

## New Year's Resolutions Are Needed

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press International

It is time that someone put in a good word for New Year's resolutions.

Comic strip artists and TV gag writers have almost lampooned this custom out of existence.

Things have reached the point where anyone who does make a serious New Year's resolution is ashamed to admit it, lest he be greeted with ridicule.

This is a pity, because there is nothing inherently absurd about pausing on the threshold of a new year to take stock of your life and habits.

On the contrary, it is hard to imagine a more profoundly religious act.

Anyone who does it with reasonable honesty is bound to feel an impulse to narrow the gap between what he is and what he knows he ought to be.

There are three things you can do about this impulse:

1. You can ignore it until it goes away — which it will do rather quickly.
2. You can work it off by making a lot of emotional promises to "live better."
3. You can translate it into specific commitments and decisions.

The Rt. Rev. William F. Creighton, Episcopal bishop coadjutor of Washington, D.C., believes that alternative Number 2 is no better, and perhaps worse, than Number 1.

"People have become cynical about New Year's resolutions because they are so seldom kept," he said in an interview. "And one reason they are seldom kept is that they are usually couched in sweeping generalities."

The only kind of resolution that is likely to have any real impact on your life, Bishop Creighton said, is "one that commits you to a specific course of action that is clearly within your power to carry out."

For example, he said, suppose that your conscience is troubled about racial bias.

You aren't going to accomplish much, if anything, with a vow to eliminate prejudice from your heart.

"But you might achieve that end if you made and kept a more modest resolution: Namely, to establish real, human relationships with particular individuals of another race."

By the same token, the bishop said, it would be an idle gesture to promise on New Year's Day that you will be "more devout" or "lead a better Christian life" during 1961.

"If you really want to move in that direction," he said, "you will get farther by committing yourself to specific new habits of devotion and obedience."

### OSC Professor Will Make Tour

CORVALLIS (AP)—Dr. G. Burton Wood, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Oregon State College, will make a 3½-month appraisal of agricultural programs in 12 foreign countries.

Wood will make the appraisal for the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs of New York. It is financed by the Rockefeller Foundation. He will leave here Jan. 5.

The council is working to expand agricultural economics programs abroad through teaching and research. Wood will evaluate the visiting professor system in those countries, along with other training programs and will make recommendations for future programs.

He will work in Japan, Formosa, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaya, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Greece and Italy.

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