

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The final dinner of the 12th session of the Refresher ended with the raising of Mr. Fernando Barriga to the rank of Preaching Elder. Mr. Barriga was first ordained as a Local Elder in 1973 while working in the letter answering area of the Spanish Department. In 1980 he began pastoring the churches in Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico, as well as working with the brethren in Spain and Portugal. We are very happy with the fruit God has produced through Mr. and Mrs. Barriga and pray for their continued dedication to God in His service.

The tape of the recent Bible study by Mr. Ray Wright, Director of Publishing Services, should be played in services in place of a sermon. Mr. Armstrong felt this message would be of special interest to all members as an overview of the magnitude and extent of the work God is doing through His end-time Church. You should be receiving this tape soon if you have not already received it.

As the new year begins, I'd like to remind U.S. ministers that you may wish to consider updating their Housing Allowance forms. If your housing costs have increased significantly since the last time you filled out the form, updating it may be to your advantage.

Many of you may have been aware of the death of Mr. and Mrs. Don Mason's oldest daughter, Michele, during the Feast of Tabernacles. The Masons have expressed their deep appreciation for the prayers and encouragement they've received from fellow ministers and brethren across the country. They would like us to share the following note of thanks.

Dear Brethren of God's Church:

We are deeply moved by the many cards, letters, and phone calls we have received from all over the country as the news of our daughter's death has filtered out. You have comforted us in our time of grief. You have strengthened us with your prayers on our behalf.

Thank you for caring and giving of yourselves. Our time of healing is only beginning, but we look forward to the time when we will see our "Chele" again in her appointed resurrection. Joining the ranks of the bereaved was not our choice, but we are constantly reminded of God's love and mercy. Thank you for putting your arms around us and holding us up.

We love you all so much.

Don and Geri Mason
Tulsa, OK congregation

Many have asked about how our members in Ghana are doing. Mr. Frank Brown has forwarded the most recent letter (December 31st) from Mr. Josef Forson, our minister in Ghana, to update us on the situation there. (See page 2.)

Dear Mr. Brown:

Since my last letter to you was mailed just before the Feast, I feel that another report on the situation here as it affects God's Church is overdue.

First of all, Gloria and I want to thank you and all the brethren in Britain for the assistance given to the brethren here, which made it possible for us to have the best Feast yet. This was the first time in Ghana that the brethren had been able to all stay together in one hotel, without having to bother with chores like cooking.

It was very hard work for us, purchasing and supplying the hotel with everything they needed for our meals (to keep costs down), preparing sermons and organizing the thousand and one things that are associated with such activities. But the letters of appreciation from the brethren and the very positive comments from the hotel staff made it all worth it.

We also want to thank you on behalf of the brethren for the farm truck. The members certainly feel very encouraged by the support we continue to receive from the Regional Office. I am sure that they want to do their best to match the help they receive so that they can become self-supporting--at least food-wise. However, it continues to be a very steep climb out of our economic woes.

As a result of constantly skyrocketing prices, public transportation is now a luxury. So it's a timely thing to have the truck to help bring members to Church and take them to the farm. Those in outlying towns receive some third tithe assistance to help them attend at least once or twice a month.

We are also encouraged by renewed interest in God's Church by old-time PT subscribers. We have been contacting from one to five new people every month since after the Feast. Some have known members for quite some time, others are old-time correspondence course students whom we contacted, offering them Lesson 13 and a counseling visit should they so wish. We are getting some response from the Kumasi area from those so contacted, so we are optimistic about growth in that area. An intensive member visiting programme is helping to keep all of us closer together as one family.

We enjoyed Mr. Stirk's visit very much, as we are sure he did. We are anxiously looking forward to your Passover visit and hope you can come a day early or stay for the first day of Unleavened Bread.

That's all for now, sir. We thank you and Mr. Stirk for all you are doing for us.

Please continue to remember the Forsons and our brethren in Ghana in your prayers. Mr. Brown's 1984 year-end report follows on page 3.

International News

From Mr. Frank Brown 1984 marked two important milestones in the history of God's Church in the U.K./Eire. Firstly, we reached the highest ever PLAIN TRUTH circulation--157,000 copies--and we are now set on a path of steady growth for the future. Secondly, a large proportion of the Church's printing needs are now being organised through Elstree House, and in November, for the first time ever, over one million PLAIN TRUTH magazines were printed at Ambassador Press.

Mail income for the year was a little lower than anticipated, but December brought the second highest income ever for one month, bringing the year-to-date figure up by almost one percent--from 8.8% at the end of November to 9.7% at the end of December. And although we were 2% under budget for mail income, this was compensated for by Holy Day offerings, which were 16% over our projections.

1984 was a year of growth in all aspects of the work of God's Church. PLAIN TRUTH circulation as of December is 53% higher than 1983. The GOOD NEWS is up 19% and set to rise further. Total number of members is up 6% to 2,430. During 1984, 250,000 items of mail were processed at Elstree House, an increase over 1983 of 17.4%.

Scandinavia: 1984 saw the successful launch of the Norwegian edition of the PLAIN TRUTH. Circulation of the new edition has grown steadily to its present level of 22,263. Taking the English and Norwegian files together, circulation in Scandinavia has increased by 169.3% since this time last year, and now stands at 34,683, which is almost exactly our projected figure. The Church in Scandinavia is continuing to grow at a steady 1.6% per year, while the co-worker list has increased 51.3% over 1983 and The GOOD NEWS list 17.7%. Forty-two thousand five hundred items of Scandinavian mail were received during the year, which is an increase of 132% over 1983.

Continent of Europe/Middle East: The number of people on the continent of Europe and in the Middle East requesting literature in English continued to grow during 1984. PLAIN TRUTH circulation grew by 13% on the continent of Europe and by 45% in the Middle East. The increases in The GOOD NEWS list are even more encouraging. On the continent of Europe subscribers increased 64% to 2,182 and in the Middle East subscribers are up 152% to 885.

The growth in PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS files is reflected by an increase in mail--up 28.4% from the continent and 82% from the Middle East. These are staggering increases for areas which receive no direct promotion in the English language!

Africa: Tremendous growth in the Church itself is occurring in East and West Africa. While PLAIN TRUTH circulation has had to be held at 50,000 for financial reasons, membership continues to grow, increasing by 11.5% in 1984. Indications are that this trend will continue in 1985.

In 1984 new office premises were leased in Nairobi. All mail processing and mailing of literature for East and West Africa are now handled by the three local offices in Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya. This is proving very successful in providing improved service for members and subscribers in the area.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE1984 Newsstand Survey Results

We have just finalized the results of the 1984 PLAIN TRUTH Newsstand Distribution Survey. The number of outlets worldwide has increased from 20,000 in 1983 to over 25,000 in 1984. We have also seen an increase in the number of brethren involved in the Member Participation Programs. In 1983 total manpower stood at 7,000 worldwide. It now stands at just over 10,000. The addition of the "Good Neighbor" supermarket distribution, lighted airport display islands, additional Elson's gift shops and the new brochure distribution program have all contributed to additional Church member involvement.

Following is a list of types of outlets and their percentages of newsstand distribution. It is not comprehensive, but it will give you an idea of which outlets are distributing some of the highest percentages of magazines.

<u>Number of Outlets</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Percentage of Distribution</u>
3200	Supermarkets/Grocery Stores	27.1%
2500	"Good Neighbor" Supermarket Displays	13.4%
2100	Restaurants	8.0%
751	Outside Newspaper Displays	5.5%
1500	Laundromats	4.1%
1900	Convenience Stores	3.9%
54	Airport Lighted Display Islands	3.6%
1680	Liquor Stores	2.9%
1240	Drug Stores/Pharmacies	2.4%
262	Commuter Stations	2.1%
360	Discount/Department Stores	1.9%
715	Hotels/Motels	1.8%
790	Dry Cleaners	1.5%
990	Gas/Service Stations	1.4%
128	Elson's Gift Shops	1.4%

In the survey we also asked the following questions:

- Is there an average length of time a newsstand display/rack stays in an outlet?

YES--12.3%, average two months	NO--36.3%
Cannot ascertain--47.8%	Did not answer--3.7%
- Have you experienced an increase in the amount of persecution against PLAIN TRUTH newsstand distribution in the past 6 to 12 months?

YES--30.6%	NO--65%	Did not answer--4.4%
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- How many magazines go undistributed each month due to theft, vandalism, or damage?

The average loss was 60 copies per month per church area. This would result in a total loss of 24,600 copies per month, equaling 1.2% of the two million magazines distributed monthly.

Overall, the results of the survey were very encouraging. We plan to conduct another, more comprehensive newsstand survey in 1985.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Majority of TV Calls Come From New Viewers

The number of new people calling in response to "The WORLD TOMORROW" program remains high. In 1984, 380,000 new names were added to our files from WATS calls. About 70% of the callers each week (an average of well over 6,000) are making their first contact with God's Church.

The fact that these percentages are remaining fairly constant indicates that the program's viewing audience is still expanding. Some reasons for this growth include:

- The number of TV stations airing the telecast was increased by 31% in 1984.
- Better airing times were acquired for a number of stations.
- Mr. Armstrong's programs continue to stimulate audience interest.

How New Postage Rates Will Affect Church Mailings

U.S. Postal Service rates will go up on February 17 of this year. While the rate hikes will result in increased postage for the letters and literature we mail out, the overall impact on our budget will be minor due to the careful use of certain rates allowed by the Postal Service.

Our major publications and most other literature are sent by special third class rates for nonprofit organizations. These rates are being increased only slightly. For example, carrier presorted mail is going up by one-tenth of one cent. About 60% of PLAIN TRUTH subscription issues are sent at this rate.

The cost of mailing a first class letter will go up from 20 to 22 cents. However, the first class presort rate, which we use for about 85% of our co-worker letter mailings, will be only one cent higher than the current charge.

Using the special nonprofit bulk rates available only in the United States, we are able to send millions of pieces of literature annually for a relatively small amount of postage. For example, if the recent semiannual letter had to be sent by first class mail, postage for the 2.4 million letters would have been approximately \$485,000. Instead, the actual cost was \$106,000.

"Direct Terminal Entry" Continues to Expand

Our special program called "Direct Terminal Entry" (DTE) has continued to expand through the addition of computer terminals and trained operators.

DTE enables routine phone calls, such as literature requests and simple address changes, to be processed entirely by computer while the operator is speaking to the person calling in.

A pilot DTE program began in September 1982, and its first regular use was approved in February 1983. Since that time, more and more operators have been trained. Big Sandy began using DTE in July 1984. Currently, about 30% of all weekend TV calls are taken by DTE operators. During the week, as many calls as possible are handled by this method.

DTE has several important benefits. It eliminates the need for filling out WATS cards, which must go through numerous handling steps. Typing names and addresses directly into the computer terminal is much faster. Also, the date, time of the call, and operator's name are automatically recorded. Even the TV stations are automatically identified and tallied for our records.

With DTE, error rates have dropped. The computer, for example, will not accept an incorrect zip code or a request for outdated literature. Since the operator has the person on the line, any problems or questions can be resolved on the spot. Our ultimate goal is to expand DTE to accept nearly all calls in response to the Church's media programs.

Children's Interest in The PLAIN TRUTH

A surprising number of youngsters age 12 and under are avid readers of The PLAIN TRUTH. Some even subscribe on their own. Like our adult readers, these children not only appreciate the informative articles but also the fact that the magazine is sent without subscription price. They have their own unique ways of saying "thank you," as the following letters show:

My mother subscribes to The PLAIN TRUTH. But she doesn't let me read hers. That's why I subscribe too. I hope you understand. I like subscribing books from you. You learn a great deal from your magazines. You sell them for no price. You have the lowest price, lower than READER'S DIGEST or anything you can name. I am very interested in your marvelous books. Can you please send me The GOOD NEWS? So let it be written, so let it be done.

D.S. (Rockland, MA)

I don't expect you to answer this letter. I just wanted to tell you I really thank you for sending the Word of God. You are a fantastic man. You and The PLAIN TRUTH have made me understand more about God.

Before, I hardly ever went to church. Then one Sunday, I went to my grandmother's house. She asked me some Bible questions. I couldn't answer them. I was only ten and confused. She gave me a subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH. I read the first copy and so did my mom. I started to understand. Then we started going to church and have been for almost a year.

When the title says The PLAIN TRUTH, a magazine of understanding, it's the truth. I thought it needed to be passed around so I gave

a subscription to my friend, Sandra. She loves it. May God be with you.

C.M. (Weaverville, NC)

I'm a Christian and I love to read The PLAIN TRUTH. I'm ten years old. I thought I'd write and tell you how blessed I am. I have never had nothing real bad happen to me. Well, God bless you.

T.E. (Fay, AR)

I love your magazine. I'm sending away for it. My name is Steven, age eight, grade three in Clifford School. I get it whenever I can, but I don't go to the stores that often, so I'm sending away. I only have one issue. I had four, but I lost three. I still like it.

S.R. (Portland, ME)

I am a new subscriber and eleven years old. Even though I don't understand all of your articles, I enjoy the ones I can understand. Please put more articles about science in. I like them the most.

S.N. (Cincinnati, OH)

I think your magazine is a neat one. Every issue has interesting articles and informative pictures. I think that it takes a real nice person to collect all the material and put it out for free.

I am only twelve and don't know much about politics, but I want to learn and The PLAIN TRUTH helps me with that. I learn about the world and the people who live in it.

I'd like to thank Mr. Herbert Armstrong and all the people working to make mine and other people's lives better. May God bless you and keep you doing your wonderful job!

J.R. (Seattle, WA)

I'm very sorry for not replying to you before. My fifth grade teacher gives me too much homework and I just can't find the time. I want to thank you for all the issues of the magazines you already sent us. My mother, brother, and I love every page of The PLAIN TRUTH. I feel bad for not sending any money, but I will as soon as my mother pays me some of the money she owes me. My brother is a subscriber, so you can take me off the list since I can read his.

M.P. (Winter Park, FL)

I'm probably the youngest subscriber to your magazine. I've been getting your magazine for two years and I've never been bored with The PLAIN TRUTH magazine yet. It's unique. It's the first magazine I've ever read that has no ads or commercials. It tells the "plain truth" about problems and famine.

Whenever I find a subscription of The PLAIN TRUTH in my mailbox, I rush into the house and read it before I do anything else. It helps me with my history, because it not only goes into time, it also tells about the past as well.

The reason I'm really writing is to congratulate you understanding people on what an A+ job you did on your magazine and with my history as well. That's right! I was making D's and E's until your magazine came along. So keep sending them.

A.S. (Thomasville, NC)

I was recently reading an article on nuclear war. The one thing I can't understand is why one man would want to hurt or even kill another. It's so destructive. What would God say if He saw the people He made committing a sin. Thou shalt not kill, but man still does. It's just like when Israel was freed from Egypt, they promised God they would follow His commandments and as soon as God freed them, they were back to worshipping a golden calf. I truly feel sorry for God, seeing His people sin, kill, lie and destroy one another. I truly hope God can help His people on this problem.

I'm eleven years old and I care about my world I have to grow up in and possibly have a wife and kids in. I don't want them to be in danger by a nuclear war.

S.W. (Westlands, MI)

I have to admit I am only ten years old, but your messages are getting through my mind and I read all the books you have sent. I even take them to school and read them in my spare time. I know you expected me to be a grownup. I hope you won't stop my subscription to your magazines, because I really enjoy them.

C.H. (Colorado Springs, CO)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

COMING SOON: THE DOLLAR POUND?
THE LIBERAL AGENDA (WATCH OUT FOR 1988)

The British pound continues, as do all major currencies, to shrink in relation to the strong U.S. dollar. Experts predict that the pound, now about \$1.11, may reach equity with the dollar as early as February. Even though the British economy has improved considerably in recent months, it seems that nothing is able to arrest the decline of the pound. The decline is particularly galling, especially in the aspect of national pride and prestige. Here are excerpts of a report on the "Plunging Pound" published in the January 17 WALL STREET JOURNAL:

In 1864, during the U.S. Civil War, the British pound hit an all-time high of \$9.92. It's been downhill ever since.

The drop has never been sharper than it has been lately, as the pound sterling approaches the once-unthinkable level of one pound to one dollar. Newspaper cartoonists are having a field day. One drew a combination one-pound-one-dollar note depicting George Washington (smiling) and Queen Elizabeth II (frowning). In another cartoon, the queen implores Sir Isaac Newton, whose portrait is on the one-pound note, "Do something! You're supposed to know all about gravity."

But unlike past sterling crises, the plunge this time neither is being caused by grave financial problems nor is causing them.... Indeed, apart from a 13% unemployment rate, much of the recent economic news has been relatively good. Inflation remains modest at about 5%, Britain's balance of payments is in the black, its foreign debt is low, and exports, especially to the U.S., are climbing....

All currencies have been dropping against the almighty dollar, of course, but the pound has fallen most.... But the pound has even fallen 8% against the mark and 8.7% against the franc in the past year. And in yet another indignity, it has sunk below a 1-to-1 exchange rate against the Russian ruble. On Tuesday, the Soviet state bank set the official exchange rate at 99.38 kopeks to the pound, down from 1.13 rubles a year ago.

Explaining the pound's special weakness, currency experts advance two main reasons: uncertainty about the price of oil, on which the British economy has become heavily dependent, and concern that British industry, despite its recent progress, remains a poor competitor in international markets. In addition, the 10-month-old strike by British coal miners has slowed the U.K. economic recovery....

Sterling long ago ceded its role as the dominant world currency to the dollar. But the decline of the pound--whose history as an official currency dates back to William the Conqueror--has been nonetheless painful: It symbolizes Britain's decline as a world power. "It's unpleasant to be told you're not what you used to be," notes Charles P. Kindleberger, an American economist and author of "Manias, Panics and Crashes," a history of financial crises.

In its feature in-depth article entitled "The Pound: Pride Goeth Before a Fall," the January 17 LOS ANGELES TIMES also stressed the symbolic importance of the pound's fall. The article also traced the interesting history of what had once been the world's most sought-after currency.

The British pound was once as strong a national symbol as the queen or the Royal Navy. For generations, the pound, backed by gold and silver bullion in the vaults of the Bank of England, was a benchmark against which other currencies were measured.

In the outposts of empire--Shepherds' Hotel in Cairo, the Raffles in Singapore--the pound reigned supreme. It was the reserve currency for dozens of countries, not only in the empire and the Commonwealth but in many others whose currencies were linked to the pound.

On the eve of World War II, the pound was equivalent to \$4.68, and people who remember that find it difficult sometimes to get used to the new pound, a pound that is now valued at only \$1.12. Already, some New York hotels are giving only a dollar for the pound.

For many, this is yet another reminder that Great Britain is not as "Great" as it used to be. It is no longer the powerhouse of

the world; even its monetary mystique has passed into history. This has not come about overnight. All through the six bruising years of World War II, the pound held relatively firm against the dollar. When the war ended, the exchange rate was \$4.03.

The first major devaluation came in 1949, when the rate fell to \$2.80. Like the empire itself, the pound has been on the decline ever since, with only an occasional--and temporary--upswing.... Almost as if to underscore the decline of the pound, the British treasury is replacing the classic green-paper banknote...with a coin not much larger than the British penny. And not surprisingly, the coin has proved to be highly unpopular [as has the American Susan B. Anthony dollar coin]. "It just doesn't seem like a pound," one Londoner was heard to complain at a supermarket.

Actually, the pound came in coins before it was a banknote. Beginning in about AD 775, the Saxon kingdom in England issued a coin stamped with a star and known as the "sterling," the Old English word for star. The coin was minted in silver--240 coins to the pound--and large transactions came to be reckoned in "pounds of sterlings," later shortened to "pounds sterling." After the Norman conquest in 1066, the pound was divided for accounting purposes into 20 shillings and 100 pence. In medieval Latin, the words for pound, shilling, and pence were libra, solidus and denarius, which gave rise to the symbols "£," "s" and "d" that are still in use....

In the 19th Century, London became the world's leading financial center. Sterling became the reserve currency for many countries, not only those in the British Empire but also many others in Scandinavia, the Middle East and the Far East. These countries maintained their currencies in a fixed relationship with the pound sterling and tended to keep their foreign exchange reserves in the form of sterling balances in London.

A Labor Party government undertook the devaluation of 1949 and another, under Harold Wilson, engineered the next one, reducing the pound to \$2.40 in 1967.... In 1970, Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath allowed the pound to float, to seek its own value in relation to other currencies, and it has been doing so ever since.... The continuing plunge of the pound has prompted Ladbrokes, the bookmakers, to quote odds of 6 to 4 that the pound will reach parity with the dollar by February.

Still, the pound's declining value against other currencies does not sadden all Britons. Tourist-related business is booming, and British exporters find their products much more competitive in the international marketplace.... However, columnist Jon Akass observed in the popular Daily Express, "The one-dollar-pound would be a numbing blow at our self-esteem."... In some political circles there seems to be a lingering feeling that the \$1 pound could have a negative impact on the Thatcher government. The pound has been a symbol of national virility, and the Labor Party may well try to use "the dollar pound" as an anti-government slogan in the next election.

A thoughtful Londoner, a professional man who usually votes as an independent, put it this way: "I don't care what the economists say. When you see the pound come down to the same rate as the dollar, it's simply humiliating."

Significantly, the plunge of the pound is occurring at the same time that Britain has at last agreed to divest itself of Hong Kong--a major world financial market--and has even agreed to open discussions with Spain over the future ownership of Gibraltar, the very symbol of British stability and steadfastness.

The Kennedy "Outrage"

Our South African office sent us some additional on-the-spot material this week regarding the visit of Senator Ted Kennedy. Among the many articles, the following steaming editorial from the national SUNDAY TIMES (January 13) entitled "An Arrogant Talent to Outrage" stood out:

For eight days [Senator Kennedy] has outraged South Africans of all political persuasions.... He has also...produced a unique if temporary show of unity from most whites and many blacks, whose devout wish was that the Kennedy circus should find another country to play in.

That unity was based not on support for the Government or its policies, but on a mounting sense of outrage at the breathtaking arrogance of a foreign politician who is not only singularly unqualified to teach South Africa about morals, but whose behaviour towards both this country and his own government proves that he has nothing to teach us about manners, either....

Senator Kennedy's...blatant if highly-selective courting of television coverage, his disdainful treatment of [Zulu] Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, his tunnel vision in seeking, seeing and then pronouncing on only that side of South Africa which reinforced his prejudices, his attack on his own government's representative in South Africa [Ambassador Herman Nickell], all betray the insensitive arrogance of a man who once believed he could survive the scandal of Chappaquiddick and then run for President of the United States.

In the U.S. press, columnist Patrick J. Buchanan said the one good thing the Senator's trip did accomplish was to unite the Boers and the Zulus for the first time in history--meaning over the issue of disinvestment. Mr. Buchanan wrote two columns on the blind-sightedness of crusading liberal politicians such as Mr. Kennedy, who routinely attack imperfect democracies such as South Korea and South Africa, but go easy on the totalitarian states. In his January 18 column, Mr. Buchanan wrote:

Somewhere in the middle '60s, liberalism, the political belief of such anti-communists as Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy, lost its moorings. Probably, it was the nervous breakdown liberalism suffered over Vietnam.... In any event, by 1972, when Sen. George McGovern's cohorts took over, the party was an institution permanently disabled. Somewhere, it had lost its sense of history, its sense of perspective, and permanent damage had been

done to its capacity to differentiate friend from foe, a capacity indispensable to the survival of any species.

To see how that natural function has been impaired, consider the liberal's treatment of several countries.... In 1953, South Korea was in ruin. Today, however, the same South Korea is an economic dynamo, unrecognizable from three decades ago. Its people enjoy a measure of material prosperity and personal freedom unknown to any Asian people prior to 1945, exceeded today only by Japan, an economic superpower. The country is, quite simply, a modern miracle, an enduring tribute to the character of its people, and to the vision and steadfastness of its patron, the United States.

Does the modern American liberal, in politics and the press, rejoice in this enormous achievement--especially measured alongside the wretched little tyranny communism has produced to the north? He does not. Half the news columns and network commentary done today about South Korea are caustic attacks upon the government there for its alleged mistreatment of political dissidents or its shortcomings on human rights....

What is it that impels men of Kennedy's mindset, in politics and press, to search out with diligence and condemn with passion, failure and flaws in nations like South Korea that wish to be aligned with the United States--while bending over backward to give the benefit of the doubt to enemies of everything we are supposed to believe in?

Measured by living standards, the quality of life, per-capita income, freedom of religion, travel, assembly, speech, press, etc., blacks in South Africa are far better off than they were 30 years ago, far better off than blacks in...neighboring countries.... Yet, today, Western liberalism is virtually clamoring for a declaration of economic war against South Africa--which wishes desperately to remain part of the West--while calling, with equal fervor, for more, much more, aid to [Marxist] Angola [and] Mozambique....

For those who profess to despise us, the liberal seems to possess an inexhaustible reservoir of patience, understanding, good will. Upon those who would cast their lot with the United States, however, he imposes the most exacting of standards.

It should be noted that just as Senator Kennedy could not or would not understand the complexities of the country he was visiting and lecturing, neither did his hosts fully understand where he was "coming from," philosophically. He gave a clue when he called for, in one speech, "full and equal citizenship, not in a span of generations, but in a reasonable span of years." He further urged his listeners to "take a chance on your common humanity."

To further explain the Senator's mindset, he is such an impassioned believer in the primary idealistic democratic principles of liberty and equality that any society which professes democratic ideals yet falls short

of attaining these two principles--to the level of the United States--meets his stern disapproval. Cultural, historical (and, of course even biblical --such as the birthright promises) reasons for lack of equality are dismissed as irrelevant.

To those in South Africa who protested that many blacks in their country lived better than poorer American blacks in the ghettos, Kennedy had a pat answer: at least the latter had the right to vote. The Communist nations and other totalitarian societies are not judged in the same light, nor receive from the liberal the same condemnation since they do not claim to be democratic. Many liberals furthermore defend the policy of urging greater, rather than lesser cooperation with the Soviet Union, out of concern for overall world peace and the fear that a nuclear World War III could erupt from a breakdown in communications.

In his January 16 column, Buchanan again and rather heatedly struck out at the liberal mindset, concluding, ominously, what would happen to the U.S. and the West in general, should Mr. Kennedy and others like him attain political power:

Observing Sen. Ted Kennedy in South Africa last week, adopting his patented posture of heroic defiance--this time against apartheid--one realizes how little the man has grown in 25 years.... Kennedy endlessly reenacts the same old morality play. In it, the senator comes on stage as Young Lochinvar, hurls his verbal thunderbolts at the forces of reaction, demands strict adherence to some grand abstraction, and exits to thunderous applause. To witness this boring exercise, repeated year in and year out, with only the backdrop changing, is to realize how irrelevant liberalism--of which the senator is today's finest expression--has become....

Apartheid is not the worst situation facing Africans today. Not remotely. If it were, they wouldn't be pouring into South Africa from such "liberated" zones as Mozambique. Nor is the condition of dissidents there as perilous as in most of the rest of Africa. Just last week, in Zimbabwe, Joshua Nkomo, once the toast of the United Nations, had his limousine machine-gunned by the followers of his wartime comrade-in-arms, now Prime Minister Robert Mugabe....

Indeed, the plight of women in traditional Moslem societies comes closer to our definition of slavery than the condition of the black workers of Soweto. Yet, no responsible legislator demands --as the senator demands of South Africa--that Saudi Arabia declare emancipation and equality for Arab women, or face economic sanctions.

Why? Because the West needs Gulf oil. Because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a de facto ally.... Because the beneficiaries of such mindless Utopianism would be Arab radicals of the Khadafy stripe.... [Why can't the critics see the same thing regarding southern Africa, which has been called the "Persian Gulf of minerals"?)

What Sen. Kennedy seems oblivious to is the inapplicability...of his liberal nostrums to most of the world we inherited, and the disastrous consequences that must ensue when we try to implement them. Surely, President Thieu and Lon Nol were not ideal allies. But that was the hand history dealt us; and Kennedy and his friends threw it away. Who is better off now that their...campaign against these "repressive and corrupt" dictators finally succeeded?...

Do they ever ask themselves what ever became of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia? When they read of Soviet warships berthing and MiG-23s and Bear bombers being based at Cam Ranh Bay do they ever ask themselves if, perhaps, they were mistaken?

How would Americans deal with an alien and underdeveloped civilization and culture inside their country that had more numerous adherents than one's own, South Africans ask. Well, we know the answer to that, don't we? There was no talk of "one man, one vote," or "power sharing" or "proportional representation" when the American minority ran into the Iroquois nation or the Sioux confederation....

God help the West if leadership of the United States ever passes to men of such mindset.

Does Senator Kennedy have designs on the White House in 1988? An article in the January 4 ARGUS newspaper of Cape Town asked that question in advance of his controversial trip.

Does the senator from Massachusetts still desire the presidency after one brother had been murdered while in office and another slain while seeking it?... Only Edward Moore Kennedy knows deep down today whether he can, after more than 15 years, overcome Chappaquiddick prejudices and win over the American electorate if the winds of liberalism should indeed swirl again toward Washington again before he is too old.

The blood of a remarkable dynasty flows through his veins and... he should, for better or worse, be regarded still as a prospective president and leader of the free world.

It would appear that the race is indeed on for the White House in 1988. Mr. Kennedy is pouncing on what he believes to be President Reagan's most vulnerable foreign policy program, that of "constructive engagement" with South Africa. This policy was quietly conducted with considerable success during the first Reagan Administration. The Republicans are now hard put to defend it for fear of being labelled racists.

Going into 1988 it would also appear that the Republican Party leadership could be torn between moderates and conservatives. If the rather charismatic Kennedy could patch together his own badly split party, he might indeed squeak by, as did his brother John in 1960, into the presidency.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau