THANKSGIVING DAY—WHAT SHOULD IT MEAN TO YOU?

THE VATICAN CALLS FOR EUROPEAN UNITY

THE TERRORIST EPIDEMIC
An actor on stage talked to two other men about "s.o.b." (he spoke the words) "like you" (pointing to one of the men) "and like you" (pointing to the other man) (pointing, with his thumb to himself) just as the final curtain was rung down. I was stunned to hear such words in a play, for I have two twenty- or twenty-one-year-old Ambassador College male students who were visiting in New York.

But when things like that no longer shocked audiences, they dished out to the public stronger shocks, until we have come to X-rated movies. Today, in most homes for even the children to see, if parents do not prevent it, the public is fed a diet of increasing violence, murder, sex, and themes undreamed of 30 years ago.

The once taboo subject of sex is freely discussed among teen-agers. My son Garner Ted explained on his television program about an embarrassing duty to teach his seven-year-old son a few elementary truths about the opposite sex. Perhaps you’ll miss it even in the headline.

And now, as we approach the very end of this 6,000-year age, human, man-created governments are being overthrown at the rate of one a month! What is the state of the world today?

You may read a headline in your newspaper reporting the overthrow of a government in Africa, Asia, or South America. Probably you do not read past the headline. Perhaps you miss it entirely. Anyway, it’s a long way from where you live, and its true significance is not impressed on you.

But with me it has been different!

When a country after country is overthrown — when a king, president, or prime minister whom I have known and talked with, one after another, is assassinated, taken prisoner, or forced to flee for his life as his government is overthrown, it strikes home to me!

It means we are in the very last days of this world!

Most people do not realize how past things are changing! When I was a boy, there was very little crime, compared to now. Violence was rare. Morals were high by comparison. Families stuck together.

All the world’s evils have multiplied since then. And today whole nations are coming apart — being overthrown — at the rate of one a month!

I have written before of how, in June of 1973, at a luncheon in New Delhi, India, the ambassador from Ethiopia invited me to visit his country and meet Emperor Haile Selassie. The Ambassador invited me to visit his country and have a meeting with King Mohammed Zahir Shah. Before I could arrange to visit Afghanistan, the government was overthrown, and the king fled into exile. Twice I visited Emperor Haile Selassie, but in August, 1974, he was taken prisoner in a military coup overthrowing his government, and about a year later he died.

In August 1975 I went to Santiago, Chile, for a meeting with President Allende, and three weeks later he was assassinated by a machine gun in the very room where I had the meeting. I had visited Prime Minister Kittikachorn of Thailand twice in his residence in Bangkok. A riot of 200,000, mostly students, overthrew his government, and he fled to the United States. I knew President Thieu of South Vietnam, but he fled to Europe shortly before the North Vietnamese took over Saigon. I knew these men. When their countries were overthrown, you may be sure I realized the significance of it.

One of the most recent government leaders whom I knew was President Rahman of Bangladesh, who was recently assassinated and whose government was overthrown.

But what about the world today?

In Europe, the troubles in Portugal and Spain may trigger a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire in the form of a united Europe. Leaders in Europe have long wanted a political-military union in Europe. They just have not known how to bring it about.

In Portugal, communists virtually took over the government, then suffered a temporary setback. But communists never give up or quit. If they stage a comeback, gaining the government in a country that has for centuries been Roman Catholic, Rome may take drastic action to unite all Europe.

In Spain Franco won the war against communism, 1936-39, and he has kept the government rightist. But recently Franco has been under sharp criticism from all over Europe for executing guerrillas who had killed Spanish policemen. Since then he has suffered a heart attack. Conditions are becoming ripe in Spain for a united, religious-dominated European government, with Prince Juan Carlos as king.

Since World War II, the nations of Europe have relied on U.S. military power to offset Soviet power. But they are fast losing all confidence in the United States as a world power.

Right now I feel sure that North Korea is planning an invasion of South Korea. If it comes and the United States does not go immediately to South Korea’s aid, the United States will no longer be recognized as a world power! And the present temerity of the American Congress seems to totally forbid any U.S. intervention again in Korea!

(Continued on page 12)
VATICAN ISSUES NEW CALL FOR EUROPEAN UNITY

In an unpublicized but highly important speech to his bishops, Pope Paul VI called for a united Christian Europe.

AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN OF DEBT

As total public and private debt nears three trillion dollars, each American man, woman, and child owes over $13,000!

THANKSGIVING DAY - WHAT SHOULD IT MEAN TO YOU?

Between football and turkey, the name of the day has lost its meaning. Thanks to whom? For what? How often? And why?

LIMITS TO GROWTH

Our reporters covered the first of five biennial conferences dedicated to the predicament of mankind: to grow or not to grow.

THE GREAT QUAKE: WHEN WILL IT COME?

We in California think often about earthquakes, but the time is coming when they may strike in unexpected places.

ORCHIDS AND ONIONS

The series on the human potential and the missing dimension in sex still draw the largest number of reader responses.

BUILDING HUMANITARIAN BRIDGES

Stanley R. Rader covers the 30th anniversary concert of the United Nations, conducted by Maestro Carlo Maria Giulini.

WHAT WE NEED ARE LEADERS - NOT FOLLOWERS

Our leaders don't lead, they follow, writes editor Garner Ted Armstrong in his regular "speaks out" column.

Kidnappings, assassinations, bombings, and threats of violence to public officials and innocent bystanders have become daily features in world news.

The recent machine-gun killings of two Turkish ambassadors in Vienna and Paris within a few days of each other underscore the growing violence.

Other recent attacks demonstrate the sudden terrorist proliferation: the disappearance of two American embassy officials in Beirut; the abduction of several U.S. military advisors in the strife-torn province of Eritrea in Ethiopia; the kidnapping of a British consul in Amman, capital of the same province; the bombing of downtown offices in three American cities all in one morning, supposedly the work of an underground organization plotting for Puerto Rican independence.

In the Irish Republic, Dutch industrialist Tiede Herrema has suffered days of beating and threats of death from two determined Irish Republican Army terrorists. At the time of this writing, he has not yet been freed, although police and army specialists have surrounded the kidnapper's hideout.

Almost daily, police, public officials, and businessmen (a Mercedes-Benz executive most recently) in Argentinia and other strife-torn areas of Latin America are kidnapped or killed by diverse bands of terrorists.

In Italy, gangland terrorism extorts millions from families of kidnapped prominent citizens. And while plane hijackings have been greatly reduced through intensive airline screening and the reluctance of more and more nations to avoid the repercussions from being refugee zones for terrorist landings, hijackings remain an ever present threat.

New Breed of Violence

Ten years ago, such radical tactics to exploit political or other grievances were rare, especially in the United States. Now no one is really safe. Lewis Hoffacker, special assistant to the Secretary of State, summarized recently: "The world has lived with violence and terror since the beginning of time. But we now are experiencing new forms of international terrorism which have reached the point where innocent people anywhere can be victimized."

Terrorist activity, moreover, is contagious. Close to one hundred organized terrorist groups are recognized in the world at present. They spread over the political spectrum of causes from extreme right to extreme left and bear not only the familiar abbreviated titles such as the P.L.O., S.L.A., or I.A.A., but also such rarely publicized names as the Basque ETA, the Croatian Ustasha, and the Tupamaros in South America, to name but a few.

Terrorist proliferation caused one Turkish diplomat to pinpoint the immense problem facing anti-terrorist countermeasures: following the killing of the Turkish ambassador in Paris: "God knows who is responsible for this... extremist Greek Cypriots, the Dev Gec, Turkish leftist movement, the Kurds, or God knows who. In any case they are crazy."

The ultimate fear of governments everywhere is the chaos which would result from nuclear weapons falling into terrorist hands as such weapons and technology proliferate.

Anti-Terror Laws Stymied

What are the odds of stopping international terrorist activity? It is not a positive picture, but not a totally hopeless one either at this point.

The hundreds of terrorist breeding grounds in the world are not going to quietly disappear. For there are too many examples of government corruption and repression — often the breeding ground for rebellious movements. Hatred, whether stemming from real or imagined injustices, is awfully difficult to control once permitted to blossom.

Only tough international laws supported by every nation against providing refuge and support for terrorists, coupled with quick punishment for those caught, can ever begin to turn the tide. Terrorists everywhere need to be regarded for what they are: first and foremost: MURDERERS. Anything else, any other attempt at justifying or rationalizing their activities, is, in the final analysis, a ridiculous folly.

The status of anti-terrorist international law, however, is in disgraceful limbo. In 1972, the United Nations Assembly Legal Committee rejected the proposal that member nations return terrorist criminals for trial in the country of their crime. They voted 76-34 in favor of a "do-nothing" study instead. Then the General Assembly turned around and invited the same man of one of the world's best-known terrorist groups to speak to them.

It's a weird world. Everyone decry terrorism and violence when it strikes close to home. But pressure groups in many nations do not permit official condemnation of terrorism as a principle, even if innocents must die.

Our world is plagued with too many nations and ideologies who abet and encourage terrorism as a means of "advancing the revolutionary process." Killers of innocents are called heroes, even, by some, and not murderers. They wage "liberation," not war.

Terrorism and the growing acceptance of violent means to achieve frustrated ends were actually foretold for our age. In the Bible one finds the amazing prediction: "This know also, that in the last times shall be added." (II Timothy 3:1-5).

Until terrorism and violence are rejected as solutions to achieve political results, terrorism will feed and grow on itself and endanger all of us more and more, claiming additional innocent victims. Will it have to take the return of Jesus Christ himself before the madmen stop?
Reawaken Europe's Christian Soul,
-=-===========================================~intnAh

EUROPEAN UNITY

Can Save This Continent

battlefield. However, ' attempts
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the address given by Pope Paul
seems to have been a continual
in Rome Conference

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 22, 1975

constant Theme
The theme of European unity
the expected role of the
Catholic Church in helping
bring it about - is not a new
one for the Vatican. Pope Paul
has frequently spoken out on
the subject during the 13 years
of his pontificate. His predeces-
sors, popes John XXIII and Pius
XII, also publicly endorsed the
creation of a European political
community with a supranational
character.

Pope John said Catholics
should be "in the front ranks"
of the unification effort. Antici-
pating the potential obstacles
on the road to unity, he also
advised that "the progressive
creation of European unity re-
quires the defeat of isolation
and narrow nationalism."

Carrying on the theme, Pope
Paul - just three months after
his election in 1963 - likewise
strongly endorsed the idea of a
united Europe, assuring that the
Vatican "is persuaded that the
great issue of European
unity is a duty that must be
solved positively."

He added: "We are also persuaded that the
solution of the question . . . calls
for the creation of a unified
mentality and for the diffusion
of a common culture. Without
this European unity cannot be
reached."

Moreover, Pope Paul sug-
gested that the Roman Catholic
faith "can be a coefficient of in-
comparable value for infusing
spiritual vitality to that funda-
mental unified culture that
should constitute the animation
of a socially and politically uni-
fied Europe."

Church's Role in History
Historically, the Roman
Catholic Church has performed
(Continued on page 3, col. 1)

"Only the Christian Civilization
Can Save This Continent"

The following are key excerpts
of the address given by Pope Paul
VI in Rome, October 18, to the
participants of the Third Sympo-
sium of the Bishops of Europe.
Present were 80 representatives
from 24 European countries.

- "Europe! There are many
ways of looking at it. But has
one ever been able to speak of
its unity? Until yesterday, it
seems to have been a continual
battleground. However, attempts
at political unification have
known their time of glory, if one
thinks of the Roman Empire,
then of the Carolingian and
Germanic empires that fol-
lowed. More profoundly, it

CHINESE TELL
SCHMITD: "UNITY IS STRENGTH"

"Unity is strength while separa-
tion invites bullying." Without
mentioning them by name, Mr.
Teng accused Russian "hegemonyists" of seeking to di-
vide Europe by force of arms.

PEKING, Nov. 1 (REUT-
TER): West German Chancel-
or Helmut Schmidt left here
today in no doubt about the
strength of Chinese hopes for
European unity in the face of
what Peking sees as Soviet ex-

World Lawyers Meet -
And Argue

WASHINGTON: The na-
don's capital was host in mid-
October to the largest confer-
ence of lawyers and judges ever
assembled. Over 4,000 of the
most distinguished jurists from
129 nations, including 48 chief
justices of their respective lands,
gathered at the week-long "World
Peace Through Law" con-
ference. Their overriding concern:
how world law can help solve
the grave problems facing man-
kind.

Philip Noel-Baker, winner of
the 1959 Nobel Peace Prize and
one of the main speakers, called
for the rule of law to re-
place the balance of power.

"It is through this spiritual
means that Europe must once
again find the secret of its identity, of
its dynamism, of the presiden-
tial service to which God is still
calling it, of the witness that it
must give to the face of the earth."

PEKING's message to Europe
came out loud and clear: Close
ranks quickly to find off the So-
viet militarists. In their
speeches, the Chinese were
clearly addressing Mr. Schmidt
not just as chancellor of West
Germany but as a European
leader. While the two sides could
agree on the importance of Eu-
ropean integration, they pre-
dictably failed to see eye-to-eye
on international détente, which
Peking denounces as a dan-
gerous Soviet trick.

But differences over détente
- Mr. Schmidt referred to them
as "nuances" - did not over-
skay the trip as it did the
visit of Secretary of State Kiss-
ing a week earlier. The chan-
cello received a remarkably
warm reception, especially in a
welcoming People's Daily edi-
torial which lauded the German
people in language usually re-
served for Peking's Third World
friends. □

Weekending November 22, 1975

... (Continued on page 3, col. 1)
America's Mountain of Debt

Bankruptcy for America's largest city is virtually certain; attention now turns to the mop-up operations. But while everyone has focused his attention on the financial worms which have devoured the Big Apple, a far more menacing problem has gone relatively unnoticed: The whole nation is living beyond its means. The truth is the American economy sits on a mountain pile of debt. Public and private debt now totals more than $2.8 trillion, about $13,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States. The total figures are so large as to be incomprehensible. But what is comprehensible is that they mean literally that every man, woman, and child in the United States sits on a mound of money that consumers, banks, and corporations have on hand with which to meet their short-term, month-by-month debts is shrinking.

As more consumers lose the game of financial brinkmanship, they are filing for bankruptcy in record numbers. The Bankruptcy Division of the U.S. courts prognosticates that “bankruptcy filings for 1975 will break every record,” a total of more than 250,000.

Corporations are doing much the same thing. Currently, most corporations have on hand only enough money to pay off about half of their short-term debt. Before 1964, they had the money to pay off all their short-term debts and still have some left over. Furthermore, the amount of cash on hand with which corporations meet the interest payments on past borrowing is trending steadily downward.

The squeeze has already contributed to the miserable state of the construction industry, which has had a hard time passing on high interest rates to prospective buyers. The greatest danger of all lies in government borrowing. State and local government debt now exceeds $200 billion, while the federal government is in hock to the tune of over $606 billion.

**Balloning Government Debt**

The interest on the national debt alone – $36 billion – is more than the entire federal budget in 1948. The federal budget deficit this year is $68 billion, money which will either have to come out of savings – and that means higher interest rates – or be printed up and that means inflation. In fact, the only really substantial difference between New York City and the Federal government is that Washington can always crank up the printing presses in order to prevent a default. The price of staying off a run of bankruptcies, either business or governmental, may well be a jarring dose of hyper-inflation.

To prevent the financial dominoes from falling, the Federal Reserve will have no choice but to create more money out of thin air. If X can't pay Y, Y may not have the money to pay Z. Either everybody goes broke or the government floods the economy with paper dollars. Wrong Philosophy

The ultimate responsibility for the debt pyramid – and the inflation it generated – rests upon the "have-it-now-pay-later" syndrome that came to permeate American thought in the 1960s. The idea was that a country could enjoy economic growth without first producing the wealth from which those benefits could flow. And when an expensive war was engaged in, the decision was made to buy the guns – but not to cut back on the butter.

Now the realization that the economy isn't one big rock candy machine is beginning to sink in. "Liberal" governors such as Michael Dukakis in Massachusetts and Jerry Brown in California have turned fiscal conservatives. Brown, in fact, believes that the basic problem is that there are finite limits to what government can do, and those limits have been reached.

Still, it may be too little, too late. California's Brown speaks of human nature as "constant" and "weak" – it is still susceptible to the something-for-nothing demagoguery which manifests itself in government budgets all out of proportion to what people are willing, or able, to pay.

The late historian Arnold Toynbee, who died recently, feared that democracies would be unable to cope with the economic cataclysms he foresaw lying ahead, and that, as a result, they would be replaced by totalitarian regimes. New York has sown the wind. It remains to be seen whether the whole nation will reap the whirlwind.

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<th>TOTAL U.S. DEBT:</th>
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<td>ON ITS WAY TOWARD THREE TRILLION DOLLARS</td>
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**Wrong Philosophy**

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- The idea was that a country could enjoy economic growth without first producing the wealth from which those benefits could flow.
- The decision was made to buy the guns – but not to cut back on the butter.
- California's Brown speaks of human nature as "constant" and "weak" – it is still susceptible to the something-for-nothing demagoguery which manifests itself in government budgets all out of proportion to what people are willing, or able, to pay.

**SIPRI Shockers**

STOCKHOLM: Convening with spokesman in the various government agencies here in the beautiful Swedish capital is an interesting experience. Regardless of whether one talks to the representative of the department of education or of social welfare, correction, economic planning or national defense, the reply is nearly always the same to the question of how Sweden has been able to achieve such a remarkably high standard of living. "Well, you must realize," comes the inevitable response, "Sweden has not been at war for nearly 160 years."

There are certainly many other valid reasons for Sweden's unique form of egalitarian prosperity – a country where the children play in fertile farmland and natural resources; a highly sophisticated industrial base; a talented, educated work force that has traditionally operated in harmony with labor and government, rather than in a hostile, adversary relationship.

But perhaps the factor of no warfare since Napoleonic times – despite a continuous and formidable outlay for national defense to preserve Sweden's neutrality – really is as significant a reason as the Swedes themselves contend.

In this light, it's significant that here in Stockholm is headquartered a unique organization, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI for short. It is an independent, international research group delving into the problems of peace and conflict, with special emphasis on disarmament and arms regulation. It was founded in 1966 by the Swedish Parliament to commemorate Sweden's 150 years of unbroken peace.

SIPRI produces many publications dealing in depth with the entire range of war and weapons topics from the problems of chemical and biological warfare through the international arms trade to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. But its most prestigious (and expensive: $25) effort is its annual yearbook entitled World Armaments and Disarmament. Its 1975 edition contains many sobering facts, including:

- The total world military expenditure for 1974 was $210 billion. This is about equal to the entire national income of the poorer half of mankind.
- The trade in arms to Third World countries increased by 40 percent between 1973 and 1974. More than half of the total arms supplies in 1974 went to the Middle East. 27 percent went to the Persian Gulf states alone, where a buildup of unprecedented proportions is taking place.
- 1974 was a record year for the number of countries conducting nuclear explosions. 35 nuclear explosions were conducted: 20 by the U.S.S.R., 5 by the U.S.A., 7 by France, 1 by the U.K., and 1 by China, and 1 by a newcomer to the nuclear club, India. According to SIPRI estimates 1,012 nuclear explosions have been conducted since 1945.
- The explosion of a nuclear device by India in May 1974 dramatically demonstrated that a country with a significant peaceful nuclear program can readily and cheaply produce nuclear explosives. Today, at least 20 countries could be in a position to do so. By 1980, there could be over 30.
- The strategic arms limitation (SALT) agreements concluded or discussed so far between the United States and the U.S.S.R. will not prevent these countries from doubling or even tripling their present warhead inventories. In addition, both the warheads and their delivery systems are being made more accurate, penetrative and less vulnerable.

In summary, reports SIPRI, "Events in 1974 repeated the now familiar pattern of relatively rapid progress in military technology and little progress in attempts to control the nuclear and conventional arms races taking place across the globe."

The SIPRI researchers deserve commendation for doing everything in their power to point out these grave threats to human survival. But are the world's political leaders paying any attention?  

Gene H. Hogberg

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 22, 1975
World Lawyers

(Continued from page 3)

tion, but in taking on sensitive subjects.

Julia Gibson of Liberia complained of continuing discrimination against women in politics.

Agostino S. Lindh, President Ford's special assistant for women, went even further, not spared the feelings of the President's office to gender-neutral members of the legal profession seated before her. "When it comes to our sex—justice is indeed blind," she said. She decried the highly visible "hypothetical" case involving a neonatal cutoff who was to be returned to an international court of justice.

A distinguished panel of seven judges, each the chief justice of his own nation, heard arguments from both sides of the case. Each side tried to use the case, not only to support its interpretation of international law, but to make its interpretation prevail.

O beautiful for arms was not unjustified.

Even in the arguments raised in this "mythical" case could be the obvious and justifiable claim that the judges refused to rule on, because promising that some time in the future opinions by each judge would be written and published.

In the seminar dealing with international terrorism, one speaker touched off a row by denying that acts of Palestinian groups could be termed terrorism. A violent act is not a terrorist act when it is for the rights of man," he declared. Ram B. Jethmalani of India protested the tone and content of that statement, saying it was not consistent with WFTU principles.

Main Problem: National Sovereignty

Charles S. Rhyne, founder and president of the World Peace Through Law Center in Washington, site of the conference, had said in his opening speech: "We have presented in the past the problem of facing mankind. We ask you: How can law help solve them?"

The federal government should institute immediately a gun stamp program for the poor. The program would work as follows: A family of four making less than $6,000 a year would apply for gun stamps at the local post office.

All the head of the family would have to produce his income tax return, and if, as it used to be, he qualified as a "needy case," he would be given the equivalent of $200 in gun stamps for which he would have to pay the cost. The gun store would be reimbursed by the government for the stamps at 100 cents on the dollar.

Some people might argue that the public would take advantage of the program and use the stamps to buy cheap guns and pocket the rest of the money. But while there may be some abuses of the gun stamp program, it would be still be the best and cheapest way of seeing that no American citizen, no matter what his financial status, would be deprived of his right to bear arms.

As Philip Jessup, a former judge of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, admitted: "We are looking for steps which can be taken which will not upset the will of the nations involved."

Another delegate elaborated: "Some states have taken the ten years I've been coming here. Not much will change in the next ten years unless we face the question of political will."

Anticipating this sort of stalemate in the proceedings, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger told his peers that "if those conferences produce no other accomplishments, the event itself is of great importance in this troubled world."

Burger went on to show the way to potential accomplishments, drawing upon the experience of the United States whose success, he said, "could not have been done without an acceptance by the rest of the thirteen states of a rule of law superior to each state."

The federal government's gun stamp program is working. Gun stamps will bring dignity and joy to the poor. The next question is cost. Can the United States afford to keep gun stamps in service? The answer is yes. For one thing it will be a big boost to the handgun industry, which is suffering a huge loss by the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs for people. It will also encourage new ammunition factories to be built in depressed areas. A subsidized gun program in this country will give manufacturers an incentive to speed up production, and will guarantee them a profit in lean years when weapon sales are down.

So not one poor but everybody will benefit from gun stamps. The country can boast it has done all for its people until it arms everyone. And if the poor people do not really care for the plight of the poor, as Harrold B. Carter. of the NRA does, well, that's up to your congressmen today.
THANKSGIVING DAY
What Should It Mean To You?

by Eugene Walter

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?

I

ea 1630 the little 350-ton Artesia was plowing westward through the rough Atlantic to the Massachusetts coast. From its deck John Winthrop preached a striking sermon that accurately predicted America's future.

"Wee shall be," prophesied Winthrop, "as a City upon a Hill, the Eyes of all people are upon us; see that if wee shall deal falsely with our god in this worke wee have undertaken and soe cause him to withdraw 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. These early settlers seemed to grasp that they were being given very special opportunities, special blessings— and special responsibilities. For all this, the indications are, many were grateful.

God and Thanksgiving Day

The first "Thanksgiving Day" originated with the festival held by Plymouth Colony in December 1621 in gratitude for a successful harvest. The Pilgrims from England had landed at Plymouth Rock in December 1620 and had endured a hard year. On that first "Thanksgiving Day" they thanked God that they were still alive and had food to eat. Some of the Pilgrims recognized God as the source of their blessings. They held that first "Thanksgiving Day" in gratitude and praise to God. Many Americans have forgotten this. Many probably don't even think of God on Thanksgiving Day, much less actually pray to him and give thanks.

For too many Americans, Thanksgiving Day has become just another holiday on which friends and family come together to glut themselves with too much food and drink. God is left out of the picture. He is not acknowledged as the source of all blessings; yet, the Bible, God's inspired Word, says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). Christ himself said, speaking of the Father God, "He makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45, RSV).

Even though many may not really believe it, God is the source of their life and every good thing they enjoy. God blesses even the wicked with many of the basic necessities of life.

From the genuine gratitude of the first Thanksgiving Day, the real meaning of this festival has gradually deteriorated throughout American history.

The History of Thanksgiving

Remember, in 1621 the first American thanksgiving was held by Plymouth colony. It was observed in gratitude for the end of a difficult year and a bountiful harvest. The native foods—fruits and vegetables, wild turkeys, pumpkins and such—constituted the fare of that first thanksgiving day and became the traditional food for the day.

In succeeding years, thanksgiving festivals became very popular in New England. The colonists celebrated thanksgiving days in recognition of such happy events as good harvests and victories over Indians.

During the 19th century, an increasing number of states observed the day annually, each appointing its own date. Many Thanksgiving days in recognition of such happy events as good harvests and victories over Indians. In the years that had passed since John Winthrop's prophetic sermon, America had truly become the "City upon a Hill." As the Civil War ended, the downtrodden masses of the world looked expectantly to America as the new land of hope and opportunity. Immigrants from many lands arrived on American shores to try to catch the American dream.

Presidential Proclamations

Thanksgiving Day has been preserved and passed on to us by Presidents who believed in God and the Bible as the source of national greatness and integrity. George Washington in 1789 issued the first presidential thanksgiving proclamation in honor of the new Constitution. He said, "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

How many Americans really believe this and give God thanks for the Bible? Sadly, most Americans don't even read the Bible. They certainly don't acknowledge it as God's inspired Word by which Presidents should rule nations.

A leader of a nation should study the laws of the Bible to be able to properly and wisely rule. Abraham Lincoln believed this. He said, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.

He knew that material prosperity was bringing the problems and pitfalls that John Winthrop had so vividly foreseen.

Lincoln's Sober Warning

"We find ourselves," Lincoln said, "in the heart-stirring possession of the fairest portion of the earth, as regards fertility of soil, extent of territory, and salubrity of climate. I. . . find ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquisition of them."

On April 30, 1863, President Lincoln 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 by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. . . . We have been the recipients of the choicest blessings 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 the God who has prospered us."

Thus, 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. The 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

In the years that followed Lincoln, America rose to become the greatest single power and the most wealthy nation this world has ever known.

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

But today America is torn by strife and division. We have no national goal. We have recklessly squandered our fabulous wealth and indecorably polluted our beautiful land.

Greed, selfishness and ingratitude form the warp and woof of society. "Has the American Dream become the American darning stump?" is a formula for self-
Read any good news lately?

What is real good news?
Is it good news when delegates from around the world gather to discuss the food crisis, but do nothing about it? Is it good news when man talks of peace but prepares feverishly for war? Is it good news when people turn out in large crowds at football games and parades, and kill one another on the highways as they madly strive to make sure they get their fair quota of pleasure.

And where is the giving of thanks in Thanksgiving Day? What happened and what is continuing to happen? Why is America fast losing its reputation as a "City upon a Hill"?

A Timely Warning

You, as a nation today, are in serious trouble. Again, we have forgotten God and he is beginning to withdraw his blessings from us. Notice this dire warning from God given to the ancient nation of Israel: "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied . . . And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou shalt at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish" (Deut. 8:11-13, 17-19).

Though God spoke this prophecy specifically to ancient Israel, it can apply to modern America today in principle. What does all this mean, and what does it have to do with Thanksgiving?

Just this: Our careless, godless, decadent way of life has stripped the value and meaning from the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

How to Make Thanksgiving Meaningful

There is nothing wrong with good food and family reunions on Thanksgiving Day. But all too many use these activities wrongly and forget the purpose for the holiday. Many glut themselves with far more food than they ought to eat; few, however, stop to give God thanks for this food — even on Thanksgiving Day.

Family reunions all too often turn out to be family brawls. Many a tense Thanksgiving Day with relatives ends in violence. And in recent years, there have been several cases of someone jumping up from the Thanksgiving dinner table to grab a gun and shoot some member of his or her family.

Millions of others push and shove one another in large crowds at football games and parades, and kill one another on the highways as they madly strive to make sure they get their fair quota of pleasure.

And where is the giving of thanks in all this? In the overwhelming vast majority of cases, it is nowhere to be found. What a travesty! Thanksgiving should not be limited to one day a year. It should be a daily occurrence for all of us. We all have much to be thankful for — all the time.

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

If we fail to do this and if we fail to acknowledge God as the giver of all our blessings, he will surely "withdraw his present help from us, and we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world."

What does Thanksgiving mean to you? What kind of a turkey do you plan to eat? Will it be "pavo real" or "royal pavo"? What is the origin of the turkey? Why is it called turkey?

By Charles J. Milazzo

Most Americans are acquainted with the turkey shared by both the Pilgrims and the Indians on a day of thanksgiving proclaimed by Governor Bradford of the Plymouth Colony in 1621. What most Americans don't know is the derivation of the word "turkey" and the manner in which the festive fowl became associated with the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

The story of the turkey begins long before the English landed on the shores of the New World. As reported by the Spaniards, the turkey was first found strutting around when Cortez invaded Mexico in 1519. At that time the Aztecs ate the turkey soaked in a delicious chocolate sauce.

When the conquistadors first saw the bird with its chest puffed out and tail feathers spread out in a fan, they thought it was a breed of peacock and named the bird "pavo," later promoting it to "pavo real" or "royal pavo." The "pavo real" was taken to Spain in 1525 where it became an instant gastronomic sensation. In Spain, the bird was bred and sent to other countries. As its popularity spread, a curious thing happened to the bird's name. The French called the bird a "dindon," meaning "from India," because the East was where all exotic dishes originated. The Germans gave it the name "kalekutisch hum." That term passed into the Scandinavian language as "kalkon." Much later, the English, confused by the various names given the delectable bird, placed the fowl's origin as halfway East, which came to Turkey, and so "turkey" it was called.

Some American naturalists believe that the word may have come from one of the turkey's calls: "tur, turc, turc." One historian says the word may have spread to the colonists from the American Indian's name for the bird, supposedly "fitzke." Be that as it may, the Pilgrims perpetuated the word by calling it turkey. Forever lost in history is the Aztec's name for the turkey — guacholotl.

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LIMITS TO GROWTH

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cstimring nature, catastrophes are

the book "Limits to Growth". Mitchell Energy and Development Corpora-

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Perhaps the most vociferous exponent of growth is Herman Kahn, founding di-

Forrester of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As Dr. Forrester put it, "Perhaps the real evidence of how far the limits to growth idea has penetrated our culture is the fact that you are attending a limits to growth meeting in [America's boom town] Houston, Texas."

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GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS

In our August 23 issue, we digested the two prevalent outlooks regarding mankind's future survival on planet earth. One was the Limits to Growth theory (the "bad news") and the other was the Post-Industrial Society (the "good news"). We invited our readers to respond to the scenario which they believed to be more likely. Here is a sample response.

The Good News

In response to the "Two Views of the Future" article, I consider myself to be a realistic, yet optimistic young man who believes in the potential of man to solve his problems. I feel, even though the present world situation is less than desirable, there are many good foundations on which to build and that man is one of the best places to start. And I am sure there are many young people in America, such as myself, who wish to utilize our energy to insure a brighter and more stable future for our country.

J. Richard Mullins, Fort Worth, TX

From time immemorial religious and alarmists have painted horrifying pictures of a soon-coming destruction of mankind. But just when it seemed the pessimists' predictions were on the verge of fulfillment, another new age of mankind would dawn. Doomsdayists claim that the odds are against humanity's survival. But odds are just that - odds. Pessimists love to anguish over supposed catastrophes and their potential repercussions. For example, in 1939 a World Bank study indicated that the world had only 10 more years of tin supplies left. Using the extrapolation methods of the alarmists, I would guess that by 2000 we will have a 30-year supply, and soon afterward, an inexhaustible supply.

It's true that crises often cause hardship and destruction in limited areas, but many times they also generate starting new discoveries and advancements. For one thing, man has a good chance to survive and to progress - if he's willing to expend the effort.

E. L., El Dorado, AR

A Balanced View

In your August 23 issue under the article entitled, "Two Views of the Future," you requested readers write in with their comments on these two views. It seems to me that rather than being an either/or situation that there is an element of veracity in both views. Both views have widespread support in various parts of the world, and it is a matter of which has substantive merit. It is reminiscent of the wheat and tares of Matthew 13. Surely no thinking person would views the whole of mankind's efforts as a failure. If I think man has a good chance to have progressed in his capacity for both the betterment of life, and the destruction of it.

Rather than saying it's this or that, I suggest we recognize our potentials of both productivity and destructiveness, and set about to neutralize the one while holding the other in check.

Marvin T. Talbott, Leander, TX

Concerning your article, "Two Views of the Future," I believe that the "Good News" is more realistic. The pure potential of mankind is limitless. Whether the good news or the bad news, we have a real choice about how we are going to use the resources available to us.

Roy E. Barrosse, New Orleans, LA

The Bad News

I believe the Limits to Growth theory. I believe that human institutions cannot stand the strain of the other and change will be slow.

Willard Johnson, Population Study Center, San Diego, CA

I must comment that the column headed "The Bad News" appeals to me as the true outlook. It corresponds to the prophecies of the Master, and the prophets of old. In fact, it sets forth God's Plan - which should not - in essence - be called "realistic." Men is "fouling his nest" in every way, and these many violations (both physical and mental) have already earned the punishments that will come.

The penalties are being stored like "Grapes of Wrath," and are sure. Malus thus provided some helpful mathematics; but the real "clinchers" are in the grim words of the prophets...

The time comes close for tribulations; and then the Kingdom...

Lester S. Parker, Topeka, KS

Your article stated that those attending the futurists' conference were mostly old, but the present article was about the two opposing philosophies. I would say that the "Good News" is not accurate. The pure potential of mankind is limitless. Whether the good news or the bad news, we have a real choice about how we are going to use the resources available to us.

Whatsoever the solutions, their success will depend upon our willingness to sacrifice for the common good. The qualities of love, faith, trust and compassion will be to the limit. Many of your readers still possess these necessary tributes, but I fear that the majority of mankind does not.

Some cases in point:

1) Try as they may, the nation's economic experts can't cope with inflation because, among other things, the citizens are not willing to make the sacrifices that will be necessary to reverse the tide of inflation.

2) Hoarding of commodities that are in short supply reveals a basic lack of compassion and willingness to sacrifice.

3) Even when one's own health and well-being are involved, self-indulgence, temperance and logic lose to impatience, self-gratification, etc. - e.g., cigarette smoking, drug abuse, promiscuous and extramarital sex, and apathy toward seat belts and harnesses in cars.

In summation, we are living in a society that each day becomes more incapable of making decisions and accepting challenges that could at least forestall the forthcoming "discontinuity" of which Lester Brown writes.

For decades now, we have heard people warn us about regimentation and surrender of liberties which could lead us to a future like Orwell's 1984. I find it ironic that because we underestimate some of our liberties we could condemn our children and the unborn generations to live in a future "civilization" which we might look upon 1984 as a pleasant alternative.

H. Kenton, East Liverpool, OH

In reading your article in the August 23 Plain Truth on "Two Views of the Future," you asked for our views, and you got mine. I tend to sway toward the bad...I've heard all that good news before, about how modern and space-minded everything was to be in, get this, 1975! And have things really changed for the better? There are still slums, pollution, hunger, pressures from rising prices, drugs, broken homes...even more out-of-proportion than 25 years ago.

I say that all the good news predicted for the man in the future will probably turn into bad news, for everything man has done, without God, has eventually turned and backfired on man's face.

I really don't want to be a pessimist, but I have to face a real world everyday. For life is real and extremely precious, and not some vision some man has concocted for his own self-keeping for the future...

Karen Henard, Indianapolis, IN
Food and Agricultural Limits

by Dr. Allen L. Stout

HOUSTON: Hunger and malnutrition are not due to limited resources — at least not according to "Limits to Growth" conference speaker Hans Linne. He says world hunger is due to inequali-

ties in the economics and distribution of food resources and to the inadequacies of agricultural technology in the poor na-

tion.

Linné, at the request of the Club of Rome, had headed a research team to study the possibility of feeding a world popula-
tion of twice the present size. He emphasized: "If we really want to elimi-
nate hunger in the world, we can do it." The general conclusion of his research group was that we could easily feed double the world's present population. However, the decisions needed to solve

the world's food problems are not so sim-

ply made.

The Green Revolution

As a result of the massive efforts of the "Green Revolution," food production surged ahead in the late sixties, reversing the earlier decline in per capita food out-

put. But as the seventies got under way, the food pendulum began to swing back. According to Lester Brown, president of Worldwatch Institute, the Green Revolu-
tion programs launched in India, Paki-
tan, Turkey, Mexico, and the Philippines "were simply buying time to get popu-

lation growth under control, time which most countries failed to use wisely. . . . The agricultural and nutritional advances of the last quarter century have ended in a resounding downbeat characterized by a falling fish catch, falling grain yields, increased infant mortality, falling food res-

erves, and price instability."

Brown explained that "prior to World War II, all geographic regions except Western Europe were net exporters. North America was not the only area of "surplus" production, nor even the leading one. All this has now changed. All but a handful of the 115 na-

tions for which data are available are now net importers." Only the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zea-

land remain as significant exporters.

The reasons for growing dependence on imported American food supplies are var-

ied. They include such problems as agri-
cultural inefficiency, political expediency, and the rapid population growth in poor coun-

tries, mostly Latin America, Asia, and Africa. For instance, while North America's population growth has slowed substa-
tially and now stands at 235 mil-

lion, that of the world's population has ex-

sncated since 1950 an explosive three percent every year to a current 340 million. Lester Brown suggests that "unless the world can move steadily toward a 1% rate of population growth by 2055, it may be very difficult to achieve a satisfactory bal-

ance between food and people."

Surging it all up, Brown stated that "unless population growth, over-

consumption, overthrusting, and ecological deterio-

ration are arrested, it will not be possible to maintain even the present quality of life. A very great deal more ef-

fort will be needed if decent living stan-

dards are to be extended to all the earth's people."

According to Linné's "most-likely" calculations, the number of hungry people in the world will increase from the present 400 million to 1.8 billion people by the year 2010. If the population rate is cut to half the present rate, the situation would improve, but still about 1 billion people would suffer hunger by 2010. If existing income inequalities could be reduced by half, total hunger would increase to "only" 800 million in 2010.

So although a reduction of population growth and income inequalities will both have a favorable effect on the future de-

velopment of hunger, they cannot solve the world food problem. Hunger will con-

tinue to exist and grow in magnitude in future years, unless food policies that stimulate domestic food production are intro-

duced in the developing countries.

Whether or not hunger will be eradicated in the coming years or decades does not depend primarily on nature; it depends on the choice and decision of man — particularly on those that are in a position to choose and decide.

The Great Quake: Will When It Come?

by William F. Dankenbring

Throughout history, mankind has been terrified by earthquakes. The an-
ciens believed earthquakes were caused by a whale, a giant mole, or a storm being imprisoned within the earth's inte-

rior. In the Middle Ages many people believed an earthquake was a punish-

ment for sin and a warning to the unrep-

entant. In the 16th century, an an-

chors suggested that statues of Mer-

cury and Saturn be placed on building walls to protect against earthquakes.

In modern times, however, the causes of earthquakes have been largely pin-

pointed. Earthquakes occur when there is a sudden dislocation of segments of the earth's crust.

Origin of Earthquakes

According to the latest geological the-
ory, the earth's crust — a thin sheet of rock about two to three miles thick un-
der the ocean and up to 25 miles beneath the continents — is made up of several separate "plates" lying on a rocky mantle which descends to a depth of about 1,800 miles. The heavier mantle rock seems to act like a very sluggish fluid, on which the crustal plates float. Wherever crustal plates interface with each other, seismologically active zones are created.

Some of the strain generated in these zones is released in the slow movement of the earth along fault lines. Occasionally, when stresses accumulate below and when surface rocks are "locked" to-

together, the energy builds up to cata-

strophic levels. Eventually, the breaking point is reached. The fault can absorb no more energy. The retarding rocks rupture, the sides of the fault slip rap-

idly with respect to each other until equilibrium is restored, and a major earthquake results.

If you live in an active earthquake zone, you can expect to experience se-

veral earthquakes during your lifetime. Whether or not you will experience a major or catastrophic quake, no one knows.

For instance, Dr. Clarence Allen of Caltech believes that the chances are one in four that some major earthquake will shake the earth in the years ahead. "What' will be the signal for your come-

ning and the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3-4). The New English Bible is quoted above and throughout the article.

Jesus then told them specific events

which would lead up to his second com-
ing to the earth. He declared: "For na-
tion will make war upon nation, kingdom upon kingdom; there will be famines and earth- 

quakes in many places. With all these things the birth-

pangs of the new age begin."

He was speaking of notable earth-

quakes which themselves will merely be forewarnings of one last night's great qu-

ake, occurring when Jesus returns and sets foot on the Mount of Olives.

The prophet Zechariah records: "On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is opposite Jerusalem to the east, and the mountain shall be clef-

it in two by an immense valley running east and west; half the mountain shall move northwards and half southwards" (Zechariah 14:4).

This same earthquake is mentioned in the Book of Revelation. The apostle John records that when Jesus Christ re-
turns, seven angelic plagues will be poured out on rebellious mankind. The seventh of these devastating plagues is
described this way:

"Then the seventh angel poured his bowl on the air; and out of the sac-

crament came a loud voice, which said, 'It is over! And there fol-

owed flashes of lightning and peals of thunder; and a violent earthquake occurred. None before it in human history, so vio-

lent. The great city sank in ruins; one third of the cities of the world fell in ruin; and God did not forget Babylon the great, but made her drink the cup of which was filled with the fierce wine of his vengeance. Every island vanished; there was not a mountain to be seen" (Revela-

tion 16:17-20).

The death toll from this biblically pre-
dicted quake would very likely soar into the millions worldwide. Such a quake would cause entire continents to sink,

 لديه, level mountain ranges, and re-

shape seas.

That great earthquake will surprise the entire world. Its day and hour will not be predictable, but its magnitude will surpass any other earthquake in human history.

Nevertheless, there will be a ways to escape the devastating effect of this earthquake.

Jesus Christ warned in advance over 1900 years ago: "Keep a watch on your own souls; do not let your minds be dulled by dissipation and drunkenness and worldly cares so that the great Day comes upon you suddenly like a trap; for that day will come on all men, wherever they are, the whole world being in a state of alert, praying at all times for strength to pass safely through all these imminent troubles and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

If you wish to escape many of the calamities which will one day unexpect-

edly strike the earth, you'd better be seeking God's will and obeying him. At that time God will be a person's only real hope. A psalmist beautifully and poetically described what can happen for those who trust in God and his

Lord is a safe retreat; you have made the Most High your refuge. No disaster will befall you, no calamity shall come upon your home" (Psalm 91:7-10).
A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to Armageddon

By Jeff Calkins

Back in the mid-sixties, some of us (confession: me too) didn't think America would make it this far, i.e., within months of being able to consummate our 200th birthday. The vision of accelerating disintegration amidst an orgiastic display of violence and moral rot was so vivid in our minds that even the most gloomy prognosis can fail. It is not inevitable that the United States collapse.

The experience of the ancient Assyrian city-state of Nineveh sets the optimistic precedent. Nineveh was the destination God had in mind for the prophet Jonah, who was instructed to warn Nineveh of its impending doom. At first, Jonah tried to flee from his assignment, but after spending 72 hours inside a whale (or "great fish," or whatever), he got the divine hint and eventually descended upon the ancient Assyrian capital with the proclamation: "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4).

And then a funny thing happened. The city took him seriously. They actually repented, and turned away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? (Jonah 3:8-9.)

The king of Nineveh, even without the modern custom of interminable prayer breakfasts, initiated the repentance. His legislation specified that man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God; yes, let them every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? (Jonah 3:8-9.)

The story has a deservedly happy ending. And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not (Jonah 3:10).

God, of course, is no more inclined to despire the downfall of modern-day America than he did the downfall of ancient Assyria. The prerequisite is the necessity for a similar nationwide moral revolution.

Such a revolution entails a willingness to call certain practices evil. It might be termed in academic circles as the "restoration of the concept of sin." This radical idea would storm the stodgy bastions of immorality: whole entertainment empires might suffer, and some theologians might even be constrained to stop masquerading every clear moral directive they have the personal misfortune to stumble across in the Bible.

Given today's jaded moral climate, the experience would be exhilarating. Honesty would come back in style. The streets might be safe for people to walk in at night — without a police escort. Families would experience the fresh, new benefits which come from staying together.

There is, after all, hope! The moral revolution of the Nineties just may be the historical precedent upon which America can base her bicentennial — or tricentennial.

It's a worth-while praying for.
In the Middle East we have a temporary agreement Secretary of State Kissinger worked out between Egypt and Israel. At best, it will be temporary. It is under attack by guerrilla leader Yassir Arafat and other Arab nations. Biblical prophecies show that the Middle East around Jerusalem will be the focal point of war and world trouble from now until the end of this age. And that is rapidly growing close.

Violence has been continuing daily in Beirut. Violence has continued in Northern Ireland. And that Catholic-Protestant battle reaches into London. Recently in London I went over to Harvard's department store. It was about 3:30 in the afternoon. I found all doors closed, and a group of people accumulating to enter. There had been a bomb scare. Later, when the doors opened, I found the official I wanted to see, white and shaken. He said, "This is the second bomb scare in this store," he said, "and the last time this bomb exploded caused a lot of damage.

Yes, one way or another, I personally am made very much aware of the troubled state of this world. And the troubled state of the world is rapidly becoming more and more troubled. At this point, if you realize the true significance of this world trend, you will do well to notice—and heed—some of the numerous biblical prophecies foretelling this very time.

When Christ walked on this earth, His disciples asked Him when the end of this present age would come and what sign would signify it. This is really the pivotal point—the center and the crux—of all New Testament prophecy. In answer, first He warned them of false gospels being proclaimed, in His name, and deceiving the many—that is, the world, as a whole. During the first century, the gospels that Christ proclaimed had been sabotaged, and the world of that time had turned to another gospel (Galatians 1:3-4). But, continued Jesus, "... this gospel of the kingdom of God shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end of this age come."

The word "gospel" mean "good news." Jesus came as a messenger from God (Malachi 3:1), and His message was the good news of the coming kingdom of God. His message was the announcement that the kingdom of God is coming and will bring as world peace at last (Mark 1:15). The kingdom of God is the government of God over whom Christ was born to be the king (Luke 1:33-33; Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 11:15). The great—world-famous scientists say that the only hope for the world now is a world super-governor to rule all nations! And that is precisely what Christ announced—that was His message by the gospel.

I began proclaiming that message—announcing the soon-coming kingdom of God to rule all nations in 1934. That gospel had never been proclaimed to the world since the century B.C. Instead a message about the messenger was proclaimed—but not His message—Galatians 6:7-10.

Through Plain Truth, by radio and television, and by personal proclamation, THAT gospel is now going to the world! That means that the end of this present world is imminent.

Following Jesus' answer to the sign just prior to that end, and Christ's return to earth, He foretold the time of trouble this world is now heading into. (Daniel 12:1,2).

Never have world conditions been as bad as they now are. We are rapidly heading into this "great tribulation."

The prophet Jeremiah foretold it as the time of the end, both on America and the British nations (Jer. 30). The prophet Daniel described it as coming just before and the "first resurrection." "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life..." (Daniel 12:1,2).

Great national punishment is foretold for the British and the United States. Why? Let the prophet Isaiah answer. Speaking of our people, the Eternal God says: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Eternal hath spoken. I have nourished, and brought up children, and children of men: I have even fed and satisfied as a man doth eat withal: but they have rebelled against me. They are adders that speak fables, they are snakes that swallow dust, saying, "He that thou hast reproved is no prophet;" (Isaiah 63:17,18). And again: "They have forsaken the Eternal, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward." (Isaiah 1:2,4).

There is the saying, "It is darkest just before dawn." It is already quite dark in this world. It is going to get darker! But THEN! Then will come the glorious kingdom of God to rule all the earth! (Isaiah 2:2). With the rule of the living God and with the basic law that is LOVE and full of mercy, comfort, and forgiveness. Then every man will learn to have outgoing concern for the good and the welfare of others and seek to help, and share, not to take unfair advantage of, beast in every deal, rob, cheat, deceive, and harm. The fact that you rejoice is evidence that a happy, peaceful world tomorrow is MINE! VERY NEAR!.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 22, 1975
Politicians—Turning Off the People

by Liam Nolan

The author is a noted writer and radio commentator in Ireland.

Turn nasty on a child or animal often enough, and they will soon realize that you are not to be trusted. They'll give you a wide berth and ignore you. That, I believe, is what has begun to happen on a huge scale with people relative to politicians. The world is currently beset with politicians who have betrayed the trust placed in them. I made up to the Managing Editor one hot night in Dublin when we were discussing politics and politicians, I'd confine myself to those elected to office by the votes of the people, the politicians in countries ruled according to the democratic system.

Apart altogether from discredited elected representatives, there are enough other heads of state who were found to have done reprehensible things while in office to make China's Chairman Mao seem like thoroughly honorable organizations.

But since this piece came to be written as a result of a request I made to the Managing Editor one hot night in Dublin when we were discussing politics and politicians, I'd confine myself to those elected to office by the votes of the people, the politicians in countries ruled according to the democratic system.

It is worthwhile to go back and dig a little to unearth how democracy first evolved and to ask what it is: We bandied about the word blithely, but do we really know what it means, what its history was, where it came from and why?

Democracy has been defined by dictionary compilers as a form of government in which sovereign power resides in the people as a whole and is exercised either directly by them or by their elected representatives.

If you go right back through human history, you'll find that two main methods of government have been tried: One is based on force (the government of the many by the few, or even by one); the other is based on persuasion (the government of the many by themselves or by their elected representatives).

Emperors governed their ancient empires by force; they had their armies to back them up. The "common people" had no say in deciding their own future. But in Greece a new movement began around 600 B.C. when some city-states set up the first democracies. The word itself comes from two Greek words, demos meaning "people" and kratos meaning "rule." The males of these city-states would congregate to discuss problems and debate major issues of their communities. (It is perhaps worth pointing out that women were not represented in these assemblies.)

The populations of these initial centers of democracy ranged from five thousand to ten thousand, but as populations increased, it became clearly impossible for all the citizens to gather together to make community laws. Thus, out of necessity, evolved the idea of representation—trusted individuals being elected to represent the people.

Inevitably, because of human inclinations, ambition and the desire for power, some of the representatives became more than mob leaders and abused their positions and power for their own selfish aggrandizement. Then it came threats from the surrounding powerful empire states, and little democracies were absorbed, defeated.

However, a hardy seed had been sown, and democracy as an ideal survived. In time the idea became fact once more as democracies were set up in England, in the Netherlands, in Italy and the Rhineland. They survived until the centralized European monarchies were established.

The British people are proud of the fact that since 1295 they have been electing representatives to the Parliament at Westminster. But though it may seem strange when reminded of it in 1975, it was only in 1832 that the "middle classes" were given the vote, while hundreds of thousands of women had to wait for that privilege until 1918.

Germany became a democracy after World War I. That democracy crumbled under the dictatorship of Hitler. It had its own dictator in Mussolini. There were other dictatorships, too, in Europe. Nor should one forget Soviet Russia which has a system in which all opposition parties were abolished and against only one party only.

Democracy has been called the noblest of political ideals. Among the most famous and frequently quoted words to come out of democracy (if you don't like democracy, let me tell you there is another one called despotism), is a statement by Abraham Lincoln. He said: "With malice toward none; with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.

Since Lincoln's time millions of Americans have died in the defense of democracy. So have millions of other nationalities. But now democracy is once more under almost unendurable stress—and again from the inside.

There is a growing cynicism among people regarding the manner in which politicians, great and small, famous and insignificant, have been seen to conduct themselves in the use of power for their own selfish ends. Heads of state, elected representatives, minor local politicians—a disturbing number have shown a fearful propensity for corruption, for besmirching their professions and for betraying the trust placed in them by those who voted them into office.

It has been happening all over the world. It would be too easy to name names. All of us could do it. But the very ease of being able to do so is itself a powerful indictment of the way in which man, once he abandons from standards of ordinary decency, gallops headlong toward the abyss.

If the switch-off of trust in politicians and political machinery increases, the danger is that the lack of interest will lead to anarchy, one of the concomitants of which is chaos. Politicians who are sick and tired of giving a damn (or who are suspected of not giving a damn) about morality are increasingly finding themselves devoid of support. But mere lack of support could very easily spread outward and onward to a wholesale distrust and lack of interest in politics in general.

And if that were to happen, we would have a situation in which the mass of the people would abrogate their political responsibility. For that to happen would be the height of a willing corruption of the advantage and security to all, but especially to democracies against despots—suspicion.

All right, let us use that suspicion wisely, because what Thomas Woodrow Wilson said in 1917 is even more appropriate now nearly sixty years later: "The world must be made safe for democracy."
Garner Ted Armstrong SPEAKS OUT!

What We Need Are Leaders—Not Followers

Do you voters realize the terrible troubles you're causing our politicians? You're causing no end of concern to the President of the U.S., members of his cabinet, challengers in the Republican Party, and about ten or so Democratic hopefuls. The major news media indicate that the voters can't seem to make up their minds on the issues and the issue bearers. "Voters themselves," according to one poll, "don't know what they want and who they like." And that, according to political analysts, is why we see all of the back-tracking on major issues in political circles, the shifting of stances and positions, and even head-rolling in top governmental offices. The reason? All over the United States, politicians are trying to gain popular support for the upcoming bicentennial elections.

It's getting increasingly difficult for the politicians to satisfy the people back home. For example, there's the issue of government spending. Everybody seems to agree—in principle: reduce federal spending; cut back on the giant government bureaucracy. And so taking the public pulse, politicians in Congress plus the presidential hopefuls and candidates jump on the bandwagon and proclaim: "If you elect me, I'll cut back the federal budget."

But then a lot of people, having second thoughts, begin to think: But the cities have got to be helped. We need to solve the problems of America's sprawling "slum-o" (the suburbs that have become slums) as well as our decaying inner city areas. We need to spend huge sums to modernize mass transit. We need to commit years of effort and billions of dollars to develop new sources of energy. We need to have this and that program to stimulate home builders, and any and every other depressed industry. And we need massive allocations of federal spending for the Pentagon which is always lobbying for the latest in ultra-advanced, unbelievably expensive new hardware. (At least we've got to be able to afford the weapons to give away to the Arabs so they can defend themselves against us in case we decide to go over there to take the energy we need so desperately.)

And so all the politicians that had to leap on the bandwagon to advocate cuts in federal spending perk up their ears again. And what do they hear? They hear screams and cries for more welfare, more food stamps, more programs to combat unemployment in total, more federal spending, not less.

So now we see this problem facing a politician who wants to perpetuate himself in an office. He's got to leap back in the other direction, put on a different hat, and promise: "Okay, we'll help you out."

The trick is the public also wants a tax cut. But how are you going to take away revenues from the federal government and still leave the government with enough money for all these programs the people want? You can see why the politicians are in turmoil these days. They just don't know where to leap next.

Back in 1967 or early 1968 the press was buzzing about Lyndon Johnson's chances for reelection (before his dramatic announcement that he would not run again.) It was reported in the political gossip column of one news magazine that the Vietnam War would very quickly be wound down because President Johnson wouldn't dare face the voters with a war on his hands!

To me that was an indictment; I'm not trying to tell all of us that a President can either start or end a war based upon the will of the voters— that he can either start or stop a war depending upon what is politically expedient, depending upon the exigencies of the moment?

What a Leader Does

If I sense things correctly, I think the voters of the United States are looking for real leaders. But they don't see any on the horizon. A leader innovates. A leader creates. A leader has vision. A leader solves problems promptly when they arise, or even better, before they arise, whenever possible.

Why don't we see politicians gathering facts, accumulating data, going to counselors and advisors and boards and groups of people who are intelligent and knowledgeable in major problem areas—such as the economy, agriculture, energy, foreign affairs—studying, really educating themselves, coming to form convictions and conclusions from those studies—not from shifting public opinion—and then telling the public where they stand?

There may be many different proposed solutions for a problem as there are people studying the problem. But the point is that those studies, that advice, should be the opinion formers, not an emotional and vacillating public. A man of strong conviction, a man of purpose, of determination, would come to conclusions based upon the facts as he knows them and as they're available to him. And he would be able to articulate those beliefs. You, the voter, would then know exactly where that politician stood. You could then vote depending exactly on whether you liked his position on major issues. But that's not the vast majority of our politicians operate these days.

One year before the 1976 election both parties are confused and uncertain," says one news article. "Politicians don't know where to jump to satisfy public opinion." It says: "The way of peace they believe in no matter what the consequences are— even if it threatens to cost them an election. They should let people know where they really stand— not scramble frantically to find out and get behind what the majority wants. They should believe it or not, what people want might not always be good for them. 
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