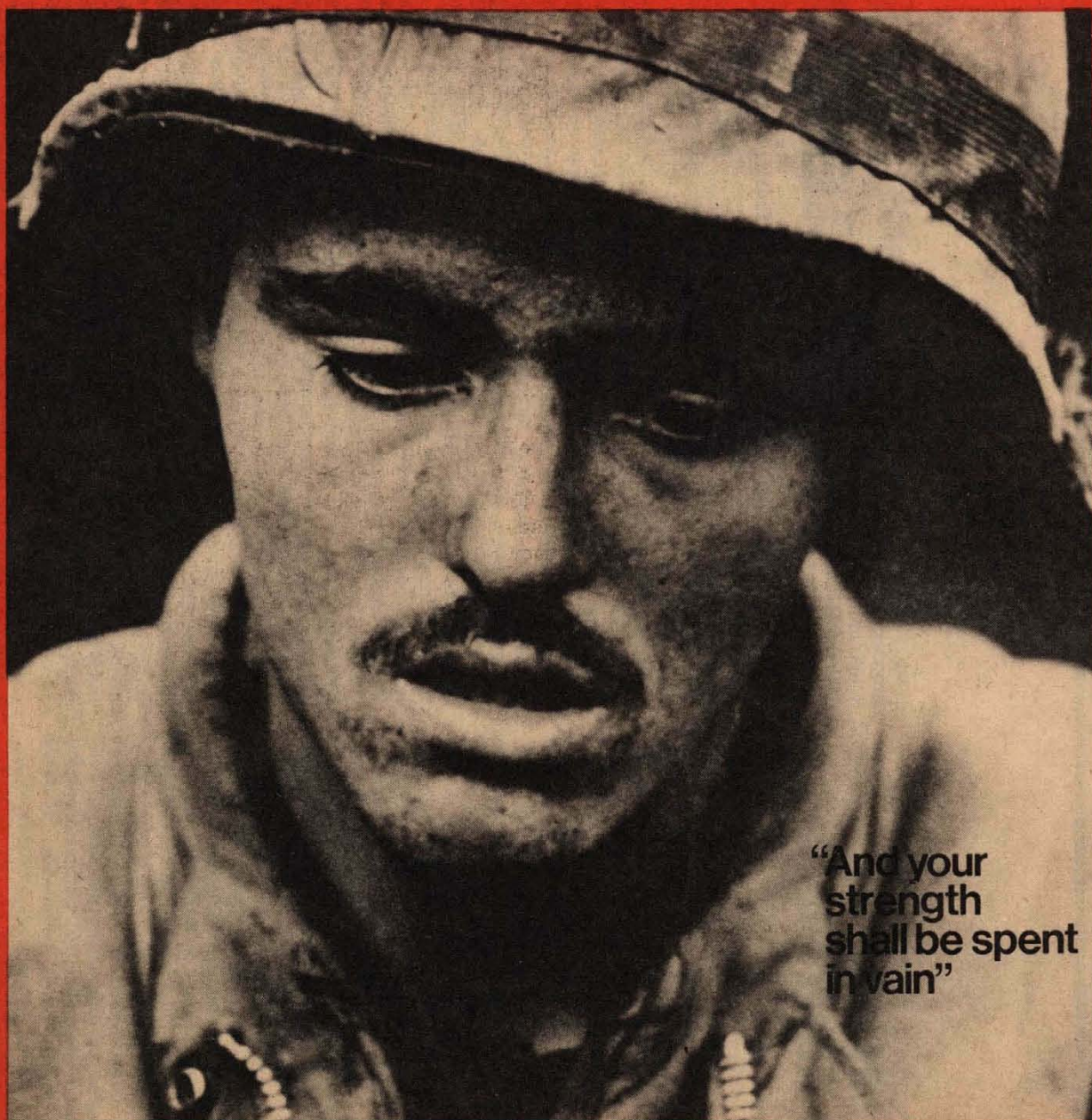


Man's Ultimate Goal

Why Mideast Talks Collapsed

INDOCHINA'S AGONY



**"And your
strength
shall be spent
in vain"**

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INDOCHINA'S AGONY: MEN AND BILLIONS SPENT IN VAIN

by Jeff Calkins

The unexpected success of a Communist spring offensive has accomplished in a few short weeks most of what 50,000 American lives and \$170 billion sought to stave off for ten years.

South Vietnam's second largest city — Da Nang — has fallen to the North Vietnamese. With the loss of its last bastion in the north, the Saigon government gave up over 100,000 soldiers and an estimated \$2 billion in equipment. One official termed the loss of the city, "the single biggest defeat for South Vietnam in the past twenty years."

While there is no way to fix an exact percentage of South Vietnam's territory now under Communist control, estimates run from 45% to 75%. With the fall of Da Nang, the war in Vietnam takes on more of the character of the war in neighboring Cambodia — an embattled military government contracted into a few remaining cities teeming with swarms of refugees fleeing the onrushing Red offensive.

Painful Reminder of 10 Years Ago

The recent Communist gains have a particularly excruciating symbolism for Americans. It was in Da Nang in the spring of 1965 that the first contingent of battle-ready U.S. marines landed. This was the beginning of the large-scale American military intervention in the Indochina war. The city symbolizes the U.S. involvement in Vietnam — and its fall represents a stinging American setback.

In the central highlands, now totally abandoned, a large portion of American blood was shed. By pulling back into more easily defensible areas, the Thieu government tried — unsuccessfully — to follow the "coastal enclave" option first advocated by Lieutenant General James Gavin, an idea rejected by the Johnson administration years ago.

The Aid Controversy

The proximate cause of the retreat, according to U.S. Defense Secretary James Schlesinger, was congressional reluctance to fund any increase in American aid. Without additional funding the

Thieu government simply couldn't afford to keep fighting in the nation's outer periphery.

In response to the administration plea for a \$522 million Indochina aid package, Congressional critics charge that no amount of money can save the Thieu government.

The charge is at least partially borne out by recent rumblings within the Saigon government itself. Dozens of opposition politicians have been arrested on charges of plotting to overthrow the government. Rumors have been flying of assassination schemes and coup attempts on the part of the military. Former Premier Nguyen Ky's call for Thieu's resignation underscores the belief that these are the Saigon president's last days.

The situation is even more bleak in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge have a stranglehold on the Mekong River and are slowly constricting the surrounded capital of the Phnom Penh. Communist shelling of the city's airport has effectively cut off the Cambodian capital from its only source of supplies — the American airlift.

America's Curse

The fall of the U.S.-supported government in Cambodia is a virtual certainty. And the blitzkrieg launched by North Vietnam could easily prove to be the beginning of the end for non-Communist Indochina. Congressional refusal to send "good money after bad" may turn out to be the one final definitive American act: that of consigning the area over to its regional imperialist power, Hanoi.

Thus, the war that paved the way for today's double-digit inflation; that angered many of America's allies and generated unprecedented anti-Americanism in Europe; that earned the United States the scorn of much of the world; that divided the nation against itself and generated a decade of internal turmoil, may now come to an end with one final "no" from the American Congress. The fantastic investment of American manpower and matériel is being written off — a dramatic fulfillment of the biblical curse in Leviticus 26:20, "And you shall spend your strength in vain." □

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U.S. FOREIGN POLICY COLLAPSING AROUND WORLD

Washington Hit with "One-Two Punch" in Mideast



LABELING HENRY KISSINGER as "Russia's Secret Weapon," rioters in Jerusalem demonstrate against U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Admitting that his personal shuttle diplomacy had reached a dead end after encountering "irreconcilable differences" between Arab and Israeli leaders, Secretary of State Kissinger recently cautioned that the world has entered "a moment of potentially grave danger" requiring full-scale international diplomacy.

Kissinger avoided assessing blame for the collapse of the talks, though administration officials view Israel's tough stance as the principal roadblock in the negotiations.

Though Kissinger views as "extremely unlikely" the possibility that the step-by-step bilateral tactic could ever be employed again in the Mideast, he has emphasized that the United States is "determined to continue the search for peace and justice in the Middle East." He has announced that the United States will seek the resumption of the multinational Geneva Conference in an effort to prevent renewed warfare.

Faisal's Death Adds Uncertainty

The untimely death of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia on March 25 has only served to complicate Mideast matters. It has deprived the Arab world of a powerful moderating influence at a time of heightened Mideast tension over the breakdown of the Kissinger peace effort.

As keeper of Islam's two holy cities, Mecca and Medina, Faisal was the spiritual leader of 600 million Moslems. He was known for his total abhorrence of Communism, fear of Soviet expansionism, and intense desire to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute despite his staunch anti-Israelism.

There is some concern that the more radical elements in the Arab world may now move toward re-

newed hostilities with Israel. There is speculation that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt may also be forced to adopt a harder stance as a result of the Kissinger failure and the assassination of the Saudi chief-of-state.

Faisal, whose country — a key member of the 13-nation OPEC — possesses the world's largest known oil reserves, had also been a powerful force for stabilizing oil prices, despite his past lead in boosting

prices fourfold. Some sources in OPEC believe that Faisal's death could plunge the oil cartel into its worst crisis ever, though there is considerable disagreement on this point.

"King Faisal always opposed the idea of a confrontation between producers and consumers," commented one OPEC source. "It remains to be seen how the new situation will affect the organization." □

Skeptical Israel Cools to U.S. Pledges of Support

JERUSALEM: Tears of sorrow were mixed with sighs of relief when Secretary of State Henry Kissinger announced the failure of his latest attempt to bring progress toward peace in the Mideast. There was sorrow because Egypt had not accepted Israel's "outstretched hand." Relief because Rabin's cabinet had not compromised on Israel's security for what was commonly considered as relatively empty Egyptian proposals in exchange for the Abu Rodeis oil fields and Sinai's strategic Mitla and Giddi passes.

Upon his departure from Ben-Gurion airport, a dejected Kissinger proclaimed, "This is a sad day for America which has invested much hope and faith. We know it is a sad day also for Israel, which needs and wants peace so badly."

America and President Ford were in genuine need of a diplomatic boost. With the "just and honorable peace" in Indochina rapidly turning into a full-scale de-

baile, it was hoped that Kissinger's step-by-step shuttle diplomacy could provide that needed boost to the faltering U.S. image abroad.

The Stench of Petrodollars

Few Americans realize how greatly their country's position as a world power had deteriorated since the ouster of Richard Nixon from the presidency. America's indecisive and inactive foreign posture is taken as a symptom of weakness. Indeed, as his 200th birthday rolls around, Uncle Sam seems to be heading toward his last gasp instead of his "second wind" in the eyes of the world.

When Washington announced the reassessment of its policy toward Israel — and then coupled that with blaming her for the failure of the second-stage negotiations — Israelis felt betrayed. Although the official reaction is one of "surprise," the man on the street is less tactful. To him the stench of oil and petrodollars in Washington could be smelled in Tel Aviv.

A concerted Israeli drive is now under way to educate Congress and the American public with the facts of the matter, as viewed from Jerusalem. It is hoped here that Jewish leaders and the "Jewish lobby" can persuade Congress to see the situ-

Indochina Policy in Shambles

SYDNEY: Cease-fire in Vietnam! Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho awarded Nobel Peace Prize! Last U.S. Troops Pull Out!

How capricious and cruel are history and fate. Today, only months after the above headlines, American's foreign strategy — at least in Southeast Asia — lies in shambles.

The collapse of the U.S.-supported Lon Nol regime in Cambodia seems imminent. Communist forces are rolling all over South Vietnam. More than a dozen of its forty-four provinces are now under Communist control. Others are falling almost daily, in a perverse internal domino fashion.

Many analysts here see America's present predicament in Indochina as the outcome of two interrelated factors:

First was the failure by the United States to correctly assess the extent to which historical forces were influencing events in the region. For many centuries before the West's intrusion into Asia, China exercised varying degrees of hegemony throughout Southeast Asia. China's internal decay combined with the expansion of the West changed all that. Some Australian observers feel that what is now taking place is simply a reversion — at least in part — to the historical pattern.

Second has been America's fail-

ure to appreciate the extent to which the Communist insurgency was also an expression of genuine nationalism. By taking over France's role in the Indochina theater, the United States became directly identified with the colonial West right from the beginning.

When President Nixon announced his "Vietnamization" of the Vietnam war a few years back, many veteran Indochina observers saw it merely as a clever device to let America off the hook. They gave it little chance of succeeding, and they are being proved correct.

The approaching collapse of the Lon Nol regime and the military setbacks President Thieu's forces have suffered are seen here in Australasia as bitter blows to U.S. prestige.

America's Indochina policy is seen to be in ruins. America's credibility as a reliable ally has been severely damaged.

— Don Abraham

Today Asia... Tomorrow Europe?

LONDON: The recent traumatic reverses of American foreign policy in Southeast Asia and the Middle East raise a vision of horror among Europe's military and foreign planners. The clear implication of the current neo-isolationism in the U.S. Congress is that Europe might be affected next, even though leaders on both sides of the Atlantic know — or should know — that the fall of Cambodia can in no way be compared with the need for continued American support for vastly more vital interests in Europe.

In the Middle East the failure of Dr. Kissinger's latest mission of shuttle diplomacy and the removal of the stabilizing influence of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia have only added to European uncertainty about the American leadership of the West. This has heightened political tensions in the area already simmering with the possibility of a further outbreak of war this year.

To Europe another such Mideast conflagration would be calamitous. Her economic survival depends on continued infusions of Middle Eastern oil.

The leftward swing of Portugal underlines another nagging anxiety of Europe. Her southern flank is now dangerously exposed to Soviet inroads. Not only is there the possibility of Portugal becoming Communist — an untenable situation — but the partial withdrawal of Greece and Turkey has seriously weakened NATO power in the

(Continued on next page, col. 1)

ation a bit more realistically in her favor.

Europe to Play a Role?

The cooling of American relations with Israel, along with her poor precedent of abandoning Cambodia and South Vietnam, makes Israel even more wary of depending on American guarantees for her security. Furthermore, America's past pro-Israel stance makes her unacceptable to the Arabs. Both of these factors will open the door for further European involvement at the Geneva convention.

While he was in Washington, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt proposed that Western Europe play the role of co-guarantor of any final Mideast settlement. The European Community would support that role by direct involvement in the economic development of Israel and her Arab neighbors. Although he didn't mention it, a role in patrolling the buffer zones likely to be created along the borders should not be ruled out. Moreover, it's common knowledge that the Vatican seeks to administer the holy places in Jerusalem.

Vital to world peace, the Mideast will continue to spawn surprises.

— Chris Patton

Today Asia... (Continued)

Mediterranean. In Italy the Communist party now vies with the Christian Democrats as the largest party in the country.

Britain has recently severely cut back its defense role, largely withdrawing from the Mediterranean to more inshore waters. On top of this, possible British withdrawal from the Common Market in the coming referendum would further dissolve some of the tenuous ties of European solidarity.

In the face of America's setbacks in Asia and the Mideast and in view of the crumbling multi-nation facade of NATO, Europeans are wondering if they can still rely on their most important ally. For if the United States can no longer assure Western Europe's security, who can?
— David Price

PORTUGAL SHAKES NATO CREDIBILITY

BRUSSELS: Concern continues to mount in Western Europe as Portugal moves swiftly to the left on the political spectrum.

The trend was confirmed again recently as Premier Vasco Goncalves formed a new government, dropping Socialist Party leader Mario Soares from his foreign minister post.

Ominously, the new cabinet fits the classic pattern of Communist takeover. At first the Communists are in the minority of a left-wing coalition, then they acquire key cabinet posts, and later move to outlaw the opposition parties. All these elements are now present in Portugal. The ouster of Soares is significant because it is in the last stages of a Communist takeover that the party turns on its former allies of the democratic left.

NATO sources here in Brussels told me "we are following what is happening within Portugal with worry, anxiety and some apprehension. We are worried that while Portugal is now remaining faithful to its NATO commitments, we know other forces within the country are against NATO membership."

NATO has no procedure to discontinue a member country's involvement in the alliance although a country may withdraw if it desires to. With Communist participants in any member government, NATO takes measures to give adequate protection to confidential material within the alliance. This is especially true with regard to nuclear weapon strategy.

The whole effect of the turmoil within Portugal only serves to further weaken NATO's ability to stand up and represent the backbone of Western defense.

With the southeastern flank of NATO already virtually torn asunder over Cyprus with Greece and Turkey at each other's throats, Portugal's restlessness may be the final straw in NATO's ability to operate effectively.
— Ray Kosanke

Asian Nations "Reassessing" Ties With U.S.

Philippines Diversifying Its Foreign Policy

MANILA: "Does Cambodia now prove the U.S. domino theory of the 50's?" asked noted Filipino columnist, Teodoro Valencia, in a recent column.

He answered his own question: "If Cambodia falls because the U.S. Congress refuses to give aid in quantities necessary to save it, the United States will have given Asia the most vivid example of what American support means. Asian countries will have to reassess their relations with the U.S.A. . . . The domino theory applies to the erosion of American prestige in Asia and the world."

Partly as a result of new realities in Asia, Philippine Secretary Carlos P. Romulo said recently that his nation is fashioning a more independent and diversified foreign policy. This should not be taken as implying severance of ties with the United States but rather a reevaluation of the long "special relationship" with Washington. There is no talk — as yet — of asking the U.S. to vacate its formidable military facilities in the country.

President Marcos has affirmed time and again that the government intends to pursue the policy of normalizing relations with all countries irrespective of race, creed, religion or ideology. The Philippines has already established diplomatic relations with the socialist countries of Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Mongolia and Romania. The President of Romania will be visiting Manila next month.

President Marcos further states that the Philippines intends to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China within the year and is initiating moves to normalize relations with the Soviet Union. In the past it would have

been impossible to open ties with socialist countries because of the unique relationship with the United States.

In the face of recent developments, however, it is obvious that the U.S. will play a reduced role in its former colony in the Far East. The Philippines is looking more to Asia and the Third World.
— Colin Adair and Jun Rustia

Thai Premier Calls for Speedy U.S. Troop Pullout

After two months of hectic political maneuvering following Thailand's first free election in 28 years, the 269-seat Thai National Assembly approved in mid-March an 8-party coalition government headed by Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj.

In a bid to win the support of left-wing parties in the vote of confidence, Mr. Kukrit stated he would seek the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Thailand within one year and the discontinuation of U.S. arms and ammunition shipments to Cambodia from American bases in Thailand.

"I'd like to see it done tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, three months, six months, a year — as soon as possible," he declared. The vote of confidence passed by a bare margin of 7 votes.

"Withdrawing the American forces doesn't mean that we don't like America," Mr. Kukrit added. "Our good relations must continue." On the other hand the new Prime Minister indicates that Thailand will seek diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and the opening of talks with North Vietnam. "In order to create a balance in our relations with the superpowers, this government will proceed in recognizing and normalizing relations with China," he said.

U.S. Presence Substantial

The United States maintains four large air bases in Thailand, with 350 Air Force planes, including 17 B-52 strategic bombers. 27,000 American servicemen are stationed at the bases. The U.S. presence has become a focus of controversy stirred by Thai students and liberal and left-wing parties who see it as a roadblock to improved relations with China, North Vietnam, and the Soviet bloc.

At the height of U.S. involvement in Indochina (1968-69), 48,000 U.S. troops were stationed in Thailand, conducting bombing raids in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

American government sources have stated that if Thailand wants U.S. troops withdrawn, they will be withdrawn. □

HANOI'S GRAND DESIGN?

BANGKOK, March 30, 1975, Reuter: The Bangkok Post today published what it said was a North Vietnamese document indicating that the Communists intend to set up a federation comprising Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and a protectorate in part of Northeast Thailand. The authenticity of the document could not immediately be confirmed, and the paper disclaimed responsibility for its accuracy. The document said a final offensive to unify Vietnam would come next year and the Lon Nol government in Cambodia would be defeated by the end of this year.

Substantial military efforts by Communist insurgents were expected in northeast Thailand in the next two years, the document also revealed. □



Worldwatch

by Gene H. Hogberg

Shattered Pride Before the Fall

Not since the darkest days of World War II has the United States been jarred by so many foreign policy failures in so short a time.

With the impending collapse of Cambodia and Vietnam, with the sudden assassination of King Faisal coming on the heels of Dr. Kissinger's political defeat in the Mideast, and with festering problems inside NATO, the conclusion is that things are indeed going very poorly for Washington.

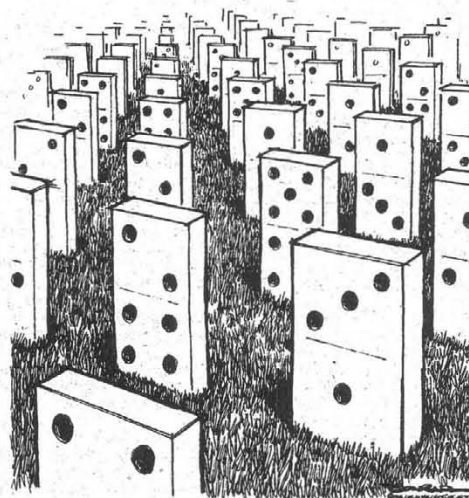
The big danger that many observers see now is that the United States, licking its Southeast Asian wounds in particular, will retreat into a neo-isolationist position and neglect foreign policy commitments far more important than those in Indochina ever were. As James Reston of the *New York Times* writes: "The doubt in the allied world about American action now is not about Washington's courage but about its judgment. The major allies . . . are merely asking [President Ford] to choose what is primary and what is secondary, not to confuse Saigon or Lon Nol or Southeast Asia with the really critical areas of Europe, the Middle East and Japan."

But can U.S. leadership make such distinctions any longer? After all, over a decade ago, contrary to the lesson of Korea, contrary to the French experience in Indochina and the whole nature of Vietnamese nationalism, America's political and military chieftans blindly committed the nation's heritage as well as its treasury to fight a "no win" land war in Asia.

When the first battle-ready marines, proudly holding aloft Old Glory, stormed ashore near Da Nang in 1965, they and their commanding officers thought it would only take a few months to teach those "barefoot VC" a lesson or two. Eight years later, with the release of the last U.S. POWs, America's once invincible military power had been all but shattered (Lev. 26:19).

How true the prophecies of Isaiah 9:16: "For the leaders of this people cause them to err." Our politicians and generals "err in vision, they stumble in judgment" (Isa. 28:7).

The sad part is that America's \$170 billion investment in a lost cause could very likely be only the down payment on the road to foreign policy ruin. It remains to be seen how comfortable the Japanese, the West Europeans, and other key allies feel under Washington's faltering leadership of the free world. Will they feel compelled to strike out on their own, to pursue political, economic and military programs apart from and even in opposition to those desired in Washington?



Why Middle East Peace Talks Collapsed

"...the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly" — Isaiah 33:7.

by Charles Hunting and David Ord

At a time when the United States is receiving a series of blows across the globe, the breakdown of Dr. Kissinger's efforts toward peace in the Middle East is a tragic disappointment to all parties.

Yet the collapse of the talks was a predictable setback. For what is fast shaping up, as *Plain Truth* has forecast for over forty years, is a crisis unparalleled in all human history.

No one wants war. The Arabs don't want it. The Israelis crave the security that peace would bring. The United States has nothing to gain from the explosion of this powder keg.

Every industrial nation on the face of the earth stands to lose if there is another conflict in the Middle East. And so does every underdeveloped nation, whose people must be fed by oil-based fertilizers.

But despite the whole world's desires for peace in the Middle East, the ambassadors

another explosion in the Middle East jeopardizes the security of the entire planet?

When Talking Fails

General Douglas MacArthur once stated: "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have been attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. . . . Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, *all in turn failed*, leaving the only path to be by the crucible of war."

Tragically, as every attempt to bring peace by diplomacy proves inadequate, the Middle East is drifting closer to the solution that nations have always taken in the end: the path of war.

Yet another war could sever vital oil lifelines of European nations, bringing about economic strangulation. And the Europeans cannot afford to take such a risk.



ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN, left, with U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger, March 23, sadly announced end to Mideast negotiations.

of peace are already bitterly disappointed — and they are going to weep bitterly before much more time has passed.

They Don't Know The Way

As soon as it became apparent that his peace-shuttle had reached a dead end, Dr. Kissinger, showing obvious disappointment at the failure of the talks, flew to confer with President Ford.

Despite his disillusionment, the Secretary of State could not afford to give up hope. Perhaps the shuttle could be resumed when the situation has quietened. Or maybe the parties could be brought back to the Geneva Conference.

Yet there is a growing awareness among the world's nations that even a return to Geneva would be merely another straw to clutch at. Few expect any positive ground to be gained in the talks.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that prospects for peace in the Middle East are bleak. A solution is as distant as ever. Not even Dr. Kissinger, with his personal credibility among both Arabs and Israelis, can bring peace.

In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The way of peace they know not."

But can the world afford to stand idly by if

Dr. Kissinger is known to believe that further diplomatic moves in the Middle East must include the European nations, who have so much at stake if there is renewed fighting.

Britain's *Daily Telegraph* commented, March 24: "The whole of the West, and especially Europe, after an unprecedented series of reverses in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Portugal, is confronted with new perils which it is ill-equipped to meet."

Will continued failure to talk a way to peace and the growing inability of the United States to guarantee Europe's Middle East oil supply lead European nations to formulate their own Middle East peace settlement?

Coming — A "Pax Romana"?

It is becoming painfully evident that if there is ever going to be stability in the oil world, a form of arbitrator superior to America's Secretary of State is required. A peace-keeping power with teeth is the only way to a lasting solution.

Where Dr. Kissinger has failed, could the nations of Europe bring peace?

Speaking of our unparalleled age of travel and the knowledge explosion (Dan. 12:4), the prophet Daniel referred to a southern

power pushing at northern Europe, which will by that time comprise ten nations.

Are we today, through the Arab threat to Europe's oil lifeline, beginning to see the king of the south "pushing at" the new Europe? The prophecy implies that as a result of this pressure from the south, the European power bloc will "enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land [Palestine], and many countries shall be overthrown . . . and the land of Egypt shall not escape" (Dan. 11:40-42).

This European power is described as planting "the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain" (verse 45). Does this indicate that a peace-keeping force from this ten-nation European power will in the near future enter Palestine, and that continued pressure from some of the Arab nations might meet with a firm rebuttal from this power?

Needed — A Catalyst

At the present time, Europe is far from united. Peter Jay, economic correspondent for the *London Times*, has stated: "Europe won't really get anywhere with economic union unless it forms a serious political union, and it can't achieve an effective political union unless it unites militarily. Every time somebody has tried to unite Europe militarily, it's been a disaster. It turns out to mean a Napoleon or a Hitler."

Europe, threatened by growing Russian military might and troubled by America's rapid withdrawal from the role of world policeman, might be shaken from her lethargy and forged into a powerful union of nations almost overnight if another Middle East war were to pose a threat to world peace.

But what Europe lacks is the kind of leadership that would act as a catalyst to bring the nations together for a common purpose. It needs a central figure to look to that would transcend national interests.

There is one authority to which Europeans have looked in the past for leadership. In the days of the Holy Roman Empire, the Vatican proved to be a powerful uniting influence in Europe.

And Now — a New Pope?

In Rome on Christmas Eve for the start of the Pope's Holy Year, it was painfully evident that Pope Paul VI has failed to capture the imagination of the masses.

We were able to attend the special service, at which primarily dignitaries of the church were in attendance, which preceded the midnight Mass. The brilliantly arrayed Pope, now aging, was applauded on several occasions. Despite the stormy term of office which he has experienced, it was evident

that there is still a great deal of loyalty among the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.

But in the basilica of St. Peter's, even though there was applause, the fervor that has greeted other papal occasions was clearly lacking. As the Pope rode in his papal chair down the aisle of St. Peter's following the Mass, we heard only one lone monk cry, "Viva, Papa!"

The following morning at the Pope's address to the world there was even less enthusiasm from the many thousands who had gathered in St. Peter's square. The square was far from full, despite the Vatican's expressed desire to bring one of the largest crowds ever to Rome. Large numbers who did gather showed little interest in what was taking place.

But if Pope Paul's personal magnetism is not great enough to inspire even Catholics, what are his chances of leading Europe to unity?

For this reason, and since Bible prophecy does indicate that Europe will be guided by a powerful religious figure, it appears that a new pope who would be able to capture the minds of the masses may be just over the horizon.

In the Shoes of the Fisherman

As never before, the Catholic Church — indeed the whole of Europe — needs a champion who could inspire the hearts of men in a way that has not been done in modern times.

After centuries during which miraculous occurrences have been few, could there arise in our day a pope with miracle-working powers — a pope whom the whole of Christendom would follow?

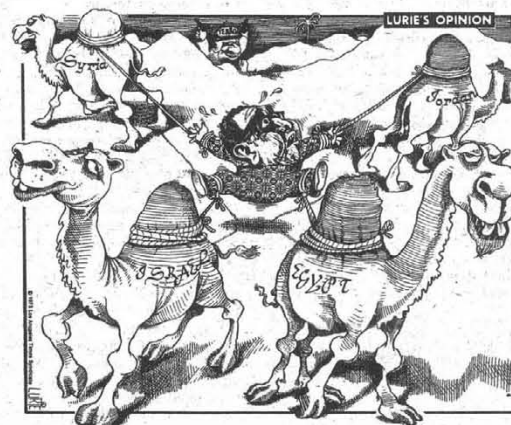
Could this be what it will take to unite ten nations in Europe and to forge a peace-keeping force that will go down to the Middle East and put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

If such were to occur, what would it mean to the United States and Britain, predominantly Protestant countries? How would your life be affected if there were to be a modern Holy Roman Empire led by a person working awesome miracles?

The Bible, which *Plain Truth* has used for over four decades to forecast world trends and conditions, supplies the vital answer.

You need to write for our FREE publication, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. Also request the booklet, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.

And keep reading every issue of *Plain Truth*. A staggering turn of events lies just ahead which you need to be informed about. Up-to-the-minute articles will keep you posted on the real MEANING of today's world conditions. □



"Are you prepared to make peace with us?"

Interview with Gideon Hausner

Only two days after the collapse of Henry Kissinger's personal diplomacy in the Middle East, Plain Truth correspondent in Jerusalem, Mark Armstrong, obtained an interview with noted Israeli attorney, author and political figure, Gideon Hausner.

Mr. Hausner was the prosecuting attorney of Adolf Eichmann and author of Justice in Jerusalem. He is today a respected and influential member of the Israeli government.



Israeli jurist Gideon Hausner

Q: Mr. Hausner, how do you view the breakdown of Henry Kissinger's negotiations?

A: I'm sorry the negotiations broke down. I think our approach was reasonable, conciliatory. We were prepared for a far-reaching compromise. The Prime Minister [Rabin] at the very opening of the negotiations said the territories were no problem, and this is not really the crux of the problem. The problem is whether the Arabs will really accept peace as the natural condition between us and them. . . . If theirs is the attitude of complete refusal of acceptance of facts and refusal to accept. . . the existence of Israel no matter what boundaries, then of course there is little prospect for any other effort.

Q: The question is, now, where does Israel go from here? Are you in favor of an early resumption of the Geneva conference?

A: I never thought that Geneva could be or should be, for that matter, avoided. I think that Geneva offers an opportunity for a large-scale arrangement. Only I wanted to put the Geneva talks into the proper perspective and the proper mood by having the Kissinger mission succeed. Because then the whole momentum would move in this direction. Now that his mission failed, I'm not so sure of the direction of the Geneva talks. Without the proper preparation — the procedure and the mode of progress — Geneva stands little chance.

In Geneva we will first and foremost put the problem to the Arabs: "No matter where the boundaries will run, supposing they run to your satisfaction, are you prepared to make peace with us?" Because if they are not, then it's no use to discuss boundaries and lines. This will be the crucial problem.

Q: What role would the Palestinians play at Geneva?

A: The trouble is that the Palestinians as such have no voice. There are self-anointed speakers who assume the role to speak for the Palestinians. These are the bomb throwers.

Q: Will Israel ever deal with Yassir Arafat or the PLO?

A: Israel will deal with Arabs who accept the fact of her existence. Dealing with someone who says you should disappear from the face of the earth makes no sense. What is there to deal with?

Q: There has been much speculation of pressure from the United States on Israel to be more flexible. There are recent reports from Washington of American reassessment of Middle East policy. Do you think there are any circumstances which could conceivably cause the United States to drastically decrease its program of supporting Israel?

A: First of all, I wouldn't like to use the general term of "pressure." I hope that there are still basic goals, ideas, and interests common to the United States and to Israel. This is what has brought about American support so far. Since these basic goals, interests, and ideas continue as the problem continues, I hope the assistance will go on.

Q: Do you feel war is imminent?

A: I wouldn't say that, but by way of preparation I think we have to be ready for it. For two reasons I don't think it's imminent. First of all, I believe that Arab rulers in their hearts know that they cannot win that war. And secondly they also know that it will not advance them an inch forward. So if there is still any reasoning in this area, and people are not carried away by their own emotional outbursts, then there should be no war. □

Europe Should Act as Mideast Peace "Co-guarantor": Brandt

WASHINGTON, March 27, 1975, Reuter: Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt said here today a final Middle East settlement must be a joint responsibility of the United States and the Soviet Union.

He also urged "more Western European interest in and even engagement in the area."

Mr. Brandt was speaking at the National Press Club following a meeting at the White House with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Mr. Brandt said the most probable new course seemed to be to move to a reconvened Geneva conference.

He expressed the belief that "whatever is done in between, finally there must be a co-responsibility of both world powers to bring about a peace settlement."

Recommending more Western European interest in the area, he said: "It is outside our door. It influences us in a most direct way. . . . If and when a peace settlement has made some progress, or the draft of it, Europe should play the role of something like a co-guarantor."

"But what is more important is to introduce a possible new element of stability which would be European readiness to enter into economic projects which may interest Israel as well as her Arab neighbors."

Asked if he believed the influence of the United States were in decline, he appeared to disagree with the Ford administration's argument that if Congress refused any further military aid to Indochina, this country's image abroad would suffer. The credibility of the United States would not be reduced as far as German relations were concerned, he added. □



Fred Ward — Black Star

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia 1906-1975

The following biography of Saudi Arabia's late ruler, King Faisal, is excerpted from Reuter's news service dispatches.

Born the son of an obscure desert sheikh in 1906, Faisal rose to control the fate and fortune of Western industry. When he was born, oil had not yet been discovered in Arabia, and indeed the Saudi kingdom and Israel were but dreams in the minds of strong-willed men in the sandy expanses of the Arabian peninsula and in sophisticated central Europe.

Arabia was a land of such desolation and austerity that only three Europeans were known to have penetrated its interior in the previous century.

Before he was 70, Faisal Ibn Abdul Aziz Al-Saud — his name means "sword" in Arabian — wielded influence far beyond the Arabian peninsula. As keeper of Saudi Arabia's millions of barrels of oil, his influence touched nearly every human being — from the industrialists and their workers in Europe and the United States to the citizens of the developing third world.

A devout Moslem, Faisal learned to live and rule in austerity as the laws of Islam and the tribe commanded, through a combination of faith and personal autocracy. At the same time, his faith made him both anti-Zionist and anti-Communist to a level where he scarcely distinguished between the two. As a reigning monarch, he abhorred both the atheism of communism and the political threat it posed by encouraging revolutionary movements.

As guardian of Islam's two holiest places, Medina, where Mohammed is buried and Mecca, he was implacable in demanding that Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest shrine, be returned to Arab administration.

King Faisal had deep personal, religious reasons for his adamant stand on Jerusalem. As he aged, he disclosed that he wanted to pray at Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock Mosque, built on the spot where, according to Arab legend, Mohammed ascended into heaven.

On the domestic front, Saudi Arabia — under Faisal's guidance — made a gradual transition from a Nomadic tribal society to a modern state. A huge territory of 927,000 square miles, it has a population of some 5.7 million people.

The oil boom is likely to alter the kingdom totally. As the Saudis assume complete ownership of their oil wealth, new towns are being planned, wells dug, hospitals and schools are being built along with roads and better communication facilities.

During the October 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Faisal used his oil resources as a potent political weapon against Israel. A founding member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Saudi Arabia slowed down its oil output and increased oil prices, severely dislocating the economies of the West.

Faisal was a shrewd, sophisticated ruler whose lined face with its hawk nose and hooded eyes seldom seemed to smile. Since ascending the throne to replace his deposed brother in November 1964, he faced the daunting problem of ruling strictly by the ordinances of the Koran, Moslem's Holy Book — he did not smoke and alcohol is forbidden in Saudi Arabia — in an increasingly materialistic and technical world.

Although determined that all his people must benefit, Faisal remained an absolute monarch and showed no sign of wanting to change to what the West understands as a more democratic society.

Faisal was the royal head of some 3,000 Saudi princes and 2,000 royal women from four generations. Faisal himself had eight sons and six daughters by four wives, two of whom he divorced many years later, and another died.

He consulted senior princes and tribal chiefs on important matters but made all important decisions himself. His power, basically paternalistic and tribal, was unhampered by the trappings of Western democracy. He was his own Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

In a land reputed to be full of gold-plated Cadillacs (the gold in fact covers the bumpers, the other parts are normally chromed) he had no fleet of limousines. He traveled with only a small guard and frequently sat in the front seat along with his driver.

Considering his immense wealth and political weight, King Faisal apparently said little publicly at his meetings with other Arab leaders.

One of his favorite proverbs was: "God gave man two ears and one tongue so we could listen twice as much as we talk." □

The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...

The Missing Dimension in Knowledge

Part IV

by Herbert W. Armstrong

NO RELIGION has given us this missing dimension in knowledge. Science has never explained to us why man is as he is — capable of sending men to the moon and back, yet utterly helpless to solve his problems here on earth.

In Part III of this series we saw the awesome potential of man. But *why*? Why does the Creator God purpose all this? *Why* did the living God decide to create man and put him on earth? God does not do things without a reason.

To understand — to comprehend the whole picture in the order of time sequence — we must now go all the way back into prehistory. That missing dimension in knowledge, too, is revealed in the Word of God — God's message and revelation of knowledge to mankind.

The Perfect Creation

So now we go back and begin at the beginning.

The first four words of the Bible are: "In the beginning God . . ." Since in the Bible God reveals himself as Creator of ALL — the entire universe with its galaxies, its suns, planets and moons — this places God in existence before all else.

The next verse tells us what God *did* — "created." God is, first of all, Creator. And *what* did he create? ". . . the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

The King James Version renders the word "heaven" in the singular, but the original Hebrew is in the plural — "heavens" — as it should be. It is so translated in the Revised Standard Version, Moffatt, and other translations. This verse is speaking of the *original* creation — the entire universe, including our earth. The original Hebrew words (these words were originally written by Moses) imply a perfect creation. God reveals himself as Creator of perfection, light, and beauty. Every reference in the Bible describes the condition of any phase of God's creation as "very good" — perfect.

This first verse of the Bible actually speaks of the original *PHYSICAL* creation in its entirety — the universe — including the earth, perhaps millions of years ago — as a perfect creation, beautiful and broad! God is a perfectionist!

In Job 38:4, 7, God is speaking specifically of the creation of this earth. He said all the angels (created "sons of God") shouted for joy at the creation of the earth. This reveals that angels were created *before* the creation of the earth — and probably before the *material* universe. The suns, planets, and astral bodies are material substance. Angels are individually created spirit beings, composed solely of spirit.

It will come as a surprise to many to learn that angels inhabited this earth *BEFORE* the creation of man. This passage from Job implies it.

Angels on Earth Sinned

Other passages place angels on earth prior to man.

Notice II Peter 2:4-6. First in time order were "angels that sinned." Next in time sequence, the antediluvian world beginning with Adam, carrying through to the Flood. After that, Sodom and Gomorrah.

This book of books, containing the revealed knowledge of the Creator God, tells us that God created angels as holy angels — composed of spirit. But can you imagine angels becoming *sinning* angels? Angels were created with power of thought, of deci-

Was humanity put here on earth for a purpose? Winston Churchill said to the American Congress: "There is a purpose being worked out here below," implying a higher power above working on earth. But why? What caused the placing of humanity here, and what is that purpose? Where are we going, and what is the way?

sion and of choice, else they have no individuality or character. Since *sin* is the transgression of God's law, these angels rebelled against God's law, the basis of God's government.

Notice carefully what is revealed in II Peter 2:4-5: "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; and spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly."

These verses show that universal sin brings universal destruction to the physical earth. The antediluvian sin, culminating with the flood, was worldwide; universal sin. Notice: ". . . the earth was filled with violence . . . for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth . . . for the earth is filled with violence . . ." (Gen. 6:11-13). "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. . . Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (verses 8-9). All flesh except Noah had sinned — over the whole earth. So, the Flood destroyed the whole earth.

The homosexual and other sins of Sodom and Gomorrah spread over the territory of those two cities. And physical destruction came to their entire area. The sin of the angels was worldwide; the destruction of the physical earth was worldwide.

The verses quoted above placed the sinning of the angels prior to the antediluvian sins that started with Adam, prior to the creation of man. And *that* should be a surprise revealing of one phase of the missing dimension in knowledge! Angels inhabited this earth before the creation of man.

And the government of God was administered on earth until the rebellion of the sinning angels.

How long these angels inhabited the earth before the creation of man is not revealed. It might have been millions of years. More on that later. But these angels sinned. Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). And God's law is the basis of God's government. So we know these angels, apparently a third of all the angels (Rev. 12:4), sinned — rebelled against the government of God. And sin carries penalties. The penalty for the sin of the angels is not *death*, as it is for man. Angels are immortal spirit beings and cannot die. These spirit beings had been given *dominion* over the *PHYSICAL EARTH* as a possession and an abode.

The universal, worldwide sin of the angels resulted in the physical destruction of the face of the earth.

God is creator. God is also ruler over his creation. He preserves what he creates by his government. What God creates, he has created for a purpose — to be used, preserved, and maintained. And this use is regulated by God's government. When the angels rebelled against God's government, the preservation of the physical earth and all its original beauty and glory ceased — and physical destruction to the surface of the earth resulted!

God is creator, preserver, and ruler.

It is Satan who is the great destroyer! So, now, we read in Jude 6-7: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Now back to Genesis 1:1-2. Verse 1, as stated above, implies a perfect creation. God is the author of life, of beauty, of perfection. Satan has brought only darkness, ugliness, imperfection, violence. Verse 1 shows the creation of a perfect earth, glorious and beautiful. Verse 2 reveals the result of the sin of the angels.

"And the earth was [became] without form, and void." The words "without form and void" are translated from the Hebrew *tohu* and *bohu*. A better translation is "waste and empty" or "chaotic and in confusion." The word "was" is elsewhere in Genesis translated "became," as in Genesis 19:26. In other words, the earth, originally created perfect and beautiful, had now become chaotic, waste, and empty, like our moon, except its surface was covered with water.

David was inspired to reveal how God renewed the face of the earth: "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth" (Ps. 104:30).

Now another surprise for most readers. Here is another bit of the missing dimension in knowledge, actually revealed in the Bible, but unrecognized by religion, by science, and by higher education.

From verse 2 of Genesis 1 on, the remainder of this first chapter of the Bible is *not* describing the original creation of the earth. But it is describing a renewing of the face of the earth, after it had become waste and empty as a result of the sin of the angels.

What is described from verse 2 on, in the supposed "creation chapter" of the Bible, did occur, according to the Bible, approximately 6,000 years ago. But that could have been millions or trillions of years after the actual creation of the earth described in verse 1!

I will comment later on the length of time it might have taken before all earth's angels turned to rebellion.

The earth had become waste and empty. God did not create it waste and empty, or in confusion. God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). This same Hebrew word — *tohu* — meaning waste and empty, was inspired in Isaiah 45:18, where it is translated "in vain." Using the original Hebrew word, as originally inspired, it reads, "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain [tohu], he formed it to be inhabited."

Continue now with the remainder of verse 2 (Gen. 1).

The earth had become chaotic, waste, and empty:

"And darkness was upon the face of the deep [the ocean or fluid surface of the earth]. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness" (verses 2-4).

Satan is the author of darkness. The rebellion of the angels had caused the darkness. God is the author of light and truth. Light displays and enhances beauty, and also exposes evil. Darkness hides both.

The verses which follow in this first chapter of the Bible describe the renewing of the face of the earth, with the production of that yielding beautiful lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetation — then the creation of fish and fowl, animal life, and finally man.

The Great Lucifer

But first, before coming to man, we need to fill in the prehistory portion.

How did this sin of the angels come to take place? How did it start?

Remember, God the Creator *preserves*, improves and enhances what he creates by his government. What he creates is created to be used. This earth was to be inhabited and used by angels, originally.

When God placed angels — apparently a third of all (Rev. 12:4) — on the newly created, perfect, beautiful and glorious earth, he set over them, to administer the government of God, an archangel — a great cherub Lucifer. There were only two other cherubs of this extremely high rank, Michael and Gabriel.

So far as revealed, these are the supreme pinnacle of angels or spirit-composed beings within God's power to create. This Lucifer was a super being of awesome, majestic beauty, dazzling brightness, supreme knowledge, wisdom and power — perfect as God created him! But God of necessity created in him the power of choice and decision, or he could not have been a being of individuality and character.

I want you to grasp fully the supreme magnificence of this towering pinnacle of God's created beings. Two different biblical passages tell us of his original created state.

First, notice what is revealed in Isaiah 14:

This famous chapter begins with the time, shortly ahead of us now, when the eternal God shall have intervened in this world's affairs. The people of Israel (not necessarily or exclusively the Israelis or Judah) shall have been taken as captive slaves, and God shall intervene and bring them back to the Palestinian homeland.

"And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, that thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath . . . he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth" (verses 3-6).

This is *NOT* speaking of the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. The time is yet ahead of us — but shortly ahead. It is speaking of the modern successor of that ancient Nebuchadnezzar. It is speaking of the one who will be ruler of the soon-coming resurrected "Holy Roman Empire" — a sort of soon-coming "United States of Europe" — a union of ten nations to rise up out of or following the Common Market of today.

Britain will NOT be in that empire soon to come. This united Europe will conquer Israel — if you know who Israel is today, and I do not mean Judah, known as the Israelis today. All that involves a number of other prophecies, which there is not room to explain here.

But this “king of Babylon” shall at the time of this prophecy have been utterly defeated by the intervention of the living Christ in his power and glory. Continue on:

“The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the fir trees rejoice . . . and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us” (verses 7-8).

I want to interpose an interesting bit of information right here. The cedars of Lebanon, biblically famous, are almost totally cut down. Only one small clump of these trees remains, high in the mountains. I have seen and photographed them. However, perhaps the finest specimen of the cedars of Lebanon surviving on earth are on the Ambassador College campus in England. We have prized them highly. It is interesting to see that this prophecy, written some 500 years B.C., should record the fact that these beautiful and stately trees should have been so largely felled.

This passage in Isaiah 14 speaks of the doom of this coming king at the hands of the glorified, all-powerful Christ. It refers to him as Satan’s chief political ruler and military destroyer, totally deceived by Satan in the years very shortly ahead of us.

Then, coming to verse 12, this human earthly type of Satan the devil suddenly leaps to Satan himself — the former arch-angel, Lucifer:

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” A better translation here is: “How art thou, who didst weaken the nations, cut down to the ground.” The RSV translates it: “How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!” This the former Lucifer did through the human political-military leader in his power — spoken of in the first eleven verses.

The name “Lucifer” means “shining star of the dawn,” or “bringer of light,” as God first created him. Now continue: “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [angels] of God.”

Notice, Lucifer had a throne; he was a ruler. His throne was on earth, for he was going to ascend into heaven. Continue:

“I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High” (verses 13-14). Actually, it is plain that Lucifer had nothing less in mind than knocking the Creator God off his throne and becoming supreme god himself.

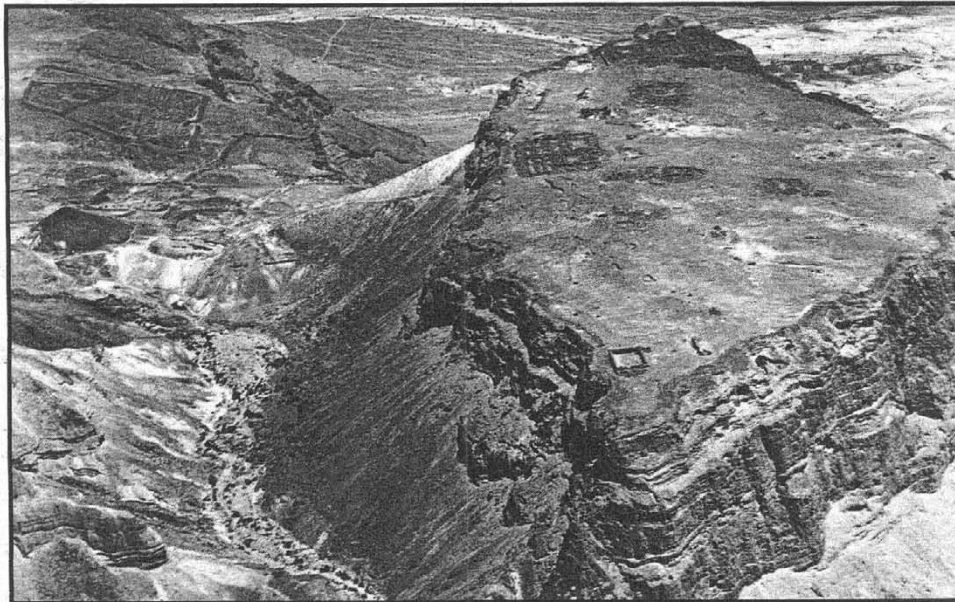
Apparently he planned to put himself in place of God over the universe.

But finally, as the context returns again to the human type: “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell [Heb. *sheol*], to the sides of the pit” (verse 15).

From that point, the thought returns to the human king. Here was the supreme masterpiece of God’s creative power, as an individually created being, threatening to turn on his own maker — as a frankenstein, to destroy his own maker — and assume all his powers to rule the whole universe.

His was NOT a government based upon the principle of love — of giving, of outgoing concern for the good of others, but based on SELF-CENTEREDNESS, on vanity, lust and greed, on envy, jealousy, the spirit of competition, hatred, violence and destruction, on darkness and error, instead of light and truth, on ugliness instead of beauty.

Turn now to the other biblical passage (Continued on page 14, col. 1)



ISRAEL'S MASADA and the ramp (left) which the Romans built to capture the rock.

P. Gross — Orient Press Photo

MASADA: Symbol of Israel's Resolve

by Brian Knowles

After the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Masada, a boat-shaped rock rising more than 1,300 feet above the western shore of the Dead Sea, remained as the last undefeated outpost of the Zealot defenders.

According to Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, Masada was first fortified by Jonathan the priest.

But the man who made Masada a formidable fortress was Herod the Great — the same man who had built the great Temple in Jerusalem!

Between 36 and 30 B.C. Herod built a casemate wall around the top of Masada, defense towers, storehouses, great water cisterns, barracks, arsenals and palaces.

In A.D. 66, when the Jewish rebellion against the Roman occupation began, the Zealots captured Masada and held it throughout the entire war.

Jerusalem fell in A.D. 70 but Masada refused to be conquered. It became a point of frustration to the Roman strategists who tried time after time, but in vain, to take the fortress.

Following Jerusalem's collapse, a few surviving patriots joined the defending group of Zealots on Masada. The number of defenders rose to 960 men, women, and children.

With Masada as a base of operations, a band of Zealots would occasionally leave the fortress and launch a raid on a nearby Roman garrison. Harassed for nearly two years by these raiding parties, the Romans became increasingly infuriated.

Masada had become more than just a rock out there in the desert. Now it was a symbol. It was the last surviving outpost of Jewish rebellion against the invincible might of Rome, a rallying point for the fanatical Zealots.

In A.D. 72 the Roman governor, Flavius Silva, resolved to crush this irritating, frustrating outpost of resistance. He spared no effort in making his preparations.

Silva's Siege

Silva marched to the site of Masada with his Tenth Legion, accompanied by auxiliary troops and thousands of water-carrying prisoners of war. They marched across the barren desert with timber and provisions for a prolonged struggle.

Atop Masada, Eleazar ben Mair, leader of the Zealots, prepared to defend the rock. Supplies and water were rationed and fortifications were again made ready.

Silva and his men established a garrison at the base of the fortress and constructed a wall that completely surrounded the rock of Masada to prevent any Jews from escaping into the desert.

At the same time the Roman governor and his men began construction of a massive ramp of earth and stones on the rocky site of the western approach to Masada where the cliffs were lowest. When the ramp was completed, the Romans built a siege tower and under a covering fusillade of stones and spears from its top, they moved a powerful battering ram up the ramp. After repeated efforts the Romans breached the wall in A.D. 73. Then it was only a matter of time before the legions broke through.

A Testimony of Silence

When the soldiers of Silva finally poured through the breach, they were met not with defending Jews but with an unexpected silence. Where were the defenders? Had they escaped through some unknown passage?

None had escaped. All but two women and five children were dead. But not at the hands of the Romans!

The defenders of Masada had agreed that surrender to the Romans was untenable. “I cannot but esteem it a favour that God hath granted us, that it is still in our power to die bravely, and in a state of freedom,” said Eleazar, their leader, in urging mass suicide. “. . . And let us spare nothing but our provi-

sions; for they will be a testimonial when we are dead that we were not subdued for want of necessities, but that . . . we have preferred death before slavery.”

They believed it better to die than to submit. They took their own lives rather than give the Romans the satisfaction of surrender.

Israel — A National Masada?

Today the nation of Israel is under constant siege, constant threat of attack. Yet the Israelis are determined to hang on, to survive as a sovereign nation. The historic homeland of the Jewish people has become a national Masada. It is the land their God gave them when he brought them out of Egyptian slavery. It is a place where Jews can live in dignity and self-respect. And it is a land worth defending — no matter what the cost.

Noted Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin, who headed up the team that excavated Masada in the sixties, summed it all up when he wrote: “. . . Masada represents for all of us in Israel . . . a symbol of courage, a monument to our great national figures, heroes who chose death over a life of physical and moral serfdom” (*Masada, Herod's Fortress and the Zealots Last Stand*, p. 13).

Today's Israeli sees the present military situation as the modern equivalent of the Roman legions of the first century. Greatly outnumbered by millions in the surrounding Arab nations, the modern Israeli must look to such symbols to bolster his courage in the face of apparently overwhelming odds against his survival.

It is not the Israelis' desire to emulate the Zealots' suicidal example. Rather they believe the siege of Masada teaches them they must keep their country strong enough so that they will never be faced with the Zealots' desperate choice. That is why recruits of the Israeli Armored Corps swear this oath of allegiance on its summits: “Masada shall not fall again.” □

DOOMSDAY REVISITED

by Gary Alexander and Ron Horswell

A prophet is not without honor — except in his own century.

Take the case of Thomas Robert Malthus, who, as economists and prognosticators go, has suffered more abuse and scorn than just about any modern prophet. It was Malthus who first told us earth had a population problem.

Malthusian Mathematics

"I say that the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man," he wrote in the late 1790's. "Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence increases in an arithmetical ratio." To Malthus, this meant there was absolutely no hope for effectively solving the world's poverty problem.

With the increase in population today, Tom Malthus has become a newborn hero. Current literature abounds with terms like "Neo-Malthusian," "Malthusian Math," or "The Second Coming of Thomas Malthus." Now we see a new crop of doomsdayers vying for Malthus' mantle.

Heilbroner's Causes of "Worriidoom"

In his new book, *An Inquiry Into the Human Prospect*, economist Robert Heilbroner lists what he feels are "three main sources, or perhaps levels of explanation, for the pall that has fallen over our spirits."

The first basic source of "worriidoom" he calls *topical*, meaning the horde of disconcerting events whose unleashing we faithfully follow via the various mass media. According to Heilbroner, "violence in street crime, race riots, bombings, bizarre airplane hijackings, and shocking assassinations" fall into this category, which is, of course, headed by the late great Vietnam War.

A second contributor to worriidoom, in the Heilbroner diagnosis, is *attitudinal* change, such as "our startled awareness that the quality of our surroundings, or life, is deteriorating." Into this second category falls the psychological impact of the ecological, environmental, and energy crises.

Heilbroner identifies the third horse pulling the worriidoom troika as *civilizational malaise*. By this he means the failure of the almighty dollar, pound, franc, or Indian wampum to truly satisfy. Doubling Gross National Product does not double happiness. This civilization malaise "reflects the inability of a civilization directed to material improvement — higher incomes, better diets, miracles of medicine, triumphs of applied physics and chemistry — to satisfy the human spirit."

That's probably a fairly good way of categorizing the maelstrom of forebodings through which we must presently try to navigate. And it explains why, although most of us naturally gravitate toward optimism, we have come to find a similarity between our own secret misgivings and the thoughts of a classic pessimist like Malthus.

Computer-Coded Catastrophe

We should have known that in our computer age, sooner or later, someone



would think of a way to express major world trends in computer language and foretell our future in a printout. And since computers never make mistakes (except on credit card bills), there would be no need to argue about whether the future would be heaven or hell, since we'd have it spread out right before us in binary black and white.

Sure enough, the first computer "world model" has been constructed. It was developed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the results obtained from it were published in a now-famous book called *Limits to Growth*. And while no one is claiming that MIT computers have irrevocably spread out our future before us, the authors of *Limits to Growth* feel that they can make some broad predictions with certainty. One such broad prediction is that "if the present growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached some time within the next one hundred years."

A second broad prediction is that it will be impossible for technology to save us from the first prediction. The scientists arrived at this conclusion by allowing for what they considered generous technological advances in raw materials usage, food production and pollution control. Even so, the computer spelled out disaster unless both population growth and economic growth (as we know it) were halted.

If we are to avoid such disaster, *Limits to Growth* tells us, societies must begin "preparing for a period of great transition — the transition from growth to global equilibrium." Even planned and prepared for, the transition is forecasted as "painful," but the computer agrees with many scientists in saying that if we don't plan, we will bump our growing heads against one of the earth's natural *limits* — such as too few raw materials or too much pollution.

The "Painful Transition"

The majority of our present prognosticators of doom — whether they be military, ecological, or economic prophets — feel man *can* save himself. Something *can* be done; the worst *might* be averted.

Their pessimistic predictions only take on a Malthusian inevitability when we realize that men usually lack the character and flexibility to make the necessary changes.

Mankind won't be *forced* to form a giant Neroic string section and fiddle its own finale, even though the conductor's score calls for it.

As Heilbronner wrote, "If then, by the question 'Is there hope for man?', we ask whether it is possible to meet the challenges of the future without the payment of a fearful price, the answer must be: No, there is no such hope."

Heilbronner's favorite solution — a "no-growth economy" — would run so deeply against the personal interests of so many people that it seems unlikely we will smoothly and voluntarily make the switch.

"Therefore," Heilbronner fears, "the outlook is for what we may call *convulsive change* — change forced upon us by external events rather than by

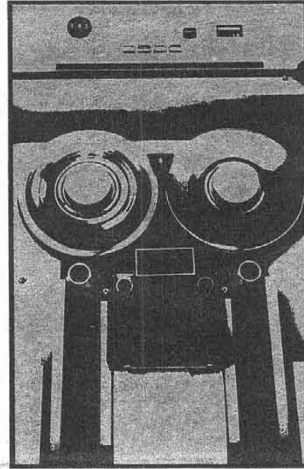
conscious choice, by catastrophe rather than by calculation.

"The problem is that the challenge to survival still lies sufficiently far in the future, and the inertial momentum of the present industrial order is still so great, that no substantial voluntary diminution of growth, much less a planned reorganization of society, is today even remotely imaginable."

But Heilbronner sees a possible solution through a benevolent Big Brother:



Bettman Archives



Plain Truth

THE FOUR HORSEMEN (as viewed by Albrecht Durer, p. 8) were quantified by Thomas Malthus (left) and the MIT computer (right).

"Candor compels me to suggest, that the passage through the gauntlet ahead may be possible only under governments capable of rallying obedience far more effectively than would be possible in a democratic setting."

Arnold Toynbee echoes this distasteful solution: "I can imagine the world being held together and kept at peace in the year 2000 by an atrociously tyrannical dictatorship which would not hesitate to kill or torture anyone who, in its eyes, was a menace to the unquestioning acceptance of its absolute authority . . . If the reluctant majority does accept this dictatorship . . . I think they will be making the right choice, because it would enable the human race to survive" (*Surviving the Future*).

Pessimism, Optimism, or Realism?

Malthus, Heilbronner and the MIT computer are only three — among thousands — of the professional prophets of doom. These pessimists and doomsdayers have done us optimists a big favor. They've left us with the realization that civilization could fail. Unnerving as that feeling is, it may be better than believing that this mess we now live in will continue to muddle through eternity.

The optimists had come to believe that man had devised what no other species or age of man had the ability to build — a perpetual civilization machine — which, once set in motion, would never cease functioning, leaving us free to behave in any manner we might want.

Until modern doomsdayers made us stop and look around, we were rolling merrily along in this perpetual civilization machine, unaware that we were only one smoggy breath away from turning that delightful contraption into a rusty hulk stranded by a stagnant cess-pool.

Perhaps it's the height of realistic optimism to speak of a *post-doomsday* world. That's where Bible prophecy stands alone in its unbounded optimism.

"Israelite Prophecy"

With the advent of computers, prophecy has come a long way, but we shouldn't forget that its tap root runs three millennia deep. The world's first prophets were those called of God and sent to the nation of ancient Israel.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* states that "as a matter of historical fact, the most outstanding and influential prophetic phenomenon, as far as Western culture is concerned, was Israelite prophecy" (1970 edition). An earlier edition even stated, "The Hebrew prophet stands alone among divinely appointed and inspired men of any religion" (15th edition).

The authoritative textbook, *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, goes even further, stating: "The Holy Bible is like no other book in the world. It is the only book which presents itself as the written revelation of the one true God, intended for the salvation of man, and demonstrating its divine authority by many infallible proofs. Other religious documents . . . may claim to be the very word of God, but they contain no such self-authenticating proofs as does the Bible (for example, the phenomena of fulfilled prophecy)."

Human Prediction

Uninspired men have been trying to penetrate the dark vale of the future for centuries. Ancient diviners in Egypt and Mesopotamia examined the entrails of animals for omens concerning future events. Astrologers have studied the heaven seeking the same. Ancient

Greeks had their oracles, and medieval palaces had their court magicians.

Today, although we still have diviners, astrologers, palmists, and oracles of all kinds, the dubious art of prediction is becoming more respectable, more scientific, and, in fact, very much more in demand. Recent decades have witnessed the emergence of a new breed of "prophets" called *futurists*. Their standard method of prediction involves the identification of trends and then extrapolating those trends into the future to show what probably will happen if trends are not interrupted.

But the strictly mechanical methods of trend extrapolation have not proved very successful.

If you would compare the success of the biblical predictions of 2,500 years ago to those predictions made by scientists just 25 years ago, you would find that Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel described the world of 1975 far more accurately than did the scientists of 1950!

The "Modern Jeremiah"

The prophet who gave his name to the pejorative term, *jeremiad*, is seemingly back on the job after a 2,500-year sabbatical, during which he apparently earned a Ph.D. in investigative journalism.

Foreseeing the calamities to strike during the twentieth century, Jeremiah wrote, "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; it is the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:7).

This typical "jeremiad" speaks of doomsday (as "Jacob's trouble"), but it also speaks of the positive post-doomsday world (we "shall be saved out of it"). The entirety of biblical prophecy is similarly balanced between the good news and the bad, between doomsday and the wonderful world that follows it.

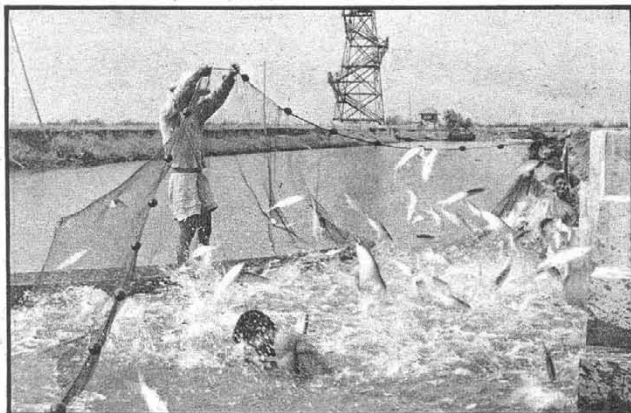
And as far as "modern Jeremiahs" go, the upbeat Jeremiah beginning in chapter 31, verse 7, deserves the term "jeremiad" just as much as his doomsday counterpart in chapter 30, verse 7.

Jeremiah the optimist wrote, "For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel."

"Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither."

"They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them; I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble . . ." (Jer. 31:7-9).

The Bible contains more good news than bad news. Write for a free subscription to *The Good News* magazine and the booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. After you've read them, we defy you to call us "Prophets of Doom." Instead, think of *Plain Truth* as the herald of the post-doomsday world — the world tomorrow. □



FILIPINOS, funded by the FAO, harvest cultured milkfish near Orani, Bataan. FAO

LET THEM EAT FISH!

by Charles F. Vinson

If world population predictions come true, food production worldwide must somehow be expanded to stave off inevitable famine. Most estimates suggest that production must double in the next twenty years merely for nutritional standards to remain at their present inadequate levels.

At present rates land agriculture is expanding more slowly than population. In addition, future expansion on a large scale is unlikely because most of the world's arable land is already under cultivation.

These facts are nothing new to scientists, who for years have been searching for a workable way out of the food vs. population nightmare. In the past many forward-looking agronomists put their faith in the oceans as the salty savior of earth's malnourished millions. The idea was promising because the sea's bounty seemed limitless. For decades the annual ocean harvest grew at double the population rate.

But no longer. Today, overfishing and pollution have contributed to the depletion and virtual destruction of some of the world's richest fishing grounds. In 1975, the hungry world's demand for fish and fish products will be 107 million tons. Some scientists estimate that the seas can support an annual take of only 100 million tons. The fish stocks cannot replenish themselves from year to year if more is taken.

To make matters worse, cooperation between major fishing nations is practically nonexistent. Disputes such as the Icelandic cod war and the Ecuadorian tuna tussle are not uncommon. Nations with massive fishing fleets seem to care little about preserving the ocean's bounty for future generations. The idea apparently is to increase the annual take regardless of the consequences.

Today, the only real hope of significantly and beneficially increasing marine productivity — and overall world food production — does not lie in the high seas, but in the shallows of the continental shelves. There, the fledgling science of *aquaculture* — or *mariculture* as it is called when practiced in salt water — shows good promise of putting more food on tomorrow's table.

Assuming that offshore pollution and exploitation of coastal areas does not destroy suitable sites for mariculture — as famous oceanographer Jacques Yves-Costeau believes is happening — then mariculture has the statistical capability of meeting the long-term requirements of man's future meat-protein needs.

Indonesia is a case in point. In the past five years the Indonesian fish harvest has

jumped from \$500,000 per year to over \$20 million. Some of the increase was due to more intense coastal fishing. More significantly, the coastal ponds recently developed in northern Java have made a tremendous contribution in the form of milk-fish and shrimp. A good pond will produce around one ton of fish per hectare (2½ acres), but scientists tending intensely managed ponds have produced four times that figure.

On the other side of the world, British biologists have recently had gratifying success in raising turbot from the egg stage through metamorphosis to the adult fish. All was done in fish tanks, with a tremendous yield per hectare of water.

Aquaculturists have mastered the technique of shellfish husbandry to a greater degree than for any other type of marine life. In Spain, rafts trailing 20-foot ropes to which mussel larvae are attached produce 80 million pounds of meat per year.

The Japanese have long been masters of oyster culture, using an approach similar to the Spaniards. They now average nearly 50 million pounds of oyster meat per year per acre. The Australians are also significant producers, using the same raft and rope methods. In the U.S., experiments in this type of mariculture in the waters off New England are also proving successful.

While offshore pollution is indeed a menace to the natural fishing industry, one form of effluent may prove to be a resource. Thermal discharges into the ocean have been a point of environmental concern for some time, yet now there is evidence that in some areas the raised water temperatures may prove beneficial to mariculture. Most mariculture attempts in northern waters were limited to the warmer months, because the marine population is dependent on the natural nutrient concentration in drainage from rivers and estuaries. Naturally, that nutrient content is higher in summer.

On the other hand, the thermal discharge from a power plant is a source of warm water, which enables the maintenance of proper temperatures and water environment — and thus food supply — all year round.

This has proven profitable on Long Island, New York, where mollusks such as oysters are now being cultivated year round on a commercial scale, using the coolant water from the Long Island Lighting Company at Northport, Long Island.

Catfish are being cultured commercially year round at the fossil-fueled power plant of the Texas Electric Service Co. at Lake

(Continued on page 13, col. 1)

Keeping Your Wallet Above Water

Every day hundreds of people discover that they can no longer make ends meet. They encounter some sort of financial setback, job loss, and they finally fail at their financial brinkmanship.

Whatever the reasons, there are some positive steps that people should take to make life out on the financial limb more tolerable.

Plain Truth interviewed Stan Benson of Consumer Credit Counselors, Inc., a non-profit service dedicated to helping those who are financially over-indebted. His advice follows:

PT: Would you give us a profile of the kind of person who comes to you for help?

SB: We find people coming to us with take-home pay of \$400 a month. We are also dealing with people who earn \$35,000 a year, with professionals — doctors, attorneys, teachers, and even some CPA's. The average indebtedness per client today, in Los Angeles, is \$9,600 [exclusive of autos and real estate]; a year ago that was only \$6,000.

PT: What are the reasons for these peoples' financial problems?

SB: We see an awful lot of people who are going through divorce, which is devastating

financially for both parties. Also major medical setbacks, people who didn't have the medical insurance to cover that emergency that came along. How many people can handle a \$50,000 cancer in their family? Easy credit is a factor — the temptations of easy credit.

And, of course, recession and inflation. Many people who come to us were watching it pretty close. They were right on the line, and suddenly everything was ten to fourteen percent higher in cost.

PT: In our society, are people over-stimulated to engage in credit buying?

SB: Some people are what we call "crediholics." I know of people who will say, "Let's go out and just have a day at the shopping mall," for lack of anything else to do. We see a lot of this — the impulse buyer, not sitting down and planning his needs, but just walking by the store and saying, "Hey, looks great." And he has the card handy.

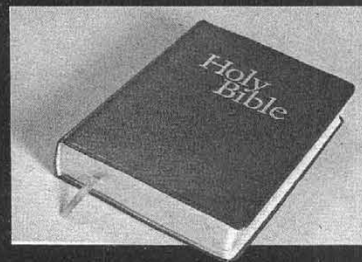
PT: Does credit buying help or hinder a person in the long run?

SB: I think that most economists would agree that the use of credit is a very important aspect of American life. It's really a very small percentage, in the long run, who either abuse the privilege or through misfortune get into problems with the use of credit.

PT: If someone is deep in debt, what positive steps can he take?

SB: Immediately he should contact his creditors and tell them, "I'm having a problem, I'm going through a divorce." "I've just lost

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my job," or, "I've had a medical setback." Surprising to many, the creditors are human; they may ask, "Can you pay the interest only?" or, "When do you think you'll be able to start your payments again?"

But people hide. They skip payments, and then they're in trouble. To communicate with the creditors, I would say, is of paramount importance.

And one of the first things a person should do is seek professional counseling.

And, let's say the problem is unemployment. People should find out what's available to them through government programs. It's very, very important to know what is available to you through the law.

PT: Do you find that people in financial straits cut the wrong things out of their budgets?

SB: When a person gets in debt, he begins to say to himself, "Where can I cut back?" Oftentimes he makes the wrong choices. We find, for example, that the first thing cut out is life insurance or health insurance.

PT: Should people consider bankruptcy?

SB: The federal bankruptcy laws, I think, are a good thing for those people who absolutely have to use bankruptcy as a way out. But one of my concerns is the many calls that we receive from people who ask us to help them file bankruptcy. And when we question them a little bit, we find out that they're only \$1,500 to \$2,000 in debt. If they had come to Consumer Credit Counselors, they could have set up a budget and proba-

bly been out of debt within two, three, four or six months.

PT: But isn't bankruptcy an easy way out of debt?

SB: For fourteen years it's on your credit report that you filed bankruptcy. That makes it very, very difficult to establish credit again with major department stores, banks, finance companies and so forth. That doesn't mean that you can't get credit. There are some of what we call "less than reputable" firms that will actually go to the bankruptcy courts and will seek out the lists of everybody who has filed bankruptcy to solicit for credit accounts. The reason they do this is that they can sell their merchandise for a much higher cost to people who can't use bankruptcy as a means of escape. Because you can only file bankruptcy once every six years.

PT: Are people aware of the seriousness of our times?

SB: Well, I think there's a great seriousness. We've noted, for example, that people are now beginning to cut back on their credit purchases. They're putting more money into their savings and loan accounts or their bank accounts.

However, we don't see that too much with the people who come to our agency for help. These people are the ones who have reached a certain [expense] level. They don't want to give up anything.

PT: Are you saying in effect that one of the problems is a lack of a spirit of sacrifice?

SB: Absolutely. □



Why NOT

by David Jon Hill

Care?

We live in a dog-eat-dog society. We call our society "the rat race." We are a calloused generation. Apart from the real tragedies portrayed in newspaper headlines, news magazines, and TV coverage, the average person by the time he reaches adulthood has been a personal eyewitness to the killings of more than 13,000 people in his living room via the television set.

We're told more than ten thousand people die every day from starvation. We are told six million Jews died in concentration camps, while tens of millions suffered agonizing deaths under the heel of the communist boot. Earthquakes, tidal waves, and floods in far away places cause death tolls numbering more than half-a-million.

Small in comparison (but not for any individual involved) is the tale of carnage wrought by the Los Angeles slasher, the Boston bomber, and the homicidal maniac sniper from a Texas tower. Major diseases take the lives of hundreds of thousands of people each year, and in the United States alone we manage to destroy almost 50,000 lives a year on our highways in the hideous crunch of crushing metal.

Rampant crime in the streets; burglaries, kidnapping, and rape; corruption in government; a general mistrust of all persons in authority and a seemingly total breakdown of the family unit — all these lead to a personal reaction of withdrawal into the self, a general disillusionment, a bitterness, a hopeless feeling that nothing is going to turn out all right.

This entire scene is overlaid with the most hideous and unimaginable, though seemingly inevitable, threat of human extinction from overpowering sources such as worldwide nuclear war, the population explosion, the total pollution of all life-giving resources, germ warfare, nerve gases, etc.

Is it any wonder that when he foresaw the generation you and I are living through, Jesus said, "Sin will be rampant everywhere and will cool the love of many." (Matthew 24:12, *The Living Bible*.)

In this milieu it seems hopeless to think that anyone can help. It's every man for himself, get mine while the getting is good, eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we may die. The personal reaction of the vast majority only adds to the total trauma this generation faces.

But who cares? What can I do? What can you do? What can anybody do? Caring costs, caring hurts, caring frustrates.

But as with anything that is worthwhile, no matter what the cost, caring builds character that cannot be destroyed. Caring turns the mind and the heart outside its self-interest circle and makes what life we have richer. If things are as bad as they seem they are — and in fact they are much worse — then there is nothing to lose from offering love to the loveless, hope to the hopeless, and care for those who may not even care for themselves.

So why not begin in a small way and exercise a little care muscle — for your wife, your husband, your children, your neighbors, your work associates and finally, maybe, even the poor sick world as a whole.

Why not care?

Confessions of a Nonsmoker

by Ron Beideck

"If you haven't tried it, don't knock it." Well, I have never smoked a cigarette. Never! I don't say that in self-righteousness. It's just a fact.

When I was about six years old, I was playing in the backyard with a friend. We had cigarettes. Just childish mischief, we were playing "grown-up." Maybe I thought I was Humphrey Bogart. But the wicked weeds were only in our mouths. They weren't lit.

Just then my Mom came out. Saying something to the effect of "Cigarettes, uh?" she rushed back into the house and soon reappeared with a match — a match, of all things. Seeking I guess to traumatize me against smoking for the rest of my life, she kindly offered to light my cigarette. But somehow, at that age, the idea of smoke and fire under my nose didn't appeal to me. That, and the fear of the unknown, caused me to decide I should gracefully decline. I think I got a tongue-lashing anyway.

Some years later, as a teen-ager, it was "in" among my peer group to smoke. Again, it was "grown-up." And we all desperately wanted to be grown up. But at the risk of being called a "jerk" and a "fink" and "chicken," I decided to go the nonconformist route. For one thing I still didn't like the smell, the smoke and the fire. And I remembered a parody I had read in *Mad* magazine about "Marlboro country," the local hospital cancer ward. Although it was a satire, it seemed to ring true. I guess, too, I was the only kid on my block who read *Reader's Digest*. I didn't see how anyone could smoke after reading a *Reader's Digest* article against smoking. Quotes like: "In pure form nicotine is a violent poison. One drop on a rabbit's skin throws the rabbit into instant shock. The nicotine content of a trifle more than two cigarettes, if injected into the bloodstream, would kill a smoker swiftly. If you smoke a pack a day, you inhale 400 milligrams of nicotine a week, which in a single injection would kill you quick as a bullet!" ("How Harmful Is Smoking?" *Our Human Body*, The Reader's Digest Association, 1962, p. 147).

Translation to my brain: Gulp! Quick as a bullet! Don't drop a drop of nicotine on your pet rabbit and don't smoke cigarettes — the life you save may be your own.

There was also the very practical consideration that cigarettes cost money. I think at the time I was still more interested in buying baseball cards.

And my parents didn't smoke, which was a good example. Anyway, it all seemed kind of silly — especially that fire dangling so close to my lips. So I didn't smoke, and I wasn't really ostracized.

Now that I'm older, and hopefully even wiser, I've often wondered, "Why do adults, who ought to be older and wiser, smoke?"

Having absolutely no comprehension about what makes cigarette smoke so keen, I've asked friends: "Why do you smoke?"

The answer, almost universal, can be summarized in one word: "pleasure."

"But," I would say, statistics from *Reader's Digest* dancing in my head, "don't you know that smoking is bad for your health?"

And the answer, again, is almost universal. It goes something like this: "We've all got to go sometime. Look, I could get killed walking across the street tomorrow."

To me, the answer seems to obfuscate the whole issue. Sure, you could get killed crossing the street. Maybe by the little old lady of Pasadena, the terror of Colorado Boulevard. And lightning could strike. The sky could fall. A million things could happen.

But what if you don't get hit crossing the street? Will the pleasure seem worth it if you end up dying of lung cancer in "Marlboro country"? You know, it *doesn't* always happen to the other guy. Probably most of the people in cancer wards didn't think it would happen to them.

Sure, smoking isn't the *only* reason. But if you're a smoker, you've heard the statistics. I won't bore you with them. I won't even mention them. You know nonsmokers live longer, so why knowingly shorten your life?

Don't get me wrong, I'm not condemning, just asking questions. If you want to smoke, it's all right with me. To each his own.

I don't want to get glandular or red-faced

about it. I don't enjoy going to a restaurant or riding public transportation and having to breathe billowing clouds of smoke. But if it means so much to smokers, if it gives them so much pleasure, I'll gladly suffer for their sake.

But I think the thing that galls me the most is the hypocrisy of it all — cigarette ads showing a fresh-faced, ruddy couple lapping and splashing in the water of a mountain stream amidst a green forest and a clear, blue, vibrant sky with fresh, clean air. What do cigarettes have to do with a fresh-faced, ruddy couple splashing in the water of a mountain stream surrounded by a green forest, a clear, blue, vibrant sky and fresh, clean air? Isn't cigarette smoke the total antithesis of fresh air?

And doctors who smoke? How can those who have dedicated their lives to the preservation of life knowingly make a mockery of their own life to others by their example?

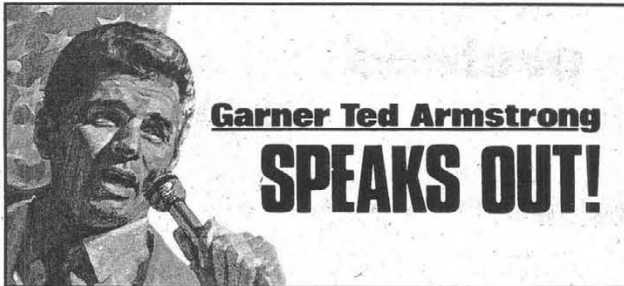
And ads telling us about the "taste" of this

or that cigarette? Isn't it true there is no taste, only smell?

Don't get me wrong, I'm only asking questions. It just seems like common sense. The lungs were designed to purify the blood by exchanging wastes and carbon dioxide for oxygen. It's the most basic and vital function of the human body: pulmonary circulation. The body seeks to eliminate poisons, yet smokers inhale directly into their mouths, throats, and lungs tobacco smoke containing a number of noxious ingredients and poisons, many of which are carcinogenic. Defensive systems and cleansing mechanisms are forced to work overtime in an effort to cope with the invasion.

Of course, the human body is marvelously adaptable. You might be a smoker and live to be 80, or 90, or even 100. But you probably won't. More likely it will be a nonsmoker.

Don't get me wrong. I don't care if you smoke. It's your life. Fine. But as for me, I'm still scared of fire. □



**Garner Ted Armstrong
SPEAKS OUT!**

All for Nought

Stunned Americans may now reflect upon the exultant headlines following former President Nixon's announcement that a peace agreement had been concluded with Communist forces in Vietnam. "The long war is over," they shouted. "Peace after 12 years," they crowed. "Peace?"

Though Americans were no longer "directly" (a very debatable term, as subsequent revelations trickled out to the public) involved in the Vietnam struggle, the war continued unabated. Today, as we see the incredible nightmare of human suffering and listen to the death cries of an entire nation; as we stare, sickened, at the maimed and dead; as we listen, appalled, to the eyewitness accounts of frenzied, panic-stricken mobs fleeing before the advancing Communists; as we read of whole Vietnamese divisions abandoning hundreds of millions of dollars worth of U.S.-made weapons to the enemy and turning their guns on their own kindred in mad sprees of looting or frenzied efforts at escape, we should reflect upon those headlines and the events of the 60s which preceded them.

By 1973, Vietnam had become one of the worst nightmares of American history. The United States had been heavily involved in Vietnam for about 12 years — with the last five or six preceding 1973 literally shaking the nation to its foundations, causing reverberations which, in turn, shook every nation on earth. By the time of those now ironic headlines announcing "war's end," there were no great celebrations, no explosive national bell ringing. There were no ticker-tape parades welcoming returning troops — no real sense of satisfaction for a job "well done."

Vietnam was the war that changed America. It changed us mentally, morally, emotionally, and spiritually. It quite literally took as grievous a toll on the American home front as it did on the Vietnam battlefield. It cost 46,000 American lives in combat and another 10,000 lost from other causes. It had cost \$170 BILLION — financed by deficit government spending, which in turn pumped far too much money into the economy, which in turn directly led to the stifling period of "stagflation" we now suffer. Moreover, it caused a grievous wound to the spirit of America.

It was a war that produced no famous

victories, no national heroes, no stirring patriotic songs. It was a war without any clear front — without even a real "homefront."

Millions of Americans came to simply loathe the Vietnam war. As a whole, they wanted it over. Finally, it may go down in history as a war started by the government, and ended by the people.

Warnings Ignored

Pull out all stops — fight to win — fight to survive — fight to preserve democracy? Sure. Americans have proved their willingness to do that. Fight to destroy the enemy? Sure. But "lean on" the enemy? Force him to the conference table? Commit troops piecemeal to battle? Fight for real estate you know your leaders will abandon tomorrow? Fight as an extension of your government's policy or to prevent the "domino theory" from taking effect? Americans don't know how to do that.

Korea should have taught us a bloody, painful lesson.

Even during the later stages of World War II, American commanders warned we must never become involved in a land war in Asia. They knew, from fighting the elusive Japanese in Burma that the jungles of Southeast Asia were as formidable an enemy as hostile armies, that they could gobble up enormous

amounts of manpower and equipment and that tank warfare was a seasonal affair limited to roadways.

But the lesson of Korea and the sage advice of military leaders of World War II were ignored by the policy makers of Washington. From our earlier posture of support for Ho Chi Minh, we shifted to the support of a corrupt government in Saigon.

And so the war was joined. Dozens of Vietnamese names now trickle easily from American lips. Hundreds of thousands of our citizens have been there. Da Nang. Ben Hoa. Cam Ranh Bay. Hue. There are the memories of buddies who died there, the memories of the "living room" war, fought on television before Americans at dinner time, the memories of Calley's trial.

When Richard Nixon came to the White House, Vietnam was "Johnson's war." Quickly, it became "Nixon's war" to the antiwar protestors.

Now, the war was being wound down. Gradual disengagement, as the Vietnamese troops could take over battlefield positions from their American benefactors, became the rule of the day.

Skillful negotiations finally brought about the release of most POWs, and so the long war was "over." "PEACE After 12 Years," the headlines said.

But the fighting went on and on. The only difference was those who were dying were not Americans. Vietnam gradually became third-page news. Today, it's back on page one. It's the cover story of our magazines.

**The War That Changed
A People**

Make no mistake about it, Vietnam changed America in many significant ways.

Vietnam revived dormant yearnings for isolation from foreign troubles; which is being continuously reflected in other areas, including attitudes toward American support of Israel.

Vietnam destroyed America's feelings that it possessed the "rightness" to solve the world's problems. Our "rightness" was sullied by the screams of the dying under massive B-52 bombing at-

tacks — by the greatest unleashing of conventional firepower the world had ever seen surpassing even that of World War II.

Vietnam split the leaders of the nation into two polarized groups, characterized as "hawks" or "doves," and shattered a long tradition of bipartisan support for a President's foreign policy.

Vietnam made military conscription and the military establishment so unpopular that both parties called for an "all volunteer" army.

Vietnam drained away billions of dollars and energy from giant domestic problems. It raised consumer prices and workers' wages — being financed through an inflated economy by government printing presses which were grinding out billions of paper dollars, backed by nothing except whatever waning confidence was left.

Vietnam caused the greatest dissent in American history, igniting riots and demonstrations on campuses, sending draft dodgers to Canada and Sweden, priests to jail, and part-time soldiers to trial.

Vietnam drove President Johnson from the White House and engendered distrust of leaders and government.

Vietnam accelerated the growth of a counter-culture in America, with a frightened, hopeless youth turning to drugs, rock concerts, free love, crime, and violence. It reduced meaningful debate to shouting matches between those who wore the flag and those who burned it. The hard hats and the long hairs, the left and the right, the liberal and the radical, and the young and the old all fought each other.

Vietnam inflamed all the strains in contemporary America — between races, classes, and generations. It divided Americans against Americans as had not occurred since the Civil War. It eroded the authority and credibility of our major institutions, not only the government and the military but also business, universities, religions and even science. The CIA and the FBI became not only suspect, but were also convicted by their own admissions.

In the beginning of the war Americans thought we had a purpose for fighting in Vietnam — to honor our commitments, to stop Communist aggression on a distant shore, to help a helpless country, to support a "democracy" and the right of a free people to decide in free elections the kind of government they wanted.

In the middle of the war no one seemed sure why we were fighting. At the end of American military involvement, we knew it had been a colossal mistake.

And now, the death throes of South Vietnam hold us transfixed in horror. All we fought to prevent is happening. The 56,000 Americans who died did, in fact, die in vain. The more than \$170 billion was money down the drain. The prophecy — "your strength shall be spent in vain" (Lev. 26:20) — has come to pass; the prediction was true.

To paraphrase Sir Winston Churchill, "Never have so many paid so much for so little." What a useless, heart-breaking, monumental human tragedy we have wrought. □

AMERICA'S WARS

Battle Deaths

In World War I, 53,402 American servicemen were killed in action. In World War II, the toll was 291,557. For the Korean War, 33,629, and in Vietnam, 45,940.

Wounded in Action

World War I: 204,002; World War II: 670,846; The Korean War: 103,284; Vietnam: 303,475.

**The Cost of the War
in Billions of Dollars**

World War I: 25.7; World War II: 341; Korean: 54; Vietnam: 170.

U.S. Bombing in Tonnages

World War II: 2,057,244 tons; Korean War: 635,000 tons; Indochina War: 7,100,000 tons.

**Length of U.S. Involvement
in Major Wars**

World War I: 1 yr., 7 mo.; World War II: 3 yr., 8 mo.; Korean: 3 yr., 1 mo.; Vietnam: 12 yr.

A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR A DICTATORSHIP IN ITALY

by J. G. Calander

ROME: As I boarded the early morning Alpine Express in Munich, bound for Rome, I got my first taste of Italy. After a week of traveling the trains of northern Europe, I had become spoiled by the luxury and punctuality of European trains. They were often punctual to the second. This Italian train, however, departed thirty minutes late, and our "first class" accommodations were decidedly second rate. Strike one.

The dining car was strike two. I had become accustomed to the finest meals on wheels, but when I asked directions to the dining car on the Alpine Express, I got a blank look and "whaaa?": I finally found it: an unheated (below freezing) cement-floored cattle car where a frantic Italian (who spoke no German, although we were in Germany) sold tepid coffee and stale buns. That was my breakfast and lunch during the nine-hour train ride.

Strike three goes to the Italian bureaucracy. Italy was the only nation in Europe that stopped us at the border, instead of merely sending a deputy to examine our papers while the train was in motion. So we lost another half-hour at the Brenner Pass showing our passports.

As we switched cars in Verona, we had our second taste of the prototypical Italian civil servant. I wanted to change U.S. travelers checks into lira. Nothing much, just pocket change, 100,000 lira or so. There was nobody waiting in line at the exchange window, but the man behind the glass was "busy" shuffling one paper to one pile, another paper to the first pile, and back again.

I waited for ten minutes, then began to meekly ask for my change. Five minutes later, he looked up and lazily examined all my identification papers, before reluctantly giving me lira.

I was lucky to get any service. You see, it was almost quitting time in the afternoon. I

commented to my friend, "I guess Italians don't work in the afternoon." He said, "No, you have it all wrong. Morning is when Italians don't work. Afternoon is when they don't come to work."

Now, after four days in this land of robust red wine, pasta, and musical governments, I've finally learned to avoid anyone who looks official. The whole Italian economy is one vast wasteland of paperwork. Paralysis is a way of life. Everywhere there is a form to fill.

To cope with this morass of red tape — not to mention the pasta shortage, higher taxes, price controls, wild drivers, and all the other hangups of Italian daily life — some local businesses have installed a special expediter — the *spicciafacondi* — whose sole duty is to bribe whomever needs bribing to get something done.

The idea has merit, but why stop at the private level? What Italy needs is a "super-spicciafacondi" who could get things done at a national level, someone who, miracle of miracles, could get the mail delivered the same year it's sent. After all, when it takes three years to get a pension check, you might as well get another job.

It's time Italy gave up their cumbersome charade of democracy. Nobody takes the Italian government seriously anymore, least of all the Italians. Enough! Politics in Italy has grown stale. Italian prime ministers come and go so fast they don't have time to have their portraits painted, much less hung.

This governmental obscurity and bureaucratic bungling has reached the saturation point. Let's have a strong hand from somewhere to pick up the pieces, someone who would be recognizable if you saw his face in a history book.

A benevolent dictator could build great monuments, carry out social reforms, and bedeck the landscape with his picture pasted on his newly built public works. This benign *duce* could fulfill his transcendent role as "the rightful heir of Caesar" in a new Roman Empire.

No more weak unstable center-left coalitions masquerading as democracy. Let a new *superspiciatifacondi* lead the way back to past glories.

Who knows — he might even make the trains run on time. □

Fish (Continued from page 10)

Colorado City, Texas. Yields there are reported to be the equivalent of 100 tons per acre per year with intensive feeding.

The Japanese, as usual, have been one step ahead in the utilization of thermal sea pollution. Shrimp, eel, yellowtail, seabream, ayn and whitefish are all participants in experiments which have been carried on since 1964 and which have proven successful for the most part.

The British commenced tests on the culture of plaice and sole on an experimental basis ten years ago using the thermal discharge from a nuclear plant in Scotland. With some temperature control and supplemental feeding, fish growth from the egg to a 1½-lb. size and larger was attained in less than two years. It takes nature twice as long.

Not all types of marine life are acceptable to all people. Some types are more nutritious and healthful than others. Most people naturally prefer to eat the free-swimming types of fish, which unfortunately are difficult to raise in an aquaculture situation due to their migration and feeding habits.

Because of this, many oceanographers are pressing strongly for much stricter controls on traditional kinds of open-sea fishing. Even depleted stocks of fish can replenish themselves rapidly if only left alone.

For example, the North Sea, oldest of European fishing waters, was badly depleted at the outset of the first world war. Hostilities

prevented large-scale harvesting for four years. When peace brought fishing fleets back into the area, stocks had replenished themselves remarkably well. Size as well as quantity was up dramatically. The same was true after World War II.

This replenishing of species is possible in most if not all heavily overfished areas of the oceans.

Realizing this, many looked to last year's Law of the Sea Conference as a partial solution to the overharvesting problem. The purpose of the conference was to write a treaty for the development of ocean resources as mankind's common heritage — including mineral exploitation, freedom of navigation and pollution control.

Sadly, the outcome of the conference was negligible. Little or no agreement was forthcoming between nations, most of which were unwilling to cooperate in the use of their own designated patches of continental shelf.

So the rape of the sea continues, and many popular varieties of free swimming food fish — the choicest kinds — have now reached their peak harvest or are now in decline. And because of pollution, the seas are shrinking in their natural capability to produce food.

It remains to be seen whether or not mankind will learn to manage the natural food resources of the oceans before they are gone. In the meantime, the development of the science of mariculture is one bright spot in the generally bleak world food crisis. □

orchids & onions

letters

I have no quarrel with your philosophy — I suppose I really agree with all you have written (what I have read, that is). I am a political conservative — real conservative — and I have a strong religious conviction. . . .

Beyond that, I cannot equate the "poverty program," the "arms problem," the "energy crisis," the international "income trade disputes," the "oil embargo," "women's liberation," the "United (???) Nations," "inflation," "smoking" and plain old-fashioned *hunger* with the importance of the gospel. . . .

A hungry belly is a pitiful, painful, sad thing — granted. But please leave God, the Bible, and Christ out of it. Each should be dealt with on its own terms. Your battle against social evil is good, but it should be labelled just that: a battle against social evil. *Not* religion.

Robert Crean,
Yardley, PA

Robert L. Kuhn, your article is a masterpiece! "The Politics of Eternity" is the best definition I have ever read of what Christianity is, and what false religion is. Could you make a leaflet or pamphlet of that magnificent article?

Mabel Bowles,
Bristol, CO

In your *Plain Truth* of January 1975, p. 30, you stated that nobody else is preaching the Word. I felt that was a strange comment, seeing that the Jehovah's Witnesses are preaching the Word of God, in practically every country in the world. . . .

Also in *Plain Truth* of February 8, 1975, p. 15, an article by Gerhard Marx states that there are no ministers in operation in the atheistic state of Albania. Well, upon research, I was very much surprised to find that Jehovah's Witnesses are "working underground" in Albania to spread the truth, and in other Iron Curtain countries also.

Art Jeavons,
Kirtland, OH

I would like to tell you that you radiate spiritually on millions of people and in spite of the degeneration of humanity, there are millions to whom you give meaning to their lives by the Word of God.

Anonymous woman,
La Courneuve, France

You have here one slightly miffed Canadian. In your issue, week ending Feb. 8th, you had an article on U.S.-Canadian relations which sort of slipped on a couple of points. For a start, the so-called "technicality" about the DES hormone. Twenty-two countries (or thereabouts) have ceased buying American meat because of the additives. There was a joint agreement between the U.S. and Canada that no DES would be used. This didn't sit too well with U.S. cattlemen, so they got their lobby busy and had it repealed on this side of the border. We simply don't want the crap — and I mean the meat.

Incidentally, life expectancy is a year higher in Canada.

Now about the oil — we have enough for ourselves. According to forecasts we don't have enough to keep sending it to the U.S. and still maintain self-sufficiency. We have been a lot more conservation-minded than the U.S. — even to selling milk in re-usable cartons and special bags.

What we have is a neighbor who has been gorging himself on his sirlin like there's no tomorrow. Having nearly done with it, he is now looking covetously at our carefully conserved hamburger. And we don't like it.

What am I doing in the U.S.? Studying. Do I plan to stay forever? Hell no. Up till then, I am endeavouring to make like a good citizen (I notice I'm trying harder to conserve than a lot of my American friends), and I'm overpaying my taxes like everybody else.

Janet P.,
New York City, NY

I write in response to your WHY NOT column in the March 8, 1975 *Plain Truth*.

People who know God, Mr. Hill, never pretend they are God. . . . Little children who are not yet in tune with reality might imagine they are God. Adults who pretend they are God are sometimes locked up in asylums, hopelessly lost for any constructive contributions to society. Only people whose conception of God is small will suggest to someone to pretend he is God.

WHY NOT show a little courage and give your readers some plain truth about God and his salvation through Christ? . . .

D. E. Anderson,
Evanston, IL

Very pleasant surprise! Although I've heard of *Plain Truth*, this is my first encounter with it; it's presently passing through many hands. Keep it coming!!! (Maybe turn down the "God" part a little.)

Scott Johnston,
Indianapolis, IN

I would like to let you know how I feel about the format of the new *Plain Truth* magazine. I'm sickened to tears, my heart is broken, my body is numb. I don't care if you print *Plain Truth* on kleenex or the cheapest paper that money can buy, but let's keep it the great magazine it was before.

Look at how much space is used in "Art Buchwald: Biting Your Own Bullet" and other stories and cartoons. Where did the God-inspired writers of the old *Plain Truth* go? I have the feeling that the *Plain Truth* has been degraded. . . .

The old *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazine are the greatest written material in the world today, other than the Bible. And I couldn't wait till they arrived. But now when I think of the *Plain Truth*, tears and much sorrow come to my heart.

William John Drew,
Jackson, MI

I'm in the printing business, and I know how expensive the old format must have been. Much more practical to switch to newsprint. Very good. Thanks.

Marybeth Vaughn,
Gen. Mgr., Tyler Star,
Tyler, TX

The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...

(Continued from page 7)

describing this supreme angelic creation of God, in Ezekiel 28.

Lucifer a Created Being

Actually, the entire concept here in chapter 26 speaks of the ancient great commercial city of Tyre. It was the commercial metropolis of the ancient world, even as Babylon was the political capital. Tyre was the New York, the London, the Tokyo, or the Paris of the ancient world. The ancient Tyre, port of the world's shippers and merchants, gloried *herself* in her beauty, even as Paris in our time.

Chapter 27 carries on with comparisons to passages in the 18th chapter of the book of Revelation referring to a politico-religious leader to come (vs. 9-19).

But coming to chapter 28, the theme comes more completely to the time just now ahead of us, the same time depicted in Isaiah 14, that speaks of the prince of Tyre, an earthly ruler. God says to the prophet Ezekiel: "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus [actually referring to a powerful religious leader to arise soon, in our time], Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of God [cf. II Thess. 2:4], in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: with thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures [or "treasures" - RSV], and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations. . . they shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas" (Ezek. 28:2-8).

What a Super Being!

But at this point, as in Isaiah 14, the lesser human type lifts to a greater spirit antitype. This is the same Lucifer.

Ezekiel the prophet continues: "Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (verses 11-12).

Please read that again! God would never say anything like that of a human man. This superb spirit being filled up the sum total of wisdom, perfection and beauty. He was the supreme pinnacle, the masterpiece, of God's creation, as an individually created being, the greatest one in the almighty power of God to create!

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God" (verse 13), yet he had inhabited this earth. His throne was here. "Every precious stone was thy covering. . . the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created" (verse 13). He was a created being - not born human. He was a spirit being - not human flesh. Great genius and skill in music were created in him. Now that he has become perverted in all thinking, acting and being, he is the real author of modern perverted music - of discordant moans, squawks, shrieks, wails - unhappy, discouraged moods. Think of all the supreme talent, ability, and potential in a being created with such capacities. And all perverted! All gone sour - all dissipated, turned to hatred, destruction, hopelessness!

Yet, take courage. The awesome human

potential, if we care enough about it to resist Satan's wiles and evils and discouragements and to persevere in God's way, is infinitely superior and higher than Lucifer's - even as created, before he turned to rebellion and iniquity!

But continuing this particular revelation of the crucially important missing dimension in knowledge: "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so," says God of this Lucifer. This takes us back to the 25th chapter of Exodus, where God gave Moses the pattern for the Ark of the Covenant. The description begins with verse 10, and verses 18-20 show, in the material pattern, the two cherubs who were stationed at each end of the very throne of God in heaven - the throne of the government of God over the entire universe. The wings of the two cherubim covered the throne of God.

Trained at Universe Headquarters

This Lucifer, then, had been stationed at the very throne of God. He was trained and experienced in the administration of the government of God. God chose such a being, well-experienced and trained, to be the chief executive in the administration of the government of God over the angels who inhabited the whole earth.

Continue: ". . . thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." This is not talking about any human being. But continue:

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity [lawlessness] was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:15). He had complete knowledge, understanding and wisdom. But he also was given full powers of reasoning, thinking, making decisions, making his choice. And, with all this foreknowledge - even of results and consequences - this superb being, the highest that even God could create, turned to rebellion against his maker - against the way that produces every good. He turned to lawlessness. He had been trained in the administration of perfect law and order. As long as Lucifer continued in this perfect way, there was happiness and joy unspeakable over the whole earth. There was glorious peace - beautiful harmony, perfect love, cooperation. The government of God produced a wonderfully happy state - as long as Lucifer was loyal in the conduct of his administration.

What Caused Angels' Sin?

What caused the angels on earth to sin, to turn to lawlessness? Certainly the ordinary angels did not persuade this great superb being to turn traitor. No, it was in him that iniquity was found. But, after how long? We don't know. God does not reveal that! It could have been any number of years from one or less to millions times millions.

And then, even after Lucifer himself made the decision to rebel and try to invade God's heaven to take over the universe, it is not revealed how long it took him to persuade all of the angels to turn traitor and follow him.

I know the method he used. He uses the same method still today in leading deceived humans into disloyalty, rebellion, and self-centered opposition against God's government. First, he turned one or two to envy, jealousy, and resentment over an imagined injustice - then into disloyalty. Then he uses that one or two, like a rotten apple in a crate, to stir up resentment, feelings of self-pity, disloyalty and rebellion in others next to them. And, as each rotten apple rots those next to it until the whole crate is rotten, so Satan proceeds.

If, in the government of God today, the "rotten apples" are not thrown out early enough, they would destroy the whole gov-

ernment. But, once thrown out of the crate, they cannot do any more damage to those in the crate.

But think how long it must have taken the soured and embittered Lucifer to turn millions of holy angels into resentment, bitterness, disloyalty, and finally open and vicious rebellion. It could have taken hundreds, thousands, or millions of years. This was all before the first human man was created.

All this happened after the original creation of the earth; described in verse 1 of Genesis 1. Verse 2 of this "creation" chapter describes a condition resulting from this sin of the angels. The events described in verse 2, therefore, may have occurred millions of years after the original creation of the earth.

The earth, therefore, may have been created millions of years ago. But continue this passage in Ezekiel 28: "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned; therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy [remove] thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground. . ." (verses 16-17). At this point the context returns to the soon-to-appear, human, religious-political ruler - of whom the prince of ancient Tyre was a forerunner.

Earlier in this installment, I showed you how physical destruction, ugliness, and darkness had covered the face of the earth, as the result of the sin of Lucifer (who is now the Devil) and these "angels that sinned" (now demons), and how in six days God had renewed the face of the earth (Gen. 1:2-25).

But why did God create man on the earth (Gen. 1:26)?

Look at this situation as God does: God has given us human minds, the mind of God, only inferior and limited. God made us in his image, after his likeness (form and shape), only composed of matter instead of spirit. But God says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). We can, to some degree, think even as God thinks. How must God have looked at the situation, as he started renewing the face of the earth - after the colossal debacle of the angels?

He had created a beautiful, perfect creation in the earth. He populated it with holy angels - probably millions of them. He put over them, as kings, on an earthly throne, the archangel - the cherub Lucifer. Lucifer was the supreme masterpiece of God's creative power as a single separately created spirit being. He was the most perfect in beauty, power, mind, knowledge, intellect, wisdom, within the almighty power of God to create. God can create no higher or more perfect.

Yet this great being, knowledgeable, trained and experienced at God's own throne in heaven over the universe and the administration of the government of God, had rejected that government, corrupt in his own way, rebelled against administering or even obeying it. He had led all his angels astray and into the sin of rebellion and disloyalty.

Now consider further. Apparently the entire universe had been created also at the time of the earth's creation. There is no evidence either in God's revealed Word, nor in science that any of the planets in endless outer space had been inhabited with any form of life. But God does nothing in vain. He always has a purpose.

Apparently all such planets in the entire universe now are waste and empty (*tohu* and *bohu*) like the earth was, as described in Genesis 1:2. But God did not create them in such conditions of decay - like our moon. Evidently if the angels had maintained the earth in its original beautiful condition, improved it, carried out God's instructions, and obeyed his government, they would have

been offered the awesome potential of populating and carrying out a tremendous creative program throughout the entire universe. When they turned traitor on earth, their sin must have also brought physical destruction to the other planets throughout the universe, which were potentially and conditionally put in subjection to them.

As God surveyed this cataclysmic tragedy, he must have realized that since the highest, most perfect being within his almighty power had turned to rebellion, it left God himself as the only being who would not and cannot sin.

And God is the father of the divine God family.

Notice John 1:1-5. The "Word" who was "made flesh (verse 14) has existed always - from eternity - with the Father. God the Father has created all things - the entire universe - by him who became Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16-17).

When Jesus was on earth, he prayed to God, his father in heaven. The Father spoke of Jesus as "my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus lived on earth as a human, tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

The fourth word in all the Bible is "God" (Gen. 1:1). And the original Hebrew word is "Elohim," a uni-plural noun like the word family, church, or group. The family is God. There is one God - the one family, but more than one person.

God saw that no being less than God, in the God family, could be *certainly* relied on never to sin - to be like God - who cannot sin. To fulfill his purpose for the entire vast universe, God saw that nothing less than himself (as the God family) could be absolutely relied upon to carry out that supreme purpose to the entire universe. God then purposed to reproduce himself, through humans, made in his image and likeness, but made first from material flesh and blood, subject to death if there is sin there - yet with the possibility of being born into the divine family fathered by God the Father.

God saw how this could be done by Christ, who gave himself for that purpose.

And that is why God put man on the earth. That is what caused God to do this most colossal, tremendous thing ever undertaken by the supreme, almighty God.

In Part V will appear an eye-opening, surprising explanation of the super-colossal PURPOSE! □

BLOODY BABY BANNED

The March 31 cover of *Newsweek* magazine depicted a severely injured Vietnamese baby in the arms of its mother. Although the sex of the child was not immediately obvious, newstands in Dallas chose to cover it up as if it were *Playboy* or *Penthouse*.

But which was the true obscenity, the child's nudity or the smeared blood, caked dirt, painful burns, and open wounds on the baby's nude body? Could the good denizens of Dallas call this child "obscene" but the war which injured it *not* obscene? Apparently so.

This upside-down morality is also evident in movie ratings and textbook burnings. A movie showing the female form is R-rated; if a male caresses that form, it is X-rated; but if he chops her apart with sword or knife, it's G-rated. It seems America's love affair with violence is exceeded only by its violent reaction to love affairs.

It's time we reevaluate the meaning of obscenity. How about this definition: "Obscenity, noun; that idea, word, or action which hurts another human being." But since most of us would rather make war than love, "obscenity" will continue to mean naked bodies and four-letter words - like B-A-B-Y. □

Religion in Australia

by Dennis G. Luker

Churches are not very important to most Australians. Even though 87 percent of the population officially claims a religious belief, only about 25 percent attends church. Attendance is far less than in Canada (44%) and America (43%) but more than in Britain (20%). The major denominations in Australia are Church of England, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian — in that order. The more religiously emotional evangelical groups, like Baptists, are not strong in Australia (1.4% of population compared with 16.7% in U.S.).

Australians love their personal freedom and independence, and many of them feel religion might interfere with something they want to do. There is definite opposition to "Bible bangers" and "religionists," generally called "wowers" in Australia. Until fairly recently, "wowers" were politically influential, and they attacked drinking, gambling, smoking, and sport on Sundays — pleasures and pastimes the average Australian especially enjoys.

Australia, unlike America, was not founded by religious people seeking religious freedom. The first settlement in 1770 was mostly made up of convicts from England, not religious pilgrims. Subsequent immigration did not change this, so Australia's early development was without religious motivation. Early traditions and

attitudes have remained with modern Australia and have produced a less religiously inclined nation of people, when compared to America, Canada or the average European country.

Although the population generally is very secular, surveys reveal that a majority of people hold to some sort of morality. The Golden Rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," could be interpreted as an expression of Australian "mateship" — treating others as a "mate" or "buddy" and giving them a "fair-go." Australians are basically humanists, believing in the dignity of man and the value of human life.

The traditional concepts of Christianity are accepted, but contrary doctrines are rejected. As one Australian writer put it, "Hell has been abolished as unfair to underdogs. If there is a happy eternal life, it's for everyone. The concept of evil is un-Australian. One must look for the good in people."

Recent surveys in Australia show that church attendance is declining, especially among young people. Reasons most often given for not attending were "lack of interest," "too busy," "more interested in sport," "services too dull" and "too much hypocrisy." These answers hit at the root of the problem. Religion in the churches today just does not offer what the average Australian wants — something challenging and interesting, something that gives answers to today's problems and a purpose in life that fits the Australian concept — a "fair-go" for everyone.

Traditional religion in Australia is sterile. It will die unless the churches get back to teaching the Bible and the true principles of "mateship" revealed in that book. □

Christian Psychiatry

Not so with a Christian. The first stage when God deals with an individual is the same as taken by the psychiatrist; God drives the individual into his neurosis (or mental problems) to the point where he is forced to face his real self and become disgusted with it.

But now the difference is that future strength in life comes not from boosting the ego and rebuilding a wreck, but from abandoning the wreck of your previous human existence and beginning to assume the character of a totally different person: Jesus Christ.

This is what Paul means when he says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20). Such an individual can live with a minimum of the normal defense mechanisms since his main concern is no longer to protect the ego but rather to allow it to be replaced by the character of Christ. This does not, however, eliminate the individual personality but rather enhances the talent, charm and vitality of the person by freeing him from the burdens of vanity, jealousy, lust, and greed.

The psychiatrist, often without realizing it, brings the mentally disturbed individual close to a point which would be called "repentance" in theology. But then instead of offering the patient a brand new tire, he hands him a retread. □

Grow Lovely Growing Old

Let me grow lovely growing old —
So many fine things do;
Laces and ivory, and gold,
And silks need not be new;
And there is healing in old trees
Old streets a glamour hold;
Why may not I, as well as these
Grow lovely, growing old?

Orval B. Berton

Nuclear War, Energy Crisis, Food Shortage, and NOW...

AEROSOL ARMAGEDDON

by Robert Ginskey

What do supersonic transports, aerosol sprays, and nuclear weapons have in common? All produce chemical agents capable of penetrating and decomposing the protective ozone in the earth's atmosphere. Without the ozone, all living things could die from exposure to the worst of the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

The chemical agents in question are oxides of nitrogen, released into the upper atmosphere by the jet engines of supersonic transports (SST's) and by nuclear explosions, and free chlorine, derived from propellants used in aerosol cans. Relatively small amounts of these agents are sufficient to destroy large quantities of ozone, itself an extremely unstable molecule.

SST's and Nuclear Bombs

The potential dangers from SST's and nuclear explosions are staggering. Both the SST and nuclear bombs inject nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere that can significantly reduce the protection afforded by the ozone layer.

A 50 percent increase in nitrogen oxides may decrease ozone levels by between 7% and 12%. This would result in a 14% to 24% increase in potentially hazardous ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface.

Catastrophic Catalysts

Yet the most alarming threat is probably the aerosol can.

The aerosol propellants are largely inert to chemical reaction and have generally been assumed to be harmless. In certain cases, however, where ultraviolet light causes decomposition, a "catalytic" reaction can occur in the atmosphere which destroys ozone.

An estimated 10 billion pounds of aerosol gases are already present in the atmosphere and every year nearly a billion additional pounds are being dissipated into the environment from spray cans and industrial applications. The result is a growing concern that the ozone layer may be markedly reduced over the next two decades.

60,000 Deaths

The National Resources Defense Council claims that continued buildup of aerosol propellants in the atmosphere is depleting the ozone layer that shields the earth from ultraviolet radiation and is increasing the risk of radiation-induced skin cancer. The council asserts that within 20 years the ozone layer may be depleted by as much as 16% resulting in 500,000 to 1.5 million additional cases of skin cancer and 20,000 to 60,000 deaths annually.

"The irony," says famed astronomer and ex-biologist Carl Sagan, "is that every spray of your deodorant may contribute to an atmospheric catastrophe... we may be the best smelling dead men in history."

Other Dangers

The effects of increased radiation on vegetation are less clear. Some plants appear to have their growth retarded when they are exposed to increased ultraviolet radiation. An increased incidence of mutation has been observed in certain experimental strains, and there are some indications that increased radiation will interfere with the growth of plankton in the ocean. Ozone depletion might also produce climatological effects. An increase in ultraviolet radiation might, for example, lead to an increased melting of polar ice. Alternatively, a redistribution of ozone in the atmosphere might lead to a reduction in average global temperature.

Scenario of Disaster?

Yet before mankind lapses into hysteria over "Ban the Bomb," (pun intended) perhaps we should remember the story of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. These compounds — being spewed out from our industrial society with its prodigious consumption of fossil fuels — were supposed to trap sunlight in "the greenhouse effect," cause an overall heating of the earth.

But this has not occurred. Rather, the earth seems to be cooling down of late. Carbon monoxide and dioxide are apparently having little effect, or at least are being counteracted by some opposing processes.

The point is that not enough is yet known about the functioning of our atmosphere or about the production and destruction of ozone. The earth's sophisticated life-support system often has a remarkable capacity to recover from even the most ill-conceived blunders of mankind, and quite possibly a weakened "ozone filter" will allow the production of ozone at a significantly higher rate. After all, ultraviolet light is directly responsible for producing ozone in the first place! Perhaps the whole system has a long-term negative feedback stability.

On the other hand, aerosols have probably already doomed more people than were killed by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The threat is very real, and it's not just a bad joke.

"We are talking," says space scientist Thomas M. Donahue, "about the end of the world — doomsday in 25 years."

Aerosols? Ozone? Doomsday? The irony is overwhelming; the implications are poignantly prophetic. Our Aerosol Armageddon may yet come to pass, not with a bang, but with a pssst! □

BRITAIN—SINKING WITH FLAIR

Telly Savalas, TV's tough New York police ace, *Kojak*, recently took up residence in London. Interviewed for BBC television, Savalas was asked why he had decided to make Britain his home when the future of the nation looks so bleak. He answered that he had a certain admiration for the British people. He liked their style — their flair!

Some flair! The nation is now living beyond its means to the extent of 6p in every pound. Even Dicken's Mr. Micawber, when he overspent by 6 old pence in every pound, was living beyond his means by only 2.5 new pence!

And nowadays, unlike Mr. Micawber, who in the end immigrated to Australia to make good, the nation no longer has a Commonwealth that will save her in her hour of need — an hour of need which could well turn into an hour of desperation if, in a final fit of "flair," the British people vote to leave the European Community in June.

Meanwhile, in the face of massive inflation and the threat of unreasonable wage claims, the government — in true socialist style — relies upon "a more equitable dispersion of wealth" as part of its effort to appease the unions. Magnanimous principles, but with no new wealth being created, dispersion is the right word — dispersion to the winds!

No wonder leading commentators are claiming that the politicians are simply rearranging the deckchairs on board the Titanic.

That's flair. □

Christianity vs. Psychiatry

by D. P. Wainwright

When a Christian friend of mine recently visited a psychiatrist, he was surprised to find that prayer was recommended as part of the treatment. Not that the psychiatrist believed in God, but he felt that if his patients had such a belief, prayer could be of some therapeutic value.

It's no coincidence that increasing reliance upon psychiatry has generally paralleled an overall decline in the effectiveness of traditional Christianity.

However, disbelief in God has not solved society's mental problems. It has only given the psychiatrists a great deal more work to do.

What many people haven't realized is that there are many similarities between the way psychiatry commonly treats neurosis and what the Bible advocates in such a case. The ultimate "cure" for the Christian, however, is totally different from the results the psychiatrist often achieves for his patient.

A talk I had with a clinical psychologist in private practice exemplifies a fairly standard approach in treating mental problems. Normal therapy is to drive the individual into his neurosis to the point where he is forced to face the way he really is. So far so good. The patient is encouraged to become repelled by his style of living; he becomes genuinely sick of himself.

Once this stage is reached he is shown that he is now free to fulfill his real potential. He is encouraged to recognize his unique talents.

From then on the process is one of building up the ego of the individual so that he can begin to fulfill this potential. With successful treatment he becomes a person who is humanly capitalizing on the valid and natural talents he has.

Cure complete.

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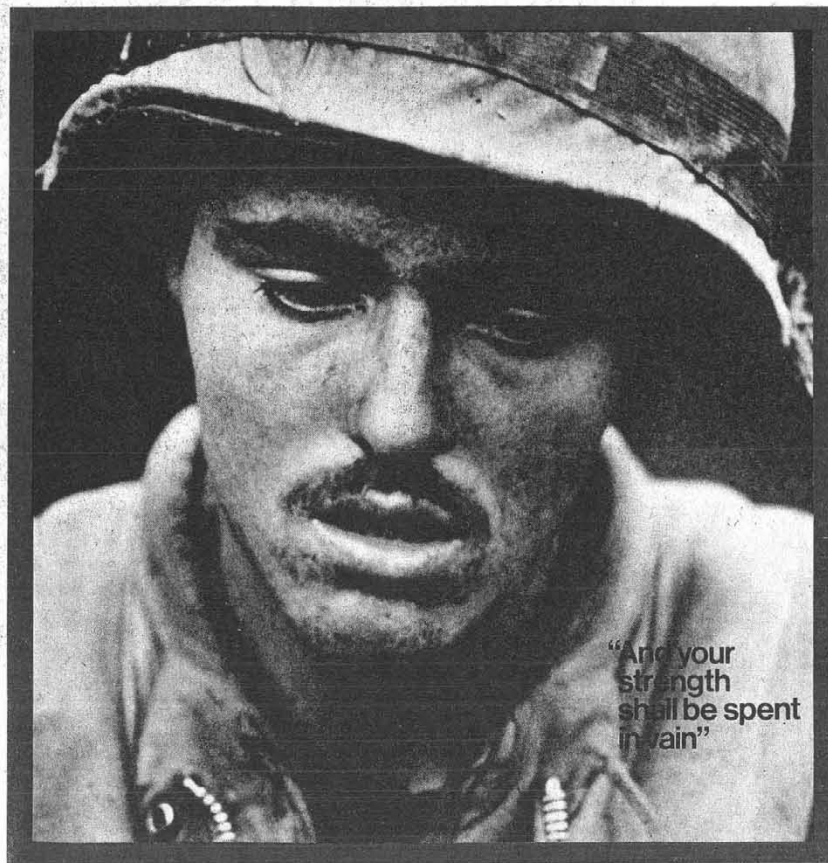
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IV

plain truth
WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1975

Man's Ultimate Goal
Why Mideast Talks Collapsed
INDOCHINA'S AGONY



"And your strength shall be spent in vain"

Robert Elliott — Black Star