More to life than just profits

Rev. Lloyd Buss

I AM NO longer buying or eating Hormel food products. Having followed the news about the strike against the Hormel plant in Austin, Minn., since it began in August 1985, I have decided not to eat any Hormel product until the strike is settled.

The prospects for an imminent settlement are limited. I may not be eating any Hormel products for a long time.

My decision will create no economic hardship for Hormel. In 1984 Hormel reported a profit of $29 million. The Hormel plant in Austin, accounting for 40 percent of Hormel's production, employed about 20 percent of the workforce. Hormel reported even greater profits for 1985.

I will no longer buy or eat Hormel food products because I am concerned about important issues of morality. Fiscal responsibility and management integrity must include a basic regard for the well-being of labor.

PROFIT WITHOUT an accountability from both management and labor is not profit but deception. Management intent on breaking a local union while continuing with national union representation has lost its claim to integrity. Labor claims of jeopardy to workers in a high-risk accident industry either poorly trained or forced to increased production levels also needs attention.

The meat-processing industry has come to difficult times. Not all their troubles can be blamed on high wages. If management and labor were able to bring an industry to a high level of accomplishment in years past, then management and labor should accept equal responsibility for whatever troubles they experience now.

And for whatever troubles they have experienced beyond their control, they should decide to accept equal responsibility and move forward together.

THE DECADE of the '80s has been often described as the "decade of concessions." Labor-management relations during the '80s have become preoccupied with concessions. Economic issues have become the priority. We have insisted that the profit margin must be maintained.

It's the implication that the profit margin must be maintained at all costs that raises other questions. No one can deny the economic factor in our order of life.

But one can certainly challenge the degree of value placed on its worth or role in public life. There is far more to life than our claims to economic efficiency would suggest.

Dividing a community into two groups — mine and yours, and then insisting that we need what you have, will never create a just social order.

I'm not asking that Hormel solve the problems of the world, but until they can work out some kind of decent agreement with the men and women they at one time were proud to call their employees, I'm not going to buy or eat their products.

Thoughts on treating the elderly

gerontology

A. Jolayne Farrell

THE FOLLOWING is a reprint of a letter that appeared in a newspaper in England. It offers a great deal of "food for thought" for those who work with the elderly:

"The reason many elderly people cannot bear the idea of having to go into a home in many cases is that they still have intellectual powers, and object strongly to the idea of being forced to play bingo, clap hands to music and join the Hokey-Cokey.

"Why don't the authorities raise their standards when arranging entertainment? It wouldn't cost any more, and could open up new horizons of thought and experience to those who, in their earlier years had neither the time nor opportunity to indulge in serious reading or similar pursuits.

"Cavorting about doing a 'knees up' is an acquired taste even in young people. Not all are exhibitionists, nor amateur athletes. Many would prefer poetry readings, a quiz or even a debate.

"NO WONDER so many of the more intelligent strata of elderly steadfastly refuse to see a doctor when they are ill, and pretend they are still capable of looking after themselves when they are not! Could there be a worse fate than being condemned to sit in a semicircle for the rest of the one's days, silently or making small talk? Or even being skitted at because one enjoys serious reading?

"To be treated in one's old age as a child — and as an imbecilic one at that — must be a harrowing experience to those still capable of coherent thought and conversation.

"Let's think more in terms of brains, and less in terms of bingo when deciding how best to keep faith with those who have worked and lived through, in many cases two world wars."

Hazel M. Wheeler
Huddersfield, England

(from a Government of Ontario Publication)

Dear Jo:

The older I get the more I worry about cancer. Would you please print the seven warning signs of cancer in your column.

Mrs. V.

Dear Mrs. V.:

Older people should be aware of the early (7) warning or danger signs of cancer. Cancer, found in its early stages, is curable.

The seven warning signs of cancer are:

- *Any lump or thickening, especially in the breast, lip, or tongue.*
- *Any irregular or unexplained bleeding particularly blood in the urine or bowel movements. (Watch for a bloody discharge from the nipple or any body opening. Women past menopause should be concerned about any unexplained vaginal bleeding or discharge.)*
- *A sore that does not heal, particularly around the mouth, tongue, or lips, or anywhere on the skin.*
- *Noticeable changes in the color or size of a wart, mole, or birthmark.*
- *Loss of appetite or continual indigestion.*
- *Persistent hoarseness, cough or difficulty in swallowing.*
- *Persistent change in normal bowel habits.*
- *It is important to note that pain is not usually an early warning sign of cancer.*

These signs do not necessarily signify cancer, but should they occur (at any age) a doctor should be consulted at once.

Readers may write to Joyayne Farrell at P.O. Box 66 Postal Station G., 1075 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

consumer mailbag

Terry Gibb

On kids' allowances

Should I give my 6-year-old a regular allowance or continue to give her money as she needs it?

According to a pamphlet from Credit Counseling Center Inc., children must be given an allowance if they are going to learn how to manage money correctly.

They recommend starting a child on a regular allowance at age 6 or 7. The allowance should be based on the child's regular weekly expenses with a small amount to spend on extras as he or she chooses. The allowance should be re-evaluated and increases made as needs increase.

Allowances, once begun, should never be used as a reward or punishment for good or bad behavior. "Rewards" for good grades or being helpful are harmful.

Children must learn that these types of behavior will not be paid for in the adult world. At the same time, children must realize that money connot compensate or excuse irresponsible or unkind behavior toward others.

REMEMBER THAT your child's spending and saving choices will not be perfect — any more than yours always are — and that their money problems are just as serious to them as yours are to you.

Praise good choices, but do not scold mistakes. Children need this opportunity to experiment with money and make their own choices.

Never compare one child's choices with another child's. Each person is an individual with different needs, abilities and priorities.

As soon as a child begins to receive a regular allowance, they should be taught the importance of saving — but it should not be a requirement to receiving the allowance.

SIMPLY point out that something special may come along and their "saved" money will allow them to buy or enjoy this special thing. Children are more willing to save if they have a goal. These goals should be attractive and easily attainable.

Finally, children's attitudes about management are usually influenced by the way their parents manage money.

For a copy of this excellent booklet, "Teaching Children to Manage Their Money," write to Ann Hyten, Credit Counseling Centers Inc., 17000 W. Eight Mile, Suite 280, Southfield 49075. Single copies are 10 cents each (bulk orders are also available), and be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

OCC to host reading festival

The Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College will host an annual literature reading festival of the Michigan Intercollegiate League on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 28 to March 1.

Students representing state colleges will read ethnic and regional literature. Admission is free and open to the public. The Oral Interpretation Festival will be held in the Smith Theater. The Orchard Ridge campus is on Orchard Lake Road south of I-696 in Farmington Hills.

Group performances begin at 2:15 p.m. Friday. Solo and duo presentations of prose, poetry and drama will follow at 3:45 p.m. Joni Lee Jones, a scholar and performer from Howard University in Washington, D.C., will close the day with a solo performance at 7:15 p.m.

Saturday's schedule includes individual performances at 9 a.m., groups at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and a workshop by Jones at 3:15 p.m.

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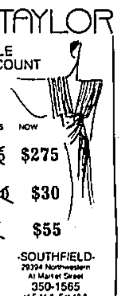
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