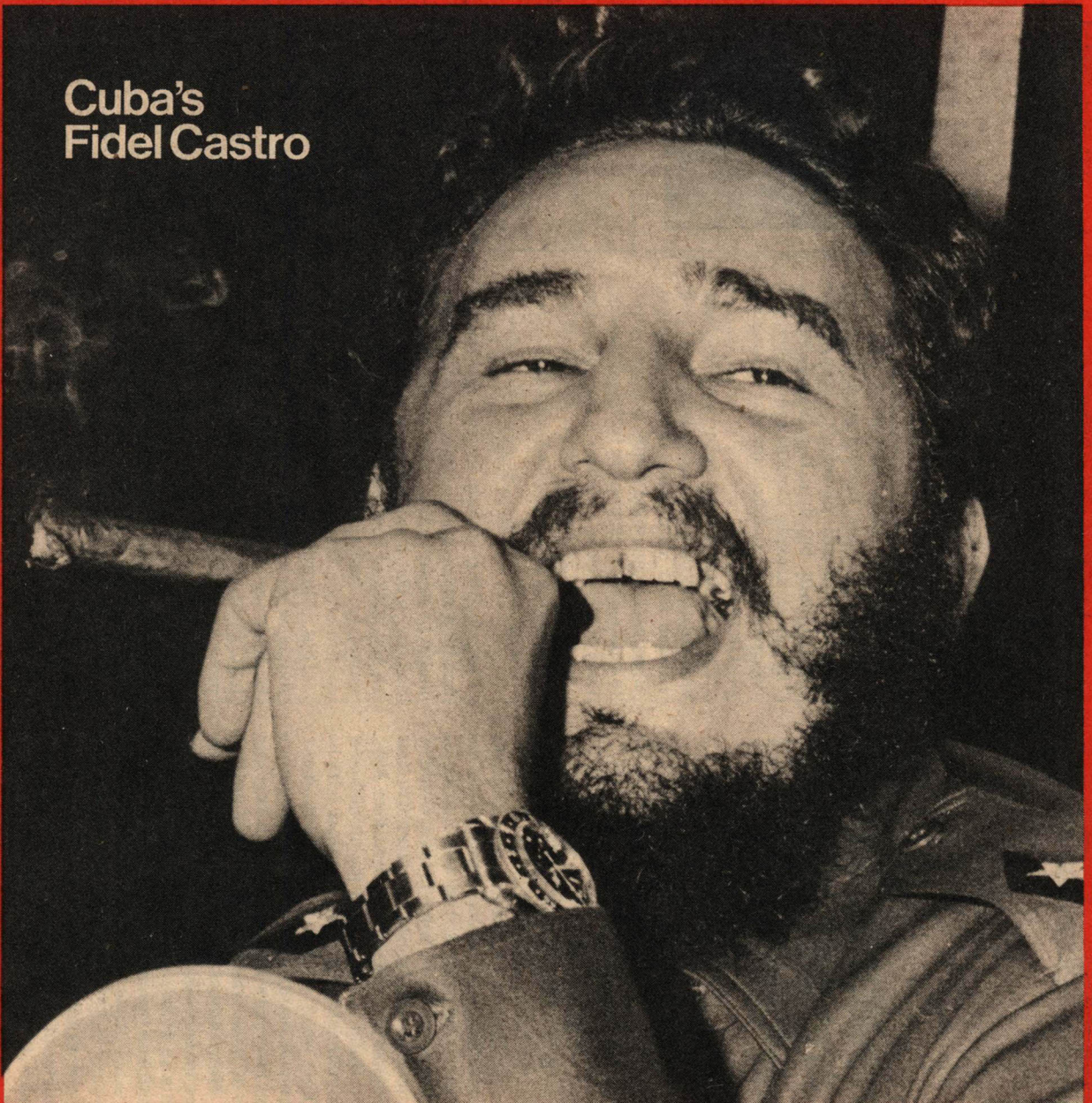


CURING THE CANCER OF CRIME

On Leaping to Conclusions

LATIN AMERICA'S AGGRESSIVE NEW NATIONALISM

Cuba's
Fidel Castro



Bombay, India

I am in Bombay on a mission of peace. The newspapers here call me an "Ambassador for World Peace." In the past three days I have addressed a banquet attended by Junior Chamber of Commerce members and wives, with about 600 present, a "Giant Club" group of 450, a Rotary Club luncheon, and a "Lions International" group of 300 — close to 1,500 leading citizens of this metropolis altogether.

I was here about a month ago when I addressed a similar number of groups composed of leading citizens in political, industrial, judicial, professional and commercial fields.

I am telling them that world peace is coming!

But, paradoxically, I have to tell them that we are heading in the diametrical *opposite* direction right now.

This morning's newspapers carried two disturbing front-page stories.

One is another of the stories that have been running now for the past few days on the United States withdrawal of its arms embargo to neighboring Pakistan. All India is upset and deeply disturbed because of that.

This U.S. decision, as viewed in the United States, Europe, South America or Africa might seem non-consequential since the United States aim is merely to maintain a balance of power in this subcontinent area of the world.

A month ago I had scheduled a massive, one-night public appearance in a sport stadium here, to be attended by 25,000 people. Some in the U.S. might have difficulty understanding why a "little thing" like that could be a reason for postponing a mass meeting public appearance. But anyone here would understand. This U.S. decision has roused ill feeling against the United States to a high pitch. Newspapers are full of it. It is a topic of constant conversation among people here, and I come from the United States.

As one young business executive, prominent in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, said to me, "The Pakistanis have only one use for these

arms — to use them against us. This will set back all efforts toward peace and normal relations between India and Pakistan for a long time. In my view, it could induce India to produce nuclear weapons. We already have nuclear power, and we have developed it *only* for nonmilitary uses, but we could be provoked into developing it further for military defense." A big, four-column front-page headline this morning says: "Indo-U.S. Ties Nose-dive." The new U.S. Ambassador to India, William Saxbe, is waiting in Bangkok till India cools.

These private groups before whom I have appeared know well and understand that I am not in politics and have had nothing to do with the U.S. government decision to supply arms to Pakistan. But a mass public gathering could, and very likely would, attract a few anti-American militants to cause serious mob disturbance.

Just this afternoon, the visit to Washington of External Affairs Minister Chavan has been cancelled in protest.

The second news item that ought to be disturbing to everybody is the summary of a special report in a weekly United States news magazine, sent out on AP wires in advance of the magazine's arrival here, which was carried under the large headline: "Arms — World's Fastest Growing Business."

A special report shows an astonishing increase in arms production in the world. The international trade in nonnuclear arms has shot upward from \$300 million in 1952 to \$18,000 million annually. That's multiplying production sixty times in two decades! The increase since 1964 is 550%. Production in sale of arms has become the world's fastest growing business.

And this represents only a fraction of the vast production of armaments for war. This represents only the cost of arms *sold* by producing nations to other nations. It does not include the colossal production by the United States, Russia, Britain, France and such nations for themselves.

This arms race most certainly is

Personal from...

Robert H. Armstrong

WORLD NOW GIRDING FOR ITS ARMAGEDDON?

not advancing the chances of PEACE!

What is its real significance?

This is the fulfillment of a very significant and momentous prophecy. The TIME of the prophecy is *now!* And it is occurring *now!*

In some thirty prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, a certain time and event is foretold. It is a time, spoken of biblically as "the Day of the Lord." It is a super tremendous event to occur in a time of the greatest world trouble.

I have said to my audiences here, "Whether you realize it or not, you are betting your lives right now. For *unless* there is an almighty, supernatural power above, a supreme power of love for humanity, who will, soon, intervene and save humanity from itself, not one of you here will be alive twenty-five years from now!"

Conditions in the world are worsening at such a fast pace that unless, supernaturally checked, all human life will be erased from this earth. The weapons now exist that can do that fifty times over — and *ONCE* will leave no life on this planet! You are betting your lives that such a great God of both love and power does exist and *WILL ACT!*

Prophecies reveal that that power does exist and will act.

Prophecies also reveal that man's way will lead, in our time, to world trouble such as the world has never seen or ever will again. We are al-

ready in such a time, and it is worsening fast! We are already in the "end time" — at the end of this present world. It will get far worse. It is getting worse at accelerating momentum.

Jesus Christ said it will come to a point where, unless there is divine, supernatural intervention to *CUT SHORT* the time, no flesh would be saved alive on earth! (Matt. 24:21-22.)

The prophesied "Day of the Lord" is just that — the time when the supernatural Creator God *will* intervene and take over in world affairs. We have been in the day of man for six thousand years. Next, God's day! It will be at the time when humanity's wrong ways shall have brought us to the point of cosmocide — annihilation of all life on earth. It will be a time of supreme world *TROUBLE* and *WAR*.

In a prophecy in the book of Joel — a time when "the day of the LORD is near" — you will read: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare *WAR*, wake up the mighty men; let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears [war munitions]; let the weak [nations] say, 'I am strong'" (Joel 3:9-10).

The time has come. The nations — weak nations — are *ARMING!* They are saying that they are strong.

(Continued on page 12, col. 4)

Editor-in-Chief: HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Editor: GARNER TED ARMSTRONG
Managing Editor: Arthur A. Ferdig
Assistant to the Editor: Robert L. Kuhn
News Editor: Gene H. Hogberg
Associate Editors: Gary Alexander, Charles Vinson
Art Director: Allen Merager
Publishing Coordinator: Roger G. Lippross
Copy Editor: Jim E. Lea

Senior Editors: C. Wayne Cole, David Jon Hill, Herman L. Hoeh, Charles F. Hunting, Raymond F. McNair, Roderick C. Meredith
Bureaus: Bonn: John Karlson; Brussels: Ray Kosanke, Henry Surcke; London: Peter Butler, David Price; Washington, D.C.: Dexter Faulkner

Correspondents: Auckland: Graeme Marshall; Johannesburg: Robert Fahey; Manila: Collin Adair; Mexico City: Enrique Ruiz; Sydney: Don Abraham; Vancouver: Dean Wilson
Contributing Editors: David Antion, Ron Horswell, Robert Ginskey, Gerhard Marx, Adli Muhtadi, John R. Schroeder, Keith Stump
Researchers/Writers: Amy Bowman, Jeff Calkins, Cynthia Carter, Graeme Henderson, Werner Jebens, George Ritter, Don Schroeder, Marc Stahl
Graphics: Art: John Dunn, Monte Wolverton, Gary Haggerty, Ron Lepeska; Photography: David Conn, Alfred Hennig, Phil Stevens, Warren Watson; Photo Files: Al Leiter
Business Manager: Frank Brown
Circulation Managers: United States: Benjamin Chapman; International Editions: Les McCullough

Volume XL No. 6

Circulation: 2,977,272

WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: *Plain Truth* has no subscription or newsstand price. It is supported through contributions from our readers and those who have chosen, voluntarily, to become co-workers with us in this worldwide work. *Plain Truth* is non-profit, accepts no commercial advertising, and has nothing to sell. Contributions are gratefully welcomed and are tax-deductible in the U.S. Those who can are encouraged to add their financial support in the spirit of helping to make *Plain Truth* available, without price, to others. Contributions should be sent to *Plain Truth*, Pasadena, Ca., 91123, or to one of our offices nearest you (addresses listed on back cover).

Plain Truth is published twice monthly (except monthly in July and October) by Ambassador College, Pasadena, California, 91123. © 1975 Ambassador College. All rights reserved. Second Class Postage paid at Pasadena, Ca., and at additional mailing offices. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

3

PANAMA CANAL ISSUE FLARES ANEW

Will the United States cede control over the world's most strategic piece of real estate? Controversy is brewing.



5

ART BUCHWALD

Political humorist takes a look at some strange "disappearing acts" in Washington.



OUR DEGRADING DOLE

When we visited our local welfare office, there were no "Welfare Cadillacs" parked outside — just poor people parked inside.

6

CURING THE CANCER OF CRIME

Crime skyrocketed 16% in 1974. This issue devotes three pages (and a free booklet offer) to crime's causes and cures.

8



GARNER TED ARMSTRONG SPEAKS OUT!

"I know you believe you understood what you think I said, but perhaps what you heard was not what I said!"

12

13

FOOTHOLD IN THE MINISTRY

The pulpit seems to be the last crumbling bastion of male dominance, but what does the Bible say about female preachers?



14

ORCHIDS & ONIONS

Someone said we print 98% favorable letters from the Bible Belt. Not lately!

15

DOMINO THEORY REVISITED

Stanley R. Rader, General Counsel to the Editor-in-Chief, takes the "Domino Theory" to task.

LATIN AMERICA'S AGGRESSIVE NEW NATIONALISM

Throughout a vast area once thought to be virtually the private domain of U.S. business interests, nation after nation is attempting to shed big-power dependency and to exercise more control over its own economic and political future.

Ecuador's "tuna war" with fishing fleets, the cancellation of a trip to South America by Henry Kissinger in February, Panama's demands for sovereignty over the U.S.-controlled Canal Zone, and growing Latin pressure for improved relations with Communist Cuba are but a few symptoms of the restless new mood prevalent throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Shaking Off "Colonialism"

The major grievance from which all others flow has been a deep-set resentment of colonial-style dependency on the giant neighbor to the north.

The new shape of Latin America, according to the present generation of Latin leaders, must be forged, not in Washington, but in Caracas, Mexico City and other Latin American capitals. "Nobody is handing out proxies any more for the U.S. to conduct their foreign affairs," says a Brazilian leader echoing the new mood.

Big foreign (particularly American) subsidiaries have already experienced the spin-offs of resurgent nationalism. A rash of recent expropriations — in copper and iron ore mines and oil facilities — have occurred.

The most serious breach in hemispheric ties, however, erupted early this year with the enactment of a new U.S. trade bill. One clause declares that members of OPEC, as well as countries that "affect United States interests" will be excluded from preferential trade treatment. This means, in effect, that the United States market is closed to the export of manufactured goods from Venezuela and Ecuador — OPEC members — and might be barred to any other country that might in future embark on a nationalist economic policy.

The bill and the violent reaction to it throughout Latin America was responsible more than any other reason for forcing United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to cancel his planned tour of several Latin nations one month later.

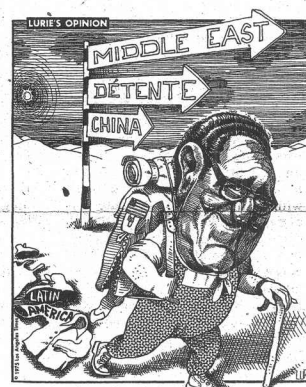
The success of the OPEC cartel has had electrifying effect on most Latin countries, significant suppliers of around 20 important raw materials for the United States and other industrial nations. "After the Arabs, we will be flexing our muscles," says an Argentine diplomat.

Already, Latin producers of bauxite, coffee, copper, sugar and even bananas are attempting to form cartels with similar producers in other parts of the world.

Havana In, Washington Out

In context of the new reassertiveness, radically different inter-American organizations and institutions — *without United States participation* — are being discussed behind the scenes. Older hemispheric institutions, such as the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS), face a stiff challenge.

The idea for a new Latin American economic system called *Sistema Económico Latinoamericano* (SELAM) is gaining support. The scheme is being actively pushed by Mexico — (it is the brainchild of Mexican president Luis



Echeverría) — and oil-rich Venezuela.

Negotiating teams from Mexico City and Caracas have also traveled frequently to Havana. Cuba's Castro, according to one source, "fully supports" such a new economic system "without the participation of outsiders," meaning of course, the U.S., since it would offer a way for Cuba to identify itself with the rest of the Latin world without compromising its adopted Marxist ideals. It would also provide Havana with another means to skirt the 14-year-old, U.S.-imposed economic blockade.

Details of the embryonic SELAM are few and far between, but some experts believe it has the promise of developing into an organization similar to the European Common Market.

Latin America may seem to be an uninteresting side theater of the world to most *norteamericanos*. But drastic change is certain to come to pass in an area long considered to be safely tucked away in America's hip pocket.

What will Washington's reaction be — when it finally wakes up to show its predictably belated concern? No one can say for sure now. But one thing is certain. With Washington's system of alliances on shaky ground around the world the United States can hardly afford to see "its world" south of the border crumble away. □

PANAMA CANAL ISSUE FLARES ANEW

Test of U.S. Resolve Say Opponents of New Treaty

If the United States Senate gives the green light, a State Department engineered treaty will give the Panamanian government effective control over the strategic Panama Canal.

Under the proposed treaty, as explained to the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on February 28 by a high State Department official, Panama would "accept" a continued United States military presence in the Canal Zone for an unspecified length of time in return for "prompt" termination of American sovereignty over the 500-square-mile zone. Actual management of the waterway itself would remain with the United States, but there would be an increasing Panamanian presence in the management.

Proponents of the treaty claim the time is ripe for the United States to "modernize" its relationship with Panama. Opponents — including, it is believed, presently enough members of the Senate to block a new pact — claim any substantial change in relationship between the two countries is totally unnecessary and that any attempt to operate and defend the canal without the surety of absolute sovereignty rights can only meet with disaster, given the historic instability of Panamanian politics. They concede there is room for further adjustment of the original 1903 treaty — already done twice before in 1936 and again in 1955 — but the key issue of sovereignty must never be compromised.

"In my judgment," says U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond, "it is a semantic trick to maintain that the U.S. can keep control of the Canal and the capability to defend it if ever we give up our sovereign rights..."

Everyone Has Benefitted

What is certain is that the canal has been good to Panama, through which it slices, as well as to the United States — not to say the entire free-world economy.

As a result of canal operations,

direct and indirect, Panamanians enjoy the highest per capita income in Latin America. The canal accounts for a full third of the tiny nation's gross national product, and forty percent of its foreign exchange. It is felt by many impartial observers that Panama's total canal-derived income would go down rather than up should U.S. management of the waterway cease.

For the United States, the canal still performs a valuable service for commerce and industry. Even in the age of the supertankers, which cannot negotiate the canal's restrictive lock systems, 15,000 ships course through the 50-mile ocean link every year. Seventy percent of these vessels sail from or are destined for American ports.

Expensive Purchase

The United States purchased sovereign rights in the zone "in perpetuity" from the new Republic of Panama for \$10 million in 1903. The sum sounds small by today's standards but it was more than was paid for either Alaska or Florida.

Total American investment in the Canal Zone, including its defense, comes close to \$6 billion.

Legally, the canal and the 5-mile wide strip of land on either side of it is as much a part of the U.S. as any of the fifty states. As one American living in the zone put it, "Giving the Canal Zone to the Panamanians will be like giving Florida back to the Spanish."

Strategically, the Panama Canal forms part of the coastline of the United States. Calling the canal the "jugular vein of the Americas," Democratic congressman Daniel Flood, the canal's most eloquent defender, compares its value to that of the Chesapeake Bay or the Mississippi River.

Ashamed of Power

The negotiations over the canal's future status are especially interesting in light of the overall decline of American power.

The canal issue dredges up all the usual feelings of self-guilt in

the hearts of American liberals who advocate its surrender in order to atone for the sin of being the world's most powerful nation. To them the lush American Zone, with its famous well-manicured lawns and white-washed, red-tile-roofed buildings — in sharp contrast to the drab squalor found in much of neighboring Panama itself — smacks too much of "colonialism."

Countering this viewpoint, opponents of the new treaty say it is

(Continued on page 4, col. 3)

WILL IT BE...

20% INFLATION? OR 20% INTEREST RATES?

Like the unemployment figures, the U.S. federal budget deficit keeps getting revised upward.

Initially, the Administration foresaw \$52 billion in red ink for the next fiscal year of July 1, 1975 through June 30, 1976. Political realists noted that because Congress would likely reject the President's proposed spending cuts, the total would be more like \$70 billion. Now Arthur Burns, the august Federal Reserve Board Chairman, ups the ante still further, forecasting a deficit of \$100 billion.

But the figure becomes even

more insane. Political analyst George F. Will, after totting up the figures for new spending, borrowing by off-budget agencies (such as the Postal Service) and from trust funds (like Social Security), a larger tax cut, and defaults on government loans, projects a deficit of — hold your breath — \$138 billion!

In light of the fact that \$70 billion was the total amount of money raised by all borrowers last year — not just the government — the statistics reach a level of absurdity.

The money will have to come from only one of two places. The government must either borrow it or print it. If the government borrows, competition for dwindling supplies of money will push up interest rates to all-time highs. Should this indeed occur, Norman Ture, a Washington economist, looks for a prime rate of 20 percent by year's end. Such a credit squeeze would push the economy into sure depression.

If, on the other hand, the government prints enough money to cover even half of the more pessimistic deficit projections, the money supply could swell by at least twenty percent (some economists say thirty percent), fueling a roughly twenty percent inflation rate, if not more.

During the Thirties, sophisticated economists dreamed up the phrase "we owe it to ourselves" in order to justify a spending spree. Ironically, the American people may indeed find that they owe it to themselves — but what their Congress will have bought with a mammoth increase in federal debt will not be extra goodies but economic collapse. □

Britain to Stay in ECC?

VOTERS WILL DECIDE

The formula for Britain's continued membership in the European Economic Community was finally hammered out at the European summit conference in Dublin Castle on March 10 and 11. It is generally believed that the heads of state of the other eight Common Market nations — eager to avoid the disruption of a British withdrawal — went as far as could reasonably be expected in meeting British renegotiation demands.

"I think the terms are a great improvement over what we have got," Britain's Prime Minister Harold Wilson told a press conference following the conclusion of the summit. If the concessions given Britain are approved by Wilson's Labour cabinet — which is virtually certain — the Prime Minister plans to actively campaign for their acceptance by the British people and a vote for continued British membership in the EEC in the planned national referendum in June.

The negotiations which resulted in the improved membership terms for Britain were far from smooth. Numerous formulas to solve the question of Britain's budgetary contributions were put forward and debated before a final budget adjustment plan involving a yearly \$300 million refund to Britain was accepted. London has long contended that it was carrying an unfair share of the financial burden of the EEC budget.

The real irony of this summit is that even now, after the concessions the other eight made to Britain, continued British membership is still uncertain. Not until after the result of the nationwide referendum in June will we know whether Prime Minister Wilson gained enough ammunition in Dublin to finally win the British people over to the European ideal.

The June referendum could be the most important single election in all Britain's long history.

According to a recent newspaper poll, more Britons claim they wish their nation to remain in the Common Market than leave. In answer to the question "Do you think the

United Kingdom should stay in the European Community?" 45 percent of those asked answered in the affirmative. Some 33 percent were against continued membership, 14 percent were undecided and 8 percent said it depended on the terms of membership. It is now up to Mr. Wilson and his cabinet to strengthen the pro-market percentage between now and June. But if the voters reject the new terms — which the Continentals consider generous — and Britain then departs from Europe, there is not going to be much sympathy in Brussels when the Labour government or some other future administration comes back to seek special trade concessions. Once out this time, Britain will have to stay out. □

GRIM ISRAEL PUSHES FOR SETTLEMENT DESPITE MASSACRE

JERUSALEM: "Kissinger's effort will fail." This motto was defiantly blazoned in Arabic across the side of one of the two dinghies used by Palestinian terrorists in their March 5 assault from the sea which resulted in the death of nineteen persons, including 7 of the 8 terrorists, and the destruction of Tel Aviv's Savoy Hotel.

The terrorist group, *Al Fatah*, claimed responsibility for the operation. *Fatah* is led by Yassir Arafat and is the largest and most powerful component of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Observers in Beirut say that Arafat personally gave approval for the mission and that it was planned by his second-in-command, Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad.

With the Savoy raid Arafat strengthened his position among the members of the PLO who thought he had "gone soft" with the rise of his political stature around the world.

Israelis see this most recent act as further confirmation that the PLO is just a gang of murderers intent

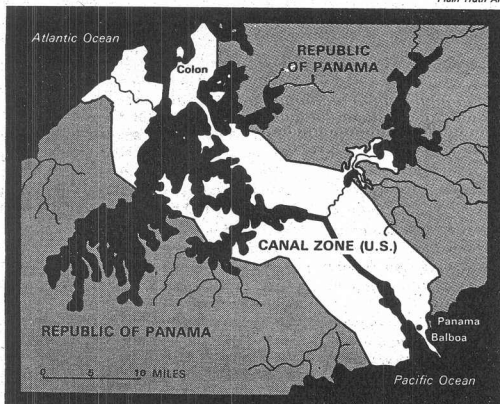
on the final dissolution of the state of Israel and the death of her citizens.

Despite the Tel Aviv atrocity, the Israeli government has announced its determination to carry on with the next round of Henry Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy. On the surface, therefore, it seems the terrorists failed in their mission. Chances for a second-stage agreement with Egypt, the key Arab state, remain good according to most of the official opinions expressed here.

But in any meatier discussions about an overall settlement, the Savoy atrocity will serve as an exclamation mark to the already well-known Israeli position vis-à-vis the PLO. Arafat's latest episode will only harden the attitudes of those Israelis who may have begun to consider including the PLO in future negotiations.

The most fundamental issue in the endless round of Middle East negotiations, from Israel's point of view, is not territory or the formation

(Continued on page 4, col. 3)



Pakistan's Precarious State

Tensions are on the rise throughout the strategic Indian Ocean basin. The stimulant this time is the recent decision by the U.S. State Department to lift its 10-year embargo on arms sales to Pakistan.

The United States embargoed arms exports to both India and Pakistan in 1965, when the two nations were at war.

Pakistan was dealt a harder blow by the embargo than was India, which has its own homegrown defense industry and has been getting a steady supply of arms from the Soviet Union, including MIG-21 fighters, destroyer escorts, tanks, and helicopters. India has shown relatively little interest in obtaining weapons from the United States.

Numerous studies have shown that India far outclasses Pakistan in all forms of weaponry. India's army of almost a million men is more than double that of Pakistan's. In addition, India's successful nuclear test last May has thrust her into the now not-so-exclusive nuclear club. Though India has repeatedly emphasized her intention of utilizing nuclear energy for solely peaceful purposes, many observers privately doubt the sincerity of this self-imposed limitation.

These factors prompted Pakistan's Prime Minister Ali Bhutto to state last December that Pakistan would be forced to develop nuclear capability if it could not obtain sufficient arms for a conventional deterrent. This suggestion is believed to have influenced the U.S. decision to resume arms sales to that nation.

Fears of a Breakup

Pakistani officials in Washington foresee eventual assistance in the form of loans from Arab nations to help finance purchases of American weapons. Arab countries have already helped Pakistan, also a Moslem nation, with loans to finance oil imports.

Pakistan's non-Arab but fellow-Moslem neighbor, Iran, is already stepping up its aid programs to Pakistan. The Shah of Iran, Pakistan's best friend in the region, has long been an advocate of lifting the U.S. arms embargo.

Perhaps the reason for this community of interest is that the Shah and Mr. Bhutto are known to share fears over the territorial designs of India, Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union against Pakistan.

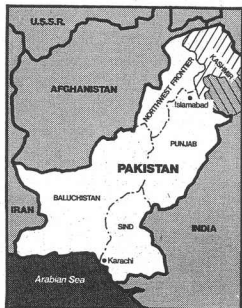
Pakistan is composed of four provinces, two on each side of the Indus River. The two provinces on the eastern side — Sind and Punjab — are in the firm control of Mr. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party. Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, is in Punjab province, and the nation's largest city and port, Karachi, is in Sind.

The two provinces west of the Indus — Baluchistan and North-West Frontier — are in a state of unrest, believed to be fomented by Afghanistan with Soviet and Indian encouragement. In a recent development, Pakistan placed its North-West Frontier province under direct Federal rule for three months following the bombing death of the

provincial interior minister. In an obvious reference to Afghanistan, a Pakistani communiqué said a "neighboring foreign power" was actively engaged in disrupting normal life in the province.

The "Poland" of South Asia?

Both the Shah and Mr. Bhutto believe the Soviets are ultimately behind an effort to carve out an independent state composed of the North-West Frontier and Baluchistan provinces. Rumors have surfaced of a Moscow-Kabul-New Delhi "grand design" to divide up Pakistan into two portions — a pro-Russian vassal state made up of the



two western provinces and an Indian-occupied territory east of the Indus. In effect, Pakistan would become the "Poland" of South Asia, split among its enemies just as the Polish republic was in 1939 between Germany and the Soviet Union.

As the Shah sees it, India would take advantage of a full-scale rebellion in the western provinces as an excuse to "intervene" in support of the establishment of an independent state there. This would result in the occupation of the eastern areas by Indian forces and the complete dissolution of Pakistan as a nation.

The Shah has indicated that his armed forces will step in rather than permit Pakistan to be further dismembered as it was in 1971 when East Pakistan split away with India's support to become the independent nation of Bangladesh.

An independent pro-Soviet state in the area west of the Indus would extend Soviet influence south to the Gulf of Oman and the major oil supply lines from the Persian Gulf. It is believed that U.S. determination to protect these lines was a major factor in its decision to lift the arms embargo on Pakistan. A strong Pakistan is apparently viewed as in the U.S. interest and is consistent with America's massive arms sales to neighboring Iran and current moves to bolster the U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean.

Whatever the motives and designs of the various nations involved, it is clear that the strategic South Asia region will increasingly become the focus of worldwide attention and concern in the months ahead. □

PANAMA CANAL

(Continued from page 3)

perfectly understandable why Panama chafes under the continued American presence in the Zone. After all, affluent Americans are not a loved race around the world.

"There comes a time," analyzes James J. Kilpatrick, "when great powers must behave as great powers. Not every source of conflict can be removed. Some conflicts must be endured; they must be lived with. Not every wounded sensitivity can be soothed."

"When every reasonable and prudent concession to Panama has been made, a line has to be drawn: No more. And sorry about that."

Will the U.S. Wilt?

Panama is clearly a test of American resolve. For to give in will assuredly not win the love and respect of the Panamanians, nor even of the other Latin American peoples — even though the other hemispheric states officially endorse Panama's claim to sovereignty. Says one expert on U.S.-Latin affairs, himself a Latin:

"Americans should not accept the superficial view about the ultimate reaction in Latin America to the giveaway of the canal. The Latins respect power. What they distrust and deride is weakness, appeasement and surrender. I can assure you that they will look upon American withdrawal from Panama with incredulity and contempt."

"Besides, their own security is clearly involved. It's a slur on their common sense to assume that Latin Americans could really welcome control of this all-important commercial and naval passageway between the Atlantic and Pacific by a small, weak and chronically unstable country."

Will the United States stand up to the challenge — or has it totally lost the pride of its power (Leviticus 26:19)? Will it bow — at the "sound of a shaken leaf" (v. 36) — before the oft-repeated "threats" of Panama's dictator General Omar Torrijos to storm the canal with his 6,000-man Panamanian national guard?

The whole world will be watching what the United States chooses to do. □

GRIM ISRAEL

(Continued from page 3)

tion of a Palestinian state. It is the attitude of those with whom Israel has to deal and to whom she feels she can safely turn over territory captured in previous wars.

The Israelis have judged the Egyptian attitude is improving and leaning toward peace. Therefore they are willing to return the Sinai to Sadat. Jordan's King Hussein, however, is seen as being too weak to be given authority again over his former areas on the West Bank. The attitudes of the Syrians and the terrorist organizations are viewed as irreconcilable. Israeli officials have not yet agreed on what to do with those Palestinians who do want to live peacefully with her, and time is running out.

— Chris Patton



Worldwatch

by Gene H. Hogberg

Going...Going...Gone?

I guess it must be that time of year again. Regular as clockwork, out of the depths of the State Department catacombs come the annual pleas to Congress that the United States must relinquish its control over the Canal Zone to the Panamanians.

The argument this time, as elucidated by Assistant Secretary of State William D. Rogers, is that failure of the United States to recognize Panama's full sovereignty over "all its territory" could "lead to a confrontation with Panama . . . and a real possibility that the canal would be closed in the process."

Two points stand out in this fallacious assertion. First of all, the five hundred-square-mile Canal Zone is not, and never has been, the property of the Republic of Panama. The Zone belongs to the government of the United States and none else. Under the terms of the 1903 Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, regardless of how one likes or dislikes that pact, admittedly favorable to Washington, the United States was granted perpetual rights over the narrow strip of land in order to build, operate, maintain and defend a transoceanic canal.

Subsequent to this grant by the then new Republic of Panama, the United States government proceeded to purchase all private property within the new zonal boundaries. To this day, American as well as Panamanian residents living in the Zone cannot buy property; they can only rent their homes from the government. The Zone is, in effect, similar to a large company town.

To assert that the Zone is "Panamanian property" is thus a gross misstatement — and the boys at Foggy Bottom know better. The Republic of Panama can only assert a "claim" to "residual" or "titular" sovereignty — the right to ownership in case the United States should choose to leave. Some constitutional lawyers assert that Columbia, previous sovereign over the Panama isthmus, has as much claim to "residual rights" as does Panama.

Secondly, that the United States should be "placed in confrontation" with Panama unless it agrees to turn over sovereignty of the Zone to the revolutionary government of General Omar Torrijos and "share" in the operation and defense of the canal with the Panamanians is utterly ridiculous!

Is the United States, world's premier military power, afraid of one and a half million Panamanians — who don't even have an army, but only a 6,000-man National Guard? Has the United States truly lost the "pride of its power" (Lev. 26:19) — when confronted by a "mouse that roars"?

Are the men from State really serious when they propose that Panama — again with its 6,000-man National Guard — should share in the DEFENSE of one of the world's most strategic waterways?

The truth is, if the United States wants to avoid trouble over the canal and continue to enjoy its benefits, it had better hang onto it. To think that U.S. authorities can continue to operate and share in the defense of the canal after relinquishing its legal, sovereign rights in the Zone is playing with the fire of anti-American emotionalism. The only conceivable outcome is for Torrijos or some yet future Panamanian leader to do to the Panama Canal what Egypt's Nasser did to Suez in 1956.

Oh, perhaps there are enough Senators in the U.S. Congress to block the giveaway this year (one third negative vote can void the transfer), but I fully expect the canal to go sooner or later.

The canal was a birthright to the people of the United States — a key "seagate" held within the midst of national enemies (Gen. 22:17). For sixty years the waterway has served as a tremendous benefit to our national economy in time of peace and to our national defense in time of war. But the vast majority of Americans simply don't appreciate it any longer, any more than they are cognizant of their other manifold blessings from On High.

Mark my word: the canal will go — if not soon, eventually. And when that happens, rare will be the American flag that flies amast a ship sailing through the Big Ditch! For "the Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away."

BUREAU REPORTS

New Challenges to World Free Trade

BRUSSELS: Trade war — international economic villain of the thirties — is looming once again on the horizon. The framers of GATT (the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) set up a system of rules and guarantees in 1947 to prevent a recurrence of crippling protectionism. Now that system could fall victim to the worldwide economic recession.

Despite the lessons of history, national governments are still tempted to apply a reverse economic golden rule in times of uncertainty: "Erect barriers to my neighbor's exports before he can do the same to mine."

The possibility of this formula became evident as the latest session of the Tokyo Round of negotiations (formerly called the Nixon Round) got underway in Geneva in February. "The danger of countries going back to protectionism may be almost irresistible, without countervailing pressure on the international level," admitted one European Community official glumly.

Responsible officials on both sides of the Atlantic realize that they must continue to advocate free trade. They know full well that the alternative is a trade war between the industrialized nations which none would win.

Momentous problems await the negotiators at the GATT bargaining table, who hope to eliminate various irritants such as "voluntary" export restraints and other side-door methods of restricting free trade.

Even more crucial could be the negotiations regarding the developing countries and the raw materials they possess. These matters had been virtually ignored at previous GATT rounds (the latest being the "Kennedy" Round from 1962 to 1967). Now, the industrialized nations are concerned about keeping continued reasonable access to commodities and raw materials.

The developing nations are proving increasingly skillful in negotiations, and the industrialized nations (primarily the U.S., Japan, and the EEC) will probably have to give price guarantees and "open market" concessions in return for supply guarantees.

The problems are knotty, and the outlook for success is at the moment uncertain. For one thing, the negotiations will go far past the December 1975 deadline initially insisted upon by the U.S. It took eighteen months for Congress to pass the trade bill giving the President the power to negotiate.

Another big reason for pessimism was summed up by one GATT representative: "The in-

creased economic strength and increased participation in the international economic system of two groups of countries — the major oil producing countries and the Communist countries — means that we now must cope with economically powerful entities which do not adhere to the international trading rules incorporated in the GATT."

In other words, the two blocs which could do the most damage to the free trade system will not even be at the bargaining table.

— Henry Sturcke

Australia and Japan— Interdependence Brings Problems

SYDNEY: The growing importance of Australia's and Japan's trade interdependence is highlighted by recently released trade figures.

The Japanese government's trade reports for fiscal year 1973 (which ended in March 1974) show that Japan's exports to Australia that year totalled US\$1,192,900,000 — an increase of 63.8% percent over the previous year. Imports from Australia for the same period were US\$3,495,000,000 — up 58.5 percent.

The value of Australia's exports to Japan for the same period exceeded the combined total of her next five biggest customers — the United States, Britain, New Zealand, France and West Germany — which stood at US\$3,000,338,000.

Australia has been Japan's leading supplier of minerals such as iron ore, coal, bauxite, aluminum, and manganese. Australia is also number one in sales to Japan of wool, beef and mutton and is second in the supply of sugar.

However, there are indications that the road ahead may not be as smooth for Australia and Japan as it has been in the past.

Friction between the two partners has developed recently over several factors:

- The Japanese government's sudden imposition of import quotas on beef for the latter half of the 1974 fiscal year. This has had an adverse impact on the economic welfare of Australia's beef producers.

- Japan's curb on purchases of Australian wool because of its surplus stocks of raw wool.

- The sharp increase in exports to Australia of Japanese motor vehicles. This has led to severe unemployment in Australia's own motor industry and the Australian government's imposition of import quotas on Japanese cars.

- The Australian government's insistence on its right to intervene in negotiations between Australian and Japanese businessmen to de-

termine prices for Australian exports to Japan.

Although these and other problems should be resolved soon, they indicate the extent and nature of the difficulties facing the two countries as their economies become increasingly integrated.

There are also warnings that economic interdependence brings its own problems. There could be future occasions when the national interests of the two countries conflict or when the cultural hiatus that separates them causes tension in their relationship.

— Don Abraham

Common Market for West Africa

SALISBURY, RHODESIA: Leaders of fifteen West African states met in Monrovia, Liberia in mid-February to discuss the formation of a West African Economic Community.

Ministers agreed on the formation, over a 15-year period, of a customs union that could eventually lead to the free movement of trade across the entire "bulge" of Africa.

All that is needed now is for the 15 heads-of-state to meet, once more and formally sign the agreement. This will take place later this year.

The participating states in the new bloc are Dahomey, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Upper Volta. All except Liberia and Guinea-Bissau are former English and French colonies. The economic level of the members ranges all the way from newly oil-rich Nigeria to poverty-stricken Guinea-Bissau, newly independent from Portugal. The region has tremendous mineral and agricultural potential, as well as Nigeria's oil.

The treaty that will bind the 15 together establishes a common customs tariff for imports from other Third World countries. It also sets up a fund for cooperation, compensation and development.

In the present climate of détente between the black African states and the Republic of South Africa, there is speculation about a possible future role for Pretoria in the area.

A recent visit by South Africa's Prime Minister John Vorster to Liberia, and contacts between his slowly liberalizing white-ruled nation and the Ivory Coast, could lead to the commitment of South African development aid.

The orientation of the new trade grouping, however, might be northward rather than southward. Most of these West African states have formal economic treaties with the European Economic Community. It is here that West Africa will probably look for development aid and close trade ties.

— Melvin Rhodes

ART BUCHWALD

The Washington Triangle

WASHINGTON: By now everyone must know about the Bermuda Triangle, a vast body of water extending from Bermuda in the north to southern Florida and then east to a point in the Bahamas past Puerto Rico.

Charles Berlitz, who has written a best-seller about it, claims 100 ships and planes have vanished in the area without a trace, and more than 1,000 lives have been lost since 1945.

There are many theories concerning the mystery. Some people believe that UFOs are responsible. Others feel the disasters may have been tied in with the lost colony of Atlantis. In any case, the Bermuda Triangle has caused quite a stir.

What has not been publicized is that there is a similar phenomenon right here in Washington, D.C. It is called the Washington Triangle, and it also has been a great source of mystery and unexplained disappearances.

The triangle area is located between the White House, the Capitol and the Jefferson Memorial. Most of the accidents have taken place in the Tidal Basin, a rough, treacherous sea, 5 feet deep, which twists and turns as it empties into the Potomac River.

Jonathan Stone, who discovered the Washington Triangle, said, "The triangle is a frightening place. In a period of 10 years we've lost 3,400 trial balloons, 200 congressional reforms, 453 executive mandates, 230 tax cuts and one ship of state. They seem to have disappeared without a trace."

"But there must be some explanation," I said.

"The biggest disaster was the sinking of the SS *Watergate* with all hands aboard, including the President of the United States. A search of the area produced nothing but an empty lifeboat with the pathetic message 'I am not a crook' scrawled on the side."

"What do you think happened to the crew?" I asked Stone.

"They lost their moral compass. Something happens to people's sense of direction when they enter the triangle. The best political navigators forget which end is up and which end is down."

"What other disasters have taken place in the basin?"

"One day a Judge Carswell sailed out of the White House toward the Capitol to be confirmed as Supreme Court justice. Then a mysterious storm came up and Carswell disappeared, never to be heard of again," Stone said.

"That's terrible," I said.

"Recently, President Ford sent up an energy message to The Hill and it sunk without a trace."

"At least a half-dozen bills that Congress has sent down to the President to sign have drowned in the black, murky waters of the triangle. Budgets have been smashed on the rocks; campaign promises have vanished into thin air. Even a cargo of prayer breakfasts was lost without a trace or explanation."

"Do you suppose there is some supernatural power at work in the triangle that is responsible for so many disasters?" I asked.

"I'm sure of it," Stone said. "There is one theory that sophisticated beings from another planet live on the bottom of the basin and magnetically attract all the traffic between the White House and The Hill."

"I believe it," I said.

"Some say that there is a prehistoric monster in the water that eats nothing but budgets, presidential messages, government servants and an occasional Vice President of the United States."

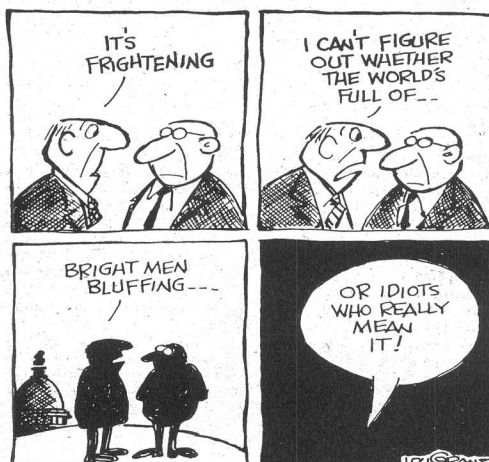
"That could make sense, too," I agreed.

"There is also the possibility that the bottom of the Tidal Basin could be the lost colony of Atlantis," he said.

"You mean Fanne Foxe could be from another world?"

"There are many people, including respected scientists, who believe it."

Copyright 1975, Los Angeles Times





A WELFARE CASEWORKER visits the cramped two-room (and two-TV) apartment of the typical fatherless family on AFDC.

OUR DEGRADING DOLE

Putting Down the Poor

by Carole Ritter

"What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord God of hosts."

— Isaiah 3:15

What is it like to be poor? Can anybody brought up in the cushy-comfort of our affluent middle class ever understand what it's like to be on the receiving end of the dole?

I got a good taste of it the other day. My friend had been through some bad luck this past year. Her husband had some mental hangups he couldn't resolve, and, instead of seeking treatment, he deserted her and their two kids. With a third child on the way, she couldn't immediately go to work. Her folks lived 4,000 miles away. Since she couldn't work or move, welfare was her only alternative.

She moved into a one-bedroom, insect-infested dump with chipping paint and faulty plumbing and did her grocery shopping with food stamps. She was "coping" — just keeping her nose above water — when one week her check was late.

At the time, she was recuperating from the flu, so she asked me to drive her to the welfare office to find out what had gone wrong. This was my introduction to the dehumanizing, degrading wringer local bureaucracy puts poor people through. It was an unbelievable hassle.

We signed in with a syrupy-voiced receptionist who spoke to us like we were a couple of slow kindergartners. She told us to take a seat and if we didn't hear our name called in half an hour to let her know. So my sick pregnant friend and I sat in a crowded, smoke-filled room for our allotted time, then went back to beg for an audience with her caseworker. She couldn't be found, so we were given a substitute. I'll call him Mr. "Washington," a courteous but harried black gentleman.

He found that my friend's old caseworker had been terminated two months ago, and her file was buried on the caseworker's desk with a stack of 200 others. Due to a budget slash, the department personnel had been decimated, but nobody could be rehired to take their place.

Mr. Washington explained that if my friend's check had been lost in the mail, she would have to drive into Los Angeles (she didn't own a car), be fingerprinted and sign an affidavit swearing she hadn't received it, and then she could have her name fed into the computer to have another check mailed to her. But in the meantime, nothing could be done. There wasn't any provision to loan her money temporarily to buy food stamps or pay rent.

Mr. Washington also let us know that my friend's former caseworker had bullied her out of the \$10 per month pregnancy benefits she was entitled to. She had told my friend that she shouldn't fill out the necessary forms because it was "too much work," and the caseworker just didn't have the time to foot with processing it.

In order to have these belated pregnancy benefits restored, he told my friend she'd have to go into town and appear before a review board — and even then she couldn't get the eight months of retroactive benefits because she hadn't brought in the necessary proof of pregnancy from her Medical Group (she was eight months along — any other diagnosis would have been ridiculous).

When I asked him if this sort of thing went on very often, he told me a long, sad story. His hands were tied by labyrinthine local regulations and paperwork.

Even if he wanted to buck the system and help us, he couldn't because he'd get himself in trouble and probably lose his job.

He also mentioned another case he'd been involved with. Two children whose parents had been killed in an auto accident were living with their grandparents. The kids were eligible for food stamps to help supplement the grandparents' Social Security benefits. But their parents had set aside a trust fund in the bank for their education, which couldn't be touched legally until they were age 18. Nevertheless, their caseworker and his superior refused to allow them to buy the stamps until they had exhausted the entire trust fund! He said cases like this aren't uncommon — caseworkers many times don't make much more money than the people they

serve, and jealousy sometimes motivates the way they treat their clients.

I found out later that there had been several incidents of frustrated clients assaulting their caseworkers. I can sympathize — I felt like doing some assaulting myself.

The politician-promulgated myth that there are thousands of cheaters out there driving "welfare Cadillacs" just plain isn't so. Surveys have actually found very few cheaters.

Actually, a far greater percentage are eligible for welfare than ever actually apply, but the stigma of being "on the dole," the refusal on technicalities of many who so seek assistance, and the widespread ignorance among the poor of welfare regulations keeps the rolls down, and keeps those already on welfare from finding out about programs and benefits due them.

When I visited the welfare office with my friend, I asked if I could see a copy of the welfare regulations. They were kept upstairs in a separate room and you needed signed permission to look at them, one book at a time. But first you had to know the name of a specific book to request — and nobody was about to volunteer that information.

What can be done about all this? Various welfare reform plans have been suggested, including a negative income tax and WPA-type creation of more jobs by the government. But with economic recession at the door, even a new Administration would be unlikely to change the status quo very much.

Any reforms, however, are only stopgap measures that fail to resolve the real problem — why people are poor in the first place. And that problem will be with us until society is completely overhauled.

So what can we do in the meantime? The only factor over which we have any control seems to be our individual and collective attitudes toward the less fortunate. Hopefully we can work to educate ourselves out of our negative superiority and punitive paternalism. A change in our collective attitude toward the poor may translate itself into some real action in the direction of kind and dignified treatment of the poor. □

INDIAN CHIEF PONDER'S WHITE MAN'S ECOLOGY

by Robert Ginskey

In 1855, Chief Sealth of Washington State's Duwamish Indians wrote a letter to the President of the United States, Franklin Pierce, in which he expressed his concern over the white man's concept of ecology. Russell Peterson, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, recently read that letter at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in New York City. Peterson observed that from our modern perspective 120 years later, the chief's poetic missive would appear to be an incisive, if not disturbing, prophecy. Working with nothing but intuition and love to guide him in the interpretation of his random data, Chief Sealth wrote an environmental impact statement which embodied the basic ecological insight that all things are connected — whatever befalls the earth befalls man as well:

"We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He leaves his father's graves, and his children's birthright is forgotten. The sight of your cities pains the eyes of the red man. But perhaps it is because the red man is a savage and does not understand."

"There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insect's wings. But perhaps because I am a savage and do not understand, the clatter only seems to insult the ears. The Indian prefers the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of the pond, and the smell of the wind itself cleansed by a mid-day rain or scented with a pignon pine. The air is precious to the red-man. For all things share the same breath — the beasts, the trees, the man. The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes. Like a man dying for many days, he is numb to the stench."

"What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth."

"It matters little where we pass the rest of our days; they are not many. A few more hours, a few more winters, and none of the children of the great tribes that once lived on this earth, or that roamed in small bands in the woods, will be left to mourn the graves of a people once as powerful and hopeful as yours."

"The whites, too, shall pass — perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed, and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires, where is the thick? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and beginning of survival? We might understand if we knew what it was that the white man dreams, what hopes he describes to his children on the long winter nights, what visions he burns into their minds, so they will wish for tomorrow. But we are savages. The white man's dreams are hidden from us."

Today, we might well ponder Chief Sealth's question, "What are the white man's dreams?" □

A Rough Diet for America

by Robert Ginskey

"The destiny of nations depends on the manner in which they nourish themselves." So stated Jean Brillat-Savarin 150 years ago in *The Physiology of Taste*.

If it is true that our destiny lies in our diets, the "civilized" Western world has much to worry about. Although modern nutritionists are learning vital principles of good diet, most of us are ignoring this wealth of knowledge.

The fact is that the modern American diet has been radically altered since our great-grandfather's day. The average diet in the Western world now contains 50 percent more refined sugar, 30 percent more fat, and 90 percent less cereal fiber than it did at the turn of the century.

Concurrently with this change in diet, a new pattern of disease has emerged in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. The old infectious diseases are now largely under control, but new degenerative diseases kill the vast majority of those over 40 years old.

Robert Walker wrote that "the new kind of dietary deficiency disease caused by concentrated incomplete foods builds up slowly over half a lifetime and then manifests itself in a wide variety of degenerative diseases, both acute and chronic."

Doctors now refer to a "twenty-year abuse," meaning that we can abuse our naturally good health for about twenty years before degenerative diseases begin to catch up with us.

A. Elliot Smith, formerly senior surgeon at Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, studied the native peoples of Africa and noticed the absence of "modern" diseases, such as

appendicitis, ulcers, diabetes, obesity, coronary thrombosis, dental decay, and constipation.

As soon as these "primitive" people were fed the average "civilized" diet, however, these degenerative diseases increased dramatically. Other authorities, such as Weston A. Price and D. P. Burkitt, found identical conclusions: As peoples begin to consume increasing amounts of over-refined, processed, preserved, and packaged products, their health inevitably degenerates.

Increasing evidence indicates that the "secret" to health and longevity among scattered "primitive" peoples is the essential but forgotten form of nutrient called "roughage."

British medical researchers have found that bulky, fibrous foods stimulate gastric juice secretion, provide a quicker sense of satiation, and reduce retention time in the intestines.

One study found that food takes six to eight times longer to pass through the intestines of people living in Western countries than in parts of Africa and India where the food is natural and unprocessed.

This retention time may be an important factor in causing many serious maladies, especially cancer of the colon. The longer it takes for food to travel through the alimentary canal, the more exposure the colon will receive to cancerous agents.

Since a high incidence of colon cancer is usually found in the same nations which have a high incidence of cardiovascular diseases, the lack of dietary fiber may be the underlying cause.

Accumulating evidence continues to show that the soft, bland, refined Western diet may be a major source of degenerative diseases. In the final analysis, there may be much more to "roughing it" than an occasional camp-out in the mountains.

We should also learn to "rough it" at the dinner table. □

Our Economically Impoverished Elderly

by John R. Schroeder

The sad state of our senior citizens is the subject for many a magazine article. The worsening economic condition of the elderly in our midst is routinely deplored by all. Depressed central city areas are hardest hit. Garbage-can fare, cat and dog food dinners, and seedy, flea-bag hotels are becoming clichés.

Conventional wisdom dictates a potpourri of semi-practical solutions: raises in social security benefits, additional medical aid, increased welfare payments, free or inexpensive bus transportation — all are popularly proposed, knowing in advance the inevitable and unwanted side effects of a heavier tax load and booming inflation.

No person in his right mind would propose that we discontinue or even severely curtail these government benefits. However, there is a simple program that would greatly aid the elderly that has been largely overlooked or ignored by laymen and government alike. What about teaching children and able relatives to care? I read about the severe poverty conditions of many an elderly couple (and the widowed or widowers) and ask myself this question: "Are all of these poverty-stricken people without any children or family?"

The answer is, of course, that the vast majority do have economically capable and mature children, and many concerned children (now working adults) do contribute to the well-being of their aging parents — both emotionally and monetarily. But what about those able-bodied children who should help, but don't? There are far too many who conveniently turn their heads the other way.

We claim to be a Christian nation, and 97% of us believe in some form of Divine

Providence. Most of us at least acknowledge the Ten Commandments. Well, what about that fifth one? "Honor your father and your mother."

Piety begins at home. "If a Christian man or woman has widows in the family, he must support them himself," wrote the apostle Paul (1 Tim. 5:16, *The New English Bible*). Also: "But if anyone does not make provision for his relations, and especially for members of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (verse 8).

The author of the Christian religion had somewhat to say about this matter. Did you know that people in his day were excusing themselves from economic support of their aged parents for — can you believe this one? — religious reasons. They were claiming that funds which might have been earmarked for parental support were "Corban" — that is, dedicated to the service of the altar. Jesus said to these hypocritical types: "How well you set aside the commandment of God in order to maintain your tradition! Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'The man who curses his father or mother must suffer death.' But you hold that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Anything of mine which might have been used for your benefit is Corban' (meaning, set apart for God), he is no longer permitted to do anything for his father or mother. Thus by your own tradition, handed down among you, you make God's word null and void" (Mark 7:9-13, NEB).

Can we learn anything from this example so far as "acceptable excuses" are concerned? They simply don't exist for those able to render economic support. □



WANTED: 1500 INDIVIDUALS!

At Ambassador College we make individuals out of people. An individual holds strong personal values and deep convictions. We live in an age when individuality is hard to find, yet strong personal values are critical to success and happiness in life. As character-building

institutions, Ambassador Colleges at Pasadena, California and Big Sandy, Texas (combined enrollment of 1,500 students) emphasizes value development, as well as how to earn a living.

Major courses of study offered at one or both campuses of Ambassador College are:

agribusiness, business administration, chemistry, communications arts, computer science, English, general studies, history, home economics, liberal arts, mass communications, physical education, Spanish, speech, theology. Mail this coupon today.



Please send me an Ambassador College catalog.
☐ Pasadena ☐ Big Sandy
 Please send me an application for admission.
☐ Pasadena ☐ Big Sandy
 Please send me summer session information.
☐ Pasadena ☐ Big Sandy

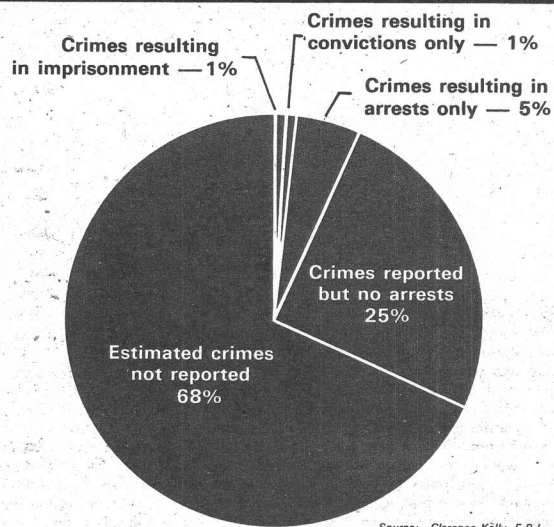
Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ (U.S. & Canada)

Clip this coupon and mail to: Admissions Office, Ambassador College, 300 W. Green Street, Pasadena, California 91123, U.S.A. In the U.S.A. you may call toll-free 800-423-4444. (In California, Hawaii, and Alaska call 213-577-5225.)

P00-145



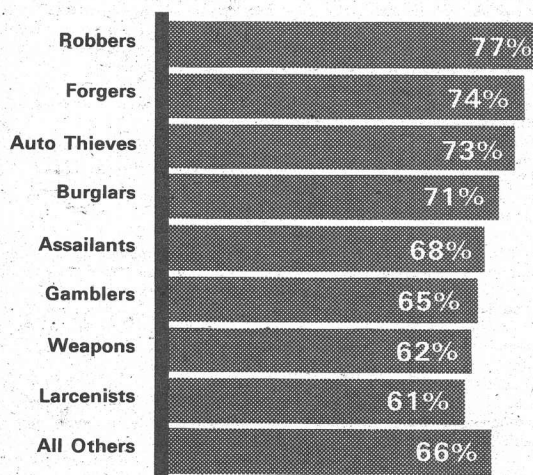
GETTING AWAY WITH IT



Source: Clarence Kelly, F.B.I. Director, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

TRYING IT AGAIN

PERCENT OF CRIMINALS WHO REPEAT



A 3-year study of 228,000 offenders was undertaken to determine the extent to which criminal recidivism contributed to the annual crime rate. Of the 228,000 offenders, 65% had been arrested two or more times, accumulating 870,000 documented charges and 244,000 convictions. Of the repeat offenders, those under 20 years of age were rearrested more frequently than any other age group — on an average of once every 3 months. The average for the 20-24 age group was once every 6 months, and the average for the 25-29 age group was once every 11 months.

Source: F.B.I. Uniform Crime Report, 1972

Photo by Eugene Smylek; Graph by Ron Lapaska

CURING THE CANCER OF CRIME

by Donald D. Schroeder

After a short-lived (but possibly inaccurate) drop in reported crime in 1972, the U.S. national crime rate has soared by more than 20% in the past two years — 16% alone for the first nine months of 1974.

From 1964 to 1973 spending on local law enforcement shot up over 600% — from \$1 billion to over \$7 billion — yet crime continued to march on like some unstoppable, mysterious plague. And like the plague, its cancer-like spread has induced a secondary epidemic of fear.

Law enforcement officers, judges and penal officials admit they don't know what to do next to discourage rampaging criminal activity. "Look at all the things we've tried," they say, in effect, "and crime still continues to rise. *Nothing works!*"

Outgoing Attorney General William B. Saxbe judged the nation's efforts to reduce crime as "a dismal failure." Citing "the incredible increase in crime statistics in recent years," Saxbe said, "they keep going up despite billions in federal aid."

Unprovoked and senseless violence against individuals is a particularly disturbing trend. The American murder rate per 100,000 population doubled in a decade. From 1963 to 1973, the population of the United States increased only 11%, but reported violent crimes jumped over 170%.

The accuracy of such staggering statistics has come under question in recent years. The charge is that many formerly unreported crimes are now being reported. If this is so, it has yet to be demonstrated to what degree this is the case — or if this is the case at all. The crime picture, however, is getting worse, regardless of what statistics you use. It has been estimated that at least *twice* — and in some categories, five times — as much serious crime is being committed as is being reported.

The proof of increasing crime isn't in statistics anyway; it's in what we all sense by reading our local newspapers or experience in our own neighborhoods.

A Nation on the Defensive

Recent crime increases caused former Attorney General William Saxbe to acclaim in alarm: "We can now perceive with shocking clarity that we have suffered a severe setback in the concerted effort to alter one of the nation's most

agonizing facts of life. We have lost our initiative and are back on the *defensive*. The nation is in deep trouble in its efforts to reduce crime."

But has the United States ever been, in recent years, on the *offensive* against the *real* causes of crime? How could we be when top-ranking criminologists admit they cannot agree on what causes crime? Without agreement and coordination among top criminal theoreticians, it's no wonder crime fighting is flying in so many directions and producing so little results.

A recent issue of *Skeptic* magazine dealt with the basic dilemmas of crime today, and summarized the prevailing opinion of criminology: "... the fact is that we don't know what causes crime. All we have been able to do is describe the conditions under which *some* people commit *some* kind of crime *sometimes* for *some* motives. We don't know why *everyone*, exposed to the same deleterious influences doesn't become a criminal [*italics theirs*] ... Until we better understand human behavior, we cannot hope to understand criminal behavior" (Nov.-Dec. 1974, special issue number 4, p. 14).

"... the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient. . . ."

Isaiah 3:5

Why do many individuals in low economic areas commit crime, while many others living in these same areas — just as deprived, with just as low incomes, enduring just as much environmental or social abuse — do not commit crime and do not use their poverty to justify criminal activity? Moreover, why does criminal activity, dishonesty and corruption strike frequently in middle- and upper-class society too?

The key unanswered question to crime is: How do we explain deviant human behavior — ranging from thoughts and temptations of lust to outright theft, dishonesty or violence? Unless we can explain *human nature* (and criminologists admit they can't), crime can never be met head-on in the most essential areas.

Real Causes Ignored

Various officials claim the causes of crime can be attributed to poverty, ra-

tional tensions, class struggle, drugs, alcohol, glamorization of crime, unequal justice, corrupt law enforcement, permissiveness, lack of parental guidance, or even diet and genetics. Most, maybe all of these reasons, have some degree of validity in some cases. Yet something *much bigger* is missing in modern criminal theory. Criminologists and crime fighters cannot put their finger on it because it is a *spiritual* matter.

Police, courts and penal institutions are failing to reduce the crime rate because they are almost totally dealing with *effects* — not causes. And most of them admit it!

Let's clearly define the *major* causes in our social fabric that are encouraging today's spiralling growth of criminal activity.

(1) Decay of the Family

Standing as the primary defense against criminal influence is — or should be — the family unit. But parents by the droves, gripped with all the popularly promoted pressures of social acceptance, materialism and self-gratification have practically handed over their children to all the wrong influences. Instead of standing as a breakwater against the tide of permissiveness, the modern family unit too often is being swept away with it. No wonder we are experiencing a generation of youth and adults that have little respect for honesty, law, order, decency or principle.

"The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

Romans 8:7

Millions of modern homes, from poor to rich, are beset by the disease of permissiveness, erosion of high ideals, lack of right leadership, lack of self-discipline, honest character, warmth, love and stability. Nearly half of our nation's serious crimes are committed by teenagers. Much of this juvenile delinquency finds roots in wrong parental values, parental apathy, or other wrong influences.

Senator John McClellan who probed organized crime for 18 years, pinpointed this major failure: "... I think

you have to start in the home. There seems to be a lack of proper respect and discipline in the home. And in the school there is certainly a great lack of discipline."

(2) Undisciplined Education

Once the homes have failed to develop an early consciousness of high moral values and right character, the modern school system can do little but hold *weak* reins on the resulting unpredictable student behavior. Too many schools merely concentrate undesirable youthful human behavior into one building. The school ground then becomes a huge transmission ground for criminal values and attitudes.

Many school administrations and teachers, sensing the desperate need to fill the huge moral and discipline gap, may attempt to discipline students, but they often end up cowed (or even terrorized) by bands of hostile students.

One recent editorial summed up modern education's moral deterioration: "[The fact] that basic skills, good manners, moral standards and discipline have gone so far out of educational style as now to be termed 'alternative' is a measure of the depths to which public education has sunk."

Schools do educate! But from too many of these morally emasculated schools, society is reaping little more than smarter criminals.

(3) Ineffectual Religion

The Ten Commandments, if kept in both letter and spirit, will deter crime.

One hundred thirty million Americans are church members. Forty percent attend church at least once a week. But it seems that you can't tell a churchgoer from a non-churchgoer in day-to-day business ethics or social relations. Why this mute influence of religion on modern values? The answer is, much of modern religious philosophy has been overcome by secular society's popular emphasis on a vague moral value system.

Much of modern religion has deteriorated into meaningless weekly (or semi-annual) ritual, to which the average churchgoer gives lukewarm lip service only for a variety of social reasons. For millions, materialism, pleasure seeking and the philosophy of "getting mine now" are idolized more than honesty, the fear of God, or respect for the Big Ten of Exodus 20.

The Word of God clearly states one ultimate deterrent to crime: "... by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil" (Proverbs 16:6).

The responsibility for failing to set forth powerfully the reality of God, his righteous laws, his ultimate judgment — as well as his mercy and forgiveness — lies at the door of the modern ministry.

(4) Permissive Society

Movies, TV, advertisements, magazines and scandal sheets everywhere glamorize the violent, the lust provoking, or the perverse. Films now promote all kinds of racially oriented "criminal" hero-types as the virtual new idols and ideals of manhood (and even womanhood). The not-very-subtle message gets through to many youth: "crime and violence pay — money, status, sex — just be smart and don't get caught."

Crime pays all right. Whole areas of cities are virtual cesspools catering to the basest of human behavior. The public's furtive support of vice feeds a growing tyranny of organized crime. Everywhere youth are under pressure from their peers to conform to bizarre, criminal or unethical practices: Drugs and alcohol abuse plague all levels of society. Pornography, corruption high and low, dishonest business practices, corporate rip-offs, cheating, lying, stealing, ethnic and class prejudices, discrimination — you name it — all these plague our society and fuel our criminal or morally vacuous atmosphere. All the money or laws in the world won't put an end to them. They are due to wrong moral and spiritual values.

(5) Poverty

Popular criminal theory places great emphasis on poverty as a breeding ground for crime. And it is. Poverty concentrates the worst of human conditions, including criminal behavior. But poverty is not an excuse for crime and violence, as many seem to imply!

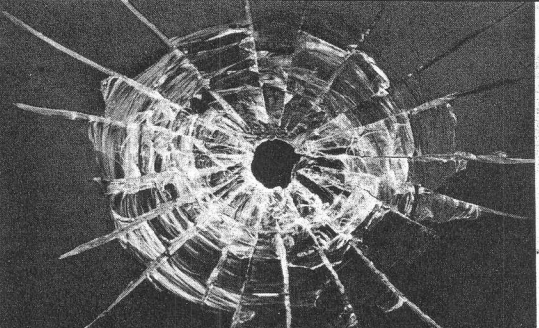
Bringing people out of poverty should be a major goal, but to suggest that poverty is an acceptable justification for crime and violence is an insult to the great mass of people of all races who have lived for years in deprived areas but who do not commit crime. Many poverty-stricken individuals — the greatest victims of violent crime — do not permit their condition to be an excuse for criminal behavior or disrespect for others.

(6) Crippled Criminal Justice

The surest way to promote a criminal society is to make sure crime pays. And tragically, in America, it pays frequently. Like almost every other institution, the U.S. criminal justice system has broken down, become seriously crippled and even blind.

Crime experts estimate of all reported major criminal offenses, only 7% lead to arrests, only 2% to convictions, only 1% to prisons, and none to the death penalty. The chance of being punished for a serious crime in the U.S. is only 1 in 100.

"Laws on books don't deter [crime]," says Senator McClellan. "It's the en-



CRIME

CAN BE STOPPED

HERE'S HOW!

The threat of crime is an ever-present concern worldwide. Many of us live in daily fear of becoming a victim. But why?

Write for the free booklet titled *Crime Can Be Stopped!* This timely booklet is offered as an educational public service, by Ambassador College. It tells



you why there is an international crime crisis in all facets of society. It outlines the root causes of crime and contrasts "Crime's Ten Commandments" with a higher code of ethics. And, even more importantly, it explains the only cure for crime.

Request your free copy today, without obligation.

CALL (1)-800-423-4444*

TOLL FREE

*California, Hawaii and Alaska call (213)-577-5225



MONKEY ON UNCLE SAM'S BACK

forcement of those laws that is the deterrent."

But society's "thin blue line" of criminal defense, the police, find themselves in an unenviable position. Not only underarmed and overwhelmed by the staggering volume of crime they must deal with, law enforcement officials are often hamstrung by public attitudes and court decisions in their enforcement of laws.

Changing social values — particularly concerning the so-called victimless crimes — makes enforcement confusing and difficult. Many citizens scream for more police, but increased police population is no great deterrent to crime. Unfortunately, police corruption in some cities has seriously marred their image and undercut their much-needed public support.

Adding to the policeman's frustrations, today's courts, judges and lawyers are swamped with criminal cases — and a lot of liberal thinking. The result is much delayed justice, unfair justice, or no justice at all. Thousands of hardened criminals are released on the streets time and time again.

A case in point: In 1971, New York City police made 94,042 felony arrests. Only 552 went to trial. The rest? They were "disposed of," dismissed outright, or reduced to misdemeanors or lesser felonies by plea bargaining.

Los Angeles Chief of Police Edward M. Davis says rising crime "can't be solved with wall-to-wall cops, or better prosecutors," as long as "courts turn convicted felons back on our streets." Davis charges, "The surest deterrent to crime is the knowledge by potential criminals that they are likely to be caught, and the certainty — the certainty — that once caught they will be promptly prosecuted, convicted if guilty, and jailed. There is no such certainty today. This idea has become a farce."

Chief Davis depicts our upside-down, law-and-order society by saying, "The people are locked up in their homes and offices, and the criminals are pursuing happiness on the streets."

As for the "success" of the modern prison system, one source paints a gloomy picture succinctly: "Big, ugly, expensive facilities for the manufacture and storage of criminals." Something is horribly wrong with our whole criminal justice structure!

Our nation has violated one of the cardinal deterrents to crime: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

Coming: Law and Order (with Justice and Mercy)

The bad news is that the whole social values of society need to be changed. The good news is that the whole value system of mankind is going to be changed in the not-too-distant future.

But before that day comes, mankind has yet to experience an even worse crime wave for rejecting the true God, his Word and a truly right way of life based on his law. □



HITLER BOOM Healthy or Dangerous?

by Keith Stump

After nearly thirty years of suppression of the deeds of the Hitler era, the West German public today is being deluged by a flood of books, magazines, and films about *Der Führer* and his twelve-year Reich. The Germans have a word for the phenomenon — Hitler-welle, or "Hitler Wave."

In 1973 alone, fourteen major books about the life and times of Adolf Hitler competed for the attention of West German readers. One of them, Werner Maser's successful *Adolf Hitler: Legend, Myth and Reality*, was serialized in the mass circulation news-weekly *Der Spiegel*. Another book, Joachim Fest's massive *Hitler, a Biography*, was serialized in 15 parts in the popular picture news-weekly *Stern*.

In addition to the major hardbacks, hundreds of paperback books on virtually every aspect of the Third Reich add to the Hitler tidal wave.

Numerous motion pictures have also appeared in the past two years. The British-made film, "Hitler: The Last Ten Days," starring Alec Guinness, was a great deal more successful in West Germany than it was in the United States.

For the more serious students of the Reich, hardcover editions of Hitler's speeches (in four volumes) and Goebbels' speeches (in two volumes) have been made available.

And in perhaps the most exhaustive venture to date, a new bimonthly magazine called *Das Dritte Reich* (The Third Reich) appeared on West German newsstands in 1974. A "popular-style," colorful "history" of Germany from 1933 to 1945, the magazine's 52 planned issues will attempt to clarify the Hitler era. One noted critic, however, has charged that it "glamorizes" the Nazi era instead.

The inevitable question in all these ventures is whether this Hitler boom indicates nostalgic yearning for the "glorious days" of the Reich, or whether it is merely a healthy reexamination of what caused the nightmare.

To be fair, it should be noted that the Germans may possibly be blamed for having more interest in the Reich than they really do. There appears to be comparatively little interest in Hitler among Germany's predominantly leftist-oriented students and other young Germans today. Half of the total population of West Germany today was born after World War II. Hitler was not their problem, and many are genuinely uninterested and unconcerned.

The current interest lies primarily with the generation that was in its 20's toward the end of the Reich — those old enough to have been aware of Hitler, but too young to bear any administrative responsibility for what the Nazis did.

If one of the purposes of their interest is to discover "How was this possible?" with hopes of avoiding a repetition, then it's all well and good sociologists and historians claim. As one American journalist asked, "Can Americans seriously criticize a German willingness to look straight at the most revolting aspects of their own history?"

If, in addition, another purpose is to separate the popular myths about Hitler from reality and to present an objective analysis of the man, this too could be a healthy sign.

There have, however, been charges both in West Germany and, especially, in Communist East Germany, of "sinister" historical distortions and "minimization and mitigation" of some of the blacker sides of the Hitler era. The Soviet newspaper *Pravda* has gone so far as to charge that these works are part of a devious plot to soften up unsuspecting Germans for a return to the days of the Reich — to make the public ready again to accept the ideas of a return to rightist authoritarianism.

This may be going too far. But there is still a danger that even an innocent attempt to so thoroughly dredge up the past could backfire.

Not since the early 1930s has there been such uncertainty in West Germany (not to mention Western Europe), with nagging inflation, political disillusionment, growing unemployment, and social unrest. Should problems continue to mount in West Germany, bringing the nation eventually to the brink of economic collapse and social chaos, this preoccupation with dictatorship in the form of a popular willingness to abandon democracy for a system which could more speedily deal with urgent, life-and-death national problems.

Coupled with such a desire there would likely be the hope that such a government would know this time how far to go and would avoid the hideous excesses of the past. Some in Germany have already gone so far as to call for a "little Hitler" to deliver them from their national problems.

Sebastian Haffner, the noted Anglo-German journalist, has observed that Hitler got to the top because he was the only messiah around, and the German people needed a messiah — one to promise quick, painless solutions to their complex problems.

Some political observers are even now commenting on an apparent desire not only in West Germany but also throughout Western Europe for stronger leadership. Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt expressed fears prior to his resignation last year that Western Europe has only 20 to 30 more years of democracy left. Others have been less optimistic.

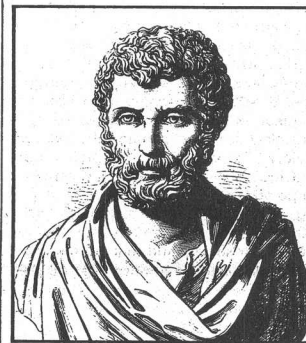
Such are the potential dangers should Germans and others look too long at the flood of glossy pictures of the "glamorous" and "human" sides of fascism and ignore the lessons of the bitter fruit of the Nazi era. □

Herodotus on Holidays

It was about the year 525 B.C. when Darius, a one-time king of Persia, decided to conduct an experiment. Summoning a group of Greek soldiers to his court, he told them he would pay any amount they wished if they would eat their fathers upon death. The Greeks were aghast and refused the offer at any price. Then in their presence, Darius called in some of his Indian soldiers who customarily ate their fathers after death, and asked for what sum they would burn them instead. The Indian soldiers were also appalled and refused the offer immediately. Each was horrified at the custom of the other.

From the above experiment, Herodotus, the ancient historian, drew the conclusion that customs ruled men.

Today we also have customs. It is our



HERODOTUS circa 485-425 B.C.

custom in the spring to portray rabbits laying eggs.

In the fall, our children dress as evil spirits and go from house to house. Then in the dead of winter, we cut a tree out of a forest and place it in our living rooms.

Unfortunately, even today, Herodotus is still right.

Customs rule men. For if one would decide not to follow certain of these man-made customs, he would be immediately ostracized by those around him.

The apostle Peter said that "we ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). If Herodotus were writing about your life, would he say that customs ruled you, or would he write that God ruled your choice of customs?

— N. Gene Griffen

Fuelish Americans

by Dexter H. Faulkner
Washington Bureau Chief

The clever slogan, "Don't Be Fuelish," can be seen almost everywhere in America today — even on the rear bumper of cars exceeding the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit on the highway. Mere slogans, it would appear, do not necessarily change people's attitudes toward the misuse of energy.

As John Quarles, Deputy Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency puts it: "Our society seems nowhere near ready to make a real commitment to energy conservation."

During the toughest part of the 1974 oil embargo, the government came forth with

hundreds of ideas to implement fuel conservation, among them the formation of car pools, the banning of display lighting, the shutting off of television after midnight and the elimination of automobile air conditioners.

Unfortunately, few of these ideas have survived to any degree. Outside the lowered nationwide speed limit — violated flagrantly almost everywhere — the United States has no mandatory program to save energy. According to the Federal Energy Administrator Frank G. Zarb, "Mandatory compliance in the country gets rejected like a transplanted organ."

The Federal Energy Administration estimates that the United States wastes 30 percent of the energy it buys and produces. Yet energy demand has been steadily growing faster than supply — an annual growth in

consumption of nearly 5 percent, compared with a supply growth of 3 percent.

But now the once cheap and abundant energy resources that have made possible the human labor-saving devices and the abundant creative comforts that are so ingrained in the American life-style are zooming up in cost and declining in supply. As a result our national attitudes and our national practices must change.

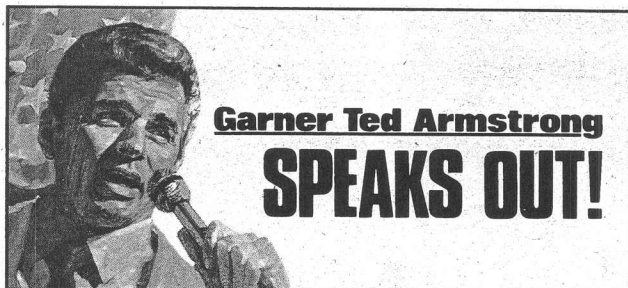
As President Ford told the nation in his recent energy message: "Part of our trouble is that we have been self-indulgent... and now the bill has come due."

Dr. Russell W. Peterson, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality recently expressed concern over the general impression that the energy crisis will be over in 10 to 15 years and Americans can relax and "resume our comfortable rate of

economic growth, our American standard of living."

The trouble is, experts are saying, that Americans are still using too much energy, not fully realizing there is no bottomless pit of energy available. We may well be seeing the proverbial handwriting on the wall, spelling out the end of an abundance of cheap fuels. Attitudes and values will have to change. Conservation laws will have to be adhered to. People will by necessity become less materialistic. Smaller cars, required recycling, and even the joy of making something last a little longer will replace the old American "throw away" mentality.

If these attitudes don't change, however, we might see, as one commentator said in a gloomy prediction, "a lot of war on this planet" as it becomes "very difficult for everyone to share what little we have." □



Garner Ted Armstrong SPEAKS OUT!

On Leaping to Conclusions

What he thought I said:

"It was incredible to hear on your radio station yesterday evening a program by one Mr. G. Ted Armstrong speak with such hate about India and the Hindu religion. . . . Instead of coexistence and peace Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong with his rabid remarks and naive political acumen is causing harm to the very cause which he professes to be speaking for."

The above letter was sent to a radio station manager in protest to a broadcast I did on world government.

What I actually said:

I was talking about the many distinguished presidents, premiers, prime ministers and educators who have spoken out so strongly on the world's desperate need for some sort of "world government," some form of supranational management of this earth as the only possible method of preventing human extinction.

In asking what kind of governor or ruler could possibly fill the bill, I brought up the case of India. I said, "Someone with the power ought to go to India and say, 'Look, you've got more protein running around on the hoof over here than we have in the entirety of the United States. Yet you people are protein malnourished. You have your religions, all these various gods — a polytheistic belief in false gods. But there is just ONE great God who made the whole universe, heaven and earth; who set it all in motion; who sustains it; who is the designer, the inventor of all law. . . ."

How would anyone, have the power to correct the stifling problems of a nation like India, where illiteracy (the caste system is still there to a large degree) and poverty still abound; where the populace lives in terribly overcrowded conditions, living in discarded sewer pipes, junky, ramshackle, thrown-together, corrugated tin and cardboard shanties with human excrement and urine visible in trickling

rivulets in the paths? This I have seen with my own eyes; I've been there. How would such a world governor approach such problems?

Here's the way the United States has approached it. For many years we have shipped direct aid, equipment, tools, food, money, military aid, and even nuclear reactors to India. We have sent everything from the most complex and highly sophisticated products of modern technology right on down to the most basic staple of life — a bag of wheat.

Much of it we have given away free. There were no strings attached. But even so, wouldn't you think that once in a while India would at least vote with the United States in the U.N.? (India traditionally votes with the "Afro-Asian bloc" of nations which votes almost without exception contrary to U.S. interests.) Still, India is the recipient of much help from the U.S.

You cannot cite alleged internal disturbances in India caused by the CIA, but you can cite the fact that both private and public agencies have sought to HELP the Indian people. We have striven mightily to prevent starvation; we have shipped hundreds of millions of bushels of wheat, rice and barley to India — GIVING it away, when we knew the wheat which found its way into black marketeers' hands was selling for \$25 a pound. We also knew that poor storage methods, shipment damage, and an enormous number of rats would contrive to consume fully fifty percent of the wheat we INTENDED for human consumption — so only half of what we sent actually reached starving people, and some of them ended up buying the grain we sent free.

No. We haven't interfered in India. We have not attempted to educate the people of India into a different religion which would allow the balanced diet they so desperately need.

What kind of a world leader would it be — one with the power to

CHANGE A MAJOR RELIGION — to solve the problems of hundreds of millions?

I said, "Look at this underdeveloped world and try to find some sense of *overview* of the conditions in the world. If you were the president of the world and you were delivering a 'State of the World' message, you would be forced to report that about 90% of all humanity is poorly fed, ill-clothed, poorly housed, many of them without shoes or any of the practical physical amenities — living at absolute poverty level.

"You would have to report that illiteracy is actually higher now than at any other time during the industrial revolution — even into the space age.

"Here we are, living in a world reeling from one huge problem to another, going in no certain direction, voraciously devouring dwindling nonrenewable resources — the natural means of survival beneath our feet in the soil of our narrow ecosphere.

"From time immemorial, from the time of the abortive attempt to build the Tower of Babel until today, man has recognized the need for some central, *world-governing authority*. He has wanted world government!"

Speak with such "hated" about India and the Hindu religion?

No, I was speaking from a feeling of deep compassion. I was trying to help listeners grasp the monumental truth that though world government is the ONLY solution (I agree with the leaders who have voiced such an opinion), any such government *in the hands of mere men* would be doomed to failure before it started.

I used the problems of India as a case in point. I went on to show that ONLY a world-ruling government can in fact save this world from certain destruction, but that world government will be the rule of Jesus Christ of Nazareth — government of God, taking the authority out of the hands of selfish, egotistical, vain human beings.

The gospel of the kingdom of God is a message about a coming world government — but the government of God, not man.

I am sorry my Indian listener misunderstood. My own emotional shock and feelings of helplessness in viewing the incredible, inhuman, unbelievable squalor in the streets of a major Indian city were certainly anything but hate. They were of hurt, empathy, compassion, and a deep and fervent desire for SOLUTIONS to such privation.

My radio program showed the impossibility of any *human* government truly bringing solutions to this sick world. Jesus said we should pray "thy kingdom come. . . ." I do. □

Personal from...

Shirley Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

They cry out: "Peace! Peace!" as they prepare for war. But God says, "When they shall say peace and safety, then sudden destruction will come upon them."

I have told my audiences here — four of them so far — we are going to have world peace. But humans and human leaders will not bring it about. Our generation of the human race has inherited such colossal problems and evils that we cannot extricate ourselves. I have told my audiences here in India that I have noted the great effort they are making to solve their problems. But the population and the troubles multiply faster than the progress, and the progress cannot even keep pace. We cannot bring any permanent WORLD PEACE by human efforts!

No, you who read this are betting your lives on the existence of the great God who soon will intervene and by his power bring us peace.

Let me quote the corollary of the passage about preparing war:

"But in the last days, it shall come to pass, that the mountain [kingdom — government] of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains [major nations]. . . . That means the kingdom and government of God shall be ruling over ALL NATIONS in a supreme WORLD GOVERNMENT."

Many scientists have said the only hope of world peace is to form one super world government with power over all. But humans can never do that.

But continue this prophecy: "and it shall be exalted above the hills [smaller nations]; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain [kingdom] of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths [God's way of life]: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he [Christ] shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:1-3).

A passage in Isaiah gives one quick final glimpse into that peaceful, happy, joyous world tomorrow: "The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing" (Isa. 14:7).

Human nature shall have been changed — and man cannot do that. People will turn from the "get" and self-centered way of life to the God-centered way. Then we shall have permanent and lasting peace.

As an ambassador for world peace, I do not seek, in any manner, to personally bring about peace, nor start any activist movement with that objective. I seek to proclaim the way to world peace, whereas, in this world, "the way of peace they know not" (Isa. 59:8). □

What's the Word For Today?

by David Jon Hill

Where can you find words to describe today's world? Problems bubble, seethe and then explode in every corner, in every direction. Where are the phrases which capture the feeling of the massive megaproblems pushing us to the brink?

Predicting Doomsday

Everybody is getting into the act predicting doomsday. No longer are these prophecies the sole domain of the street-corner prophet with a beard, a long robe and a nearly illegible sign predicting "the end is near." Scientists, politicians, historians, fact and fiction writers, statesmen and even businessmen see the handwriting on the wall.

Some of their predictions seem more hair-raising than the biblical Apocalypse — because they are specific, scientific, and exact — whereas the Bible speaks in general, planet-wide terms.

In fact, for centuries the writings of the apostle John in the book of Revelation were viewed as impossible to interpret. In the introduction to his 1934 translation of the Bible, James Moffatt dismissed any possibility of actual application of those prophecies to his world. He succinctly summarized the view of most theologians of his day in the following way: "In form this extraordinary book resembles Jewish writings of the same class, which profess to unveil the future and the upper world. It is a series of weird, symbolic visions, couched often, in terms of Oriental fantasy, and depicting a struggle which ends in the return of Jesus in messianic power and the decisive overthrow of the anti-divine power on earth, followed by a new universe of bliss and peace." (From the Introduction to *A New Translation of the Bible* by James Moffatt, 1934.)

Perhaps Revelation seemed that way in 1934. But in 1975 the "weird...visions" of one third of mankind dying in a catastrophic war no longer seem just "symbolic" in light of nuclear weapons. The death of life in the sea no longer seems to be an "Oriental fantasy" in light of the staggering pollution engendered by man. An army of 200 million men marching against the faithful no longer seems out of line with the overwhelming population of such nations as China and India. The scope and grandeur of the book of Revelation come into focus because we can see around us today what John saw in vision so many years ago!

"The Crisis at the End"

The above subhead is not mine. I borrowed it from the pages of my favorite book: "And now, O Daniel, keep all this a close secret and keep the book shut as a secret, till the crisis at the end" (Daniel 12:4, Moffatt translation). Daniel goes on to say, "I heard this, but I did not understand it. So I asked, 'O my lord, what is to be the last phase before the end?' But he said, 'Ask no more, Daniel, for the revelation is to be kept secret and close, TILL THE CRISIS AT THE CLOSE'" (Daniel 12:8-9, Moffatt).

"End-time crises," however, are no longer solely the verbal domain of the evangelist. Dr. John Platt, research biophysicist and associate director of the Mental Health Research Institute at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, used those same words in an article for *Science* magazine in its November 28, 1969 edition.

"A few years ago, Leo Szilard estimated the 'half-life' of the human race with respect to nuclear escalation as being between 10 and 20 years," wrote John Platt, who goes on to warn, "I think this multiplication of do-

mestic and international crises today will shorten that short half-life. In the continued absence of better ways of heading off these multiple crises, our half-life may no longer be 10 to 20 years, but more like 5 to 10 years, or less. We may have even less than a 50-50 chance of living until 1980.... The time is short.... The time is horribly short."

Another concerned scientist-writer, Isaac Asimov, foresees the end of civilization by the year 2000 — unless we see harmony among nations to the tune of a one-world government, the overhauling of the concepts of family, sex and motherhood and the turning of all industry to selfless service! (Do you see any of those signs on the horizon?) His prediction, written in 1971, epitomized the problems of mankind: "We don't have to do anything about it, you know. It's just that if we don't, there won't be any civilization in another 30 years." (*Can Man Survive the Year 2000?*)

The Word for Tomorrow: Good

But though things may look bleak for the future, God says events are not going to end the way mankind is predicting. God says he knew mankind would develop the power to blow himself off the face of the earth, but God insists by his right as creator that he will not allow things to go quite that far. He plans to stop the world and get on.

If you get busy and read his Book, you'll be able to anticipate those world events.

And, more important, you'll learn how God in that same Word provided the principles which will enable you to live through those events and participate actively in the good news beyond. When you pick up your daily newspaper, your weekly news magazine, when you watch TV news (or programs), you'll be able to say, "I read it first in the Bible."

Does that mean we should take today's bad news and the horrors yet to come with a shrug of the shoulder? No! Does that mean we shouldn't be alarmed into action? No! Does that mean we should not begin to make personal changes because God is going to do it all? Of course not. It simply means that as you begin to see God's plan for the future, you won't have to face it with all the frustration of the ignorance of the unknown that mankind alone, without God, must face. It means you can have hope beyond the black terror man predicts for the world's future.

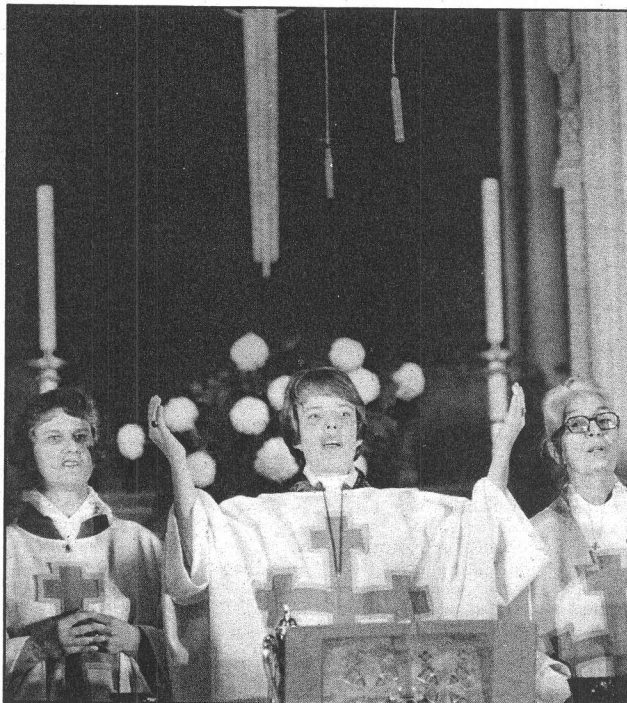
Read the Book

God warns us in many places that in the time frame just before his return, conditions in society would be a blatant, unblushing duplication of Sodom and Gomorrah just before he wiped them out. Read Genesis 18, 19; Jeremiah 6:13-16 and Luke 17:28-30. Then pick up your local paper and read through the advertisement pages for the movies, or go to the local drugstore and look at the books and magazines for sale and ask yourself whether or not God's Bible is the Word for today.

Try reading Daniel, chapters 7 and 8, along with Revelation 13 and 17. Then pick up your newspaper and see how a union of European nations is coming along. Count and see. God says there will be ten. How many are there now? Hmm... Ve-ery interesting!

But don't get shook! Today's news is bad and getting worse. Yet as you read more of the Book you'll see more of the good news beyond our temporary traumas. There are entire books that outline in detail God's good news for tomorrow.

If any questions come to your mind which you can't answer for yourself, just drop us a line. We'd be glad to help. We read the Book. Remember, you too can read about contemporary and future world conditions first in the book, the Bible. That's the Word for today! □



THREE OF THE eleven women who were ordained to the Episcopal priesthood last July celebrate Eucharist in New York City's Riverside Church.

FOOTHOLD IN THE MINISTRY

by Carole Ritter

The recent ordination of eleven women as Episcopal priests in defiance of church rules has turned the spotlight on an escalating trend. Feminists of all denominations are beginning to demand an equal chance to serve in a traditionally male-dominated ministry.

In the past, well-known female church leaders like Mary Baker Eddy and Aimee Semple MacPherson did their work outside the mainstream of organized Protestantism. Since the 1950's, though, most major Protestant churches have opened their ministry to women. Still, less than 2% of the nation's 380,000 clerics are women — and most of these belong to the smaller Pentecostal churches.

But the number of organizations with women in the pulpit is rapidly rising. The worldwide Anglican communion and the Lutheran church have both ordained women, and in June 1972 the first woman was accepted into the Reformed Jewish rabbinates.

Although a committee of U.S. Catholic bishops is studying whether the priesthood should be opened to women, Pope Paul remains a staunch holdout. He still sees women as "making a specific contribution to society by rearing children."

Most of those who oppose the idea of "lady preachers" cite the apostle Paul's admonition to the Corinthians: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law... for it is a shame for women to speak in the church" (1 Corinthians 14:34-35).

But feminists counter with Paul's letter to the Galatians: "There is neither Jew nor

Greek... bond nor free... male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). And they quote Paul's instructions to the Romans to receive Phoebe, "a servant of the church... at Cenchreae," and note how he called Priscilla his helper in Christ Jesus (Romans 16:1-3). They also claim the New Testament shows no disapproval of prophetesses, the most prominent examples being Anna (Luke 2:36-38) and the four daughters of Philip the evangelist (Acts 21:9).

The early church did provide for the ordination of women to positions of service in the diaconate (Rom. 16:1; 1 Timothy 3:11; 5:9-10), but there is no record of them serving as evangelists or pastors.

With the apostle Paul the issue seemed to be one of authority. He saw the Genesis pattern of man as head of the family (Gen. 3:16) and extrapolated this pattern as an organizational guide for church services. Although he allowed women to teach other women (Titus 2:4) and serve as deaconesses, he reserved preaching in a formal church situation for men alone as a symbol of the God-ordained structure of things.

But in the light of the rest of the New Testament, even this prohibition doesn't seem to be a blanket restriction on women teaching men. Priscilla and her husband Aquila both expounded unto Apollos the way of God more perfectly (Acts 18:26).

So there is scriptural support for the ordination of women for certain ecclesiastical responsibilities. The office of deaconess exists in recognition of their right to serve in the church. But aside from specially called prophetesses, the New Testament still definitely seems to reserve the pulpit as an all-male preserve. □

orchids & onions

letters

Neither an orchid or an onion — because it's hard to say which is the accolade. Scientists are coming close to final reports on the onion and how it curtails fat in the blood. Orchids die quickly and are not for eating.

Aside from the frivolities, I would like to commend you and your editorial staff for the continuing coverage of food and population.

There seems to be an element in the food picture that is frequently overlooked. . . . May I urge that your investigative reporters seek answers to the problem of food destruction by rodents

The World Health Organization in Rome noted in 1968 that in the previous year 33.5 million tons of stored grains had been destroyed by rodents

Last year a *New York Times* reporter writing from Pakistan told of rats storing an average of 12 pounds of rice underground per rat. . . . In the Philippines a 25% national loss of rice, corn, fruits, vegetables, cacao, copra, sugar, etc. is average annual destruction and this occurs before harvest.

Each rat takes a little but the effect of thousands of rats is far greater than anyone wants to admit.

George Peabody, Jr.,
New York, NY

This is a definite orchid for your bouquet! You people have done it again. I thought the old format (articles, layout, etc.) was as high class and beyond improvement as could be imagined. I can't tell you how thrilling it was for me to get my hand on the first issue done the new way.

I had my doubts and was a little disappointed to learn that the magazine would be changed, especially when I learned it would be changed to a (horror!) newspaper tabloid type magazine. I mean, how elegant can a newspaper be?

It's fabulous! You've outdone yourselves! . . . I love it, love it, love it. Keep it coming! Keep it high class, keep changing it. It always gets better. And free, yet! It's almost too much! Three cheers for the whole staff!

Excuse me while I finish reading the first new issue. Imagine how excited I'll be when I'm done! That article "How Liberated Can You Get?" is just too much! I think I'll frame it. Great, great, great! Well done!

Carol Baker,
Barberton, OH

Regarding Albania ("The World's First Atheistic State," February 8), as an old man who has experienced a great deal of travail in this land of religious freedom (whose coinage is stamped "In God We Trust"), I am more interested in the way Albania treats its profiteers, misery-mongers and exploiters of the elderly.

Let us not lose sight of the fact that in this God-fearing country we have the largest military appropriation in the world, while elderly poor go hungry, are mugged, killed and exploited by profiteers in nursing home rackets headed by men high in religious circles.

Just as Sinbad rid himself of the old man of the sea who fastened himself onto his shoulders, so has Albania freed itself of organized and corrupt religion that exploited the people much too long.

The real Jesus Christ who was concerned with the human condition 2000 years ago would have no trouble living in Enver Hoxha's Albania. (Blessed are those who live, practice and teach their children simple sincere goodness.)

Saul Goodman,
Bronx, NY

Please cancel my subscription to *Plain Truth*. I can no longer tolerate the fact that you feel only your followers are the true Christians. From the article, "No Room for God in the World's First Atheistic State," you give the idea that the people of Albania are just as well off under atheism as they are orthodox. I say, "bull."

Stanford Daniel,
Mobile, AL

You have moved God from a beautiful cathedral to a sawdust trail. This issue of *Plain Truth* is awful; God won't like it. This is the beginning of the end for you.

E. M. Gant,
Nashville, TN

Here is my onion for *Plain Truth*: "Plain truth is the unknowing teaching the unwilling to do the unnecessary."

David Lane,
Oklahoma City, OK

The new *Orchids and Onions* section features 98% complimentary letters, most of which are from the Bible Belt . . . it figures!

Alicia Browning,
Buena Park, CA

I thought you might be interested in the following: Last Tuesday when baby-sitting for a neighbor's child, the little girl had on Sesame Street. In a portion of the show, it showed a film clip of a postman riding horseback and delivering mail in the backwoods of Kentucky. To one family he handed a copy of *Plain Truth* along with the rest of their mail. Seeing *Plain Truth* on a children's show was the last place I ever expected it to be, although the magazine does show up in strange places as we well know.

Wilma R. Neal,
Kansas City, MO

I enjoy your magazine. Your article on "Smut Stays in Classrooms, School Board Rules" was very good.

However, "Will the Real Criminal Please Stand Up?" did not deal with the real problem that people are experiencing in our country today. It is true there are all

types of criminals and we are affected by "white-collar crime," etc. but we can survive those, at least physically. We cannot, however, survive the physical crimes being committed on our streets, and in our homes, etc.

People throughout the country are living in fear of robberies, rapes, and senseless murders.

One report I saw recently said that over 20,000 people are murdered each year and it's increasing.

You cannot realistically expect to spiritually save the entire country — so how do we deal with the crime now and how do we protect our citizens?

I think that magazines such as yours, and other media owe the people help and answers to this crucial problem. When people live in fear for their lives — everything is affected — volunteer work, church attendance, visitations, trust in people, etc.

What is your position on "capital punishment," the court's leniency, the loopholes in the courts, the crime in the streets and in our homes, the "Youth Corrections Act"?

If you want to serve the people and help them, you will deal with these problems not avoid them. I am from Oklahoma and I know that crime is all over the country, in the rural areas, as well as the cities. I hope you will have articles on this and be an influence in helping to solve this problem.

Verna Ann Bird,
Washington, D.C.

• Please read the center spread of this issue for a special feature on crime. Also write for our newly updated booklet, "Crime Can Be Stopped."

Some months ago, I requested a copy, if still available, of your publication detailing seven prerequisites for success. I had come across an advertisement of a few years ago in a magazine, and had no inkling from this that yours was a religion-oriented organization . . .

In the interest of conservation of natural resources and of human effort, I write this letter to ask you to delete my name from the list to whom your literature and *Plain Truth* magazine are sent.

I am 74 years of age, a graduate of a prestigious university, a registered professional civil engineer for forty-five years, and long ago discovered how I must live without concerning myself futilely with matters of religion . . .

Plain Truth does an excellent job in describing the situation the world is in today, and the seemingly likely consequences of people pursuing their present courses. I could not more fully agree with your conclusions.

However, *Plain Truth* also, in article after article, fails to go any farther than that — except to assure the reader that only Herbert W. Armstrong of all the people who have inhabited this world in historical times is undecieved as to how they should act; and the essence of his truth appears to be to believe what the Bible says "literally." In your article in the February 8 issue of *Plain Truth* you write, "Why should it [the Bible] not be taken literally, just like every other book?" Does any intelligent person take as the truth what is written in every other book? I certainly do not.

You may be doing a part of mankind a great service; I tend to think that you are intending to do just that. I am not among those you could help in any way, hence honesty prompts me to so inform you.

Arthur J. Trapp,
Bradenton, FL

The Will to Live vs. the Wish to Die

by Dr. Lyn Barrow

Editor's Note: Dr. Barrow is one of Australia's foremost experts on child psychology.

Australia has the highest suicide rate in the British Commonwealth nations, exceeding that of either the United Kingdom or the United States. And the incidence of both suicide and attempted suicide is increasing.

Suicide is now one of the leading causes of death in Australia. Every five hours someone kills himself, and every third day an Australian youth commits suicide. During the next year, one Australian in 500 will make a suicide try.

Who are these people who take their own lives?

Some persons are more prone than others. For example, old men form the largest group. More females than males attempt suicide, but more males are successful. The largest group of "successful" female suicides are the 45-55 age group.

It always seems tragic when an old person feels that life is no longer worth living, but the realization that more and more of today's young people have lost their will to live is even more disturbing.

In the 15-to-19 age group, suicide accounts for more deaths than any other single cause, except accidents. In the 25-to-34 age group, as many as 14 percent of all deaths are self-inflicted.

Are suicide victims insane? Usually, no. Few people who attempt suicide would be judged "insane," from the psychiatric standpoint, though, of course, many are in need of psychiatric care.

Instead of insanity, it is common loneliness, feelings of isolation, and spiritual poverty that cause the common suicide. The "vulnerable" person usually feels that the demands on him exceed his inner resources to meet those demands.

People are also vulnerable when they are lonely, when their lives are devoid of at least one meaningful relationship with another person. This social isolation can be very destructive, especially when alcohol is used to "escape" this loneliness.

Suicide Prevention . . .

. . . is everyone's business. It should start in the home. Most children who attempt suicide come from disordered homes in which aggression, quarreling, and rejection are the order of the day. If they don't attempt a suicide in their youth, such children grow up into a "vulnerable" adult.

On the other hand, a child raised in a loving home, in a climate of "psychological safety," tends to become a secure adult. He is better equipped to withstand defeat, failure, or the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

Although therapy is the province of the psychiatrist, an awareness of important symptoms of suicidal drives should be basic knowledge for everyone. Watch out for signs of unwarranted fatigue, excess sleep, lack of drive and interest, sadness, a burden of guilt, and a general sense of hopelessness.

Talking about suicide — along with the token suicide attempts, which are obviously intended to fail — should always be taken seriously. Medical advice should be sought.

For the spiritually bereft person, with nothing to believe in, help is more difficult to offer. As long ago as 1899, William James said, "The sovereign cure for worry is deep religious faith." My experience over many decades has shown clearly the truth of these simple words. □

One Man's Poison Is Another Man's Faith

by Paul Graunke

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18).

On the basis of these words, members of a small Holiness sect scattered throughout the southeastern part of the United States babble in unknown tongues and routinely handle snakes in worship services. To most Christians, this dangerous rite is sheer folly, but to Holiness people it is the ultimate test of faith. In addition, many test their faith by drinking water poisoned with strychnine.

Even blowtorches are used to demonstrate faith. The flame is applied to the face and arms of those who "have been anointed by the Holy Ghost." Holiness worshippers claim to find scriptural support for blowtorches in Hebrews 11:33-34, which speaks of faith that "quenched the violence of fire."

The Ecstasy and the Agony

Snake handling and drinking poison are highlights of religious services that last up to 4 and 5 hours. There is plenty of singing, emotional testimonials and fiery preaching. As the tempo and fervor rise, members may dance in the aisles or roll and writhe on the floor as they chatter in unknown tongues — all alleged manifestations of the "power of the Holy Ghost."

At the height of this religious ecstasy, the snakes are released from wooden boxes. Usually they are rattlesnakes or copperheads — although cobras have been procured for an exotic touch. Only members who have the faith — who believe they are anointed with the spirit — are allowed to handle the vipers. Spectators and children, who sometimes outnumber believers at these spectacles, stand to the back or one side to avoid harm. In addition to the snakes, there is usually a jar present for those who wish to drink to their faith with strychnine.

If bitten by snakes or struck with the agonizing convulsions of strychnine poisoning,

most members refuse treatment, choosing rather to have the faithful pray for their recovery. If death follows, fellow members are distressed, but their faith is not shaken. They have a ready explanation: either the deceased had insufficient faith or it was simply God's will.

Over 40 deaths have been recorded from snakebites in these services, and at least half a dozen from strychnine. Dozens more are bitten each year; some come perilously close to death while others suffer few symptoms or none at all. (Snake handling is now illegal in several states and cities, but curiously, there are no laws against drinking strychnine).

Faith or Folly?

Many Bible scholars cite the snake-handling practice as a classic and tragic example of misapplying Bible scripture. They believe snake handlers overlook a fundamental rule of interpretation: No passage should be read in isolation from the total context of the Bible.

Thus, Christ's words in Mark 16:17-18 should be understood in light of the example he set when asked to test his divinity and faith. In Matthew 4:5-7 Satan told Christ to prove himself by jumping off the pinnacle of the Temple — quoting scriptural proof for this act: "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone."

Satan here referred to Psalm 91:11-12. Verse 13 goes on to say: "You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot" (RSV).

But Christ rejected this argument. He knew he didn't have to deliberately put his life in jeopardy to prove a spiritual point. He corrected Satan's misuse of scripture with another scripture. "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (citing Deuteronomy 6:16). Or as one commentator on the Bible put it: "Don't put the Lord God to a foolish test."

When a person deliberately picks up a deadly serpent, or drinks a strychnine cocktail, is he not putting God to a "foolish test"? In the case of the 40-odd people who have died because of such practices, it would seem that God is no more in favor of such demonstrations of faith today than he was in the time of Christ. □



In Brief

by Stanley R. Rader

Domino Theory Revisited

ABOARD THE G-II EN ROUTE FROM TOKYO TO LOS ANGELES:

We are approaching Cold Bay, Alaska — returning to the United States after eight weeks abroad and two visits to Bangkok, Thailand. I have been discussing the worsening conditions in Southeast Asia with one of our very dear friends from Thailand — a man educated in the United States, a prominent leader in the Bangkok and Hong Kong commercial circles and a recent candidate for political office in Thailand's first truly democratic election. I have often discussed conditions in Thailand and Southeast Asia with him, and he and his family have been instrumental in bringing Mr. Armstrong into frequent contact with the last two prime ministers and other members of the Thai government.

It was natural for us to discuss what would happen in Southeast Asia should Cambodia's military government of President Lon Nol collapse and what the effect of such a collapse would be in neighboring Thailand in particular.

It was President Eisenhower in 1954 who first announced the now highly discredited domino theory: Should one country in Southeast Asia be "lost" to the Communists, other nations in the immediate area would topple like dominos. Many of us had hoped that the domino theory was a thing of the past, and yet today we once again hear that, should Cambodia fall to the indigenous guerrilla forces of the Khmer Rouge, U.S. credibility with its other allies worldwide would suffer, and that other nations in the immediate area would one by one slip into the communist orbit.

My Thai friend, however, informs me that the military regime of President Lon Nol is not and never has been popular, whereas Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who successfully led the fight for Cambodian independence, was and continues to be a hero of the Cambodian people. My friend states very strongly that it was the United States government which decided to jettison Prince Sihanouk and to support the military takeover, because the prince was too friendly to China and too critical of United States policy in Vietnam.

Why, asks my friend, does the United States insist that other nations and other peoples not have friendly relations with their neighbors if their neighbors happen to have internal government structures and policies that are different from or in some way opposed to the American definition of American interests? Will the United States never learn that it cannot wage and win a political war in a foreign country? Does America not realize that its presence in Cambodia and Thailand has caused more rather than less difficulties for the entire area? Does anyone in the United States really believe, he asks, that should the unpopular Lon Nol government fall, the governments of South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand would be seriously threatened?

My Thai friend poses some valid questions. Should Americans, in fact, not examine the domino theory a little more fully? Should we not examine American intervention a little more seriously? Should we not ask ourselves how we reconcile our support of repressive elitist governments from time to time around the world when our own country was founded on completely different principles and has been the source of inspiration to so many millions of people for almost 200 years?

What nations besides China have we "lost" to communism in Southeast Asia, for example, since 1945? What exactly did we lose when we "lost" China in 1949? What will we really lose if the government of Lon Nol should fall? What would we gain if it does not fall?

As Mr. Armstrong travels throughout the world bringing his message of peace and hope to mankind everywhere, a message which, if believed and followed, would create better understanding among people and nations everywhere, we see only too well that the domino theory, as well as many other theories that have controlled the minds of men in the entire postwar period, have produced much suspicion, much fear, much conflict and confrontation — and certainly no peace between neighbors anywhere.

It seems that the time has come when we must really begin to face the world as it is. It is also time that the American people be given the real inside story behind the rise and fall of governments.

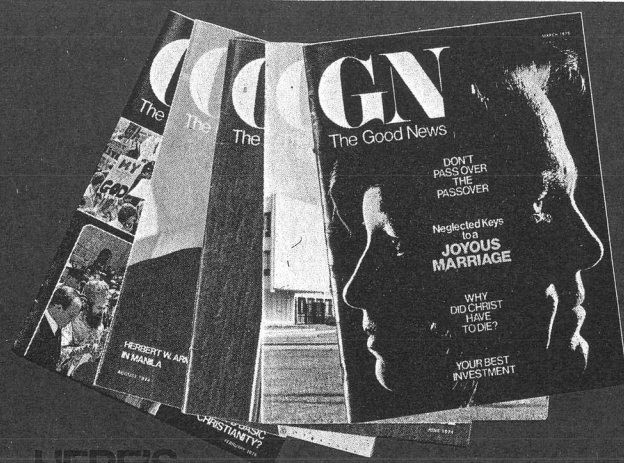
All of us are becoming too well aware of the tendency of our government to back the wrong government in other places around the world, and, once our government has done so and placed American prestige and credibility on the line, it is then forced to do whatever it can, including military intervention if necessary, to avoid the loss of prestige and credibility that would follow if the government it has backed (in fact, sometimes installed) should fall.

It is clear to this observer that we must also begin to pay more heed to the advice and counsel of other people (such as our Thai friend) — people who know their own countries, their own cultures and the minds of their people and are acutely aware of what the relationships of their people and those of their neighbors should be.



DESPITE TODAY'S WORLD CONDITIONS

PLAIN TRUTH
WEEK ENDING APRIL 5, 1975



HERE'S GOOD NEWS!

Here's a straightforward, easy-to-read high quality magazine of biblical understanding.

Its name is what it's all about — good news.

- Good news about the coming solutions to today's threatening world problems.
- Good news about THE WAY of life — a purposeful, abundant life — as taught and lived by Jesus Christ.
- Good news about God's fascinating master plan for mankind.
- And good news that there is hope for a better world tomorrow.

This unique publication has led over one-fourth billion readers into a deeper and richer understanding of vital biblical concepts. It can do the same for you.

Why not request your prepaid subscription today? There's no obligation.

**CALL (1)-800-423-4444* TOLL FREE
FOR A FREE SUBSCRIPTION**

*California, Hawaii and Alaska call (213)-577-5225

plain truth

OR WRITE TO:

- **UNITED STATES:** P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123
- **Canada:** Plain Truth, P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B.C.
- **Mexico:** Institución Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, México 5, D.F.
- **Colombia:** Apartado Aéreo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E.
- **United Kingdom and Europe:** P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England
- **South Africa, Mauritius and Malawi:** P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa 2000
- **Rhodesia:** P.O. Box U.A.30, Union Ave., Salisbury
- **Australia, S.E. Asia:** G.P.O. Box 345, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia
- **New Zealand and Pacific Isles:** P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, N.Z.
- **The Philippines:** P.O. Box 1111, Makati, Rizal D-708
- **West Indies:** P.O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936

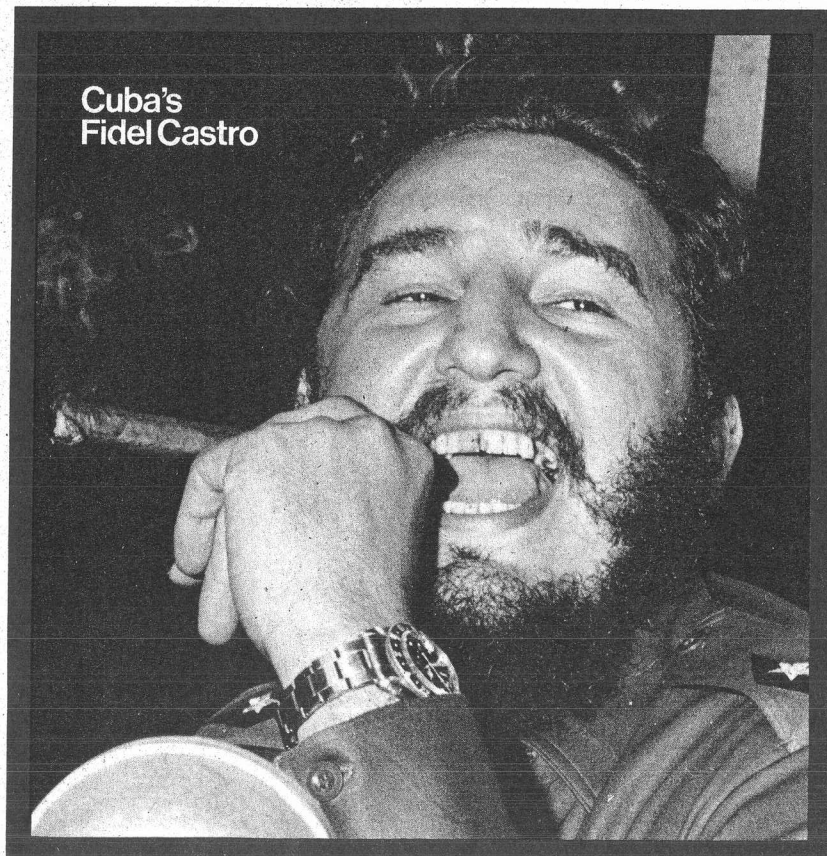
Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. Please include your old mailing label and your new address. Important! The publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited art work, photographs, or manuscripts.

CURING THE CANCER OF CRIME

On Leaping to Conclusions

LATIN AMERICA'S AGGRESSIVE NEW NATIONALISM

Cuba's
Fidel Castro



UPI