

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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JANUARY 31, 1980

ROMANS 13 AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ATTACK

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Dissidents and enemies of God's CHURCH have been saying that we disobeyed Romans 13 in appealing the government lawsuit of January 3, 1979. They say, falsely, the Church of GOD should have caved in (to use an expression used by those who brought the suit) and let the State of California take over and run, or destroy the Church of the LIVING GOD!

It's about time we UNDERSTAND God's teaching through the Apostle Paul in Romans 13.

The King James translation has: "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers" (verse 1). The Revised Standard translation has: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities." The Moffatt translation has, "Every subject (citizen) must obey the government authorities."

The meaning is clear. It is speaking of each individual person, citizen, soul, or subject of a kingdom.

The State of California lawsuit was not a criminal charge against a "soul," person, citizen or subject, or individual. It was a suit to take CONTROL and OWNERSHIP of the CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD! No criminal charge was made. No one was hauled into court to be tried whether guilty of such a charge, or innocent. It was merely a civil action with a COURT-APPOINTED RECEIVER, to take CONTROL OF, to MANAGE, HIRE AND FIRE, and OPERATE the Worldwide Church of God, and its corporate affiliates, Ambassador College and Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. Along with it, because they are officers of these corporations, were named Christ's Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, Treasurer Stanley R. Rader, and the accounting firm which was used as official accountants for the above.

Only a week ago, the Los Angeles Superior Court dismissed from the suit the accounting firm. We had, meanwhile, employed one of the largest firms of CPAs in the United States to completely review all books and accounts, and records of our accounting firm. They found everything IN ORDER. The accounting firm had been made part of the suit because IF, as newspaper headlines blared forth (but no such criminal charges were brought) Mr. Rader and I had been guilty of siphoning off millions (plural) of dollars every year, there is no way under the sun that could be done without collusion with our accounting firm. The books and records would have to have been juggled in some way to try to cover it up.

Once our firm of accountants was DISMISSED from the suit, it simply meant that the State of California could not affirm that anything was wrong in the way our accountants handled the books. If anything was wrong, then the California Attorney General should have been able to state a "cause of action" to support his allegations of wrongdoing. Since he COULD NOT, the

court dismissed the accounting firm from the case.

Although NO CRIMINAL CHARGES had been made in the suit, it was well understood that was the BASIS for the whole lawsuit.

But there never was any PROOF--for of course no such thing had ever happened! All they had was a false supposition by six disfellowshipped members seeking revenge! Even they had no evidence--it was a false trumped-up charge by false men. The reason the State came SUDDENLY on January 3rd, without even the legally required advance notice (in which THEY broke the law), was to seize our records before we could protect them! They got the records, and at the request of the Attorney General, the country's largest CPA firm went carefully over the records for WEEKS. But no such evidence was found!

The lawsuit was against the Worldwide Church of God, affiliated corporate organizations, and principal officers of the CHURCH, as chosen by Jesus Christ.

In other words, IT WAS A LAWSUIT AGAINST GOD ALMIGHTY, against the LIVING JESUS CHRIST, AND AGAINST HIS CHOSEN APOSTLE, AND GOD'S CHURCH--which BELONGS TO THE LIVING GOD.

When the Philistines came against Israel, with the giant Goliath, young David said, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the LIVING GOD?" The attack was not against David, nor even Israel, but against the LIVING GOD!

According to the dissenters, David and all Israel should have "caved in." For it was a GOVERNMENT (the Philistines) who came against God's CHURCH of the Old Testament, and it's a GOVERNMENT of men that has now come against the CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD!

The State is not attacking a MAN. They have made no criminal charges. We are not being tried on a criminal charge. The ONLY evidence there possibly could be has proved the allegations of six former, bitter, and expelled members were FALSE! The State should now GIVE UP--but, being politicians, and seeking only SELF gain politically, they won't until a higher court dismisses the case. I petition daily to the highest Court of Heaven to intervene and cause dismissal, and in God's due time HE WILL!

When the giant Goliath came against God's Church of the Old Testament, the giant was huge, with all kinds of armor and weapons. He looked on David as small, and he underestimated David and his God. So the State of California is HUGE--largest in the Union--and it regarded GOD'S Church as small and weak, and one that would "cave in." But God gave David power to conquer the giant, and He will give us power to win this suit!

Now back to Romans 13. In chapter 12, Paul was talking about the individual Christian's duty. In 12:1, Paul beseeches the Christians at Rome to each present his body a living sacrifice to Christ. In the spring of 1927 I literally gave my personal SELF over to Christ who had bought and paid for me with His life's blood. Have YOU? In verse 3, Paul says to "every man that is among you," (speaking to individuals) "not to think of himself more highly than he ought." He continues speaking to the individual Christian. Then, continuing in chapter 13, he speaks of each individual being subject to the higher powers.

If the government sets a speed limit of 55 m.p.h., I as an individual do not exceed it. As an individual, I am subject to GOVERNMENT, and no government has EVER had occasion to find me guilty of not obeying its laws.

But this lawsuit was an action to TAKE OVER--to OPERATE--to OWN--and therefore to have right to SELL CHURCH PROPERTY--to FIRE GOD'S APOSTLE AND TREASURER--WHICH THE RECEIVER DID THE VERY FIRST DAY! JESUS CHRIST chose and appointed me, and I, His Apostle, appointed Mr. Rader. WHAT RIGHT HAD THE WORLDLY POLITICAL STATE TO COUNTERMAND CHRIST'S CHOICE?

Further, the suit was UNCONSTITUTIONAL. I had broken no law! The Church had broken no law. Jesus Christ, the HEAD of the Church had broken no California law!

Now notice what a "scholarly" commentary says in expounding Romans 13.

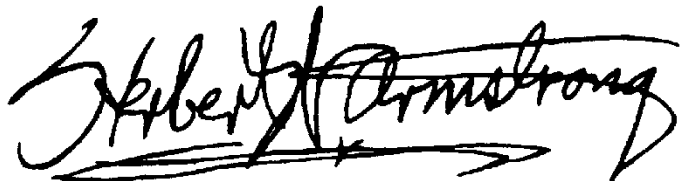
Speaking of government rulers: "If he rule according to the Constitution, nothing can justify (the individual) rebelling against his authority. ...When the ruler acts thus (contrary to law or the Constitution) he dissolves the compact between him and his people; his authority is no longer binding, but illegal; and it is illegal because he is acting contrary to the laws of the Constitution, according to which, on being raised to the supreme power, he promised to govern. This conduct justifies opposition to his government"--and the Commentary means in GOD'S sight! (Adam Clarke's Commentary.)

I know that in such cases GOD DOES GUIDE HIS CHOSEN APOSTLE, and He has guided me in emergencies. It is by ACTS OF GOD that His Church has been able to keep operating AS USUAL. When the temporary Receiver (now dismissed) fired me, I was not in California. I continued to RUN THE WORK from Tucson. The Receiver tried for a short time to run the Work, but he was UNABLE! Immediately I had money sent in MY care which was deposited in a corporate account here in Tucson. He had no control over GOD'S tithes. We funneled funds into Pasadena just in time to pay God's Church bills and the Receiver was unable to lay his hands on the money--which was his goal.

WE did not give up and quit--HE did!

We now have the Receiver off our backs, no longer filling my office and Mr. Rader's with his cigarette smoke. We have won a victory in having the accounting firm removed from the suit. We are operating as usual. Income is INCREASING--did all year--still is! The Church is being set back on God's track! We are closer together, and closer to GOD than ever before!

Though God is teaching us patience and FAITH, He nevertheless is BLESSING US, keeping His Work going--AND GROWING!



MR. RADER REPORTS FROM NEW YORK CITY

During my recent visit to England, I was invited by Frank Brown to speak to a combined London area Church service. The Church was very delighted to hear that Mr. Armstrong would more than likely be visiting England shortly before his scheduled trip to the Middle East in March. It has been some time since he has been able to speak to the English brethren, but they are solidly behind him.

While there I took the opportunity to meet with the English ministry at two separate luncheons that I was able to arrange for at the Dorchester Hotel. On one of the occasions it was possible for us to share with them the recent documentary on the Church/State confrontation, as a copy had just arrived that day from Pasadena. Everyone was extremely impressed by the documentary and said that as soon as film prints are available for the various Churches, it will make it possible for the English brethren to feel even closer to the brethren here in the United States.

The English Work, as Mr. Armstrong stated last week in his comments in the Co-worker letter, is really booming. Church attendance, baptisms, and Church income are up. The whole English ministry is doing a tremendous job!

Mr. Brown told me that a new press will be installed, hopefully sometime before the end of 1980. It will permit the Ambassador Press to not only continue to handle the printing of the Plain Truth and other publications for the International Work, but will enable them to continue to produce additional benefits for the Work by way of the very high-class printing contracts that have come to the Press over a period of time. Overtures have been received from such institutions as Reader's Digest, Newsweek, and others to print their magazines.

Upon my return to the United States, I was invited by the New York Church brethren to speak at a combined service there. There were some 800 people in attendance, and more would have been present if they could have found a larger hall with such short notice. The Church there, as everywhere, was extremely enthusiastic. It was truly inspiring for me to spend the Sabbath with them and their Pastor, Mr. Frank McCrady. I was able to also share a luncheon with some 14 ministers and their wives at the Regency Hotel, just prior to speaking in the afternoon services.

I am presently proceeding on schedule and hopeful that it will be possible to arrange a high level protocol trip for Mr. Armstrong and his party in Moscow. As previously reported, we were hoping that such a visit would be possible before the scheduled 1980 Olympics. However, it is problematical at this time whether it will be possible for us to make the arrangements previously contemplated, in light of the present international crisis brought about by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the definite end of detente. However, until the door has been temporarily slammed in our face, I am continuing on the assumption that the door is still at least slightly open.

While in the New York area I will be giving time to Quest/80, a matter which I have not been able to attend to for almost a year. I will also be meeting with representatives of the various religious groups that have been giving us financial, moral, and legal support in our battle against the State of California. As you may have noticed, we have not had the support

of any of the Jewish congregations in the United States--reformed, conservative or orthodox--but while in New York this week, I shall make overtures to the counsel at the Jewish synagogues, and hopefully they will be aboard before too long.

I am also continuing to pursue our efforts of almost 13 months duration to bring the United States Department of Justice into the legal picture. As you know, the United States Department of Justice is supposed to be the watchdog over the civil rights of all groups. We have been urging directly and through counsel for more than a year, that the Department of Justice climb aboard and investigate the misconduct of the California Attorney General's office and the California Judiciary. Tomorrow there will be a private screening of our documentary for the Department of Justice officials.

Elsewhere in this Pastor General's Report and in last week's report, you learned that the State of California's action or complaint against the accounting firm, Rader, Cornwall, Kessler & Palazzo has been "dismissed with prejudice" [meaning the Attorney General can't file the same case again]. I am certain that Mr. Kessler's explanation is very informative. It is particularly gratifying to Mr. Armstrong and me to see that the State has lost the first battle to be lost by either party in a conclusive or final manner. All other matters are either pending or have been simply procedural controversies.

Regarding the dismissal of the accounting firm, the State was unable to lodge a complaint that would satisfy even the Los Angeles Superior Court, and yet we as an institution and some of the officers are accused of fiscal or financial fraud. In this day and age, it should be obvious to all reasonably informed people that you cannot commit an act of fiscal or financial fraud without the active participation of the accountants, or in the absence of their gross, if not criminal, negligence. It is very gratifying, as I said earlier, to see the work of Rader, Cornwall, Kessler & Palazzo vindicated in this way and, of course, by inference it should be apparent to all that Mr. Armstrong and others, including myself, have been totally innocent of any of the wild allegations that have been leveled by the State of California since January 1979.

--Stanley R. Rader

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Registration for the Draft

As many of you are probably aware, President Carter in his state of the union message called for the registration of men between the ages of 18 and 26 for the draft. We do not as yet know exactly what procedures will be instituted. However, it appears that the President could call for registration as early as the first part of February, although that may be delayed to allow Congress to amend portions of the law.

It is recommended that the ministry preach some sermons regarding the Biblical teachings on the subject of participating in war and service in the Armed Forces. Members who are of draft age or who have draft-age children should be advised that written information regarding the doctrinal

teachings of the Church on this subject and the legal procedures for expressing one's religious convictions in this regard are available. Such interested persons need only write to Special Services, Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, CA 91123.

Comments From Pastor's Reports

Many very encouraging comments are being received from the Pastors each month which we'd like to share with everyone. By printing several of these each issue, as space provides, we hope to eventually include every Pastor and Church area. We can all really be inspired by reading the uplifting and positive comments that our fellowlaborers in Christ are making! Here are a number for this month:

Bernie Schnippert, Las Vegas, NV: "Attendance is increasing, Church is warming up and becoming more cohesive."

Noel Hornor, Modesto, CA: "Church was enthused about success of HWA's China trip."

Bill Bradford, Shreveport, LA: "Things continue to go very well in Shreveport, morale and enthusiasm very high."

Les McColm, Santa Barbara, CA: "The stability and loyalty of the brethren in this area is excellent. Since the chaff has been sifted out everyone is more at ease and back to their normal, relaxed, friendly atmosphere."

Dan Creed, Minot, ND: "Our PT newsstands are doing well in the area and we hope to increase them."

Dan Creed, Bismarck, ND: "It seems more and more brethren are watching world events closer than ever. There is a great interest with the Russian situation now with respect to Mr. Armstrong's upcoming visit there this summer. There seems to be no doubt among the brethren that the end of this age and this Work is near."

Don Hooser, North Platte, NB: "We in these two church areas are very pleased and thankful about the success of Mr. Armstrong's trip to China, and the mushrooming increase in doors being opened to so many countries!"

Don Ward, Big Sandy, TX: "We have had five baptisms since the Feast and there are that many more counseling for baptism at present."

Allan Barr, Chicago Southside: "Six people were baptized this month."

Bill Jahns, Eau Claire, WI: "Things are going fine in the Eau Claire area. The brethren are loyal and enthusiastic."

Bill Quillen, Missoula, MT: "Always a good reaction to the tapes from Mr. Armstrong. His voice is clear and powerful." Also, "members seem to be working in spite of the recession."

Lynn Torrance, Ass't Pastor, Texarkana: "Church seems to be quiet, loyal. Members are showing an increased interest in prophecy. Members like to hear from Pastor General's Report the plans for the future. They deeply desire to know what is being planned. The trip to China certainly fascinated the church members."

Steve Martin, San Francisco: "Attitudes of congregation exemplary. They really are concerned about world situation and the Work of God. Progress is obvious!"

Bruce Gore, Kansas City South: "The Church is stable, attendance is increasing. The people were enthusiastically behind Mr. Armstrong's China trip. The world scene is causing people to wake up more, too."

Briscoe Ellett, Alexandria, LA: "The brethren are encouraged by the obvious growth in the Work as I have been reading the news to them. Mr. Waterhouse's Bible study was a tremendous lift to everyone. It was great to have him come through. Many new people are starting to just 'show up' at Church. I don't know where they are all coming from. God does seem to be drawing people. The spirit is high."

Briscoe Ellett, Monroe, LA: "Many people are becoming stirred up to act on God's way of life. We had here in Monroe 12 new people baptized within the last two months. The spirits remain high, especially after Mr. Waterhouse's visit. It is such a joy to have him here. I am only sorry it's so infrequent."

J. Richard Parker, Albany-Salem, OR: "The Church in both Albany and Salem seems very loyal to God and His Church."

Robert Cloninger, Reseda, CA: "The tapes from China were a terrific inspiration!"

Kelly Barfield, Liberal, KS: "Everyone in Liberal excited about Bible lectures being held throughout area. Scott City area excited about new Church."

William Swanson, Salt Lake City: "Many people beginning to come out of the 'woodwork'--Church attendance is up."

Bill Gordon, Duluth, MN: "I want to thank Mr. H.W.A. for tapes and the new doctrine on min. sab. The congregation truly appreciates the tapes. Keep them coming, we need the contact and encouragement."

Carn Catherwood, Glendora, CA: "The growth phenomenon is still moving along--it is amazing to see the number of people who are turning up at services. The Church still is moving along well, though there has been a great deal of sickness. There have also been several outstanding healings in the last few weeks."

Bill Bradford, Shreveport, LA: "People's questions and thinking are much more on prophecy and they are excited about the future. This is not only because of recent Middle East events, but the comments by Mr. Armstrong are giving a great deal of confidence in prophetic understanding rather than speculation."

Update From Australia

Mail for December smashed all records! More mail was processed than in any previous month in the history of the Work in Australia. 23,788 letters were received--almost 10% higher than the previous record.

An important factor contributing to the high mail count was the number of responses coming in from Plain Truth readers requesting Mr. Armstrong's book, TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. So far over 8500 requests have been received.

Income for December was up 20.5%. Our sincere gratitude must go once again to our loyal members and co-workers for their continual financial support--support which they have faithfully given to God's Work throughout the whole of 1979.

Plans For Future Growth: Throughout 1980 it is planned to distribute one and a half million householder cards throughout Australia. In the main this will be accomplished through the voluntary workforce of the Australian membership.

In addition to the householder card distribution, one half million four-color insert sheets offering a free subscription to the Plain Truth magazine will be inserted in specially selected newspapers. The insert sheet is attractively designed and is captioned, "Most People Are Skeptical About 'Free Offers.' Our 6 Million Readers Were, Too."

It is anticipated that the householder cards, the newspaper insert sheets, along with a regular renewal program, will bring our Plain Truth mailing list to around 120,000 interested subscribers by the end of 1980.

Church growth for Australia in 1979 was very encouraging. Church attendance increased by almost exactly 10%--from approximately 4500 to over 4950. Baptisms as reported on the computer report of December 6 showed 238, which should put the total well over 250 by the end of December. This would be the highest number of baptisms in any one year since 1970, and less than 100 under the record set in 1969.

The Australian branch of God's Work is looking forward to another good year of growth in 1980. Many campaigns, Bible lectures, special Bible studies, and special church services are being planned for all church areas. With a mailing list that more than doubled in 1979, it should be another exciting year of growth for this part of God's Worldwide Work.

New Zealand/South Pacific News

1979 began with the biggest January income figure ever. Christ had moved members to dramatically respond in loyal support of God's Work and Mr. Armstrong's leadership as news came through about the receivership crisis at Pasadena.

As the year moved on, month after month brought income increases topping the 30% mark, and church services and Bible studies throughout the nation reported all-time record attendances. In March both mail and income shattered all previous records, achieving the highest monthly totals ever.

Early that month the office launched a brand new style of promotion--a series of 288 sixty-second spot ads on one of New Zealand's top-rated radio stations. Simultaneously, advertisements were placed in the national press and members helped by dropping a householder card offering "The Dilemma of Drugs" and The Plain Truth into letterboxes throughout the country. These cards were delivered in three stages--in March, May and

July--and responses poured in for months afterwards. By July the New Zealand office had already received more mail than during the whole of 1978. Through the loyal support, prayers and efforts of the members, Christ had doubled The Plain Truth mailing list in just three months!:

In September the number of responses from the householder cards topped the 30,000 mark--representing 30,000 brand new Plain Truth subscribers! A month-long advertising campaign was also carried out in Fiji's two leading newspapers, aiming to double the mailing list there too. By November almost 4,000 responses had reached the office, and the mailing list in Fiji had more than doubled--Christ had trebled it!

The year finished as dramatically as it had started. December's income totalled 46.5% more than the same month the previous year and was the highest income in the history of the Work in New Zealand! That meant an overall income increase of an excellent 28.3% for the year as a whole. Over 65,000 pieces of mail had been received, an increase of 74.4% on 1978's figure. Church attendance was running about 50% higher than the previous year, with seven new churches having been added during 1979. The Plain Truth mailing list in December was 115% higher than December 1978, and during the year the size of the magazine had also been increased from 32 to 48 pages. Truly, Christ is blessing His Work in New Zealand and the South Pacific in a remarkable and encouraging manner.

News From France

On January 19, the Church of Paris will be holding its services in its new location. Forty members happily lent a helping hand on January 1 to prepare and set the new location in order for their grand opening. The enthusiasm, the fellowship and the zeal the brethren are showing express the unity that now exists in the French-speaking churches.

In France, the total income for the year was 5.1% higher than in 1978. For the months of November and December alone, the increases were 22% and 25% respectively.

People are beginning to respond to coupons and ads we have been sending out. So far as least 296 people have responded and asked for La Pure Verite.

Mr. Apartian plans to visit the French churches in Europe from March 5 to April 8. At the beginning of his trip, he and Mr. Andrist will appear on the television show "L'Antenne est a vous," to speak about the Church. This program will enable us to preach the gospel to the Swiss people!

News From Cameroon

Since arriving in Cameroon, Mr. Raymond Clore (our local elder there) has had at least one note of encouragement. On December 15, he performed his first baptism. Remember the Church in Cameroon is still encountering difficulties with the government in registering the Church so that regular meetings can be conducted. Until that time the Church cannot conduct services in the Cameroon. Your prayers are requested so that this situation may soon be rectified.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

Notice

If you or any members have questions regarding Mary Stewart, a disfellowshipped member, please contact Roy Demarest at (301) 876-7060.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAJOR PLAIN TRUTH PROMOTION BEGINS

On February 3rd we will begin a major Plain Truth promotion in Chicago, Detroit and Washington, D.C. using the four-color brochure we successfully tested last July in San Diego and Sacramento. This is the same type of advertising currently being used in Canada which Mr. Armstrong mentioned in his latest co-worker letter.

We will be inserting the brochures in the Chicago Tribune, the Detroit News and the Washington Post. These prestigious newspapers have a combined circulation of nearly three million. Also, the brochure has been accepted for insertion in other major U.S. newspapers which have a combined circulation of over twenty million. Hopefully, as funds are freed up for Plain Truth promotion, we will be able to take greater advantage of this method of advertising.

--Publishing Services

SPECIAL LITERATURE OFFER BRINGS SUPERB RESPONSE!

During December, Subscriber Development made a special mailing to 38,000 subscribers who had requested literature four or more times in 1979. The purpose behind this mailing was to offer timely information to a "select group" who had shown good interest in our literature. The emphasis was on working with quality readers to see what kind of response we could generate.

In just 21 days the response has been outstanding--over 31%! We anticipate that the response could climb to 40%-50%. (An average response to a literature offer is 5%-10%).

The main material offered to this group was the article reprint series entitled THE GREAT LESSONS OF MONEY MANAGEMENT. It is made up of the following four separate articles:

"Strategies for Coping With Inflation"

"Your Best Investment"

"The Tithing Principle"

"Tithing and the Ten Commandments"

The cover letter offering this literature utilized a very personable approach which, we believe, also helped increase the response. And, it

gave the reader a sense of being "special" to us as, of course, they are since God is leading them into His Truth. Following is a paragraph from the cover letter:

Because of your special interest we're making this offer to you first! A new 16-page "article reprint series" entitled, THE GREAT LESSONS OF MONEY MANAGEMENT, has just come off the presses and we are offering it to you before it is advertised elsewhere.

We plan to use such "selected mailings" more in the future to work with the mailing list in a very personalized manner, and perhaps help additional people grow spiritually in the knowledge of God's Law and Way of life.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's comments include letters about Mr. Armstrong's Bible study on Romans, the Building Fund and tithing.

Tapes of Mr. Armstrong's Bible study on Romans were recently played in all local churches. Comments were very positive with some members encouraging him to paraphrase Romans in his own easily understood style.

Mr. Armstrong mentioned in the December 18, 1979 co-worker letter that reserves for the Building Fund were low. Because the fund had not been recently mentioned, older church members did not know the fund's status. And new church members were unaware that a Building Fund even existed.

Also, we have included several letters on tithing from members that show how they've been blessed.

--Mail Processing Center

Enthusiastic Response to Bible Study

"After hearing the tape of the Bible study on the book of Romans, I went home and tried to study the book. This helped me to decide to write and encourage you to actually rewrite the book in words easier to be understood, because it is true that the apostle Paul wrote in a manner that is not immediately grasped by all without guidance.

"I hope you will do this for all of us. I know there are plenty of things in the book of Romans that we desperately need to understand."

--Jo Ellen Porter (Bellaire, TX)

"Keep those Bible study tapes coming--we love them--spiritual food we need desperately!"

--Mrs. James Dugic (Warren, OH)

"During Sabbath service yesterday, we were privileged to hear a tape of your Bible study. I and others who I talked to agreed that it was a most profitable service. It's especially good for new members. I would like to hear a tape of your Bible study once a month and pray that you will keep up the good work."

--Roger Van Dyke (Midland Park, NJ)

"Last Sabbath I was again fortunate to be where I could hear your tape on the book of Romans. The brethren all talked after the services that it would be wonderful if you could find the energy and time to write it in your own words. However, since I heard the tape and have read the verses of Romans, I do understand them much more and want to thank you again and again for it."

--Mrs. Carol Ellsworth (Wolcottville, IN)

"The Bible study on Romans was gripping. Please do it again."

--Grady F. Hartin (Raeford, NC)

"It is with pleasure I am studying the 'sermon study' of Romans that we listened to on tape last Sabbath. Your idea of the possibility of writing a book or an article on Paul's epistle to the Romans sounds worthwhile. I think it would be wonderful, because you explain everything so thoroughly."

--Mrs. E. D. Crumb (Lakeland, FL)

Comments About Building Fund

"I had heard of the Building Fund but had forgotten it. Thank you for the reminder. When I send my January tithe I'll send what I can for this fund."

--Victoria McBride (Gilmer, TX)

"We received your letter telling about the Building Fund. We were sure glad you wrote about the fund because we are new members and didn't know about it."

--Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Fry (Clarksville, AR)

"Mr. Armstrong, in your last letter you mentioned that the Building Fund had not been kept up. As for our part, and maybe others have done the same, we quit 'earmarking' any of the money when we started sending it to Tucson. But we continued to send the amount we had pledged."

--Carlos S. Lopez (Houston, TX)

"I was a little mixed up about the Building Fund before but now I know how important the fund is, so I am starting now to send it in, too."

--Clydia Hager (Madera, CA)

"I'm so glad you let us know that we can still send money for the Building Fund. I'm sure we all thought it was all paid for."

--Mrs. Helen Goble (Fort Morgan, CO)

Tithepayers Express Blessings

"My husband and I have been members now for almost 18 years. Had always been faithful in sending in our tithes up to a number of years ago. We got ourselves in a tight financial mess and I began slacking off sending in the tithes."

"I began to feel very cheap, couldn't pray, couldn't sing hymns at services without crying. Well, I confessed all this to my husband--got it all out in the open and above all went to God--got it all cleaned up and am back on the [right] road again."

--Mrs. E. R. (Member)

"I noticed right after I sent the first payment in tithes in August of 1979 that my business seemed to have a steady climb. Even with gasoline allocations in the summer which is still going on, of course, God has not let me down."

--Mr. John Webber (Cleveland, OH)

"We are supporting you wholeheartedly in our prayers as well as tithes and offerings. There is just no way that I can outgive God. Since the first of this year, my weekly gross pay has increased by 33%."

--William Orn, Jr. (St. Paul, MN)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

HAS STRAUSS FOUND HIS ISSUE?: In the last issue of the Pastor General's Report we summarized the fact that Franz Josef Strauss has not yet developed a suitable gameplan to challenge incumbent West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He was in need of an issue to come down hard on the opposite side of Mr. Schmidt. Perhaps he has now found one: The current Bonn government's reaction to the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan--and its apparent desire to continue detente at all costs, Soviet expansionism or not.

The Bundestag (parliamentary lower house) debated the issue at length. In the debate and in statements on other occasions, Herr Schmidt has counseled against an overreaction to the Afghanistan crisis. He, and of course most Germans, don't want a return to the Cold War era in Europe itself. It would most certainly affect the relations between West Germany and communist East Germany. During the development of Germany's own version of detente, called ostpolitik, a sizeable opening of the door to GDR has been made in both trade and interpersonal relations (visits to families behind the Iron Curtain, etc.)

Ostpolitik has largely been a creation of the Social Democrats, headed by party chairman Willy Brandt. SPD officials feel they have much at stake to see that it doesn't falter. In the Bundestag, Schmidt said that "we will not permit what we have achieved in ten years of defense and detente policy to be disparaged or torn down." He argued that the dialogue between East and West must continue, all the more so in this time of crisis.

Challenger Strauss has taken the other approach, basically this: "Detente yes, but detente has its limits. And let's not be fooled by the Russian view of detente." The Berlin TAGESSPIEGEL praised Strauss's role in the debate by saying: "Strauss spoke in the debate as a man with a sense of proportion. He did not in the least demand that the government change its course. Fundamentally, he simply blamed the government for having nourished illusions about the international behavior of the Soviet Union."

Some SPD officials could be rightly accused of living on illusions. Significantly, a senior SPD official said only last summer that the Soviet arms buildup in Europe was defensive in character.

Thus Herr Strauss has been given some ammunition to make an issue out of Ostpolitik. It may prove to be his opening wedge in the campaign. Reports the British newsweekly Economist: "Mr. Strauss has been more subtle than to demand that the principle of detente--if an agreed principle ever existed--should be dropped. His cry has been for the abandonment of what he sees as the government's appeasement policy towards the Soviet Union. In his view the government has pursued an Ostpolitik which, step by disastrous step, 'has fulfilled all Moscow's wishes'. That policy, he reckons, encouraged Soviet expansion in the Middle East and Africa. In his view, it now has to be made clear to the Russians that they have reached the same point as Hitler when he marched into Prague in 1939.

"The government's detente policy, says Mr. Strauss, was shortsighted, looking no farther than West Germany's eastern border. It failed to recognise that the west's lifelines were threatened, and to some extent already cut short, by the Soviet Union's global, long-term offensive strategy."

Strauss, the Economist notes, is thinking about how to counter the long range Soviet threat. "So Mr. Strauss is strongly supporting senior colleagues in the Christian Democratic Union and his own Bavarian Christian Socialist Union who would like NATO to extend its defence commitment beyond the borders of the North Atlantic pact. They want a NATO presence in the Gulf, and are talking vaguely about the need for the alliance to counter Soviet influence in southern Africa.

"Yet none of them has suggested a specifically West German presence in these areas. Indeed, Mr. Strauss bitterly acknowledges that many people would be furious if a few West German police volunteers were to be sent to Africa--even though many of the same people seem to tolerate an East German 'Africa corps.' But he has hinted that West Germany could increase the size of its forces at home if other countries were to send units to man a new NATO frontier.

"From Mr. Strauss's point of view, events could not have been better timed for the election in October. In the crudest party political terms the campaign will be presented as a battle between appeasers and cold-warriors."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau