

Experts Need Others

By Jamie Buckingham

We human beings have a strange way of accepting a man's opinion about a certain subject simply because he may be an expert in another subject.

I've been trying to figure out why I should accept a ballplayer's word on razor blades. A ballplayer may know how to hit home runs. He may be a great outfielder. He may play for a world champion team. But why does this make him an expert on razor blades. If I want to know about razors, I ought to consult my barber — not a ballplayer.

WHY SHOULD I consult a rodeo-roping expert about engine oil? A mechanic knows more. The rodeo expert may know about horses, or short horn steers —but engine oil?

And any seven-year-old boy is a more qualified expert on candy bars than Roy Rogers.

A little friend of mine is a football enthusiast. I asked her who was the best football player in her room. She told me. When I questioned her judgment on the matter she said, "Of course he's the best football player in our room. His daddy drives a fire-truck." The logic is absolutely devastating.

SOMETIMES on a committee you see a particular example of this.

I remember working on a church building committee one time. The man they named as chairman was a meat cutter in a grocery store — and a good meat cutter. And the committee simply assumed that since he knew a good cut of meat, and was a pretty good

businessman, that he could also put stained glass windows together in proper proportions.

A church I was in once named a bookkeeper as chairman of their theology committee. He was supposed to draw up their doctrine of beliefs. The only thing wrong was that his theology was like his bookkeeping — tight — narrow — squeezing — legalistic — and everything had to be logical and balance.

It all worked out fine until his wife had an affair with another man and he wound up losing his faith in God. All because he couldn't balance sin and righteousness.

THE FACT that a man may be an expert on nuclear physics does not necessarily qualify him to lead a seminar on Christian love.

Just because a man is an expert in one field does not automatically make him an expert in all others.

Dr. Benjamin Spock is an expert on raising babies. Many of us were raised by his book. But just because Dr. Spock is a baby expert does not make him an expert on politics or foreign relations.

He has recently said that, "Our enemies are not the North Vietnamese or the Viet Cong but the traitor Lyndon B. Johnson."

AS A statesmen, Dr. Spock makes a good pedicurist.

However, equally ridiculous, is the statement of a Baptist preacher in Pompano Beach who is now suggesting that since Dr. Spock has lost his marbles as a foreign relations ex-

pert that everyone ought to burn his Baby Care Book. Wow!

We all need one another. John Donne was right. "No man is an island."