

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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JULY 6, 1984

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

With the end of June we have completed the first half of 1984. The income trend has fluctuated up and down during these six months, with monthly year-to-date increases varying from 12.4% to 15.5% over last year. Total donation income for June was a plus 10.6%, which brought the year-to-date income figure down from 15.5% in May to 14.5%.

This is a good percentage of increase, for which we are very grateful, though there are some unsettling trends. General contributions, or regular tithes and offerings, have been on a slightly downward trend. These contributions represent about 70% of income and therefore are very important in the overall percentage figures. For the month of June, they were only 7.4% more than the same month a year ago. At the same time, the Pentecost holy day offering was 19.7% more than last year. However, the holy day offerings represent only about 14% of the annual income and do not have quite as great an effect on the overall income.

The year-to-date income, which is still several percentage points above budget, has improved our bank reserves and cash flow situation, but projections still indicate another difficult period in September similar to the one in the spring. This problem is further heightened by the fact that departmental expenses seem to be catching up to the budget after being held back during the spring. We were in hopes that the departments would not find it necessary to catch up and would therefore continue at the lower level. It now appears that we will have to monitor our cash flow situation very carefully again on a day-to-day basis during September, unless we have an unexpected increase in income or a decrease in expenditures before then.

The Pentecost offering was very much appreciated. The increase was not as great as during the Days of Unleavened Bread, but it was certainly an excellent one. Thank you for your part in this generous offering!

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Tkach:

The refresher refreshed us. We needed it so much. Just two weeks have given me at least eight months of sermon material. Please thank all of the instructors for the real meat that was given in love. Thanks for the correction, direction, and inspiration. Many times we think we have heard it all. But now we know we are just at the foot of the Spiritual Tree of Knowledge.

The brethren have responded to the refresher material in a very positive way. I know that their knowledge of spiritual and physical things will increase bountifully. Thanks for the blessing of attending the refresher. We will sow the seeds!

Edward and Thelma Faulk

INSURANCE FOR CHURCH-SPONSORED CAMP-OUTS

There have been many requests to provide insurance for members and families when participating in Church-sponsored camp-outs lasting from two or three days to a full week.

As a result of this need, the Insurance Department has obtained such coverage at a very reasonable cost. Here is a description of coverage:

Accident-related medical expenses	\$3,000.00
Accidental death or dismemberment	3,000.00
Deductible	25.00

Cost per person per week (or part thereof)	\$.60
Example: 200 campers x \$.60 = \$120.00	

Coverage is compulsory for all campers in a camp-out. This insurance pays in addition to other coverage available.

If you are interested in more information, or are planning a camp-out for your congregation and would like to take advantage of this insurance, call the Insurance Department in Pasadena.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

MINNEAPOLIS (SOUTH), MN--VICTOR KUBIK: "The WORLD TOMORROW" radio broadcast tapes are available in our church library and the brethren check them all out every week. So even though the radio broadcast is no longer heard on the radio, it can still be effectively listened to by anyone in the Church who wants to.

OMAHA, NE--TERRY SWAGERTY: Those who pray and study deal successfully with life's difficulties. The others are constantly going from one mixed up situation to the next.

YOUNGSTOWN, OH--EUGENE NOEL: The Church is responding very well to the direction and guidelines on music that were given at the Refreshing Program. Most parents and young people were shocked to learn the real background of rock music and rock groups. I am happy to report that we have had no negative response at all. The youth seem eager and willing to be put on the "right track" on this subject.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICESMinister's Signature Needed for WN Engagement Announcements

Thus far this year the WORLDWIDE NEWS staff has received a record number of last-minute cancellations for engagement announcements. While we want to make every effort to share the joy of a newly engaged couple with the rest of God's Church, last-minute cancellations are costly both in time and money.

Therefore, a minister's signature will now be required on all engagement announcements. Further, to lessen the cost and time required to replace a cancelled engagement notice, The WORLDWIDE NEWS no longer will print photographs of either the bride-to-be or the engaged couple. The couple may continue to send an appropriate photograph with their wedding announcement if they desire.

The above information will be printed in The WORLDWIDE NEWS. We would also like to remind the brethren that all local church news items and obituary announcements must also have a minister's signature before they are printed. Thanks for your help!

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Managing Editor

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATEManhattan Newsstand Distribution Continues at High Level

Each day hundreds of thousands of commuters pass through the busy rail stations of Manhattan, New York, on their way to and from work. Many of them are being exposed to the true gospel message. Over 56,000 copies of The PLAIN TRUTH are being distributed monthly through the lighted display islands and the Elson's Gift Shops in these important transportation centers. In Pennsylvania Station alone, 20,000 copies of The PLAIN TRUTH are distributed through two display islands and an additional 14,000 magazines are distributed through Elson's Gift Shops there each month.

Through Grand Central Station a total of 7,800 copies are distributed each month. The World Trade Center display island distributes 5,000 and the Port Authority Bus Station 8,000. An additional 10,000 copies are distributed through the "Good Neighbor" Supermarket Distribution and the regular Newsstand Program in the Manhattan area. The exciting news of God's coming Kingdom is clearly touching the lives of many in one of the most populous cities in the world.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

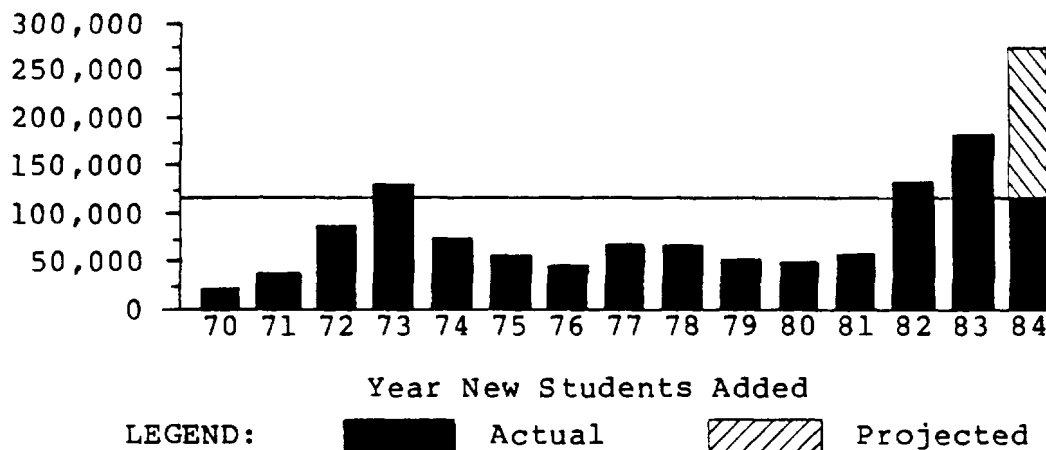
UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGOver 1,000 New CC Students Added Per Working Day in the U.S.

PLAIN TRUTH and booklet advertising continues to draw record numbers of new students to the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. From January to May of this year 121,224 people began the course. This is the highest count ever for a five-month period and a 26% increase over last year's record count. It also averages out to more than 1,000 new adds each working day!

Based on this average the total added this year could be as high as 290,000. The following graph shows the numbers added to the Correspondence Course since 1970:

**New Students Added to Correspondence Course in U.S.
January 1970 - May 1984**

(June-December 1984 Projected)



Good Results From Correspondence Course Tests

An encouragingly high number of CC students are taking their tests and continuing with the course. The following percentages of students who received tests have returned answer cards for grading:

Test One (follows Lesson 4)	20%
Test Two (follows Lesson 8)	58%
Test Three (follows Lesson 12)	54%
Test Four (follows Lesson 16)	63%

Although four out of five who begin the lessons do not progress beyond the first test, this helps to separate those with genuine interest from others who may be just casually interested or curious. For Tests Two, Three and Four the percentages of those who go on to the next series of lessons is much higher.

We expect a higher percentage of returned test answer cards for all tests in the months to come due to a follow-up reminder letter now being sent that encourages the students to take the tests. It is possible that returns for Test One could climb to more than 25%.

Readers Encouraged by PLAIN TRUTH Article on Singles

Many readers have responded to the article in the June/July PLAIN TRUTH entitled "Singles Who Can't Find Mates," by Mr. Ron Kelly. Young or old, man or woman, divorced or never married, they were greatly encouraged to realize that God is concerned about them and their personal needs. A number

said that the article reinforced their Christian values and that they were determined to put God first. Following are some of the many letters we've received:

I would like to say that the article "Singles Who Can't Find Mates" was terrific. There was so much good insight and truth in it that has further helped me in reinforcing my own Christian values and beliefs! I hope others read the article. The advice given could apply to both single males and females.

I totally support the concept that God must come first in a person's life, relationship and marriage. Any Christian single person who doesn't believe this is headed for trouble, and for that matter, anyone considering any type of future in the world today without God being present is making an even bigger mistake.

S.A. (Augusta, GA)

I would like to compliment the writer of the article, "Singles Who Can't Find Mates." After reading this inspiring article, I was happily reassured that it is perfectly normal to be single. I try to lead a good Christian life, maintaining myself both physically and mentally.

Today we are living in a very "physical" world. It is so easy to be misled and follow the wrong path. Evil just waits to take us astray. Your article made me realize that having faith and the power of prayer can conquer all. Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and putting a smile in my heart.

J.K. (Phoenixville, PA)

I have just finished reading the article, "Singles Who Can't Find Mates" by Ronald Kelly. Thank you for bringing it to us. I am a young divorced mother of two girls (ages 7 and 4). I find myself asking the same questions as the people mentioned in the article. And it helps to know that I am not alone in my empty feelings.

I don't know if I'll ever remarry. At times I don't want to. I'm afraid to trust a man. I have seen and been a part of too many lives who have been hurt by husbands and fathers. I pray to God, always, to help me learn to trust again. I hope in time God will direct me to a man who will be physically and spiritually compatible with me. In God's own time, I'll know what is in store. Thanks again for bringing us this article.

D.S. (Lawrence, MI)

I am writing you about the article I just read in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, "Singles Who Can't Find Mates." Thank God for people like you who aren't ashamed to call sin by name. This article has just opened my eyes to the right way to live.... Thank you for helping me set my life in order with God's Word. Now I see the light. I shall continue to help support The PLAIN TRUTH ministry as long as I live and also tell my friends.

M.T. (Winston, GA)

This letter is to extend my gratitude and thankfulness to the entire staff of The PLAIN TRUTH. I've never read a more enlightening, comprehensible and factual magazine as The PLAIN TRUTH. If I may, I also want to thank Mr. Ronald D. Kelly for his superb article on singles. Being a single Christian, as I am, is somewhat difficult but not impossible, as some would think. His article helped me to really understand and cope with this "minor detail" as a Christian.

P.S. (New Orleans, LA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WOMEN'S GROUPS PRESSURE MONDALE; JACKSON'S "MORAL OFFENSIVE" ROLLS ON

Walter Mondale, apparent presidential candidate of the Democratic party, has become a victim of his own brand of politics: securing the allegiance of special interest groups. Now he is under almost relentless pressure from women's activist organizations such as NOW (National Organization for Women) to select a woman for the vice presidential slot on the Democratic ticket. Some of NOW's most radical members are threatening a floor fight at the mid-July Democratic convention in San Francisco if he hasn't selected a female running partner by then.

In addition to the two women Mondale has invited to his home for interviews (Representative Geraldine Ferraro of New York and San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein), he has interviewed two blacks for the job, plus one Latino. At least one more woman is to come--all of this in Mondale's attempt, he says, to "open up the selection process."

Of the two women mentioned above, Ms. Ferraro (who retained her maiden name when she married her businessman husband John Zaccaro) has had more political experience. A protege of House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill, she has worked hard to become "one of the boys" in the House. Thrice-married Mayor Feinstein, on the other hand, gets high marks for surviving the political complexities of San Francisco (where homosexuals comprise one-third of the voters). She is said to want the vice presidential candidacy so bad that "she can taste it."

Polls vary widely as to what the impact of a woman on the ticket would have. Would it close the so-called "gender gap" in the Democrats' favor--or would it conversely cause a massive hemorrhage of white male votes in key southern "redneck" states into the Republican party? (It's no coincidence that President Reagan, on July 4, visited a famous stock car race--a very popular southern blue-collar form of entertainment.) Syndicated columnist David S. Broder, writing in the July 3 LOS ANGELES TIMES, seems to think that Mr. Mondale may lose more than he gains should he succumb to feminist lobbying:

Consider just one measure of the gap between political reality and the priorities that Mondale has been forced to adopt in order to appease the most vocal forces inside his own party. The latest Gallup poll showed Mondale trailing Reagan by 30 points among male voters and by 29 points among whites. But of the first seven people whom he interviewed for the vice presidency, only

one was a white male.... Fine and dandy. But...Mondale needs help among men voters, not women.

The British, like many other Europeans, are looking upon this strangest-of-all U.S. political campaign with increasing fascination, especially the sudden upswelling demand for a woman on the ticket. A lengthy article on it appeared in the June 24 TIMES of London, which included an interesting reference to President Reagan's "ideal woman," in which he quotes from Proverbs 31:25-26--much to the dismay of the feminists, I'm sure:

One of the few problems the Reagan re-election committee faces as it limbers up for the presidential race: the so-called "gender gap." Reagan is a man's man. Only 47% of women who voted last time chose him, his "approval rating" among women has never gone above 50%.... [Mr. Reagan] is perceived as a dyed-in-the-wool male chauvinist, or--as his daughter prefers to call him--"a romantic." He quotes Proverbs to describe his ideal woman: "Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and teaching of kindness is on her tongue."...

Somewhat belatedly, Reagan and his party have decided to do a little courting of their own.... The party has tried to achieve a more equitable male-female ratio at its convention in Dallas this August. By some not-too-subtle arm-twisting, they have managed to ensure that 44% of the delegates will be women. [Exactly one half of the Democratic delegates are women.]...

Is America ready to accept a woman, just a heartbeat away from the Oval Office? Earnest psychologists have addressed the issue and Susan Reverby of Wellesley College in Massachusetts believes that deep down many Americans are still uncomfortable with the idea. "They can think of their mothers running the kitchen, but not the free world," she says. The examples of Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Gandhi, both of whom are widely admired in America, have not banished all the usual prejudices, even among women. They were summed up by one southern woman last week who asked: "What would happen if a woman president were negotiating with Chernenko and she got the hot flashes?"

This past week, Mr. Mondale also engaged in a bit of mutual fence-mending with Jesse Jackson. The former Vice President has been under increased pressure from some Jewish leaders to condemn Jackson for refusing to completely dissociate himself from Black Muslim preacher Louis Farrakhan. In Farrakhan's latest outrages, he called the establishment of Israel an "outlaw act" and a "criminal conspiracy" and called Judaism a "gutter religion" (Farrakhan said he was misquoted; that he called Judaism a "dirty religion"--as though, TIME magazine said, "the distinction was significant"). Jackson was subsequently forced to publicly denounce Farrakhan's language but he still has refused to totally distance himself from Farrakhan's Black Muslim sect, whose members are still seen at Jackson appearances, sometimes as guards.

Why the reluctance of Mr. Mondale to repudiate Jackson and his connection to Farrakhan? Patrick Buchanan gave his opinion in the June 29 WASHINGTON TIMES:

Why? Quite simple. Mr. Jackson, no matter his anti-Semitism, is indispensable to defeating Ronald Reagan; and we have it on the testimony of Gary Hart that the defeat of Mr. Reagan is "the moral imperative" of our time....

The Jewish community is less than 3 percent of the U.S. population, and dwindling; its vote is likely to go 2-1 at best for Mr. Mondale. The black population, however, is 12 percent of the U.S. total and its vote could well go 19-1 against Mr. Reagan. Get the point? If Mr. Mondale should come down hard on Mr. Jackson the way he and his friends came down on Jim Watt, it could queer [spoil] any chance Mr. Mondale has of ever becoming president of the United States....

What is going on, very much in the open now, is the introduction into American politics of an anti-American, Third World ideology --through the candidacy of Mr. Jackson. There is good reason why the world's leading anti-Semites and anti-Americans go out of their way to advance the political fortunes of Mr. Jackson, why Yassir Arafat embraces him as a brother, why the Arab League funnels hundreds of thousands of dollars into his Chicago organization, why Syria's President Assad boosts his prestige by delivering up an American pilot, why Castro carves emaciated prisoners out of his vast herd and delivers them up, gratis, to Mr. Jackson. Because they are all revolutionary soul brothers in the same great cause--freeing mankind from the oppressive weight of the racist, militarist, neocolonialist, imperialist power structure of Western capitalism, whose vilest excrescences [out-growths] are the Republic of South Africa and the state of Israel.

With regard to South Africa, Jesse Jackson is demanding that the Democrats, in their foreign policy platform, include a call for sanctions on U.S. business ties with that country. He also claims that the two countries he wants to visit on his next "peace mission" are South Africa and the Soviet Union. He would like to obtain the release of Nelson Mandela, former head of the outlawed African National Congress, in prison for subversive activities, and Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, plus a few Soviet Jews for good measure in order to restore his standing with American Jewry. For more on Jesse Jackson's radical views of foreign affairs, George F. Will had this to say in the July 4 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Jesse Jackson...found in Nicaragua a regime that he considers a flower of creation. The regime has never permitted an election, boasts of exporting war to El Salvador and has concentration camps for persons who are unreconciled to it. Jackson praised it for marching toward "democracy, peace and reconciliation."

Jackson's propensity for historical parallels is always entertaining, and never more so than when, on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley," he explained that Nicaragua's Sandinista dictators are doing better than America's Founding Fathers did. The Sandinistas have wielded dictatorial power for only five years, whereas "the gap between American independence, a revolution from Britain in 1776 and a President being elected in 1789 was 13 years." For America, as for the Sandinistas, "the

transition between coming into power militarily and moving toward full-scale democracy" was a "slow process."

Even if you assume, as Jackson does, that independence was achieved, not just declared, in 1776 (what does he think happened at Yorktown in 1781?), it is peculiar to think, as he does, that there was a military dictatorship until 1789. Actually, the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was called because there was too little central authority over the 13 robust constitutional democracies that were loosely linked under the Articles of Confederation.

What is interesting about Jackson's argument is not that it is stupid but that it is willfully, almost painstakingly, so. Obviously he and his deepest thinkers sat down and asked: How can we concoct an apology for Sandinista tyranny? So the problem is not that Jackson is as inane as anyone whose supply of convictions is disproportionate to his supply of information. The problem is that he seems to relish the challenge of defending the indefensible for the benefit of leftist dictators.

Jackson was asked if he told Castro that a quarter-century of dictatorship should suffice and that it is time for an election. His answer--no--came swaddled in philosophic babble: "I had to respect the sovereignty of his nation, its territorial integrity and the right of their government to operate as they see fit." When you hear from Jackson such unwonted deference toward authority, you can be sure that he is enjoying the hospitality of a communist or Arab tyrant.

I'm sure Jackson will not be so verbally obliging to the South African government, if he gets there. More details about Jackson's trip to Panama, El Salvador, Cuba and Nicaragua were given in the July 9 issue of TIME magazine. Even TIME took a decidedly negative stance on Jackson's "moral offensive." Here are some key excerpts:

Once again the unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination had turned a tour abroad into an ego trip and a personal publicity bonanza, while displaying little regard for the unfortunate consequences of attacking his own government in unfriendly countries. Barging off into four foreign capitals, the black minister assailed the U.S. role in the region [Central America and the Caribbean]. He negotiated for the release of prisoners. He even invited a head of state, Fidel Castro, to visit the U.S.... Critics accused Jackson of violating the Logan Act of 1799, which makes it a crime for any private citizen to try to influence a foreign government on issues involving a controversy with the U.S....

There seemed to be no comparable case of a political figure's embarking on foreign relations during a campaign. As New York TIMES Columnist James Reston noted, "The Communists would do almost anything to cooperate with Mr. Jackson in order to embarrass Mr. Reagan."...

Jackson's risky odyssey...[began in] Panama City on Saturday, June 23. Jackson toured the Panama Canal and charged that its construction and the U.S. administration of the Canal Zone had brought "shame, hurt, pain, denial, disgrace and economic exploitation" to Panamanians. The U.S. role in Panama, said he, embodied "the worst dimension of American segregation and South African apartheid."

On Sunday, Jackson went from criticizing U.S. policy to meddling in it. He met for four hours in his Panama Hilton hotel suite with Ruben Zamora and three other representatives of rebel groups that are fighting the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador....

Castro, in olive-drab fatigues and puffing on a cigar, greeted Jackson with a warm handshake, but not the traditional abrazo, at Havana's Jose Marti Airport. "He said he wanted to embrace me," Jackson explained later. "But it was a kind of historic moment, and both of us wanted to deal with substance and not get sidetracked by symbolism."

The Cuban Marxist and the American Baptist minister talked for more than eight hours on Tuesday in Castro's Palace of the Revolution. "There was a lot of common understanding," Jackson reported. "He's in the Third World, and I have a Third World experience growing up in America...a lot of experience in suffering and exploitation. We identify with a lot of the same people in Africa and Central America."

Jackson's success [in gaining the release of political prisoners in Cuba] seemed to prompt him to make his gibes at U.S. policy even more pointed when he arrived in Managua. He found himself ideologically at home among the Sandinistas, claiming his solidarity with "the mothers of the heroes and martyrs who have died for the revolution." Jackson met Tomas Borge and Sergio Ramirez Mercado of the ruling junta and spoke harshly of what he saw as U.S. policy: "Now, even after the revolution has triumphed, you have to defend your sovereignty and integrity against those who would invade your borders, mine your harbors or ports, destabilize your economy and assassinate your citizens."

The Farrakhan episode, interestingly enough, erupted while Jackson was on his six-nation junket. So fearful of losing Jackson's huge constituency, the Democratic Party leaders, including Walter Mondale, all heaved a big sigh of relief when Jackson, in Managua at the time, finally called Farrakhan's anti-Semitic remarks "reprehensible and morally indefensible." But clearly, his critics maintain, his heart wasn't in it. He had to make the statement in order to preserve his position within the Democratic Party.

There is one big reason behind Jackson's ventures into private foreign policy--he would like to be, as he recently told reporters, Secretary of State in a Democratic administration.

Jackson's emergence in U.S. foreign affairs is somewhat analagous to the role that Andrew Young, now mayor of Atlanta, Georgia played as U.S. ambas-

sador to the U.N. during the Carter administration. (Young also made a controversial trip to South Africa.) At that time, the U.S. "tried to be nice" to all the countries of the world that hated it. The result was a disastrous fall of the U.S. position in the United Nations. In the General Assembly, overall support for American positions plummeted by 14.4%. Because of the tough line taken by current U.S. ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, it has gone up to roughly 25%.

Should there be a change in administrations, there would be a return to this policy. Indeed, a leading liberal Democratic academic, Richard J. Barnet, writing in the July 5 LOS ANGELES TIMES, asks whether a minority President might not better serve American interests in the world:

Just suppose the American people elected as President a black or Latino of progressive leanings. Would that make a difference? Could a President drawn from this nation's minorities overcome the hostility that America so often encounters in the world? Would a black or brown face on the U.S. side of the table change other nations' attitudes toward us?... It could indeed.

An American "Third Worlder" in the White House...who represented the unemployed, the working poor, victims of discrimination and recent immigrants would probably doubt that the nation should continue to sacrifice investment in decent housing, education, medical care and jobs on the altar of a false "national security."...

A person who felt comfortable walking in the barrios of Latin America or in the mud of African villages would be less likely to fall for the trap of treating poor countries as nothing but pawns in a geopolitical chess game with the Soviets.

A new U.S. leader would challenge the Soviets to a competition in non-intervention. This new approach would try to insulate the process of internal change in Third World countries from the Cold War. [It's not a new approach. President Carter tried to isolate Central America from the East-West struggle--and the Cubans took advantage of him.] By altering the way in which the United States looks at revolutionary turmoil, such policies would reduce the ability of the Soviets to exploit it. A President who felt ties of brotherhood with the peoples with whom we coexist on the planet might well assert a higher national priority than the bizarre holy war against communists in which non-communist Nicaragua shows up as an enemy and communist China an ally.

This new sort of President might understand that American security would be enhanced by negotiation rather than by tough-guy confrontation.

Because of the rapidly diverging views of the Administration now in power and the opposition determined to unseat it, the election coming up will have an enormous impact in America's role in the world.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau