PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

Jordan's King Hussein

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE SOUL OF RUSSIA

"THE FAMILY THAT DRINKS TOGETHER..."

NEW FEATURE - WORLDWATCH
PLAIN TRUTH  
a magazine of understanding

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ABOUT OUR COVER

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David Price — Plain Truth

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IN THE LAST three or four years I have frequently, on this page, told you of personal meetings with heads of state around the world — kings, emperors, presidents, others high in governments and in higher education.

But WHY?

At first, I did not know, myself. I did not initiate these meetings. Invitations seemed to come coincidentally. And the favor I was given in the eyes of these government leaders was even more astonishing. All my life, from age 19, I have come in personal contact with important men — executives of major business corporations and banks, at first. Although I found those men cordial, there was no special warmth and favor, such as I began to experience in meeting these heads of state. I didn’t understand it myself.

I did know that they were tremendously concerned about their own problems of government and about accelerating evils in this world. All my life I had felt concerned about the social evils and the unhappy state of the lives of most of this world’s billions. And I knew I had learned what few seem to know — the CAUSES of the unhappy state of the world, as well as what would, if applied, CAUSE world peace, universal prosperity, happiness and abundant well-being.

These men at the helm of governments are charged with the responsibility for improving their peoples' well-being. And I learned that they really were interested in hearing what I had to say.

But how should I know? Didn’t it seem ridiculously incongruous that I should have discovered the answers to humanity’s problems, which had

(Continued on page 29)
Do we understand the major concerns of the Soviet people and their leaders today? Plain Truth editors report surprises on a recent trip to the U.S.S.R. Here is Part One of their report.

"We now have the first generation of Soviet people who did not live during the war period. We want our children to be able to say, "War, what's that?"

With these words, Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev set the tone for his third annual summit conference with the President of the United States, which was held in the Soviet Union this past summer. But do we understand what Brezhnev meant?

At War With the Past

To Americans and Britons, World War II ended nearly three decades ago. In 1945, the United States automotive industry could get back to the business it was supposed to be engaged in — producing automobiles and trucks instead of tanks, jeeps and half-tracks.

But the terrible events of the early 1940's are not so easily forgotten among the 250,000,000 people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Along with Plain Truth Washington, D.C. regional editor Dexter Faulkner, I was privileged to visit key areas of the western Soviet Union earlier this year. As we toured in and around the great cities of Leningrad, Kiev and Moscow with other members and guests of the National Press Club of Washington, D.C., we felt at times as if we were being transported backwards in a time capsule. In this strange mental metamorphosis, it began to appear to us as though World War II — or as the Soviets proudly call it, the "Great Patriotic War" — had ended only a few months ago. For the horror of that epic struggle, in which 20 million Soviet citizens sacrificed their lives in defense of their beloved motherland, is still deeply etched on the collective Soviet soul.

Ideology or Security?

It is only within the context of a recent tragic European history that one can come to understand some very basic reasons why the Soviet people and their leaders act and react the way they do.

To be sure, ideology still plays a
GENERATIONS of mourners gathered at Soviet memorial parks this past spring, commemorating the 29th anniversary of the end of the Second World War — known inside the Soviet Union as the "Great Patriotic War." Woman and her grandson, left, view wreaths at Leningrad's Piskarevsky Memorial Cemetery. Leningrad schoolchildren, top right, wearing their "Young Pioneers" scarves, pay their respects to the hundreds of thousands of war dead buried at Piskarevsky. Obelisk, at right, honoring Kiev's Unknown Soldier, drew huge crowds to festivities on May 9, "Victory Day" in the U.S.S.R.

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE SOUL OF RUSSIA

by Gene H. Hogberg
Photos by Dexter H. Faulkner and the author
major role in the Soviet world view of things — as, of course, it does for arch-rival United States, the self-proclaimed champion of the free, capitalist world.

Despite the warmer atmosphere of détente and the new tradition of annual summitry, the ideological gulf between East and West remains fundamentally as wide as ever. The fact is, no two social and economic systems could be further poles apart (by their very natures competitive and mutually exclusive) than communism and capitalism. To speak of a "convergence" between communism and capitalism, as some thinkers in the West have dreamed of, is, to be blunt, sheer folly. In the first place, Soviet leaders, not to speak of the vast majority of Russian and other Soviet peoples themselves, have no desire to see their system fundamentally changed, or even partially diluted with "alien" ideas.* Improvements within the system are expected, of course, but not a change of the system.

Marxist-Leninist ideals are as sacrosanct within the Soviet Union as George Washington, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are within the United States. For a Soviet citizen to deviate from the principles laid down by Lenin is virtually the same as for a Christian to denounce Jesus Christ.

Past War Colors Everything

Nevertheless, ideology, as influential as it is, is by no means the sole ingredient comprising the unique Soviet world perspective. Many in the West, in fact, have tended to overstate the role of Marxist-Leninist philosophy while underplaying the perhaps even more fundamental requirements of the Soviet nation-state.

The most fundamental need of all is obviously that of national defense. It becomes quickly obvious to a visitor from the West that ever since the great holocaust of World War II, Soviet authorities have determined to do everything in their power to prevent a recurrence of such manifold suffering — and to protect their homeland against real and imagined threats arising in any area. The Soviet Union not only maintains the world's largest uniformed army but also supports it with an intricate substructure of military and civil defense training.

Youngsters play organized war games as subteen-agers in the nationwide Young Pioneers (similar to the Boy Scouts) organization. Military preparedness continues in the Young Communists (Komsomol). Adults are expected to participate in civil defense classes, with special emphasis on defense against mass-scale annihilation weapons.

Even in their entertainment the Soviet people of today are not allowed to forget the trials of the past. Most of the movie houses still feature new films about what would seem to be a very overworked subject — the battles to defend the motherland against Nazi invaders.

To me, it all seemed rather strange at first — but then I live in a nation which was spared the direct blows of World War II. U.S. men in both world wars fought "overseas." Buffered on both sides by huge ocean moats, America's cities were spared the carnage and destruction that afflicted so much of the Soviet Union and other parts of the civilized world.

A Monument to Inhumanity

One doesn't have to travel very far inside the Soviet Union to be brought face-to-face with reminders of the last great war. Many Soviet cities in the western part of the country have their own memorial monuments or tombs to the unknown soldier, often with rifletoting teen-age boys standing perpetual guard. The memorials are nearly always decorated with wreaths of flowers, continually re­ supplied by the bouquets discarded from wedding parties — a rather charming Soviet tradition.

One particular memorial will always stand out in my memory. It is located on the outskirts of Leningrad, near the sprawling housing developments so characteristic of the newer parts of the city. It is the Piskarevsky Memorial Cemetery, final resting place of from 500,000 to 800,000 Leningraders (no one really knows the exact figure), all of them victims of the 2½-year siege thrown up around that great city by the invading Nazi army in September 1941. Most of the victims perished from starvation and enemy shelling during the terrible winter of 1941-42 after the German noose around the city was drawn tight.

Few Americans realize that as many people ultimately died in Leningrad alone — nearly a million and a half — as the United States has lost in all the wars throughout its history.

Generations of Mourners

We visited the Piskarevsky Memorial around noontime on May 8, an exceptional time to do so, it turned out. It was the day just before Victory Day, the Soviet national holiday commemorating the end of the great war. People of all ages were strolling up and down the long central walkway of the somber, yet strangely beautiful, garden-like cemetery.

Along both sides of the walkway stretched hillock after hillock of mass graves. The plain stone at the foot of each grassy knoll simply noted the year in which the interred had died, with the additional marking of a hammer-and-sickle for civilians and a star for military personnel.

Near the massive commemorative wall at the front of the cemetery — with its legendary inscription, "Let no one forget, let nothing be forgotten" — groups of young school ages (Continued on page 6)
The former summer palace of Catherine the Great in the town of Pushkin, near Leningrad. Along with nearby palaces of Czars Peter and Paul, Catherine's palace was nearly totally destroyed in the Second World War. All are being meticulously restored inside and out by present Soviet authorities. Photographs taken shortly before the outbreak of war enable Russian craftsmen today to duplicate the condition of the palaces as they were during their heydays of the 18th and 19th centuries. Treasures and furniture shipped out before the war have been brought back and placed in their restored settings.

Authorities are still looking for one treasure considered impossible to replace — thick panels of amber that once graced the walls of the "Amber Room" in Catherine's Palace. Too heavy to carry off in time, the slabs, after being removed from the walls, were left in the middle of the room. After enemy occupation forces who had used the palace as a command post depaerted, the slabs were never again found. Stories trace the amber panels to the bottom of the Gulf of Finland where teams of Polish scuba-divers will soon conduct an underwater search for them.

Some wonder why present Soviet authorities have spent so much time and money to so painstakingly restore such relics of the "bourgeois" past. Two reasons stand out. First, the palaces do reflect a high period of architecture and craftsmanship displayed by both native Russian as well as foreign artisans. Secondly, and perhaps most important, by restoring and displaying the grandiose, lavish "summer homes" of the rulers and other nobility, not to mention the elaborate cathedrals and other great buildings of the past, the lesson is driven home to contemporary Soviet citizens (and most of the visitors are Soviet citizens, not foreigners) of how the few "at the top" lived amidst outlandish opulence — while the common people suffered poverty and privation.

— Gene H. Hogberg
(Continued from page 4) children were giving memorized recitations in honor of the dead — many of whom were undoubtedly their grandmothers and grandfathers.

At the opposite end of the age spectrum, clusters of elderly widows, babushkas, sat on stone benches throughout the park, some weeping, others again silently contemplating the calamity that struck down beloved husbands, sons, brothers and other loved ones.

As I walked around the Piskarevsky grounds, my mind conditioned by the somber Russian music playing over loudspeakers spaced throughout the area, I tried to comprehend that enormity of the events that had produced such a monument to man's inhumanity. But I found I could no more grasp the totality of Piskarevsky than I could the remains of the Dachau concentration camp just outside Munich, West Germany, which I had seen on a blustery autumn day two and one half years earlier.

Both scenes are equally mind-boggling. Perhaps George Kennan, former U. S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, expressed my own feelings best when he wrote, after visiting Piskarevsky just shortly before we did:

"Here in these mounds is a silent reproach that goes beyond the passions of the war itself and applies to the weakness and follies of mankind as a whole, so that attempts to relate it to the wickedness of one political regime or the virtues of another appear only as trivial manifestations of poor taste."

Caught in A Russian Bear Hug

It has often been said that, in our age of technology, the people of the world are becoming more alike. A visitor to the Soviet Union, however, appreciates the fact that there still are differences.

At the end of our first day in Leningrad, our National Press Club tour group was enjoying a typical Russian meal which consisted of meat, cooked vegetables, black bread, and the ever present potato.

The dining room in the Hotel Leningrad consisted of a main floor and a balcony. Our meals were served on the balcony. Over Russian tea, Gene Hogberg and I were discussing the events of the day when a group of local Russians on the main floor began to chant a word very foreign to our ears, gorka. Our guide told us a wedding reception was taking place and the guests were shouting the word which means "bitter." They would continue to do so until the bride and groom kissed and made the wine sweet.

I told my traveling companion that it would be a terrific opportunity for us to take some pictures of the wedding reception.

After locating someone from the hotel staff who could translate for me, I proceeded down to the wedding reception and presented the gift, an American record album, which is a highly prized Western commodity, to the bride and groom with the request that I be able to take a few pictures. They were more than receptive, and to my surprise the bridegroom asked both of us to remain as their guests. After introductions all around, Gene and I enjoyed the company of two young friends of the bridegroom who spoke very good English. They were overjoyed — in fact, almost ecstatic — to have the opportunity to discuss a wide range of subjects with Americans face to face. One of the young men, a 21-year-old soldier, could hardly believe we were from the United States — which to him was virtually the same as if we had come from a far-off planet. We were the first Americans he had ever met. Amidst the small talk there was an abundance of food, vodka, dancing and laughter all around.

As the evening proceeded, a very distinguished, elderly Russian gentleman came over to my chair and introduced himself in Russian. He wore a giant cluster of medals on the left side of his chest and one very distinct medal below his right lapel which indicated he was a hero of the Soviet Union. One of our young translators informed us that this was 74-year-old retired Lieutenant-General Nickolai Multan, one of the most honored defenders of Leningrad during World War II, and father of the bridegroom. He wished to make a toast. In dynamic style enunciating and emphasizing every word (in Russian, of course) the general saluted our native country and praised the joint American-Soviet struggle against Fascism.

When he was finished, he grabbed my hand and shook it heartily, then put his arms around my shoulders and gave me a real Russian bear hug and a kiss on the cheek. In response, I did the same. Despite the language barrier, I knew we were friends.

— Dexter H. Faulkner
ELDERLY WIDOWS — babushkas — congregate on bench in Kiev, third largest city in the Soviet Union. The last war left a generation of Soviet women bereft of their husbands.

"Help Me Find My Mother"

Piskarevsky is not the only link that today's Leningraders have with their recent tragic past.

Quite often, our chief Intourist guide informed us, personal ads appear in the local newspaper, the Leningradskaya Pravda, to this effect: "My name is .... Please help me find my mother and father. At the age of three I was evacuated by truck from the city with other children over the Lake Ladoga ice road in December 1941. I desperately want to find out if my parents survived the siege and are still alive. My mother was slight of build, had a birthmark . . . ."

Occasionally such pleas for help are successful. The resulting reunions are deservedly given front-page billing in the newspaper.

Historians such as Alexander Werth (Russia at War: 1941-1945) and Harrison Salisbury (900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad) have vividly recorded the events which occurred during that period of hellish tribulation. But gripping though their accounts be, it takes a visit to a place like Piskarevsky to make their documented historical facts come to life.

British and American Lives Saved

Those of us living in the free world today actually owe a debt of gratitude to the Soviet people for the "unequal sacrifice" they paid during mankind's bloodiest war. Even though they were living through the darkest days of Stalin's harsh rule, the Soviet people nevertheless rose in unison to defend their country against a foe who had determined to annihilate them.

Hitler and his strategic planners had marked out the entire western Soviet Union as the Lebensraum — extended living space — of the exalted Third Reich. This area was also to be a vast raw materials storehouse for the Nazi war machine. Leningrad, citadel of the Bolshevism Hitler hated so much, was first to be strangled to death, then razed to the ground.

Concerning the Russians, Ukrainians and other Soviet nationalities lying in the path of the blitz, Hitler proclaimed that "our guiding principle must be that these people have but one justification for existence — to be of use to us economically."

The same utter contempt for the native Slavs characterized some of the underlings Hitler placed in charge of conquered Soviet areas. Erich Koch, the Reich commissar for the Ukraine, for example, referred to his subjects even in public speeches as colonial peoples and slaves, fit for nothing but menial labor.

"I will pump every last thing out of their country," said Koch. "I did not come here to spread bliss but to help the Führer." This was the type of satanical mentality that the Soviet people were up against in their grim struggle for existence.

Historians know that Hitler's greatest gamble was his attempt to knock out the Soviet Union in a four-month blitzkrieg before "finishing off" a desperate Great Britain which he had left literally hanging on the ropes.

The invasion of Russia by the Nazis and their allies revolutionized the war — and rescued the Western powers from the brink of defeat. But in the process, the Soviet people were forced to pay an extraordinarily large part — at least in human terms — of the eventual price of victory. Writes historian Alexander Werth, a man of British-Russian parentage who covered the eastern front as a war correspondent: "It so happened . . . that it was indeed the Russians who bore the main brunt of the fighting against Nazi Germany, and that it was thanks to this that millions of British and American lives were saved.

"This was a genuine People's War; first, a war waged by a people fighting for their life against terrible odds, and later a war fought by a fundamentally unaggressive people, now roused to anger and determined to demonstrate their own military superiority . . . ."
"The spirit of genuine patriotic devotion and self-sacrifice shown by the Russian people during those years has few parallels in human history." (Introduction to Russia at War, by Alexander Werth.)

"We Want Peace"

Life has never been easy in Russia, even under conditions of peace. And the absence of peace only makes things terrifyingly worse.

Perhaps this is why the Russian people, almost to a man, tell visiting Americans virtually the same story: "We want peace. We don't want war. We hope you want peace too. We must never have war between our two peoples."

Of course, they truly believe their government would never be so foolish as to precipitate a nuclear "exchange" (as the war theoreticians so coldly phrase it) — but they're not so sure of "imperialist" intentions.

Since my trip, I have thought again and again on the truly unfortunate state of affairs Americans and Soviets find themselves locked into today — a situation replete with danger and continually fed by mutual mistrust and suspicion.

In the most recent summit conference, neither side was able to convince the other of its own peaceful intentions. Even more important, neither side, as Dr. Kissinger plainly asserted, has yet been able to convince its own military establishment of the need for weapons restraint.

If an agreement to limit offensive weapons is not reached by 1977, said the American secretary of state, "We will see an explosion of technology and numbers which will be impossible to describe . . . ."

Are We in a False Peace?

The vivid reminders of two great world wars are all around us yet today. I personally have walked through some of the World War I trenches near Ypres, Belgium and have seen the nearby cemeteries containing the bones of those, who in the flower of their youth, died in such fruitless, stalemated warfare.

Along with many other Americans I have stood on the monument which stretches across the sunken hulk of the U.S.S. Arizona in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, which yet today imprisons a crew of 1,100 victims in a perpetual watery grave.

One is forced to think: What if the world's leaders are not successful in instilling upon the minds of their populations, especially the young, the horrors of war? Certainly one would think they have a better chance to do so today. The last global conflict was mankind's worst to date, with "monuments" such as Piskarevsky and Dachau constantly with us to do the reminding. These are not mere statues in public squares immortalizing single heroes and martyrs of history. They are testimonies to genocide.

The fact is, a future world war would this time not involve a series of long sieges of cities or massive land and sea battles. Instead mankind would experience the indescribable horror of weapons so awesome they can wipe out whole cities and regions with one blast. Can today's leaders and the leaders who must emerge from their midst comprehend the enormity of the destructive power that is now within their grasp? Will they fear to use such weapons in light of the horrors that their fathers and grandfathers have so recently experienced?

This is the depth of the dilemma that faces not only the leaders of the Soviet Union (who understandably want their nation to be strong so that Leningrads and Kievs will never happen again) but also those of the United States, China, Japan, India, the states of Western Europe — in fact, all the nations on our technologically shrunken globe.

Are we only passing through a "peaceful" transition period, a lull before the storm, as it were, between a war that was the worst in history and a war that could be the last — if there were no God in heaven to prevent such a fateful outcome?

Swords Into Plowshares

In the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, we visited the "Park of Eternal Glory to the Soldiers of the Great Patriotic War." In the center of the park is an obelisk dedicated to Kiev's unknown soldier — a monument very similar in style to the Washington Monument.

The obelisk is impressive — especially when seen on Victory Day with hundreds of thousands from Kiev and the surrounding environs pouring through the park. Nevertheless, another monument in the park was more memorable. It was a statue erected to the honor of General Vatutin, who led the Soviet forces in their recapture of Kiev in 1943. Lyudmila, our Ukrainian tourist guide, pointed out that the sculptor of the statue, Evgeniv Vuchetich, was the same artist who produced the famous "swords into plowshares" statue in front of the United Nations' General Assembly building in New York. I thought it was really rather remarkable that the work depicting a wonderful prophecy out of a book of the Hebrew Bible had been commissioned to an artist representing an officially atheist society.

Nevertheless the time is coming when those oft-repeated but seldom-believed words quoted from Isaiah 2:4 will surely come to pass. Nations indeed "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Nations must learn that peace is the product not of war and the preparation for it, but of love and outgoing concern for others. Peace will come when nations, as well as the individuals within them, in humility count others better than themselves (Philippians 2:3).

Only then will children, not only in the Soviet Union, but also in all nations around the world, be able to ask, in childlike innocence, "War, what's that?"
Oil Price War—No Solution on the Horizon

When the Arab oil embargo was lifted last March, the crisis, instead of being over, shifted into the realm of international finance.

Almost overnight the international oil bill has jumped from $25 billion to $100 billion. As a result, the twelve member nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are likely to register a trade surplus of about $70 billion for 1974 as opposed to only $5 billion last year. Their major customers, on the other hand, the industrialized nations of the non-Communist world, could slump into a massive deficit of $40 billion this year — after having enjoyed a combined trade surplus of $12 billion for 1973.

No nations are more seriously affected by the oil price crisis than the members of Europe's Common Market. Plain Truth correspondent Frank Schnee files this report:

Düsseldorf:

Largely because of the skyrocketing price in the cost of imported oil from the Middle East and North Africa, five of the nine European Economic Community countries — Italy, Britain, France, Ireland and Denmark — together will run a devastating trade deficit of about $20 billion. The Benelux nations are just about at equilibrium. Only Germany is expected to show a trade surplus.

Experts here in Europe are now saying that the economies of many industrialized nations may actually go bankrupt trying to pay for the oil to keep their industries moving. The sudden shift of monetary reserves to the oil exporting nations is threatening financial chaos. It is feared that the oil producing states, by suddenly switching their astronomical reserves from one currency to another, could touch off an international monetary crisis.

David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank, recently called the problem one of "global magnitude and urgency." He has been on a tour of the world's financial centers to find government help with the problem.

When asked if he foresaw an immediate solution to the mounting crisis, Mr. Rockefeller said: "As for me personally having a solution, I am afraid I have to answer you, No, I don't!"

Huge balance of payments deficits in the oil-buying nations are fueling inflation, which was already threatening to go out of control before the new quadrupled oil prices. There is some fear now that some nations will start protectionist measures (as Italy already has) to conserve foreign exchange for oil purchases. This could have a drastic stifling effect on world trade.

The world's financial markets are already admitting to a precarious situation, as is witnessed by recent developments. The banking system was dealt a severe blow when the Franklin National Bank of New York almost collapsed, and the Herstatt Bank of Cologne actually did. Since then, several smaller banks in Germany and one in Austria have closed their doors. Dozens of other banks are known to be having great difficulties in staying solvent.

One Swiss banker stunned Europeans recently when he suggested that a country like Italy or Britain may have no alternative out of the liquidity problem except to call a moratorium on payments of their debts for a year. If this should happen, a panic-motivated run on banks could result.

French Reevaluate Defense Posture

There are changes in the wind for the French defense policy. The implications for Western Europe and the Atlantic alliance could be significant. Here is an analysis by Plain Truth correspondent Henry Sturcke.

Brussels:

A series of secret, top-level meetings in Paris in mid-summer have laid the groundwork for a new French initiative concerning European defense. If implemented, the move could lead to renewed French cooperation with other European nations in defense matters -- a major change in the longstanding French policy of independence in foreign affairs.

In 1965, General Charles de Gaulle pulled French forces out of NATO and demanded that the headquarters of both NATO and SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe), located in Paris since the early days of the alliance, leave France.

The reasons for this change in sentiment are as follows:

First, the growing realization that France's nuclear force de frappe is becoming too expensive to carry on alone. Logically, a European-wide nuclear defense league would considerably ease the French financial burden.

The second reason, also economic, is that the French economy would receive a badly needed shot in the arm, and France's oil-induced balance of payments problem would be considerably helped if France could increase her arms sales in Europe. NATO has been gradually

Worldwatch
moving toward arms standardization, and the French would like to capture a big share of that market. Figures vary, but one source says sales could run as high as $3.5 billion over the next few years.

Third, renewed French cooperation in the military sphere would complement President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's new political initiative of re-launching the near dormant move toward West European political union. The close personal relationship between Giscard and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is viewed as a positive sign in this direction. As reported in a recent issue of L'Express:

"An aide of the President sums up the current state of thought: 'The essence of this affair is political. You can't cooperate with Germany and at the same time mistrust her. You can't desire to build Europe and lean toward neutral nationalism.'"

L'Express continues: "Mr. Giscard d'Estaing has concluded that the theory of a 'national sanctuary' no longer holds up. France is not Switzerland. Its destiny cannot be isolated from the destiny of the other countries of Western Europe.... The new President feels therefore that any strategic decision founded on the hypothesis of the solitude of France in a divided Europe is in error."

Western Europe as a whole fears being passed over by U.S.-Soviet détente and is worried about possible U.S. troop pullbacks from the Continent. It is believed by some that President Ford, whose administration appears to be based on conciliation and compromise with Congress, may find it harder to resist Congressional calls for troop cutbacks. France is beginning to realize that in a world of two superpowers armed to the teeth with nuclear overkill, a "lone wolf" defense policy isn't realistic. Western Europe must "stick together" - especially if the prospect of U.S. troop cutbacks ever becomes reality.

It should be stressed that even though Giscard appears to be in favor of French forces participating in the defense of Europe, France's eventual reinsertion into the framework of NATO is very unlikely. Giscard will probably propose the creation of some type of cooperative organization to coordinate European defense policy, possibly a council of defense ministers. And, in addition, possibly some type of European Armament Agency to oversee the standardization and purchase of arms.

In light of these new moves, one trend is increasingly evident. Economic pressures might bring about previously unacceptable political proposals - even an all-European nuclear defense force.

### Inflation Soars Worldwide

Inflation and its corroding social effects are by no means limited to Western Europe, the United States, or those perennial inflation champions, the nations of Latin America. Now it is striking home in Australia as well. Dennis Luker and Don Abraham report from the scene.

**Sydney:**

Australia is facing the same difficult and intractable problem confronting most modern nations - double-digit inflation.

Although Australia's rate is not as high as Japan's, Britain's or Italy's, the current 15 percent spiral is serious enough to cause considerable disruption to the nation's economy. Projections that it could go as high as 20 percent by early next year, rising to possibly 30 percent or higher by 1976, have done little to bolster the nation's sagging morale.

The effects of inflation are seen everywhere. Confidence in the government's economic policies and in its ability to cope with the situation has been shaken. Business leaders are expressing concern over the continuing erosion in the purchasing power of the Australian dollar. Retail prices are rising at an almost unprecedented rate, making life particularly difficult for those on fixed incomes.

Some of Australia's largest building and construction companies are finding their financial solvency threatened by a credit squeeze.

Labor union militancy has greatly increased, reflecting the genuine concern many union leaders are feeling over the hardships their members are experiencing. Strikes are becoming more numerous and protracted.

Further compounding the problem is that Australia, a major trading nation, must pay continually inflated prices for its needed imports.

To make matters worse, there are indications that the government is deeply divided on how to handle the problem.

Meanwhile, Australians have been given a sobering warning by one of Australia's leading academics. Professor R. I. Downing, economics professor at Melbourne University and chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, has stated: "Unless income restraints and social reforms can be achieved, I believe we face the possibility of economic collapse and the destruction of our form of democracy."

Regional editor Dexter H. Faulkner takes another look at inflation - this time from a highly personal perspective.

**Washington:**

Half of all living Americans were born before 1946. Since that time the value of the dollar has shrunk 60 cents. This shrinkage has taken only 28 years. At this rate, the 1946 dollar will be worth only 16¢ in another 28 years.

If - and experts expect little or no change - inflation continues and the dollar shrinks at the same rate for the next years, what is in store for the average American citizen? What will you have to earn - or pay
— in 16¢ dollars just to have the same purchasing power, in terms of today's 40¢ dollar?

A recent U. S. Chamber of Commerce report illustrated the big headaches ahead.
— $7,200 in wages will have to rise to $18,000.
— $3,000 cars will cost $7,500.
— $25,000 homes — $62,500.
— $4,000 college tuition — $10,000.
— $300 television sets, $750.
— $125 suit of clothes, $312.
— $30 pair of shoes, $75.

At the same rate of inflation, a family's weekly budget will have to rise as follows:
— Housing, from $56 to $140; clothing and laundry, from $25 to $62; and transportation, from $20 to $50.

Not much to look forward to, is it?

Rising Tide of Separatism Threatens United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, bereft of empire and assailed by pressing economic, political and social woes, today faces still another challenge: Keeping itself together. Contributing editor Peter Butler reports on this development.

London:
Creeping discontent among the Scottish and Welsh peoples has, in the past few months, developed into an unprecedented surge of nationalism which is threatening the very disintegration of the centuries-old union.

Without Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, England standing alone would represent a mere 50,000 square miles — down significantly from the United Kingdom's present 93,000 square-mile area — and have 10 million fewer people. It would represent, in effect, the undoing of centuries of conquest and annexation.

In Scotland, the prodigious discoveries of off-shore oil have added momentum to the nationalist thrust. Dreams of an independent nation flowing with oil and whiskey are proving an irresistible lure to increasing numbers of Scots. "Poor British or Rich Scots?" is the cry of the Scottish Nationalist Party as the government in London sinks further and further into an economic morass and continues to mortgage off-shore oil assets. "It's Scotland's oil," proclaim the nationalists, who want to see an independent Scotland by 1980.

In Wales, high hopes of potential oil wealth has given impetus to goals of absolute independence for members of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Nationalist Party. Exploratory drilling in the Celtic Sea is now underway.

Another key factor in the current success of the nationalist movements has been the general malaise in British politics. In the February general election seven members of the Scottish Nationalist Party and two of Plaid Cymru were returned to the British parliament. The ensuing minority government situation gave these nine members considerable sway. And now, trends indicate a numerical increase in the "Celtic fringe" at the next election — doubling or maybe even tripling their present representation. Mainly as a result of the growing nationalist pressure, the mainline Conservative and Labour Parties have eased their past stands against more home rule before the Scottish and Welsh electorates. Such a concept, however, may not be enough to satisfy the desires of the nationalists.

Leader of the Conservative Party, Edward Heath, said of the nationalists' aims as early as May 18: "Let no one be in doubt what their objectives are; the setting of people against people, the calling up of destructive and dangerous forces which, once called, can lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom."

The politicians are not alone in their warning cries. On July 29, Britain's North West Planning Council warned, "The United Kingdom will be destroyed if it ceases to operate as a team."

Nevertheless, nationalists are no longer in the mood to let England and the London government stand in their way. In the words of Plaid Cymru's chairman Dafydd Williams: "The idea of Britain is no longer meaningful."
WHILE THE DELEGATES ARGUE...

THE POPULATION BOMB TICKS AWAY

by Chris Carpenter and Ray Kosanke

1974 is World Population Year. Can man succeed in mastering his own numerical growth rate?

Bucharest, Romania:

WHICH APPROACH is best — population control or economic development? This crucial question emerged still unanswered from the United Nations World Population Conference here as delegates from over 135 nations packed their bags for homeward bound flights.

While the delegates were attending their 12 days of meetings, more than 2 million persons were added to the earth's population register, which now stands at close to 3.8 billion. For the year 1974, there will be over 70 million more mouths to feed. Yet world food production is expected to fall for 1974 over the previous year — only the second time this has happened in more than a decade.

Too Many Points of View

How to approach this problem with a concrete global program remains as elusive as ever however. In fact delegates from some nations insisted there is no population problem. The spokesman for the People's Republic of China, for example, asserted that "all pessimistic views are groundless. The future of mankind is infinitely bright."

The conference, instead of producing a common consensus, dramatized a rift between the developed and the developing world in their widely differing approaches to the population issue.

The representatives of the industrialized West pushed heavily for internationally sponsored programs of family planning, with the eventual goal of achieving a stable "replaceable" population figure for the world.

This approach didn't set too well with representatives of the developing nations. In general, they placed priority on economic development and the raising of living standards. Some in this group called for the "establishment of a new international economic order, tied to a huge syphoning of wealth from the rich nations to the poor ones. Communist representatives were quick to point the finger at capitalist "imperialism," to convince the assembled delegates that American affluence is responsible for all the world's ills.

The most vocal representatives of the Third World labeled birth control programs as "racial genocide" and demanded that the industrialized nations instead stop "ex-
Ploiting" the developing nations and slow down their own mass-consumption economies. Delegates from underpopulated developing countries such as Zambia wondered why they should be lumped in the same category as the densely populated developing nations such as India.

There was a lot of name-calling. Even a hardened core of women's libbers had their say. To their way of thinking, unless the status of women can be "upgraded" worldwide, the female half of the human race has no choice but to live simply as homemakers and baby "breeders."
The accusers, even though sometimes voicing legitimate complaints, always appeared right in their own eyes. All in all, the politics of population tended to overshadow the actual facts and statistics gathered by the world's leading demographers.

**Nearly Four Billion**

World population is now in the region of 3.8 billion (3.8 thousand million). Such a figure may be quite meaningless to most of us.

Population increase, on the other hand, is easier to grasp. In 1850, there were a billion people on earth. The figure doubled by 1929, when the Great Depression began. Only three decades later, world population had increased by another one billion. If present trends continue, there could probably be six to seven billion people on earth by the year 2000 — and 18 billion by 2050.

Why has the number of people in the world mushroomed at such a staggering rate since 1850? What has caused the snowball effect?

Thomas Malthus (1766-1834), who was credited with the first studies of demography — the statistical science dealing with the distribution, density, vital statistics, etc. of populations — believed that, without checks to population growth, the increases would be such that any additional production in an economy would not contribute to an improved standard of living, but rather it would maintain or lower the standard.

According to Malthus: "The power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to provide subsistence for men. Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence increases only in an arithmetical ratio."

Here in Bucharest, some delegates took strong exception to the Malthusian doctrine, so widely accepted in the West. Not without some logic, Huang Shu-tse, China's deputy minister of health, asserted that "the world's population has more than trebled since that of Malthus' time, but there has been a much greater increase in the material wealth of society."

But with world population now increasing faster than ever before, will the production and processing of food and other raw materials be able to increase at the same rate? Confirmed Malthusian demographers say, "No way." They have some rather alarming statistics to back up their call for population control.

**Post-War Surge**

At the end of World War II, the birth rate in Western countries surged sharply upward. This was due to the return to civilian life of large numbers of servicemen. In Western Europe this "baby boom" had spent itself by the early 1950's, and in the United States by the mid-1960's.

In the developing nations of the so-called "Third World," however, things were far different. The absence of major famines, coupled with improvements in the standard of living, in public health and in the control of epidemic diseases, began to affect mortality. The use of DDT to control malaria speeded up the decline in mortality rates. In Sri Lanka, for example, the death rate fell from 20 per thousand to 14 per thousand in the year 1946-7 alone. Throughout the developing world, death rates were falling rapidly.

Declines in mortality, which had been spread over a century in Western Europe, were achieved in little more than a decade in many less developed countries. The decline in the death rate in these nations was most apparent in babies, children and young adults. Consequently, the high proportion of young people has now become the most critical issue of the population puzzle in the developing countries. In most of the Third World, over 40 percent of the population is under 15 years of age, compared with 30 percent in North America and only 25 percent in Europe. The reproductive potential of these young people is vast. So vast that, as they in turn procreate, mankind will face the prospect of a menacing future.

During 1974, 74 million people will be born in excess of those who will die. This is equivalent to creating another France or another West Germany. Every second there are two additional mouths to feed. Every day there are 200,000 more births than deaths, 6 million more every month. It is no wonder then that numerous experts fear the world is hurtling rapidly to a crisis point.

**Third World Fears**

One persistent hurdle the population statisticians at the United Nations have been trying to clear is the deep-seated feeling of suspicion in the developing nations that any population control policy is an attempt on the part of the West to keep developing nations poor and backward.

In many nations the whole question of limiting families is influenced by various deep-seated religious mores or taboos. The representative from India, for example, took great exception to Western fears of an uncontrolled population explosion. "They shout and scream about 'standing room only,'" he said. "But we believe in reincarnation, my friend, so don't worry. You'll be back."

Among the poorer nations of the world, large families are often considered a desirable blessing — and, in preindustrial areas, an economic
necessity. Young women trying to practice birth control are discouraged by members of the older generation. Social factors such as these make birth control programs appear at times about as realistic as Canute's attempts to keep back the waves.

What About Food?

Here in Bucharest, not nearly enough attention was paid to equating population with available and potential food supplies. Perhaps the delegates chose to leave this to the U.N. sponsored World Food Conference to be held this November in Rome.

Nevertheless, perhaps the most frightening aspect of the present population dilemma is that, while population continues to burgeon, food production is lagging behind. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization has been warning recently of the threat of massive starvation “later this year or in years to come.”

Lester Brown, a top American agricultural economist, told an audience here: “I feel food is only going to become scarcer. The era of cheap food is gone.”

World food stock reserves are dangerously low — only a 27-day supply. The alarming hike in the price of petroleum has pushed up the price of chemical fertilizers. Ominous weather changes have already caused severe famine in Africa and could increasingly affect other parts of the world. And on top of all this, leading plant biologists are warning that over the past two to three decades the world’s key grains have been structured on a dangerously small “genetic base.” They warn that plant diseases could wipe out whole crops in many nations at the same time in the years ahead.

It’s not a pretty picture at all. What a corner mankind is being backed into!

The plain fact is that the food-population dilemma is proving to be beyond man’s ability to handle. The very greatest personal and political will on the part of all nations will be required to grapple with it. Only global cooperation on a scale never before seen in history — meaning an about face change in man’s mind and basic intentions — can possibly avert global catastrophe. Such a united approach and common will is just not in evidence. And if the political hassling at Bucharest is any indication, it never will be.

Nations and individuals will continue to pursue their own selfish and short-sighted policies. History will continue to be strewn with token solutions and strings of meaningless and ineffectual platitudes.

Of themselves, men and nations divided politically, morally, and religiously cannot arrive at a united “plan for action,” a term much used (and unachieved) at Bucharest. They cannot overturn millennia of superstition, religious custom, and mutually exclusive political ideologies and replace such with true and lasting values.

Needed — Righteous Authority

Only a world government with an all-powerful righteous judge at the head could make the fundamental and basic changes essential for the survival of mankind. There is no such human savior. Success will demand superhuman effort — God’s effort, if you please. This was the hope of the prophets of old. It remains our only hope today. Notice the words of the Old Testament prophet Micah: “In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be set over all other mountains, lifted high above the hills. Peoples shall come streaming to it, and many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, let us climb up on to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths.’” For instruction issues from Zion, and out of Jerusalem comes the word of the Lord; he will be judge between many peoples and arbiter among mighty nations afar. They shall beat their swords into mattocks and their spears into pruning-knives; nation shall not lift sword against nation nor ever again be trained for war, and each man shall dwell under his own vine, under his own fig-tree, undisturbed. For the Lord of Hosts himself has spoken” (Micah 4:1-4, The New English Bible).

Here is portrayed a coming, world-ruling kingdom with power to enforce peace among the nations. Mankind will no longer be divided against itself — but be united in a common philosophy of “love toward neighbor.” Notice also that everyone will have his own vine and fig- tree, indicating sufficient sustenance for each family. There is obviously no population or food problem in this future setting.

The prophet Isaiah also spoke of a coming time when the people of Jerusalem — indeed all mankind — will have sufficient food. The population explosion and food shortages will be things of the past. “The Lord will give you rain for the seed you sow, and as the produce of your soil he will give you heavy crops of corn in plenty. When that day comes the cattle shall graze in broad pastures; the oxen and asses that work your land shall be fed with well-seasoned fodder, winnowed with shovel and fork. . . .” But this utopia will come only after calamity. And only after “the Lord binds up the broken limbs of his people and heals their wounds” (Isaiah 30:23-26, NEB).

As long as nations and individuals within those nations continue to pursue selfish and short-sighted policies without acknowledging responsibility toward their neighbors and without relying upon the guidance and direction of their Creator, no solutions to mankind’s dilemmas are in sight.

It is only the intervention of a righteous and all powerful God — enforcing his way of life on all inhabitants of this earth — that will finally and permanently solve mankind’s mammoth problems. It was true in the days of the prophets, and it remains true today.
Fear and hatred now rule Cyprus. The Greek and Turkish communities on this embattled isle have virtually sworn that neither will ever live under the other’s authority again.

In Turkish-occupied Famagusta, the island’s foremost tourist city, row upon row of homes and villas stand empty. An eerie silence stalks the streets. Thousands of Greek Cypriot residents have fled in terror from the approaching Turkish troops – doubly apprehensive because of the legend of Turkish fierceness in battle.

Homes, farms, and jobs of the displaced Greek Cypriots are gone. Most of their clothing and personal possessions were left behind in their hasty retreat. Businesses were often looted of their expensive inventories.

How It Began — This Time

The present fever pitch in the centuries-old hatred between the Greek and Turkish communities is something which will have to be faced for many years to come. For there has been indiscriminate killing by both sides.

During the current outbreak of violence, nearly defenseless Turkish villages were attacked by Greek units of the Cypriot National Guard. Later, during the Turkish invasion, Greek hospitals and other civilian targets were repeatedly bombed and strafed by Turkish planes.

The current nightmare began when the Greek Cypriot National Guard, encouraged by Greek officers, fomented an uprising to topple Cyprus’ President, Archbishop Makarios. The officers wanted more di-
rect control of the island in order to bring about the long dreamed of goal of Enosis — union of Cyprus with Greece.

Events seemed to go their way at first as the Greek Cypriots took over many key installations and installed a new president, Nikos Sampson. But then rumblings began of military moves by Turkey to intervene directly in the Cyprus situation. Despite pleas in various world quarters calling for a negotiated settlement, a full-scale Turkish invasion was soon under way. The Turks had come, they said, to protect the rights of the Turkish-Cypriot minority which comprises only one fifth of the island’s population. Turkish forces systematically destroyed Greek installations on the island — pounding into submission the outgunned Greek Cypriots with arms and mortars. At present, the Turks control more than a third of the island’s territory and over sixty percent of its natural resources. This, of course, is far out of proportion to the native Turkish population of Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Clerides, has publicly proclaimed that, unless the Turks pull back from much of the former Greek territory, they will face years of guerrilla war and harassment “from the mountains.” Based on bitter past experience, when the British tried to hold on to the island before its independence in 1960, this threat may very likely come to pass.

Grave Concern for NATO

The Western world now beholds the spectacle of two NATO members — Greece and Turkey — on the very brink of war with each other over Cyprus. And in disgust at America and NATO for not halting the Turkish intervention on Cyprus, Greece has now officially withdrawn her armed forces from the NATO military command.

Severe Damage to NATO?

The Cyprus crisis represents both a concern and an embarrassment for NATO. It is a startling turn of events — two NATO “allies” heavily supplied with arms from America and other NATO countries, both threatening each other with full-scale war.

Yet, these two nations have been of paramount importance to NATO and to Western control of the Mediterranean. Each contributed proportionately more military punch to the alliance than any other European member. And, despite a succession of governments, Greece had constantly remained a strong NATO ally for some twenty-two years.

Even before the Cyprus tragedy, Greece was rapidly modernizing its military arsenal. It had recently ordered a squadron of F-4 fighter bombers from the United States, and informed sources in Athens say that another squadron is “in the pipeline.” From France the Greeks are buying forty Mirage jet fighters in a $240 million arms deal designed to balance their arms purchases and end their dependence on America for arms support.

Greece’s contribution went beyond her own arms capabilities. The cities of Athens and Thessaloniki have been key ports used by NATO vessels in the eastern Mediterranean — particularly vessels of the powerful United States Sixth Fleet. These bases in Greece had taken on increasing strategic significance within the past several months in view of the extremely unstable economic and political situation in Italy.

Six American destroyers have been “home-ported” in the Athens area. About ten thousand American military personnel and their families have been based in the greater Athens area.

Recently, U.S. naval sources reported, consideration was being given to “home-portioning” in Athens a complete attack carrier striking force staff and dependents. This would have added an additional ten thousand Americans to the Athens-area population, for a carrier requires the services of approximately 4,500 persons — plus consideration for their wives and children in the home-portioning procedure.

Greece therefore seemed destined to take on additional strategic importance as a valuable friend and ally of NATO and the United States.

Yet, in a moment, all of this may have gone down the drain. The United States ambassador to Cyprus, Roger Davies, was killed by Greek Cypriot extremists in an attack on the U.S. embassy in Nicosia. There are growing signs of anti-Americanism in Greece itself. If the loss of Greece to NATO becomes permanent, the alliance could suffer a crippling blow.

Future Middle East Crises

In the event of a future Middle East war or wars, control of the Mediterranean could prove to be of utmost strategic importance. Should there occur a major East-West superpower confrontation in the Middle East — only narrowly avoided in the 1973 flareup — continued access to NATO bases on Greece as well as Cyprus itself, where the British have “sovereign rights,” would be critically important.

Oil Dispute Next?

The Cyprus upheaval is by no means the only situation causing friction between Greece and Turkey. Disputed claims over Aegean oil rights, in fact, might become the next major Near East or eastern Mediterranean crisis.

The problem stems from unconfirmed estimates that off-shore oil deposits in the Aegean Sea may supply somewhere from twenty thousand to five hundred thousand barrels a day. Over Greek objections, Turkey has issued oil prospecting licenses for the waters surrounding the Greek islands of Lesbos, Lemnos and Chios. These numerous Greek islands dotting the Aegean Sea have been used to support Greece’s traditional claim that the Aegean, in actuality, is a “Greek lake.”
Challenging this view, the Turkish Energy & Natural Resources Minister, Fahit Kayra, recently stated: "A continental shelf is a country's natural extension to the sea. Oil wells that are in this natural extension definitely belong to that country. In this piece of land which belongs to Turkey, the Council of Ministers has every right to issue oil prospecting licenses to the Turkish petroleum companies."

Pronouncements in Greek papers have made it clear that "if Turkey attempts to violate Greek sovereign rights in the Aegean even by an inch, she would meet the decisive reaction of the Greek Armed Forces."

**A Volatile Area**

Every indication is that during the immediate weeks and months ahead, the eastern Mediterranean area will remain highly explosive.

Fear and hatred do rule on Cyprus today. No formula for settling the dispute will likely satisfy all parties involved. Greece and Turkey — even apart from Cyprus — have a centuries-old history of strife. The Aegean oil crisis could provide the spark that would ignite another war between these two ancient antagonists.

For the United States, *any* help she gives or action she takes in the area seems fraught with danger. For no matter what America does or does not do in this crisis, she is almost certain to be accused of prejudice.

A swelling tide of anti-Americanism became obvious in both Greece and Cyprus soon after the Turkish invasion. Two Athens newspapers known for their strong pro-West sentiments have recently done an about-face. Now, they are advocating that since the West was unwilling to help Greece face the Turkish challenge, the Greek government should turn to the Soviet Union for help.

The shooting of Ambassador Roger Davies added a bloody exclamation point to a fact that has long been evident: In such conflicts as the Cyprus war, the United States cannot satisfy all sides even if it wants to.

**Diplomacy Fails**

In a world filled with hatred and violence, a world where truth and reason are often perverted by all sides to gain their objectives, much more than selfish human governments and power are necessary to bring about lasting peace.

As the British weekly, *The Economist*, recently pointed out: "...the chief lesson of this week's events is that when a country thinks its army can pull off a quick smash-and-grab it is liable to leave the diplomats and their fine adjustments standing on the sidelines... The advantage that modern technology gives to an army with the local superiority of power — with the bigger tank force, with the air cover, with wheels to cover the miles — means that it can finish this business before the lumbering machinery of international dissuasion even starts to go into action... It is the era of the smash-and-grab raid, and people who do not want to be grabbed will have to take their precautions."

The *Plain Truth* has for over forty years pointed out the need for intervention by a higher power if man is ever to have enduring peace.

When you hear the out-pourings of hate and bitterness that follow and accompany such seemingly insoluble problems as the civil war in Northern Ireland, the Middle East conflict, and the Cyprus tragedy, it is well to stop and meditate on the words of the creator of all humanity: "‘Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.’ ‘Their feet are swift to shed blood, in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they do not know.’ ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes’" (RSV).

These verses, taken from the third chapter of Romans in the New Testament, ought to teach — indeed, some day will teach a chastened and humbled mankind — that we cannot have true peace and happiness by going to war to achieve selfish national objectives. God alone knows and reveals the way to peace — a way which is based on surrender to His rule of love and outgoing concern for all mankind.

This great God has also prophesied specific events which shall occur in the Mediterranean area within this generation. These startling prophecies are not a matter of sectarian interests or lofty idealisms. They are concerned with the outcome of current events in Europe and the Middle East. They will have a dramatic impact on your life within the next decade.

For a deeper understanding of the ultimate outcome of the problems now developing in the United States, Europe and the Middle East, write for our free books: *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*, and *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.

Read them both carefully. Come to understand where present events are truly leading — and what it all means.
Poised on the brink of national bankruptcy, economic chaos and political anarchy, Italy is sick. Her disease is inflation, and the months ahead are critical indeed.

by Ray Kosanke

Four years ago when Antonio started school, the corn oil his mother used in her daily cooking cost 500 lira per liter, equivalent to about 82¢ a quart. Today the same liter costs 1,600 lira — $2.64. The gasoline Antonio's father puts into his small Fiat now costs him the equivalent of over $1.85 per U. S. gallon.

Many average workers in Italy, like Antonio's father, are spending approximately 80% of their incomes merely to feed and clothe their families. These are very difficult times indeed for the Italian working class.

According to Italy's Central Statistical Institute, consumer prices increased 19.3% during the twelve-month period ending in July. The increase for July alone was 2.4% which, if continued for the next twelve months, would mean an annual rate of 28.8%.

Economists, in an effort to estimate a "danger rate for democracy," have concluded that 20% is approximately the limit. Beyond this point, inflation becomes an alarming political threat because it simply imposes too great a strain on the steady but deliberate give-and-take nature of the democratic process. Various sectors of the economy, instead of working together as in normal times, become rivals, each demanding greater material prosperity for themselves at the expense of other groups.

The economic "miracle" that Antonio's parents and grandparents enjoyed in Italy after World War II was based on two major factors: a large base of low-cost labor within Italy and the availability of low cost raw materials such as crude oil and iron ore from abroad. (Italy must import 99% of its oil — the basis for 80% of its total energy supply.)

During this post-war boom, there was little guidance — from the government or from the industrialists themselves — to plan or coordinate economic growth. Part of the reason is that Italians had just come out from under 20 years of Fascism and distrusted government to the point that those in power were content to make as few decisions as possible. What has resulted is a hodge-podge of development that favors some sectors of the economy while neglecting other critical areas. Whenever the government did intervene, it was often to subsidize some ancient and failing industry — wasting government reserves and credit and continuing to tie up workers who could have been retrained for other industries. Such actions hindered Italy's competitiveness in the international market, beginning the now grievous balance of payments problem.

At the same time, according to economic analysts, growing industries, which should have been able to retrain workers from failing industries, were swamped by a large migration of workers from the farms. Throughout the decade of the 1960's, some 200,000 people a year left their farmlands primarily in Italy's impoverished south and moved to the industrial north. But mechanization of farming, which had allowed the same sort of migration in Britain, Germany and the United States during the previous hundred years, did not keep pace with the flight of farm labor. As a result, Italy became a net importer of food. Meat imports are now second only to petroleum in Italy's deepening balance of payments gap — now running at the astonishing rate of one billion dollars a month.

A day of reckoning has been on the horizon for several years, but now the spiraling price of oil in the wake of the oil embargo has hastened its coming.

Many observers in Italy point to an economic crisis in 1963 as an ignored warning of what was later to come. Many of the problems now confronting Italy first became startlingly evident then: a poor banking and financial infrastructure, inadequate public services (postal, hospital, school, railroad) and to top it off, an increasingly parasitic spiderweb of governmental bureaucracy that consumes more and more time, manpower and money while doing less and less.

For Antonio, his family and their countrymen, this means a society that is not only uncomfortable, but increasingly dangerous. As Piero Savanio wrote in the International Herald-Tribune earlier this year:

Italy's health service is falling apart: hospitals have no bandages, medicines; the kidney-machine centers are closing for lack of blood.

ITALY-INFLATION PUTS DEMOCRACY TO THE TEST

ITALY

PLAIN TRUTH October-November 1974
There is a danger of Fascist subversion. I sense in recent months a feeling of generalized discontent. . . . It's very difficult to live in Italy right now. Telephones don't work, the trains don't work, privilege remains - there appears to be no way out. Children die and hospitals are not built, but the political parties continue to be paid. . . . People may soon get fed up, if it continues to cut into their bread-basket too long. This would be terrible because it would be the end of the country.

Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of Fiat and one of the leading industrialists in Italy, stated: "Italy is producing 100 and spending 120: we are living beyond our means and that leads to bankruptcy."

While tank-filled streets and black-shirted Fascists are not necessarily on the agenda, Italy will certainly suffer further unrest in government. As one observer mentioned: "We're either headed toward [coalition] government with the communists - which is the last straw in trying to use the parliamentary system to make it work - or we're headed into the unknown."

Wherever that "unknown" leads, the rest of Europe could be dragged along in its wake - for three major reasons: (1) increasing European interdependence on the Arab world. Mideast oil pressures have spurred a tremendous European investment on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. Italy's boot provides Europe a needed geographical toehold in the region. To protect her investments and her vital oil lifeline, Europe desperately needs a stable Italy; (2) the collapsing southern flank of NATO in the wake of Turkish-Greek hostility over Cyprus makes Italy strategically important for Western Europe; and (3) future policies emanating from the Vatican. In spite of its present decline, the Roman Catholic church is the only institution or heritage which the diverse peoples of Western Europe can possibly claim as having in common. As secular as Europe is today, that bond will most certainly be revived whenever the Continent is desperate for unity.

For Antonio's Italy, the near future portends major changes. Fiat chairman Agnelli, speaking of both Italy and the West, stated: "Major transformations of our society are unavoidable because the alternative is, quite simply, world chaos."

Fascist Revival?

One of Antonio's countrymen expresses a widespread concern:

PLAIN TRUTH October-November 1974
## U.S. Stations

**Eastern Time**

- **ALLENTOWN** — WSNJ, 1470 kc., 8:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 9:00 a.m. Sun.
- **ATLANTA** — WRNG, 680 kc., 6:00 a.m. Mon.-Sat.
- **ATLANTA** — WGIN, 1010 kc., 11:00 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 4:00 p.m. Sun.
- **BALTIMORE** — WBAL, 1090 kc., 8:30 a.m. Sun.
- **BOSTON** — WRKO, 680 kc., 6:30 a.m. Sun., 98.5 FM, WROR-FM, 6:30 a.m. Sun.
- **BUFFALO** — WYOS, 1120 kc., 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10:00 a.m. Sun.
- **CHATTANOOGA** — WDEF, 1370 kc., 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Sun.
- **SPRINGFIELD** — WACE, 730 kc., 12 noon daily.
- **CINCINNATI** — WCKY, 1530 kc., 5:05 a.m. daily, 12:05 a.m. Mon., 1:05 a.m. Tues.-Sun.
- **CINCINNATI** — WLW, 700 kc., 7:00 a.m. & 11:00 p.m. Sun.
- **CLEVELAND** — WWWE, 1100 kc., 11:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 p.m. Sat., 11:00 p.m. Sun.
- **DETROIT** — WDEE, 1500 kc., 11:30 p.m. Mon.-Sun.
- **FLINT** — WKM, 1470 kc., 7:00 p.m. daily.
- **GREENVILLE** — WNCT, 1070 kc., 12 noon Mon.-Sat.
- **HARRISBURG** — WHP, 580 kc., 7:30 p.m. daily.
- **JACKSONVILLE** — WBIX, 1010 kc., 12:30 p.m. daily.
- **JOHNSON CITY** — WJWC, 910 kc., 12:30 p.m. daily.
- **JOHNSTOWN** — WJAC, 850 kc., 12:30 p.m. daily.
- **KNOXVILLE** — WKXV, 900 kc., 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 12 noon Sun.
- **LOUISVILLE** — WHAS, 84 kc., 11:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 8:00 p.m. Sun.
- **MIAMI** — WINZ, 940 kc., 8:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
- **MOBILE** — WDRG, 710 kc., 11:30 a.m. Mon.-Fri., 8:00 p.m. Mon-Sun., 8:00 a.m. Sat. & Sun.
- **MT. AIRY** — WPAQ, 740 kc., 6:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
- **NEW HAVEN** — WELI, 960 kc., 11:30 p.m. daily.
- **NEW ROCHELLE** — WVOX, 1460 kc., 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10:00 a.m. Sun.
- **NEW YORK** — WOR, 710 kc., 6:30 a.m. & 11:30 p.m. Sun., 10:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
- **NORTH CAROLINA** — WWNC, 570 kc., 11:00 p.m. daily.

## Central Time

- **BIRMINGHAM** — WYDE, 850 kc., 7:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 6:30 p.m. Sun.
- **DALLAS** — KRLD, 1080 kc., 5:00 a.m. & 11:00 p.m. daily.
- **DES MOINES** — KDKY, 1150 kc., 12:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. daily.
- **FARGO** — KFGO, 790 kc., 7:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 7:10 p.m. Sat. & Sun.
- **GADSDEN** — WAAX, 570 kc., 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon Sun.
- **HAMMOND** — WJOB, 1230 kc., 6:30 p.m. daily.
- **KANSAS CITY** — KMBZ, 980 kc., 10:05 p.m. daily.
- **LITTLE ROCK** — KAAY, 1090 kc., 5:15 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Sun., 9:30 a.m. Sun.
- **MEMPHIS** — WHBQ, 560 kc., 9:00 a.m. Sun.
- **MEMPHIS** — WREX, 600 kc., 10:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
- **MILWAUKEE** — WISN, 1130 kc., 11:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. & 9:30 p.m. Sun.
- **NASHVILLE** — WVLAC, 1510 kc., 5:00 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 6:30 a.m. & 8:00 p.m. Sun.
- **NEW ORLEANS** — WWL, 870 kc., 8:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
- **NORMAN** — KNOR, 1400 kc., 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Sun.
- **OKLAHOMA CITY** — KOK, 100 kc., 11:30 p.m. daily.
- **OMAHA** — KLNG, 1490 kc., 6:30 p.m. Mon.-Sun.

## Mountain Time

- **ALBUQUERQUE** — KOB, 770 kc., 9:30 a.m. Sun., 11:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
- **BILLINGS** — KBMY, 1240 kc., 6:30 p.m. daily.
- **BOISE** — KIDO, 630 kc., 7:05 p.m. daily.
- **CASPER** — KTWQ, 103 kc., 6:05 p.m. & 10:05 p.m. daily.
- **DENVER** — KOA, 850 kc., 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 7:00 p.m. Sun.
- **FLAGSTAFF** — KCLS, 600 kc., 12:30 p.m. daily.
- **KALISPELL** — KOFI, 1180 kc., 6:30 p.m. daily.
- **SALT LAKE CITY** — KSL, 1160 kc., 5:06 a.m. & 11:06 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 5:30 a.m. & 11:25 p.m. Sun.
- **TUCSON** — KTUC, 250 kc., 12:45 p.m. daily, 99.5 FM, KFMM, 6:00 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 6:30 a.m. Sun.

## Pacific Time

- **ANCHORAGE** — KYAK, 650 kc., 9:00 p.m. Mon.-Sun.
- **COVINA** — KGRR, 900 kc., KBOB-FM, 12 noon Mon.-Sat., 9:00 a.m. Sun.
- **DELANO** — KCHJ, 1010 kc., 12:30 p.m. Mon.-Sun.
- **FAIRBANKS** — KIAK, 970 kc., 7:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 5:30 p.m. Sun.
- **FRESNO** — KFRE, 940 kc., 9:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10:00 a.m. Sun.
- **HONOLULU** — KGU, 760 kc., 10:00 p.m. daily.
- **LOS ANGELES** — KLOS, 770 kc., 10:30 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 8:30 a.m. Sun.
- **PASCO** — KONA, 610 kc., 7:00 p.m. daily.
- **PORTLAND** — KWWJ, 1080 kc., 8:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10:00 p.m. Sun.
- **RENO** — KBET, 1340 kc., 6:30 p.m. Sun.
- **SALINAS** — KTON, 1380 kc., 11:30 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon Sun.
- **SEATTLE** — KIRO, 710 kc., 5:00 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 11:30 a.m. Mon.-Fri.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANADIAN STATIONS</th>
<th>Atlantic Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>BAIE-VERTE - CKIM</td>
<td>1240 kc, 6:00 p.m. daily.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMBELLTON - CKNB</td>
<td>950 kc, 9:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10:00 p.m. Sun.</td>
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<td>FREDERICTON - CFNB</td>
<td>550 kc, 10:05 p.m. daily.</td>
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<td>GANDER - CKGA</td>
<td>730 kc, 6:00 p.m. daily.</td>
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<td>GRAND FALLS - CKCM</td>
<td>620 kc, 6:00 p.m. daily.</td>
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<td>HALIFAX - CJCH</td>
<td>920 kc, 10:25 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10:05 p.m. Sun.</td>
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<td>MARYSTOWN - CHCM</td>
<td>560 kc, 6:00 p.m. daily.</td>
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<td>NEWCASTLE - CFAN</td>
<td>790 kc, 9:30 p.m. daily.</td>
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<td>ST. JOHN'S - CJCH</td>
<td>920 kc, 8:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 10:00 p.m. Sun.</td>
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<tr>
<td>YARMOUTH - CJLS</td>
<td>1340 kc, 7:00 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 4:30 p.m. Sun.</td>
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<td>OTTAWA - CKOY</td>
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<td>SHERBROOKE - CKTS</td>
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<td>SMITH FALLS - CJET</td>
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<td>STE. AGATHA (French) - CJSA</td>
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<td>THUNDER BAY - CFBQ</td>
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<td>CALGARY - CFCN</td>
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<td>DAWSON CREEK - CJDC</td>
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<td>GRAND FORKS - CKGF</td>
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<td>KITIMAT - CKTK</td>
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<td>MONCTON - CKCW</td>
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<td>NANAIMO / PARKESVILLE - CHUB</td>
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<td>PENTICTON - CKOK</td>
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<td>PRINCE GEORGE - CKPG</td>
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<td>PRINCE RUPERT - CHTK</td>
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<td>REVELSTOKE - CKCR</td>
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<td>SALMON ARM - CKXR</td>
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<td>SUMMERLAND - CKSP</td>
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<td>TERRACE - CFTK</td>
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<td>VICTORIA - CJVI</td>
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<td>WHITEHORSE - CKMW</td>
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U.S. STATIONS

**Eastern Time**

AKRON — Channel 23, WAKR-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.
ALBANY — Channel 10, WTEN-TV, 2:30 p.m. Sat.
BUFFALO — Channel 2, WGR-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun.
CHARLESTON — Channel 2, WCBD-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun.
GREENVILLE — Channel 9, WNCT-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
INDIANAPOLIS — Channel 4, WTTV-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
JOHNSON CITY — Channel 11, WTEN-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sun.
LANSING — Channel 10, WILX-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
NEW YORK — Channel 9, WOR-TV, 10:00 p.m. Sun.
PHILADELPHIA — Channel 17, WPHL-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
PLATTSBURG — Channel 5, WPTZ-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sat.
PORTLAND — Channel 8, WMTW-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
PORTSMOUTH — Channel 10, WAVY-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun.
PROVIDENCE — Channel 12, WPRI-TV, 2:30 p.m. Sat.
SOUTH BEND — Channel 22, WSBT-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sat.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Channel 7, WRC-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sat.
WILKES-BARRE — Channel 28, WBRE-TV, 12:00 p.m. Sun.

**Central Time**

ABILENE — Channel 12, KTBS-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.
AMARILLO — Channel 10, KFDA-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sat.
AUSTIN — Channel 7, KTVT-TV, 11:00 p.m. Sun.
CORPUS CHRISTI — Channel 3, KII-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sun.
DALLAS-FT. WORTH — Channel 11, KTVT-TV, 11:00 p.m. Sun.
EL PASO — Channel 13, KELP-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sat.
FARGO — Channel 4, KXJB-TV, 11:30 p.m. Sat.
GREAT BEND — Channel 2, KCKT-TV, 12:00 a.m. Sun.
KANSAS CITY — Channel 4, WDAF-TV, 12:00 a.m. Sun.
MCCOOK — Channel 8, KOMC-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
MINNEAPOLIS — Channel 11, WTMN-TV, 5:30 a.m. Tues.
NASHVILLE — Channel 2, WGNE-TV, 6:00 p.m. Sat.
NEW ORLEANS — Channel 4, WWO-LTV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
OKLAHOMA CITY — Channel 5, KOCO-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.

**Mountain Time**

BILLINGS — Channel 8, KULR-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sat.
DENVER — Channel 4, KOA-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sat.
GARDEN CITY — Channel 11, KGLD-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
PHOENIX — Channel 12, KTAR-TV, 3:00 p.m. Sat.
SALT LAKE CITY — Channel 5, KSL-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sat.
TUCSON — Channel 9, KGUN-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun.

**Pacific Time**

ANCHORAGE — Channel 13, KIMO-TV, 6:30 p.m. Wed.
BAKERFIELD — Channel 23, KERO-TV, 4:30 p.m. Sun.
FRESNO — Channel 24, KMJ-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
HOLLYWOOD — Channel 9, KHJ-TV, 9:00 p.m. Sun.
HONOLULU — Channel 2, KHON-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
LAS VEGAS — Channel 8, KLAS-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
OAKLAND — Channel 2, KTVU-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sat.
RENO — Channel 2, KTVM-TV, 3:30 p.m. Sat.
SALINAS — Channel 8, KSBW-TV, 3:30 p.m. Sat.
SAN LUIS OBISPO — Channel 6, KSBY-TV, 3:30 p.m. Sun.
SPOKANE — Channel 6, KHQ-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun.
STOCKTON — Channel 13, KOVR-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun.
TACOMA — Channel 11, KOMO-TV, 10:30 p.m. Sun.

**Canadian Stations**

**Atlantic Time**

HALIFAX — Channel 5, CJCH-TV, 2:30 p.m. Sun.
MONCTON/ST. JOHN'S — Channel 2, CKCW-TV, 2:30 p.m. Sun.
ST. JOHN'S — Channel 6, CJON, 1:00 p.m. Sun.

**Central Time**

BRANDON — Channel 5, CKX-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sun.
PRINCE ALBERT — Channel 5, CKBI-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.
REGINA — Channel 2, CKCK-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun.
SASKATOON — Channel 8, CFQC-TV, 12 noon Sun.
SWIFT CURRENT — Channel 5, CJFB-TV, 11:15 p.m. Sun.
WINNIPEG — Channel 7, CKY-TV, 12 noon Sun.
YORKTOWN — Channel 3, CKOS-TV, 12 noon Sun.

**Mountain Time**

CALGARY — Channel 4, CFCN-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sun.
EDMONTON — Channel 3, CFRN-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
LLOYDMINSTER — Channel 2, CKSA-TV, 1:00 p.m. Mon.-Sun.

**Pacific Time**

DAWSON CREEK — Channel 5, CJDC-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.
KAMLOOPS — Channel 4, CFJC-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun.
KELOWNA — Channel 2, CHBC-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun.
VANCOUVER — Channel 8, CHAN-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun.
VICTORIA — Channel 6, CHEK-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun.
WHITEHORSE — Channel 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 13, WHTV-TV, 7:00 p.m. Sun.
Thanksgiving Day

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

To many Americans Thanksgiving Day means sumptuous turkey dinners, family reunions and football games. Most seem to forget that the very name of this traditional holiday means to give thanks. But give thanks to whom? For what? And why?

by Eugene M. Walter

In 1630 the little 350-ton Arbella was plowing westward through the rough Atlantic to the Massachusetts coast. From its deck John Winthrop preached a striking sermon.

"Wee shall be," prophesied Winthrop, "as a Citty upon a Hill, the Eies of all people are upon us; se that if wee shall deale falsely with our god in this worke we have undertaken and seoe cause him to withdrawe his present help from us, wee shall be made a story and a by-word through the world."

Those are remarkable words! They indicate that at least some of the early colonists sensed that their endeavors were being favored by the hand of God.

They seemed to understand that they were being given very special opportunities, special blessing — and special responsibilities. For all this, the indications are, some were grateful at first.

In 1621 the first American thanksgiving was held by Plymouth colony. It was observed in gratitude for the ending of a difficult year and a bountiful harvest. The
said: "in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the earth, as regards fertility of soil, extent of territory, and salubrity of climate. . . . We . . . find ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or the establishment of them."

But success and prosperity were bringing the problems and pitfalls which John Winthrop had so vividly foreseen. President Lincoln recognized these problems and was quick to act.

Lincoln's Sober Warning

In the midst of America's divisive civil war, a disturbed President Lincoln, on April 30, 1863, proclaimed a national day of fasting and prayer. In making this proclamation he said:

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. . . . We have been the recipients of the choicest blessing of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation ever has grown; but we have forgotten God! We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

President Lincoln saw a nation drunk with success not due to its own efforts. He saw a nation taking all the credit and glory to itself. This great president called upon the nation for a day of fasting and prayer to confess this national sin before God.

Later that same year, on October 3, Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day — a day to give thanks to God for the multitudinous blessings he had bestowed. (Today Thanksgiving Day is observed on the fourth Thursday of November as set by Congress in December 1941.)

America's Greatest Years — and Now

In the years that followed Lincoln, America rose to greatness.

At the zenith of power, America's six percent of the world's population possessed some 50 percent of the world's wealth. In commodity after commodity and in product after product, America led the world.

But with the Korean War in the early 1950's, America began to slip. Troubles began to mount on all sides — at home and abroad. Whereas before almost everything seemed to turn out in its favor, now it seems that almost nothing is turning out well.

What happened — and what is continuing to happen?

Today America has no national goal. We have recklessly squandered much of our fabulous wealth and polluted much of our beautiful land.

Greed, selfishness and ingratitude characterize many segments of society. Other nations are no longer as impressed with America and the way Americans do things as they used to be.

Historians are now speculating whether the bicentennial of the United States will find the nation so gripped with debilitating internal and external problems that it will no longer be the world's number one power.

What does all this mean — and what does it have to do with Thanksgiving?

Just this: Our materialistic way of life has stripped the value and meaning from the simple state of being thankful.

Nothing more typifies the national condition of spiritual unconcern and neglect than the near total lack of publicity and regard for the Senate resolution setting aside April 30, 1974 as a national day of humiliation, fasting and prayer to "repent of our national sins."

The resolution was proposed by a leading senator disturbed by the mood of the nation. It was modeled after the resolution written by Abraham Lincoln ("to confess our national sins and pray for clemency and forgiveness"). Yet it failed to reach the House floor. It was blocked by one member's objection to all such resolutions which require unanimous consent.

Even in the Senate there was a debate over the meaning of "humiliation."

"There is a great need to repent, to seek God's guidance. We have come to rely more on bitterness and hatred than love for our fellow man," said one senator.

Still, April 30 went almost totally forgotten and unnoticed.

During this Thanksgiving season,
every American ought to reflect, with heartfelt concern, on our national shortcomings as well as on our God-given national blessings.

**How to Make Thanksgiving Meaningful**

There is nothing wrong with good food, family reunions and football games on Thanksgiving Day. But all too many use these activities wrongly and forget the purpose for the holiday. While millions elsewhere in the world join the army of the starving, most Americans will eat far more food than necessary.

Few, however, will stop to give God heartfelt thanks for this food—even on Thanksgiving Day.

As we observe Thanksgiving Day this year, we need to stop and soberly reflect on why we have so much, why we are losing it so fast, and where we are headed. Why are America's (or the world's) economic and social problems so seemingly without solution? Why does America get blamed for so many of the world's problems? (Our free book, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*, will help answer these questions. Send your request to the office nearest you.)

Thanksgiving is not just for Americans and should not be limited to one day a year. Thanksgiving should be a daily occurrence for all of us.

Now as never before, we need to stop and thank God for the many blessings we still have—and change from our selfish and arrogant ways so that the blessings we have lost can be restored.

If we fail to change our national direction and if we fail to acknowledge God as supreme ruler and giver of our national wealth, he will surely “withdraw his present help from us, [and] we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world.”

The past months and years reveal an America beset with many growing troubles. Could God be withdrawing “his present help” from us now?
"The family that drinks together..."

by Gary Alexander
AN IMPORTANT Federal report sent to the U. S. Congress last July 10 warns that a person who drinks more than three ounces of whiskey (the standard "double"), a half bottle of wine, or four glasses of beer daily runs nearly a 2½ times greater risk of mouth cancer than an abstainer, or about the same cancer risk as a person who smokes 40 cigarettes each day. And if the heavy drinker added these three ounces of whiskey to a two-pack-a-day cigarette habit, the risk of developing cancer of the mouth or throat multiplied to 15 times that of an abstainer.

The report considered three ounces of whiskey (or about 1 ½ ounces of absolute alcohol) as the "upper limit of moderation."

Bad News and Good News

So much for the bad news. The other side of the report titled "Alcohol and Health" advised: "There is no evidence that the moderate use of alcohol is harmful to health." In fact, according to Dr. Morris E. Chafetz, director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, "Moderate drinkers, as a statistical group, live longer than abstainers or ex-drinkers."

Chafetz further stated, during a White House seminar on alcoholism, that moderate drinkers had a lower rate of heart attacks and that moderate drinking "may be physically, psychologically, and socially beneficial to active and institutionalized older people."

When Alcohol Is Wrong

You are probably personally familiar with one or more people who have not known how to drink moderately—who have instead been ravaged by society's most popular drug addiction, alcoholism. Many great authors and artists are as well known for their drinking habits as their art. A large percentage have died untimely deaths due to alcohol.

They, like millions of their countrymen, thirsted for the good life, but ended up grabbing for more gusto than they could handle. They, like most other alcoholics, remained respectably employed until the end. Their "Skid Row" was only between their ears. These hidden alcoholics (which comprise 95 to 97 percent of all alcoholics) endured a life-long battle between edgy abstinence and horrible hangovers before collapsing on their carpet floor with the same finality as a Skid Row drunk collapsing in the gutter.

Anyone looking at the twisted lives of such alcoholics must conclude that alcohol, the substance of and by itself, is surely an evil thing.

It is not alcohol, however, that is wrong, but the wrong use of it. Alcohol is a chemical compound, composed of a fixed and orderly set of atoms which form a molecule of ethyl alcohol (or ethanol).

Instead of recognizing the benefits and dangers of this neutral spirit, recent history is replete with the controversy between the "alcohol-is-evil" temperance movement (which advocates abstension rather than temperance) and the "alcohol-is-the-center-of-my-life" philosophy of an alcohol-dependent minority.

The "dry" and "wet" controversy, formerly waged within state and national government, is now being fought on the county and local level in some parts of the United States, while the balance between dry and wet is often ignored.

In schools, for instance, the evils of overdrinking are quite graphically portrayed—from dissecting an alcohol-sotted liver in biology classes, to the films of alcohol-induced automobile wrecks in driver education classes—but there is precious little (if any) education at home or in school about the therapeutic value of wine (as a medicinal, antiseptic, social, ceremonial, nutritive or digestive-aiding beverage), or the fact that nearly 90% of all drinkers seldom if ever drink to excess.

Alcohol's Dual Nature

Alcohol is a sedative, but in small amounts it acts like a stimulant. This is because the areas of restraint, judgment, and inhibition are the first regions of the brain to be affected. Therefore, while the tongue and body are loosed to say and do things that the brain would otherwise prohibit, the brain's memory, motor functions, and logical function are not immediately impaired. In small quantities, this "social lubrication" can be therapeutic, but in many cases, drinkers don't stop imbibing when stimulated.

Larger amounts of alcohol serve as a depressant to the more objective centers of the brain (memory, motor, and logical functions). Shakespeare expressed this duality by saying alcohol "provokes the desire but takes away the performance."

A more scientific explanation of Shakespeare's couplet was revealed recently in a thorough study of young college men. Various groups were given one, two, or three ounces of absolute alcohol (in cocktail form), then they were tested on their ability to solve problems of symbolic logic.

Those who consumed one ounce of alcohol (equivalent to about two normal cocktails) actually performed better as a unit than when they abstained from all alcohol. Those who consumed two ounces performed about equally as well as when they abstained, while those who consumed three ounces of alcohol (about six drinks) performed decidedly worse than when they abstained.

France and Italy

The French consume by far the largest amount of alcohol per person per year: 22.6 litres (or 6 gallons) of absolute alcohol. The average French adult drinks 125 litres of wine, 10 litres of distilled spirits, and 50 to 75 litres of beer per year. This is a 50 percent larger amount of absolute alcohol than that consumed by the second ranking nation, Italy.

Many Frenchmen drink wine in
the manner most of us drink water. Workmen often imbibe wine all day long, without serious social censure or visible side effects. The hidden toll is quite serious, however, as the French lead the world in deaths due to cirrhosis of the liver (328 deaths per million people per year), and have the highest alcoholic rate in the world — 9.4 percent.

Meanwhile, across the Alps, the second-highest wine (and total alcohol) consumers in the world, the Italians, drink an average of 111 litres of wine per person per year, yet amazingly they have the lowest alcoholism rate in the Western world, 0.4 percent. Why is there this vast gap in alcoholism between the two largest alcohol consuming nations?

Although virtually all Italians drink alcohol, very few of them drink outside the home. Four out of five (80 percent) drink only at mealtime and among family members. Drunkenness is frowned upon by church and family in Italy, whereas overdrinking is more socially acceptable (even considered “masculine”) in France.

The main influence on Italian moderation is the powerful family example. The influence of the Church is not of major importance, since other strongly Catholic nations (Ireland and France) have two of the highest alcoholism rates.

**American Alcohol Attitudes**

In the United States, unlike European and Third World societies, there is no one cultural or religious tradition governing alcohol consumption. Instead, we find a rather confusing mélange of mores, ranging from the hard-drinking, hard-living “frontier mentality” to the Puritan prohibition of the Bible Belt.

Countless ethnic groups within the American melting pot behave radically differently in their manner of initiating children to alcohol. On one extreme, the Irish American has an alcoholic rate two or three times the national average, which reflects the heavy drinking pattern in Ireland. Other ethnic groups drink as often, but avoid imbibing alcohol in any appreciable quantities. In some states, the majority abstain totally. For instance, a Bible Belt state, such as Alabama, consumes just one fourth of the alcohol (per capita) that Western states such as Nevada and California consume.

**Family Pattern**

The key to alcohol education in America — as in Italy and France — is the example of the family. Most alcoholics are the children of alcoholics, while the children of parents who drink in moderation have only a 2 percent chance of becoming alcoholics.

If the parents are strict abstainers, however, their children’s chances of alcoholism lie somewhere between 2 and 25 percent. If the children of abstainers don’t themselves abstain, they tend to drink secretly, furtively, rebelliously, and more intemperately than children who are taught the right example of moderation.

Abstainers have a hard time resisting a drink in such a heavily drinking society, unless they are armed with home training in examples of moderation.

In the wake of the latest wave of youth drinking (74 percent of all high school students drank alcohol in 1972, compared with only 39 percent in 1969), many parents have severely punished their children for drinking before age 18; or they have ignored the “OK addiction,” thankful that their children were not on marijuana or harder drugs. Either extreme is wrong. Instead, these parents should have considered introducing the moderate use of wine, beer, and other “softer” liquor in the home environment.

Most teen-agers sip their first alcoholic drink in secret, with friends, and in an atmosphere of defying authority, showing off, playing “adult,” or revelling in their forbidden fruit. If parents had introduced alcohol at home, these teen-agers (like the children of Italians and Jews) would likely never drink to excess outside the home. The example of the Jewish Americans supports this approach.

**The Jewish Example**

Jewish Americans have the highest percentage of drinkers in the United States, but the lowest percentage of alcoholism. In New York City, there are more Jews than in the nation of Israel, yet they comprise less than one percent of that city’s alcoholics.

Drinking is almost universal among the Jews, starting ceremonially, for males, on the eighth day of life (circumcision) when wine is touched to the baby’s lips. The habit of drinking continues on every weekly Sabbath, the holy days, weddings, funerals, and numerous other social and ceremonial occasions. Moderate drinking is virtually mandatory.

This formula has all but eliminated alcoholism from among the Orthodox Jewish population. Where did the Jews develop their “winning game” for avoiding alcoholism?

From the Bible — the Orthodox Jew regulates his life by a strict reading of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Isn’t it strange that some churches have misread the same book to the extent of forbidding any and all use of alcohol? The Jews observe the literal commands of the Old Testament to drink wine. But professing Christians have ignored the New (and Old) Testament verses which prove that Jesus drank wine, Paul advocated the moderate use of wine, and David claimed that wine “cheered the heart of God and man.”

This Protestant ignorance of the Bible even led to 15 years of catastrophic Prohibition in the United States (1919-1933), in the name of the Bible! Of course it is no sin to abstain, but it is definitely wrong to use God’s name to enforce abstinence on those families who can drink moderately and wisely together.
eluded science, religion, education and governments — answers to the seemingly unanswerable?

What I knew was something undiscovered by science, something outside the field of technology, overlooked by religion, untaught by education.

Yes, it would seem one should retort with that age-old cliché, "Just who do you think you are?" They should ask, "Do you set yourself above science, religion, education?"

And I answer, "No, indeed!" I have just been willing to believe the source of knowledge and truth. It was all there for any and everyone to know, if they would only have believed!

Well how did it come about?

Back in 1926 I was challenged! I was challenged on the theory of evolution and on a biblical question. I wasn't religious. I knew virtually nothing of the Bible. I had no interest in it. I did have an interest in Darwin — even back into Lamarck's theory of use and disuse. I delved into those theories anew. I researched Darwin's Origin of Species, Huxley, Haeckel, Spencer, Vogt, Chamberlin. They, of course, instilled within me no biblical faith. But I wanted to research both sides. I believed in the slogan, "Get all the facts — then decide."

In that world's best seller, the book which, it seemed, as Bruce Barton said, "nobody knows," I found astonishing facts. There I found the answers. It required no extraordinary intellect. It needed only willingness to believe what is true. There I found, available to all, what science has never discovered, religion has overlooked, education has never taught.

I noticed the incident of the "forbidden fruit." It portrays the ever-living Creator instructing the man and the woman he had just created in what they needed to know. It portrayed him revealing basic knowledge — knowledge undiscoverable and unobtainable, except by revelation from the source. But the first humans didn't believe! After all, they had only their Maker's word for it! The serpent suggested their Maker was not a reliable source of knowledge.

"You shall not surely die," he lied, contradicting the Creator's positive statement. When Eve observed that the forbidden fruit was good for food, pleasant to the sense of sight, and intellectually challenging, intellectual curiosity seized her, and she decided to make the first "scientific" experiment.

The scientific method is observation, experimentation, and reason, but rejection of revelation. She disbelieved, disobeyed, seized the forbidden fruit, and induced her husband to join the experiment. They took to themselves production of the knowledge of what is good and what is evil.

Result of that experiment: They died! And their posterity have been disbelieving, disobeying, relying on themselves for the production of knowledge, and dying, ever since!

I noticed how Jesus came, purportedly with a message of factual truth from God. But though some "believed on him," they didn't believe what he said! I read in the book of John: "As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word [his revealed knowledge], then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:30-31). They answered him controversially.

Jesus said, "Ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you . . . and because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not" (John 8:37, 45).

Actually, biblical revelation shows that the God whose teaching was disbelieved by Adam and Eve was the very same personage who later became Jesus Christ. And the message Jesus brought was the identical teaching he had imparted to the first humans. And after three and a half years of Christ's teaching, there were only 120 disciples (Acts 1:15).

These grew and even multiplied for a while. But then the great persecution set in (Acts 8:1). And soon ensued the "lost century" in the history of the church. When the curtain lifts, about a century later, we behold a church called "Christian," teaching doctrines which are mostly the very antithesis of Christ's teaching — and his gospel, the Kingdom of God, no longer being proclaimed.

Into this world have sprouted up many religions. But the "missing dimension" in knowledge has appeared in none. That original and basic essential knowledge is still missing.

Science has not discovered it. Religions have overlooked it. Education has not taught it.

And what is that missing basic knowledge?

It is the knowledge of what man is, why man is, where man is going, and what is the way. It is knowledge of the cause of all human ills and evils. It is knowledge of the way that would cause world peace — that would produce universal prosperity, happiness, abundant well-being. It did not take any extraordinary intellect to discover it in the biblical revelation. It required only a willingness to believe.

I decided, back in 1926, that I should give biblical revelation as much credence as the Darwinian theory and the writings of his promoters Haeckel and Huxley. I found in the Bible the facts that explained why man is as he is — with intellect so great he can fly to the moon and back, yet utterly unable to solve his own problems or to live at peace with himself and his neighbors here on earth. I found revealed the causes of all our troubles. And I found the way that will cause all good.
It all made sense to me. So I decided in early 1927 that I would make a "scientific experiment." I would put this knowledge into practice. I would make it my way of life.

I founded three colleges, in Pasadena, California, in Texas and in England. These colleges taught the "missing dimension." They introduced that way as the campus way of life.

Impractical theory? Altruistic, unworkable platitudes? Ask visitors to our campuses!

Forty-seven years of living that way myself and twenty-seven years of students living by that way on campus have proved that it does result in peace, happiness, beauty of physical environment and beauty in human character.

Yes, harassed and troubled heads of state do show interest in what is causing all their troubles. Many of their top aides show interest. And often these personal meetings lead to public appearances before large audiences, who come to hear what has not been proclaimed for 18½ centuries — what is outside the fields of science or traditional religion.

I'm aware that the world doesn't believe it. But, in our time, the world is going to be compelled to enjoy peace, universal prosperity, happiness, and abundant well-being! Humanity won't bring it about. It will be done to humanity!

AFTER a delay of seven years, King Hussein of Jordan and I enjoyed our first personal meeting. It was — at least so it seemed to me — just as if we had been life-long friends who had not seen each other for seven very, very long years.

I had read His Majesty's autobiography, and it seemed as if I had always known him. When he learned that I am now working on the final four or five chapters of the second (and final) volume of my own autobiography, he asked if he might not have the very first autographed copy.

I spent a wonderful week in Jordan in late June. Besides a most interesting and enjoyable meeting with His Majesty the king, I had a personal meeting with his younger brother Crown Prince Hassan and a good portion of a day with another brother, Prince Mohammed, who accompanied us on a flight to Aqaba. Also accompanying us to Aqaba was the Jordanian ambassador to Washington, Mr. Salah. He had flown from Washington back to Jordan and welcomed me at the airport as I stepped down from our plane. The ambassador had previously been sent by the Jordanian government to Pasadena to represent Jordan at the opening concerts of the

**AND NOW—ASSISTING THE ARAB WORLD IN THE MOVE TOWARD WORLD PEACE**

**HIS MAJESTY** King Hussein of Jordan (right) and Herbert W. Armstrong (center) exchange gifts at their first meeting. Attending is Stanley R. Rader, Ambassador College general counsel.
new Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, conducted by Maestro Carlo Giulini last April 7, 8, and 9. While in Jordan, I spent about a half day at the University of Jordan, with its aggressive and forward-looking president.

There was a reception and dinner in my honor on the garden grounds of the brother of the ambassador, with many leading people there, including Prince Mohammed, brother of His Majesty, and the princess. There also was a large banquet in my honor, hosted by the Minister of Information, Mr. Adnan Abu Oden.

I had a very enjoyable and profitable meeting with the prime minister. A program of cooperation between Ambassador College and the Jordanian government was germinated, which I hope will lead to cooperation with many other governments in the Arab world.

King Hussein is now planning to install a two-million watt radio station at Amman, and I ascertained that time will be available to us on this possibly unprecedented super-powered station.

Incidentally, my meeting with King Hussein was televised on Amman TV, and a few days later, different people in Israel told me they had seen it. So I know that Jordanian TV is seen in Israel.

I have read these Personal pages several weeks prior to publication. On my June-early July trip, we also visited Israel. Here a “testimonial dinner” with around 100 people was set up for September. This is a type of dinner hosted by one or more officials close to the top of the government, in which I tell the guests what I stand for, what I believe, what are my purposes and motives. These dinners then are followed by a public appearance campaign, attracting audiences of thousands.

I should mention here, also, that a personal meeting with President Sadat of Egypt is scheduled for late July, preceded by a meeting with the Shah of Iran.

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**What Our Readers Say**

**Culture**

"Is It Wrong To Be A Cultured Individual?" is a magnificent article. I advised my wife to read it. She did, and later read it slowly to our children, and they were also very impressed and listened intently. I just re-read it. It is marvellous how clearly and simply the author instructs on the right path between two deplorable extremes.

Ernest S., Athol, Maine

I have read your article entitled "Is It Wrong To Be A Cultured Individual?" and I offer the following comments: Although I believe I understand the article and comprehend what you are trying to state, the article seems to leave the wrong impression.

Generally speaking, the article leaves one the impression that you equate the possession of good quality material commodities with the word "culture." Strictly speaking, contrary to what your whole article seemed to strongly imply, the mere possession of quality goods or a college education does not make one "cultured." Furthermore, some would contend that there are many people who wear cheap clothes, drive cheap used autos and live in cheap houses and are still "cultured." On the other hand, Americans who have a college education, wear good clothes, own expensive cameras and live in $25,000 to $80,000 homes often, very, very often, impress foreigners as being crude, crass, vulgar individuals.... In Mexico such persons (as I've described) are said to be "educated but uncultured." Furthermore, Mexicans strongly contend many of their compatriots are poor but "cultured."

Following your reasoning to its ultimate conclusion, it seems to say that being poor and cultured are mutually exclusive. This is typical American reasoning which often leads to feelings of American superiority with regard to other countries' cultures. Thank you.

Santos B., Dallas, Texas

I came from a poor family. My poor, precious parents believed in working hard but never having more than the bare necessities and never having an enjoyable moment. To their way of thinking, it was wrong. I love them but I can see how wrong they were.

God has given me a husband with a lot of common sense. He has always told me there is nothing wrong in having the finest as long as you don't walk on anyone else to get it and you work honestly. He also came from a poor family and has mostly raised himself since he was 5 years old. But he has had a goal in life. No matter what has come up he has stuck to that goal. Nothing has caused him to give up, and he doesn't mind the work. He's never been so busy but when he doesn't have time to stop and help his fellow man. But he's working to have the finest.

Carolyn C., Elk City, Oklahoma

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**Europe: Catastrophe and Revival**

I practically "devour" your literature. I am anxiously waiting for more of the series on Europe. I had no idea the Germans had so much to do with the "Holy" Roman empire, or that it was so riddled with sin. The more one reads history, the more one wonders how God can tolerate us.

Mrs. L., Dumas, Texas

We read your article "The German Empire in the Dark Ages" with great interest. We come from The Netherlands and Spain, and we had for some time the wish to know more about the beginning — historical geography — of all the nations of present day Europe.

We just recently started to receive your magazine the Plain Truth and several booklets and we are very impressed and thankful for it. We praise you and all the other collaborators for this outstanding work.

Frank and Maria V., Littleton, Colorado

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**Abortion**

For the doctors and nurses who find abortions repugnant, the simple solution would seem to be not to take part in them. No one is forcing anyone to do anything against his conscience unlike the effect an anti-abortion Law would have on those who hold pro-abortion beliefs.

I do agree with the doctor that for human life to have value we must have standards of conduct. In my opinion human life does not begin until it is viable. Before that it has the potential for human life much as the sperm and egg individually has the potential for becoming a human life. Before that they are not human life but life. It seems consistent to me that if one values human life he should value all life. But there are those that esteem human life above other forms of life like a dog, snail or insect. I believe that those that are here already have precedence over the unborn and the dead. I believe it to be immoral to bring new babies into the world while so many that are already here are starving and diseased. I believe it criminal to have human beings living in squalor and deprivation, to lack a basic education where learning right values, building character and gaining knowledge are among the basic reasons we are on this earth.

Carol N., Anaheim, California

I have been taking your magazine the Plain Truth for over a year now. I was sixteen years old when I first began reading your magazine. I am now eighteen years old and still find it as interesting, or perhaps even more so, than when I first started reading it. I want to thank you for making the Plain Truth available to people like myself who cannot afford to pay for it.

I always find your magazine very much
General Comments

I’m a liberated woman. I would also like to read more about women’s rights in your wonderful magazine. My whole family also reads it. I am a former drug user and I’m really down on anyone using them.

Suzanne S.,
Long Beach, California

Just these few lines to thank you for the wonderful gift you have given me, the Plain Truth.

At the present I am a convict at Soledad State Prison in California and your articles bring the news in to me. Plus your magazine brings me hope of a better world outside this world of madness called prison.

I don’t know if you will publish this letter or not, but if you do please ask your readers to correspond with me. I hope to be released sometime early next year and I’d like to get accustomed again to the environment and people living in the outside world.

I thank you again and I sincerely hope that you continue to publish the Plain Truth and bring forth the truth as you do.

Eddie L.,
Soledad, California

I could not get enough words to explain my enjoying your magazine. I only get old 1971 and some 1972 issues only from an American friend here.

I am producing programs for Radio Voice of the Gospel — and you know — so far I have used six of your articles directly. I believe you don’t mind using them for the public. I have told my audience from where I got the material . . . Put me on your mailing list.

Negussie T.,
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia

I just read the interesting letter of Mr. Silva D. from Malta. I found that letter to be especially interesting, as I had much the same experience. I was uncertain as to how I should act around girls — especially those that were more aggressive than myself. I borrowed a copy of The Missing Dimension in Sex from a friend and that book was just what I needed!!! It led me away from the ways that were tempting me and focused my interest where it should be — on God!

I realized that I could not truly love those of the other sex without having a love of God first. Thank you so much for lending direction to my life, and I am confident you will do the same for our friend in Malta.

Rusty T.,
Seattle, Washington

I enjoy your magazine. Truth nowadays is as hard to find as a gold mine, and your ideas are exciting to read — they make you think. Today that’s one thing people have seemingly forgotten. They eat the soup but don’t taste the vegetables. Keep putting the meat in the soup now and then.

James S.,
Hemingway, South Carolina

I have been in receipt of the Plain Truth for some 3 years and have received from it only dismal news about man, his environment, his politics and his belief in God aside from your view of God.

I prefer to wait until God does come and hear it firsthand what we are supposed to know concerning him and our worship of him.

We all basically agree that we don’t get the truth about man from history and the current news releases so how can we expect this “word of God” to be so accurate after hundreds of translations, views and opinions have undermined it?

I still will enjoy the Plain Truth as I will any magazine that deals with the issues at hand, but far be it for me to condemn any man for not accepting what has not been proven to be the plain truth.

When a man can do this, he will in fact be that God we’ve been so desperately looking for who will lead us out of the plain lie.

David V.,
Madison, Wisconsin

• The Bible predicted humanity’s traumatic problems, which is one of many proofs that its contents are accurate. It also gives the solution. Man either won’t or can’t solve the plethora of serious world troubles that threaten to ultimately destroy mankind. Result? God, in his mercy, will step in and enforce a lasting and prosperous peace his way. Who says so? God says so. There is no higher authority — all critics to the contrary.

I have been a subscriber for the last few years. I’ve been looking forward to each oncoming month of the receipt of the Plain Truth magazine and enjoying its different slant to the topics of the times. To put it simply, I don’t see how you can give and send this glossy magazine free to so many people. I did feel a little guilty getting it for nothing. I know it is your policy to not solicit any funds from the subscribers, but I am sending a money order when I may own. I’m still getting away with the best of the bargain. Thank you for sending me this magazine for the last few years, without asking or expecting anything from me. I do appreciate that opportunity of enjoying the magazine.

John D.,
Brooklyn, New York
Garner Ted Armstrong

Every broadcast I do fits into the broad spectrum of either a witness (i.e., the proof God exists, the fact of the resurrection, the "biblical misconceptions" programs, doctrinal programs, subjects such as baptism, repentance, the real Jesus, salvation, and the millennium) or a warning (i.e., the dozens of trends and conditions which sharply indicate that the great tribulation is just ahead of us now; the population explosion, pollution, the global arms race, drought, famine, massive disease epidemics, socio-economic problems such as race, crime, the economy, physical health, the high cost of dying, drug usage, divorce, and many others).

When I work with our television and radio team to prepare a whole series of telecasts, I always insist upon fitting in somewhere directly the dual "witness and warning" picture. Thus, even though I may be speaking of a purely socio-economic consideration such as today's soaring inflation and the trauma of the average middle-income family striving to make ends meet and going deeper in debt, I do so in the light of God's Word concerning the blessings and cursings of Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26, and the overall warning to people concerning this obvious trend toward a big depression which, if unchecked, could directly lead to events which could cause World War III.

Even though I may do several programs on economic considerations, they will always be done in the light of Bible prophecy, with strong warnings concerning the impending calamities, just as God's Word predicts.

I am diligently striving to fulfill the commands of God given through Isaiah ("Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" — Isaiah 58:1).

I am trying to combine the warning of an Elijah to the prophets of Baal, the warnings of Ezekiel to his beloved people of Israel, the warnings of Jeremiah to the people of Judah.

I am striving to fulfill the frightening and sobering commission of being a "watchman" for the millions who just do not see the enormous catastrophes which lie ahead of us. All this is obviously such a broad and monumental task that it defies description in a few simple words.

One purpose which is not a part of the overall thrust of the broadcast is to proselyte or try to get members for any group, church, or organization! If I were doing so, then I would be muzzled by the considerations of numbers and the size of an organization — and therefore handcuffed to a message which would be palatable to the majority. Remaining completely free to speak dramatically, soberly, challengingly and plainly about the staggering sins of God's people on this earth means I am completely unfettered and free to "tell it like it is" without fear of favor or respect of persons. □
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"SPARE THE ROD?" Is the administration of corporal punishment necessary for effective child rearing?

CHRISTMAS It's the "season to be jolly," a time of "good cheer" and "peace on earth"—or is it?

WORLDWIDE INFLATION How can we curb the creeping menace that threatens to turn national and world economies into chaos?

THE WAR MENTALITY Will nations ever be able to solve their differences peacefully? Or will military might remain the deciding factor?

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