

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

The 17th session of the third Ministerial Refreshing Program began Wednesday, June 5. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong addressed the group that afternoon, covering material from his new book MYSTERY OF THE AGES, and reemphasizing the fact that God is not "trying to save the world" now. He further explained that this present world is not God's world. It is a world ruled by Satan the devil, a world of people who are naturally hostile to God and His Law (Rom. 8:7). The only people in the world who are children of God are those who have His Holy Spirit and are led by it! (Rom. 8:14.) All others are children of the devil (John 8:44) until given the Holy Spirit upon repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands. God is calling out only a very few from this world to train them for rulership in His coming new world as coheirs with Jesus Christ.

Christ qualified to rule. He did so by overcoming Satan and remaining absolutely faithful to His Father's will. Now we are being prepared, while living in Satan's world, for rulership in God's soon-coming world tomorrow. We will then teach the people God's way in God's world--a world ruled by Jesus Christ and His government. We are now qualifying to rule by overcoming Satan as Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, did before us. He said, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

We must follow Christ's example. He kept His Father's Law. He did His Father's will, not His own. He even rejected the rulership of this world when Satan offered it to Him. He said, "The prince of this world cometh, and he hath nothing in me" (John 14:30). Jesus qualified to establish a new world and civilization--God's world after the end of Satan's world. That is why we must follow Christ's example in overcoming this world. It is Jesus Christ living in us through the Holy Spirit that enables us to overcome. That is why we must not allow ourselves to drift away from God by lack of prayer, Bible study or fasting. We must not begin to put our fingers into what Satan's world has to offer. Many ministers have done so in times past, and as a result are no longer in the ministry or the Body of Christ.

Many through the years have gone out of the Church, or been put out, because they either forgot or never understood that "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7:14), and that "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). Apparently they also either forgot or never understood that God commands us to "come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4) and "be not ye therefore partakers with them" (Eph. 5:7).

God has called us to qualify for rulership while living in this same evil world of Satan the devil that Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith, qualified in. Do we view sin as Jesus did? Do we see that it leads to eternal death as He did? Do we see it as separation from God the Father, from all that is happy, all that is good and pure, all that is hope and joy? Do we see it as the destruction of peace? Do we see it as suffering, hurt,

sorrow, misery and ugliness, as Jesus Christ did? Are we really seeking to develop the mind of Jesus Christ? How important is it to us? What priority does overcoming this present evil world have in your life?

We are preparing to teach and rule the world under Jesus in the Kingdom of God. We will be ruling by and teaching the Law of God. A Law that is holy, just and good (Rom. 7:12). A perfect Law (Ps. 19:7). We will be teaching the nations to keep that Law, which will show them the way God lives and what His mind is like.

God tells us in Psalm 111:10, "A good understanding have all they that do his commandments." We cannot really understand what we are learning about God's Law unless we keep it! And we must deeply appreciate the blood of Jesus Christ, which cleanses us from all sin. We must develop the attitude and habit of repentance, striving to change and overcome all sin in our lives, to remove that which is opposed to God's mind and character.

Impress on the brethren the need to be growing spiritually and overcoming, and the reason for it. Always keep before them the calling God has given them to prepare them for rulership and teaching His Law in His Kingdom. Show them that this calling requires them to be studying and learning, and in addition to that, to be putting into practice (Phil. 4:9) what they are learning by obeying God, overcoming sin and changing, realizing God's great mercy and willingness to forgive us upon true, godly repentance.

I'd like to share with you a very encouraging report I received from Mr. Robert Morton. I know many of you were aware of and praying for our brethren in India regarding the mandatory six-day work week. God has now intervened!

For years our brethren in India have laboured under the burden of a six-day work week. This has meant a number of them over the years have lost their jobs as a result of the Sabbath, while others have found it necessary to use their valuable vacation time to keep the weekly Sabbath. Some have been working under an almost permanent threat of being fired for not working on the Sabbath.

Once someone has lost his or her job in India, it is almost impossible to obtain another one. For a large portion of the Church this has severely tested their faith and meant that they have had to face personal persecution from their employers. Over recent months our members working in banks and government departments have been under a great deal of pressure, which has been increasing month by month.

Today Mr. Bill Sidney phoned to let me know that the Indian government has passed legislation to bring in a five-day work week beginning June the 3rd this year. He said this will be one of the biggest milestones for our brethren in India. For years they have had to live week by week in faith that somehow God will work things out for them. Now, God has mercifully lifted the trial off them. From now on, life will be much easier for them--at least in this particular area.

Mr. Sidney also mentioned that he expects quite a number of co-workers to express a great deal more interest in the Church as a

result of this decision. In the past, they have lacked faith to step out and trust God for their livelihoods. It seems that maybe now God in His mercy is going to make it easier for them to obey Him--at least for the time being. I think over the next few months we will see an increase in the number of baptism requests coming into our address in India.

I knew you would want to join us in thanking God for mercifully lifting a great burden off His Church in India.

International News

From Mr. Peter Nathan During April the New Zealand office received 7,257 items of mail, an increase of 70% on the amount received in April 1984. Mail for the year-to-date is now running at the same level as last year. However, the last two months have shown a very pleasing trend in donation mail, which was up by 10.6% in March and 18.6% in April. Mail income for April was up by an exciting 26.3%, bringing the year-to-date increase to 7.3%.

In February, we began a series of advertisements of Mr. Armstrong's radio broadcast in THE NEW ZEALAND LISTENER. These ads have really borne fruit! March and April have both broken all previous records for radio broadcast responses!

In April a new electronic PABX telephone system was installed in the office. The new push button phone system provides us with several useful new facilities, which helps with handling telephone responses to "The WORLD TOMORROW" broadcast.

The brethren enjoyed a very profitable Feast of Unleavened Bread, and gave very generous Holy Day offerings. Although these offerings didn't surpass the record offerings specially requested by Mr. Armstrong last year, they were up by 45% on the 1983 Unleavened Bread offerings.

Our March direct mail promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH to 9,410 TIME magazine subscribers has now attracted 610 responses, a 6.5% return. We're gearing up for a heavy workload in May, when 40,000 semiannual letters will be posted out.

From Mr. Bram de Bree April has resulted in a 21.3% increase in income, bringing the year-to-date income for the Dutch language area to 1.4%. We received 6,222 pieces of mail, an 18.9% increase. We sent out 16,485 pieces, a 24.2% increase over the same month last year.

Our spring advertising campaign in the Dutch language edition of READER'S DIGEST and the Belgian Automobile Association magazine has now been completed. A total of 6,095 new subscribers were added to the list of De ECHTE WAARHEID, bringing the total list to 52,400.

In March and April this year we were able for the first time to offer the Dutch language edition of the GOOD NEWS to all subscribers of De ECHTE WAARHEID who have renewed twice or more. Over 10,000 letters were sent out offering a one-year subscription. The response was overwhelming, with more than 50% reacting positively. This means that our present subscription list of 854 will rise to almost 6,000!

As a result of this offer, additional visit requests have been coming in. In the past year, church attendance has increased by 10% and membership by 10.1%.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From Australia

MELBOURNE (NORTH), VIC--GAVIN CULLEN: It was very inspiring to hear from Mr. Armstrong again. His sermons are always very encouraging even when he corrects us. Many of the brethren commented on how they look forward to hearing from Mr. Armstrong via the tapes that are sent out.

MELBOURNE (EAST), VIC--BILL BRADFORD: This month saw an increase in PM activity. We are definitely starting to get more inquiries about church and Feast attendance. A significant number of these contacts are people who have been visited years ago by one of our ministers or have been reading our literature for over a decade. As some have expressed it more than once, "It seems I had an urgency to begin to do something about what I knew was right all along."

MELBOURNE (SOUTH), VIC--KEN LEWIS: Had an increase in new contacts this last month and they are proving more fruitful than most new contacts in the last few years.

MT. GAMBIER, SA--KARL KARLOV: I propose to start an informal in-house monthly study at Hamilton to serve three western Ballarat and Mt. Gambier church families, who are presently unable to attend evening studies.

ADELAIDE, SA--KERRY GUBB: PLAIN TRUTH newsstands are doing so well here, they're causing traffic congestion at the main central railway station. This is a mixed blessing, since the railway authorities are wanting us to do something about it!

--Joseph Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Incoming Mail Continues to Increase at Record-breaking Pace

Incoming mail shows an excellent increase over 1984, which itself was an outstanding year. Through the first week of June, we received 2.6 million pieces of mail. This is a 30% increase over last year's count for the same period. It also represents an average of more than 17,000 pieces per day.

Nearly all categories of mail have increased substantially. We have had very good responses to offers for The GOOD NEWS magazine and PLAIN TRUTH renewals. The April READER'S DIGEST ad alone brought in over 100,000 responses.

Our letters and cards are picked up from the post office in trays, which are about 2½ feet long (.75 meter) and hold 800 to 1,000 items. Recently, our daily tray counts have run as high as 20 to 30. On Monday mornings, the weekend's mail has ranged from 50 to 90 trays. Just two years ago, these counts averaged only about half of what they do now.

Semiannual Letter Draws Many Interesting Comments

Over 207,000 subscribers, or 9.1%, have responded to the semiannual letter thus far. Although this is an average response, we have been receiving a much higher than usual number of comments.

Many subscribers were enlightened by how clearly and logically Mr. Armstrong explained the overall plan and goals of Communism. Many said they had never been given such a complete picture before. A number lamented the fact that most Americans do not understand the threat posed by Communism today. Following are some of the comments we received:

Thank you for your letter of May 6, presenting so clearly and accurately the posture and purpose of Communism, and the ominous penetration of our southern neighbors. It is frustratingly true that most Americans seem unaware of the methodology of the Communist master plan. You have a wonderful talent for saying the pertinent facts so clearly and concisely--to so great an audience. I pray each one will have heard you.

J.M. (Cherry Valley, CA)

I've just returned from a five-week tour of Europe and can't understand why those people can't see the handwriting on the wall. While we [the U.S.] are trying to hold back Communism, the rest of the free countries are just standing by and even demonstrating against us. Russia sure has a lot of people in the world brainwashed.

B.B. (Sierra Vista, AZ)

I want to thank you for that fine letter dated May 6, on troubles in America, especially your thoughts on the Communist threat. I'm so glad you and your organization are wide awake on this!

C.M. (Syracuse, IN)

As I reread and analyze your May 6 letter to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers, I become more and more aware of the phenomenal insight you have into what is taking place in this world. Your analysis of the motivations and methods of Communists; your perception of what is, and will, happen in Central America and Korea; how all this will help bring about the prophesied United Europe; and your awareness of the fast-developing trade war.

All of these things come to us in bits and pieces through the world news media, but you and your staff put it all together so that we can see the whole picture. Not only do you give us the whole picture, you make it come alive and then tie it in to Bible prophecy in such a way that only those who do not want to see could possibly deny the "plain truth" of it all.

R.C. (Eugene, OR)

Your most recent letter gave us a real view of world trends and a possible future outcome. The outcome is not in doubt, and it certainly seems that current events are leading to the tribulation.

What seems strange to the human mind is how the Communists can stay so doggedly on track after so obviously worthless a goal. Their system brings misery and poverty to every country it controls. Yet they pursue this loser as though it were good. And in spite of its failures, more countries embrace it--or let it be imposed on them. Amazing! Thanks for keeping us informed.

A.C. (Portland, OR)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

FIRSTHAND REPORT: MINERALS EROSION-- ACHILLES' HEEL OF U.S. ECONOMY

The economic base of the United States, and by extension, much of the rest of the Western world, is in grave peril. But the danger remains largely unrecognized for now, because it comes from a source that most people are not remotely familiar with or even much interested in once they are told.

On Monday, June 10, I heard about this looming national crisis firsthand in San Francisco. In a speech delivered to the Commonwealth Club, J. Allen Overton, President of the American Mining Congress, warned that the United States is in danger of losing its mining, minerals and minerals processing base--the very foundation of our modern society.

The United States has, along with the other descendants of Joseph, been greatly blessed in this end-time era. We have been exceedingly fruitful nations (Gen. 49:22); we have enjoyed bountiful harvests due to good land, good weather and abundant rainfall--the "blessings of heaven above" (verse 25). In the same verse we were prophesied to also enjoy "blessings of the deep that lies beneath"--an obvious reference to abundant mineral resources.

Now, that latter blessing is eroding away. As Mr. Overton conveyed to his audience, the U.S. mining and mineral processing industries suffer from suffocating governmental regulations, the impact of radical, unbalanced environmentalism, foreign competition and a dangerous overreliance for key minerals on potentially unstable parts of the world.

Yet few Americans sense the impending crisis. As the country shifts into more of a service-oriented and high-tech economy, the public at large, and especially the younger generation, no longer sees that the need for maintaining a strong mineral base is as crucial as it ever has been. Following are some of Mr. Overton's remarks, from his official transcript:

This afternoon I'm here to talk with you about the current state of the minerals base in America and what it implies for our national security and the economic well-being of our people. The stakes are high--yet most Americans are not tuned in to the problem.... I doubt if the average Californian--any more than the average American--gives much thought to mining, other than recalling the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill more than a century and a quarter ago.

Yet, it is not without reason that minerals have been called the bedrock of civilization and, throughout history, the stepping stones of human destiny. Without minerals, we would have no factories or offices...no schools or hospitals...no highways or railroads or planes...no communications networks or energy systems...no means of equipping the military that defends us or cultivating the agriculture that feeds us...no human habitat more advanced than the one that preceded the Stone Age. It can truly be said that our horn of plenty begins with a hole in the ground.

Mr. Overton then had a few words to counter the claims and charges of environmental extremists who have brought much pressure to bear on elected representatives to severely curtail mining operations and even minerals exploration, especially on public land:

What cannot truly be said, despite the outcry of assorted zealots, is that all our material bounty has been bought at the expense of raping and ruining the land. Moreover, we ought to remember that over the entire history of this nation, with all the material blessings that mining has produced, only a fraction of one percent of the land's surface has ever been touched by a miner's pick.

From this small area of our land we have produced the stuff to make the things with which to fight all our wars in defense of our liberties, build our cities--our nation--rebuild Europe twice and Japan once. Reflecting on this, one could well paraphrase Churchill and say: Never Has So Little Yielded So Much to So Many.

Mr. Overton reiterated this in the question-and-answer period following his speech when he said that Americans "have forgotten that it takes stuff to make things." It's too easy to expect that the length of copper wire that you need will always be in the hardware store when you want it. People just don't stop to think that a several-years-long process is involved from the point of minerals exploration to on-site development, to extraction, smelting and manufacture of the primary products. Moreover, the basic components of the minerals process--the mines themselves, the smelters, the stamping plants--cannot be, as he said, "turned on and off like a spigot. Once lost, it will take years--if ever--to recover it."

Throughout the minerals industry there is a severe double crisis of unemployment and depressed prices--in the case of copper, the lowest price (adjusted for inflation) since the 1930s. As a result, whole operations have shut down, and remaining industrial giants such as AMAX and Phelps-Dodge are rapidly diversifying into other fields in a desperate attempt to hang onto their presently unprofitable mining operations.

Conservation, materials substitution (the ongoing plastics revolution), and low-cost, subsidized foreign production are all key factors. Taken together, they present a bleak picture for America:

In this volatile and turbulent time in the world, the alarming fact remains: The U.S. is losing its mining, minerals and minerals processing base. Petroleum refineries--nonferrous smelters and refineries--steel making capacity--large stamping mills--ma-

chine tools--component parts and our mining--are increasingly moving offshore to the far end of vulnerable shipping lanes.

By that Mr. Overton implied first of all the dangerous overreliance on southern Africa for key minerals such as chrome, manganese and cobalt. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union--the only other possessor of such key minerals in quantity--continues both to expand its mineral base and to move dangerously close to being able to interdict vital mineral exports to the U.S. Continuing to quote Mr. Overton:

While we have been increasing our reliance on Zambia, Zaire, South Africa and other nations that are marked by social, political and economic instability, and at the far end of vulnerable shipping lanes, what have the Soviets been doing? The Soviets have spent billions of rubles to develop their mineral mother lode in Siberia, and recently completed a new 2,000-mile railroad to connect it with the heartland of its military manufacturing complex.

At the same time, we now see some 90 percent of our essential mineral imports enter our country through the extraordinarily vulnerable shipping lanes of the Caribbean. And athwart those sea lanes is Cuba--that unsinkable "aircraft carrier"--manned by a large number of Soviet personnel today: 7000 civilian advisers, a 2800-man combat brigade, 2800 Soviet military advisers, 2100 technicians--at the Lourdes electronic intelligence facility, where the KGB operates the surveillance system which oversees our east coast and the sea lanes of the Caribbean and the Atlantic.

How dangerously dependent is the United States now on foreign sources?

Just recently the Secretary of the Army testified before Congress that the United States is more than 50 percent dependent on foreign sources for 23 of 40 critical materials essential to the U.S. national security, while the Soviet Union is totally independent of foreign sources for 35 of these same critical 40 materials.

When the Secretary of the Army speaks of critical materials, he means materials that are absolutely essential to the making of tanks, jet engines, planes, armor-piercing shells, missile control systems and other weapons and armored transport in the arsenal of defense.

Some people assert, said Mr. Overton, that Japan and West Germany seem to get along quite nicely without much of a domestic minerals base. Why, then, can't the U.S. do the same?

The answer, of course, is that these two nations and our other allies are sheltered by the umbrella of America's military might, which is held up by our economic strength. And among the sinews of that strength is our ready access to a plentitude and variety of minerals.

The United States does not have the luxury of being able to look to others for its own defense and that of the Free World, and we

forget that to our peril. Already the situation is precarious and make no mistake about it: our military leaders understand this well and they are worried.

Mr. Overton, too, understands full well the importance of the possession of mineral resources--and the near-guaranteed access to those minerals the nation doesn't have in abundance--as a major factor of national power. Those of you familiar with Hans J. Morgenthau's classic work, *POLITICS AMONG NATIONS*, know that he deals at length in chapter nine with the elements of national power. He classifies natural resources as being second in importance to that of geography.

Today's young generations don't think, or like to think, in terms of national power. Certainly the environmental extremists don't think along this line. In this light it is interesting to reflect on the fact that President Theodore Roosevelt was one of the first and foremost American conservationists. But he was a great believer in national power, too. While Mr. Roosevelt was the inspirer of the national park system, he never would have locked up the public resources from prudent development.

Today's most extreme environmentalists are sometimes called "preservationists" because they want to keep nature virtually undisturbed from human activity--the opposite of the instructions given by God to the first man, Adam, who was told (Gen. 2:15) to "tend and keep," not keep away from, the garden in Eden. Also note too that one of the rivers that went out of Eden, called Pishon, flowed "around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there" (verses 11-12, RSV). God placed mineral resources in the earth for humanity's benefit. While the extraction of these God-given resources has often been done in an uncaring manner, this is due to the greed of man. It doesn't have to be this way. Extremists swing to the other end of the pendulum and try to prevent development, even exploration, in order to prevent damage.

Some environmental extremists claim that Christians have taken God's injunction to Adam to "fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28), as Biblical license to man to do anything with the physical environment he wishes. Singling out this passage, they overlook the follow-up injunction to "tend and keep" the environment. Thus the extremists conclude the Bible is no guide to the management of the earth's resources. These people are generally ardent evolutionists anyway who believe man is just another form of animal life. They don't believe the clear explanation that man was made in the image of God and was to have dominion over "the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air...and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (verse 28). To believe such runs counter to their ecologically egalitarian thinking. To continue with Mr. Overton's remarks:

We have seen Congress three times declare in favor of a strong domestic minerals industry, and we have seen many more times that Congress will pass legislation which undermines its own declared policy. When the laws are passed that place de facto OFF LIMITS signs to minerals exploration and development in some two-thirds of our vast public lands--an area nearly equal in size to all the states east of the Mississippi--hardly a thought is given to the impact on the domestic minerals base.

We may not need to mine in these potentially rich lands today, but we ought to find out what's there, and only exploration can tell us, and it involves a negligible disturbance of the terrain. Some areas deserve to be preserved in their pristine state for their unique qualities or even for their historic significance--I wouldn't suggest, for example, mining on Nob Hill or the grounds of the Capitol Building or the White House--but the fact is that multiple use of the land can and does work, as I explained at the outset of my remarks.

In seeking to unlock the mineral wealth of this country, we have no choice other than to keep looking for Nature's needle in Nature's haystack. It's as simple as that. And those who would prevent us from discovering the needle are really giving the country the shaft!

Indeed I do not think these excluded lands will ever benefit posterity so much as they now benefit those few who are rich enough and have leisure time enough to go there and enjoy their undisturbed pleasure--and these are precisely the people who fortify the environmentalist movement.

It is nothing short of galling to see the environmental extremists, wielding the awesome power of their vocal organizations in every precinct of the land, insisting on stricter and stricter standards that have only the most marginal benefits, if any, but require tremendous expenditures without adding one iota to productivity. Have they utterly forgotten the consequence for the American military posture that protects their freedom to engage in even their own irresponsible behavior?...

In saying this, I have no intention of letting the people who administer and enforce the laws entirely off the hook. Quite the contrary.

In the mining industry today, digging into the ground is much easier than tunneling through the Federal Register, but nobody can do one without doing the other. Regulations are written in mind-numbing detail, emphasizing design and engineering standards instead of performance standards and results. They are rigid where they should be flexible, obtuse where they should be clear, prolific where they should be concise, and hopelessly legalistic where they should embody common sense. They are a paradise for bureaucrats and pure hell for the practical businessman.

If an old-time prospector were to return today, he'd be amazed to find that he'd better hire a lawyer, an accountant and an environmental engineer, before he dared risk his grubstake on a mule, a pick and a shovel. Compliance with federal regulations, which are usually as perplexing as they are prolific, has become an item of immense cost for the minerals industry--and, again, one that is probably not equalled anywhere else in the world.

And what comes at the end of the long and tortuous regulatory process? Why, a new beginning, of course. Because the process itself amounts to an engraved invitation to the courtroom, where

self-appointed public interest groups, which don't have to earn a profit or pay a tax, look forward to protracted litigation with all the eagerness that an old mining camp would reserve for Saturday night.

I ask you in all seriousness and solemnity, ladies and gentlemen, are all the things I've described the way for a responsible leader of the Free World to conduct itself? Is this the way to pursue the avowed goal of preserving our domestic minerals base? Is this the way to fortify the ramparts of our nation's security, if not, indeed, its survival? Is this the way to ensure that posterity shall have not only a habitat fit for life, but the material blessings that make possible the good life? I think not....

Our increasing dependence on unstable or uncertain foreign sources for our essential minerals imperils our national security and threatens our prosperity at home. It pits our survival as a free nation against the insatiable appetite of the Soviet for world domination through elimination of the U.S. as an economic leader of the free world.

America cannot remain a first rate economic and military power if we have a second rate mining and minerals processing industry. This, after all, is fundamental to the commonwealth of us all.

One can be certain that the Soviets are following any and all courses open to them to foster U.S. weakness in the minerals area. This would include worming their way into positions of subtle influence inside the radical environmentalist movement, to promoting strife in South Africa and influencing reactions to that area among leftists and civil-rights advocates in the U.S.

In his very interesting question and answer period, Mr. Overton (now in his mid-to-late 60s) gave an example illustrating the importance of maintaining a strong economic base and coordinated defense posture and of displaying a sense of national will to any potential aggressor. He told of the experiences he and several other U.S. officials had at the end of World War II interviewing top Japanese wartime leaders.

One of his associates talked with former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo. He asked Tojo: "What caused you to be so bold as to attack the United States?" Tojo replied that the Japanese saw that the U.S. and other Western powers did not react forcefully to Hitler's accession to power; that the U.S. was very slow to gear up its defense industry; that even when faced with impending war, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the draft law by only one vote. "Our perspective," concluded Tojo, "was that the U.S. had likely lost the will to defend itself."

Mr. Overton related a previously untold story of just how close the House of Representatives came to not passing the 1941 draft law. The key figure was the longtime doorkeeper, William "Fishbait" Miller, who retired not many years ago. On roll calls it was his responsibility to admit or refuse to admit those members into the chamber who were outside at the time, usually in their offices. The basic rule he was to enforce was whether the members were judged to be "within the hearing of the voice" of the Speaker at the time. Miller later admitted to friends that he always considered it his re-

sponsibility to know where all members stood on issues of national importance. For this reason, on the crucial draft legislation, Miller refused to admit seven onrushing congressmen, all of whom he knew would have voted against the draft. The bill passed by one vote. What power even door-keepers sometimes have!

Near the end of the Q-and-A period, Mr. Overton stressed that the United States, as leading power in the free world, cannot afford to let its mineral-based industrial strength ebb away, allowing the nation to have merely a service-based economy. "Our enterprises can't only be those of cutting up chickens and cooking hamburgers." He reiterated the advice given by the lawgiver Solon to the wealthy Greek king Croesus: "He who hath better iron than yours will win all your gold."

Mr. Overton admitted that the American mining industry has a "massive educational problem" trying to get its concerns over to Congress and out to the public at large. Talking about a minerals policy, he says, has all the "sex appeal of a radish." It has no saleability as news copy.

When I introduced myself at the end of his talk, Mr. Overton was very pleasantly surprised. He said he has been taking The PLAIN TRUTH for three or four years. He was introduced to the magazine when a colleague showed him the article in the September 1980 issue entitled "Just Ahead...World Crisis Over Minerals."

Mr. Overton said the editors of The PLAIN TRUTH may use his speech "any way you wish" and departed by saying that we should "keep up the fine job you're doing." We'll certainly give his remarks a much wider circulation--more than the handful of people present to hear him in San Francisco.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau