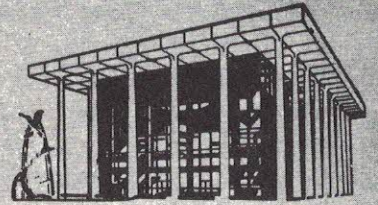


# NEWS RELEASE...

April 19, 1979 8:30 a.m.



WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD • 300 West Green Street • Pasadena, California 91123

ON APRIL 15, "60 MINUTES" CONTAINED A SEGMENT RELATING TO THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD. THOSE WHO SAW THE PROGRAM MAY REMEMBER THE SO-CALLED "TAGLINE," IN WHICH MIKE WALLACE STATED THAT STANLEY R. RADER, THE CHURCH'S TREASURER, WAS "UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FOR CRIMINAL TAX EVASION."

FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT BY MR. RADER IN WHICH HE DISCUSSES THE CURRENT IRS INVESTIGATION OF HIS FINANCIAL AFFAIRS. MR. RADER ALSO SHARES HIS FEELINGS AND PERCEPTIONS REGARDING THE LESSONS WHICH MUST BE LEARNED FROM THE ABUSE OF GOVERNMENT POWER THAT HAS BEEN WITNESSED THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND ITS TREATMENT BY THE MEDIA.

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April 19, 1979

Stanley R. Rader

Those of you who saw last Sunday's "60 Minutes" segment relating to the Church may remember Mike Wallace's so-called "tagline," in which he stated that I was under investigation by the Internal Revenue Service for criminal tax evasion. This statement was no doubt intended to somehow bolster the thrust (both expressed and implied) of the segment; namely, that there is some merit to the patently ridiculous charges made against the Church, Mr. Armstrong, myself and others by the California State Attorney General, George "Duke" Deukmejian.

My purpose today is not to refute either the charges made by the Attorney General or the charges of tax evasion made against me, all of which, I assure you, are absolutely false. Rather, my purpose here is simply to share my feelings and perceptions with you and, with your aid, to identify the lessons which we and others must learn from the abuse of government power we have been witnessing these past few months and its treatment by the media.

What I find most instructive and revealing about the so-called "tagline" is that which was not said, or more aptly, that which was deliberately left out. First, although Mr. Wallace saw fit to tell millions of Americans that the Internal Revenue Service is "Investigating" me for "tax evasion," he failed to disclose that I HAVE VOLUNTARILY GIVEN THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE COMPLETE ACCESS TO ALL OF



MY FINANCIAL RECORDS as well as my permission to look at the Church's financial records relating to me, and that the Internal Revenue Service has been conducting its examination for approximately 2½ months and has found no evidence of any wrongdoing. Moreover, Mr. Wallace also failed to state that the investigation relates in substantial part to several years in which both I and the Church were audited and given clean bills of health.

Second, although Mr. Wallace stated that his information regarding the so-called "tagline" was gathered from "(his) source," HE FAILED TO DISCLOSE, either during the main segment when I asked him or otherwise, WHO THAT "SOURCE" IS. I have no doubt in my mind that that "source" also was responsible for (a) the surreptitious and unlawful recording of Mr. Armstrong's telephone conversations, (b) the instigation and initiation of the Attorney General's baseless lawsuit, and (c) initiation of the Internal Revenue Service investigation itself.

In this respect, I am reminded that commencing in 1974, the Church, Mr. Armstrong, and myself were HOUNDED and HARASSED for several years by the U.S. Customs Service in our travels spreading the Gospel, allegedly seeking evidence linking the Church and its leaders to the smuggling of drugs, gold, and diamonds. When we sought to ascertain, through the Freedom of Information Act, the identities of the people making these baseless accusations against us, we were told that even that law did not permit the disclosure of those

"sources." Even after we demonstrated that the charges were false, the government still refused to tell us who had unjustly subjected us to several years of harassment. Indeed, it is not unlikely that the same "source" -- one or more dissident Church members out to destroy the Church for their own gain -- is responsible both for our harassment by the Customs Service and for the instant wholesale state intrusion and Internal Revenue Service examination.

What lessons should we learn from these experiences? I believe that basically there are three.

First, as the Watergate episode also teaches, government officials are capable of monstrous abuses of power in the course of which they use government agencies as instruments to oppress those who do not share their beliefs and biases. "Enemy lists" whose members are subject without just cause to "investigation" by the IRS and other agencies, office break-ins, and wiretaps are not figments of the imagination; they are, UNTIL POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ARE RESTORED IN THIS COUNTRY, the price which Mr. Armstrong, I, and others may be paying for doing God's Work. Although we must fight against such oppression, we must bear it with pride while we carry out His Will.

Second, government officials and agencies, in attempts to make names for themselves, procure larger budget appropriations, and gain other political objectives, frequently act precipitously on the specious claims of venomous vipers,



without any independent investigation or corroboration of those claims. To facilitate these attempts, however, the politicians keep the identities of the real accusers secret, lest the innocent victim confront them and, in doing so, expose the politicians as the charlatans they are.

Finally, in its own inimitable way, the media frequently is, intentionally or unwittingly, the primary instrument of oppression. Its cry of "Freedom of the press" is, in reality, but a subterfuge for the right to slant public opinion in favor of the media's own personal and political prejudices through sensationalism and biased reporting. So-called "investigative reporting" is sometimes a misnomer for a blatant form of yellow journalism; the "investigator" starts with his conclusion (that is, the view he wishes the public to hold) and carefully builds up to it through selective investigation (again, frequently through "undisclosed sources"), selective and/or incorrect quotation, and subtly placed innuendo. The masquerade of "investigative reporting" as news is, therefore, too often a sham.

In short, I have nothing to hide, either from the Attorney General or from the Internal Revenue Service. I have given all there is to give to the IRS regarding my financial activities. Why have I not done so to the Attorney General of the State of California? Because contrary to the professional behavior of the IRS, who rightfully has left

the Church and Mr. Armstrong out of the matter, "Duke" Deukmejian has confused himself with "Duke" Wayne and ridden in, guns blazing at everyone in sight, but, in reality, only firing blanks. On more than one occasion I have offered to provide to the Attorney General the access I have given to the IRS on the condition that he dismiss his action against the Church, Mr. Armstrong, and the other defendants and focus his attention on me if he feels I have done something wrong; my offers have been refused. As long as the Attorney General insists on including the Church, Mr. Armstrong, and the others, who under no set of circumstance should be involved in his harassment, I will use every lawful means in my power to frustrate him. In so doing, however, I am not "hiding behind" either the First or the Fifth Amendment; I am merely refusing to accede to or acquiesce in a clear abuse of power and flagrant violation of the public trust by the highest law officer of the state!

