

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 5, NO. 33

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 19, 1983

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Supervision of Teens at the Feast of Tabernacles

It seems that one of the biggest problems at the Feast of Tabernacles each year is the number of unsupervised teens. In some cases, the parents attend one site and leave their teen-agers to stay with friends at another site. This should never happen!

The Feast is a family occasion--something we should all strive to emphasize in every possible way. Therefore, teen-agers should not be attending the Feast alone. If there is a case where the parents must attend a different site than their children, they should see to it that the children are under the supervision of qualified adults. This provides not only for the proper supervision of the youngsters, but also for their safety and well-being!

In the case of teen-agers no longer living at home, it should be up to the pastor to determine whether they should attend the Feast away from their parents. If the young person is genuinely interested, he or she should be treated as a PM.

Even for those teen-agers who are attending with their parents, there should be some instruction in services prior to the festival regarding parental responsibility and the proper supervision of children of all ages at the Feast.

Questions and Answers

Question: May members give second tithe as Holy Day offerings?

Answer: Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has taught for over 40 years that the second tithe is to enable members to attend God's Holy Days--especially the Feast of Tabernacles. The second tithe is saved for that purpose--not as offerings for the Work. The Scriptures are very clear on this point (Deut. 14:22-27).

However, members may supplement their Holy Day offerings with second tithe provided they have first carefully planned to meet all their festival expenses, sent in their tithe of the tithe, and have shared a portion of their excess tithe with less fortunate members by sending it to Headquarters for distribution or turning it in at the Feast site. Those who fulfill these prior obligations and still have second tithe left over, may give it in addition to their regular Holy Day offerings. (That is, above and beyond the amount already set aside for Holy Day offerings.) Or, they may turn it in as excess second tithe.

International News

From the French Department While France is sizzling under a Mediterranean-style heat wave reaching 104 degrees Fahrenheit (and most homes are not air-conditioned), the French franc is taking an astounding dive against the U.S. dollar. Since January 1981, the franc has dropped 80% in value in its exchange rate with the currently almighty greenback. Unfortunately for the French, as the franc sags, the government is raising taxes. France is still in the depths of a severe recession.

In the meantime, interest in La PURE VERITE is rising. Excluding French Canada, responses to our PV ads year to date are running 91.6% above last year's, and our PV circulation is 45.2% above July 1982. The total worldwide PV subscription list now stands at 156,391.

Another piece of heartening news is that God is blessing His Work in the French-speaking areas worldwide with a growth in income of 23.4% over the same period last year, even though inflation in these areas varies between 10% to 15%.

Our total response from the ad in the four French versions of READER'S DIGEST now totals 5,062. Broken down into the different versions the responses are as follows: French Canada--2,884; France--1,689; Belgium--259; and 230 responses from French Switzerland.

Mr. Bob Scott, festival elder for the Feast of Tabernacles at Jonquiere, Quebec, has now received over 900 applications for this year's Feast. This will be the second time the Church has chosen Jonquiere as the festival site for French Canada. We were publicly recognized on television by the Jonquiere City Council on July 11. All of the council members who stood up to speak before the cameras praised the attitude and the conduct of the Church members. The council unanimously voted to give us free access to the city's indoor pool, sports arena and tennis court--facilities which represent a savings of about \$700 to the Work.

From July 14 to 28 a French SEP camp was held at Zimmerbach in the Alsace region of France. There were 24 campers and seven staff members, directed by Mr. Olivier Carion. The wide range of activities included: track and field training, hiking in the forest, environmental studies, a visit to an aviary of eagles, a fascinating tour of a wine cellar, swimming and horseback riding. From the beginning to the end of the camp, the weather was radiant and hot. The mayor of Zimmerbach and his assistants were invited to a special performance prepared by the campers. The town leaders were astonished to see such willingness to serve, discipline and hospitality on the part of the campers.

Mr. Gilbert Carbonnel, our minister in Martinique, visited the Port-au-Prince, Haiti Church the weekend of July 22 to 24. Mr. Carbonnel conducted Sabbath services and two Bible studies for 38 persons who attended each of the three assemblies. On top of the load of difficulties the Haitians already face, one more has been added. Due to the drought currently affecting Haiti, water is now being rationed. Can you imagine a tropical country without water?

For the Feast, Mr. Lambert Martial, one of our long-time deacons in the Fort-de-France, Martinique Church, will be traveling to Haiti to conduct the first part of the festival. The second part will be conducted by Mr.

Ray Clore, from Vancouver, Canada who was instrumental in establishing a Church in Haiti. Also, three or four Ambassador College students are scheduled to join the Haitian brethren for the Feast.

Australia Steady progress in all aspects of God's Work in Australia and Asia continued throughout the month of July. Black and white ads offering The PLAIN TRUTH appeared this month in leading Australian magazines--WOMEN'S WEEKLY, WOMAN'S DAY, NEW IDEA, and NEWSWEEK. Initial responses are now being received.

Responses to the advertisement offering The PLAIN TRUTH in the June issue of READER'S DIGEST continued to come in throughout July. By the end of the month, 2,743 reply coupons from the READER'S DIGEST ad had been received, and these new subscribers have now been added to the PT mailing list.

Income for the month was up an encouraging 14.7%, raising our year-to-date increase slightly to 12.6%. In light of the continuing problems which plague the national economy, we are most grateful to Jesus Christ for this increase in income.

On June 28th we were pleased to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Bill Winner and their daughter to Australia. Mr. Winner is a pastor-rank minister who has served for twenty-one years in the ministry. Mr. Winner is no stranger to Australia, having served in God's Work in this area of the world for eight years during the sixties. Mr. Winner is now assisting the Regional Director, Mr. Bob Morton, in directing the Ministerial Services Department. His long experience as a minister will bring extremely valuable assistance and guidance to the ministry in this country.

Asia Mr. Colin Kelly (coordinator for Asia, working from the Australian Office) returned July 22nd after a three-week tour visiting in the Asian area. He conducted a Bible study in Moradabad, India, with 15 people in attendance. Mr. Kelly also held meetings with our ministers in the area--Mr. Spaulding Kulasingam in Bombay, and Mr. Mohan Jayasekera in Colombo--to finalize arrangements for this year's Feast in Sri Lanka.

Our members in Sri Lanka have faced a dangerous and terrifying month as violent rioting and looting left 150,000 homeless in Colombo. Many businesses were destroyed, resulting in severe food shortages. During the violence, God protected the lives of our members there, and they are safe and well. However, a rioting mob destroyed one member's home and possessions. Another member's home was spared when neighbors piled broken furniture outside the house to make the mobs think it had already been attacked. The riots were directed against the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and were fueled by well-organized Communist groups. Law and order has now been restored but it will take some time to restore Colombo and the nation to its previous state.

Mr. Kelly also met with Mr. Yong Chin Gee, our minister in Malaysia, and discussed plans with him for increasing our effectiveness in caring for God's people there. Mr. Yong has recently completed twelve months of intensive studies at Ambassador College and is now assisting in pastoring the Churches in Kuala Lumpur and Johore Bahru.

On the homeward leg of his tour, Mr. Kelly visited Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, where he conducted a Bible study for 12 people before returning to Australia.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife, Alma, and I recently returned from our first Ministerial Refreshing Program and it was beyond our expectations. The atmosphere was so friendly and cordial. It was a joy to meet so many men face to face of whom we have read or heard about. Ministerial Services bent over backwards to make our stay rewarding and informative.

The campus was so beautiful and it was exceeded only by the beauty of the people we met. Your team at Headquarters is certainly giving its full support. We look forward to the next opportunity if time permits.

Aldon and Alma Smith

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I recently returned home from MRP II. After reading others' comments in the PGR for almost two years, we finally have the opportunity to add our voices to those thanking Mr. Armstrong, you, and all who had a hand in providing us with such a fantastic program. Frankly, before we attended it was hard to believe that the second Refreshing Program could top the first. But it most certainly did!

As a local church elder, it was especially encouraging to be considered part of the ministerial team. The hospitality you and others at Pasadena extended to us; the opportunity to become acquainted with other ministers from around the world; and, most importantly, the lectures, instruction, and information given us were far more than "refreshing." The entire experience was simply inspiring and exhilarating.

I'm sure you already do so often--but please be sure again that Mr. Armstrong is made aware of how valuable and important the Refreshing Program is to us. We can hardly wait for what you have in store for us for MRP III.

Don and Rannie Henson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I would like to thank you for a very inspiring two weeks of session twenty of the Refreshing Program. It was great to see the unity, harmony, and togetherness of the Headquarters team as they taught us greater understanding of God's truth and government.

Please convey our special thanks to Mr. Armstrong for his instruction and leadership, and for making this opportunity available for the ministry. It was a very profitable, inspiring, and refreshing two weeks for us.

George and Margaret Hyde

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just a sincere note of thanks to you for allowing the LCEs to attend the Refreshing Program. Rita and I were privileged to be able to attend two years ago and again this past July and it was truly refreshing. When that last question was answered on that last day of the course, and we got up to leave, we realized that it was over and we were going back out into the world--and we didn't want to go! But we are back now and trying to let the local brethren know some of what we have learned and experienced at God's Headquarters here on earth. We are most appreciative of these courses and we feel more a part of God's ministry now than ever before.

William and Rita Pearson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

The opportunity to attend the Refreshing Program recently is very much appreciated by my wife and me. This was our first visit to Ambassador College and the Headquarters of God's Work. It was an experience we will not forget--seeing many old friends, making new friends, and being instructed by God's chosen servants. Everyone in every department went out of his way to make our visit enjoyable. We appreciate Mr. Armstrong establishing this program and allowing the local church elders to participate. Please extend our thanks to everyone involved and we hope to return for Refresher #3.

Harvey and Judy Bauman

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

GREENSBORO, NC--DAN ROGERS: We continue to get a steady stream of PMs, all of whom are very impressed and moved by Mr. Armstrong's telecasts. The congregation's desire to study God's Word and to learn and grow has certainly seemed to increase lately. Their zeal is refreshing!

CHARLOTTE, NC--GEORGE PINCKNEY: Prospective member activity remains high. We have very good media coverage in this area that people in outlying areas can pick up. We can see very clearly that Mr. Armstrong's telecasts are making a big impact on people.

SAN ANTONIO, TX--GREGORY SARGENT: PM activity has picked up recently. We really appreciate the straightforward television programs. It seems the stronger Mr. Armstrong is, the more response we receive from viewers.

SAN BERNARDINO, CA--JAMES PEOPLES: PM activity remains consistently strong. Members and PMs are very enthusiastic about the example being set by Mr. Armstrong. Broadcasts and publications continue to impress.

PHOENIX (WEST), AZ--JAMES TURNER: I have been overwhelmed with new visits for the last few weeks; some of them seem to have good potential while others are not yet ready to come along.

OLYMPIA, WA--MEL DAHLGREN: Most new PMs are requiring a great deal of attention since they are so new. I find that they are coming along in time, but am having to be careful about expecting too much too soon. Others need more time before attending church to be sure they are on the right track.

SARASOTA, FL--DANIEL BIERER: In visiting with PMs lately, I have noted that other religious groups seem to be stepping up their activities against the PT and Church. One member has been harassed by telephone--someone trying to convince him to "leave this cult"!

YANKTON, SD--GEORGE AFFELDT: We have received some organized resistance to the PT stands. One gas station owner was brought before his church council to answer questions about his stand and was told to remove it or be put out of the church. He removed the stand.

VISALIA, CA--GLEN WHITE: We're being shown unusual favor regarding newsstands by store owners who had previously rejected us. Program is doing very well.

BETHLEHEM, PA--RAY LISMAN: Mr. Waterhouse gave our congregation a very powerful Bible study. It was very uplifting and positive, and gave us a great deal to think about as far as measuring ourselves spiritually. I really appreciated his coming.

ROSEBURG, OR--LEONARD SCHREIBER: Many people are commenting how they are enjoying the special features in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT (e.g., the different letters people write in).

QUINCY, WA--GENE WATKINS: It seems God is certainly continuing to get us all ready for what is surely coming. The PT and GN articles continue to hit the nail right on the head in every issue, addressing every immediate problem. It is thrilling and exciting to see this happening!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

We are gearing up for another very busy and productive year. We are expecting about 156 freshmen to arrive here within the next few days. This will be slightly more than our freshman class last year. We expect to have some very fine students, both at the Pasadena and Big Sandy campuses.

Mr. Les McCullough and the others in the faculty and administration at Big Sandy are also quite eagerly looking forward to the new college year. As previously reported, this year we have admitted the freshmen at both campuses to the two-year A.A. (Associate of Arts) or A.S. (Associate of Science) program. Then at the end of two years, we will select about half of the combined Pasadena/Big Sandy two-year graduates to go on into the four-year B.A. degree program. The others will then go back into the local church areas, where many of them will become pillars.

This week we are having what we have come to call "Leadership Week." During this week, we of the administration and faculty have had a number of meet-

ings with the various student leaders for the coming year. We clearly outline what their duties and responsibilities will be. Just this afternoon, I gave the student leaders a lecture on the "Important Aspects of Leadership"--trying to encourage and inspire them to serve diligently in their student leadership positions. One of the points which I stressed--one of the most important aspects of true leadership--is found in II Samuel 23:3: "He that rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." We continually stress the importance of being a servant, not one to "lord it over" those under one's charge.

Next week will be "Orientation Week." The Ambassador campus will soon become a beehive of activity--with students registering, paying their bills, seeking out employment, etc.

By the way, we continue to receive good reports from the ten students and three non-students we sent to spend seven weeks in the People's Republic of China. They plan to return to Pasadena on the day classes begin, Monday, August 29th. I am sure they will have some very interesting experiences to relate to us when they return.

The Value of an A.C. Education

I think all of us know that the real value of an A.C. education can't be measured in dollars and cents, but is to be judged by the measure of personality and character development, along with the development of the intellect. However, as we have reported in past issues of the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT [Sept. 25, 1981; Dec. 25, 1981], A.C. graduates, in fact, do substantially better financially on the average than do the graduates of America's 3,000 other institutions of higher learning.

Recently, I got to considering that in our alumni income survey our graduates were compared with older graduates of other colleges. Comparatively speaking, A.C. graduates have not yet attained their optimum earning power. This factor, when properly taken into account, means that our graduates do even better financially than we had previously supposed.

In discussing this point with Dr. David Albert (Acting Director of Admissions and faculty member at Pasadena), we concluded that we ought to again look at the results of the survey we conducted not long ago, in order to make certain readjustments for the above reasons. The following comments, from Dr. Albert's August 16th memo to me, will further explain this matter:

Graduate Income Average By Age

As you properly observed yesterday in our conversation, we did report our alumni income averages in the most conservative manner, especially in not figuring in the age factor. Because of the relatively short existence of Ambassador College compared to American colleges and universities as a whole, and the fact that early graduating classes of Ambassador College were quite small compared to larger more recent classes, the average age of our 1,500 respondents is only 32 years old. We simply do not have a lot of people in the peak earning years of 45-60.

In our comparisons, I used the overall Census Bureau income average for all persons regardless of age for four years of

college or more--that number being \$24,693 for men and \$13,410 for women. (Ambassador College men in our survey averaged \$26,556 and women \$20,035.) But when we examine average earnings by age group, we find that the average of age 30-34 for U.S. men is \$21,260 and for women \$14,090.

Figured this way, our men would average 24.9% more than their national counterparts and the women 42.2% more.

Combining men and women, our average for both sexes is \$25,839, compared to U.S. averages in this age range of \$19,474--which is 32.7% greater.

Personally, I would be very comfortable stating that our men make 20-25% more than similarly educated national counterparts, and our women 33-50% more than their counterparts educated elsewhere.

The training young people receive at Ambassador College really does pay off in the marketplace!

Once again, I would like to thank you ministers in the field for communicating with the College Administration (the Dean of Students, Director of Admissions, myself and others) regarding students or prospective students.

A.C. Policy re Dating Pursuant to Marriage

Perhaps some of you have not been informed of the present policy concerning students seriously dating pursuant to marriage. Mr. Albrecht and I discussed this subject with Mr. Armstrong some time ago, and here is the policy which he set at that time. (I believe this was back in 1979.)

If students pursue their romantic interests prematurely, this often inhibits them furthering their education. In all too many cases, a premature marriage forces the student (because of a lack of finances or other considerations) to drop out of college altogether.

For these and other reasons, Mr. Armstrong decided that it would be best for the average young A.C. male not to begin serious dating pursuant to marriage until his senior year. And he said the A.C. co-eds should not start dating seriously pursuant to marriage until their junior year at Ambassador. He mentioned, however, that this general rule did not necessarily apply to older students. We have always made exceptions for older students.

But he still feels that students should come to Ambassador primarily to receive a God-oriented education--not primarily for the purpose of finding a mate. Certainly one of the great benefits of Ambassador is that it affords many young people the opportunity to date widely in a wholesome environment so they can get to know different ones, thereby making a much wiser marital choice. The students should, therefore, put their education and their mental, physical and emotional development first--ahead of marriage! And they should not even consider marriage until they are financially able, and are properly prepared for marriage in other important areas.

I thought you ministers would like to be informed of the policy, set by Mr. Armstrong, for the young people attending Ambassador College. We will cer-

tainly appreciate your encouraging the students to stay within these guidelines while they may be visiting in your areas during the summer or other college breaks.

This week the twenty-first and last group of ministers and wives will have completed Ministerial Refreshing Program II. It is always good to be able to visit and fellowship with you ministers and your wives while you are here in Pasadena. I am sure, from the many letters printed in the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, that you have both enjoyed and greatly benefited from attending the Refreshing Program.

Please continue to remember in your prayers those of us serving the students of Ambassador College as we begin a new college year--which we hope will be the best ever! May God continue to protect, bless, guide, and inspire all of you as you serve His people to the utmost of your ability.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

**** TO BE ANNOUNCED ****

Holy Day Offering Envelopes

(Please announce in all U.S. Churches on August 27)

Offering envelopes for the fall Holy Days have been mailed. Although these envelopes are sent by more economical, slower third class mail, they should have reached you by now. If they have not arrived by Wednesday, August 31, please call the toll-free number in Pasadena (800-423-4444). If you live in California, Alaska or Hawaii, call 213-304-6111 collect. Another set of envelopes will be sent immediately by first class mail.

Please make every effort to use these labeled envelopes for your offerings. Doing this helps keep processing time and costs to a minimum. We were pleased to note that during the spring Holy Day season, the usual problems such as improperly prepared checks, empty envelopes, discrepancies between the amount written on the envelope and the amount actually enclosed, etc., were quite low. We would like to encourage everyone to keep up the good work. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

WATS Department Gears Up for Feast Operations

With the 1983 Feast of Tabernacles just around the corner, the WATS Department is once again making preparations to have the phone lines manned with volunteers. We expect to have about 300 brethren answering calls this year.

The WATS Festival Volunteer Program clearly demonstrates the mutual benefits of God's way of give. By offering their time and effort, members from

all over the U.S. and the world are given a unique opportunity to serve God's Work in this exciting way. In so doing, they help the Work by properly handling the thousands of calls that come in during the Feast, many of which would otherwise be lost.

New PMs Thrilled With God's Calling

A number of new PMs, who are growing toward baptism, have expressed joy and excitement about beginning God's way of life. Their letters often illustrate a deep "first love," and an earnest desire to become a part of the Body of Christ. Following are some of their comments:

I have just received your letter of thanks for the small contribution I made to further the Gospel of the Kingdom. It is I who should be thanking you for the opportunity of doing a small part in this great Work.

I was blessed to be able to attend a meeting with some of God's Church for the first time this past Saturday. It was so very thrilling to know that God's Church is still alive and active, and that I can be a part of it. I thank you so very much for putting me in touch.

I had been so disappointed in religion but now I'm coming to understand my true purpose. Life has taken on meaning for me--before it was just existence, but now I know that it is worth living. Thank you again. My prayers are with you and the great Work God has called you to do.

C.W. (Pineville, KY)

Peace be with you. You are foremost in my prayers as you carry on God's Work. I cherish all of your letters and articles, pamphlets and booklets. Like you, in your intense study into the Word of God to prove your wife wrong, I have a burning desire for God's Word. I am hungry for truth and now read the Scriptures with a new insight.

The last time I wrote you I made a request for a visit from a minister. He came out to talk to me and I was invited to attend Sabbath services as a pre-member. Fellowship has added a new dimension to my life. I am eager to be baptized. I feel like a child just starting in kindergarten, eager and absorbing all knowledge. Thank God I have found The PLAIN TRUTH and Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong. I am just a simple man with an eighth grade education. After three weeks of fellowship with the Body of Christ, I have found joy and peace. Yes, I really have.

H.T. (Oakland, CA)

I am so grateful for all the time and effort that is spent by you and your ministry compiling the vast amount of pamphlets you generously provide for us. Each one I receive leads to three more I want to read. God's plan of redemption for us all has become so intriguing to me...and has eliminated fear, depression and confusion from my life. "Free" now has a different meaning to me.

The Bible, long before irradiated from my home because it was not relevant or possible to understand, has now been returned to its rightful place and has become a vital force in my life.

Mrs. R.D. (San Jose, CA)

I just want to thank you for all the literature you have sent me. I am reading and studying it and have attended my first Worldwide Church of God service. I am so thankful that through you God has started to open my eyes and set me going in the right direction. I have been searching and searching for years and have been in and out of several churches, but I just couldn't seem to find what I was searching for. Now, thank God, I truly believe I am in the right place. Some of my experiences sound similar to those you described when first coming into the truth. Through your literature, so many questions have been answered for me.

It is such a wonderful feeling to have questions cleared up once and for all and knowing it is true, when one reads it in the Scriptures. No other church I have ever attended points out the scriptural references to prove what they represent or teach.

L.D. (Chicago, IL)

I have now received the first lesson of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course and many other booklets requested in the past few months. My wife and I appreciate so much your making this wonderful reading material available to us. We look forward to the mail arriving each day and feel a surge of joy each time we receive anything at all from the Worldwide Church of God.

We have now become acquainted with your minister in this area, and have started attending services each Sabbath. We are, of course, happier than we ever thought possible. Mr. Armstrong is in our daily prayers, as are the ministers and flocks of the Church.

R.M. (Fort Worth, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE BIG DROUGHT OF 1983; LIBYA'S EMPIRE SPREADS AS AMERICA WATCHES; GERMAN REUNIFICATION

"I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze" (Lev. 26:19).

Back to back with America's deepening military involvement in Central America, we are seeing a rather sudden downturn in American agriculture. Weather all across the U.S. is terribly upset (we are sweltering through a hot and unusually humid summer here in Pasadena). The wet spring which plagued farmers in the Midwest gave no indication of the extremely hot and dry summer that was to follow. As a result of the weather (coupled with governmental policy) the estimated corn crop nationwide is now forecast at 5.24 billion bushels--smallest since 1974 and 38% below 1982's record crop. The soybean harvest, a key source of poultry feed, is expected to be 19% lower than a year ago. Here are excerpts from the lead article in the August 22, 1983 issue of NEWSWEEK, entitled "The Big Drought of '83":

A drought [is] extending all across the nation's Midwest grain lands, confounding farmers who had spent the spring battling torrential rains--and alarming Washington planners with the prospect that Mother Nature and their own farm policy have combined to guarantee a shrinking harvest and rising food prices during the 1984 election year.

The parched farm belt extends from thirsty Eastern fields to arid acres in west Texas--a pattern that has some state officials recalling the Dust Bowl [of the 1930s]. The national crop forecast is just as bleak. Last week the Agriculture Department predicted a 38 percent plunge in the corn harvest--the smallest in nine years. Farmers planting soybeans and other feed grains can expect their own bad seasons. The Drought of '83 finds the nation's grain reserves adequate to cushion against any serious shortages or near-term price hikes, but next year is more problematical....

In a sense, [President] Reagan's agriculture policy has compounded the impact of the drought with a payment-in-kind (PIK) program that encouraged farmers to keep part of their land fallow; in return, the government allocated them a share of the national surplus in corn, wheat, rice or cotton to sell at market value. The novel strategy was designed to cut back burgeoning grain reserves while giving farm income a needed boost. As it has worked out, PIK has reduced the potential corn crop by 2.2 billion bushels in addition to the estimated 1 billion bushels devastated by drought. The combination of man-made and natural shortfalls now threatens to shrink corn reserves--and leaves administration officials perplexed about the wisdom of PIK. "No matter how important we think we are in Washington," said Deputy Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng, "Somebody Up There has more clout than we do."

The drought struck hard and without warning. The unusually heavy rains of last spring left farm-belt soil more moist than any on record. Then, in early July, the rains suddenly stopped--replaced by a series of heat waves that sent temperatures soaring past 100 degrees along the corn-rich southern rim of Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. The combination of heat and drought proved especially deadly to sensitive corn plants, which require increased moisture as a cooling mechanism in high temperatures. Only about two-thirds of the crop has reached the silking--or pollination--stage. Plants that do not will never produce kernels. "In the last week to 10 days," says Norton Strommen, the Agriculture Department's chief meteorologist, "the losses have become irreversible."

In Marion County, Kans., farmers already are planning to make silage of corn plants that have never even developed ears. In southeastern Iowa, farmers expect to harvest five to 10 bushels of corn on land that usually yields a hundred.... Conditions are as bad in Jasper County, Ind. "There are fields out there that are 90 to 95 percent gone," says farmer Alex Hanewich. "It's all burned up from top to bottom. The leaves look like you could walk out there and grab them and they'd crumble to dust."

Back to the first part of Leviticus 26:19--"I will break the pride of your power." Confidence in the projection of America's power has not yet been completely broken in the United States, at least not in certain leadership circles. The current Administration, in fact, is doing its human best to revive slumping pride, so sorely lacking since Vietnam. William Pfaff explains in the August 15, 1983 issue of The NEW YORKER:

It is difficult not to think that the issue of El Salvador serves for many in the Reagan Administration, and among its supporters in the intellectual community, as a means by which to refight and win the Vietnam War. They intend to demonstrate once and for all how those who opposed the war in Vietnam, and argued that it could not, or would not, be won at a proportionate moral and political cost, or said that it should not be fought at all, were wrong.

This time, in Central America, a new United States Administration will apply measures that were never effectively used in Vietnam--they maintain--and will demonstrate the will to win, that "resolve" which was lacking of Vietnam. Those who obstruct them will be held responsible if Central America should then be "lost."

These efforts, however, will not succeed. A squeamish Congress and a press opposed to the President's "gunboat diplomacy" will snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, if it ever even gets that far.

Empire-Building Libyan Calls U.S. Bluff

American power has also been called into question in the Libya-Chad clash in North Africa. An article in the WALL STREET JOURNAL, August 18, 1983, entitled "Qadhafi Made Reagan Appear the Paper Tiger" shows that the Libyan dictator has called the U.S. bluff this time. He is proceeding with his plan to partition Chad, lopping off its northern Arab half, on the way to creating his own "Islamic Empire" stretching from one end of North Africa to the other.

N'DJAMENA, Chad--The U.S. and Libya stood eyeball to eyeball over the pale sands in Chad, and the Reagan administration blinked.... Col. Muammar Qadhafi called Washington's bluff in Chad. Africa's leaders can't help but wonder now about America's word.

The Chadian civil war has sputtered and flared for almost two decades now.... It might have sputtered and flared unnoticed for years more if Col. Qadhafi hadn't sent his fighter planes to bomb an oasis in central Chad on July 30 and dared anyone to stop him. Quickly, the U.S. took up the Libyan's dare; then, just as quickly, it backed off again.

Col. Qadhafi hasn't ever hidden his desire to reshape Africa, with himself as the brightest star in a constellation of Moslem states.... Col. Qadhafi's attempts to suborn Chad are part of a far grander scheme to establish an Islamic Saharan empire stretching from Mauritania in the west to Sudan in the east. Already, the Libyan leader has warned Niger's president that Niamey [Niger's capital] is his next target.

Washington's sabre-rattling was heard across Africa. Quickly, the administration offered Chad \$25 million in arms and equipment.... Washington dispatched two AWACS surveillance planes to neighboring Sudan.... And finally, it ordered the Dwight D. Eisenhower to the Gulf of Sidra, which Libya claims as its territorial waters, provoking a Libyan threat to sink the aircraft carrier.

But Col. Qadhafi called the president's bluff. For two days, 50 Libyan planes pummeled Faya-Largeau, the major city in northern Chad, in what a Western diplomat called "an awesome display of modern warfare." On the same day that Faya-Largeau fell, effectively delivering half the country to advancing Libyan troops, Mr. Reagan declared Chad to be France's concern. Yes, he told reporters, Libya was guilty of empire-building, but no, he added, Washington wouldn't send troops to stop it.

The U.S. has been wary of assuming the policeman's role in Africa, and with good reason.... But in abandoning Chad only weeks after springing so quickly and publicly to its defense, the U.S. certainly planted new doubts about its dependability in Africa.

More Talk About German Reunification

The issue of German reunification is a constant, if usually back-burner factor, of West German foreign policy. Occasionally it heats up for any one of a number of reasons, usually political. The most recent eruption occurred in July, when West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl made an unusually strong pitch for reunification while a guest of Soviet President Yuri Andropov. In the August 19 issue of NATIONAL REVIEW, John McLaughlin analyzes this on-again-off-again issue:

Congress has adjourned, the President is on vacation, the bureaucracy snoozes.... What holds the interest of the diplomats, and the few stray academics hereabouts, is Helmut Kohl's reckless eyeball-to-eyeball face-off with Yuri Andropov, inside the Kremlin, on the occasion of Herr Kohl's early July summit there. What the newly-elected chancellor did was to call for the reunification of Germany, thereby rushing in where angels Brandt and Schmidt for years had feared to tread.

The scene was the more audacious when one recalls that the Soviet Union, of all nations, is the most terrified by the prospect of a single Germany. Kohl uttered the unspeakable, moreover, at a time when the Soviets are fearful that Poland may be wrested from the Warsaw Pact orbit and from the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), General Jaruzelski having gotten on well with the Pope, and the Poles having been reinspired by him. If Poland becomes a quasi-buffer, the Soviets would be without untrammelled access to East Germany. So, it is not only that the chancellor says it right to Mr. Andropov's face, but also that he says it at a time when the Soviets are already worried about the potential loss of Poland.

This is all very iffy, of course, and the State Department thinks the likelihood of German reunification is nonexistent. "Nothing

like this on the horizon," says one high-ranking State Department official.... The unity talk may, however, be viewed not as a maneuver by Kohl but...as a groundswell by the German people. If you hold the latter view, a lot of evidence can be adduced to substantiate it. In West Germany today, for example, political parties abound: the Christian Democratic Union, the Christian Social Union, the Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Free Democratic Party. All these parties are fighting one another on a plethora of issues, ranging from pensions to the stationing of ground-launched nuclear missiles. But on one issue there is no discord--reunification. This consensus is all the more remarkable given the distance between, say, the Greens and Franz Josef Strauss's extremely conservative Christian Social Union....

Germany has been divided almost continuously, in one way or another, since the death of Charlemagne. Reunification now, were it to occur, would scare the deuce out of all Europe, East and West: Russia, Britain, France, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark. "What will they do if they get together?" asks a Western diplomat here. "They'll try to squash the rest of Europe. If de Gaulle were alive, he'd be firing his rockets at Germany now, just at the talk of unification. He'd see Alsace-Lorraine as first on the German reacquisition list." But in fact, Mitterrand says nothing, Mrs. Thatcher says nothing, NATO says nothing, we say nothing. Why? Because of West German money, and no sense of urgency.

Yet, as an internationalist puts it, "We could be on the threshold of the most dramatic shift of the West/East power equation in this quarter-century. Do we want to ape the Thirties where everyone sucked their thumbs while Hitler broke the Versailles pacts, pulled out of the League of Nations, and marched into the Rhineland?"

Despite their reluctance to see a reunified Germany, the Soviets nevertheless may be considering it as part of a long-term solution to their never-ending crisis in Eastern Europe, as well as a means to keep new American missiles--soon to begin arriving--out of the continent. At least this is the speculation among Hungarian officials, according to an article in the July 31, 1983 issue of Britain's weekly (Sunday) newspaper, THE OBSERVER. Entitled, "Russia May Opt for Unity of Germany," it was written from Budapest by Lajos Lederer:

Hungarian officials believe that, despite the failure of arms control talks and the frigid relations between the superpowers, the Soviet Union is planning a European "peace offensive."

Its long-term target, they believe, would be a united and neutralised Europe with a reunited Germany at its heart. The idea that such a plan may be in the mind of the Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov, has emerged from remarks he made to Janos Kadar, the Hungarian leader, during three long meetings in Moscow.

Sources here say that the Russians are now working on a long-range strategic plan which will entail fundamental changes in their policies towards Eastern Europe and the West, including

their past opposition to German reunification. The reason for this rethink, they say, is the recognition by the Soviet Union that the development of nuclear missiles has destroyed the rationale for maintaining the states of Eastern Europe as a "buffer" between Russia and the West. However loyal Poland and Hungary and the rest might be in a nuclear war, they could do nothing to prevent the annihilation of the Soviet Union....

Faced with the missile threat and more serious long-term risk of a hostile China, the Soviet leadership sees its security as lying in a combination of arms control agreements with the United States and political stabilisation in Europe....

The Hungarians would not be surprised if, among the offers from Moscow would be a striking one; the withdrawal of military forces from Eastern Europe in exchange of American forces withdrawing from Western Europe.

The Hungarians believe the Soviet Union is determined to persuade the West that it has no aggressive plans for spreading Soviet ideology. In support of this view, the Hungarians claim to detect evidence of a growing liberalisation in Eastern Europe, especially in religion. One example is the recent honour paid in Hungary to a prominent Jewish leader, Rabbi Dr. Alexander Scheiber, director of the Hungarian Jewish Seminary, who was presented with Hungary's highest award....

Finally, informed Hungarians believe the most startling development has been the extent to which Soviet leaders have allowed talk of German reunification to revive. The public raising of the German question by Chancellor Kohl of West Germany on his visit to Andropov was not, in the Hungarian view, a bolt from the blue.

It is also of interest that Franz Josef Strauss recently (and apparently rather impulsively) made a sudden fact-finding trip to Eastern Europe, driving through East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, in his own turbo-diesel Mercedes. Even on such short notice he was able to arrange a private summit with East German party boss Erich Honecker. While walking through the streets of Dresden one day, several East Germans came near him asking for his personal help in arranging for them to leave their country for West Germany. Police restrained, then dragged off one woman, prompting an angry Strauss to demand what they were going to do with her! The incident proves the influence Strauss has in the Communist-run "zone."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau