

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

On Sunday, June 23, Mr. Herbert Armstrong flew to San Francisco, California, to attend the conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. Messrs. Aaron Dean, Dexter Faulkner, Herman Hoeh, Gene Hogberg and Ellis La Ravia accompanied Mr. Armstrong to the three days of meetings and activities. As you are probably aware, Mr. Armstrong attended the signing of the U.N. Charter 40 years ago as Editor of The PLAIN TRUTH. The details of his trip will appear in an upcoming issue of The WORLDWIDE NEWS.

Mr. Armstrong has directed me to have audio cassette tapes of the sermon given in the Auditorium PM this past Sabbath by Mr. David Hulme, Director of Media Purchasing, sent out to be played in all churches. In his powerful sermon on the subject of liberalism, Mr. Hulme explained the foundations of liberal thinking in our western societies, and how these values crept into God's Church in the 70s. He explained what liberalism (or permissiveness) is, and how to recognize it in our lives. Mr. Armstrong felt it was very important that all the brethren hear the sermon. As he stated in his June 25 co-worker letter: "We are in the time of final exams in God's Church, and perhaps we are not yet sufficiently tried and tested and proven to be ready to sit with Christ on the earth's throne. Perhaps WE OURSELVES have been holding the march of events up."

In the final paragraph of his letter, Mr. Armstrong emphasized, "Brethren, I have not been using these prophecies in vain. The united Europe must and will come. YOU and I are involved--DEEPLY! God's Church must first be made ready for Christ's coming. I call on you in Jesus' name to pray as never before that God's Church will heed and draw closer to him. Have we not been becoming lukewarm? Read the last part of Revelation 3. If we are lukewarm we shall be spewed out of Christ's mouth."

I hope that each of us as ministers is taking these statements seriously! Do our personal examples and the instruction we give God's people really reflect faithful loyalty to God, His Law and His Church? It is so easy to become lax, to let down. Don't let it happen to you! Now is the time to seek God! Stir up the gift that is in you! God holds you more accountable, because of your role as a teacher. As the Apostle James wrote, "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation" (Jas. 3:1).

Ask for God's help and you'll get it. Let your example and instruction be a shining beacon to your congregation. Ask God for His Spirit and mind to be able to sound a sure trumpet, not a weak or uncertain one.

Let us make diligent effort to encourage one another. When field ministers are able to get together, the opportunity to uplift and strengthen one another as iron sharpening iron should be fully utilized. Let such opportunities for ministerial fellowship serve that purpose, rather than solely as a social experience. Such opportunities may be rare for many of you, while

more frequent for others. But when you do get together with neighboring ministers for a meal, or exercise, or whatever reason, make it count spiritually! Let it provide the right kind of spiritual boost.

We are God's ministers, called of Him for His purpose. Our lives are not our own. The uppermost thing on our minds ought to be the restoration of God's government to the earth. If we're not careful, our conversation can reflect everything but that. We all need the spiritual lift that comes from God-centered contact with fellow servants of Jesus Christ. Of course, the social lift is important too, and many things may be discussed. But let's not overlook our responsibility to also provide some spiritual encouragement for our fellow ministers!

Let's also remember to pray for one another. Remember the trials, heartaches, needs and difficulties of the ministry worldwide and diligently support one another in heartfelt prayer. Thank you for continuing faithfully in prayer for Mr. Armstrong and all phases of the work God is doing on earth through His Church.

Recent Ordinations

The following men were ordained local church elders on Pentecost, May 26: William Davies and Wilhelm Mandel, Edmonton (North), Canada; Donald Pickenpough, Wheeling, West Virginia; Mel Rahel, Montreal, Canada; Jerry Stewart, Sherman, Texas; and Richard Taylor, Memphis, Tennessee.

International News

From Mr. Dibar Apartian With the spring Holy Day season now behind us, there is good news to report for the French phase of God's work! Total offerings for the first three Holy Days rose 19.7% in comparison with 1984. The total attendance worldwide was 2,329, an increase of 8.5%. The offering increase for Pentecost was an outstanding 31.3% over 1984!

My wife and I traveled to the Montreal, Quebec area for Pentecost, where the churches of Trois-Rivieres, Sherbrooke and Quebec City joined the hosting Montreal AM and PM churches. The assembled congregation totalled 824--a record attendance. They also gave a record offering.

The growth of the French-speaking churches in Quebec is very encouraging. Our ministers there have a hard time keeping up with the numerous visit requests.

During my Montreal visit, I held a ministerial conference for the French-speaking ministers and their wives. My wife and I also had the opportunity to fellowship with all the ministers, deacons and their wives at a dinner hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Donat Picard.

On Sabbath, May 25, Mr. Bruno Leclerc, an A.C. graduate, was raised in rank to preaching elder. He serves part time in Montreal and part time in the Val d'Or church.

As of May 31, La PURE VERITE was sent to 165,675 subscribers, an increase of 30.5% over May 1984. We have added 40,993 new names to our computer files, an increase of 35.1% above the first five months of 1984.

Circulation of La BONNE NOUVELLE DU MONDE A VENIR, the French GOOD NEWS, is currently 18,887, up 72.5% over last year. We expect circulation to shortly surpass the 20,000 mark.

Presently, we have 3,919 donors--up 29.8%--having added 1,105 new donors year-to-date. Co-workers total 2,062, 527 of whom were added this year. Part of the increase in donors and co-workers may be attributed to the improved reporting by various regional offices in conjunction with our new receipt system.

Our total membership is 1,423, up 7.6%; while the number of prospective members is 193, up 62%. Total income through April 1985 is up 9.1% over 1984, counting France, Switzerland, French Canada, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Belgium.

Mr. Bernard Andrist left Geneva on May 28 to visit Cameroon and Zaire, two of the twenty-three French-speaking African countries. We currently have 60 members in Cameroon and 31 in Zaire. In Cameroon Mr. Andrist has so far met 55 people in Yaounde and 35 at Makak. Unfortunately, we are still having difficulties in Cameroon (where services have been suspended for over a year) getting authorization to allow our brethren to assemble on the Sabbath. We used to have three churches meeting regularly--Yaounde, Makak and Douala.

We have just mailed 140,000 direct mail packets from the United Kingdom to addresses in France. Similar types of direct mail packets have worked well for us in Quebec. This is our first direct mail effort in French Europe.

Finally, we are happy to announce that Joel Meeker--1984-85 Student Body President at Ambassador College in Pasadena--has been hired as a full-time ministerial trainee to serve in the region of Alsace Lorraine, France, under Mr. Olivier Carion. Unfortunately, we couldn't give Mr. Meeker a year off to spend time with his new bride, Marjolaine, who worked in the French Department while attending college!

From Mr. Carn Catherwood The incoming mail figure of 10,537 pieces for the month of May nearly equalled the record set in the Italian Department in December, 1984 (11,082). May incoming mail was up 113% over the previous May and the year-to-date increase over the same period last year is 28%. Even with this very good figure, we have seen only the beginning of a surge of responses resulting from Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letter and three ads, one of them in READER'S DIGEST.

Nineteen prospective members were visited on a seven-day tour conducted by Mr. Mike Caputo around the spring Holy Day season. As has been the trend in past tours, there was lively interest shown in the Church and its teachings, with several of those visited well on their way toward baptism.

Mr. Caputo and his family will be moving to Rome near the end of July. They have been in Pasadena for the spring college semester, where Mr. Caputo worked in the Italian Department and was a full-time student. Having spent two years at Ambassador College in the mid 1970s, he now has non-graduating senior status. With Rome as home base, he will be serving the brethren and prospective members throughout Italy.

Also moving to Rome is Mr. Carmelo Anastasi, an Italian citizen who attended Ambassador College for one year and now serves the department from

his home in Sicily. He will continue to translate TV scripts and look after donation mail, as well as supervise the mailing of the PV in Italy.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from Zimbabwe! We arrived back here safely on the 11th and were immediately plunged into Sabbath services, counselling, clubs and Pentecost! It's good to be back!

My wife Glen and I would like to thank you and all those whose contribution to the MRP has made it such an outstanding success. We were privileged to attend the MRP for the first time nearly two years ago, and the programme was very fine then--but this year we thought it was doubly as good!

Like the Feast, it really does get better--and it places a commensurate responsibility upon us to derive the maximum benefit from all that is given and to share it abundantly with our flock. Truly, God's government is mightily in action, for as God gives to Mr. Armstrong so he gives to us and we to the flock (Matt. 10:8).

We determined to get to know as many of the ministers and their wives as we could, as well as members in Pasadena and the administration, students and faculty of the College. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to hear top quality music in the most beautiful Auditorium in the world, to attend the 1985 annual field day, and to hear the Imperial Schools' choir give a really fine performance for the visiting ministers. We were delighted by the immaculate service rendered by the students serving us at the club dinners. Coming from an area where one only sees other ministers about once a year at the regional conference in Cape Town (itself a wonderful privilege), we are all the more appreciative of the effort that everyone at Headquarters is making--and year round too!--for God's people.

We are very mindful of the urgent need to put more full-time ministers into the field, knowing there are many trained and ready to go, but that funds are needed to hire them. Now is the time for fervent prayer and urgent petitions before our Great Creator and Ruler. We are inspired, filled with new zeal, certain of our role, determined in our objectives and thoroughly equipped to fulfill our calling--thanks to the Mighty God who moves His Church through Mr. Armstrong and everyone at Headquarters. Keep up the momentum, knowing that our prayers are behind you 100%, as in unity of Spirit we accomplish our commission.

Bill and Glen Bentley

Dear Mr. Tkach:

The third Refreshing Program is now history for us but we plan to let the information learned remain with us for a long time. There was a strong urgency to DO what we had learned--to pass it on faithfully to the brethren exactly as we had been taught, so the whole Church speaks the same thing.

Thanks so much for your part in it and all the work put in by all the speakers, under Mr. Armstrong's direction. I'm looking forward to using it all in many, many sermons to come.

Please convey to Mr. Armstrong our deep heartfelt appreciation for the program. We're already looking forward to the next Refresher.

Philip and Carole Shields

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Toll-free Number Triples Calls From Hawaii

"The WORLD TOMORROW" program airs weekly on Honolulu TV station KHNL. In March of this year, our WATS toll-free number was first made available to callers in Hawaii. Prior to this, viewers were asked to call "collect." Most, however, were using direct dialing.

Since the change, the number of calls has tripled, although mail response to the program has stayed about the same, as the following shows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Phone Responses</u>	<u>Mail Responses</u>
January	32	29
February	27	23
March	78	18
April	67	18
May	102	22

These figures show the effectiveness of our "800" number. Alaska is now the only state where toll-free service is not available.

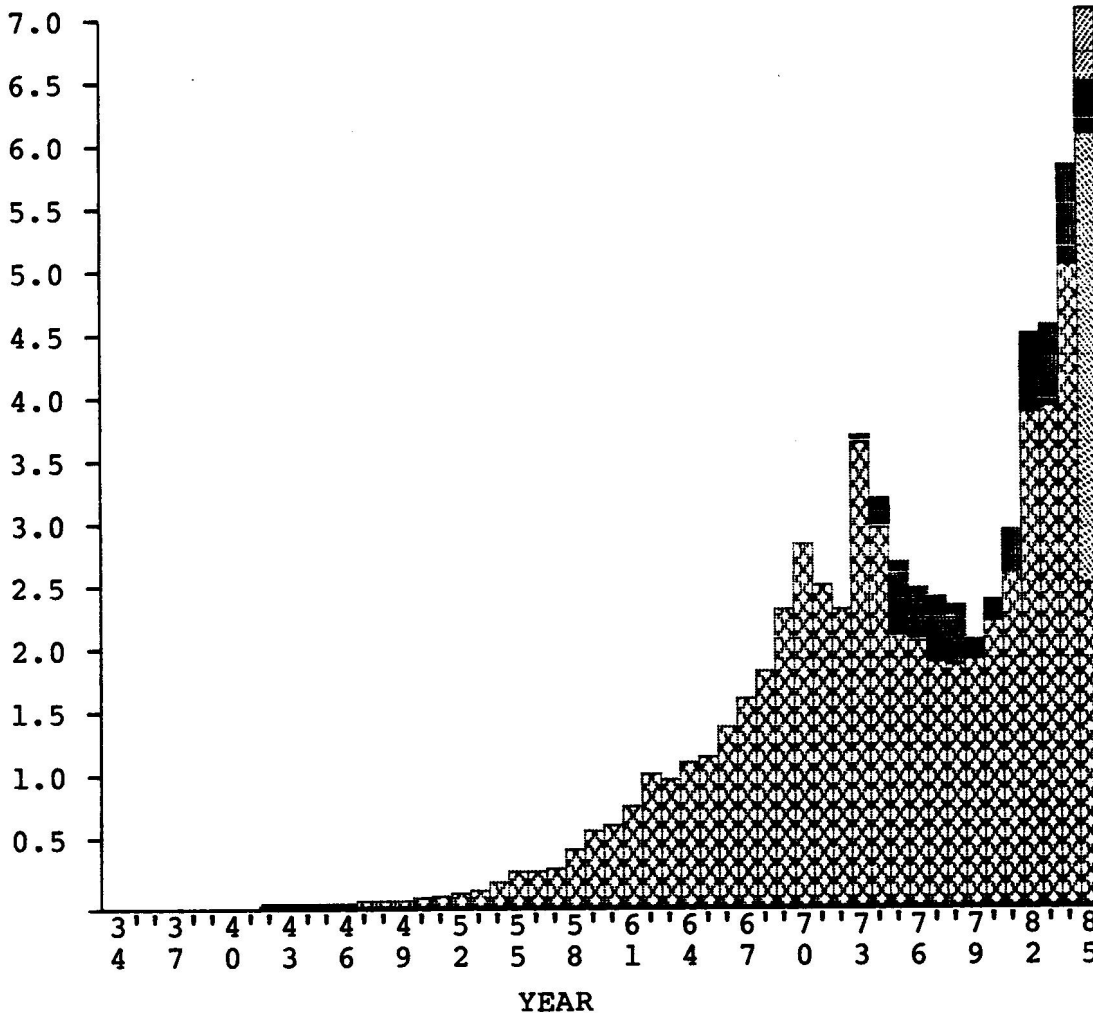
Seven Million Responses Projected for 1985!

According to our present estimates, 1985 will shatter all previous records for incoming mail and phone calls in the United States. The incredible growth in both these areas since 1934 is illustrated by the graph on the next page.

In the first five months of this year, the Mail Processing Center received a record 2.9 million letters and 404,000 WATS phone calls. As reported two weeks ago, mail showed a 30% increase and phone calls were up 18%. If current trends continue, we will receive a total of seven million responses this year--22% above last year's all-time record!

ANNUAL U.S. MAIL AND PHONE CALLS
 Received by the Mail Processing Center
 January 1934 - May 1985
 (June-December 1985 Projected)

MILLIONS



LEGEND: Type Mail Projected Mail
 Phone Calls Projected Calls

THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX Greatly Appreciated

For over 20 years THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX has been one of our most requested publications. More than one million copies have been sent out worldwide.

When offered in the summer semiannual letter in 1964 (by its former title GOD SPEAKS OUT ON THE NEW MORALITY), 43.5% of PLAIN TRUTH subscribers requested it. This was the second highest percentage of response to the semi-annual in the Church's history.

Many have genuinely appreciated THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. Parents often request it to help properly educate their children. People preparing to marry are especially thankful to have the correct understanding about the purpose of marriage. Older people often mention that they wish such a book had been available in their younger years. Following are some letters from readers of the book:

Of all the articles and booklets that I have read from The PLAIN TRUTH, The GOOD NEWS, Worldwide Church of God and Mr. Armstrong, none equals THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. Not only is it well written, but it is plainly and simply put forth, and supplied with scriptural references to support the points it teaches. I have received more understanding from this one book than I have from all the others combined. I heartily recommend it to anyone desiring down-to-earth truth in everyday language.

H.W. (Roanoke, VA)

I'm fifteen years old and one of the many subscribers to your magazine YOUTH 85. Not long ago, my parents found out that I was dishonestly meeting my boyfriend without their permission. My parents don't allow me to date yet and they were quite disappointed with my behavior, although my dad was very understanding and gave me your book THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX to read.

I can't express my sincere gratitude after I read your book. Thank you for writing and publishing such a fine book. I have changed drastically since I read it. I not only have some high goals set for myself, but I also have developed a lot of strong values, which I never had before.

Your book answered every question I had on the subject and made me aware of how God wants teens to act while dating. It also changed my ideas and life for the better. I rank your book as one of the most valuable possessions a teenager could have. I believe that if every teenager read your book, there would be absolutely no unwed teenage pregnancies nor any misinformed teenagers dealing with the topic of sex, and more teenage virgins. I strongly feel that every teenager should read your book.

Again, I'd like to thank you for doing such very excellent work on your book and for changing my life in a way that God would approve.

Teenager (Crowley, LA)

I just wanted to tell you that your book about sex gave me new encouragement to have a positive attitude towards myself. Because of...doctrines that I had assumed to be true, I thought that just because I had certain sexual desires dwelling in me, that I was doomed to a miserable life trying to live God's way, and that He had a very low opinion toward me.

Therefore, I had a very low opinion of myself and was troubled for many years. Now I know that humans were given the sexual senses for a purpose and that the proper uses of those senses are what is important to God.

I was also worried that I might be destined to burn eternally in hell fire. However, articles in The PLAIN TRUTH have shown me otherwise. For the rest of my life I'll be thankful for all your literature, especially the book about sex.

K.D. (Cincinnati, OH)

I just finished reading THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX. God surely must have guided your hand in putting such a book together. I have worked for a doctor, but nowhere in his library of medical books have I ever seen anything to compare with your book.

It is fabulous the way you keep tying the facts to the Bible. My husband and I reared three wonderful girls, whom we kept in church, but it was very difficult to present the facts of life to them without embarrassing ourselves. We now have seven grandchildren, three already married, but know they would treasure your book, and find it so helpful in rearing their families. I was also thinking how great it would be to have your book taught in our schools. Of course, I feel "home" is a better place to teach sex.

Mrs. G.F. (Mt. Vernon, IL)

--Richard Ricé, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

EASTERN EUROPE: KEY TO UNITY; COUNSELS OF RESTRAINT The attention of most people is whipsawed from one national or world crisis to the next. The hostage situation, for instance, continues to dominate American national news. In addition, each local area or region supplies a news story or two that fights the national news for copy space. In Southern California, for example, the big story, running for days now, concerns the rising death toll (presently at 46) among those who have eaten cheese contaminated with food-poison-producing bacteria from a local cheese maker. Given the blow-by-blow nature of most news reporting, it's no wonder that most people fail to notice, and if they notice, fail to comprehend, news items (and more importantly, trends) of a far more significant nature.

Such a development was presented in the June 26, 1985 WALL STREET JOURNAL article titled "Pope Looks East in Search for European Unity." It was submitted to the WSJ by Roberto Formigoni, an Italian member of the European Parliament. Mr. Formigoni is chairman of the EP's Political Commission. Here are key excerpts:

Next month the Vatican's secretary of state, Agostino Cardinal Casaroli, will represent Pope John Paul II in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia at celebrations marking the 1,100th anniversary of the death of St. Methodius. Earlier this year, the pope had designated St. Methodius and his brother, St. Cyril, as patron saints of Europe. The symbolic importance being attached to this choice of two missionaries to the Slavic peoples highlights the pope's vision of a united Europe.

The brothers Cyril and Methodius are responsible for bringing Christianity to what is now Eastern Europe. When the pope designated them as patron saints of Europe, alongside St. Benedict,

the founder of Western monasticism, many Westerners saw this merely as the Slav pope's "gesture of homage" to his own people. But, as we are only now beginning to realize, the pope's action sprang from the recognition that European unity derives from its common roots....

When the two brothers set about their mission, they did not do so solely in obedience to the orders of the Byzantine emperor who sent them as "messengers and missionaries." Cyril and Methodius left a peaceful academic life behind them to follow up on a marvelous intuitive concept: that of a Europe based on a unified culture.... They invented their own alphabet (hence Cyrillic) and taught their liturgy in "barbarian" tongues to "barbarian" peoples, so that their followers would gain an awareness of their own identity and their own history. They thus converted to Christianity that part of Europe to which the Romans had sent legions and proconsuls, and where the German empire had sent Saxon troops and empire builders....

In the Western imagination, Eastern Europe exists as a jumble of confused images. These nations do not stand out for their proud histories and their cultural heritages. Who identifies Prague as the "heart of Europe"?... About 10 years ago in a town in Czechoslovakia in an area once evangelized by Methodius, I met a little man on a bitterly cold winter's night. It was 30 degrees Celsius below zero, and the man was sitting on a pile of snow with a bottle of vodka. "I am a little man from Czechoslovakia," he was saying, "a little man from a little country right in the heart of Europe. For over a thousand years we have been invaded left, right and center. But the heart goes on beating."

What the little man said was true: For if that heart did not go on beating, what would happen to Europe? There would be no Europe on the lines that Cyril and Methodius or even Benedict dreamed of. These European men dreamed great dreams and then acted to change the face of their world and their era.... Even amid the persecution behind the Iron Curtain, the Pan-European vision of Cyril and Methodius still inspires the oppressed Slavic peoples. The following moving reflection is offered by a great Czechoslovak theologian who passed through both Nazi and Stalinist camps, and today lives in Prague under tight police surveillance:

"We Christians here below want to be present armed with our patience, fulfilling a useful role with the small amount of God's infinite abundance that is in our possession.... Our church is like a huge tree with its leaves exposed to the sun and wind: but its roots are firmly embedded a thousandfold in the earth.... Our dialogue continues even when we are compelled to silence, but it is in and also during the silence that the way to the Lord is prepared."

In designating the two missionaries to the Slavic peoples, Pope John Paul II has again turned the sights of those interested in European unity eastward. Certainly there would be no Europe without them, and neither would our civilization exist. That is

a message as important for those of us in the West to understand as it is for our brothers in the East.

Another interesting insight into the Pope's perception of things was buried deep in an article "Pulling in the Welcome Mat" in the May 27, 1985 issue of TIME. The bulk of the article dealt with the pontiff's recent trip to the Low Countries:

Perhaps the Pope's most important confrontation was with the Rev. Henk Huting, chairman of the Netherlands Reformed Synod. Huting deplored the Catholic Church's ecumenical regression and blamed it on "instructions from higher authority." Read: Rome. For his part, John Paul skipped some hard-line passages in his prepared address, but the text remains the Pontiff's most forthright statement on his approach toward Protestantism. Discussion of joint Communion services is futile, he indicated, and Rome is unwilling to explore changes in the nature of the priesthood. The speech removed any remaining doubt that John Paul now foresees substantial ecumenical progress only with the Eastern Orthodox churches.

Counsels of Restraint

As we go to press, the Middle East hostage crisis continues: Apparently there is considerable behind-the-scenes multilateral diplomatic activity engaged in an attempt to pry loose the remaining hapless hostages. The diplomatic route to freedom seems to be the preferred choice among journalists these days, with a few notable exceptions, such as James J. Kilpatrick, who wrote in his June 21 syndicated column in the SAN DIEGO UNION:

Back in the summer of 1904, kidnappers in Tangier seized an elderly American citizen, Ion Perdicaris. The responsible party was well known: A brigand chieftan named Ahmed ben Mohammed Raisuli, an enemy of the sultan of Morocco. At that very moment the Republican National Convention was meeting in Chicago. Theodore Roosevelt was nominated by acclamation. He dispatched an ultimatum to be delivered in Morocco and read to the convention: "Perdicaris alive, or Raisuli dead!" Perdicaris was freed....

There is but one way to deal with such terrorists. It is to apply the ancient law spelled out in Exodus 21:23. Let us match "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."

Suppose, to be supposing, that when the terrorists killed their first victim, and tossed his body from the plane, the Israelis had chosen one Shiite Moslem at random from the 700 they held as prisoners. Suppose, then, that this randomly chosen prisoner had been put to death at once by firing squad, and that proof of the execution, in the form of a TV tape, were shown to the hijackers. And suppose this act of summary retribution were accompanied by a threat: For every American passenger you kill hereafter, we will kill 10 of your brothers.

Such a cold-blooded policy would set off cries of protest in every humanitarian quarter. The U.S. Constitution does not apply in Israel, but we would hear that the proposed executions would violate due process of law; they would be cruel and unusual; they would amount to ex post facto punishment. We would be "lowering ourselves to the level of the terrorists." We would be murderers. All of that. But if such a policy were adopted and enforced,...it just might put an end to the kind of savagery we witnessed with the hijacking.

Make no mistake: We find ourselves in a virtual state of war. War is inherently cruel. War is inescapably unjust. During World War II, the Germans indiscriminately bombed targets in England; the Allies retaliated with the saturation bombing of German cities. Innocent and unoffending human beings--as innocent and unoffending as American passengers on a jet plane--died in those raids of 40 years ago.

Americans, wrote George Will in the June 21 LOS ANGELES TIMES, "are not nearly angry enough"--especially over the cruel treatment dished out to that unfortunate passenger aboard TWA Flight 847, Robert D. Stethem, a U.S. Navy man who was kicked so often every rib was broken, shot in the head, and then his body dumped from the plane onto the tarmac like a piece of garbage. Is anyone capable any more of showing righteous indignation at such an outrage? Or have the millions of staged murders on television so sated the public that the real thing no longer inspires revulsion? To quote Mr. Will:

ABC's Peter Jennings says that television has "got to be very careful not to feed the public anger." Have the networks decided on the appropriate American mood and their responsibility for fine-tuning it? Americans are not nearly angry enough about the savage beating and murder of the sailor who followed Major Arthur D. Nicholson Jr. to Arlington Cemetery. [Nicholson was killed by Soviet guards in East Berlin.] Intelligent behavior flows not from keeping one's passion and rationality separated, but from reasonably relating a proper passion (in this case, cold fury) to action.

It is getting late in World War III for Americans to heed Douglas MacArthur's warning that all military failure is explicable in two words: "too late." Too late perceiving, too late responding to, threats. The President says that he does not want to jeopardize the lives of today's hostages. He is too late. Today's hostages are, to some extent, victims of yesterday's flaccid responses by him to terrorism, emphatically including the non-response to the truck bomb that blew U.S. forces out of Lebanon.

All the while the news media hypes the event, concentrating on the "human side" of the story as if a hijacking (and murder) were some sort of live soap opera. Columnist Joseph Kraft wrote, in the June 20 SAN DIEGO UNION:

Journalism, almost as much as government, experiences anguishing difficulties in coping with terrorism. For the professional impulse is to draw close to the event the better to extract its human interest. But yielding to that instinct helps the terror-

ists for whom publicity is oxygen.... The press and television vied for independent access to [Amal Shiite leader Nabih] Berri. Those who got it were "used" by the Shiite leader to put additional pressure for concessions on the American government. In effect, the American media lent themselves to a campaign that weakened the hand of the U.S. government....

Finally comes the misrepresentation--not to mention the abuse of good taste--inescapably bound up with sticking mikes in the faces of hijack victims and their sisters, brothers, cousins and aunts.... Such encounters are the stuff of soap opera.... They reduce political acts to tears. They sentimentalize events and make it that much more difficult for American authorities to deal with the terrorists, and their intermediaries, on the merits.

Refraining from such actions would, to be sure, restrict the freedom of news organizations. But...it is not as though, by brilliant journalistic enterprise, new and important facts are disclosed.... There is an overwhelming case for the exercise of special journalistic self-discipline.

The terrorists know how to manipulate this "soap opera" to achieve their ends. (After all, probably quite a few of them have spent time in the U.S., observing daytime TV.) The popular press (read more by the middle and lower classes) generally calls for action, whereas the so-called "elite" press counsels restraint. A good example of the "call to restraint" was given by columnist Edwin M. Yoder, writing in the June 21 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The hijacking of Flight 847, like the Iranian hostage crisis and the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, brings out the longing to hit back and hit back hard. Yet the still, small voice of civilization warns that unfocused reprisal, with no clear connection between crime and punishment, may bring only glandular satisfaction, brief and perhaps even self-defeating. Such action would gratify the beast in everyone, but visiting violence on a fuzzy target, for hypothetical and speculative purposes, would constitute a handsome tribute to terror, levied against civilization.

Many journalists have been writing lately that there are many "scratches" in President Reagan's "Teflon coating." But the Bitburg incident proved not to be a scratch. And the President finally got funding for the Nicaraguan contras from Congress. The TWA hijacking, however, unless quickly and satisfactorily resolved, could prove to be the first real political blow Mr. Reagan has suffered. David Broder wrote in his article "It's Not Like Reagan to Let This Go On" in the June 21 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Much of Reagan's aura and much of his appeal rest on the convincing picture that he has conveyed of brimming self-confidence in himself and this nation.... No problem, he said repeatedly, no problem is too big for free Americans to overcome, so long as we have faith in ourselves. However, that was not the message that Reagan delivered to a sober and listening nation on Tuesday night. The news conference answers were studded with references

to "the impossibility" of the situation and the "frustration" that Reagan shared with the watching millions....

Not only is his own reputation as an effective, optimistic President at stake, so are many of his cherished policy goals.... Reagan has asserted that his expensive defense buildup has made the United States more secure and more respected. Few voters can gauge the stockpiles of Soviet and American missiles, but they can draw clear inferences when terrorist tactics in small countries checkmate the clear national interest in individuals' freedom to move safely around the world. This may be an inadequate yardstick, but it is an understandable one, and no amount of rhetoric will disguise the message of weakness that is conveyed by successful acts of terrorism against Americans abroad.

Where's "Rambo" When We Need Him?

It is rather curious that the latest terrorist outrage, and the so-far hesitant governmental approach to it should occur at the very time that Americans, especially the younger crowd, have been flocking to the theaters to see "Rambo: First Blood, Part II." "Rambo" is a Vietnam vet who embarks on a dangerous mission to free soldiers held prisoner in Vietnam. It's rated "R" for excessive violence and blood. I've heard that audiences cheer loudly everytime Rambo (Sylvester Stallone) encounters and dispenses with another "Commie." Said one commentator, "They're there to cheer on an American winner, something liberal film critics and politicians don't understand." But there are no "Rambos" in real life.

It's also worth noting that the hijacking has occurred at virtually the same time as the revelation of the Walker family spy case. The June 28 NATIONAL REVIEW pointed out, in an article titled "An Absolute Moral Void," that the nation suffers from a drastic decline in true patriotism (love of country and fellow citizens), so much so that the phenomenon of "treason for money" could take root. According to the article,

The Soviet Union has lost any moral glamor it once had. Today it has to pay cash; its American helpers aren't deluded enough to think they are working to create a better world.... The Walkers appear to have operated in a normless state of mind, cut off from all feelings of civic virtue, motivated only by money. This and other new spy cases also suggest that the notion of what Jeane Kirkpatrick calls "moral equivalence" between the "two superpowers" has had its corrosive effect. A great many Americans no longer recoil with horror at the idea of betraying their country: The tepid reaction to the Walker case proves that. We have begun to feel it would be presumptuous to expect simple loyalty.

The Walker case should also demonstrate to one and all the shabby state of American counterintelligence. [The Walker family] would still be in business if it hadn't been for a tip from Walker's ex-wife--a loop hole Frank Church forgot to close. We are left to wonder how many other termites there are in the structure. Even liberals have quit trying to deny that the main business of Soviet "diplomacy" is spying, and it is only too likely that the Soviets have had plenty of cooperation from a generation that has been taught there is no such thing as treason....

American patriotism, though there are signs of revival, may never again be what it once was. And it is true that we can't demand that loyalty to the nation be every individual's highest loyalty. But if we mean to survive, we had better make it clear that we expect every American citizen to find some place for loyalty to his country among his own hierarchy of affections. An emphatic way to make the point would be to seek the death penalty for anyone who puts at risk the lives and liberties of his 240 million fellow citizens.

The same issue of NATIONAL REVIEW had a to-the-point one-liner about the Walker case: "The family that spies together, fries together." But the American Civil Liberties Union would never stand for that. The Walker case exemplifies the end-time phenomenon prophesied in Matthew 24:12: "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (RAV).

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau