

Why Be Thankful? For Many Things

WHEN the first American Thanksgiving was celebrated with a three-day festival in the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims and their Indian friends thanked God for what they had.

According to our standards of living that wasn't much in material goods but it was a great occasion in the Pilgrims' search for freedom to worship as they believed.

After harvest was gotten in, Gov. William Bradford sent four men on a hunting expedition to bring in wild game. The Pilgrims gave thanks for this feast of meat and also for a good crop of Indian corn and an "indifferent good" crop of barley. Also mentioned was a crop of "pease not worth gathering."

Records show that the Pilgrims expressed thanks to God for rain needed to break the drouth and for the expected arrival of a supply ship from England to provide for other urgent needs.

What do we have to be thankful for on this day?

We may be thankful that our freedom to worship and thank our Cre-

ator has not been eliminated by atheists, the ACLU and rulings of the Supreme Court. As a poet observed, it is sad if an atheist feels grateful and has no deity to thank for his blessings.

We may be thankful for our abundance of food that will enable us to overeat again. City people might not grasp the meaning of "a good harvest," but they should be able to appreciate well-stocked supermarket shelves and plenty of food on their tables.

We may be thankful that our president and other leaders have been able to maintain strong defenses to prevent World War III, in spite of aggressive campaigns to eliminate or reduce our strategic weapons.

We may be thankful for the inefficiency of our bureaucracy, because if all of the laws enacted by Congress and the Legislature were enforced our freedom would be severely restricted.

We may be thankful that inflation has slowed down so that we may still buy for a dollar what we used to get for a dime.

We may be thankful that over 90

percent of the people who can work and who want to do so have jobs and good incomes.

We may be thankful that many of the taxes assessed against us are "hidden" so that we don't realize how much we are overtaxed by politicians who want to redistribute our incomes.

We may be thankful that we have many honest, respectable neighbors in spite of government's inability to protect us from the robbers and criminals allowed to run loose on the streets.

We may be thankful that we still have a month to shop for Christmas gifts and to send tax-exempt donations to organizations that we depend upon to do our charitable works for us.

We may be thankful that the United States of America is still the land of the free and the home of the brave, and that most Americans would fight, if necessary, to keep it that way.

As David, the psalmist, wrote centuries ago: "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." We have much for which to be thankful!