

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 5, NO. 17

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 29, 1983

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Women's Clubs

As you are all aware, ministerial workloads have been steadily increasing over the last two years. The great upswing in prospective member activity, due mainly to the increased media thrust, as well as manpower restrictions due to budgetary constraints, have taken their toll on ministers' time. As a result, certain projects or areas have to be reevaluated as to their overall purpose and value compared to the essential responsibilities of the ministry.

One such area is Women's Clubs. Although a small number of pastors have conducted apparently meaningful and helpful Women's Clubs, many have inquired as to whether they should start a Women's Club or whether Women's Club is a mandatory activity.

In recent discussions with Mr. Armstrong about Women's Clubs in the Church, he brought out several principles from God's Word. I Peter 3:1-6 shows that God wants Christian women to adorn themselves with a meek and quiet spirit--a thing of great price in His sight. Titus 2:3-5 says that women should be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, and obedient to their own husbands. Paul also explains that the older women should be able to teach these things to the younger. This does not necessitate a club, however. This is the kind of thing that can be done by example, and by individuals who want to learn, seeking out the older women whose "behavior becomes holiness."

In addition, Paul shows that in spiritual matters Christian women should learn in silence with all subjection, and should not teach nor usurp authority over men (I Tim. 2:11-12).

Women's Clubs are usually established with such goals as to "recapture true values of womanhood," to "develop the total woman," or to encourage "growth in Christian character and in ability to serve." These are truly worthwhile and important goals. But should they be limited to Women's Clubs?

Mr. Armstrong expressed concern that much of the important and helpful material presented by pastors in Women's Club might not be given to the entire congregation. He noted that many valuable principles of Christian living and conduct have been given to the women in clubs that should be shared with everyone in Bible studies and sermons.

One of our goals as servants of God should be to teach the women of God's Church that it is through diligently following God's law and His instruction that they, as well as the men, will develop the total person, grow in Christian character and service, and recapture the true values in life. By putting into practice the teaching they receive in Bible study, Sabbath services, our many valuable publications, personal Bible study, and personal counseling, Christian women can learn through the experiences of daily life how to fulfill what Christ taught through Paul.

Mr. Armstrong also reemphasized the need for God's people to be spending time together as families. This is an area we should all be stressing continually as well as one in which we should be striving to set the right example.

Taking all these things into consideration, Mr. Armstrong has decided that no new Women's Clubs should be started. Those Women's Clubs already in existence should be discreetly phased out at the regular summer recess time and not be reinstated in the fall.

Ambassador College Women's Clubs, on the other hand, were instituted years ago within an overall campus environment that cannot be duplicated in the field. They serve as a vital part of the educational objectives of the College and, of course, will continue.

Pastors should see to it that the important subjects dealing with the Christian lives of women (as well as men) be covered regularly in Bible studies and sermons. Those matters that formerly were addressed in Women's Clubs will in this way be made available to all the women, as well as to the men and the youngsters, for the mutual benefit, Christian instruction and admonition of everyone in the congregation.

****TO BE ANNOUNCED****

International Feast Sites at Capacity

The following Caribbean Feast sites have reached capacity and no further applications are being accepted: Nassau, Bahamas; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Christ Church, Barbados; Crown Point, Trinidad and Tobago.

The Czechoslovakian site at Brno has also been filled. The German office would like to express thanks for the interest and support given to this site again this year. Any who applied and could not be accepted will be given priority when applying in 1984.

Services for the Deaf

About three years ago, Ministerial Services assumed the responsibility of responding to the needs of deaf or "hearing-impaired" members. At that time, there were about 50 people in the Church who were deaf. Today there are over 100.

One of our primary responsibilities is coordinating the needs of the deaf brethren with respect to the Feast of Tabernacles. We also coordinate in serving the needs of the deaf in weekly Sabbath services, visiting and other related functions.

If anyone has questions about serving the needs of our deaf members, or needs help in serving them, please feel free to contact Ministerial Services.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

Marvin Faulhaber, former member of the Abbotsford Church B.C. Canada, has been disfellowshipped. He has been visiting U.S. churches from time to time claiming to be a member. Anyone coming in contact with him should call Dan Hope, pastor of the Abbotsford Church, at (604) 854-1631.

International News

French Office Report The French area of God's Work is flourishing. A quick look at the total French worldwide statistics reveals that the circulation of La PURE VERITE is now 138,997, which is 54.4% higher than our circulation at the end of March 1982. Our circulation of the French International GOOD NEWS is now at 9,763 subscribers, up over 226.1% in one year. Active BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE students now number 7,550--an increase of 49.8% over March one year ago.

French Regional Director Mr. Dibar Apartian arrived in Strasbourg, France on March 25th to begin a series of public meetings for PV subscribers. It was also planned that he would speak to several French churches on the Sabbath and holy days.

At the public meeting in Strasbourg, 59 new people attended. Mr. Apartian was also interviewed live on a "Radio Libre" station as well as on the government-controlled radio network FR3.

Mr. Apartian conducted Passover services in Strasbourg, then left for Geneva where he spoke on the first day of Unleavened Bread. On March 30 and 31, the French Regional Director conducted two more public meetings in Bienne and in Geneva, Switzerland. On each occasion 30 new people attended. Then on April 1, Mr. Apartian had to return to Pasadena.

Mr. Apartian raised Mr. Jean Carion to pastor rank while at the Geneva office, just before Mr. Apartian's departure for the U.S.A. It fell the responsibility of Mr. Carion to conduct the public meetings at Liege April 1, and Brussels, April 3. There were 50 new persons at Liege, and 90 new persons at Brussels. This was a very good turnout.

The last of the meetings was conducted by Mr. Sam Kneller in lieu of Mr. Apartian in Paris, on April 10. More than 150 new people attended and many were very interested in what was said.

First Quarter Trends: For the first quarter of the year 11,114 new people were added to the French file, excluding Canada. Here is a breakdown of the media sources:

Radio or TV, the major power houses being Radio
Luxembourg and RTL TV in Belgium. 20.1%

Fair booth placed in front of the Student Exhibition	
Hall in Paris	19.6%
Insert or blow-in cards in La PURE VERITE	17.6%
Referrals of a general nature from, in order of importance: Geneva, Paris, USA, Germany and others.	14.5%
Space ads in Dutch, English and Swiss magazines	9.3%
PV newsstands	7.9%
Card holder program	6.3%
Miscellaneous	4.7%

Currently 71% of all PV subscribers, excluding Canada, live in areas where they have access to an ordained francophone minister to answer questions or counsel and, if invited, they could attend Church services within reasonable travel distance on the Sabbath.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has given the green light for placing display advertising in the French versions of the READER'S DIGEST, "Selection." For several years the management of READER'S DIGEST wouldn't accept our advertising, but a "Strong Hand" has helped them change their minds. The first of the two-page ads will appear in June in the separate editions for France, Switzerland, Belgium, Canada and the French West Indies. If our past experience is any indicator of the size of response we can expect, we should have 6,000 to 10,000 new subscribers during June, July and August.

Australian News Incoming mail for March showed an encouraging 25.1% increase over the same month last year. A total of 21,148 letters were received and over 26,000 envelopes containing booklets and articles were mailed to interested readers. So far this year we have received a 20.5% increase in mail, compared to the first three months of 1982.

We registered only a small increase in income for the month--2.6% over March, 1982. This was due first of all to the downturn in the national economy, and secondly to a strong national appeal for contributions from the general public for the victims of the recent forest fires. Many of our regular contributors were among those who responded to the national appeal rather than giving to God's Work.

For the first three months of 1983, positive and encouraging growth occurred in vital areas of God's Work in Australia. For the first quarter of this year, over 1,000 new students were added to the BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE list, a 358% increase over the same period last year.

There has been a marked increase in interest in the GOOD NEWS magazine. For the first quarter of 1983, over 1,800 new subscribers were added to the mailing list, bringing our total GN list for April to 6,100.

The number of new people responding to God's calling during the first quarter of 1983 is also most encouraging. Christ added 80 new prospective members--a 233% increase over the same period in 1982. Baptisms for the first quarter numbered 42, a 91% increase over the first three months of last year.

We hope these encouraging trends continue throughout 1983 as Christ directs and blesses His Work in this part of the world.

Activities in Asia During March, Mr. Mohan Jayasekera, our minister in Sri Lanka, completed a very productive trip in southern India. Mr. Jayasekera visited 24 new people who had requested personal contact with the Church, and he baptized three people. We now have a total of 92 members in India, served by Mr. Spaulding Kulasingam in the northern states, and by Mr. Jayasekera in the south. PLAIN TRUTH circulation in this vast country is currently 11,365.

In the latter half of March, Mr. Colin Kelly visited India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia accompanied by our head accountant, Mr. Robert Kelly. The purpose of their trip was to secure Feast sites in Sri Lanka and Malaysia, meet with Mr. Kulasingam and Mr. Jayasekera, and have financial meetings with the Church's new auditors in India. In addition, Mr. Colin Kelly visited with several new people in Malaysia. He said that the trip was very successful, and reflected the strong interest in God's Work being shown by people throughout Asia.

Report From U.K./Eire PLAIN TRUTH subscriber circulation is now at 91,800 which is 38% over the same period in 1982. This is the highest level we have ever achieved while renewing on a monthly basis. Circulation was boosted to this level at the end of 1982 and early 1983 by responses coming in from ads in TIME and NEWSWEEK, and has been sustained by a steady two percent response to our blow-in subscription cards. Perhaps better news still is that newsstand response is running between 3.5% and 3.8% from our programme in London and Birmingham.

We believe these high response rates have been caused by the change in the size of the magazine from 32 to 48 pages along with the distribution policy of not oversupplying our outlets. By doing this we avoid wastage and also encourage readers to write in for a subscription. We are indebted to God's Work in Canada for supplying our newsstand copies starting with the April issue, considerably relieving pressure on the U.K. budget. In the near future we plan to open up Manchester as our third city for PLAIN TRUTH distribution.

Attendance at both the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread holy days was up three percent over last year, and offerings increased 19% and 17% respectively.

In Scandinavia, attendance at the Passover was up nine percent. For the first time in perhaps hundreds of years, the Passover was kept by members of God's Church in Finland at Helsinki. Mr. Tony Goudie and his wife flew across for the Passover ceremony and the first day of Unleavened Bread. Throughout Scandinavia attendance on the holy days was up 18% and 35% respectively, with offerings increasing overall by 25%.

Seventeen people kept the Passover in Malta this year and then gathered for the Night to be Much Observed and the first day of Unleavened Bread. Again this year there will be a Feast of Tabernacles site in Malta with many visiting from abroad.

East/West Africa Subscriber circulation in Africa has now risen to 38,000 after being held down for some time at 30,000 for budgetary reasons. There

were thousands of subscribers waiting to go on the list, so this increase in circulation has not cost anything in terms of promotion or advertising.

Membership is growing steadily with a seven percent increase over March, 1982. Passover attendance was up 23% and holy day attendance up eleven percent, though the average of the two holy day offerings was down eight percent--reflecting the dire economic and social conditions affecting our members there.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Steady Growth Continues Through First Quarter of 1983

Outgoing Mail: The number of magazines, booklets and letters in the U.S. last month again topped the five million mark! This raises the year-to-date total of outgoing mail to 15,204,000 pieces which is an all-time record and a 20 percent increase over last year's January-March count.

Bible Course: Thousands of new people are requesting the AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. In the first three months of this year nearly one-half million lessons have been sent out in the U.S. alone and 52,593 new students have enrolled. This is a remarkable 122 percent increase over the number added in January-March 1982.

Coworkers/Donors: We are experiencing steady growth in the numbers of coworkers and donors. The count for coworkers this year has averaged more than 42,000--a 23 percent increase over the same period last year. The count for donors has averaged 85,000--up 36 percent from last year.

Why People Donate to the Work

Readers and listeners often mention why they have decided to tithe or contribute to God's Work. Many tell us they appreciate the broadcasts and literature and are moved to want to help. Others are amazed that donations are not sought! Most begin to recognize that this Work is carried out according to God's way of "give" as Mr. Armstrong has so often said. Here are some interesting comments along these lines:

I can't tell you how much I enjoy each issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. It's a magazine I wholeheartedly share with family and friends. I'm so warmly impressed with the way you offer this magazine and all of your publications to the public. We are being hounded constantly by many ministers using worldly tactics and psychology to get money from people. In contrast, your method is scriptural and in keeping with the spirit of Christ; so much so that it makes me want to give more than ever.

J.M. (Ocala, FL)

Because of your telecast, the BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE lessons, all the booklets on different topics, and my Bible, many great truths have been revealed to me. I owe you much more than mere thanks, but there's no way in this world I can ever repay you.

I realize you never ask for contributions or try to solicit funds in any way. But I was simple-minded enough to wonder how it was possible for you and those affiliated with the Worldwide Church of God to financially support the true message of God. And then one day it hit me like a ton of bricks. God's true Church will always have all the financial backing it needs. And now that I'm aware of what I should have known long ago, I'll be a full supporter in every way I can.

Enclosed you will find a tenth of what God has provided for me. I'm sending it to you because for the first time in my life I can truly feel that it will be used to help spread God's message to man.

W.M. (Savannah, GA)

How unique! In a world where every organization has its hand out for money, you people return my measly little check. Well, here is my reply: a check for \$50 to apply as you see fit to spread Christ's wonderful message. There will be more to follow at intervals. I will probably keep that first check in a place clearly visible as a reminder that you mean what you say.

L.F. (Milwaukie, OR)

This letter is to let you know that I have really enjoyed your PLAIN TRUTH magazine the past year and being part of the PLAIN TRUTH family. I wish to congratulate you on the fine job you are doing in bringing the news of world events. Keep on doing the fine job you are doing in the years to come. I have enclosed a little something to help you in your work. I know that I am not obligated to send anything, but I feel deeply inspired to help.

R.T. (Washington, D.C.)

Mr. Armstrong's message is like a breath of fresh air and I hope he lives a long, long time. I've been watching his program for years. He's been giving a lot and I feel like I need to give something back.

P.T. (Hackensack, NJ)

Just a note to tell all of you there at YOUTH 83 how much I enjoy your magazine. I look forward to reading it each month. I also am so grateful that you offer your magazine at no cost, and yet you're not asking for offerings. It is this type of organization I am more apt to contribute to. Therefore, enclosed is a small offering of thanks. God is blessing me and I'm sure many others through your magazine.

J.D. (Fenton, MI)

Never before have I listened to a religious program or attended a religious service without giving money to the program or church being put forth. Sometimes it made me wonder about their motives.

I have always felt that God was loving and giving. Now for the first time I have seen it in action in a pure way on your program. I know you do not request money, however, would you use the enclosed check to further your work?

W.A. (Iberia, MO)

I have just started to tithe. I was so impressed after reading "You Can Solve Your Financial Worries" in the March issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. Here is my first payment. Thanks.

M.G. (Milwaukee, WI)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SPECIAL REPORT

"THE FIRE IN AMERICA'S FRONT YARD"--

WILL CONGRESS COOPERATE IN PUTTING IT OUT?

Wednesday night, April 28, Mr. Reagan took the extraordinary step of convening a rare joint session of Congress--during prime television air time--to tell the nation's lawmakers that the national security of all the Americas is at stake in the mounting chaos in Central America. Earlier in the day he had remarked that "there's a fire started and burning in America's front yard."

By going on television, the President took his case directly to the American people--far more conservative than their largely liberal lawmakers--in hopes they would put pressure on their representatives to support the President's combination economic and military aid package for the troubled region. Mr. Reagan again showed why he is called "the Great Communicator." His points rang loud, clear and to those with ears to hear--frightening. Here are some principle excerpts from the first part of his address.

Central America is much closer to the United States than many of the world trouble spots that concern us.... El Salvador is nearer to Texas than Texas is to Massachusetts. Nicaragua is just as close to Miami, San Antonio, San Diego and Tucson as those cities are to Washington where we are gathered tonight.

But nearness on the map does not even begin to tell the strategic importance of Central America, bordering as it does on the Caribbean--our lifeline to the outside world. Two-thirds of all our foreign trade and petroleum pass through the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. In a European crisis, at least half of our supplies for NATO would go through these areas by sea. It is well to remember that in early 1942 a handful of Hitler's submarines sank more tonnage there than in all of the Atlantic Ocean. And they did this without a single naval base anywhere in the area.

Today, the situation is different. Cuba is a host to a Soviet combat brigade, a submarine base capable of servicing Soviet submarines.... We are all aware of the Libyan cargo planes refueling in Brazil a few days ago on their way to...Nicaragua [carrying military supplies].... Last month, speaking on national television, I showed an aerial photo of an airfield being built on the island of Grenada. Well, if that airfield had been completed, those planes could have refueled there and completed their journey. If the Nazis during World War II and the Soviets today could recognize the Caribbean and Central America as vital to our interests, should not we also?

The President then discussed the courage of the people of El Salvador who turned out in record numbers to vote in March 28th of last year, despite threats of the guerrillas who warned "Vote today, die tonight!" He said that the common people were "the real freedom fighters" of El Salvador, not the guerrillas who have conducted a war of devastating economic sabotage against the country. He quoted Secretary of State Shultz's comments about the guerrillas--"and these are the people who claim they want to help the common people."

The President came down hard on the Marxist government of Nicaragua for the repression of its own countrymen and for exporting revolution to other parts of Central America. Near the end of his address, the President placed the embattled region in vivid geopolitical as well as human terms, emphasizing its importance to the United States.

The goal of the professional guerrilla movement in Central America is as simple as it is sinister--to destabilize the entire region from the Panama Canal to Mexico. If you doubt me on this point, just consider what Cayetano Carpio, the now-deceased Salvadoran guerrilla leader, said earlier this month. Carpio said that after El Salvador falls, El Salvador and Nicaragua would be "arm-in-arm and struggling for the total liberation of Central America...."

Must we sit by while independent nations of this hemisphere are integrated into the most aggressive empire the modern world has seen? Must we wait while Central Americans are driven from their homes, like the more than 4 million who have sought refuge out of Afghanistan or the 1-1/2 million who have fled Indochina or the more than 1 million Cubans who have fled Castro's Caribbean utopia. Must we, by default, leave the people of El Salvador no choice but to flee their homes, creating another tragic human exodus?....

We cannot be certain that the Marxist-Leninist bands who believe war is an instrument of politics will be readily discouraged. It is crucial that we not become discouraged before they do. Otherwise the region's freedom will be lost and our security damaged in ways that can hardly be calculated.

If Central America were to fall, what would the consequences be for our position in Asia and Europe, and for alliances such as NATO? If the United States cannot respond to a threat near our own borders, why should Europeans or Asians believe we are seriously concerned about threats to them? If the Soviets can assume that nothing short of an actual attack on the United States will provoke an American response, which ally, which friend will trust us then?...

What the Administration is asking for on behalf of freedom in Central America in 1984 is about \$600 million; that is less than one-tenth of what Americans will spend this year on coin-operated video games.

In summation, I say to you that tonight there can be no question: The national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central

America. If we cannot defend ourselves there, we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble and the safety of our homeland would be put at jeopardy.

We have a vital interest, a moral duty, and a solemn responsibility.... It is a duty that falls to all of us--the President, the Congress, and the people.... Who among us would wish to bear responsibility for failing to meet our shared obligation?

Immediately after the speech, key congressional critics denounced President Reagan's Central American policies as a "formula for failure" leading, said one (in Vietnam analogy), to "a dark tunnel of endless intervention." Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) said in a televised speech billed as a Democratic response to Mr. Reagan's address that "instead of trying to do something about the [economic and social] factors which breed revolution this administration has turned to massive military buildups at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars."

The WALL STREET JOURNAL (April 29) editorially labeled the Dodd response "defeatist and specious," adding:

This thesis is completely bogus. Despite poverty in El Salvador, the elections last year made clear that there is virtually no popular support for the guerrillas.... Central America's growth during the 1960s and early 1970s was extraordinary, allowing large numbers of people to...form a substantial middle class....

Mr. Dodd argued that if we continue to support El Salvador, we will "find ourselves once again on the losing side," waging "a conflict which cannot be won." The Salvadorans...are prepared to go on fighting for their freedom, but Mr. Dodd wants to give up.

Interestingly...he also claimed that "all Americans stand in agreement" on the need to oppose the establishment of Marxist states, Soviet military bases or Soviet missiles in Central America and "to defend our security and the security of the Americas, if necessary, by military means."

Curious words.... Sen. Dodd and apparently his party intend to thwart small efforts now, such as aid to El Salvador and the anti-Sandinista guerrillas. But they also promise to prevent the spread of Central American communism later, when it will surely require far more massive American effort. They do not mean the second promise, of course, but they are likely to find themselves carrying it out nonetheless.... Mr. Reagan asks smaller efforts now, when conceivably American combat troops might not be needed. If it denies his request, Congress will not make war less likely; it will make war more likely.

The President's critics almost universally call for the U.S. to put pressure on the embattled Salvadoran government to work out a negotiated settlement with the rebels. Few in the news media (overwhelmingly supportive of the critics) point out the hypocritical absurdity of a freely elected government negotiating with a minority guerrilla front trying to overthrow it by force. The U.S. government would never stand for such

policy in the United States itself--look what the F.B.I. did to the violent Black Panther movement in the 1970s. Yet some U.S. lawmakers expect other smaller democracies to pursue such a recipe for disaster.

President Reagan did, however, leave himself exposed to his critics when he stressed, admittedly to lay the "ghost of Vietnam" to rest, that "there is no thought of sending American troops to Central America; they are not needed--indeed, they have not been requested there." One sharp congressional opponent jumped on this immediately, saying that if U.S. troops are not needed, then perhaps U.S. security is not so endangered as the President claims. Of course, this person could oppose sending troops anyway. The President may have been too quick, say some of his supporters, to foreclose an option that may indeed become necessary.

News Media Response--Pro & Con

The news media also performed its own now customary and peculiar role of second-guessing the President. In an attempt to "balance" what the President said, the media paraded out all the overseas opposition as well. ABC's "Nightline" presented an "opposing viewpoint" from a Soviet spokesman, live via satellite from Moscow. The "Today Show," the morning after, gave air time to Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, who branded part of the President's comments, naturally, as "lies." Another Nicaraguan spokesman appeared on "AM America."

What is happening to America?! Fat chance of any U.S. spokesman being given time to rebut Yuri Andropov on Soviet television!

Comments from the political commentators on the President's speech--right-left, pro-con--are just beginning to come in. Here are excerpts from a few, most of them given prior to the speech, dealing with the issues of the President's address. George F. Will, writing in the April 22 LOS ANGELES TIMES minced no words about the serious threat now facing the United States:

Events in Central America are spinning rapidly toward a decisive moment in U.S. history. None of the fictions that were used to rationalize acceptance of defeat in Vietnam can be used regarding Central America. The threat there is close, clear and indisputably communist. There the United States will show--will learn--whether it is any longer capable of asserting the will a great power requires, or whether the slide into paralysis is irreversible....

There is a war raging, and if all the substantial, determined military assistance is one-way, there can be but one result. The result will be a communist Central America and an Iran just a wade across the Rio Grande.

The following is from a column written by noted geopolitical strategist, Brian Crozier, in the April 29, 1983 NATIONAL REVIEW:

I am worried about El Salvador. In my case...the concern is essentially a strategic one.... What worries the liberals, meanwhile, is not the ultimate possibility of another Cuba in the Caribbean region, but the thought that the United States will

find itself drawn into the war, with direct military participation, in defense of a regime that does not meet the East Coast's criteria for the observance of human rights. The possibility that the existing policy in El Salvador might have to yield to yet another totalist tyranny, with zero observance of human rights, is left entirely out of the reckoning....

What would the Left do if it took over? Collectivize the peasantry? Initiate mass executions? Herd people into concentration camps? But then, these are not the kind of questions liberals like to ask....

Irving Kristol, the so-called "dean of neo-conservatism" writes regularly for the WALL STREET JOURNAL. In his April 4 column, he delved into mistaken reasoning about "causes" of troubles in the hemisphere:

In the case of El Salvador, there [is the case of] a simple-minded, "progressive" economic determinism.... This economic determinism, so ingrained a mental habit that even conservative politicians resort to it without a second thought, is revealed every time we encounter unrest or turmoil or subversion in a poor country.

We immediately start thinking about the nation's poverty as being beyond doubt the "fundamental cause" of the political turmoil. [Note: Liberals hold the same view regarding poverty being the main cause of criminal behavior.] We find it close to impossible to believe that the reverse is true, that it is endemic political instability which is the "fundamental cause" of the poverty. Yet that this is far closer to the truth may be evidenced by a cursory glance at the Latin American experience....

The notion that land reform, or old-age pensions or a minimum wage would bring stability and progressive economic growth to these countries is wishful thinking based on an economic determinism of the most childish kind.... Where political stability exists, economic aid can be helpful. But political stability is the essential prerequisite.

If we are prepared to allow a Castro-type insurrection to succeed in El Salvador because it is a poor, underdeveloped country, then we should be resigned to seeing similar insurrections achieve the same success in Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and...where else. The "domino effect" doesn't operate automatically, but with our cooperation, it will surely occur.

Morton Kondracke, the executive editor of the moderate-liberal journal THE NEW REPUBLIC, agonized over the disaster that may be brewing in Central America because of misplaced liberal conceptions. He wrote in the April 28 WALL STREET JOURNAL:

As a liberal, I hope Mr. Reagan succeeds in winning military aid increases for El Salvador and defeats efforts in Congress to cut off assistance to anti-Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua.

Opponents of U.S. efforts in Central America say they are trying to avoid "another Vietnam," but it is precisely the example of Vietnam which suggests that Mr. Reagan's policy is basically right. Eight years ago President Ford appealed to Congress for \$700 million to save South Vietnam from collapse. It was just money, but it was refused.

We liberals cannot avert our eyes from what ensued: three million murders in Cambodia, total deprivation of human rights in Vietnam (and corruption at least as bad in President Thieu's time) and a falling of dominoes. North Vietnam has taken over South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia; now it is shelling Thailand.

We are under warning about Central America now. The Sandinistas in Nicaragua openly proclaim that they are part of a "revolution without frontiers." In 1980, the late Salvadoran communist chief Cayetano Carpio asserted that "the revolutionary process in Central America is a single process. The triumphs of one are the triumphs of the other. Guatemala will have its hour. Honduras its. Costa Rica, too, will have its hour of glory. The first note was heard in Nicaragua."

And Central America is close to our borders. If many American communities objected to the arrival of Vietnamese refugees and if Florida became divided over the arrival of 125,000 Cubans in 1980, we might well quake at the consequences here if hundreds of thousands of Central Americans begin streaming toward the U.S.

If Mexico, too, becomes unstable, the numbers could be in the millions, resulting in an internal security-civil liberties nightmare, not to mention job competition and ethnic frictions.

The publisher of one of El Salvador's leading newspapers said on U.S. television that if the United States does not fight in his country "then it will have to fight in Mexico, or in El Paso or in Arizona."

"Will Congress Lose This War?" asked the title over an article by Patrick J. Buchanan in his syndicated column, appearing in the SAN DIEGO UNION on April 8. "Let us not mince words," said Mr. Buchanan, and he didn't.

The other evening, former CIA Director William Colby related [some facts about the Vietnam War].... Who then lost Vietnam? I asked. Congress, he retorted: The Congress of the United States lost the Vietnam War.

And so it did. In a series of decisions shameful and vindictive, the American Congress between 1973 and 1975 reduced South Vietnam's war rations to one percent of what the United States expended in 1968 and 1969, leaving our desperate allies to the mercy of the dozen Soviet-supplied divisions from the North that invaded in the spring of 1975. Congress was collaborator in the worst defeat in American history, ushering in the greatest holocaust [in Cambodia] since Auschwitz.

Now, it is happening all over again. In Central America. Again, the petulant whine that we are on the side of corrupt and

dictatorial right-wing regimes. Again, the recommendation that we fight armed Castroites with land reform, economic redistribution, human rights commissions, anything except military assistance for our desperate friends. Again, the hands of the President are being tied.

Prohibited by the Clark Amendment from moving against the Russian beachhead in Southern Africa, [Angola in 1976] the President is now prohibited, by the Boland Amendment of December last, from disrupting the Russian beachhead in the Americas. Odd, is it not? The two most exposed and vulnerable provinces of the Soviet empire, Angola and Nicaragua, are designated protected sanctuaries of the Congress of the United States.

Let us not mince words. The margin for the U.S. is narrowing; the conclusive battle for Central America is under way. In Guatemala, General Rios Montt has turned the tide against the Communist guerrillas.... In El Salvador, 7,000 communist guerrillas have won a stalemate. In Nicaragua, pro-American "contras" have established [base camps]. We will win, the "contras" proclaim proudly, because "the strongest power on earth is behind us."

Is it? What do we hear from Congress? Abandon Rios Montt! He has no respect for human rights! Make aid to El Salvador conditional on negotiations with the guerrillas. Cut aid at once to the contras....

The United States cannot remain a credible superpower if it allows the establishment of half a dozen Cubas in Central America. The President should declare it to be American policy to liquidate every Soviet outpost in Central America; and Congressmen who labor relentlessly to impede that national purpose, while cloaking their resistance with the familiar patter of progressive nonsense, should be identified for what they have become: Passive--and in some cases active--collaborators of the Communist Empire.

Walter H. Annenberg, the President of Triangle Publications which publishes TV GUIDE, and a former U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, wrote a special "commentary" in the April 16-22 copy of his high-circulation weekly magazine entitled "The High Price of Liberty." In it he took issue of the now popular habit of having Soviet and other communist officials present their views over U.S. television.

There is a curious process taking place in our country today. Soviet arguments...are given as much time on television as the Administration's position, if not more. Network news departments want to be objective, and objectivity involves presenting both sides of a controversy. The fact that one side has a history of lies and aggression carries little weight in network evening news presentations of today's headlines.

The freedom of the American press, a cornerstone of our system, is an ideal setting for outside manipulation. The Soviets can orchestrate a reply to our President and be certain that their

arguments will receive as much attention, as much emphasis, as the President's [example: Party Chairman Yuri Andropov's letter to a 10-year-old schoolgirl in Maine]. Their expert propagandists can...manipulate our press with the always newsworthy "Soviet press reaction"....

Thus the cost of liberty cannot be measured in dollars alone. One heavy cost is in permitting our potential enemies to use modern propaganda techniques within our borders, of giving them the same access to our people that the Administration has.... We are at a disadvantage because we cannot counter this Soviet manipulation. We cannot reach the Soviet people as the Soviet leaders reach the American people.

Finally we come to this interesting observation, in the form of a letter from a former Vietnam protester, to the editor of the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (April 11 edition):

As a former protester against the Vietnam War, I find it interesting to note the concern that El Salvador may become a new Vietnam ("Heading for Another Vietnam?" March 21 issue). I recall one of the hawks' main arguments for fighting in Vietnam was that if we didn't win there, we would be fighting again closer to home. Could it be that they were right?

Yes, they were right. The fighting now is in our own "front yard" says the President. It still might be possible that the considerable persuasive power of President Reagan may yet draw grudging but temporary congressional support to his views. He is not going to "lose" El Salvador or more of Central America during his term(s) of office if he can possibly help it. He himself seems up to the supreme Soviet challenge of his presidency. The question mark is Congress, where acres of soft-headedness prevail. But after the Reagan era (if not during it), especially if the Democrats take power, look for the dominoes to fall rapidly.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau