

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Counseling Members About Planned Moves

A little over a year ago we included an article in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT about counseling members who are planning to move. The current recession with accompanying high unemployment has created an even greater problem with regard to moving. Therefore, we felt it would be timely to restate and expand on the instructions given earlier.

Since some members make unwise decisions in moving from one area to another, causing both themselves and the Church considerable difficulty and financial burden, we need to review some of the major mistakes these members make so you will know how to better counsel them.

Hopefully, any member who is contemplating a major move will counsel with his pastor. While we can't demand that a member consult his pastor, if you hear of a member who is planning a major move, it would be helpful to tactfully inquire of his plans. This is especially true if the individual is a little short on both financial resources and sound judgment. Unfortunately, this type of person causes most of the problems and is usually the one who does not seek advice.

From extensive personal experience most ministers know a move can be very expensive, time-consuming and difficult. This is true even when one has a guaranteed job in the new area and his employer is paying most of the moving expenses. When individuals move without having carefully weighed the factors involved, without a job lined up in the new area or with only a tenuous prospect for a job, and without the proper financial resources, they are not only acting irresponsibly but are also courting a severe trial or aggravation of an already difficult situation.

Ministers have written and phoned in asking for advice when members have ended up on their doorsteps disillusioned, disheartened and expecting the Church to bail them out and make everything right. Even in this type of circumstance we should be willing to extend assistance if the individual is in a right attitude, willing to recognize his mistakes and willing to do his part in getting his life back on an even keel. (Always be sure to contact an individual's former pastor before giving a large sum of money. The former pastor's background information about the person can also help in future counseling.)

The following are some of the factors that should be carefully considered in evaluating the reasonableness and feasibility of moving:

1. Why is the individual moving? Will the move improve his situation? Is the individual trying to get away from problems he has created rather than dealing with them constructively?

2. Does the individual have a job lined up in the new area? If presently unemployed, has he realistically considered the job market in the new area?
3. Has the individual fully considered family and social factors? Experience has shown that many individuals who move to unfamiliar areas far away from relatives and friends end up returning to their former areas.
4. Does the individual have the financial resources to make the move? Is the individual counting on financial help from the Church when he gets where he is going? If so, is this a proper expectation? Cost factors such as transportation of family and household goods, temporary living expenses while finding a place to live until the first paycheck, first and last month's rent and deposits for housing and utilities, the cost of living in the new area, etc. should be considered.

If an individual is moving, the new pastor should be notified. This is especially important if the individual may need help with temporary housing, etc. which is much easier to provide when sufficient advance notice is given. Also, the former pastor should relate to the new pastor any information that would help him in dealing with the new individual.

The final decision about whether to move or not rests with the individual, of course, but the ministry needs to provide wise counsel so as to spare members and the Church from unnecessary problems.

In the last year a situation occurred in the U.S. that clearly illustrates the factors mentioned above. The situation involved a member with a large family. The husband was having trouble finding regular work. The local economy was slow and the prospects for improvement in his employment status seemed poor. He owned a house but, due to his employment difficulties, had gotten behind on his mortgage payments, utilities and property taxes.

A relative several thousand miles away in California told him that work was available in his area. The individual involved, viewing this almost as a promise of employment, decided to move to Southern California. He didn't discuss this with his local pastor but only told him he was moving. The pastor's advice to weigh the advantages and disadvantages was basically ignored.

Once in California two problems hit this family. First, they had expected to be immediately eligible for welfare assistance, but they were turned down because they owned their house in their former area. (They had simply abandoned the property.)

Second, he couldn't easily obtain a job in California because he had no particular job skills. He tried to run his own business but found he couldn't compete in the manual labor market because of the large number of workers willing to work for less.

After welfare turned them down, the family grew desperate and came to the Church for assistance. But instead of telling their story straight, they told their pastor in California that they lost their house in their former

area, when in actual fact they had simply left it. At considerable expense the Church helped them get into an apartment and assisted them with food expenses. After a few months, it was apparent to all that they were in a worse situation in California than they had been back in their former area. The cost of living, especially housing, was far higher in California, the job market for his skills wasn't any better and they had left a familiar area where they had contacts.

Not willing to leave them in their plight, the Church helped them move back. They had sold furniture to pay their way out to California, but by the time they left to go back home they had nothing. Back in their former area they were faced with the unpaid bills that had been left behind. The Church helped them with these as well.

During the time they were gone their house was left vacant. The roof leaked during this period causing extensive damage to the ceiling and floor in one section of the house. The Church gave them additional help to make the house habitable.

As you might guess, the total cost to the Church ran into several thousand dollars--many times what it would have cost to have helped this family if they had just remained in their original place.

Some of the key factors contributing to the problems this family faced were 1) the man didn't have good job skills or experience, 2) both the husband and wife had unrealistic expectations about conditions in California, 3) they were trying to escape their problems rather than face them, 4) they had not seriously sought wise counsel, and 5) they had not been completely honest with the ministry.

We have included this illustration for its educational value. Please do not read this to your congregation since we do not want to cause further embarrassment to the family involved. However, it could be of value to include some of these principles in a sermon on using wisdom and receiving wise counsel.

International News

Report From Southern Africa In the following report from our Johannesburg office, Regional Director Dr. Roy McCarthy summarizes an exciting year just past.

Projections for 1983 take up much of our time, but it is good to look back at 1982 to see what progress there was in God's Work in Southern Africa.

With the doors of television and radio still closed, we depended solely upon The PLAIN TRUTH magazine to reach the people in this region. Presently our subscribers total 102,000, with an additional 41,000 magazines being distributed via newsstands. Our subscriptions have in the main come from advertisements in national magazines and newspapers, newsstand cards, blow-in cards and word of mouth. In 1982 we added 61,000 new subscribers. We now have 24% more subscribers than in December, 1981--and we added 63% more new subscribers than in 1981. By means of an ongoing three-letter renewal system, we dropped 44,000 subscribers. In this manner the subscription file remains very active with 60% of the subscribers being added in 1982.

Our GOOD NEWS circulation is up 9.3%, now going to 4,217 subscribers. This will increase as we are offering The GOOD NEWS to 6,000 BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE students. And YOUTH 83 is now received by 1,251 avid readers.

During 1982, 206,180 pieces of mail were received whilst outgoing mail was 253,742--a 23.3% increase over 1981.

The income for 1982 showed a very fine 23.4% increase over 1981 in South Africa. The increase in Zimbabwe was 3.8%. It takes a while to get bank statements from Mauritius and Zambia, so final figures are not available as yet. Members contributed about 76% of the Work's income. It is good to see that our co-workers have increased by 7.4%.

Our members now total 1,431. This is a four percent increase over 1981. There are 1,084 members in South Africa, 227 in Zimbabwe, 40 in Mauritius, 30 in Zambia, 14 in Transkei, 14 in Botswana, 12 in Lesotho, eight in Swaziland and two in Namibia. It is very encouraging to see that our baptisms increased by 16.8% last year. The weekly attendance at Church services is now just over 2,100.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's visit to South Africa November 5-9, 1982 was certainly the most inspiring event of the year. He spoke in Johannesburg to 1,246 and to 388 in Cape Town. Other members heard him by telephone hook-up in Durban, Pietermaritzburg, East London and Port Elizabeth, and on tape in outlying areas. His visit was and still is, much appreciated by everyone.

We have begun 1983 with a balanced budget. The main purpose will be to be about our Father's business. Our 1983 budget has 55.78% assigned for advertising and distributing The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. 1983 should be a very exciting and rewarding year.

Australian Year-end Summary December ended 1982 on a very encouraging and positive note. We are most grateful to the Living Head of this Work, Jesus Christ, for providing an excellent 36.9% increase in income for the month. Members and co-workers have been seriously affected by the depressed economy, high unemployment and a gloomy national outlook. However, in response to Mr. Armstrong's recent co-worker letters, extra offerings boosted our income for the month. Final income figures for the year showed a 17.4% increase over 1981.

At the end of the year The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list for Australia stood at 63,640 subscribers--a 13.6% increase over the same period the year before. Throughout 1982, new subscribers requesting The PLAIN TRUTH magazine in response to advertising in T.V. WEEK magazine, the Newsstand Programme, and the television and radio broadcast totaled 31,937. This represents a 168.9% increase in new subscribers over 1981. The ongoing renewal programme throughout the year maintained a viable list of interested readers with an overall renewal response of 52%.

In Asia The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list at the end of December stood at 41,540 readers--a 30.7% increase over the same period the year before. Primarily through word of mouth, or seeing a friend's copy, new Asian subscribers requesting The PLAIN TRUTH throughout the year totaled 10,778--a 57.2% increase over 1981. The exceptionally high interest shown by Asian readers

in The PLAIN TRUTH is indicated by an average 74% response to our ongoing renewal programme.

During 1982 good growth occurred in the circulation of The GOOD NEWS and the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. Also, as a result of Mr. Armstrong's offer, the number of subscribers to YOUTH 82 climbed dramatically. The following figures are for Australia and Asia combined:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|--------|
| GOOD NEWS | 5,185 | + | 7.3% |
| CORRESPONDENCE COURSE | 6,118 | + | 110.8% |
| YOUTH 82 | 3,099 | + | 248.2% |

Mail received in December from Australia and Asia totaled 19,312 letters--a 47.9% increase over the same month the year before. Mail received and processed for the whole of 1982 totaled 222,585 letters--a 6.3% increase over 1981.

In December 63,631 envelopes containing booklets, articles, and letters were mailed out to our readers--a 168.7% increase over the same month in 1981. Total envelopes mailed for the whole of 1982 was 762,881--a 33.2% increase over the year before.

Responses to Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letters have been particularly good--averaging 15% for Australia and 30% for Asian countries. Our co-workers throughout 1982 increased by 9.3% to 1,633; and the donor list grew by 6.8% to 7,185 contributors.

A total of 302 people in Australia and Asia wrote in during the year asking for a visit from a minister or requesting contact with the Church--a 77.6% increase over 1981.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

SOLDOTNA, AK--GLENN DOIG: The brethren were deeply moved by Mr. Armstrong's taped sermon on current events and prophecy. I personally felt the tape was so important that during a follow-up sermon emphasizing the things Mr. Armstrong had talked about and the need to be spiritually prepared, I mentioned I almost felt like playing the tape again for Bible study. I got such a response from the brethren that I did play it again the following Tuesday night for Bible study. We smashed the previous Bible study attendance record--almost the whole Church showed up! Please pass along to Mr. Armstrong our appreciation for these tapes. They are very much needed and they are having a very positive effect!

PEORIA-MACOMB, IL--JESS ERNEST: Eagerness for the arrival of Mr. Armstrong's taped messages was expressed by the Macomb brethren just as in Peoria. The brethren really appreciated hearing from God's apostle, and look forward to hearing more from him.

FINDLAY, OH--JIM HAEFFELE: The brethren are very interested in prophecy and talking about it since the playing of Mr. Armstrong's recent tapes. Everyone is taking what he said very seriously and realizing time is much shorter than we had thought. Also, the brethren have commented on how they are trying to put

more time into prayer and Bible study to draw closer to God. A number who had been reading but not praying much are now taking time to pray about 30-45 minutes a day.

CINCINNATI (NORTH), OH--BOB G. LEAGUE: Everything here seems to be upbeat. Mr. Armstrong's two sermons had a very positive and sobering effect on the brethren who now realize the importance of the Sabbath.

WHEELING, WV--R. SHORTY FUESSEL: The area is responding to Mr. Armstrong's most recent co-worker/member letter and tapes with a renewed zeal and commitment to keeping God's commandments (physical and spiritual), plus an intensified effort to strengthen marriages and family relationships. More members are commenting about how helpful and inspiring Mr. Armstrong's radio programs of past years are and their relevancy to today's world conditions.

EL DORADO, AR/SHREVEPORT, LA--BILL BRADFORD: Mr. Armstrong's messages have stirred the members immensely. It seems everyone has taken to heart the dire warnings and are preparing spiritually for the times ahead.

SACRAMENTO, CA--JOEL LILLEGREEN: The attitudes of the brethren seem good. We all appreciate the strong meat and sobering messages Mr. Armstrong is giving us. God's people seem to be gearing up more and more for what is coming.

NORTH PLATTE-GRAND ISLAND, NE--DON HOOSER: I very much appreciate the tapes I receive of Headquarters sermons about once a week and also the tapes of The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS. I feel that I am using my time much more effectively while driving!

Our members were very inspired and excited by the two sermon tapes by Mr. Armstrong recently--on prophecy and the Mark of the Beast. Mr. Armstrong's effectiveness continues to go up! Members in general are sobered and very conscious of the times we are in and trying harder spiritually.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

The Mail Monitor Program--Its Service to Subscribers Nationwide

In an effort to ensure quality service to our readers and subscribers in the United States, a Mail Monitor Program was established in July, 1981. Its first goal was to find the average delivery time for our literature and the condition in which it arrived.

A network of more than 200 members scattered throughout the U.S. was established with the cooperation of Ministerial Services and local church pastors. Monitors were asked to keep careful records of the date each publication was received and its condition. This included items that they automatically received such as The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS, as well as

literature they were asked to request at periodic intervals. The data collected was sent to Pasadena each month where it was carefully tabulated and analyzed.

Some of the noteworthy results of the program, after its first year and a half in operation, are listed below:

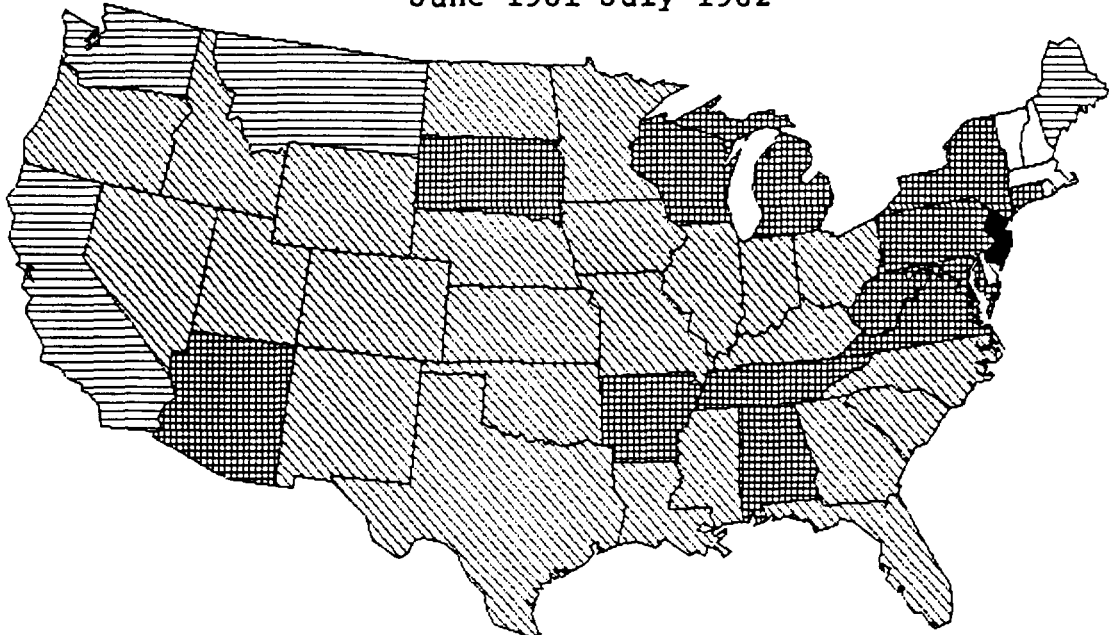
- Average nationwide delivery for first-class mail, which includes Mr. Armstrong's co-worker/member letters, is three days. Within five days 95% of the letters are normally received. Over 99% arrive in excellent condition.
- Delivery of The PLAIN TRUTH, which is mailed third class by R.R. Donnelley from Glasgow, Kentucky, averaged 11 days. Of the 1,754 magazines monitored, only 74 suffered minor damage. Only one magazine failed to arrive.
- When The PLAIN TRUTH was changed from second class to third class, a move that saved the Work many thousands of dollars in postage, delivery time remained the same.

The accompanying maps show the average delivery time of first-class letters and The PLAIN TRUTH for each state.

Because the program has proved to be an invaluable aid in monitoring our service, it is being continued, with 40 monitors being added to give a more complete picture. Since volunteer help is used, the cost to the Work is minimal.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

AVERAGE DELIVERY TIME IN DAYS
FROM POSTAL CENTER TO MAIL MONITOR
June 1981-July 1982



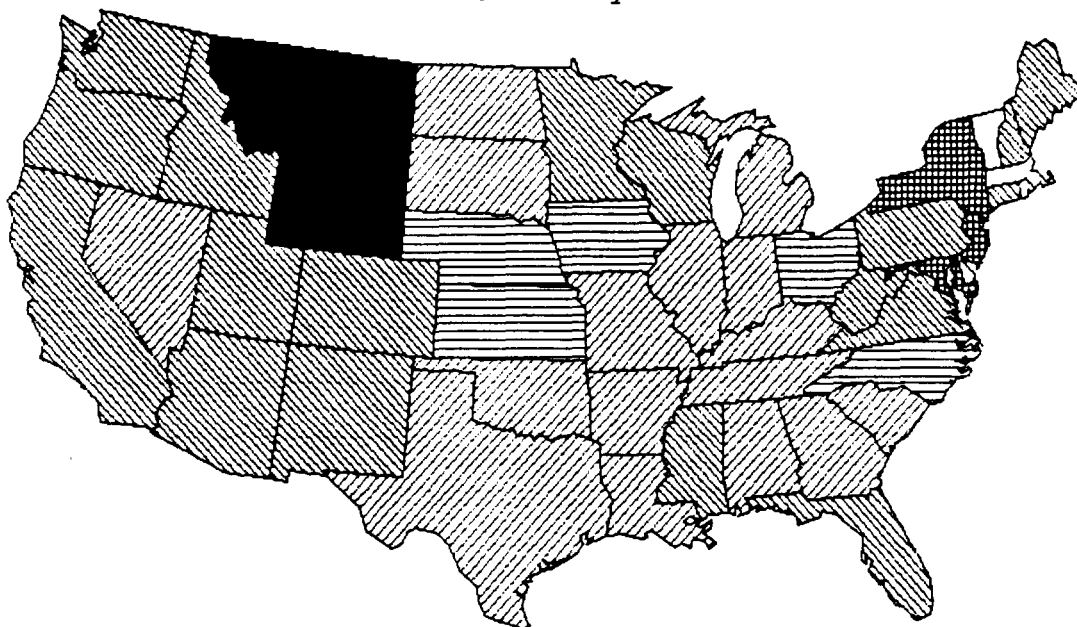
LEGEND: AVERAGE 2 DAYS 3 DAYS 4 DAYS 5 DAYS

SOURCE: MPC MAIL MONITOR SYSTEM.

NOTE: FIRST-CLASS MAIL NOT MONITORED IN BLANK STATES.

PLAIN TRUTH MAGAZINE

AVERAGE DELIVERY TIME IN DAYS
FROM DONNELLEY TO MAIL MONITOR
June 1981-July 1982



LEGEND: AVERAGE ■■■■■ 8 TO 9 DAYS \\\ 10 TO 11 DAYS / 12 TO 13 DAYS
 ■■■■■ 14 TO 15 DAYS / 16 TO 17 DAYS

SOURCE: MPC MAIL MONITOR SYSTEM.

NOTE: PLAIN TRUTH MAGAZINE NOT MONITORED IN BLANK STATES

Variations within the same regional area are due to the system of routing used by the Postal Service.

Members Grateful for January Fast

Many members wrote to Mr. Armstrong to thank him for proclaiming the Churchwide fast on January 1. They universally agreed that it was needed and that it helped them to draw closer to God and one another. A number commented that they experienced a greater unity and sense of purpose in the Church. Several were inspired to send special offerings. Some of their comments follow.

I am thankful that you called this special fast day for the Work of the living God. Every time this has happened in the past it seems the brethren became more united in spirit and truth. I hope for the same to happen this time and for many miracles to take place in our lives so we can serve God more.

D.C. (Lewisburg, WV)

Thank you for starting out the calendar year by proclaiming the Church fast on January 1. It was very, very helpful in rededicating ourselves to this great Work.

T.W. & family (Aurora, CO)

I am so thankful you proclaimed January 1, 1983 as a day of fasting for the entire Church, worldwide. How fitting that we who are in the world, but not of the world, should be fasting before our great God while the rest of the world was feasting and making merry.

I pray that we all will tighten our belts now, and find ways to put more money into this Work. It is the most important thing on earth, and God has blessed us so richly. Enclosed is an offering over and above the regular tithe and offering.

Mrs. N.W. (Palisade, CO)

God must have been very pleased on Sabbath when we were fasting and praying. It was a very wonderful experience to be fasting and praying to our great God with so many others all over the world.

Mrs. E.E. (Toledo, OH)

Since Mr. Armstrong designated January 1 as a special Sabbath for fasting and prayer, I feel it also should be a day to give special thanksgiving and an offering to God.

W.A. (Fort Gordon, GA)

We had no church (service) here on the Sabbath of January 1 on account of the ice and snow packs on the roads. It was a day of fasting for all of God's people. I was here all alone, just my God and me. I really enjoyed it--just studying, praying, meditating on things and fasting. It was good for all of us and we need to do more of it. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong.

Mrs. A.C. (San Angelo, TX)

Enclosed you will find a special offering in addition to regular tithes and offerings. This special offering is something we have chosen to do in conjunction with the fast last Sabbath (January 1). This world desperately needs God's government. The quicker we get our job done the quicker His government will be set up. We know God noticed His people fasting and heard our prayers. This will be a mighty boon for the Work in 1983.

Mr. & Mrs. G.P. (Minneapolis, MN)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

TWO SAD ANNIVERSARIES In this column last week, the significance of the two time frames of 1945-1964 and 1964 to the present were noted. The month of January, 1983 also is significant when looking back at two almost back-to-back milestone events which occurred a decade ago.

On January 22, 1973 in the case of Roe vs. Wade, the United States Supreme Court for the first time legalized abortion nationwide by a 7-2 vote. The court based its ruling on the concept of a "woman's right to privacy." Thus this new "right" (which was also described by others as a "woman's right to control her own body") followed logically in the stream of the nationwide "rights consciousness" which was launched with the civil rights legislation in the mid-sixties (analyzed last week).

On the same day in a companion case, the court, again by a 7-2 vote, struck down restrictions on facilities that could be used to perform first trimester (first three months) abortions. The decision gave rise to a new kind of medical facility: the abortion clinic.

Naturally, as a result of these and subsequent rulings, abortions-on-demand zoomed upward. In 1980, a record 1.55 million legal abortions were performed in the United States, terminating about one of every four pregnancies. The 1980 figure was more than double the 774,000 legal abortions performed on demand in 1973, the first year of legalized abortions in the nation. Of course in some states and localities the figure is even higher. For example, 31% (nearly one of every three) pregnancies now ends in abortion in Florida.

Since in the eyes of the courts the matter of abortion is no longer a moral or religious matter, but a matter of legal definition and degree, it is comparatively easy to make new rulings on it. Note this news dispatch from the SAN DIEGO UNION as reprinted in the November 6, 1982 issue of HUMAN EVENTS:

Judges of the 4th District Court of Appeals had political philosophy on their minds when they ruled that University of California students may not withhold a portion of their student fees because they object on moral or religious grounds to how a portion of the money is used.

The fees are like taxes levied by a government, the judges reasoned, and a citizen cannot refuse to pay taxes for support of the government because of an objection to something the government does. So the court has upheld the right of the University of California to finance abortions for women students with the registration fees all students must pay as part of the cost of an education on a University of California campus. The practice will continue unless the decision is overturned on further appeal by students at UCSD and five other campuses who took the issue to court.

Last year, the editor-in-chief of THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR, R. Emmett Tyrrell, took note of this irony: some people are greatly fearful for the future of humanity ("think of the children" they all seem to say) due to the threat of nuclear warfare. At the same time the terrible toll in human life caused by legalized abortion-on-demand is overlooked. Often the same class of people (liberals, generally speaking) advocate a nuclear freeze and the right to abortion at the same time. Mr. Tyrrell asked in the April 20, 1982 issue of the LOS ANGELES HERALD EXAMINER, "Which Kills More Babies--Atom Bombs or Abortions?"

The destruction of human life! Anxiety over it is the theme of this season's great left-wing cause, to wit: ending the arms race here and now without addressing the policies of the U.S.S.R....

Maybe,...we in the West are not as fervid for human life as the demonstrators would have it. After all, they have not been particularly vocal in lamenting the destruction of human life in Southeast Asia since the Communist reformers took charge, opened their concentration camps and sent the boat people out to sea.

And back in the United States, where no foreign governments can fetter our solicitude for human life, some rather gruesome practices have become the norm,...One and a half million abortions are now practiced annually. So what? In February (1982) the

newspapers carried pictures of men disposing of a mound of fetuses, possibly as many as 2,000, found in formaldehyde in California. Their presence there remains a mystery, but, though they were being hauled off like trash, they looked strikingly like babies to me.

The case of Roe vs. Wade opened the court system to a never-ending stream of interpretations. The NEW YORK TIMES of January 13, 1983 took note of a recent one:

Perhaps more ominous, Roe vs. Wade gave rise to the "wrongful life" theory of legal actions, which is enjoying increased acceptance in Federal and state courts. This development gives the parents of a handicapped child the right to sue the doctor who attended the pregnancy when they can show that he should have discovered the defect so that an abortion could have been obtained. The resulting pressures on physicians encourage infanticide as doctors seek to avoid potential financial liability for children whom they "negligently" caused to be born alive.

In his five minute Saturday radio program on January 22 (the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision), President Reagan once again announced his personal desire to reverse the pro-abortion edict. But arrayed against him are such pro-abortion lobbies as the National Abortion Rights Action League, as well as the newly liberalized House of Representatives. There is probably little that he can do.

Peace (of the Grave) Brought to Vietnam

Only five days after the momentous Supreme Court decision on January 27, 1973, the United States and North Vietnam reached accord on the Paris Peace Agreements. But there was to be no peace. The pact merely secured America's ungraceful exit. The South Vietnamese and other Indo-Chinese were consigned to their brutal fate at the hands of a determined aggressor. The U.S. Congress shortly pared back its promised U.S. military aid to the Saigon government and eventually--and very shamefully--cut it off altogether.

In one of the greatest understatements ever made, an AP dispatch on January 27, 1983 (the tenth anniversary date) said that "the agreement...failed to live up to expectations particularly for the American-backed government in Saigon."

Americans seem somehow to think that their nation can simply walk away from assumed obligations to allies such as the Vietnamese and the Shah of Iran, and as probably will happen to nations in Central America, without eventually paying a horrible price themselves.

Looking back at that fateful day of peace-without-honor, Edwin N. Luttwak wrote in the January 23, 1983 issue of the LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Ten years ago this week...the United States signed the Paris Peace Agreements and consigned the peoples of South Vietnam to their fate, the protracted agony that continues still in the open boats of the refugees....

Mr. Luttwak largely blamed the media and the academic community for fostering the idea that the Vietnam War, and by extension all war, was futile, and that the aim of victory in war was no longer a proper goal of statescraft, an "outdated fantasy." Luttwak further stated:

A false lesson drawn from Vietnam now imprisons our minds and paralyzes our will....Hence the full gravity of the offense of the British [in the Falklands War] and the Israelis [in Lebanon] in the eyes of the right-thinking [meaning the liberal war-is-futile crowd]. Both decided quite deliberately to wage war; both were determined to win clearcut victories, and both did just that under the leadership of military officers who were simply told to fight and win.

With the two wars of 1982 we thus reached the true final stage of the war that began in Vietnam: Either we rehabilitate the notion of victory or else the United States will lose its capacity to use military power, thus consigning the future to those less inhibited.

The "Vietnam Syndrome" shortly extended to Central America. The Soviets and Cubans shrewdly took advantage of U.S. timidity to seize the initiative in Nicaragua (America also cut the props out from underneath the late President). The U.S. is afraid to act in the only way that can really halt a further expansion of Communist power in the region. Author Max Singer writes this in the December, 1982 issue of COMMENTARY:

People around the world, friends and enemies, used to assume almost as a law of nature that, although the U.S. might make mistakes, we could not be defeated and would not let ourselves be humiliated or shown to be negligent or incapable of defending our interests or our word. Certainly we would not let Communism expand in our own neighborhood. But how many, even in our own country, where the very idea of American indomitability inspires shame in the hearts of editorialists and foreign-policy specialists, are confident of this today?

Of course we might give firm guarantees of protection against any Nicaraguan invasion. But like the British guarantees to Poland in 1939, that would be a desperate act. How, then, do we propose to prevent Central America from becoming, over the next few years, as Communist as Eastern Europe, and by a similar process?

Fidal Castro believes that the world is divided into "imperialist" and "revolutionary" camps. This means, in his view, that Cuba and the United States are mortal enemies. Nothing we do can change that view. Castro understands the U.S. and the role of the media very well. He has gloatingly described how, before Batista was defeated, he pretended to be a "Jeffersonian democrat" to win bourgeois support. And, at the same time that he was publicly deriding claims that Cuba was providing arms to the guerrillas in El Salvador, he was telling visiting German socialists that of course the claims were true.

Unfortunately the Reagan Administration has not begun to put together a realistic strategy for dealing with Cuba, neither mili-

tarily, nor diplomatically, nor in the war of ideas, and not even in the American domestic political debate. The Administration has not grasped that in countries like Cuba and Nicaragua it is dealing with Marxist-Leninist true believers and totalitarian techniques of securing and holding power.

The Administration does not appreciate the importance of ideas. It has no coherent strategy for presenting our case, even when that case is a strong one....As a result, opportunities for significant democratic victories have been lost, and major setbacks may yet occur before Reagan's term is over.

The U.S. seems resigned to decline and defeat. Perhaps this is best exemplified by the T-shirts being worn by some Vietnam veterans. The message on the shirts reads: "Vietnam War Games, 1964-1975. Second Place: U.S.A."

"Pagans for Peace"

To end in a humorous vein, one never can tell these days just who is going to be demonstrating next for disarmament and peace. Note this report from London's DAILY MAIL of January 20, 1983:

Alarmed by the prospect of the nuclear cauldron, witches from all over the North-East are to assemble in New York's Square this Sunday under the banner of "Pagans for Peace" and together they will try to put a hex on the MX missile. Anyone's invited to bring along a frog toe or newt eye and join in. "Our ceremony is intended to utilise the power of witchcraft as a force for peace," says the spokeswitch. "The MX represents an escalation of the arms race that we find dangerous and frightening. Pagans for Peace is a coalition of concerned coven members and individual witches organised to apply their powers towards world disarmament."

Spokeswitch?

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau