

PASTOR'S REPORT

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FEBRUARY 27, 1979

FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings again from Pasadena! It has been very good to be able to talk with so many dozens of you personally over the past few weeks. However, I am happy that things are slowing down a little bit now so we can "catch our breath" and have more time for detailed planning, catching up on our normal procedural work, etc.

I know by this time that all of you know that--pending any unusual problems--the receivership is being lifted from God's Work! We are very grateful for this, and hope that God will help us get on with positive plans and programs in the Work again.

Mr. Armstrong spoke this Sabbath to about 2,000 assembled brethren here at headquarters via telephone hookup from Tucson. Frankly, his talk was very helpful and very inspiring to us all. His warm, fatherly approach--and the deep spiritual orientation he gave us--reflect something that nobody else can give us!

While congratulating all the brethren here who rallied to physically help the Work during the recent crisis, he again directed our minds to the deep realization that it is the great GOD who alone can deliver us. He told us, frankly, that God obviously allowed this trial to come on us for a reason. One reason he stated is that we have NOT been as close to GOD as we should be! So he exhorted us to get closer to God through fervent prayer--asking God to teach us where we have gone wrong and to renew his spiritual POWER among us.

Along this line, some of our P.A.D. team have suggested that perhaps I should mention the series of sermons I have been giving here at headquarters. I have been giving an entire series on the vital importance of Bible study, on the power of prayer, on meditation, on really using intelligently the "tool" of fasting, and on exercising the power of God's Spirit that we receive through these previously mentioned "tools" of Christian living. Literally scores have commented personally how much they appreciate this series, and how long a time it has been since anything like this has been given here at headquarters. If you have not done so (though I know some of you have), perhaps you should give a similar series of sermons to help the brethren really get back close to God as we should and must be as a Church.

Positive changes are still moving along here at a rapid pace! It is my pleasure to announce that Mr. Armstrong has approved the assignment of Mr. Leroy Neff--one of our long-time, faithful and

loyal pastor rank ministers--as the Area Coordinator here at headquarters replacing Mr. Burk McNair! Mr. McNair enthusiastically joined in this decision, as it now frees him up to function full-time as Acting Regional Adviser of the five areas back east he has been assigned to coordinate under my direction. Replacing Mr. Neff will be Mr. John Ogwyn from Corpus Christi, Harlingen, Victoria, Texas, who in turn will be replaced by Mr. Dennis Van Deventer from Regina, Canada. Both of these are fine, solid ministers whom I know will do a great job. Also, Mr. Roy Demarest has been assigned to replace Mr. Dave Odar in Baltimore, who is going non-career. Dave is loyal and cooperative and they will overlap each other within a few weeks.

Another bit of great news is that "old faithful"--Mr. Ken Swisher --has consented to transfer with his family to take over the two big churches in Dallas, Texas, replacing Mr. Ray Wooten! He will also become the active Senior Pastor in the area, as Mr. Wooten goes to Kansas City as Area Coordinator as was previously announced.

So things are moving on!

Barring unforeseen problems, I want to announce something I have talked with a number of you coordinators about. That is, we will have an Area Coordinators' meeting here at headquarters for three days, March 20, 21, and 22. All of you please plan to fly in Sunday or Monday so you can join with us for all-day meetings during these three days to discuss manpower, the budget, future plans for growth, etc.

Before closing, let me again remind all of you of the Acting Regional Advisers that have been assigned for you to call and work through except when you absolutely have to get me personally. Please follow through on this fellows, and we will list both their home and office phone numbers below and remind you again of the areas they are servicing.

And please notice that we are adding Mr. Carl McNair's area to Mr. Burk McNair's region--so Carl now has to report to "Big Brother" who is literally watching him! Therefore, you men in Carl McNair's area should now report through Mr. Burk McNair in checking things through headquarters. This will give Burk five areas to supervise, but he does not have the same pressure of other responsibilities as brother Raymond who is so heavily involved in managing the entire college. Also, Dennis Luker should not take on any more areas as he will continue to work with me in overall planning on a more constant basis than the others and will give special input regarding the foreign areas as well.

Once you get used to calling and reporting through this team of dedicated men and our "shake-down cruise" is over, I am sure this new system will work very well and help all of us get the job done as we should. That is our sincere desire, fellows, regardless of offices. I hope all of us can continually humble ourselves and continually gain more of the spirit described in I Peter 5:5: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder, Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

Thanks again for your loyalty and cooperation! We can be sure that God will give us greater growth than ever now that we are getting the whole Work "back on the track"--truly under Mr. Armstrong and under Christ and trying with our hearts to do things His way.

With Christian love,



Roderick C. Meredith

<u>Acting Regional Adviser</u>	<u>Office Number</u>	<u>Home Number</u>	<u>Region</u>
Dennis Luker	577-5108	799-7757	Norman Smith Leroy Neff Ron Kelly Dean Blackwell
Burk McNair	577-5128	577-5785	Carl McNair Elbert Atlas Larry Salyer Guy Engelbart Ed Smith
Raymond McNair	577-5520	577-5814	Ray Wooten Paul Flatt Tony Hammer

UPDATE ON OUR BATTLE FOR THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF GOD'S WORK

As most of you know by now, on Wednesday, February 21, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Julius M. Title decided to lift the receivership from the Church. This is to be accomplished March 1, when Judge Title will sign the order officially vacating the receivership. Although he ended the seven-week long receivership on the grounds that it served no useful purpose, the judge retained jurisdiction and ordered the audit of our financial records to continue under the direction of the state Attorney General's office.

Just this past Sabbath afternoon Mr. Armstrong, via a direct telephone hookup with Tucson, reminded the afternoon congregation that the battle is God's and that we are not alone in this struggle. He said that God has always expected us to do all we can whenever we face a trial, and then He will make the vital difference. That became dramatically evident once again when to the surprise of all, including the lawyers on both sides, Judge Title decided to lift the receivership.

Mr. Rader held a news conference in his office the day after the decision to end the receivership. He stated that we were pleased that the ruling to lift the receivership was made since it has been the Church's position that a receiver was never necessary or proper (it was done under a new and poorly worded California law regulating

charitable trusts and thus should never be applied to churches). Mr. Rader pledged that the Church would cooperate fully with Judge Title, stating that the audit will completely exonerate the Church and its officials of any wrongdoing.

An Expensive Seven Weeks!

The outgoing receiver is required by the court to submit an accounting of his administration's expenses. The greater part of this report has already been made available and covers the period of January 3rd through February 9th. Here are some of the highlights of that report (as given at the news conference) in which the receiver is asking the court to order the Church to pay from its own funds (tithes and offerings).

\$46,950	Mr. Steven Weisman, the receiver's salary
30,250	Mr. Michael Clemens and daughter, receiver's attorneys
22,320	Kaplan, Livingston, et al (law firm)
13,522	A. Sheridan Atkinson (the receiver's assistant for 11 days)
12,160	Lowell H. Duggan's fee (receiver's assistant from January 16 until end of accounting period, Feb. 9)
2,382	Mailgram (Western Union) communication from receiver to ministry
510	Photocopying services

The above listed expenses are just a sampling of a thick report stating much more. The receivership has been very costly for God's Church, however Judge Title ruled that any future auditing or investigation costs should be borne by the Attorney General's office

Conspiracy Being Uncovered

In the news conference Mr. Rader said we will do everything in our power to see that we are totally vindicated of all charges, allegations and accusations that have been made without proof. But how did such a travesty of justice ever come about in the first place? A picture of the incredible story is coming into sharper focus.

It was not long before bits and pieces of information began to come to light. A conspiracy has been discovered involving, to varying degrees and in different ways, disfellowshipped members and others who have never been a part of, or associated with, the Church. Mr. Rader felt that in the next few weeks we should be able to disclose who they are and what their involvement has been. At that time appropriate action against these individuals will be taken in the appropriate courts.

The War Is Not Over Yet

All churches and individuals are guaranteed certain rights and privileges by the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. But California has failed to recognize these guarantees of religious freedom and separation of church and state. In fact, this state is the only one that has raised the issue that assets of a church belong to the

state -- that a church is a public trust over which the state has the authority to come in and manage.

Even though the receiver has been removed, until the Work is vindicated and the damage compensated, the war is not over. Until our rights and protection are affirmed by the courts we -- and all churches -- remain vulnerable to the capricious activities of state officials. Since these and other legal issues have not been resolved, the status quo represents the state's theory that members have no rights and that the Church's assets belong to the people of California.

The Church's view is that those who have conspired to deceive the courts and violate our constitutional rights -- those who have been responsible for trying to destroy the church and its leadership -- should and will be punished in the proper forum -- the courts of the land.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The news media has repeatedly asked if we are planning to move the entire operation elsewhere, and Thursday's press conference was no exception. These questions arise from something we have repeatedly stressed: Tithes and offerings of brethren from around the United States will never again come to a state where they can be confiscated. Pasadena will never again be the financial headquarters of the Work, Mr. Rader said. However, he stressed that most other functions of the Work in Pasadena will continue as usual.

The hardest single concept the press has had to grapple with is that "the church is not the buildings." And it is not a "corporation" either. Mr. Rader has emphasized over and over again that buildings and a corporation are merely physical means of accomplishing the Church's spiritual work around the world. The body of Christ -- the spiritual Church of God -- is not, and could never be, the buildings. He said members do not join a corporation, they don't worship a corporation, and they don't tithe to a corporation!

A church cannot effectively accomplish its work in an environment where religious freedom is not guaranteed to its members, its officers and its employees. Therefore, Mr. Rader declared that God's Church will never expose its assets and resources in the same way again.

--Pastor's Report Staff

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

As most of you know by now, the receivership has been (for all practical purposes) lifted from the WCG, AICF and from Ambassador College. How did it affect the College? What about Ambassador's future?

The imposition of the receivership did have serious repercussions on Ambassador College. In all, we cancelled classes for about seven days so students could participate in the demonstrations of loyalty held in the Hall of Administration (the so-called sit-ins), and, more recently, so the students could be present at the important court hearings in Los Angeles.

But was this really necessary? We think it was. To begin with the judge(s) and the enemies of this Work were saying that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong didn't really have the backing of the members of the Worldwide Church of God. A number of dissident members (and especially former members) had become quite visible and very vocal. It was they who had spearheaded the initial lawsuit against God's Work. It soon became clear that it would be necessary for the loyal members of God's Work to become even more visible and more vocal. This is the reason behind so many thousands of faithful church members writing letters of support to Mr. Armstrong and the WCG. Also, the continual demonstrations of loyalty by the California members was very important in demonstrating to the world that they were behind Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, and were strongly opposed to the receivership. Furthermore, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Rader, and the ministers here at Pasadena were all encouraged by such demonstrations of loyalty. And, of course, the press was very impressed.

Most of the students took part in the demonstrations of loyalty held in the Hall of Administration building. As you may have heard, over four thousand members congregated here at the college on one day alone. And on several other days, thousands were present. All classes were cancelled during the week of the sit-ins from Monday to Thursday inclusive. But in spite of some cancelled classes and a few other College activities, we were able to keep Ambassador College functioning during the period of the receivership. At no time did Mr. Armstrong ever give any of us in the College the slightest hint that he was thinking about closing Ambassador. He told us, however, that he planned to see that enough funds were sent to Pasadena from out of the state of California to keep the College ticking.

Fortunately, the receivership was lifted before the funds dried up here in Pasadena.

During the receivership crisis we, like all other divisions of this Work, did have to trim back our budgets. We had to cut our budget down by 12%. Even so, we have been able to keep all important functions of the College going, and have not needed to impose any salary cuts as of the present.

When Ambassador College was cut back last year, most of the former faculty members were terminated. Many of them were on contract. These terminal salary contracts have been taking about two-thirds of the entire College budget, but by this coming August those contracts will have ended. Presently the actual College budget is somewhat over one million dollars. We plan to keep the College lean and trim. With the continued help of Almighty God we will be able to keep the College on the track, and with His blessing we will continue producing well-trained, dedicated, loyal, knowledgeable students who can serve well in this Work. A.C. can continue to function efficiently on a relatively low college budget.

About fifty new students enrolled in A.C. at the beginning of the present semester. Some of them were former Ambassador students who decided to re-enter Ambassador so they could complete their education and get their degrees from A.C. We now have a total enrollment of approximately three hundred and fifty students. We anticipate that next year's enrollment will remain at about this same level or slightly higher.

The students, faculty and administration of Ambassador are happy and very positive. Many, both in and out of the College, have commented that they are glad to see A.C. "back on the track." Once again the old "Ambassador spirit" of service, self-sacrifice, courtesy, loyalty, diligence, hard work, Bible-centeredness and dedication to recapturing the true values is everywhere in evidence.

Be sure and encourage any of your young people who want to go to college, to seize the wonderful opportunity of attending "the West Point of God's Work" -- Ambassador College!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

MINISTERIAL SERVICES

As explained in the February 12th Pastor's Report, the Church Division, along with all other areas in the Work, has had to make substantial budget cuts in order to bring projected expenses into line with expected income. The bulk of the cuts were made in the Festival, Human Potential and Y.O.U. departments rather than the field. However, we do not feel even those cuts made in the field budget will impair the basic ministerial functions.

The largest single item cut from the budget was the amount budgeted for salary increases next July. This will affect all the employees within the Church Division including the field ministry. We felt you should be aware of this so that you could plan your personal budgets accordingly.

As mentioned last week, funds for the purchase of office furniture and equipment were cut. Therefore, we will not be able to fill those requests for furniture and equipment that have been received.

Another item that was eliminated was money for tuition reimbursement and the purchase of books. If any of you find yourself in a real bind because you made commitments based on what you were told previously, please let us know and we will do what we can to help.

One last area that needs to be addressed is the Church Assistant Fund. No budget cuts were made in this area; however, we do want to be as careful as possible to limit expenses in this area to necessary items. Some have asked whether or not they could still write checks on the Central Clearing Account. The answer is yes, but please use it only for genuinely serious needs and do not use it at all for ministerial or church expense items.

As a final note, will the minister who sent in an inactive member status card on Mrs. Kelly Scott please send in another card? The first card was sent in incomplete--without the minister's name--making it impossible for us to determine the church area.

--Ted Herlofson

FLEET OPERATIONS

Greetings to all of you from us here in Pasadena. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for returning the fleet vehicle

questionnaires to us which reflect important information about the vehicles you drive and for which you are responsible. This broad spectrum of input on operational problems as well as your personal impressions about our entire fleet program will be helpful. This will enable us to evaluate the many areas which are necessary to conduct such a far-flung fleet program in all fifty states, most effectively.

I realize that the vehicle needs vary as to the individual church areas due to weather conditions, church activities, size of family, etc. We want to try to fulfill all of these needs to the greatest degree possible within the budgetary constraints we are all having to work within.

As all of you are aware, we are having to make rather severe budgetary reductions in virtually every area of the Work. These are absolutely mandatory, of course, since we have a cash flow problem due to the receivership impact and resultant loss of credit with the banking institutions.

As a result we have decided to curtail the replacement of all of our fleet vehicles for the next few months in order to meet our necessary budgetary reductions. Fortunately we are current in nearly all of our vehicle trade-outs which will enable us to drive the vehicles a little bit longer even though you may be on the top end of the mileage level and are due for a trade-out. I am sure that during this current budgetary crisis, however, all of you will be very willing to drive the vehicles for a longer period of time. This will help us a great deal in balancing the budget.

We certainly appreciate the cooperation of all of you in this crisis and wanted you to know that we will do everything that we can to aid and assist you in the area of providing vehicles and service to expedite this most important work. Thanks again for all of your help!

--Ellis LaRavia

FESTIVAL OFFICE

Greetings from PASADENA!

Some of our office records and furniture are still in moving vans on the road, but the Festival Office is now operating on the campus in Pasadena. It seems like we have been moving forever, but complications due to the recent receivership prevented us from arriving here any sooner.

In fact, the receivership has hurt our preparation for the Feast of Tabernacles 1979 in several ways! When the receivership struck, we were scheduled to send our Housing Officers out to the various sites across the United States to prepare for members' lodging this next autumn. The men representing the Brochure also were scheduled to visit our festival cities in an attempt to secure helpful and informative advertising for next year. However, under the receivership, it was impossible to get expense money for these people to travel--therefore, we are over six weeks behind!

The festival sites for this next year are the same as 1978 -- with one exception. The new site for 1979 is BILOXI, Mississippi. As the Big Sandy property has been for sale for several months, it became necessary to plan for a different site next year. Biloxi is perhaps somewhat unknown to many of you, however, that section of the Gulf Coast is renowned as a winter resort for the Midwest and in years past, even as a health spa. With a brand new auditorium (actually the finest auditorium we will be using this year) and 26 miles of white sand beach, Biloxi should be a suitable replacement for Big Sandy which people have used and loved these many years.

As in 1978, we will be also using the following: SEATTLE, Washington; FRESNO, California; TUCSON, Arizona; WISCONSIN DELLS, Wisconsin; LAKE OF THE OZARKS, Missouri; ST. PETERSBURG, Florida; SAVANNAH, Georgia; NORFOLK, Virginia and SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York.

As we all know the spring festival is just around the corner. To help you cover your own personal expenses pertaining to the festival, the Festival Office will be mailing you your Second Tithe allotment checks within the next few weeks. The amount this year will continue the same as last year--10% of your annual allotment.

REMEMBER, the festival allotment which you receive from the Festival Tithe account is actually an expense allotment, NOT income! Therefore, to properly account for its use (should you ever be checked by the IRS) please keep all your receipts as necessary records.

Other than being behind a little bit as I mentioned above, the Festival Office following its move to Pasadena is in good shape for this next year. Mr. Armstrong fully intends to continue the festival as we have been observing it with thousands of Church members gathering together in several cities across the United States. So, please give us all the help you can this year--we are going to really need it! Any suggestions or comments that you or the members have are most appreciated--however, begin sending them to the Pasadena address.

--Sherwin McMichael

MEDIA

Since the H.W.A. TV program began airing last July, there have been some significant trends developing. It normally takes a year or more for us to have enough data to evaluate performance of a format or program. This is reflected in the significant difference in the goals of our programs vs the networks, who will cut a series if it doesn't achieve a predetermined rating and share of the market. (There is a confusion between "ratings" and "share" because each is a percentage. Remember that rating is a percentage of the total potential audience, all of whom may not be viewing at one time. Share is the percentage of the estimated households viewing during a particular time period.) Over the years we have tended to use cost-per-new-response as a yardstick for measuring performance of our TV and radio programs on a particular station. Costs have run from as low as \$1.00 per response on a good TV station to as high as \$5,000 per response for a new radio station in an isolated area where there are few members.

The CPNR for Mr. Armstrong's telecast has been reduced by two and one half times since last July. This was accomplished with no promotion or print ads. If money were available, I'm certain we could improve the response significantly over the next six months. On the other hand, the radio program has shown no improvement over the past six months, and the CPNR is now running 4.36 times that of television.

The recent budget cuts have mandated the postponement of the P.T. program pilot and the new programs scheduled for the fall. As soon as money becomes available, we will be able to continue on this project.

--John Lundberg, Media Production

PUBLISHING SERVICES

In my last report, I mentioned about doing the same job in publishing with less money because of the financial problems we have at the moment.

A reduction in the Plain Truth newsstand program would be very serious indeed if we didn't replace the loss with something else, because over 60% of all new people who come into contact with this Work, at the moment, come from the Plain Truth newsstand program. Therefore, a cut in this program would mean a cut in our growth.

We have now had approved what many of us feel is a great solution to the problem of adding the same number of new names to the PT list each month at much less cost.

At the moment we print and distribute approximately one million 32-page PT's on the newsstands, the vast majority of which are picked up and read by people who never write in for a free subscription. (Why should they when they can get their magazines each month from the newsstand.) This vast group are not regular readers and are slow to get involved because we have no way of corresponding with them through the mails and exposing them to the Subscriber Services Program.

We feel the solution is to put out a 16-page mini or condensed magazine. This will carry heavily-edited articles presented in a way designed to "whet their appetite" and encourage readers to send that reply card in and become a subscriber. In other words, to find out more.

This 16-page condensed Plain Truth is a change in concept from a magazine to promotional brochure. It would carry a regular two-page section repeated every month designed to overcome the new reader's fears and objections about becoming a subscriber and getting on our mailing list. By this method, we all feel that we will see an increase in response.

This 16-page PT would enable us to distribute a quantity of 600,000 magazines but at around half the cost to meet our budget cuts. Both Richard Rice and Brian Knowles feel this idea is potentially a winner because it keeps those new readers coming in.

Some church areas will be asked to cut the number of magazines they receive each month. You will all receive a letter detailing the new program which we feel will increase our response. That's what the main purpose of the program is after all--to get a response.

--Roger Lippross

GOOD NEWS/WORLDWIDE NEWS

Now that the receivership has been lifted and the turmoil created by it has died down somewhat, we will try to get The Worldwide News back on our regular schedule and re-establish second class mailing. We have sent all issues since the beginning of this crisis to co-workers in addition to members and hope that this has helped them understand the events of the past eight weeks.

Our next issue is scheduled for printing on March 12, with members receiving that issue during the following two weeks by second class mailing. Hopefully we will be able to maintain a regular biweekly printing schedule after that.

If any of you have material you would like to submit to The Worldwide News, please send it as soon as possible after the event or well before our next printing date so we can plan space for it.

The Good News magazine will also continue to be printed on schedule with no foreseeable changes. We welcome your input on both publications.

The Worldwide News wishes to thank all Pastors who have responded to our pen-pal, prayer request questionnaire. We are hoping for more responses before we begin tabulating the results, so there is still time for you to return your questionnaire if you haven't already done so.

We should point out that two questions on the questionnaire have answers that don't make any sense...but you know that already. Instead of "yes_____, No_____, Not sure_____" to the question "WOULD YOU PREFER THAT PRAYER REQUESTS BE HANDLED IN THE LOCAL CHURCH OR IN THE PAGES OF THE WN?" the answers were meant to be "Locally_____, WN_____, Both_____." And to our question "HOW SPECIFIC SHOULD A PRAYER REQUEST BE IN THE PAPER?" the answers were originally intended to be "General_____, More descriptive_____, Name only_____."

We are embarrassed to no end and hope you will overlook this oversight on our part. Perhaps you would like to answer a question we are asking ourselves just now: "WHAT HAPPENED?" You blew it_____, Cheer up, everybody makes mistakes_____, Don't let it happen again_____. What questionnaire?_____.

--D. H. Faulkner; GN, WN Editorial

Y.O.U. UPDATE

S.E.P. Camp this year is still on. By cutting the staff by 30% and raising the tuition to \$300 per session we can still operate much as usual.

The tuition raise may seem rather steep to some until it is compared to the inflation rate over the same three years since the last raise took place. The increase doesn't come close to breaking even with actual costs but it will help. Even with an increase in tuition, the church is subsidizing each camper to the tune of nearly \$300.

With these changes we still expect to have a paid staff and a top quality program as in the years past.

Gossip Word has come back to us that some pastors announced after the conference that Y.O.U. was being phased out. We did not mean to give that impression when we stated that the national sports activities had been cut until finances permitted them to be reestablished.

Some damage has been done to our income as a result of that word as some may have decided to stop donating since they thought the program no longer existed. If you know of any who feel Y.O.U. has been wiped out, perhaps you can set the record straight.

One other juicy one that comes to us from around Southern California and the Pacific Northwest is that Jim Thornhill has been fired. So far as we know this is not true. He still comes to work each day and still receives a paycheck.

Isn't that true, Jim? He says "Yes, I'm still here." So much for that one.

"Now You Know" Special A special issue of "Now You Know" is coming out soon. In it will be a total update on all the facets of Y.O.U., as well as special editorials on pertinent subjects. A detailed article on Y.E.S. will outline our progress to date. A complete financial picture for Y.O.U. and how the cuts have affected the program will also be included. Plans for S.E.P. and a complete report on how and when to apply as a camper or a worker will be included.

Y.O.U. Income For whatever reasons are involved, the donations from the youth have fallen drastically! From January 1, to January 31, the income dropped from \$5800 per week to \$90 per week. If the reason lies in confusion as to where and how to donate, please remind your teens to mail them to the address Mr. Armstrong has specified for tithes and offerings in his recent letters. Tell them to mark clearly their age somewhere on or with the contribution.

It was reconfirmed this week that all youth donations will continue to be dedicated to the Church's youth programs as they are considered vital to the growth and welfare of families in the Church.

General Most of the basketball regionals were scheduled this weekend and last. It is being reported that all is going very well at the competitions and the occasions are being used to have special Sabbath meetings with many churches being represented. It is a time when the youth can take special part in services since so many of them are present for the special event.

Y.O.U. took a 33% budget cut, but is still moving forward. We would like to be able to reestablish national sports before track season if possible, but that will depend on how soon our income can stabilize. Hopefully your encouragement to the teens will stimulate them to continue their contributions as in the past. Maybe next issue we can report some great news for Y.O.U. national sports.

--Ron Dick

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE HELPLESS GIANT "There's a growing view that America is an International patsy," complains Howard Baker, a Republican hopeful in the 1980 campaign. Baker's comment cannot be dismissed as mere campaign rhetoric. The U.S. is taking a beating around the world, and its faltering image is very obvious.

The U.S., according to columnists Evans and Novak, suffered "humiliation in Iran" and incurred "undisguised ridicule" because of its inability to protect its embassy in Teheran and its ambassador from ignominious death in Pakistan.

In Mexico, President Carter suffered through a humiliating public dinner lecture by his host, President Lopez Portillo. Yet he offered nothing public in response to the stinging attack, but only embarrassed himself with a reference to "Montezuma's revenge."

As a whole, writes columnist Patrick J. Buchanan, America is seen as a "perplexed and partially paralyzed nation led by a weak, indecisive little man with not the slightest comprehension of the...world we inhabit."

The Wall Street Journal urged in an editorial for the administration to "show some backbone somewhere." An official of the previous Ford Administration intoned: "People have very little faith in us anymore, and it's going to take years for us to recover our respect around the world." But some of America's allies, it appears, can't afford to wait so long.

Reports the U.S. News & World Report of March 5, 1979: "Growing concern about Carter's lack of initiative in world affairs is driving French President Vallery Giscard d'Estaing and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to discuss privately ways the European allies can fill what they view as a serious "leadership vacuum."

The concern in Europe only confirms what Evans & Novak called "stark new evidence of America's decline and the fears it has unleashed among U.S. allies..."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau