

The action was blatantly illegal; for at the meeting when the judge agreed to sign the receivership order, the case against the church and its officials had not even been filed.

Even after the filing of the so-called "charges," due process of law was denied the Church, as the plaintiffs sought and were granted moves to place the Church in receivership without a representative of the Church present at the proceedings; the takeover of Church property was enacted without even the four-hour notice to be given in cases of severe emergency.

The State joined the dissidents in their effort to take over the control of the Church, its financial resources, its physical plant and its activities worldwide—thereby *negating its rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America!*

IRREPARABLE DAMAGE

During the two months' term of the receivership the Church has lost \$5.3 million in working capital. In addition, normal bank credit lines were destroyed and \$1.3 million in demand notes were called.

The first six weeks saw almost daily press, radio and TV coverage emphasizing the allegations rather than the facts. This resulted in irreparable damage to the Church's moral reputation and its civic and legal credibility.

In the same period of time, neither the receiver nor any of his staff have been able to prove, through audit or investigation, any wrongdoing on the part of either Stanley Rader or myself.

To add insult to injury, the receiver (who had been admonished by the judge to stay out of ecclesiastical affairs) prevented the mailing of a letter from me to the members of the Church.

He then sent his own letter to the ministry of the Church around the world saying anyone sending contributions directly to me would be in contempt of court in California, even if the giver lived outside state boundaries.

LOWER COURTS INSENSITIVE

Historically, lower courts (local and state) have been insensitive to the constitutional rights of people.

One need only recall the monumental effort required by the black people of this country in their attempt to gain equality to understand the situation facing the Worldwide Church of God today. The civil rights movement fought battle after battle in local and state courts—basically to no avail.

It was not until the federal Supreme Court heard their plea for civil rights that the American Black had the opportunity to become free and equal to his white brothers.

As the Supreme Court was necessary in establishing the civil rights of the American Black provided in the constitution, so, no doubt, will the federal courts of this land be required to preserve the freedom of religion and the freedom of speech provided in the First Amendment.

HOW THIS CONCERNS YOU

The unlawful seizure of the Worldwide Church of God by the State of California could sound the death knell of religious freedom!

This action cannot be allowed, otherwise no church, synagogue or religious institution will be safe from the whims of political powers. This heinous and illegal action cuts to the heart the basic freedoms for which our country's founders fought and died to preserve.

Such action affects you and your family, the future of your religion and your other precious freedoms!

The State can no longer hide behind the chicanery of alleged financial misconduct within a charitable organization. This action has been an ugly, vile attempt on the part of the State Attorney General of California to assume proprietorship of the Church in direct contravention of the Constitution.

The attempt to reclassify the Worldwide Church of God as a "public trust" and its property as "in a sense, public" is a flagrant attack on the freedom of religion in this country. The effect of this state action is to place all churches ultimately under state control!

All Americans must be committed to the preservation of the integrity of our religious institutions and the freedom to exercise our religious rights.

How can you help—what can you as an individual do?

Let everyone know that you as an American will not stand by and allow our freedoms to be so callously subverted. Contact your church pastor, write your congressman, write your senator, contact the media and *let your views be known!*

For more information on how you can be more involved in your own community complete the coupon below and return to: Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, CA 91123.

Herbert W. Armstrong

