mill," he had actually been through the hard school that Experience keeps. It may have occurred to you to wonder, sometimes, why the people took the Sermon on the Mount, and other high teachings of Jesus, as quietly as they did. Although his teaching about life is very difficult - more difficult to do than to understand - nobody ever said he was talking nonsense. Why didn't they? If his teaching was so foolish as some critics have thought it was, his friends surely would have seen to it that none of it would be exposed to the ridicule of posterity. But it was not that way. The teaching was heard, cherished, passed on. And the original reason for this was that the first people who heard him talking knew that he had hammered all this out on the anvil of his own living. They knew that he knew God and knew men, and he spoke out of knowledge, not by guesswork.

So that the church accepts him joyfully to this day not as one who had been taught to say a piece and said it - this is not what he meant by saying he spoke only the words of the Father. Christ was more than a recording tape. He was a faithful Son who had learned in his Father's school.

(Based on outline copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A., released by Community Press Service.)

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