

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Long-time Minister Dies

Mr. Robert V. Flores, pastor of the Spanish-speaking congregation in Pasadena, died Sunday, May 20th, after a year-long battle with cancer. Funeral services were held at Mountain View Cemetery on Wednesday, May 23rd. Approximately 200 ministers, members and Refreshing Program attendees were present to honor this long-time minister of God's Church.

Mr. Flores and his wife Olivia first attended the Feast of Tabernacles in 1953 after first hearing the broadcast in 1951. Mr. Flores served as deacon, and later local church elder in the San Antonio, Texas congregation until they were brought to Pasadena in 1967 to attend Ambassador College for two years. Having received Ambassador College training, Mr. and Mrs. Flores were sent to South America from 1969-1974 to function as the representatives of the Church in that region.

Mr. Flores' most recent and longest assignment was pastoring the Spanish congregation of Pasadena from 1975-1984. Mr. Flores was beloved and appreciated by his congregation and all the people of Pasadena for his humble spirit of service and dedication to God's Church. As was mentioned in the funeral service: "He fought a good fight, he finished the course, he kept the faith--no higher words can be spoken of Christian or minister."

Mr. Flores is survived by his wife Olivia and their three children, all members of God's Church: Robert G. Flores, pastor of the Corpus Christi congregation; Harold G. Flores, of Pasadena; and Diana Dinger, of San Diego.

Mrs. Flores would like to extend her heartfelt appreciation for all of your support in prayer, concern, and cards to her husband and family.

Recent Ordination

One ordination took place during the fourth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. At a dinner on May 8, Mr. Earl Williams, pastor of the Brooklyn and Queens, New York churches, was raised to pastor rank.

International News

Update From London PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the United Kingdom for the June issue, now over 132,000, is up 44% over 1983 and exceeds the previous record level of 126,838 reached in 1974. The 1974 list had not been renewed for some time, and once renewed it dropped by over 50%. The current list is regularly renewed and thus more solidly based. Incidentally, renewal responses in the U.K. are very healthy, with 70% from primes and around 35% from new subscribers.

Healthy increases are being made here in all areas. Increases over April 1983 are as follows: The GOOD NEWS 15.2%, donors 18.1%, co-workers 14.4% and members 6.4%.

The mail count for April shows an increase of 34.9% over April 1983, and the year-to-date increase is 54.7%. Mail income year to date is up by 10% and the holy day offerings for the Feast of Unleavened Bread were up by a staggering 39%!

The U.K. newsstand program is continuing to bring in new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers at a rate of over 2,500 per month. Magazines are now being distributed in 11 cities in Great Britain.

Scandinavia: We are very pleased and excited to report that the series of advertisements in Scandinavian newspapers and magazines have brought in very good response rates. As expected, the ads which featured response cards have fared much better than the "coupon-type." The best response to date is 1.3% and it looks as if this will be equalled by the Norwegian and Danish editions of READER'S DIGEST. The total number of responses to date is 12,894, and of these 11,250 are requests for the Norwegian magazine. The difference in demand between the Norwegian and English editions in the various countries has worked out almost exactly as expected with the following ratios:

Norway--for every English edition requested, 10 requested Norwegian
 Denmark--for every English edition requested, four requested Norwegian
 Sweden--for every English edition requested, one requested Norwegian
 Finland--for every two English editions requested, one requested Norwegian

Six Norwegian language booklets are now in print, including THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. Four more will be printed by the end of July. These are: DOES GOD EXIST?, JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN...KINGDOM OF GOD?, THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS and WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING IN THE NEXT LIFE? Thirteen more are at various stages of production, and we expect to have at least five lessons of the Bible correspondence course in print by the end of the summer.

Middle East: The PLAIN TRUTH subscriber list in the Middle East has increased 2.3% over March this year, and by 60.9% over April 1983. The list now stands at 9,909, and at current rates of increase will peak at just over 10,000 by next month.

From Australia We are now beginning to see results from the recently-begun waiting room program. In this program, libraries and businesses with waiting rooms are approached by Church members offering them a free subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH. There are currently 1,650 libraries and waiting rooms on our subscription list. Over 1,300 were added in March and April.

One church area alone was responsible for 450 new subscriptions. The minister there estimates that only 20% of the businesses have been contacted so far. Members from another church area visited all the prisons in the state of New South Wales. As a result of their efforts, all 19 prison institutions in the state now receive The PLAIN TRUTH and YOUTH 84, and have a selection of the Church's booklets in their libraries.

A double-page ad placed in the March WOMAN'S DAY magazine has resulted in the highest response so far for any advertisement we have placed. By the end of April, 4,076 responses were received from the ad, representing 0.69% of the readership.

Mail and income for April continued to show a healthy increase over 1983. A total of 12,620 pieces of incoming mail were received and 101,432 letters and envelopes containing publications were mailed out. This volume of outgoing mail was up 16.4% over April 1983. Due to the fine holy day offerings, income for April was 18% higher than in the same month last year. This brings the year-to-date increase to 15.4%.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the British Isles

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES--DAVID BEDFORD: Everyone seems to have benefited greatly from the Days of Unleavened Bread as a renewed zeal is evident amongst the brethren.

SCOTLAND--COLIN WILKINS: A number of the brethren have really taken to heart the meaning of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread and have more of a sense of urgency to get sin out of their lives.

NORTH WEST ENGLAND--DAVID SILCOX: Attitudes both prior to and during the Days of Unleavened Bread this year were very good, with virtually everyone attending on both holy days. The beautiful weather and excellent offerings made a most profitable holy day season, and I think shows that the Church is in excellent health at this time.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND--DAVID MAGOWAN: One word sums up this past month of baptisms and the holy days: Excellent! A tremendous time was had by everyone, with the kind of sermon/sermonette material from speakers that has benefited the congregations enormously. It seems that God's Spirit was given in extra measure this year. Mr. Armstrong's pre-holy day member letter set the tone and members responded with record offerings for these days. It was very encouraging.

SOUTHERN ENGLAND--DAVID HOUSE: Mr. and Mrs. Sayers had a very close shave when the row of flats in which they live, above a parade of shops, was struck by a lightning bolt of great power.

Flames one to two feet long came out of all electricity points. Their one-year-old son was lying a few inches from a point but was not hurt. Elaine was about to bath Benjamin; had he been in the bath he would have been killed as everything capable of conducting electricity became live.

A hardware shop two doors along caught fire and was severely damaged. The fire raged around containers of bottled gas and kerosene which did not however catch fire. Had they done so the Sayers' way of escape from their flat would have been cut off. And if the gas had exploded they could have died. As it was, the

smoke was so dense that they had to wrap Benjamin's head up completely to make good their escape from the flat.

It was reported that all appliances whether plugged in or not were destroyed. Eighteen TV sets were taken back by rental firms with their insides fused together. None of the Sayers' appliances were damaged. The TV set was unplugged as they were not using it on the Sabbath. However, the electrical wiring in the circuits was fused together.

Their car was parked under the area of the roof that was struck. Tiles and debris cascaded onto the car and around it, leaving it covered with debris. However, the car was not scratched. Mr. and Mrs. Sayers have no doubt that God gave them very special protection from what could have killed them all.

From the United States

SPRINGFIELD, MA--LYLE WELTY: We were very encouraged to see the response to Mr. Armstrong's letter and request for generous holy day offerings. We have sensed and seen the support for Mr. Armstrong in a number of ways. But to see the congregation respond with offerings that were 60% and 65% larger than last year's offerings was most inspiring. We trust this is a reflection of how well the flock is doing spiritually as well.

CHADRON, NE/RAPID CITY, SD--STEVE BUCHANAN: As time goes on, it appears more certain that there are a number in the area who are either extremely weak, or have never been converted. The spring holy days have revealed a few more "wrinkles" in attitudes. A few have come to see the need to counsel about the lack of fruits of God's Spirit. Others are too proud or are unaware of the problem. It seems amazing that an individual can "drift" for 5, 10 or even 15 years "in" the Church, and never have been converted.

FORT WAYNE, IN--DARRIS McNEELY: Many favorable comments have come back after I gave the material from the Refreshing Program on music and the Christian. Parents were shocked at what is done in today's music. It made them realize the need to examine their tastes in entertainment in order to set a good example for their children. They also were glad to see this subject being emphasized from Headquarters.

BLACKFOOT, ID--RANDY SCHREIBER: We just finished a District Weekend. We hired outside referees and they were very impressed with the attitudes and conduct of all the kids involved in the games. They said, "Whoever is responsible for these kids is doing a great job." It is evident that under the direction of Mr. Armstrong, the parents, local ministry and others at Headquarters are working with the youth to bring about the desired results.

AUBURN, WA--RICHARD PARKER: The letters to Dwight Armstrong still continue to come in. For quite a number of weeks they came in at a surprisingly steady rate (100 plus a day). So far over 7,000 letters and cards have arrived. Many of our brethren from

overseas have written. It is truly inspiring to see this response and to see that this truly is the "Worldwide" Church of God.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

Commencement exercises for Pasadena graduates were held in Ambassador Auditorium on Friday, May 18th at 4:00 p.m. One hundred seventy-two seniors received their Bachelor of Arts degrees--making this one of the largest classes ever, and certainly the largest graduating class since May, 1978.

I was informed that we distributed about 2,000 programs, though we were only able to seat about 1,300 in the Auditorium. The rest viewed the commencement exercises via TV hook-up to the Imperial Gymnasium. Many friends and relatives of the graduating seniors attended the exercises.

Dr. Herman L. Hoeh delivered the commencement address both at Pasadena on Friday, and at Big Sandy on the previous Wednesday. His address was entitled: "The Preservation of Cultural Values."

On the Thursday evening previous to graduation, the Grad Ball was held, sponsored by the junior class. The decorations, music and entertainment were very fine. The ministers still here after the last session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program, the local ministers, the faculty, and managers of major departments were invited.

Then on Friday morning, we had a delightful Graduation Brunch in the Student Center. Again, all of the graduating seniors and their guests, the faculty, plus various ministers and their wives were in attendance. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was not present, as he had left for Washington, D.C., a couple of days previously.

This year we held our annual Track and Field Day on Thursday, May 17th. Again many of the ministers and wives were able to attend this event along with the students and faculty of Ambassador College. During those sports events eight new records were set. We did not set any world records, but overall we were quite pleased that we were able to break so many of our old Ambassador College records.

On May 23rd, the Big Sandy and Pasadena faculties of Ambassador College, along with the faculty of Imperial Schools, began attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Shortly after the conclusion of this session, many of us will scatter over various parts of the earth to serve at S.E.P. in Orr, Big Sandy and Scotland, the Jerusalem Dig, and other programs. Also, several of the ministers on the faculty will be going out again during Pentecost to visit and speak to a number of the churches. We always look forward to having a few days of getting to know a little better the ministers, elders, deacons and brethren in the churches which we visit.

We will soon have our annual Retentions Meeting to see which students will not be able to continue in Ambassador--due to low grades, or due to

financial or other problems which may make it impossible for them to remain in the College. Last year, happily, we had to drop only a very few, and hope that we will have the same situation this year. Please continue to pray for those of us serving God's College at Pasadena and Big Sandy. We need your support and prayers continually.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Thanks to Members for Their Cooperation

Would you kindly convey a big THANK YOU to members for carefully and accurately preparing their holy day offerings for the Days of Unleavened Bread. There were very few problems such as unsigned checks, discrepancies or missing subscription numbers. Their cooperation saved a great deal of processing time, which made these record offerings stretch even further in doing the work of God's Church.

PLAIN TRUTH Delivery Averages Seven Days

Through reports from our mail monitors (a network of 230 members located all over the U.S.) we have found that The PLAIN TRUTH now takes an average of seven days to be delivered nationwide. Because our circulation is so large, magazines are loaded onto Postal Service trucks at the Donnelley plant in Kentucky and taken directly to large bulk mail centers throughout the country. Formerly they were all taken to the Cincinnati bulk mail center and then trucked nationwide.

Ambassador Students Receive Training at MPC

With the approval of the College Administration, two pilot training programs for students were offered by the Mail Processing Center this past year. The main purpose of these programs was to develop the students' job skills and thus increase their usefulness to the Church if hired. This training would also give them an edge in the outside job market when seeking employment.

One course was a survey of Mail Processing for international students. The other, for U.S. students, was designed to provide practical work experience in a modern office environment. The classes consisted of weekly one-hour sessions and were offered to both men and women on a voluntary basis. Below is a further description of each program:

Class for International Students

Students were given a detailed survey of the Mail Processing Center, its different sections, and its basic functions and procedures. Additional lectures covered such topics as the use of audio-visual equipment, leadership and management skills, and unity.

Since Ambassador students are frequently hired by our regional offices, several directors had mentioned that such training would be especially valuable to the international areas.

Introduction to Modern Office Procedures

This program was established to aid students in developing useful job skills by receiving instruction from MPC supervisors along with "hands on" work experience in the department.

After a brief introduction to MPC, students were able to specialize in one of the following areas: supervision and management principles, secretarial-receptionist work, personal correspondence and letter-writing, office machines and equipment, word processing, statistics and report writing.

The 76 students who participated were very enthusiastic about the information and training they received and felt it would be very helpful in their future employment. Many said they used the skills and principles they learned immediately, in performing their student jobs and responsibilities.

A number of graduating seniors who took part were hired in Mail Processing. Several others will be employed in international offices or serve as ministerial trainees in international areas.

Blessings in Employment

God generously provides for those who faithfully keep His laws, especially in the area of their employment. Many members have been blessed with better jobs, salary increases, improved business even in slower economic times, and grace and favor in regard to taking time off for the Sabbath and holy days. We thought you'd find some of their experiences, as shared by the following letters, very encouraging.

My husband has just been blessed with a new job and he is making two to three times as much as he did at his previous job. So instead of sending a check for this amount twice a month, we will be sending one once a week. It's an answer to our financial problems.

Not only has the income been a blessing, but also my husband has been assigned to the first shift indefinitely. This is a real blessing and a surprise because at the factory where he works you have to have years of seniority before you can get on first shift. Now my husband will be able to continue attending Spokesman Club.

T.V. (Beaver Dam, WI)

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am fine, except for sore feet. You see, I have been working for New York Airlines for three weeks as a ticket agent. God has blessed me by granting me my dream career.

For ten years I have wanted to be either a flight attendant or a ticket agent. It was a long and hard struggle, but after 3½ years in the U.S. Army, 1½ years of college, travel school in 1980 and two jobs in the travel industry, it has finally happened. Training in New York was fast paced and difficult at times, but I always prayed to God to help me through it.

L.M. (Washington, DC)

Enclosed are the last tithes and offerings from my part-time job. I quit my job to be a full-time homemaker. Since I quit, my husband, after working night shift for almost five years, was suddenly put on day shift. He has been given more overtime than ever before. He now makes more money in two hours overtime than I made in one week at my part-time job. God has really blessed us for paying our tithes and trusting Him.

S.M. (Marysville, OH)

Our son Earl started a new job about four or five weeks ago. When he was there for three days they asked him to work on Saturday. He said no because he observes the Sabbath. He was told that his job could be in jeopardy because of it and was in fact fired.

The next day, Earl talked to the ministers about it. Then on Friday he decided he would stop by the place where he got fired and ask the man to put down in writing why he was fired. The man took him to someone else higher up and this man asked Earl if he was told they work on Saturdays before he was hired and he said no.

This man also told Earl that he could get his job back (especially when he found out that he did up to two days work in one day). He also told the other man that they could be in serious trouble for firing him because of the Sabbath and asked Earl when he wanted to start back to work. He said he would come back on Monday. It sure was a fast answer to prayer!

Mr. & Mrs. E.B. (Elkhart, IN)

After you answered my first letter's question about keeping the Sabbath holy, an unusual blessing from God took place in my life last week. Just when I had consented to God, in prayer, to speak to my boss about taking Friday evenings off, my boss told me that same day to take Fridays off because his customers would be watching sports on TV. My heart dropped to my feet. God had intervened where I hesitated. It really strengthened my faith in Jesus Christ.

B.L. (Taunton, MA)

As I am employed as a construction worker, I have never been able to predict my income with any degree of accuracy due to the capriciousness of the economy. However, my current second tithe savings at this mid-year point shows I have earned much more than ever before in my forty years. I am both thrilled and amazed at God's blessing!

It is, therefore, with sincere joy that I send you my tithe of the tithe. Use it to the best advantage for God's great festivals as He has truly opened the windows of blessing on myself and my family.

G.S. (Portland, OR)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENEWEST GERMANY: END OF CONSENSUS; "EUROPESSIMISM";
THE DECLINING JAPANESE WORK ETHIC

It was a sight thought inconceivable a decade ago: mass union walkouts in West Germany. The mystique of the once vaunted German work ethic has been shattered by a series of regional strikes staged by the powerful 2.7 million member metal-workers' labor union, I.G. Metall.

The union is demanding a reduction of the work week to 35 hours, with no cut in pay. This scheme, union leaders maintain, would create 200,000 jobs in the metal-working industry, helping alleviate West Germany's nagging unemployment problem. The employers, including auto industry giants such as Volkswagen, Opel, Ford and Mercedes say such a cutback would increase labor costs by 20% and deal a serious blow to the competitiveness of the German auto industry.

West German labor costs are already the fourth highest in the world (following the U.S., Canada and Switzerland) and highest in the European Community. The indirect labor cost component--social security contributions and fringe benefits--is the highest in the world, equivalent to 80% of direct wages (as opposed to 36% in the U.S.). The push for lower work hours is said to come from younger generation West Germans coupled with pressures by the many foreign workers in the country. One thing is for certain, reports William G. Andrews in the May 22 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, West Germany is a changing country:

The number 35 looms large on the German landscape this spring. In one context, it commemorates the beginning of the postwar era. In another, it may presage its end.... The commemorations began with the 35th anniversary of the NATO treaty on April 4. The signing of the treaty preceded...the establishment first of the Federal Republic in West Germany on May 23 and then of the German Democratic Republic in the Soviet zone a week later. Those two short months ended a generation of almost unrelieved turmoil and tragedy and laid the foundations of postwar Germany and Europe....

West Germany has been animated by an almost obsessive search for political and social conciliation.... The major political parties agreed on most important policies.... Labor and management shared that attitude, collaborating to maintain an extraordinary degree of industrial peace. The Federal Republic has had only half the strike rate of France, one-fourth that of Britain and one-eighth that of the United States.... However, the number 35 in its second context may be signaling an end to consensus.... The number is plastered all over West Germany as part of labor's campaign to reduce the workweek to 35 hours. That effort may be generating the biggest social-political conflict in postwar Germany....

In the background are other, less spectacular, signs that the postwar consensus has eroded. The formal concord between business and labor has ended. For the first time since 1957, a dissident party, the Greens, has appeared in the Bundestag. The Social Democrats...broke the 30-year bipartisan truce on foreign

policy last fall with their opposition to the deployment of Pershing-2 missiles....

Consensus has faltered before, but each time it was patched up, and the system continued with little change.... This time, though, the number 35 is suggestive. It evokes the shift of the center of political gravity downward from the generation that emerged from World War II. The successors may lack the deep commitment to order and stability that has been the basis for the postwar consensus. The whole tone and character of West German politics may be changing.

An unstable Germany could eventually demand a powerful party or person to come to the fore to restore law and order. Now for more concerning West Germany's growing "identity crisis," here are excerpts from an article by Philip Geyelin, published in the May 22 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE:

Geography makes the Federal Republic the centerpiece of any strategy for the defense of Western Europe. It follows that when serious West Germans talk of a deepening identity crisis, policy-makers and politicians would be well advised to pay attention. To a degree, West Germany's angst [anxiety] is also Europe's. It has to do with a generational distancing from the spirit and purposes of the early Atlantic Alliance days; with economic stagnation; with fear of being a U.S.-Soviet nuclear battlefield.

But West Germany's angst is also uniquely indigenous, rooted in its past and aggravated by the postwar division that consigned East Germany to Communist rule. The Christian Democratic mayor of Frankfurt, Walter Wallmann, laid it out in an unsettling way in Washington the other day over breakfast, and later in a speech to the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. His message was also delivered in private talks with Reagan administration officials and members of Congress. It boils down to a plain warning that West Germany's allegiance to the Atlantic Alliance, and even its membership in NATO, is no longer something to take for granted.

"The consensus over foreign policy which has existed between the two major parties ever since 1959 has broken down," Mr. Wallmann said.... From Bismarck at the end of the 19th century until after World War II, he contends, Germany did not have an established *raison d'etat*--a clear definition of its place in the European scheme of things. The postwar "German question" was resolved after a bitter battle between a Christian Democrat, Konrad Adenauer, and a Social Democrat, Kurt Schumacher, over whether the Federal Republic should seek its security in the Atlantic Alliance or reach out for national reunification and neutrality. In 1959 a Social Democratic Party conference created the consensus, in Adenauer's favor, that Mr. Wallmann says has now broken down. Whether that is literally the case is less important than the visible trends and tendencies that have gradually reopened a "German question" that was supposedly settled 25 years ago.

Mr. Wallmann sees no prospect for [German] reunification, and he therefore recognizes strict limits to the promise of Ostpolitik

in the absence of fundamental change in the Soviet Union and its European objectives. Although he is well aware of the obstacles to a better alternative--a return to the building of a truly united Europe, self-sufficient militarily and speaking with one voice politically--that is the direction he would choose. But the real choice, he figures, will be made by Britain and France. If they are not prepared to move in that direction too, "then the neutralistic tendencies in the Federal Republic will grow." That course may not be unrealistic, says Mr. Wallmann, although "there have been times when German politics were not always free from hopes and utopian dreams."

As author Geyelin observed, Germany's angst is also Western Europe's. The old world, writes Scott Sullivan in the May 7 edition of NEWSWEEK, is suffering from a "Pacific Nightmare." Implicit in meeting the Asian challenge is the need, more than ever, for Europeans to unite!

The suspicion is growing that Europe's familiar map of the world --a Mercator projection, with Europe smack in the center and the faraway Pacific region as a vague bracket around the edges--is becoming ominously out of date. More and more, European academics and policymakers are contemplating a world map in which the vast Pacific Basin holds center stage, while Europe shrinks to a small and distant excrescence on the Asian landmass....

Academic and governmental preoccupation with the Pacific region has engulfed Europe in the past few months. In late March the French news magazine L'EXPRESS ran a long cover story on "The Pacific, the New World Axis." Bookshops are crammed with new titles like "Asia on the March," "Japan Versus Europe" and "The Pacific: the New Center of the World." European cabinet ministers are setting off almost weekly on huckstering tours to Bangkok, Canton and Seoul. Last week the West German government opened a \$20 million industrial fair, its largest ever, in Tokyo....

To some extent, the new European obsession with the Pacific...recalls the wave of jitters that washed over Europe in the late 1960s because of what was then perceived as a formidable "American challenge" to European financial and industrial independence. But the "Pacific challenge" of the 1980s, as many alarmed Europeans see it, transcends simple economic considerations. And it is far more troubling than the American threat ever was. It amounts to a potentially permanent shift in the global center of gravity that could leave Europe an isolated and largely irrelevant backwater. Underlying this apocalyptic vision is the widespread perception that the United States is gradually turning away from its traditional allies and trading partners in Europe and concentrating its attention on the Pacific Basin....

There is, as yet, no coherent European response to the obvious challenge. At the recent Pacific Basin seminar in Paris, one Asian speaker after another rose to describe the region's throbbing dynamism. The Europeans had little more to offer than handwringing. Fritz Bolkenstein, a foreign-trade official from the Netherlands, for example, complained that Europe was incap-

able of meeting the Pacific threat because its own internal market remains fragmented and its economies badly distorted by the excesses of the welfare state. Jacques Maisonrouge, a Frenchman who is a senior vice president of IBM in New York, exploded with impatience at the European laments: "After listening to all this," he said, "I want to say simply: Europe, stand up for yourself!"

At least some of the actions Europeans need to take are already clear. In order to compete with the flood of innovative products coming from the Pacific Basin, they will have to overhaul an antiquated university system, integrate the European market,...and--probably most important--promote cooperation among competing and duplicative European firms. "No single country can fight the Pacific challenge alone," says France's Laurent Fabius.

At the same time, other European observers, while recognizing the Pacific challenge, refuse to either panic before it or to consign Europe to the dustbin of history. Roy Denman, who heads the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities to The United States, attempted to counter growing "Europessimism" in an article in the May 6 NEW YORK TIMES:

Europessimism. Fiasco and failure in Brussels. The Common Market collapsing. Some recent reports would make one think that ...the Eurocrats had taken to the hills. But...whatever disasters strike, there will never be another great European civil war. The European Community has made that impossible.

Over the last 37 years, the one world trading system--set up with American support under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1947--has meant the biggest increase in prosperity in the recorded history of the West.... Without the internal discipline of the European Community--no tariffs or quotas between member states--Europe might well have gone protectionist after the oil shock of 1973. We would have dragged the rest of the world with us. Without the telegraph line between Washington and Brussels, the world trading system would have gone bust several times over during the last 10 years. And we would have slid back to the terrible wasteland of the 1930s.

So Americans have no cause to regret their generous act of statesmanship in the 1950s in supporting a uniting Europe. But will the adventure continue, will it flourish? Take heart from the Italian statesman Giuseppe Mazzini [who counseled against] doubts and jeers about unification of Italy.... For like the 19th century Italian states, there is nowhere else for us to go.

In the May 20 LOS ANGELES TIMES, journalist William Pfaff, writing from Paris, brought forth some statistics to show that, economically speaking, there is considerably less to the Pacific Basin than meets the eye:

The new American fascination with the Pacific Basin has a less solid base than many think, although important questions are posed for the future. There is much enthusiasm in the United States about the development of a vast Pacific market that would leave the Atlantic a trade backwater. There are many in Western

Europe, as well, who look at Asia's development with frightened, or despairing, concern for what this may mean for the future of Europeans....

If all of East and Southeast Asia should develop as Japan and a few others have, then we will certainly find ourselves with a transformation of world economic and political relations dwarfing mere trade considerations.... The Pacific would become the center of world economy and industry, and undoubtedly of world power.... But will the rest of Asia develop as Japan has developed? This is the critical question, and the answer is far from certain.... We are, in any case, talking in terms of decades, if not centuries; the success of the Pacific Basin, if it comes, is not for tomorrow.

The actual weight of the Far Eastern economies is distorted by the presence of Japan. Japan is the second-largest national economy in the world. Put Japan aside and the Pacific Basin presents a less imposing picture. China's industrial output--its gross national product--is...only slightly above the official figure for Britain's economy alone. South Korea's economy, in 1982 figures, is slightly larger than Denmark's, about 70% that of Belgium, a quarter that of Canada. Taiwan's economy in the latest figures, is about 80% as large as Denmark's, a little bigger than that of Greece, smaller than Norway's. The Singapore economy is as big as five Luxembourgs. All of them together, plus Hong Kong, add up to a total industrial production smaller than Spain's, half that of Canada, something like a quarter of France.

On 1982 figures for gross domestic product, NATO Europe possesses a total output worth more than \$3 trillion, which is three times that of Japan, much more than twice that of all Asia, slightly larger than that of the United States itself. The European common market is the largest trading group in the world. The Pacific Basin may provoke interesting thoughts about the future, but these should be taken for no more than that. For the present, it is Europe that weighs in world economic scales.

European optimists, too, note that the work ethic in Japan "ain't what it used to be" either. Widespread prosperity is weakening the tradition of do-or-die for company and country. The change, notes FORTUNE magazine in its May 14 issue, can't be measured yet in lower productivity but Japanese employers are worried:

Now some tiny cracks are appearing in Japan's celebrated work ethic. There are few numbers yet, and no traceable loss of productivity or erosion of quality. The evidence is mostly anecdotal, often as subtly Japanese as the tinkle of wind chimes in a garden. Workers rarely show up early anymore to warm the oil in their machines before their shifts start. Defying precedent, a young management trainee actually takes all of the 15 vacation days allotted to him. Growing hordes of young Japanese sometimes slip away early on Friday and crowd the ski slopes on weekends....

Blue-collar and white-collar workers alike embrace the new attitude, but it seems most noticeable, and most threatening, among recent college graduates, who will one day be running Japan's corporations.... Younger workers are less committed to teamwork, more individualistic, and more detached from their jobs than their elders are....

"The younger workers do what they are told and not one iota more," says Atsuko Toyama, 45, author of A THEORY ON THE MODERN FRESHMAN, as a college graduate recently arrived at the corporation is called. Young Japanese still work very hard during duty hours.... But they are increasingly reluctant to go beyond and above the strict call of duty and turn a good enough performance into a superb one.

Behind the change in young workers' attitudes are several forces. The most obvious is prosperity. Thriving companies in a rich Japan can't make the same pitch for sacrifice that struggling companies in a poor Japan could make.... With more money in their pockets, young Japanese can pay for the expensive diversions that compete for attention with work. Sales of skiing and skating paraphernalia soared from \$397 million in 1975 to \$973 million in 1982....

More and more Japanese companies are reducing their workweeks from six days to five.... In a few years hardly anybody is likely to work on Saturday. When most Western countries went to a five-day week after World War II, there was a marked change in workers' basic interests, according to British sociologist Ronald Dore. On a six-day week, workers tended to be job-centered. Their day off was largely devoted to resting up for the next week. When they got two days off, they began to develop a variety of interests.

A decade ago the Japanese language contained no idiom like the West's TGIF (Thank God It's Friday). Today many young office workers exchange salutations of "Hana no kinyobi," which freely translated means "Friday's the greatest." They...let their thoughts drift to the weekend social calendar. Sports and friends, not work and study, give meaning to life, young Japanese said in a recent government survey....

The Japanese work ethic will almost certainly not collapse, although it may sag enough to slow the country down.... Short of a national emergency, however, Japan's young people seem unlikely to be transformed into what they call the "working devils" of a generation ago who astounded the world.

The Japanese, like the Germans, can be dangerous when they are unhappy or uncertain about their future. It is possible that we could see a welling up of national pessimism in Japan partly as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis. Japan's economy does stand on at least one "foot of clay"--dependence upon foreign sources for its primary energy needs. The Japanese have been forced to move quickly to reduce their heavy oil dependence upon the Middle East, especially Iran. Their imports from Iran have been trimmed in half already.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau