

About Time, Isn't It?

In a recent issue of Time Magazine, the editors described the farm bill as a bonanza for farmers and a political candy cane for politicians. The article chided congress for continuing price supports at 90 per cent of parity, and referred to the United States farmer as "the nation's most favored man."

We can argue about as well as our readers for support prices at the current level; it affects our pocketbooks, too. And certainly with a hand-grown and hand-harvested crop like tobacco, if we are to have any support prices at all, 90 per cent of parity is not a bit too high.

This business of the farmer being the nation's most favored citizen is, however, news to us; we had entirely failed to notice it. But if it be true, it is certainly about time!

Indicating a Trend

We note with interest the claim of one of the Republican senators from Maine, Mrs. Margaret Case Smith, to the title of the Senate's least talkative member. Her one major speech thus far took exactly 75 seconds.

We comment on Mrs. Smith's statement not because of her party affiliation but because of her sex. We have observed similar reticence on the part of many ladies on PTA boards and the like recently, and cannot help but wonder if a major trend has begun.

It may well be, however, that smart women have never talked too much. It was something like a century ago that George Eliot, distinguished woman novelist, said: "Blessed is he who, having nothing to say, refrains from saying it."

Repairing His Fences

One publication, in connection with a picture of happy congressmen singing at the end of the recent session, mentions that each will probably go home to engage in repairing political fences in preparation for next summer's campaigns, making speeches and the like in the home territory.

Congressman Harold Cooley was pictured in the group of singers, and Mr Cooley is now making speeches about his district. Last Sunday he was at Wakefield, and tomorrow he will be at Pilot. Possibly our neighbor from Nash County is taking seriously the frequent reports of a candidate from Raleigh seeking his place.

Mr. Cooley, repairing fences or otherwise, will be a difficult man to unseat. He has received royal welcomes wherever he has spoken this year, and he now is chairman of the congressional committee most farmers regard as the most important in Washington—the House Committee on Agriculture.

Any possible opponent will realize Cooley's advantages, of course; and so, should a contest develop, he would have to be a strong personality. An interesting campaign would result, but from where we sit, it looks like Cooley all the way.

Films and Propaganda

It is no secret that American movies are immensely popular with European audiences. Recently Irving Brown, European representative for the American Federation of Labor, emphasized that behind the Iron Curtain people crowd to American films while theaters showing Russian pictures are almost empty.

This is both a tribute and a warning to American movie makers. It is not surprising that audiences in rigidly controlled lands should prefer the variety of American entertainment to the monotony of Russian propaganda. Mr. Brown rightly warns that the introduction of conscious propaganda into Hollywood products would greatly lessen this appeal. It is the picture of American life which emerges as a by-product of making a good film that really carries conviction.

Here, however, is just where popularity ceases to be a sufficient guide. Europeans may flock to an American movie for its excitement or glamour or what have you, while still deducing from it a concept of American life as contemptibly materialistic or immoral, trivial or brutal. Only as more enlightened thinking goes into the making of more films will one feel at ease about American movies abroad.—Christian Science Monitor

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Seen and Heard

The uniforms issued to members of the local National Guard unit last week caused plenty of interest when some of the Guardsmen stopped by at the Halloween Carnival at Wakelon School after the drill on Monday night. First folks thought that a squad of Regular Army men had stopped in, and then some students accused the Guardsmen of renting the uniforms for Halloween. When finally they found exactly what the score was, the girls were enthusiastic in their praises of the field artillerymen—some half dozen of whom were high school students.

When a visitor to an asylum asked an inmate his name, the reply was, "George Washington." "But," said the visitor, "the last time I saw you, you were Abraham

Lincoln." "That," replied the inmate sadly, "was by my first wife."

The time to make friends is before you need them.

With this week designated as National Flower Week as well as Girl Scout Week, and next week something else, and the week after another honor week, January 15 to 21, 1950, has been designated as National Printing Week, with Benjamin Franklin's birthday, Jan. 17, as the "big day." We are making no plans for the occasion yet, and when we do, they probably won't equal those followed by the Girl Scouts.

There was a visitor down at the armory last week who read some

items on Sgt. Gilliam's desk. "What part of the body is the fray?" he asked Sgt. Gilliam.

"The what?" the Sgt. replied. "The fray," said the visitor. "F-R-A-Y. What part of the body is it?"

"I don't know," Sgt. Gilliam confessed, completely puzzled. "How is it used?"

"Well, it says here in this paper: 'The General was shot in the thick of the fray!'"

Vance Brown told us of over-hearing one worker say to another: "I'm new here; can you tell me who to see about getting a raise?"

And at the same place Vance asked an employee: "How long have you been working here?" "Ever since the boss threatened to fire me," was the truthful answer.

Tar Heel Farm Facts

Agriculture Commissioner L. Y. Ballentine thinks a lot of North Carolina dairy farmers are missing an opportunity to increase their incomes by failing to fit their production to market trends.

"Records show that North Carolina's milk flow is heaviest in the spring and summer, when consumption is at a low ebb," said Ballentine, himself, a dairy farmer. "And, conversely, our production begins dropping in the fall, when demand is increasing.

"Our experience of the past year is a glaring example. Grade A milk delivered to distributors by North Carolina producers rose from 19,291,507 pounds in November last year to a peak of 33,708,662 pounds in May this year, and continued between 31 and 32 million pounds during June, July and

August. Since then our milk flow has been declining.

"As a result, we are now faced with the necessity of bringing in 15,000 to 20,000 gallons of Grade A milk a day from other states, while only a couple of months ago we were wondering what to do with surplus supplies.

"We must find means of reversing this situation. The way to do it, I believe, is by breeding more cows to freshen in the late summer and fall instead of during the spring and early summer. It is especially important to breed heifers for timely freshening. Too many dairymen have been following the old farm practice of timing fresh cows for green pastures. It is now more important to be guided by market trends in breeding dairy animals.

"Some producers have learned this lesson and now are reaping the benefits of a strong demand at good prices. Others need to profit by their example."

The Commissioner of agriculture pointed out that last spring and summer wholesome milk prices tumbled when Grade A producers swamped distribution plants with a record flow. In some sections of the state prices on surplus Grade A supplies, or that part of the total production in excess of current fluid demands, dropped as low as \$3 a hundred pounds. Now, with production lagging, he added, North Carolina dairy farmers can sell all the Grade A milk they can produce at prices ranging from \$5.50 to \$6.00 a hundred pounds.

With Other Editors

The State Grange has put its finger squarely on a major need by proposing action to end confusion in tobacco marketing. The Grange agreed at its Hendersonville convention this week that farm groups ought to join with buyers and warehousemen in preparing marketing regulations and in finding a legal way to enforce them.

"Rump" sales were given a black eye by the convention delegates. Permitting markets to conduct sales without an adequate set of buyers was called a "serious threat to the entire auction system."

But "rump" sales weren't the only ills listed.

The Grange adopted a resolution which declared: "The over expansion of warehouse facilities; the

ever increasing speed of sales; the granting of rebates in charges to favored growers; the confusion in the establishment of new markets and additional sales on old markets; the allocation of selling time on the basis of floor space; the growing discrepancy in weights (of baskets of tobacco at the time they are sold and the time they arrive at the purchasing company); and the absence of any legal authority to promulgate or enforce regulations governing the sale of tobacco auction — are undermining public confidence in the whole method of sales."

The resolution went on to say that "the auction system is a quasi-public utility serving the growers, the warehousemen and the buyers. The system should be

regulated in the best interest of all the interested parties."

With those expressions of sentiment, we find ourselves pretty much in agreement.

And we believe the Grange is on the right track when it observes: "Since the power to adopt and enforce valid regulations does not exist within the industry, it is difficult to see how any regulations can be adopted and enforced without the sanction of either state or federal governments."

Tobacco marketing is more than an intra-state problem. It has interstate complications and therefore it seems logical that the power of the federal government should be used to create more orderly conditions.—Smithfield Herald.

Sunday School Lesson

Golden Text: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."—Isaiah 41:10. Scripture lesson: Isaiah 40:27-31; 41:10-13; 61:1-3.

Next Sunday, November 6, we study the comfort afforded the Hebrews by the Lord. Isaiah saw beyond the dreadful captivity which lay in Judah's immediate future, and predicted that repentance and reform would come about, follow-

ed by Israel's restoration to the good graces of Jehovah.

In the 40th chapter of Isaiah a complaint is made to the Lord that he has forgotten his people; Jehovah answers the complaint by pointing out that it is the people who have forgotten him.

In the 41st chapter God assures the people that they will receive eventual comfort, and in the 61st chapter he reminds them that he is the source of this comfort.

Our situation in a troubled world is infinitely better than was the desperate situation of Ju-

dah: we are the dominant power, while Judah was but a pawn. Yet today many Americans, disturbed by atomic research and communistic gains, are filled with despair.

Let us regard our situation, however dark, as one at least as full of hope as was that of Judah. Let us realize that whatever may befall our temporal kingdoms, we shall find final comfort and solace in the Lord. Let us apply ourselves, then, to the problems of this day with a poise and a serenity unknown to those who trust not in God.