

What YOU Can Do

Donald V. Robertson

"Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

All hearts were stirred by this challenge voiced by President Kennedy in his inaugural address. All ears waited to hear what needed doing. All responsible citizens searched for a way to help their country.

Americans responded in different ways to the challenge. Some joined the army. Some volunteered for the Peace Corps. Some became active in community affairs. But most still wait for instruction as to the best way they can serve their country.

To those who wait, we have a suggestion: Do your best.

By doing your best you can help combat a doctrine that is fast engulfing America -- a doctrine more dangerous than Communism or Fascism or anarchy -- the doctrine of Good Enough.

The mechanic who does a half-way job (it's good enough), the manufacturer who uses shoddy parts in his product (they're good enough), the scientist who is satisfied with slipshod, inexact research (it's good enough), the stu-

dent who plays and loafes and gets barely passing grades (they're good enough), all are unwitting participants in this silent conspiracy of mediocrity. Unless it is reversed, this conspiracy, this unconscious treason, can make America second class more quickly and more surely than conspiracies that deliberately work for America's destruction.

But the conspiracy of mediocrity can be reversed. Each person need only do the best he can. He may not achieve perfection in his job; few are capable of it and circumstances do not often allow it. But he must conscientiously strive for perfection.

Only by doing his best can a person realize his greatest potential as a citizen, an employee, and an individual.

So to serve your country, to serve your employer, to serve yourself: Do your best.

Editor's Note: The above was written by Donald V. Robertson, publications editor in the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md. It was included in a writing assignment given University of Arizona and USDA personnel in Tucson a few months ago. We felt it deserved a wider audience.

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that keep the material applied into the wind.

Using this apparatus, savings of from 15 to 20 per cent were obtained. Before additional tests could be made in the fall of 1962, the temperature began to drop below 60°F. at night. This caused the alcohol to precipitate out of solution, which plugged up the dispensers. Further tests made in the laboratory showed that the solubility of alcohol in white gasoline was very temperature dependent and

not practical when temperatures dropped below 60°F.

Next — Emulsions

Because of this unforeseen development, testing with solutions was stopped. Emulsions were tried next. Various types of emulsifiers and alcohol concentrations have been tried. A stable emulsion containing as high as 10 per cent alcohol, which can be fed by gravity through a quarter inch plastic tube, has been used. Emulsions of various concentrations of alcohol and emulsifying agents will be tested further. To date savings of water

as high as 30 per cent have been obtained using a 10 per cent concentration of alcohol, feeding the emulsion continuously by gravity.

Although there needs to be a lot of additional research done to determine the optimum physical form and the best means of dispensing the monolayer, it now appears that emulsions fed through a gravity feed system are the most promising, at least as far as small reservoirs and stock ponds are concerned. Most of the remaining time in this project will be spent in testing emulsions.