

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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SABBATICAL PROGRAM DISCONTINUED-- NEW PROGRAM INSTEAD

by Herbert W. Armstrong

We are discontinuing the Sabbatical Program, and inaugurating an entirely new program.

There have been many faults in the Sabbatical Program. It was very costly to the Work to bring a group of ministers, with their families, to Pasadena for one or two semesters--often keeping them out of the active ministry for virtually a year. There was the cost of moving them to Pasadena, and also of moving other ministers to their respective locations --then moving them back or to a new post.

Ministers came to feel that they were being called in for correction or discipline and this only aroused resentment, and possible opposition. This gave it a negative connotation. I did not personally devise or organize this program. It was established while my son was Executive Vice-President.

The new program, whether we shall call it a seminar or a Ministerial Refreshing Program, or whatever, will be limited to three weeks and will not necessitate the moving of whole families back and forth. EVERY minister will be brought in to Pasadena once every two or three years--which-ever yet to be decided. He will fly in on a Sunday. He will have to miss only two Sabbaths from his pastorate, returning on a Friday. That period--less than three weeks--is not too long to be away from his family only once every two or three years.

The visiting ministers will be housed on campus. It is anticipated, as of now, to bring in about 30 ministers at a time.

Heretofore, in the Sabbatical Program, the ministers often have been instructed in regular classes with young undergraduate students. In the new program, it will be instruction and conferences on the ministerial and graduate level entirely.

We are now hard at work on the details of the new program, to be announced later.

I just thought it well to give you a glimpse into the new program now being worked out, and I feel it will be a source of great encouragement and satisfaction to all of God's ministers. It will promote a real family ONENESS. If any minister has questions they will be listened to. I am reminded of the condition we had fifteen to twenty years ago. Often some question would come up--whether doctrine, or what. We would assemble in my office. Everyone was in a fine attitude. We were all seeking GOD'S

answer. And ALWAYS we left that session in my office in 100% agreement, rejoicing in the fact that God was really leading us and binding us closely together.

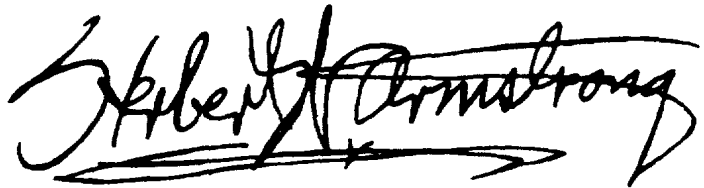
Jesus Christ, the HEAD of this Church, has been setting God's Church back on the track this past year and a half.

The ministry is so much larger now--but we will get back to the same oneness in God's Spirit we were then!

As soon as details are worked out, I will announce them.

I hope someone will give you a report in this "Report" about the visit of the official Chinese delegation to our campus, and the dinner night before last in the Faculty Dining Room. They are en route from Washington D.C. from conferences with President Carter and other government officials, but made a special detour and stopover from San Francisco to visit the Ambassador campus.

Carry on full steam ahead, fellows--Jesus Christ is with us, because now we are WITH HIM!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line underneath.

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT DENIES CHURCH MOTION

The much awaited ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Laughlin Waters came down last Friday, December 14th. Our motion for a stay of all discovery (depositions and orders by state courts to turn over documents to the state) was "denied, without comment." Judge Waters gave no explanation or qualifications, so for all practical purposes it was a flat "No."

For whatever reasons the judge ruled as he did, despite the extensive and careful documentation of the extraordinary and unlawful abuses the Church has suffered, Judge Waters denied our motion knowing full well that we had appellate recourse and would go immediately to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to seek emergency relief again, as we did in October concerning Mr. Rader's deposition.

It is felt by some that the denial will strengthen our case when we return soon to the U.S. Supreme Court with a Writ of Certiorari now being prepared by our lawyers. All of the Church's attorneys are absolutely convinced that the weight of the Constitution is in our favor. Thus the Church will exhaust every remedy available to it in this critical phase in the State of California's sweeping legal attack.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESChinese Delegation Hosted by A.I.C.F.

Here in Pasadena the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, on behalf of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Stanley R. Rader, hosted the 16 delegates of the Peoples' Republic of China at a dinner with the faculty of Ambassador College. In a series of toasts they referred to Mr. Armstrong as the young old man with the emphasis on young.

The 16-man delegation of Chinese dignitaries are completing their stay after a most successful and profitable visit. Dr. Kuang, head of the delegation, commented after completing his tour of the college campus that of all the universities he had seen, Ambassador College was certainly the most beautiful. The delegation concludes its five-week tour of the universities in the United States tomorrow, Thursday, and will then depart for Tokyo.

Yes, We Really Do Read the Monthly Church Reports!

We frequently receive comments in the Monthly Church Reports (formerly "Pastor's Report") such as, "Hello! Is anybody reading this?" Also, some pastors comment that questions they have asked on the report have never been answered. This leads them to the conclusion that the reports are not read or utilized. Perhaps it would be helpful and encouraging to explain to you how the reports are actually used.

Of the two copies of the report that are sent to Ministerial Services, one goes directly to the appropriate Regional Assistant. He reads it as soon as his schedule allows, takes any action immediately necessary, and then returns the copy to the office secretary who files it by church area. This copy then becomes part of the semi-permanent record of the church area's activities. The reports are a valuable resource for evaluating a church area as well as showing the fruits of your labors should it later experience difficulties.

The second copy of the report is held until the 15th of the month following the report month. Soon after the 15th, these reports are processed as a unit. Statistics on the number of new individuals contacted for the first time and Bible Study attendances are tabulated for the month. Vacation information is extracted for the Employment Office. The reports are then read and the comments summarized for Mr. Armstrong. Individually pertinent comments are forwarded directly to him. It is at this time that most of the administrative questions are answered or referred to others for answering.

All routine administrative questions should be answered soon after the middle of the month following that of the report. In some cases, questions of a doctrinal nature, or ones concerning guidelines for instituting programs for which no guidelines are available must be forwarded upward for answering. These questions go to Mr. Armstrong. He decides whether they should be answered personally and immediately, whether they should be addressed to the ministry or Church as a whole in one of the general publications, or whether they need to be held for further information and discussion before any answer is given.

The Monthly Church Reports are valuable to us for gathering statistical information, communicating current trends, questions or problems, as well as for providing a historical record of each church area. All are being read directly by at least two individuals. Those with special comments and questions are read by many more, even Mr. Armstrong.

General Comments From the Field Ministry

Robert Dick, Columbus, Ohio: "The general membership is squarely behind Mr. Armstrong, and the mood is peaceful. Members are watching world events carefully with an air of anticipation."

John Cafourek, Poplar Bluff, MO: "Mr. Waterhouse's visit to the area has generated new zeal and enthusiasm."

John Foster, Canton, OH: "There is a genuine excitement about world news and how it relates to prophecy. Many are studying more and asking various questions about the end times. More are getting involved in church activities--the Church once again is becoming the focal point of the members' lives."

Art Dyer, Johnstown, PA: "Several members who have left the Church are coming back. PMS coming out of nowhere. Church is growing."

Bill Jahns, St. Paul, MN: "Things overall are going fine in the St. Paul area. Many came back with very good reports about the Feast of Tabernacles. We have started the Bible Studies in the St. Paul area. So far attendance has been very good. The Feast was very encouraging this year. Hopefully, the new program for Y.E.S. can come out completely soon."

Dr. Don Ward, Big Sandy, TX: "Attitudes and the overall atmosphere continue to improve. Attendance is up and a few people are coming back to Church who haven't been in years."

News of the Caribbean Trip

Mr. Dibar Apartian just returned from a most successful ten-day trip to the French Caribbean. In Martinique, the Bible Lecture held in the capital, Fort-de-France, attracted 83 newcomers and it was followed by an exciting variety show performed by the talented youth of the Church there. There was singing, dancing and even a ballet number as an added attraction. This Bible Lecture will be followed by Bible Studies for the next four weeks.

Mr. Gilbert Carbonnel, the pastor of the Fort-de-France church, recently distributed 30,000 copies of "La Pure Verite" in Fort-de-France. He reports that on the day he distributed them it was rare to see anyone walking in the city without the magazine in hand. Mr. Carbonnel was raised in rank to a preaching elder by Mr. Apartian while he was there.

In Guadeloupe Mr. Apartian held two Bible Lectures, one in BasseTerre where 17 newcomers attended, and one in Point-a-Pitre where 94 new people showed up. All those are record attendance figures--not to mention the fact that no publicity was made and only subscribers to "La Pure Verite" were invited.

We presently have 740 subscribers in Guadeloupe. However, we will soon be distributing 500 "La Pure Verite" through a store called "Libre Service" which means Self-Serve. With the help of God, our minister Mr. Erick Dubois hopes to soon increase the number of subscribers to 2000.

In Haiti, the poorest of the three islands, Mr. Apartian was interviewed by Radio-Haiti for over a half an hour. He was asked all kinds of questions about God's Work, the Bible's teachings and the Church's mission. In short, Haiti heard the gospel! Mr. Apartian was able to visit with Lionel Estinvil the ministerial trainee in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for the first time since he moved to serve the brethren there just prior to the Feast of Tabernacles.

France

After a year or so of searching for a place to meet in Paris, God has finally answered our prayers. He has given us a tailor-made hall for our needs and at a rather reasonable price (relatively speaking, since nothing is cheap in Paris!). Bible Studies, Sabbath services, social meetings will all be held in this hall. Mr. Sam Kneller also reports that the average attendance for the four regular Sabbath services in Paris during November was 200. He writes: "It's very encouraging to see new people coming."

Switzerland

Mr. Bernard Andrist held two follow-up Bible studies--one in Geneva and one in Lausanne--on November 14 and 15. A total of eleven new persons attended. Our minister in Lyon, Mr. Muir, reports that three new persons have started attending services as a result of Mr. Apartian's recent Bible Lectures in Lyon.

Australia

Church: We are continuing to experience solid growth in the church areas. A new attendance record (4,836) was set this month. One new church was recently started at Ipswich, Qld., with 78 in attendance. Another is soon to be opened up at Gosford, N.S.W. Since January this year 13 new churches have been added (slightly better than one new church per month), bringing our total number of churches in Australia to 60. This month there were 19 baptisms, bringing the total number of baptisms for the year so far to 207.

Aid to Kampuchean Refugees: Following appeals worldwide for aid to improve the terrible plight of the Kampuchean (Cambodian) refugees, the Work in Australia donated \$5,000 from our assistance fund. This aid was forwarded to the Kampuchean refugees through the agency of the Australian Red Cross. In addition, an opportunity was presented to the Australian membership to donate to this worthy cause if they so desired. So far donations from the Australian members for the Kampuchean fund total \$8,393.

The Australian Red Cross was somewhat surprised by the response from the Church as indicated by the following letter: "We would like you to convey to your members our most grateful appreciation of their cooperation in raising such a wonderful amount of money towards the Kampuchean Appeal. We respect your wishes regarding any publicity but felt we just had to thank you and assure you that your financial support will /help to/ alleviate the suffering and distress of so many underprivileged people."

The Plain Truth: We are at the present time adding around 1,000 new Plain Truth subscribers each week. These responses are, in the main, coming from Householder Cards, and ads in "T.V. Times" and "T.V. Week."

Each response receives by return mail an introductory copy of The Plain Truth featuring Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong on the front cover, together with a special insert letter which explains briefly who supports The Plain Truth, who Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is, what our major activities are, what Ambassador College is, why a worldwide work, and why The Plain Truth is free. In addition, the special insert letter offers four "non-religious" booklets: "Principles of Healthful Living," "Managing Your Personal Finances," "Are We Living in The Last Days?" and "Is Sex Sin?"

Canada

We are pleased to report another month of good progress in God's Work here in Canada. Income continues to reflect God's blessings--this month closed at +5%, giving a year-to-date increase of +13%.

Another piece of good news this month is our acceptance of an offer from the CKO all-news radio network. Broadcasting in Montreal, Toronto, London, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver, the World Tomorrow will be aired Monday through Friday at 8:00 p.m. CKO is a growing network as is the concept of all-news stations here in Canada.

Approval has been given by the Super-Valu supermarket chain in British Columbia for Plain Truth newsstand displays in their 50 outlets. A further 50 of their franchised stores are also to be approached. A test in two stores in Vancouver has indicated a take-up rate of 3,000 to 4,000 copies per store per month.

--Joe Tkach

HIGHLIGHTS OF MOST RECENT EMPLOYEE FORUM

At the first opportunity after the China trip was concluded, Mr. Rader spoke to the students and the employees of the Church and college on Thursday, December 13.

Comments About the China Trip

Never wanting to preempt Mr. Armstrong who will be writing and speaking on his recent and highly successful trip to the Peoples' Republic of China, Mr. Rader let it suffice to say that "It was a marvelous trip, he /Mr. Armstrong/ has much to say...." Then Mr. Rader proceeded to relate a few things that were personal to himself in his role of assisting Mr. Armstrong.

As we already know, Mr. Rader has been used extensively by Mr. Armstrong in making advance arrangements for his trips to other countries. This led to his own invitations to speak and thereby broaden the recognition of God's Work in both China and Japan. He expressed surprise at the extent of interest generated by his lecture at Peking University recently. He has been invited to return in January for a week of lecturing at the nation's most prestigious university. (His last lecture, you will recall, was referred to in a previous Pastor General's Report. It concerned the U.S. Constitution and the First Amendment. Mr. Rader's office is sending

a copy of his Peking lecture to all the judges at the Los Angeles Superior Court in hopes it may be informative, since there has seemed to be so little working knowledge of the Constitution there.)

Mr. Rader related that the cultural exchange which is going on between the Church and China is already well under way! Sixteen prominent members of the academic community of the Peoples' Republic of China are, at the time of this writing, visiting Ambassador College as our guests from December 16th through the 19th. Their trip was originally arranged by the Foreign Ministry of China and the State Department in Washington D.C. They approached us to see if they could also visit with us while they were in the United States. We gladly replied in the affirmative and have planned to show them places of interest and assist them in interfacing with other major educational institutions in the area.

In the question and answer session which followed Mr. Rader's introductory remarks, someone mentioned the dearth of media news about the China trip. Mr. Rader noted that we had sent news releases to some of the media, but we don't know yet whether AP or any other major source picked the story up. Of course our hometown newspaper, the Pasadena Star-News, did report briefly on it.

Although there may not have been much said by the media, the State Department definitely knows about the trip. When he was in Tokyo making final preparations before leaving with Mr. Armstrong for the mainland, Mr. Rader received a call from the United States Embassy in Tokyo asking if there was anything they could do to help us during this visit--that they knew we were going to China. Mr. Rader observed, "They know who we are and they know what we do." They know we have accomplished something rather quickly in getting into China! Mr. Rader said we know of no other religious leader who has been in China before us.

Mr. Rader's comments certainly whetted the appetites of the audience for more news about the trip from Mr. Armstrong, who is presently working on a long article for the Plain Truth magazine.

Mr. Armstrong Makes a Powerful Impression

Mr. Rader was enthused about the very powerful impression Mr. Armstrong made on the people in China. "First of all, his age gives him a fantastic mystique in China. Then when they hear him it is overwhelming because there is no man in the world 87 years old who speaks like Mr. Armstrong. No one!

"Not only content, but the power and the authority. And it is amazing to see the kind of reaction that he gets. It is because of their reverence for age, because with age goes wisdom and a man in his position, in their opinion, would have to be very wise to have lived to that age and be as vital and to be in such a position of being able to do so much good for so many people.

"But what surprises them," continued Mr. Rader, "is the unbelievable vigor with which he stands there and delivers his address...very strong and very firmly and speaking out with tremendous power, tremendous authority...."

Many Invitations In Hand

Mr. Armstrong is holding invitations from many different countries and the state's lawsuit against the Church has not changed our manner of getting

the gospel out, Mr. Rader said. As a forerunner for Mr. Armstrong, making final arrangements and confirming dates and itineraries, Mr. Rader is planning to leave for Cairo in preparation for Mr. Armstrong's visit with Anwar Sadat. While in Egypt Mr. Rader may take a quick trip down to Zambia in preparation for a future visit, then back to Egypt and on to Warsaw, Poland.

Mr. Rader noted that he had been to Poland once before. We have had a standing invitation to visit Warsaw for a long time. Mr. Armstrong had been introduced to the then presiding justice of the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Justice Lachs. Five or six years ago he offered to host Mr. Armstrong's visit to Warsaw, but till now his and Mr. Armstrong's schedules never seemed to coincide. Then, just before Mr. Armstrong's illness in 1977 while on a trip to Japan, Mr. Armstrong met with the Polish ambassador in Tokyo and he paved the way for a visit that was formally set for December 1977. We are reviving that invitation at this time.

From Warsaw Mr. Rader will go to Moscow, then on to Peking. He explained that we had opened a colloquy with the Russian Charge d'affaires while in Peking recently. It is hoped that we can get the same kind of treatment and opportunities to be heard in Russia as we enjoyed in China. We don't know yet how that will develop.

Speaking of future countries to be visited and future goals, Mr. Rader said, "Well, China and Moscow are so big, of course, you can't really assume that you've done all that much just by your first visit. So I would like to say that those countries are large enough to keep us busier than we have time to be in those two nations.

"But we are also stepping up our efforts in Western Europe. We are beginning to make very, very strong inroads now in England for the first time, breaking out of an insular position that we had before. We will be able to interface very, very nicely in the future with the leaders of that society. And we should begin to do more in a country like Germany where the Work has not grown as fast as it should have in spite of the tremendous growth of Germany."

Mr. Rader said we are also holding invitations for all of Black Africa, including Zambia, Kenya (where we have not been since President Kenyatta's death) and Tanzania. Mr. Armstrong has not been to South America in almost five years, and so visits to Chile, Venezuela and Columbia are in his thinking at this time.

How Mr. Armstrong's Invitations Have Snowballed

In response to a question about how Mr. Armstrong's invitations come about, Mr. Rader commented: "Mr. Armstrong makes it plain that he is above politics." Then he went on to explain with a little ironic humor how the invitations come to us. "I'm certain that it /their motivation/ is not religious because I don't believe that they are thinking in their own minds at the time that they, or their representative who extended the invitation, want him to come in to give them a private Bible study or advise them on a theological issue that's bothering them.

"But I think it's like any other situation where once you achieve a certain 'critical mass,' the movement just keeps going forward. The organi-

zation keeps growing and whatever you are doing keeps moving. And when we appear in Peking (which is not exactly in the middle of the Sahara Desert) and Mr. Armstrong speaks before 70 representatives of foreign governments --many of whom know that Mr. Armstrong has visited their nation and has been very favorably received--and when he is in the Great Hall of the People at a dinner party and there are 20 some members of the Chinese government there as well, those ambassadors who are there representing their government and their people think it would be helpful to their people that Mr. Armstrong visit--after all if it was good for China, it should be good for Zambia. I think it's very obvious. That's the way it comes about.

"If you were an ambassador from the United States and you were in a room with somebody that had been welcomed to France, Germany and other countries, I think you might think it's important to see that this man is brought to the attention of your government.

"That's why you're there as an Ambassador: you are the eyes and ears of your government. That's what an ambassador does. So then the ambassador says to himself 'Well, this will be good for my country, it will be good for my people, it will be good for my fitness report: it will look good on my record that I sent Mr. Armstrong there.'" Mr. Rader went on to explain that, on the other hand, occasionally an ambassador is reluctant to warm up to us. But it is not a problem for the most part.

"That's how it works--they know we are not in politics, per se," said Mr. Rader. "They are perceptive enough, however, to know that we have publications that we control. We have radio, television, the printed word. If we go into their country and say something nice about it, that's political. And Mr. Armstrong has always said he is not going to write something about a country that he has visited if he can't write something that will not be more positive than negative."

So Mr. Rader summed up his explanation of how Mr. Armstrong's invitations to other nations and their leaders often come about by noting that "An ambassador can pave the way--can make it all happen."

Television Special Concerning Church/State Crisis to Be Aired

Mr. Rader has just reviewed our own recently completed one-hour documentary concerning the State's invasion of the Church. "It is really excellent," Mr. Rader said, "and I think it will do much to impress the public of the nature of this litigation and what it means to them and, of course, what it means to us and others in a similar situation." He said we were presently trying to clear station time for the last week in December for its initial showing in the Los Angeles area. It will be suitable for showing around the country and will not be particularly dated, so it is hoped it will get quite extensive exposure in the future.

Our own cameramen were present during the events in the earlier part of the year when some of the more dramatic happenings occurred, so it should be a very intriguing film--certain to impress as well as inform any audience.

JEREMIAH AND GOD'S WORK TODAY: AN ENCOURAGING PARALLEL

Speaking briefly just before Mr. Rader's comments at the December 13 employee's forum, Mr. Ellis LaRavia reflected on the year that is now nearly past. Noting that it had been a year of accomplishment as well as persecution by the State of California, he drew an encouraging parallel between God's commission to an ancient prophet and the Church's modern commission to go to all nations. Here is a summary of his remarks:

Mr. Armstrong has just completed a trip of major importance. We are a very small religious group, scattered around the world, but we have been received officially and with great respect by such a vast nation as China! But this isn't the case here where we are about to observe the anniversary of the state's invasion of the Church.

We know it is prophesied that trials and persecutions would come, but when it becomes a reality it is always a shock. Some have fallen away over the years and some have left because of this persecution and various other trials. Yet God continues to use His Church, even adding to the body as He sees fit. I was just noticing a parallel between Jeremiah's commission and the Church's today, even though Jeremiah was just one person called to do a specific job.

In Chapter one God was rehearsing with Jeremiah the job he was to do. Notice that it was God speaking to Jeremiah (verse 4) and that Jeremiah was to be sent "unto the nations" (verse 5). God cautioned Jeremiah not to say "I am a child" (verses 6-7). God knew that Jeremiah was insignificant by himself, just as God is well aware that His Church today has "little strength." But God said, "...for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee (God said, "I've got places for you to go")...and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak" (verse 7). We don't always know specifically where it is we are to go today, so God has to open the door and we have to walk through it at the time.

God also told Jeremiah not to be afraid of their faces, "for I am with thee to deliver thee" (verse 8). God knew that taking His message would mean that there would also be opposition. Nevertheless, Jeremiah was not to be fearful of going where God told him to go or speaking what he should speak because He would be with him. The same applies to the Church today.

"And they shall fight against thee..." (verse 19). The Eternal foresaw that Jeremiah would face persecution and troubles in performing his duties. But He said to Jeremiah, "I have made thee...a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls against the whole land" (verse 18). Likewise God has promised that He would strengthen and protect His Work to accomplish the job He has given it to do!

God is the same today and still working mightily through His Church and Mr. Armstrong, as demonstrated through this remarkable milestone--the China visit.

DOOR TO JAPAN OPENS WIDER

Prior to Mr. Herbert Armstrong's arrival in Japan en route to China, Mr. Rader was invited to speak before the prestigious government-sponsored Japan Institute of International Affairs, an organization similar to the Brooking Institute in Washington D.C. Present was an extremely prestigious guest list including presidents and chairmen of the boards of most of the major corporations in Japan--over 200 of them.

The speech was very well received and, although the program was scheduled to run two hours, many stayed an additional hour with considerable interest in the question-and-answer session that followed.

The speech was covered by the large-circulation Japanese-language newspapers and the entire text was printed on the back page of the Japan Times, which is an English-language newspaper. As a result of this extensive and very favorable coverage, Mr. Rader was invited to appear on national television. He did so and has now been invited back by several other television stations.

Although the Work has already been reaching top leaders in industry, academic echelons and the political community in Japan for some years, Mr. Rader stated in his December 13 employee forum that he considers these developments a new breakthrough for the Work. It is his hope that this will be a bridge for Mr. Armstrong to cross in the near future to begin to attract the attention of the man on the street in Japan. "This will be an opportunity now--using television and not having to pay for it--" said Mr. Rader, "to begin to get Mr. Armstrong's message across. And I am going to work hard at that over the next year."

Here now is the complete text of his November 19 speech as it appeared in the Japan Times, December 4:

734 00000000 (A) The Japan Times, Friday, December 4, 1979

Economics to Dictate Politics in 1980

Uncertainty Brings Conservative Renaissance, With Implications for U.S. Elections

By DR. STANLEY ROBERT RADER

The following is the text of a speech Dr. Stanley Robert Rader delivered before a recent meeting of the Japan Institute of International Affairs. Dr. Rader is currently vice president of Ambassador College and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.—Editor

The people of the United States recently celebrated a rather unusual anniversary. The celebration was itself unusual because there were no picnics or parades, no official fanfare, and absolutely no joyful remembrance of the event.

The event, in this case, was the sudden collapse, exactly 50 years ago, of the American stock market and the beginning of the Great Depression.

The majority of the American people do not, of course, expect that aspect of their history to be repeated. But more than at any time in the recent past, Americans are uneasily aware that their economic future is uncertain. And this economic uncertainty has done more to shape the political climate in the United States today than any other factor.

Usually Not Main Issue

Although the state of the economy is always on the minds of the electorate, it is generally not the pre-eminent issue. The Cold War, nuclear proliferation and foreign policy were the dominant issues of the 1950s. The '60s were almost

wholly consumed, in terms of political activity, by the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War. Indeed, by 1968 the war in Vietnam overshadowed all other issues. And even though the next few years introduced the American people for the first time to double-digit inflation, wage and price controls, and a worldwide oil crisis, the pre-occupation with Watergate dominated domestic political discussion.

Now that the 1980s are upon us, however, the economy can no longer be ignored. Rampant inflation and a very real energy crisis threaten to limit the rising expectations of the

American public. The American dream has been symbolized by a home in the suburbs with a two-car garage, and the hope of an ever increasing paycheck with even more leisure time. But that way of life is increasingly out of reach for many of the middle class.

Adapting

What's more, the traditional Keynesian cures of demand management and increased government spending seem inappropriate where the problems stem from inflation and insufficient supply. You have, therefore, the problem of having to adapt to a new, less energy-intensive lifestyle at

the same time as adapting government to new ways of thinking about and dealing with the economy. It's not surprising that this is quickly translated into a pervasive feeling of uncertainty.

To compound the future uncertainty, no one is really sure how to describe the present economic situation in the United States. Last month, the National Bureau of Economic Research, the final arbiter of when recessions are recognized to have begun or ended, canceled a news conference at which it had planned to discuss whether a recession had already begun. A bureau economist stated that the data are so contradictory that it's hard to say where the United States actually does stand. The major imponderables include the likelihood of oil price rises or further interruptions in supplies and the uncertain effect of the Federal Reserve Bank's renewed efforts to control expansion of the money supply. While a downturn is expected, neither its length nor severity can be safely predicted.

In this context, it is also not too surprising that one of the current themes of political discussion in the United States is that of leadership. In a recent speech in Philadelphia, presidential hopeful Sen. Ted Kennedy mentioned the word leadership 17 times. Until the political process forces the candidates to state more clearly what they think should be done, something American politicians are loathe to spell out in any great detail, this leadership theme may well predominate. There is a general feeling among the voting populace, and it certainly hasn't escaped notice, that decisive government action, however appropriate, is psychologically important to keep the nation from divisive turmoil.

The overall direction the next president will take on economic issues, however, will surely be influenced by a perceptible shift to the right of the political spectrum on the part of the middle class. Americans are becoming more suspicious of big government, more cynical of campaign promises, and more fiscally conservative.

There has been a very popular television character in America called Archie Bunker. The creators of the show, a situation comedy that often uses current political or social controversies as its subject, are clearly identified with the intellectual left in American ideology. Their idea, borrowed in part from the English, was to create a very conservative character who would be exposed as an anti-intellectual, insensitive bigot. They now admit surprise that many of the viewers actually identify with the character they made the subject of ridicule, and the producers are somewhat chagrined to think that Archie Bunker struck such a responsive chord.

Cost-Conscious Atmosphere

Traditional conservative values seem to be enjoying somewhat of a renaissance. Jimmy Carter was the least liberal of the Democratic candidates in 1976, and many attribute his success at that time to his anti-big-government posture. Increased defense spending, long criticized by liberal candidates, is now a virtual certainty. Deregulation of the transportation industries has attracted politicians of all stripes, including Kennedy who has spearheaded the congressional movement. Environmental concerns and other traditional liberal causes are also being re-examined in a more cost-conscious regulatory atmosphere.

And perhaps the most significant movement toward fiscal conservatism is the tax revolt that first attracted national stature with the passage in California of Proposition 13, a property tax limitation initiative. It has now spread through other states and is difficult to ignore at the federal level.

But a true scaling down of the federal government, a dismantling of "The Great Society" that Lyndon Johnson advocated in the 1960s, that is a change of such magnitude that it cannot happen overnight without great turmoil. Once a government spending program has been established it develops its own constituency and lobbyists, and it is difficult to displace. Its advocates are

real and vocal, while opposition may be almost non-existent, except for a general dismay at the overall level of government spending.

Tax Revolt Example

The property tax revolt in California is instructive. Even though there was a large surplus of tax revenues, the selected state officials were unable to agree on any plan for reducing taxes. Proposals for specific reductions for specific groups of taxpayers made the debates hopelessly complex. And the temptation to hand out the surplus in new projects, presumably in exchange for the good will and votes of the electorate, proved almost irresistible. That is why a group of conservative taxpayers banded together and drafted what became Proposition 13.

California has an initiative process whereby voters can put a referendum on the ballot in spite of the ordinary legislative process. It takes a grassroots, signature-gathering campaign and a lot of door-to-door volunteer effort. Even though the popular support was overwhelming, elected officials, municipal employees and government in general were all bitterly opposed to the proposal. They saw such a popular movement as quite threatening and promised utter chaos if it should succeed.

Even though Proposition 13 did succeed, chaos did not ensue. In fact, California still has surplus revenues. But the federal government is not so easily restricted. First, there is no national referendum process. Americans will have to depend upon the representative legislative process to deal with such issues. This automatically shifts the debate back into an arena where special interest groups are more effective than general sentiments.

Second, the belief is yet widely held, although it is coming under increasingly well-focused and persuasive intellectual attack, that, at least at the national level, strong government intervention in and management of the economy is necessary in an uncertain world economy. The extreme reluctance to let market forces allocate energy re-

sources, preferring rather an incredibly inefficient federal energy bureaucracy, is a clear case in point.

GNP Comparisons

The extent of government involvement is demonstrated by a comparison with other economies. As a percentage of GNP, real U.S. government expenditures are more than twice as high as Japan's. To finance the burgeoning bureaucracy, an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development study indicates that in 1976 the U.S. taxed capital gains and assets at a rate eight times higher than Sweden, and approximately four times higher than Germany and Japan.

But there remains a sense of class consciousness and mistrust of wealth in America that has resulted in one of the most steeply progressive tax systems in the world. The resulting low levels of savings and investment contribute to a chronic lag in real productivity gains. Even the brightest spot in America's business picture, agriculture, suffers. The latest economic review of the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank warns that although labor productivity on farms continues to grow at a rate in excess of 6 percent a year, in contrast to the output per man-hour in the U.S. non-farm economy which has actually been shrinking for several years, nevertheless the picture is not so rosy. Labor is now a far less significant factor in American agriculture. (Total labor on farms declined from 24.7 billion hours in 1918 to only 4.7 billion hours in 1977). When all factors of production are included in the calculation (land, machinery and chemicals) productivity has been growing at only 1 percent to 1.5 percent annually for the past five years.

Lower Standard of Living

The inevitable result of lower productivity gains and higher prices for energy is a lowering in the U.S. standard of living. Because everyone can see this handwriting on the wall, if they really have the courage to look, you have a very unsettling choice: make fundamental changes in the incentive structures of America's economy, seemingly un-

acceptable in today's political climate, or try to postpone that day of reckoning for as long as possible while forcing Americans to reduce consumption of foreign oil through mandatory controls on the economy.

The prospect of either an upheaval in the social order or else a scaling down of everyone's expectations adds a measure of instability to the United States until it chooses which course to follow. It is

not at all clear that the latter course will be followed, although that is what the conventional wisdom would suggest. But such a course cuts across the grain of the conservative resurgence in American politics. Whether the new movement is strong enough to attract a national majority is what the next year will tell. Economic uncertainty has, in effect, bred the political uncertainty.

You haven't asked me to predict what will happen as we enter the next decade, or whether we will repeat some earlier mistakes along the way. I might add that import restrictions and other barriers to international trade in a misguided attempt to protect American industry always surface in political debates when times are tough. Farmers are quite vocal in their insistence on such protection. But by

explaining what issues are the current topics of debate, and pointing out that America is at a crossroad, I hope to have underscored the importance of the 1980 political campaigns. The 1980 elections should be viewed as a watershed for American political ideology. At such an important time, something less is called for.

PUBLISHING AND EDITORIAL SYNCHRONIZING EFFORTS

Over the past two weeks, we have had several meetings and discussions with Dr. Hoeh and Dexter Faulker regarding ongoing projects for improving the Plain Truth. Dr. Hoeh is very much involved in the planning for the coming year and with that in mind we have this week submitted the production schedule for 1980.

Preparing this schedule is quite a task because it has to be synchronized so that we can produce the five language editions (Dutch, French, German, Spanish and English) here in Pasadena at almost the same time. Each foreign language area must also be allowed enough time for translation, etc. Dr. Hoeh and Dexter Faulker are working on some great P.T. ideas for this coming year. It's exciting for us to be part of the team.

--Publishing Division

MR. ARMSTRONG'S LETTER BOUND TO SET A RECORD

One of the biggest items in the Mail Processing Center right now is Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's "semi-annual" letter which was sent to the entire mailing list.

This letter offered Mr. Armstrong's new book, TOMORROW--WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE, to all donors and PLAIN TRUTH subscribers. And, because the book had previously been offered to members and co-workers, a popular reprint article, "Bring Back The Family," was offered to these latter two groups.

Response is coming in extremely well! The letter is giving us the highest level of requests for literature from a "semi-annual" letter sent out during the last three years--and it looks like it could possibly be the highest "semi-annual" response during the decade of the 70s!

678,038 letters were sent out, and in just approximately 15 days we've received an overall response of 16%--or 106,315 letters. PLUS, in addition to letters, the donation response from donors and PT subscribers (normally low contributors) has been very good.

We'll keep you posted on the results of this letter as responses continue to come in.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

This week we are featuring comments about recent miraculous healings which have occurred in the lives of several of our members. These inspiring accounts will be especially encouraging for the brethren to hear.

--Mail Processing Center

Recent Healings

After hearing so many examples lately of healings in the Church and reading the article in the festival brochure on "By the Hand of God," our family decided to have one of our children anointed. He had been afflicted for many years with many allergies. As a family we spent a day fasting, praying and studying together, then called our minister over to anoint our son, who is eleven. His healing was instantaneous! Not only that, but his entire personality was also changed. He became a happy, contented and calm child, the complete opposite of before. I can hardly comprehend this great blessing. Why did we ever wait so long? That is a question we have asked ourselves over and over.

--The Knudsen Family (Edena, MN)

Friday, November 2, I received a call at 9 p.m. from my son's wife, telling me that my son was in the hospital in Mount Carmel, Illinois, very close to death. He had been overcome by hydrochloric acid fumes while rescuing a fellow worker from a tank truck. They were taken to the hospital in Mount Carmel, and there the doctors sent the other man on to Evansville, Indiana.

The doctors told my son's wife that if they lived four hours they would live, but they would have damage to the brain, lungs and liver.

Sandra asked me if I would call Mr. Lohr, our minister, for a cloth and prayer for Howard and ask for the people here to pray for him. I did, and God answered. At 11 p.m. the doctor told Sandra to call for us to come, that our son was dying. At 11:30 p.m. he came to and sat up in the bed and wanted to go home. He had been healed.

The hospital tested and x-rayed Saturday morning and could find no damage to the brain, liver or lungs. The man they sent to Evansville was healed also.

--Mrs. Elsie Mick (Tampa, FL)

I've been wanting to write for some time, but I am now feeling up to writing you in regard to the miraculous healing which I was so happy to receive recently.

On May 22 I was stricken with a stroke. First I lost my ability to see except for blurring vision. Next, my left leg, then left arm were practically useless. Then my speech became very difficult and unclear. Next my mouth and jaw muscular control, no control of eliminating system. Fortunately my mind seemed to stay sound.

I asked my wife to call our pastor, Mr. Bob Dick, as soon as possible. After being anointed, the feeling of anxiety left me and I felt calm

and reassured. Very soon thereafter, one by one, the problems mentioned above began to abate. I had a lot of opposition from our children and friends (who are not in the Church), but with the faith God has given me, I stood firm in the knowledge and faith that God, through our High Priest and soon-coming King and Savior, Jesus Christ, would heal me.

By mid-July I was again attending Sabbath services and, I am very happy to say, have been progressing rapidly in every area except strength; and I know God is our strength and will increase mine as I am able to handle it.

--Myron E. Shaffer (Columbus, OH)

About a month ago my 11-year-old daughter, Chandra, was very sick. She has an enlarged heart, drainage from the heart, a defective left valve and a spinal problem. The doctor said there is nothing they can do to save her. I called Pasadena for an anointed cloth. That night my daughter started to feel better, her swelling started to go down. When I took her back to the doctor he was astonished to see her in such good condition.

--Verna M. Allison (Prichard, AL)

During the Feast days I was struck down with an old leg injury which was caused by a fall from the roof of our house while painting. I was to go to the hospital and have surgery to correct a rupture in the main artery of the groin. Well, the day before I was to be operated on, I called and cancelled the surgery. At that time I didn't know why but I do now. (We were studying the Truth in the Bahamas at the time.) My leg was full of large marble-size lumps and very hot and I was running a fever. So I was anointed by Mr. Ken Brady and he gave me into God's hands and I'm completely healed.

--Jayne R. Cowart (Long Key, FL)

I want to inform you that I was healed of bursitis or a bursitis-like condition at the Norfolk Feast site on the first High Day. I had suddenly gotten the pain and swelling Wednesday (before the Feast) at Work. The pain was tolerable, and the illness wasn't communicable, so I decided to go to the Feast as planned. My shoulder hurt even without pressure on it.

On the first High Day, the anointing announcement was made and I went to that area right after services. The pain seemed to subside even while I was being anointed. Then, during the sermon in the second service, I knew I was healed. As soon as it was not disruptive to others, I moved my left arm in circles and found I could do it without pain and "kinking." Before, I couldn't even raise my left arm to face level in front of me!

--Miss Jan M. Skipper (Harrisburg, PA)