

# Life, Liberty and Law

Harry Wainwright

Six thousand years before the birth of Christ, man was cultivating wheat in the fields of Asia Minor. Archaeologists have unearthed fossilized kernels of wheat in Jarmo, Eastern Iraq, dating back some 6700 years, and by 3000 B.C. the crop had spread into Eastern Europe. Today wheat is produced in larger quantities and over larger areas of this planet than any other crop. It provides more than two thirds of the protein consumed by the underdeveloped nations, but wheat has always been susceptible to numerous diseases and blights and it is not known for its durability. It does poorly in the subfertile lands, and the sandy, light or acid soils. And its lysine content is relatively low.

Rye, on the other hand, though not so versatile as wheat, does much better in sandy, acid, subfertile lands. It is rugged. Its actual protein count is lower than that of wheat, but its biological value is higher due to the high lysine content. Lysine is one of the essential amino acids in which natural protein is deficient.

In 1876, A. Steven Wilson (Transactions of the Edinburgh Botanical Society) reported an intriguing, though unsuccessful experiment. Rye and wheat were crossed genetically in an attempt to produce a rugged multi-yield new grain, with a high content of both protein and lysine. At the time, however, only a handful of seed was germinated which proved unfortunately to be sterile. But 37 years ago a French scientist, Pierre Givaudon, discovered a method which produced viable seeds from a cross between rye and wheat, thus allowing the metamorphosis of an academic curiosity into a potential world food supply.

The study of agricultural genetics is a time consuming process, often painfully frustrating. But extensive research has been conducted, principally at the University of Manitoba in Canada and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico, and it has produced stunning results: man has perfected a new cereal grain, triticale (trid-e-ka-le).

Triticale combines the multi-yield and high protein of wheat with the rugged durability and high lysine content of rye. It can be grown under a variety of environmental conditions — in heat or cold, and in soils considered subfertile. It has shown resistance to the diseases which limit and the blights which damage wheat. Triticale has out-yielded the best Ethiopian and Indian wheats, as well as the high-yield Mexican bread wheat crops.

Persistent research overcame to a major extent the initial difficulties, and in 1970 the Canadian government allowed commercial production of triticale on a limited scale for the distilling industries and as a component of animal feeds.

### NAZARETH SALE

The PTA Board of Nazareth Academy is sponsoring a Garage Sale in the school cafeteria Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Oct. 6, 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Any saleable item except used clothing, mattresses and bed springs will be accepted at the school Sept. 30 to Oct. 5. One of the sale's features will be a cake booth where donated cakes will be sold.

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While its U.S. counterpart, the Agency for International Development, has funded sterilizations and abortifacient prostaglandin research, the Canadian International Development Agency has cosponsored a three-million dollar grant to the Manitoba-Mexico Triticale project to develop a high protein, high lysine cereal grain to benefit the malnourished peoples in the underdeveloped nations of the world.

The potential is phenomenal. Marginal or subfertile lands could become life supporting, and crops could be harvested from the Canadian prairies, from the foothills of Himalaya. In fact, triticale is now being grown in 52 countries, and studies have shown that it can be substituted for other grains in breads, pastas, cereals and other daily foods throughout the world.

Indeed, our wealthy planet can support 40 to 50 billion people, though she now supports fewer than 4 billion. Triticale is but one of the crops available through agricultural technology. There is neither reason nor justification for governments or planning agencies to eliminate innocent human life on the pretext of a neo-Malthusian philosophy which would have us believe that we have drained our splendid planet.

Congressmen, senators and UN representatives must avail themselves of the data relative to agricultural advance. Please contact them this afternoon. America must not arrive at the United Nations World Food Conference in Rome this November still wearing the tattered remnants of the shabby proposals she carried to the Bucharest Population Conference. Those proposals were defeated by a world grown weary of manipulation, weary of violence and weary of abortion.

The earth holds many wonders yet unfamiliar to man. Here among the shale, the seas, the tundra, the rivers, the planetire she holds the keys to our health and to our very lives. Let's find those keys.

The grasses of earth have not yet been exhausted.

**Area Congressmen:** Frank Horton (34th), Barber Conable (35th), Howard W. Robison (27th), William Walsh (33rd), and James Hastings (39th), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

**Senators:** Jacob Javits and James L. Buckley, Washington, D.C. 20510.

**U.S. representative to World Food Conference,** United Nations, N.Y. 10017.

# Hess: Dispute Over; Fight: Not the End

By PAT PETRASKE

The confrontation between the Amerada Hess Oil Co. and the black organization Fight, Inc., is over as far as Hess is concerned. But the Catholic group which attempted to have both sides of the issue aired is "displeased at the way the issue was circumvented," said Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Human Development.

At issue is a dispute over a gasoline station on 800 W. Main St. Last April the station in the community was closed after demonstrations erupted over the firing of the black station manager. Fight asked to buy the land but Hess is leasing the station to a group of several blacks. Father Mulligan quoted from a five-minute conversation with Leon Hess, chairman of the board.

Hess also refused to acknowledge a letter sent by 37 Catholic religious and lay individuals on Sept. 9. "We don't do that sort of thing," Hess said in reference to the request for a meeting between Hess and the Catholic group.

Father Daniel Tormey, assistant to the director of the Office of Human Development, called the lack of response to the letter "an example of a corporation acting arrogantly and irresponsibly" and indicated that Hess showed "a lack of concern for their dealers."

No data is available as to when the station will be reopened or who will operate it. Hess stated that the station will be independent and will not bear the Hess insignia. But Minister Raymond Scott, president of Fight, described the situation as "the same old soup in the same old can but it just has a different label."

"This is not the end," said Mr. Scott who met with the Fight steering committee Tuesday, Oct. 1 to discuss further action.

"The black community is anxious to discover who these vipers are (who) have such little respect for themselves as to enter into an adulterous relationship with Hess," Mr. Scott exclaimed.

Fight and Church leaders felt that the influence of the Church could have helped settle the dispute. Although several priests and Sisters joined the picketing of other local Hess stations, Father Tormey pointed out that the Catholic group must be distinguished from the demonstrating religious. No position on the controversy had been taken by the group and the Office of Human Development denied reports that it offered to act as a mediator.

The priests and Sister agreed to meet with representatives from the Fight organization Sept. 5. Mr. Scott said he suggested the

meeting to Father Mulligan who had decided not to move on the issue until both sides had been heard.

Father Anthony Valenti, co-pastor at St. Michael's Church and a signer of the letter, did express sympathy over the closing of the gas station because it increases the degradation of the community and has resulted in unemployment for six persons.

The group of Catholic representatives planned to meet today, Oct. 2, to discuss further action. A list of questions concerning the situation, which would have been presented at the meeting with Hess, were sent to the oil company. Father Mulligan does "not have too much hope" that Hess will respond.

"We are not satisfied with the way the whole thing was handled," said Father Tormey who believes the prevalent attitude among large corporations "is that they don't have to be responsible for their actions."

Father Valenti believes the Church should become involved because "the Church is people."

Where people are hurting, the Church is hurting. People can't divorce themselves from the problems of one individual if they are all part of the community," he said.

However, one independent Hess dealer, Barry Gallagher, criticized the Church's involvement. "They jumped right in before they got the facts," he said. He believes the demonstrations which closed his station on one of the busiest days of the year is "morally wrong because the dealers don't have a say in it. You're going against the middle man and the ends don't justify the means," said Gallagher, a member of St. Thomas More Parish.

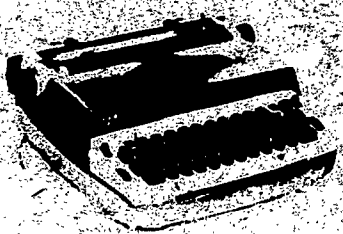
Mr. Scott of Fight also feels the dispute question is a moral one. Hess has refused to give up the rights to the land so that Fight can buy and operate its own station. "What we want is stability and you can't get it unless you own your own land," he said.

"The leases have been snatched out from under the blacks so often that they are wary of becoming involved in a business unless they own the land and the buildings," Mr. Scott noted.

"Once again whites will pull the strings and some black puppet will dance in the name of Hess," the Fight president exclaimed.

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