

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

After a very small increase in income for December, January started off very well with a 15.5% increase over the previous January. This is encouraging for the beginning of a new year and is several percentage points above projected income. As a result, our bank balances have increased a little more than expected for the month. We hope and pray that this trend continues, or even improves. The reserves need to be higher, as I have mentioned several times previously.

We are watching departmental expenses carefully and are pleased to report that they were below budget for January. It is hoped that they will remain under budget throughout the year.

During the recent Regional Directors Conference, most of the business managers from the regional offices were also able to attend. On the last Friday of the meetings, they, along with some of the Regional Directors, were taken on a tour of the Accounting, Personnel and Data Processing Departments. This gave them an opportunity to meet some of the people they regularly interface with by mail or phone. They were also able to see the other employees at work and to observe our data processing equipment in operation.

Afterward there was a seminar relating to business and financial subjects of interest to all. Topics covered included banking, data processing, budgeting, accounting and auditing. We believe this information will enable all offices to function more uniformly and work together as a worldwide team.

During December, auditors from Arthur Andersen were on campus doing preliminary work on the 1984 audit. During January they were gone, but they have now returned to complete their work. Not only does this require the work of their staff from now through April, but also the full-time efforts of five employees in our General Ledger section of the Accounting Department. Other employees here and in the regional offices will also need to do considerable work to complete this large annual task.

The auditors, in cooperation with our employees, will produce several certified audits covering the Church, College, and Foundation, both for the United States and worldwide.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Nineteen French-speaking ministers and 27 U.S. ministers and their wives have arrived on campus as we begin the 13th session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We are thoroughly enjoying the lively wit and charm of the French-speaking ministers, just as we did the Spanish-speaking ministers preceding them. It is inspiring to realize that God has given us such growth that He now has ministers in various parts of the world who do not

speaking English. Yet, we are all unified together by the common bond of God's Spirit, evidenced by the comradeship and fellowship during this and previous sessions.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong spoke to the group this past Wednesday afternoon, delivering a powerful and inspiring message about our calling to be a part of God's coming government. He stressed that God has not called us all just to receive salvation. The firstfruits of God's Family are now in training to rule and teach under Jesus Christ in the World Tomorrow!

I am glad to report that Mrs. James Reyer is back home and feeling better. However, she still needs our prayers for increased strength and her complete recovery.

I want to thank all of you again for your prayers for the success of the recent Regional Directors Conference. As I mentioned last week, it is obvious that God heard those prayers. The prayers of God's people are likened in the Bible to sweet incense coming before His throne. God appreciates our heartfelt, meaningful prayers. He will hear us and give us the things we ask for if they are according to His will and if we are striving to please Him. One tool that can help us to pray more effectively is the WORLDWIDE NEWS. It is for the ministry and the brethren to use in order to know what God is doing through His Church. I hope we are taking advantage of this publication so we will know what to pray about wholeheartedly.

Through the Holy Spirit, each of us should be growing in the mind of Christ and becoming more and more interested and excited about the things that interest and excite God! What is God more interested in right now than His Church, which is doing His work on earth in preparation for the coming restoration of His government? As we develop the divine nature of God (II Pet. 1:4), our interests become more precisely attuned to the needs and growth of the work of His Church and our brethren, who make up the body of Christ. Our earnest prayers about these things are beautiful to God and are certainly heard (Matt. 7:7-11).

Prayer does make a difference! God wants us to grow in unity of mind. Since the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much, how much more the effectual, fervent prayers of thousands of God's begotten children? As we grow together in the mind of Jesus Christ, God is able to use us all more effectively as His instruments and to bless us all the more in doing His work. Continue to encourage and inspire the brethren to seek God always in fervent, heartfelt prayer! As Mr. Armstrong has said, "As an army moves on its stomachs, so the Church of God moves on its knees."

I also want to thank each of you again, on behalf of Mr. Armstrong, for your ongoing sacrifice for God's Church, and your faithfulness and loyalty to God. God is faithful, and He will not forget your labor of love. God has called you to a great responsibility and a difficult task. But with it He gives you the help, encouragement, and strength through His Spirit to carry on. As God grants additional growth, workloads necessarily increase. (Here again, we must be praying that God will add more laborers to the harvest.) But God will see to it that we have the wherewithal to accomplish the job. Ask God for help to always keep your eyes on the glorious goal He has set before you, realizing that He has called you to teach a group of those He is now preparing to rule all nations in just a few short years!

1985 Feast of Tabernacles in China (U.S. and Canadian Ministers)

Please remind any in your congregations who plan to apply for the 1985 Festival tour of the People's Republic of China to send in their applications immediately. The Festival Office needs to have all applications in Pasadena by February 20 so we may formalize our commitment to the Chinese government. Thank you for your cooperation.

"Double Deduction" Tax Benefit Continues One More Year

We have recently received a number of inquiries from U.S. ministers concerning the termination of the "double deduction" tax benefit for mortgage interest and property tax. Under current law the benefit continues for one more year. To help clarify the question, we are reprinting a statement that appeared in the July 27, 1984 PGR.

U.S. ministers who are living in homes they have owned (or had a contract to purchase) prior to January 3, 1983 have been given another year to include mortgage interest and property tax as an itemized deduction on their income tax return. The Tax Reform Act of 1984 has made provision to continue the deductibility of these items until January 1, 1986.

This means your "double deduction" benefit is available through the 1985 tax year. Even though your mortgage interest and property tax is paid with your housing allowance (which is exempt from income tax), you can still list these expenses as itemized deductions on your tax return. This effectively excludes another substantial portion of your income from income tax.

Those ministers who purchased homes after January 2, 1983 are not eligible for this benefit even during the current tax year. For them the benefit was terminated on June 30, 1983.

International News

From Mr. Peter Nathan 1984 was an exciting year for God's Church in New Zealand and the South Pacific. It got off to a thrilling start with a five-day visit by God's Apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, January 4 to 9. Mr. Armstrong toured the Summer Educational Program and spoke to brethren in three locations.

Other developments during the year included the placing of illuminated PLAIN TRUTH displays in the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch airports, and the installation of a new IBM PC-XT computer in the Auckland office.

On the media front, 1984 saw our first ever direct mail promotion, which brought an excellent 6.8% response. Four READER'S DIGEST advertisements brought in over 2,500 new PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions, and 368,000 newspaper inserts resulted in a further 4,100 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH. All told, 16,500 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers were added in 1984, an increase of 33.5% over the number added in 1983.

The GOOD NEWS offer to two-year PLAIN TRUTH subscribers elicited a 30% response. This added 3,000 new GOOD NEWS subscribers, doubling its mailing list.

Mail income increased by 7.4% over 1983, third tithe by 41.2% and holy day offerings by 37.6%, giving an increase in total income of 16.0%. White mail was up 56.5%, donation mail up 6.1% and total incoming mail up 1.2%. Outgoing mail increased 18.8%.

We're grateful to God for the fine growth He has blessed us with in 1984, and now we're eagerly looking forward to another productive year in 1985.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Sonja and I would like to express our sincere thanks for being able to participate in the third Ministerial Refreshing Programme. While sobered by the social problems facing America and our Israelite peoples around the world, it was so encouraging to receive positive instruction on how to prevent the problems from finding a foothold in Church congregations, and how to counsel those God is drawing into contact with His Church.

Truly there is no other programme that could regularly remind us of our own commitment as ministers, and give us the tools to fulfill our calling. We appreciate the time and effort you, Mr. Tkach, and many others give to make the refresher so rewarding.

Peter and Sonja Hawkins

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

Joan and I returned home from Headquarters on a spiritual high! It really is a blessing to be able to come to Pasadena to drink in the Ambassador atmosphere and rekindle the desire to push for higher standards in our lives. We pray that God will give us the wisdom to pass on to the Churches here those things presented to us so well in the Refreshing Program. Our thanks to all the men who were involved in the presentations and a special thanks to you, Mr. Armstrong, for taking the time to speak to each group of ministers coming to Headquarters. We know you are very dedicated to God, and it is much appreciated.

Jim and Joan Tuck

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed and benefited greatly from the third Ministerial Refreshing Program in December. It is very fulfilling and inspiring to go to God's Headquarters on earth and College every two years. It should help everyone to stay close to the trunk of the tree, and take back the same messages.

We were glad to see old friends and make new friends--making us more aware and closer to the work of God around the world! It was very inspiring to hear you, Mr. Armstrong, at a class lecture, plus two Bible studies.

Thank you again for the fine skilled teaching efforts. The many hours the dedicated teams gave in arranging tours and providing material is appreciated.

Ernest and Evelyn Hoyt

Comments From Monthly Church ReportsFrom the United States

CINCINNATI (SOUTH), OH--BOB LEAGUE: Mr. Armstrong's latest trip to the Orient was very inspiring and uplifting to all of us. God continues to give him youthful vigor to do His work on earth. We continually pray that God will lead Mr. Armstrong through new opened doors to finish this great work.

WAUKESHA, WI--JOEL LILLEGREEN: Members are very encouraged by the vigorous manner in which Mr. Armstrong carries out his responsibilities in spite of physical limitations. They can definitely see God's hand in the picture. There is much enthusiasm toward the PT newsstand program.

JACKSON, MS--MARC SEGALL: We have appreciated Mr. Tkach's updates and instruction in the PGR. They spark ideas for sermons plus keep us more solidly on track. Please keep them coming.

MERIDEN, CT--LARRY WOOLDRIDGE: The emphasis in teaching more about marriage and family relationships is doing a lot of good in this Church area. Many thanks to Dr. Zimmerman for the fine sermon he delivered. It really was very helpful.

WILMINGTON, DE--DAVID REGISTER: Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Harold Jackson's visit from Pasadena. It was very inspiring to the brethren. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach, for reinstating this visiting program. The added contact with Pasadena is needed and helpful.

ATLANTA (EAST), GA--KENNETH MARTIN: The brethren really enjoyed Mr. Jackson's visit to the area. They especially appreciated his explanation of the early days of God's working with Mr. Herbert Armstrong and how the Church has grown as a result.

AKRON, OH--BILL JAHNS: The Church was inspired by Mr. Dick Ames' visit to this area. It is always inspiring to have someone from Headquarters come to the local area and give an update on the work of God's Church. This helps us keep our eyes focused on what God has called us to do in this end time.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: The PMs that I am now dealing with are very deeply repentant. They have a true Philadelphia attitude--they're hungering for truth, responsive and full of enthusiasm. All the new PMs who have been invited to attend services have told me that the brethren immediately welcomed and accepted them and made them feel like they were part of a big family.

FORT WAYNE, IN--DARRIS McNEELY: The two public Bible lectures held in December resulted in several new visit requests. Many who attended were longtime PMs who had not responded to visits. Hopefully the lectures brought them a step further along. I feel the lectures were helpful for the local members. The topic I covered helped them reaffirm their commitment to the Church. The next couple of months should determine how much of the "sown seed" will grow and bear fruit.

MUNCIE, IN--RICK BAUMGARTNER: The members appreciate and are excited about the material that was presented at the Refreshing Program. Since most of the material that was given is so applicable to the local area, I am trying to cover as much of it as possible in sermons and Bible studies. There is a genuine excitement here about Mr. Armstrong's latest travels to China and other parts of the Orient.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Telecast Sets Another All-time WATS Record!

The Nepal special "World Peace--Mankind's Ultimate Dilemma" received an all-time high 15,992 calls--76% above the 1984 average. It was the third record breaker within the first five weekends of this year! Previous record programs usually dealt with prophecy or the Christmas and Easter holidays. This is the first time a program not covering these topics drew so many calls.

The huge response came in spite of WOR, the major cable station, preempting the telecast for a hockey game. We estimate that had the program aired on WOR, we would have had an additional 1,000 responses from viewers Sunday night.

Following are some of the reasons for this exceptional response:

- People are genuinely concerned about the subject of peace and were intrigued with the way Mr. Armstrong revealed it would come about.
- Mr. Armstrong took extra time to describe the publications WORLD PEACE --HOW IT WILL COME, HUMAN NATURE--DID GOD CREATE IT? and The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. In particular, a number of people noticed his reference to The PLAIN TRUTH article "Do the Dead Know What the Living Are Doing?" and asked specifically for this information.
- New stations are airing the program and we have improved viewing times for other stations.
- Extremely cold temperatures throughout the United States probably kept many people indoors over the weekend.
- Mr. Armstrong encouraged viewers to keep calling until they got through.

Mr. Armstrong's two previous telecasts, which were filmed in China, also did well. "Children--Key to the Future" (shown January 19-20) brought in 8,303 calls. "What is the Cause of Man's Problems?" (shown January 26-27) produced 9,665. Thus, in the last three weekends, we received 33,960 calls in response to the telecast.

Comments From Our Callers

Mr. Armstrong's programs filmed in Asia brought in many favorable comments. Because few world leaders and other dignitaries are granted an audience with leaders of the governments of China and Nepal, our viewing audience

was especially impressed by the warm reception Mr. Armstrong received. They also applauded his efforts in explaining to these leaders the true way to everlasting peace. Following are a few of the comments received in the past three weeks:

I don't know how to thank you--God first, and then Mr. Armstrong --for the wonderful, wonderful work he is doing in getting the true Gospel out to all the world! I watched him this morning in Nepal and it just brings tears to my eyes to realize what he is (and has been) doing for these many years. I'm on a fixed income, but I'm going to send what I can to help. I never miss the telecast and I receive great comfort and encouragement from Mr. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God.

O.R. (Corpus Christi, TX)

I've never seen anything like it. This program has brought a new dimension to my life. I don't let anything keep me from watching his broadcasts!

C.T. (Duluth, MN)

It's amazing that a man of Mr. Armstrong's age can spread the "good news" to places like China. He has a lot of wisdom and the dignitaries there certainly respect him.

M.E. (La Jolla, CA)

Today's program made a lot of sense! We should be teaching children the "give" way when they're small and not to always be on the receiving side. Otherwise there won't be peace in the world to come. The Chinese people seemed very impressed and satisfied with the message Mr. Armstrong brought them.

R.H. (Washington, DC)

I think that "The WORLD TOMORROW" is the most informative religious program on the air. It not only tells about God, but about the world too. I think it is a very good program for my children to watch so they can learn about our God and have a better understanding of this world.

M.B. (Fort Meade, MD)

The program today was fantastic. I loved seeing what Mr. Armstrong is doing. It was exciting to see the welcome that was given to him by the little Chinese children.

Mrs. W.C. (Blanchard, ID)

Great program! I couldn't move the whole time he was talking. I didn't even switch the channels when the basketball game came on. It was a very inspiring broadcast. Do you have any video tapes of the program? I'd like to hear it again.

T.W. (Dallas, TX)

I used to live in Hong Kong, as my parents were missionaries. I was really impressed with the program. It touched home. I know what he was talking about since I used to live there. The program was excellent.

R.S. (Joplin, MO)

Over 260,000 Respond to Semiannual Letter

We were especially encouraged to find that 261,597 people responded to Mr. Armstrong's recent semiannual letter. The letter also resulted in 10,000 new donors and 2,400 new co-workers.

In the past month, we also noticed a sizable increase in requests for the booklet PAGAN HOLIDAYS--OR GOD'S HOLY DAYS--WHICH? This no doubt was due to the Christmas booklet (containing a two-page ad and reply card for the booklet on the holy days) which was offered in the semiannual letter. Apparently this ad piqued the curiosity of many of our subscribers who now want to know more about the meaning of God's holy days.

1985-86 Calendar Being Mailed

Just a note to let you know that "God's Sacred Calendar" for the 1985-86 year has been printed and is currently being mailed to members worldwide. It should arrive in most homes before the spring festival. The theme of the calendar this year is "The Hearts of the Children." It is beautifully illustrated with color photographs of our youth programs being conducted throughout the world.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CRISIS ERUPTS IN SOUTH PACIFIC; THE "GOETZ CASE" The ANZUS defense alliance--linking Australia, New Zealand, and the United States--was plunged into its worst crisis on February 5 after cancellation of sea exercises that were to have involved the navies of the three nations in the South Pacific. A U.S. official in Washington said the "Sea Eagle" exercises were canceled because of New Zealand's refusal to grant port facilities to American ships capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

In Wellington, Prime Minister David Lange said New Zealand had no intention of pulling out of the three-decade-old alliance. But when asked if his Labor government would allow port facilities to be used by U.S. ships with nuclear capability, he replied: "No, we have our policy. If they (the United States) make it a condition, they have made a unilateral withdrawal from ANZUS."

New Zealand's anti-nuclear policy, which was introduced with Labor's election victory last July, was put to the test by the United States last week with its request for a port visit by the destroyer Buchanan. Wellington twice rejected the U.S. request because it said the ship was capable of carrying nuclear weapons. The government said that a ship incapable of carrying nuclear weapons would be welcome. The New Zealand policy, which bars visits by any nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ship, effectively closes its ports to 80 per cent of the U.S. fleet, military experts believe. In reality, the figure is 100 per cent since as a matter of long-standing policy the U.S. does not choose to inform ahead of time whether any particular ship is nuclear-powered or equipped, or is capable of carrying such weapons.

New Zealand's left-wing government claims that visiting nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships make the country a nuclear target in the event of war. Mr. Lange's position is similar to that of several municipal councils in

the U.S. and Britain which have declared their localities "nuclear-free zones." Mr. Lange in fact has pledged to introduce legislation soon to make New Zealand a nuclear-free zone. He would like to see the entire South Pacific declared "nuclear free."

While Mr. Lange has called his government's dispute with Washington a "smallish issue," the U.S. is not taking it lightly at all. The State Department is concerned that such unilateral action by an ally could embolden anti-nuclear, anti-U.S. elements in other key countries, from Australia to Japan to NATO allies in Europe.

Ironically, even though Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke wrote a stern letter to Mr. Lange warning him of the consequences of his action, he must tread lightly in his own country. In a rather embarrassing development on the eve of his current visit to Washington, Mr. Hawke had to inform the U.S. of his country's decision not to provide logistical support to a U.S. test firing of an MX missile, originally to have landed in the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand. The generally conservative Mr. Hawke told U.S. officials he was under extreme pressure from the left wing of his party to cancel Australia's involvement in the test. The State Department avoided a second ANZUS crisis by relocating the test to make Australian participation no longer necessary.

For a background on New Zealand's "peace activist" prime minister as well as what some claim to be a rather dramatic shift in New Zealand's public mood, here is a February 5 Reuter's report datelined Wellington, New Zealand:

Fan mail congratulating Prime Minister David Lange on his tough anti-nuclear stand against the United States is flooding into his office, his staff said today.... As the result of Wellington's anti-nuclear stand, Lange finds himself the pin-up boy of peace groups and many ordinary people.

It is an image which sits well with him. The former Methodist lay preacher has progressed in a few years from a back-street lawyer among Auckland's disadvantaged to a world political figure. Lange speaks of the government's "moral imperative" not to back down. "I have very few really burning convictions in political life, and being opposed to nuclear armaments escalation and their existence is one of them," he told a press conference last week.

Lange did not sweep to power last July on the promise of a nuclear-free New Zealand. He won more by default as New Zealanders put aside their basic conservatism in their anxiety to be rid of the long-serving Sir Robert Muldoon. But once in control Lange has proved himself a remarkably adroit and persuasive leader, according to political analysts....

In a country in which opinion polls are relatively infrequent, it is impossible to judge accurately his current support on this issue. In August last year a poll showed that 58 per cent of New Zealanders were opposed to visits by nuclear-armed warships, against 30 per cent who supported them. Twelve per cent had no opinion. At the same time 59 per cent favored visits by nuclear-powered ships...against 29 per cent who were against.

Lange himself had a pre-Christmas public approval rating of 70 per cent and analysts believe he will be riding even higher following the events of recent days. Certainly his popularity is at an all-time high in his own party. Rumblings of rebellion among the leftists were silenced by the hard-line stand, and all 55 other members of the government caucus stood to applaud him last week.

Analysts agree that Lange's stance appeals to New Zealanders. The isolated country of just over three million people is seen to be standing on its own two feet, telling the world's most powerful nation that it is not about to be shoved around on a point of principle, they said. The previous Labor government of 1972-75 generated much the same feeling when it sent a lone frigate to Mururoa in the South Pacific to protest against French nuclear testing, and helped force the program underground in 1975.

The conservative U.S. daily THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, as expected, took a rather dim view of the New Zealand government's moral posturing in its February 6 issue. The JOURNAL's editors urged "Kiwis" to look at the broader implications of their actions.

After months of hanging by a thread, it now appears that the ANZUS security treaty among Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. has finally unraveled.... A frustrated U.S. may follow through on its earlier threat to scuttle ANZUS and negotiate a bilateral pact with Australia.

The demise of this 32-year-old treaty wouldn't mean the end of the Western world. But neither would it be just another diplomatic sideshow. The West in general, and Pacific nations in particular, has a bigger stake in ANZUS than many people realize....

Allowing U.S. ships to dock is one of the few obligations undertaken by New Zealand as part of ANZUS.... In return, the U.S. agrees to aid New Zealand if it's attacked, while Australia plays host to U.S. defense equipment and a submarine base that could become Soviet targets in a nuclear war. New Zealand thus gets a lot for very little. Why should Americans want to defend allies who won't share even a small part of their defense?

And while New Zealand isn't now threatened by anyone, it's important to remember that this debate coincides with the steady buildup of the Soviet military in the Pacific. From modest forces a decade ago, the Soviets now deploy some 825 ships of all descriptions in the Pacific, including ships and subs with nuclear weapons. Mr. Lange's sentimental dream is that by banning U.S. nuclear ships New Zealand will contribute to world disarmament. But will the Soviets unload their nukes, too? And there's always the chance that some coup in the South Pacific might produce that region's first genuine Soviet ally.

As for the rest of the Pacific, the collapse of ANZUS would set an unhappy precedent. It would mark the first time we can recall that a Western ally had chosen in effect to leave a long-standing defense accord. Australia's growing anti-U.S. and anti-nuclear

lobby would draw support from this "success," and so would the pacifist left in Japan.

It's exactly these concerns that have induced most other Pacific countries to quietly urge New Zealand to change its mind. Australia's Labor prime minister, Bob Hawke, went so far as to send a stiff warning to Mr. Lange last month. Leaked to the press, Mr. Hawke's letter said that, "We could not accept...that the ANZUS alliance had a different meaning and entailed different obligations for different members."

The New Zealand action is upsetting the leaders of most of the island groupings of the South Pacific. Only the tiny nation of Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) officially supports New Zealand in advocating a nuclear-weapons-free Pacific.

The biggest concern is the growing might of the Soviet navy in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The Soviets have deepened the former U.S. port at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam and have stationed a sizable year-round fleet there.

The leader of the Cook Islands government (associated with New Zealand), Sir Thomas Davis, when asked why he disagreed with the nuclear-free policy, said: "I could agree with it if Russia came up with an equal and adequate programme. I see the Russian threat increasing daily. I see no reason for us to make it difficult for ourselves."

I'm sure there will be more on this building story in the weeks ahead. Suffice it to say that the defensive shield which has protected New Zealand and Australia appears on the verge of being torn down.

"No One Calls for Justice...."

One of the more sensationalized news stories of the day in the United States deals with the case of Bernhard H. Goetz. On December 22, Goetz shot four teen-agers in a New York City subway train. They had demanded \$5 of him. Goetz, who had been accosted and permanently injured before in an assault, did not wait for the threat to go further--he just "let 'em have it." It turns out that the youths, all blacks, had concealed weapons on them (sharpened screwdrivers). All four had criminal records. One youth is partially paralyzed, in a coma and not expected to live.

Goetz used a pistol for which he did not have a permit. (He had applied for one, claiming the need for self-defense, but was denied.) A Manhattan grand jury refused to indict Goetz on a charge of attempted murder, calling instead for lesser assault charges.

Goetz has been erroneously dubbed, in the press, the "subway vigilante." He didn't set out to avenge a crime--he merely wanted to ride the subway. Goetz has elicited a lot of support from New Yorkers who defend his action, noting how rampant crime and the threat to life and property is on the city's transport network.

In tapes broadcast on New York's WNBC-TV Goetz insisted: "What I did, I turned into a monster and that's the truth," he was quoted in the tape. "If most people would have been in my shoes they would have done the same thing."

"People have to fight back. You have to, you know. As I see it, if you don't you're just living, you're living like a dog," he said on the tape. "If you corner a rat and you're about to butcher it--OK?--the way I responded was viciously and savagely, just like a rat. In the past three years I have been attacked--if you count this one--I have been attacked three times and threatened twice seriously. The people have to have guns and yet the city tells you, 'don't you dare have a gun.' The legal system is a farce. It's a self-serving bureaucracy."

In his column in the January 7 issue of NEWSWEEK, George F. Will revealed the consequences of the breakdown of law and order in America's largest city:

One of the tangled topics is the moral status of what the man did. The other is how to characterize the city's rejoicing. Let us get the easy part over by saying, straightaway, that it is wrong "to take the law into your own hands," and the state should have a monopoly on the use of violence. But such moral near absolutes wobble when the law seems increasingly unable to cope with crude violence or the community comes to feel that the state chooses not to act vigorously against such violence as the 12,000 felonies reported in New York's subways in the first 10 months of this [past] year....

Social theories and their consequences--government policies--have been teaching irresponsibility: the poor are not at all responsible for their condition, men are not responsible for the children they father, women are not responsible for becoming pregnant, criminals are not responsible for their actions. Vigilantism is an individual saying: "I've got to be responsible for my own safety." Vigilantism is private enterprise in the justice business. It is apt to occur when public-sector institutions of justice fail on a wide scale. Public officials are right to insist that what the man did to the youths--at least three had criminal records--cannot be condoned. But officials should be shaken by the vehemence of the public's reproach, expressed in visceral approval of the man's deed. New York City is a welfare state. Its comprehensive solicitousness is expressed in hundreds of ways, from rent control through subsidized arts. But it has failed to provide an essential prerequisite of civilization--safety in public places....

Many New Yorkers are angry because they believe justice is a rare accident. They believe that few violent criminals are caught, that many fewer are convicted, that most of those convicted plea-bargain their way to leniency. That is true. In 1983 in the city there were 84,043 reported robberies. There were just 7,351 convictions, all but 663 by plea-bargaining. There were 26,808 reported felonious assaults, just 727 convictions, all but 61 by plea-bargaining. Persons dependent on the subway--a nightmare of spray-painted graffiti that underscores the menacing environment of lawlessness--can become desperate....

When a society becomes, like ours, uneasy about calling prisons penitentiaries or penal institutions, and instead calls them

"correctional institutions," the society has lost its bearings. If prisoners are "corrected," that is nice but it is an ancillary outcome.

The February 8 issue of NATIONAL REVIEW had a couple of news snippets in its "The Week" column, which compared the remarkably different approaches to law and justice in the People's Republic of China to that of the United States:

The Chinese claim great success for a decidedly nonliberal anti-crime campaign begun last year. Crime rates "plunged," says Peking, after more than five thousand criminals were shot. "It is good to have some people executed," says an official communique....

In 1983 (the last year for which there are figures) there were five executions and 19,308 murders [in the U.S.]. Guess which statistic prompted Tom Wicker [liberal columnist of the NEW YORK TIMES] to employ the word "bloodbath."

Correction

Finally, a correction and an addendum to last week's "Chunnel" story. To set the record straight, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand authorized detailed studies of a channel link at their summit conference in France at the end of November 1984, not "late last spring" as stated in a parenthetical insert in a TIMES of London article. In addition, the cost of a transchannel link is estimated to be \$3.3 billion.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau