

individuals believing in the principle of the freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

The circumstances giving rise to what the Church attorneys denounce as a confiscatory proclamation are as follows:

### DICTATORIAL THREATS

Shocked church personnel were told January 3rd that I, Herbert Armstrong, leader of the Church, and Stanley R. Rader, my personal advisor, were fired and that the Church was in receivership. The State, they said, was now in control of the Church, its finances, property and personnel. Any resistance by any church employee would be met with immediate dismissal.

This terrifying raid of church offices was described by horrified employees as a "gestapo-type nightmare."

The deputies took possession of innumerable cartons of Church documents, records and confidential material, which have not been returned or accounted for.

### CHURCH RIGHTS NON-EXISTENT

Constitutional attorneys and church members alike were shocked to hear the State officials proclaim that the Worldwide Church of God has "no interest to protect." That "in effect there are no private interests." That a church is nothing more than a "ward of the

State," and that the Church's attorneys stormed Church headquarters, disregarding the character of the institution, the religious and sacred nature of its responsibilities both in the United States and internationally, and its many other cultural and charitable activities.

Exploding into the executive offices in an emotionally violent takeover of Church property, the court-appointed receiver stated that I was "fired and out!"

The State insisted that the Church's spiritual leader for more than forty years, was *no longer responsible* for the Church and demanded access to and control of all aspects of the organization's financial assets, bank records, physical facilities, computer files and addresses of the Church's confidential 100,000-person membership.

This unprecedented invasion was taken *outside the bounds of the law*; yet, employees of the Church were threatened with jail if they did not submit to the demands.

### ILLEGAL HEARING

The basis for this takeover by the State is a suit filed by six former members of the Church. Supported only by the unproved and factually untrue allegations concerning financial misconduct, these dissidents filed their complaint with the Deputy Attorney General only after they had received assurances from a judge that their action would result in the paralyzing receivership.

Clip this coupon and mail to: Worldwide Church of God

Please send me more information on freedom of religion and how it can be known in my community.

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