

Church faces massive crisis

The following are excerpts from comments made by Ralph Helge, head of the Work's Legal Department, at Sabbath services Jan. 13. His comments came after the Church, Ambassador College and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation were placed in receivership by a Los Angeles, Calif., Superior Court judge—the previous day. The judge's actions were the result of allegations by the State Attorney General's Office of mishandling of Church finances and assets by Church leaders.

You know, I felt that if I ever had the opportunity to come before the congregation here in the House of God and speak, I'd be so very happy and pleased about it. But I just want to bring some thoughts to you people so you understand something, so there's no question. The days that we are facing right now, as President Roosevelt spoke about Pearl Harbor, are, spiritually speaking, the days of infamy.

Some reporter asked me about some comments I made last time I spoke. I said, these are the blackest days as far as I can see it in recorded history since the time of the fall of Satan. And I mean that with all my heart. It's certainly the blackest pages in any constitutional law book. While talking to Jack Kessler last night he mentioned something that was interesting. He said, you know, any famous case always ended up in the U.S. Supreme Court. And for years we drew upon the cases that have been established by the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Seventh-Day Adventists. Well, now we've got our turn.

Now I want to bring you up to date briefly as to the court procedure here first of all, and I have to move so I can give Mr. [Roderick J.] Meredith time. There was an action filed, and it's going to be kind of hard to understand how it occurred, because the man walked into court, he gave some papers with some conclusions in them. He said, there's file shredding going on, and he said there's millions of dollars flowing out.

(See EXCERPTS FROM, page 2)



COURTROOM FIGURES — Leading figures in the Church's courtroom battles over the past two weeks are, from left, Stanley R. Rader; attorney for the Work, Allan Browne; Superior Court Judge Julius M. Title; and retired Judge Steven Weisman, named receiver of the Work's assets. (Illustration by Mike Woodruff)

Ministerial change announced

PASADENA — Roderick C. Meredith, an evangelist and a pastor-ranked minister since 1952, was appointed director of the ministry worldwide Jan. 5, replacing C. Wayne Cole, who had held the position since last May.

The appointment came through an affidavit from Herbert Armstrong, just two days after the Church had been put under receivership by the State Attorney General's Office.

From his home in Tucson, Ariz., where he was recovering from a fever and sore throat, Mr. Armstrong deposed Mr. Cole, whom he had placed in the chief executive position under himself just 12 hours before, following the State's action. Mr. Cole was later disfellowshipped and accused of being party to a conspiracy to take over the Church.

The affidavit also named four other persons, who, along with Dr. Meredith, would compose a team enlisted to take charge of the Work, under Mr. Armstrong, during the present crisis. They are Stanley Rader, Ralph Helge, Raymond McNair and Ellis LaRavia.

The position of director of Pastoral Administration is not a new one for Dr. Meredith, who was previously (See MINISTERIAL, page 16)

Ministerial conference delayed

PASADENA — The 1979 ministerial conference, originally scheduled for Jan. 15, has been postponed for one week to allow Herbert W. Armstrong adequate time to fully recuperate from a cold, sore throat and possibly the flu, according to Ted Herlofson, head of the Ministerial Services Department.

Mr. Herlofson said that because of recent events, including a major crisis in the leadership of the ministry (see article, this page), the need to have Mr. Armstrong as strong as possible prompted the delay.

Some 1,100 ministers and their wives are now expected to attend the four-day conference Jan. 22 through 25, following instructions from Mr. Armstrong that all employed ministers worldwide attend.

Overseas areas can only send as many ministers as allowable within the budget said Mr. Herlofson. United States elders not employed by the Work are also welcome to attend, but they must pay their own way.

Several ministers from overseas, who took advantage of lower excursion fares by booking in advance, have been on campus since the early part of last week in anticipation of a Jan. 15 conference.

Accommodating over twice as many ministers and their wives as was first scheduled "does strain the resources and facilities here," said Mr. Herlofson. He added: "It causes us to ask everyone who can to pitch in and help and go the extra mile. We've had such fine cooperation from the people that we are not worried."

Format for the conference remains the same with Mr. Armstrong at this time scheduled to conduct plenary sessions all four days of the conference.

Courtroom hears Gospel preached through films

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — A packed courtroom here witnessed Herbert W. Armstrong explain the Gospel as attorney for the Church, Allan Browne, presented sections from two films, *Herbert W. Armstrong, Ambassador for Peace* and *Herbert W. Armstrong, the Man and His Work*, at court hearings Jan. 11 aimed at removing receivership from the Worldwide Church of God. (See transcripts, beginning on page 4.)

Some 150 people at the hearing, including representatives from national television networks, the Los Angeles Times and other media, saw the films in which Mr. Armstrong is seen traveling around the globe meeting heads of state, kings and other prominent personalities.

The films, which ran about 20 minutes, were originally produced for the Worldwide Church of God members so they could see the Work being done with the tithes received by the Church. Produced in 1971 and 1974 by the Work's television department, the films were shown at major Feast sites.

In one segment Mr. Armstrong is shown leaving the Work's Grumman-II jet in Manila, Philippines, for a public appearance lecture. The film also shows Mr. Arm-

strong meeting and presenting President Ferdinand Marcos with a piece of Steuben crystal.

Mr. Browne said the film would dispel allegations made by plaintiffs that money was being squandered by Mr. Armstrong. The Gospel of Christ is being preached by Mr. Armstrong in these trips, he said.

Mr. Armstrong was shown lecturing before a packed hall in the Philippines where, over a three-night series, 25,000 people witnessed the proclaiming of our human potential, to "... be born into the family of God."

The Kingdom of God was preached to the crowd in the court, as Mr. Armstrong, on film, said:

"Conditions on this earth are going to get worse for a while, but God is not going to let it get to the place where man annihilates man from the earth. He's going to stop this hellish mess and He's going to send Christ, and with all of the power of the government of God to restore peace and restore the government of God once again to this earth, based on the law of God. And that law is love. And there's going to be love, and that's the greatest hope I can put out to you. That is your heritage."

Semester begins at Ambassador

PASADENA — It was classes as usual Monday, Jan. 8, according to Greg Albrecht, dean of students, as students at Ambassador College began the spring semester amidst national publicity concerning the State's investigation of the college and its parent organization, the Worldwide Church of God.

Although a special combined service of employees and students scheduled for 1 p.m. on Monday threatened to disrupt the regular class schedules during the first day, the meeting was canceled and no classes were missed.

A number of students said their primary concern centered around the events of the previous five days that saw the Church and college put into receivership. A secondary concern was the probability of a delayed start

for the semester.

"Most students were wondering if we would have class at all," said senior Ted Budge. "There were rumors one day that the school wouldn't open and the next day that it would. I think the majority of us were eager to get started on the classes we had signed up for."

Three hundred twenty-four students registered for the spring semester, including 98 new arrivals — 32 new students and 56 who had attended Ambassador before the beginning of the school year in August, 1978. The remaining number are those who were enrolled as regular students last semester. This group includes 31 sabbatical ministers.

All of this year's course offerings are theological in nature, with 14 undergraduate courses and 11

graduate-level courses available. Leon Walker, acting dean of faculty, said that a number of additional courses in the liberal arts will be offered next year, the beginning of Ambassador's revived four-year program. All of the course listings for next fall have not been finalized. Mr. Walker is temporarily filling the position of dean of faculty in place of Roderick Meredith, now the director of Pastoral Administration.

Mr. Walker feels that as far as the students and faculty are concerned, this part of the school year has started out on a positive note, in spite of the crisis.

"I think there is optimism among the faculty and students as far as the outcome of the whole thing is concerned," he said. "We're all ready to go."

Excerpts from Mr. Helge's comments at Jan. 13 services

(Continued from page 1)

Now he didn't call us. The law provides that basically you give 10 days notice to come in and respond. It's a fundamental concept of due process in the Constitution. But we didn't get the 10-days notice.

They've got a provision that if you've really got an emergency, at least give four hours notice, the court rules provide. This is for an ordinary event. We didn't get the four-hours notice. We didn't get the five-minutes notice. We got nothing. No time to come in and say:

"Look, here's our side of the story, Your Honor. Those affidavits are false. They're conclusory. They say nothing."

Appointing a receiver to come in and take everything an organization owns or a person owns, is totally unheard of. Or not so much unheard of, but a drastic, drastic remedy, one that should only be given in most extreme types of circumstances.

So they got a receiver appointed. When they got to court they talk about meeting opposition. But I tell you, what opposition would you meet if somebody banged on your door and said: "Get out, I'm going to lock the doors. I want you out. I want your kids out. And I'm taking possession of everything you own — complete control. Now get out of your house." Now what would you do?

If you had any guts you'd get opposition. You don't even know who the person is. You had no notice of it. They should be thankful it was so slight. You'd expect them to meet opposition.

So these were based on the charges now of the shredding, mind you, and of the millions of dollars being fleeced — see, going out the back door. That was the accusation, don't forget that. Based upon those accusations and those conclusions, this receiver was appointed.

Then the matter comes up to get our first shot in court a few days later. Keep in mind the first receiver immediately said, the first judge said, Hey goshly, you know, these powers you've got in here are much too broad. We've got to cut these down. We've got to limit them. You see? He knew they had to do that and he did it.

Then we had another hearing in court yesterday. Now remember, this is the opportunity for the opposition.

Now let's see what happened in there. They said we were selling property. The implication was the property was being sold, and the money was being stolen by Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader, which is another lie. When we came to court we put forth all our documentation showing the appraisals on this property that the property was sold for fair market value or above with two very small exceptions, and one of them was when they took buildings off the property to use elsewhere. So obviously it would be sold for less than appraisal. And they showed that every single check for every dime and every nickel went into the bank account. Remember this was the basis of the lies that you've been hearing that money is being stolen. And they couldn't prove it.

There was no proof. And the court wouldn't even further. Well, you have nothing there. Counsel, sit out. He got all these, they got a perfectly good appraisal here and all the money went into the bank account. Don't even talk about that.

They talked about Big Sandy — the Big Sandy rip-off. The one where GTA called the man up that's buying it, and he said he's going to start a class action suit. I don't see his name on these pleadings, but that was the threat.

And I sent him a letter, and I told him not to interfere with our

economic relations that are going on here. I talked to the buyer about it. He said, don't worry. He says, "I know how to put my pants on. I've been around for a long time. That doesn't frighten me." And the buyer's a very fine reputable man, believe me. A very fine man.

But then they talked about the Big Sandy, Tex., sale. We're ripping that off. It's worth \$30 million. What evidence did the court have on that? A newspaper clipping is what he had. That's what the judge entered the order on. And what was their best shot? Now they were in court. Where was their evidence? Again, they had nothing. They had zero. They just opened their mouth and they said it. But these are some of the accusations.

I want you to read the scriptures on gossip, please, and rumors so that you won't be swayed and lose your salvation because of them. They want to make merchandise of you. They want to take you.

And there was shredding. Files were being shredded. Over and over he said the money is pouring out, it's pouring out. I want to make a note here before I forget too. Well, I can't say. There was an accusation meant against me but I was told from a professional standpoint not to spread it because it would cut down potential action that I may have. But I'll just say about it that when it was all over, there wasn't one bit of evidence against Ralph Helge. They didn't even call me to the stand about it. So let me go on.

Shredding was the next point. What's the evidence of shredding? Oh, very dramatic! A little tiny letter shredder that fits over the waste basket. Mr. Rader said, you know, we don't even have a shredder around. And we had to tell him, yes, the secretary had to say, I'm sorry, we do have one in the office. He didn't even know it was there. And where did it come from? It was left over from GTA: that's where it came from. And then you know, where is the shredder? The shredder is up in the executive offices, and we had to show those carnal-minded people that the files aren't even kept up there. They were a quarter a mile away from the base. All that ever goes up there are computer documents where they've got 10,000 copies. You know, the computer runs them out.

But that was the accusation. They come up and say, Look here, Your Honor, we have a box of shredded material here. And here we have pasted together some of the material.

Our attorney looked at it and said, "Your Honor, we will stipulate that this will go in the evidence." And what was it? In there, as Virginia Kingston testified, was a letter that was shredded where a man was talking about the Gospel. In there was a little letter that was shredded where a man was talking about Israel.

You see, we had problems with dissidents stealing things from the garbage pail or from the trash can. We don't want them to get personal letters. And pornographic material would come in. They would run that through the shredder. And that was the only use of it. So all the evidence they had was nothing but personal letters, two or three.

This is their best shot now, right? This is the basis of all the accusations. This is the basis for the receiver coming in and taking over.

Then they talk about the millions of dollars being spent. Part of that was in salaries. I tell you, this was all of record. If you work here, your salary's of record, my salary's of record. They're all of record. The decision on this point is very simple. Is Mr. Herbert Armstrong the steward of your tithes or is he not? That's the question. Or is the State of

California the steward of your tithes? I don't like my tithe check payable to the State of California. And I'm not going to. So there's a simple point there, who is going to decide the salaries? Is the State of California? That's what the attorney general says. You see, it's a very simple point. Who's going to run the Church? That's pure and it's simple. And that's the issue.

The next point was you are spending too much money he said, on these overseas trips. There's too much money going out. But you've got to understand and remember Mr. Herbert Armstrong said here, "I'm going to reach the kings of the nations." He said, "That's going to be my special commission. And I will leave the others to feed the flock here in Israel." So be established that as a basis of preaching the Gospel.

It's on TV, you saw it, it's written up in article after article. We've got stacks of articles that big where Mr. Herbert Armstrong is telling you and me how he is spending the tithe money. The fact he's giving gifts to kings, that he flies there in an airplane. But this court doesn't agree.

So it's a very simple question. When he goes over to see a king, if he's going to go or not go, who's decision is it going to be? I say it's Mr. Armstrong's. That's what I say. It is not the court's. And you see, that is preaching the Gospel.

Now certainly it costs money. We get \$70 million a year and \$70 million went out in preaching the Gospel. Now if one million went out in preaching the Gospel, I'd say the attorney general may have something to complain about — maybe. But we've got \$70 million going out preaching the Gospel and that's what we do with it. That's what we are

here for. That's why I came into the Church in '56, to do that job. And it's the same reason you came in. But, you see, that's where he's caught. The judge said, now oh, that's too much money going out for that. Now those were their basis of proving that millions were going out. They don't want the way that we preach the Gospel.

Now what's really behind the scenes of this lawsuit? What's really and truly behind it? I'll tell you what it is. It's a few dissidents that want to take power and change the doctrines of the Church of God. They don't like the way it's being run. And they don't like the doctrines. They don't like the hierarchical concept. If they were Catholic they'd say: "Pope, get out. We want to do something different here. We want to make it a congregational church."

We've got certain rules and we've got doctrines. If you like them, tremendous. And if you don't, or I don't (I'll point to myself), then I'll go to the Church that teaches doctrines I do like. But I don't come in here and try to change the way Mr. Armstrong has set the doctrines.

What else is behind it? It's the dissidents and the State of California by their attorney general (at least their deputy) that wants to change Church government. Now he was right up on the stage, and we've got it down where he said it to everybody: "This organization has been run too much in an autocratic manner. Henceforth it will be run more along traditional lines." Now that's the State coming in and saying that. So just keep that in mind. That's what is behind this lawsuit.

Know what else is behind it? They want to decide how the Gospel is being preached. You're not going to

preach it the way of taking that money out and spreading it overseas to preach the Gospel the way we have decided. You're going to do it a different way. Maybe they'll decide you shouldn't do it on TV, maybe they'll decide you shouldn't do it on radio. Maybe they'll decide, Look, you people should be like Jehovah's Witnesses — you should go out and knock on doors. Now I'm not maligning that. That's their way, that's their business. That's their way of preaching the Gospel, and I'd go out and I'd defend it. And I'm going to defend our way to do it. So is Mr. Rader.

What else is behind it? You know what else is behind it. The deputy attorney general wants to avoid every constitutional restraint placed upon the State. He doesn't want us to have one right to say, look, if there is a problem, Mr. Attorney General, let's come in — you've got the power to come in and look at the records, come in. Let's look at it. Let's look down the salaries of every employee. Okay. Let's say 1,000. Now if there is a grievous wrong in one of those salaries, fine. You take the man out and you prosecute him if he is stealing. If he's doing wrong they got a whole court over there. They have criminal judges. Take the information, put him in jail. Okay. Let's say on these salaries I'm talking about.

But no, that's not what he wants to do. You see, he wants to, I'll tell you, with what the dissidents have put in him, destroy this Church. They want to come in, and they want to take the whole list of 1,000 people and they want to hold it up before the TV cameras and say, "Look at here, look at all these salaries that are being made. Boy, there's Mr. Rader's salary (See EXCERPTS FROM, page 14)

Canceled 'Pastor's Report' material

Following is dialogue from Stanley R. Rader that was scheduled to appear in the Pastor's Report Jan. 3. The Pastor's Report containing this material was ordered canceled by C. Wayne Cole Wednesday, Jan. 3.

But, Ted Armstrong was less than candid when he revealed details about his own salary to the press. To set the record straight, in 1977, his earnings as reflected by his W-2 forms issued by the Church and the college were \$174,645.78. As of Jan. 1, 1978, his base salary was \$150,000 per annum. (In addition to his use of three homes — in Big Sandy [Tex.], Pasadena and Tahoe — plus the cost of \$750,000 per annum for use of the Falcon fan-jet and an unlimited expense account for him and his associates.)

Several other members of his staff or very directly under his supervision were also very highly paid. Robert Kuhn was paid in 1977, \$106,969.22 and in 1978, \$83,702.36. Ray Wright was paid in 1977, \$106,969.22, and in 1978, \$122,728.81.

I think it would be of interest to you that I quote some comments that appeared in a letter from Ted Armstrong to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong dated June 29, 1977:

"Anything you can do to urge Stan to step out of a direct 'line function' and to retain his 'chief counsel' capacity with you, personally, as your constant traveling companion and the one who serves you in your dimension before kings, emperors, prime ministers and world leaders, would be very beneficial to the

Work. In that way Stan is [would be] wearing only the title of what he is actually doing for you! And Ray, therefore, is [would be] wearing the title of what he is actually doing on a day-to-day basis!"

Continuing on, "Ray Wright is the one who is doing the lion's share of the actual day-to-day administering of the financial affairs for the Work! It was Ray and I who had to put our heads together to go over all of the emergency procedures necessary, and, as you know, you and I teamed up and had to write letters to the Church calling upon the brethren to fast and to get in large emergency substantial special offerings in order to survive the cash-flow crunch that occurred only a couple of months ago. We are still in a day-to-day struggle to keep our heads above board."

"Meanwhile, just as was true many years ago, Stan is away almost all of the time because of your need of his services and his almost constant travel. Stan wears only as a title the 'Executive Vice President for Financial Affairs' label. But he is not, in practical fact, occupying that as a job or as an activity."

I trust that the aforesaid will answer your questions and will help you to understand what my capacity was until sometime in April, 1978, when under Mr. Armstrong's specific instructions I began to act for the first time as treasurer and responsible to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong for the financial affairs of the Work.

In closing, I recently conversed at some length with Mr. Ralph Helge, who has been receiving some of the questions that ministers have raised. He, too, has had great difficulty in making some of you understand that

it is not the Work's responsibility to prove a negative. It is not the Work's responsibility to reply beyond the simple declaration "it is not true" when responding to the most salacious as well as fallacious and defamatory rumors that Ted Armstrong and others are spreading about Mr. Herbert Armstrong, Mrs. Ramona Armstrong and others. I, too, cannot understand why, upon hearing any of the flagrant rumors, which have been recently brought to my attention, you cannot simply respond to others, "That is not true!"

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Excerpts from news accounts of crisis

The following news accounts, compiled by the Work's News Bureau at the request of *The Worldwide News*, reveal how the press portrayed, in chronological flow, the thundering series of events at the headquarters of God's Work in Pasadena beginning Jan. 3. Many articles are from the Pasadena *Star-News*. The reports begin with the raid on the executive offices and the seizure of records and continue with articles covering the motives of the plaintiffs of the suit, the specific allegations they levied, the appointment of C. Wayne Cole, Herbert W. Armstrong's affidavit removing Mr. Cole and appointing five others in authority under him, subsequent disfellowships and an article from the Los Angeles, Calif., *Times* detailing the defense of the Church's commission in spreading the Gospel.

'AMBASSADOR RAIDED' POLICE CORDON COLLEGE OFFICES

"Ambassador College administrative offices and vaults containing property records and bank accounts were cordoned off today by the State attorney general's office with the assistance of the Pasadena Police Department.

"Deputy Attorney General Lawrence Tapper, who is in charge of the case, mentioned receivership might be involved. Critical entrances and exits, including the private executive elevator, were being guarded to prevent anyone from getting out with any records." (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 3.)

"LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The California Attorney General's office has charged executives of the Worldwide Church of God, which operates Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif., with siphoning off church assets for their personal use at the rate of several million dollars a year," it was disclosed Wednesday.

"In an 11-page petition, the attorney general stated the church incurred heavy financial losses because of the alleged siphoning by Herbert W. Armstrong, 86, the church's pastor, and Stanley R. Rader, the church's treasurer and general counsel.

"The attorney general asked for and was granted a court order that the church be accountable to a court-appointed receiver. In response to the suit, Rader issued a statement saying: 'The order was issued improperly and without factual basis. It is contrary to law and unconscionable.'

"The alleged siphoning resulted in a deficit rather than a profit in the church's financial structure, the suit stated.

"Tapper contended the church failed to hold elections as provided by law so that members could make decisions on church operations. Tapper asserted decisions on church business were made only by the elder Armstrong and Rader.

"The suit alleged Armstrong and Rader and others in the church's executive level continued using funds for personal matters 'to this very day on a massive scale.'" (UPI, Jan. 3.)

'CHURCH FIRMS SEIZED' COURT ORDERS TAKEOVER OF AMBASSADOR OPERATIONS

"The three Pasadena-based corporations founded by religious crusader Herbert W. Armstrong were placed under authority of a court-appointed administrator Wednesday.

"The assets and records of the three nonprofit organizations have been placed under the authority and protection of a court-appointed trustee, former Superior Court Judge

Steven Weisman, until Jan. 10.

"The complaint was filed jointly by the State attorney general and six tithe-paying church members seeking to depose Armstrong and Rader as heads of the three charitable, religious and educational corporations.

"The suit is against Armstrong and Rader, the three corporations plus four others — Wilshire Travel Inc., Worldwide Advertising Inc., Gateway Publishing Inc. and Environmental Plastics Inc., based in Dallas, Tex., but qualified to do business in California.

"The contention of the suit is that Rader, who officially is general counsel and treasurer of the 75,000-member church, is the real head of the three top corporations. It is alleged that Armstrong and Rader are officers and directors of one or more of the other four corporations cited, and that funds flow freely among the organizations named in the suit.

"The complaint also charges that the two top leaders have sold as many as 50 pieces of church-owned property in just the past six months, below market value, and to cover their tracks have had records shredded. The suit specifically charges that the 1,600-acre campus in Big Sandy, Tex., is being sold for \$10 million when its value is closer to \$30 million.

"A major demand of the suit is for an accounting of all funds and money transactions, particularly by Armstrong and Rader. The complaint also charges that the two leaders have refused to hold regular meetings of the corporations and to allow voting on matters affecting the governing of the organizations.

"Although the suit calls for replacing the directors of the nonprofit corporation, only two besides Armstrong and Rader are named as defendants. They are Raymond L. Wright, a finance director for the corporation at one time, and Robert Kuhn, a vice president of the cultural foundation. The suit also names Osamu Gotoh, Henry Cornwall, Ralph Helge and the accounting firm of Rader, Cornwall and Kessler.

"Rader said the action was based on 'wild conclusions and things that are not true.' He said a disgruntled former church member 'who didn't like the way tithes and voluntary contributions are used to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ' had prompted the suit. Rader said the action had been taken illegally without notice.

"Alvin Earl Timmons of Pasadena, the first plaintiff listed on the suit after the people of California, is a supporter of Garner Ted Armstrong, the former radio evangelist told the *Star-News*." (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 4.)

'CHURCH'S DILEMMA NO SURPRISE TO MANY'

"State action placing the Worldwide Church of God and its educational arm, Ambassador College, into receivership is an ironic turn of events to an organization that last year boasted an annual income of \$65 million and claimed to be the only true church of God on earth.

"Yet the announcement comes as no surprise to many observers, who for the past decade have predicted that the lavish spending of the organization for such things as jet aircraft, expensive homes, gold-plated faucets, endless expense accounts, world travel, high salaries, slick magazines, book publishing, schools, buildings, fine food and others would one day lead it to its current state." (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 4.)

'WAYNE COLE TAKES OVER TOP ROLE'

"Evangelist Herbert W. Armstrong announced a new chief executive officer for his \$80 million church empire as a plea to free it from a court-appointed trustee being made in court today.

"A court order enforced Wednesday temporarily puts the assets and records of the three major church organizations under the authority of retired Superior Court Judge Steven Weisman.

"Rader said the restraining order is being challenged because the charges are unfounded, it was issued illegally without notice and does the opposite of its intent of protecting the corporation's income and assets.

"Who would want to send contributions to the judge, the State attorney general or the State of California?" he asked, explaining tithes are the major source of income.

"Assistant Attorney General Lawrence Tapper said that the State is particularly concerned with reportedly rapid liquidation of the nonprofit organizations' property, which is in a sense public property."

"The contention of the suit is that Rader, who officially is general counsel and treasurer of the 75,000-member church, is the real head of the three top corporations and that they actually are one entity — 'the church.'" (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 4.)

'STATE FILES SUIT AGAINST ARMSTRONG'S CHURCH EMPIRE'

"The attorney general, with six plaintiffs — all former members of the Worldwide Church of God — made the following charges against Herbert W. Armstrong, pastor general, and Rader, who serves as treasurer and general counsel:

"They failed to provide an accounting of the church's financial position, as provided by state laws governing charitable organizations.

"They siphoned off property and assets of the church for their own use and benefit, on a massive scale, amounting to several million dollars per year. The suit terms this 'pilfering.'

"They liquidated church-owned properties 'on a massive scale' including about 50 parcels of land in Southern California.

"They have entered into an agreement to sell the Big Sandy property, valued at \$30 million, for \$10 million.

"They 'shredded and destroyed' written records of financial dealings after removing them from the church's Pasadena office.

"Assistant Attorney General Lawrence R. Tapper said Wednesday state officials were particularly concerned with the Texas property. It had been due to change hands today at a price, state officers fear, is far too little. 'It's the public's property we're talking about,' Tapper said, explaining that since the church is a nonprofit charitable organization, its property is, in a sense, public." (Los Angeles *Times*, Jan. 4.)

'CHURCH'S RECORDS SEIZED'

"Rader said the [State's] action was based on 'wild conclusions and things that are not true.' He said it was triggered by a disgruntled former church member 'who didn't like the way tithes and voluntary contributions are used to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The action has already caused us irreparable harm.' Rader said. He added that similar problems with disgruntled persons have plagued the church over the 30 years of its existence." (Los Angeles *Herald Examiner*, Jan. 4.)

'SUIT SPLITS CHURCH'

"The appointment of an acting chief executive for Herbert W. Armstrong's \$80 million religious empire has magnified an apparent power play between two factions in the beleaguered Worldwide Church of God.

"Stanley R. Rader, one of those named in a suit charging him and Armstrong with pilfering millions of dollars from the church, Thursday challenged the authority of the court to appoint C. Wayne Cole to the specially created chief executive post.

"Retired Superior Court Judge Steven Weisman, who has control over the assets of the church, Ambassador College and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, concurred with Cole's appointment made by Armstrong in a written press release received Thursday.

"Cole and two high-ranking ministers flew to Arizona Wednesday night to obtain the written statement from the ailing 86-year-old Armstrong, but Browne said Armstrong issued a retraction less than 24 hours later.

"Armstrong signed the statement appointing Cole late at night, when he was suffering from a cold and fever, Browne quoted him saying. Told by telephone that a court-appointed trustee had 'tacitly denied that I had authority to appoint Cole as acting executive director under me,' Armstrong changed his mind, Browne said.

"While on Wednesday Armstrong pledged cooperation with the State attorney general, according to Browne he said Thursday, 'I will not submit to the State.'

"Armstrong, understanding that Cole had attempted to replace him and fire another minister, said that Cole was removed from the specially created post, Browne said.

"Wayne Cole has been insubordinate," charged Rader, who was in Los Angeles Superior Court earlier in the day in an attempt to have the court restrictions lifted.

"Rader contended as Armstrong later did that a court cannot tell a church what to do and therefore the court-appointed trustee of the church assets had wrongfully named Cole to replace Armstrong as spiritual head." (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 5.)

'FOUR OFFICIALS BANISHED AMID CHURCH STRIFE'

"Four top officials have been excommunicated from Herbert W. Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God . . .

"The excommunications of C. Wayne Cole, David Antion, Robert Kuhn and Ben Chapman were announced Saturday at the church's Pasadena headquarters at the end of a turbulent week that saw Armstrong's 45-year-old empire placed in temporary State receivership because of allegations that millions of dollars in church assets have been siphoned off.

"In court last week, there were accusations of shredding of documents, a Swiss bank account for the church and holding of gold bullion, with allusions to more revelations to come." (Los Angeles *Times*, Jan. 8.)

'CHURCH, COURT FORCES CLASH AT AMBASSADOR'

"The confrontation of church and state, which pits Herbert W. Armstrong's religious empire against California courts, continued during the weekend, flaring up at one point with a face-off between college security forces and court-appointed security guards. Internal disputes within the embattled church continued as well, resulting in the excommunica-

tion of four major officials.

"Rader said that the lawsuit was not the result of any financial mismanagement, but only internal dissent.

"The major problem is an internal spiritual matter, which is now under control because these people have been fired," he said. "We've cut off the head of this conspiracy, the collusion between these people and the plaintiffs."

"Rader said that the attorney general could have looked at their books without entering into a lawsuit. 'I would have expected better judgment to have been exercised by the attorney general and the judge that issued the [receivership and restraining] order,' he said." (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 8.)

'CHURCH SPENT THOUSANDS ON FANCY DINNERS, GIFTS'

"Expensive dinners at Perino's, stays at deluxe hosteries around the world and costly purchases at Paris boutiques are among the expenditures made by Worldwide Church of God officials as part of what they say is their mission to 'spread the Gospel.'

"A wide variety of expenditures — ranging from \$12,402 for crystal glass objects to \$2,124 for a purchase from a Hong Kong furrier to \$26 for golf balls as a gift to King Leopold of Belgium — appear on a copy of a church financial document for the 1975-76 fiscal year made available to the *Times*.

"The church's complete financial records detailing these and other similar expenditures are expected to be made part of the official record today when both sides in the heated battle for control of the \$80 million Pasadena-based religious empire present their arguments at a Los Angeles Superior Court hearing.

"On one side are the State attorney general's office and lawyers representing dissident former church members who claim in a civil suit that the church's 86-year-old patriarch, Herbert W. Armstrong, his top adviser, Stanley R. Rader, and other leading church officers have siphoned off church assets at a rate of several million dollars a year and turned them to their own use.

"On the other are Rader and his lawyers, who say the attorney general's civil suit represents a massive invasion by the State into 'spiritual matters' of the church and who argue that all expenditures were legitimate and designed to advance the goals of the church.

"The 1975-76 fiscal document shows the church spent \$1.7 million on travel, lodging and public relations, including expensive meals and gifts for what church officials claim was the courting of foreign dignitaries.

"The lion's share of the money expended was spent by Osamu Gotoh, said to be a former Tokyo cab driver who at that time was the coordinator of church activities in many countries. Gotoh's services were dispensed with after Armstrong had the heart attack in 1977 that curtailed his travel. But other substantial portions were spent by Armstrong and Rader.

"Among the items listed were: \$38,494.81 owed Trans World Airlines by Gotoh for a globe-jumping trip in August that took him to many of the world's major capitals, including Paris, London, Rome, Geneva, Tel Aviv and Tokyo, with side trips to Addis Ababa and Nairobi.

"A Steuben Glass bill of \$12,402 described as '1 Moses, 1 Pyramidon, 1 Excaliber, 3 Pillar of the Griffin.'" (See NEWS ACCOUNTS, page 9)

Excerpts from Jan. 6 Sabbath services

PASADENA — Friday, Jan. 5, in Superior Court of Los Angeles, Calif., Honorable Judge Vernon Foster heard arguments for and against the dissolution of the rest of the orders and dismissal of the receiver ordered by the court on the ex parte petition of the plaintiffs who were former members of the Church of God. Ellis LaRavia recounted for the brethren the results of the hearing before the sermon, which was given by Roderick Meredith. Following are excerpts of Mr. LaRavia's report.

Mr. LaRavia's report

Good afternoon again to all of you. You know, there are Sabbath days, and then there are Sabbath days.

Well, for the last three days it has been very nightmarish. There has been a lot of confusion, a lot of turmoil and a lot of misunderstanding, and it has created a great deal of distress for this headquarters church area and, of course, around the world. And we tried to clarify some of the things yesterday [at the 9 a.m. special service in the Auditorium, Jan. 5], and where we are going and what the problems were and how we hoped to resolve them. And I don't want to rehash a lot of those things now, but our concern has to be now for the welfare of the Church, God's people around the world and for the conduct of this Work.

I would like to go over with you briefly where we are in terms of the court hearing that ended last evening. Now for those of you who were not there, we did start somewhere in the neighborhood of 4 o'clock and did run until approximately 8:40 in the evening, so it was a very lengthy session. It was very hot and stuffy. I think we must have had five, six hundred people there, maybe more. At least that many. And it was very reassuring, very encouraging, and I think the judge was moved. In his final comments, he even made one comment that was directed toward those who were in the gallery. And so I think he was himself even very impressed.

But there are several points that I would like to bring out that he stated as far as where we are in terms of the receivership that came upon the Church around 8:40 on Wednesday morning [Jan. 3]. The judge stated that there has been no ruling or confirmation of any misconduct in the Church by anyone, by any defendant who is named. He said that in the next hearing, on Wednesday, facts will be presented — that is, if any exist — and then a judgment will be made accordingly. This will occur this coming Wednesday, Jan. 10.

There is also an order to permit the attorney general to investigate. Of course, I think that most of you understand that the attorney general does have the legal stewardship of all charities' funds, and that is certainly the vested responsibility of the attorney general of the State. And, of course, we have never resisted that particular official duty directly. But now it has worked out that way in the sense that we were resisting the receivership. So it did work to that end as far as the records were concerned. But that was not our concern. It was never our concern to bar the auditors from the records, or whomever, from the attorney general's office who needed to see those records. That was never our intent.

Also another point: *The control of the Church and its entire organization, and its assets, are back with the Church.* Again, I think that is very important because under the terms of the receivership, or at least the way they were conducting themselves under that receivership, we had no

rights to anything. The appointed receiver was totally and completely in charge of everything. And that was stated. So that is not conjecture.

Another point: The receiver has no right, at least now under the terms of the court, *to hire, nor fire, nor right to interfere with regular conduct of business.* So our business can go on as it has been, at least until it was interrupted on Wednesday morning. We can go on with our normal course of business, paying our bills, receiving income, depositing those funds in the bank, writing checks upon those funds, printing the Gospel, buying radio and television time and making payment of all of the other things that are in the normal course of business. And, of course, employees' checks, which all who are employees are certainly interested in.

Another point: All records that previously were removed by plaintiffs' attorney or the attorney general *must be returned* forthwith because then that brings everybody back to square one where everyone [the plaintiffs and the defense] has access to whatever records are available, and where no one has any advantage in that respect [as the State had up to that point by their absolute control and our exclusion].

Point six, and probably one of the more important ones that undergirds, and is an umbrella over, all of these others: *The Church is back under the control of Mr. Herbert Armstrong.* Now he never relinquished it, but believe me, brethren, they considered it so. And by "they" I mean the attorney's plaintiffs and the receiver, the retired Judge [Steven] Weisman. They did definitely consider this so because I was there.

When I walked into the building [Wednesday morning, Jan. 3] they were already there. And they summarily told me — in fact — one of the first things they hit me with was, "Mr. Herbert Armstrong is removed from his position in this organization." Now that's what they told me, unequivocally, and I lie not. I would state that under oath if need be, or affirm it, for that is what they said. And that was even reaffirmed at a later time. And the attorney pointed to ex-Judge Weisman, and said, "He is now in charge of everything." So, to the best of my recollection, that is the way it was.

Now I could relate many, many other things to you, but the important thing at this particular time is that we understand where we are now. We feel like we are in a very good posi-

tion now because the main thing we did not want to see, and, of course, Mr. Armstrong did not want to see, was himself removed [by the State of California] as the apostle of this Church because God placed him there, and he knows that, and we know that.

Another point: The receiver will only be collecting data from our records and documents. And the only reason the receiver will be here at this point in time is to make certain that this is done. So they will only be collecting data from our records and documents.

And the final point here: We, the Church, were *always willing* to open our records, and we believe our records will vindicate us. Mr. Herbert Armstrong has said that, and we have no reason to believe otherwise. If something is presented to the contrary, Mr. Armstrong has said that he will, of course, do whatever is required to remedy the situation. So we can be content with that, and we can depend upon that.

So yesterday's hearing, I think, was *very essential.* It was essential to clarify the authority in this organization because that was *what was at stake!* Because whether we realize it or not, or whether we understand it or not, we had to preserve our rights as a Church, and that meant to preserve the rights of the individual who is the human head of this Church that God has appointed. And this other individual, the receiver, was in charge indeed. And, theoretically, he could have been permanently in charge. Now I am not saying that would have happened. But he could have been in charge as long as the court action of the State allowed him to be in charge. Now that could have been weeks, or days, or months, or years or whatever. Sure that's theoretical, I understand that. But should it happen for one minute? Or one hour or one day or whatever? No, it shouldn't. That was what was at stake. And it was a classic Church vs. State situation.

Well, I think that it is very important that we had this clarified [in yesterday's hearing], and now we can go forth with the regular conduct of our activities, thankfully. Now, of course, there no doubt will be some impediments where we have records that we are going to have to work around the auditors and people who are combing through these and filtering through them. That is true. But at least we're in our normal conduct of routine business. And that's going to be good. So I hope all of you can rejoice in that.

Dr. Meredith's sermon

Greetings, everyone! I know a lot of people have been drawn many different directions the last few days, but many are very loyal and encouraging. I hope all of you are trying to be loyal and encouraging through the trials we're going through. And we certainly all need each other's prayers.

Brethren, I think you've all heard of the changes. They've been very traumatic for people of every persuasion in the Church, and I'm sure you understand that. I have a great deal of sympathy for those involved, because changes are hard, difficult and shocking.

In times of war, in times of strife, in times of battle, sometimes we change battle strategy quickly. Mr. Armstrong decided to appoint me as the new director of Pastoral Administration, as I think you all know. But Jesus Christ is at the top, and we had better all know that. I know that deeply and fervently, and under Him, Mr. Armstrong is top. There are three or four of us here who are to work together as a team. And then on out, dozens of others are going to work together as a team. Then hundreds of us on campus are going to work together as a team. And then the ministers and the people in the field, thousands of us, are going to work together as a team. Together, we will get the job done!

I would like to point out that there are all kinds of rumors flying every which way. Please, brethren, don't believe all these rumors!

I'm responsible in this particular office as far as the ministry at this particular point — as far as disfellowshipments and things like that — and nobody has been disfellowshipped, period. [Later during the sermon Mr. Meredith received Mr. Armstrong's letter disfellowshipping four men.] One or two have been suspended, but nobody has been disfellowshipped in this particular crisis of the last few days, period. There may have to be a few disfellowships, depending upon future conduct and attitude and other facts as they come out, and I want to try to have time to talk to the individuals involved. I want to make peace. I want to help us all to have the opportunity to serve as much as we can. God wants all of us to exercise our full human potential, every last one of us, and as we work together as a team I'm sure we can do that.

I'm just a bond slave of Jesus Christ and your servant. And I hope I can do a good job. If God doesn't like my work, He will kick me out and God is going to run this Church through His servant Jesus Christ of Nazareth and through His human servant, Mr. Armstrong. As long as he is faithful, and as long as I'm faithful, I'm sure that God will be with us. And I hope that you will all pray for us, and this will work out.

Concerning all these attacks that have been leveled at us that Mr. Rader is this and that, there has been *no proof whatsoever.* These rumors have been almost an obsession with many people. I want to charge you (Business Dept., Data Processing, etc.) on the authority of Jesus Christ, publicly right now, to cooperate with these auditors and to not withhold anything that would bring out any financial malfeasance by anybody, including me and my wife and children. And I mean it. I want you to cooperate and not try to cover up anything. I want to be sure that this is the cleanest and the most honest and the most decent and the most wholesome Church on the face of the earth!

Brethren, we're in a testing time in God's Work. And I think we all know that. We are going through what is probably the greatest test of this Work so far. We may have said that before. And at previous occasions we have had "the greatest test," perhaps back in 1972, and then we had "the greatest test" in 1974. But because of the cumulative upset and problems, this is indeed an even greater test. But we should thank God for the trials!

We do need to keep things in perspective though and recognize that our trials are not those of Peter and Paul, who were beaten, who had their clothes jerked off of them and lashed with a cat-o'-nine-tails so that the hide was torn right off their backs. I don't think we've had that kind of trials yet! Our trials are a little different.

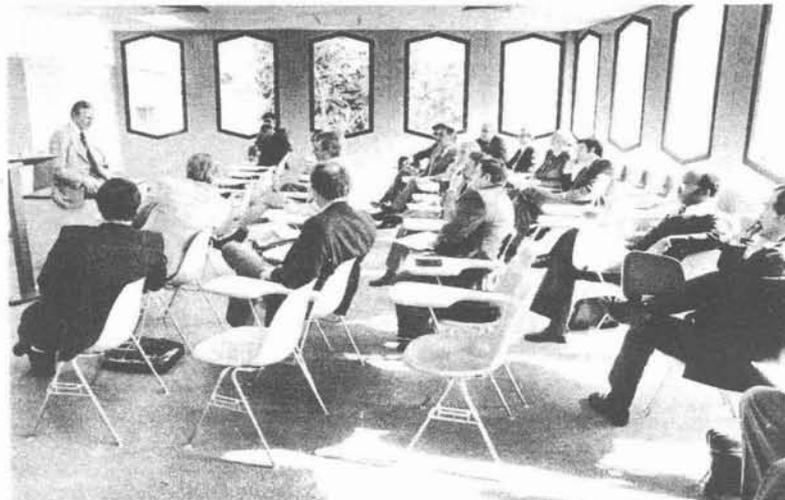
In Matthew 24:8, Jesus describes the trials, in a sense, the punishments and the plagues that are going to be brought on the world at the time of the end. He talks about wars and world wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes in different places. And Jesus said: "All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted [during this period of time], and shall kill you . . . and you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then [at this very time when these things begin to occur and these things are in process of happening] shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."

There is not an attitude of submission to authority in our society. It is the most judgmental and rebellious attitude that perhaps has ever existed in the American society up until this day. It is an attitude that will drastically change after our people are brought down and starving to death in concentration camps.

But we've got to have our attitudes changed here and now and try not to let that attitude or spirit of rebellion enter our minds.

Jesus said, "But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved." We didn't really know what that meant 10 years ago, but we've been learning, haven't we? We do have to endure to the end. But most of us haven't had too many bloody trials yet. We're grateful for that.

Back in Colossians 1:18 Christ is described as our living and our active head. And brethren, again, it's so (See EXCERPTS, page 5)



MINISTERIAL MEETING — Roderick Meredith, newly named director of the ministry, meets Jan. 6 with area coordinators regarding recent Church events.

Excerpts

(Continued from page 4)

easy to get our minds off that. I saw back in '71 and '72 when certain things happened that some people who were weak or had a lot of problems, left at that particular point. (It seems like God is sorting things out.) And then in '74 certain things happened, and it became obvious that God was trying us and sorting us out. And as you look back, you can see that those whose hearts were right and those who didn't have an attitude that "I want things the way I want them, and I want them right now," that are genuinely humble and patient and walking in the fear of God — they're still with us. And they will continue to be with us, and nothing will shake them.

I pray and I hope all of you will pray fervently. Let's keep our minds on the real leadership. The real leadership is not Herbert Armstrong, the real leadership is not anyone of us here today or anywhere else on earth humanly, but the real leadership is Jesus Christ! And we've got to have confidence in that and really believe. That's an article of faith, that Jesus Christ is the head of this Church, and we've got to do that and ask Him to sort things out.

Ask God to guide Mr. Armstrong's mind and to give him understanding and knowledge and insight and spiritual discernment to grasp the attitudes of all those around him with whom he is dealing, and to see who is truly a man of God and who is not, and who ought to be in this or that or some other job and to do it sincerely and to do it humbly. Ask God in heaven to guide his mind and inspire him and lead him and to give him wisdom and judgment and foresight and vision and big-mindedness to see the big picture as God would want him to.

Brethren, Christ is to be the head of the Church in every way. He is to be the head of the Church in regard to the Church administration. He is to be the head of the Church in regard to publishing, to be the head in regard to our data processing, and the editorial, and to be the head in media, and to be the head in the YOU programs, and the YES programs, and every other program we have in Ambassador College, as I said, and all the rest of it. Christ is to be the head of His Church and of the Work of His Church. And we are to ask Him and should ask Him now more than ever to intervene and to guide and lead and inspire and also to sort out.

I ask your prayers for me, for Mr. [Raymond] McNair, for Mr. LaRavia, for Mr. [Ralph] Helge, for Mr. Rader, and certainly for Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Pray for our area coordinators and the other leading men in the church here — the evangelists and pastors and the teachers in the college, and all the other men, the fine men in publishing and editorial and those in the rest of the Work.

"He [Christ] gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11). He put them in the Church. That's His doing. That's the government of God.

What are your tithes and offerings being spent for, basically? And they are. I don't want any smart guy thinking otherwise, they are. The vast overwhelming majority of your tithes and offerings are and have been spent on radio, TV time, publishing and doing the Work of God.

The big thing that we're paying for and that our prayers are for is proclaiming the coming Kingdom or government of God. That's the whole thing — government from the top down. And God has put officers in that government, some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers. We are to

think about the government of God and submit to the government of God. And if we can't do that now, and be together and recognize that government, we're total misfits to be in the Kingdom of God tomorrow.

And so, brethren, be careful not to be tossed to and fro by conflicting doctrines and conflicting ideas or even conflicting rumors, and let those things take you away from the basic thing which this Church has been doing, and is doing, and I pray and I do believe we'll continue doing more effectively, and more powerfully than ever after this cleansing and purging we've been getting this past year.

Satan the devil is real and he is alive. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places.

And, brethren, there are wicked spirits, and they are active and they're having an impact. And I think we need to realize this and understand this deeply. We are being attacked by many different types of spiritual attitudes. We're attacked from different directions by Satan the devil. Some are being influenced to follow a rebellious individual who has directly rebelled against his father, having gone contrary to everything he said he would never do. Some are being swayed in that direction.

Others are being swayed to just get upset generally because of rumors about Mr. Rader or alleged improprieties of all sorts. And Satan will use that to take those people out if they want to let their minds be blown and go off in that direction. And then others may be taken away because they have liberal tendencies or doctrinal errors themselves and want to follow a kind of a liberal way of life. They don't want God's way of life that He's established in the Church for the past 45 years under Herbert W. Armstrong, the anointed of God. They have constantly been subtly, but persistently, undermining that man. And so they will say, "I'm not going to change and decide to really follow from the heart what Mr. Armstrong says, so I'll get out."

All those pulls are going to be exerted on people and perhaps other pulls from other directions, and other spirit personalities will be pulling and tugging at people to try to get them to leave the Church of God of which Jesus Christ is the living Head. And I hope that none of you fall for those things.

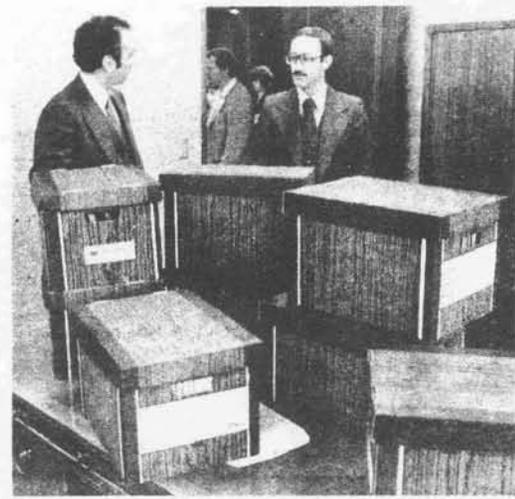
Mr. Armstrong has said that he does want any improprieties to come out and those who have perpetrated them to be punished. And if there have been other wrongs or grievances done where individuals have been treated unjustly in any way, I hope and pray we can rectify that as best as we can and be sure that we do administer God's government in wisdom and in patience and in love, and yet with proper firmness because God does that too.

I have a note here [handed to Dr. Meredith] reporting that something is coming from Mr. Armstrong — we'll see if it arrives.

Now, God says, "Remember them who have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God, whose faith follow." And we are to follow their faith, and we are to be loyal to God and to His government. That is the test at this time. Can you have faith in God's apostle and be following the one that God has ordained as His anointed all of these years? You are to submit yourselves and do it willingly and gladly and not with a lot of argument, because that makes it that much harder for God's servants, if they have to operate under that kind of situation.

Now God's servants will always make some mistakes. You read about Peter, how that before he was filled with God's Holy Spirit, he cursed

and denied Christ three times, and even after he was ordained and was the leading apostle in the New Testament Church, he and Paul had this confrontation when Paul confronted him over his lack of understanding of the racial issue that God was admitting all freely into God's Church in spiritual fellowship. Then Paul and Barnabas had a confrontation and the contention was so sharp between them that they worked separately for a while, and yet still cooperated, and wrote lovingly. Obviously they were in the same Work. They didn't start different churches. They didn't have a "Paul Church" and a "Barnabas Church."



SEIZED FILES — Attorneys for the State of California, left, and the Worldwide Church of God watch over some of the files seized by the State in the executive suite of the Church's Hall of Administration.

And so people will make mistakes, but they must still teach God's laws and do God's way. And that's exactly what Mr. Armstrong has continued to do. And I think you all know that deeply. He has never wavered from that. God has put him in office, and he is responsible to guide the Church.

In I Samuel 8, when Samuel was old, he made his sons judges over Israel. But they walked not in His ways, as you know, taking bribes and perverting judgment. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together and wanted to change the government of God — which was involved in this thing that came up recently, this court restraint that was imposed on us temporarily. They were not just rejecting a white-haired old patriarch here on earth, "but they have rejected me," God said, "that I should not reign over them."

And, brethren, I hope that we can understand that lesson. When we reject the man that God has given all of us this knowledge through, the man that God has used, we are, in fact, rejecting God.

Back in I Samuel 24 is a very classic case. Saul went into the cave to relieve himself, and David's men said: "Kill him now. Now you've got him. Kill him." And David, of course, did cut off the corner of Saul's robe quietly, just to have something to wave and say: "See how close I got to killing you." But he did not kill him. And even cutting off part of his garment made him feel guilty later, and he repented and said, "I should not have done it." And that's right. He should not have done even that! He said to his men (verse 6), "The Eternal forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Eternal's anointed, to stretch forth my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Eternal."

Likewise, Mr. Armstrong is the anointed of God.

In verse 7 it says, "And they came right to where Abner and the people were sleeping." Saul and Abner, his captain, were sleeping and God ob-

viously caused a deep sleep to come on them so they didn't even wake up. In verse 8 Abishai, this young warrior, said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, let me smite him, I pray, with the spear even into the earth at once." He said, "Let me get one spear into him. It won't take more than that. I'll just nail him in one fell swoop." David said, "Destroy him not. For who can stretch forth his hand against the Eternal's anointed and not be guiltless?"

Brethren, that is a lesson we need to learn really deeply. Those who would rise up and try to fight, or go off and start a competing work or do

loyal, and not try to second-guess Mr. Armstrong in the government of God. We do not want a house divided, and we must not have that kind of house, and I'm sure that if our attitudes are right we will not.

Another little word of caution along that line is back in Proverbs the 13th chapter. "He that keeps his mouth keeps his life. But he that opens wide his lips shall have destruction." Brethren, I think that of all times this is a time to give very careful consideration to what we say and how we say it.

Our actions and our words and our works over the next several days, especially, are going to show God where a lot of us stand and whether we are willing to trust Mr. Armstrong and his judgment and his wisdom in these affairs, and whether or not we, as God's true servants, are willing to have faith in the leadership of Christ and stand fast in a time of trial and a time of test and a time of siege in the Work of God. Let's do that, brethren, and let's show loyalty in every way to Mr. Armstrong and to God's government.

I want to read something that I've just now received. This is a letter signed by Mr. Armstrong and the ink is fresh, I see. It's not a printed signature. I didn't know what was coming. I tell you before God and Christ. I had no idea anything was coming until this thing came up, and I'm going to have to, I see, skimming this, do something that I've just been preaching to you about, and I will do it. He directs this letter to me in my office and says:

"Dear Rod: This is to inform you and to confirm the decision that I have made this day to dis-fellowship from the Worldwide Church of God and all its related organizations for cause . . ." I see he doesn't spend 15 minutes trying to convince me that he has the right to be the apostle or convince you, so I guess we'll have to have a little faith in Christ and in Mr. Armstrong, ". . . the following."

So you listen carefully, and all of you, as you know, are forbidden to associate with, and to eat with, or fellowship with, and if you're really loyal, you're not going out and commiserate with people and say: "Oh well, let's all be the underdog and yak it up and try to judge God's apostle." But these people are dis-fellowshipped by Mr. Herbert Armstrong directly, and by me personally, as I have to do it in my responsibility, and I'm sorry I've come into this office in a time of siege, but perhaps it had to be. I'll just tell you that in advance. It would be so much nicer to come into a peaceful time rather than warfare. We are in a war. Let's see whether we are faithful warriors. Continuing with Mr. Armstrong's letter:

"The following men are to be dis-fellowshipped this day. Mr. C. Wayne Cole, Mr. David Antion, Robert Kuhn and Benjamin Chapman." I understand now that Mr. Rader is here and is going to explain some of that to you directly for Mr. Armstrong.

"I further instruct you to mark these men before the Church for causing division and offenses contrary to the doctrine they and the Church have learned and to avoid them according to Romans 16:17. We are to mark them and to avoid them (Romans 16:17) and so we are to do this in the interest of doctrinal and administrative peace within the Church of God. Sincerely, in Jesus' name, Herbert W. Armstrong."

And so now, I'd like to introduce Mr. Rader and ask him to explain for Mr. Armstrong. I'm going to stand here with him, because I share this responsibility and may wish to make some final comments, but I'm going to ask Mr. Rader then, as I understand he's here, to come on out and to explain to you why Mr. Armstrong has chosen to make these decisions.

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Excerpts

(Continued from page 5)

Mr. Rader's comments

Greetings, everyone! This has been a very eventful week, and if I can do no more today than to make you realize what almost happened, but for the grace and the will of God, I will have accomplished a great deal today.

Now what happened this week was something that was fairly well predicted by Mr. Armstrong in May of 1978. For the past seven or eight months, he has been watching very carefully, has been weighing the conduct of all of us, what we have been saying, what we have been doing, our overt acts and the like. He has not been inaccessible. He has been reached by hundreds of people by telephone, by letter and in person. And he has had to weigh and sift through all that he has been made aware of during that period of time, as well as the impressions and the knowledge that he had gained in some 46 years as Christ's apostle.

During that particular period of time, I had done everything I could to slow things down, hoping that Mr. Armstrong this time was not right, hoping that what he had predicted was happening and would continue to happen, would in fact not happen. And during that period of time, in person, and in writing on more than one occasion, I had defended Mr. Cole to the point that I had to come to harsh words with Mr. Armstrong. I defended Dr. Kuhn as recently as six weeks ago when he ordered me to fire him that moment, and I resisted and he told me that he thought that I had forgotten that he was Christ's apostle. He had given me an order and I said, "Mr. Armstrong, let me give him another chance." He said, "You are making another mistake. I am telling you to fire him."

Now this was after four days of argument by telephone and by an exchange of letters between me and Mr. Armstrong over Dr. Kuhn, with Mr. Armstrong telling me to fire him and my trying to defend him. And Mr. Armstrong telling me, "I am telling you again, Stan, you are wrong." Why I did it, I don't know, but I thought maybe he [Dr. Kuhn] was entitled to another chance. But Mr. Armstrong, obviously, once again knew better.

The man standing on my left [Dr. Meredith] will tell you that there is never any question about where I stand. I had heard (I still do not know whether it is true and I do not care) but I had heard from another man in the ministry whom I had learned to respect and whom I had learned to admire, and whom I had spent a considerable period of time with in Mr. Armstrong's company during the past two years — I had been informed that Mr. Meredith had slandered me; and I was in New York, and I guess I had had a hard day. And I did not want to make believe that I was someone other than myself, so I picked up the telephone. I tried to get Mr. Meredith, and I could not get him. He called me back and I blew my top, really. He can tell you that.

The next day I blew my top even more, but Mr. Meredith said he did not remember saying what he said. If he said it, he apologized. I said, "Fine, I accept the apology." I called Mr. Armstrong. I said, "No problem. I do not care whether he said it and I will never be able to prove whether he did or he did not. It does not make any difference, does it?" But I got it off my chest. And I had apologized. And when it was all through, I felt worse having lost my cool, as they say, because I really was pretty angry. I think more angry the second day than the first day.



CHURCH ATTORNEYS — Representatives of the Los Angeles, Calif., *Times*, *New York Times*, radio station KFWB and a local television station interview Allan Browne, attorney for the Church in this case, Stanley Rader and Ralph Helge, head of the Church's legal department, in the Hall of Administration.

Then Mr. Cole, sometime ago, right after the Feast of Tabernacles, called a ministerial meeting. I did not know why exactly. I checked around a little bit, and he said he had heard some reports about certain ministers making comments during the Feast that were divisive, and I sat in that meeting and I said, "Every man in this room, I have had occasion to defend on more than one occasion where efforts have been made to discredit them in Mr. Armstrong's eyes," and that I was serving notice on all of them that I do not care who it was if someone went to Mr. Armstrong ex parte and tried to discredit a person in his eyes, I at least was going to throw up a resistance that would allow that person to get a chance to get to Mr. Armstrong.

You remember my saying that, Mr. Meredith. And there was a lot going on that day. There was quite a dialogue. You could see people with different points of view, basically on doctrine and Church government. And that is all this is about. If this Church does not have government, and does not have a unity on doctrine, then it is not God's Church, but I was not getting involved in that. I was just serving warning on everybody that if they expected to blow somebody out of the saddle, with Mr. Armstrong ex parte, I did not care who it was, I was going to offer a defense, till that person could get to Mr. Armstrong with the facts.

So all of this was going on. In the meantime, in October, right after the Feast of Tabernacles, I told Mr. Armstrong that I felt that it would still be in the best interests of the Work if within a reasonable period of time, sometime perhaps in January, I could pick up my duties that I had before May, and serve him more adequately in a role that I was more comfortable with. And that letter I wrote with a little pique; I was a little bit annoyed. I had heard somebody had told Mr. Armstrong that I was running the Work and that he was beginning to believe it. And so I was a little annoyed. I did not care if everyone thought that I was running the Work. He knew it was not true. And I knew it was not true, but on this occasion somebody said that he thought it was true. Well, of course, he knew it was not. He cooled me off and we let it rest.

In November, I think it was about Nov. 16, about a week or so before Thanksgiving and again before our departure for the Middle East, I wrote Mr. Armstrong again and then he wrote the pastors, and I think we published one of the comments in the *Pastor's Report* and in *The Worldwide News*, that I was begin-

ning to kind of have it up to here with the problems of trying to be a day-by-day administrator, which I did not like, and also people setting me as a possible alternative to him in the event something happened to him if God, for some reason or other, were not to allow him to complete the Work that had been delegated to him as Christ's apostle. And again, Mr. Armstrong and I talked it over and we thought that it was a bit premature.

And then, shortly before the first of the year, we had another discussion on the telephone. It was kind of an interesting discussion because on a particular Thursday, just prior to New Year's Day, Mr. C. Wayne Cole had gone down to Mr. Armstrong, and in writing and under a lot of pressure had told him a couple of very interesting things. One, that he was absolutely certain that a lawsuit was going to be filed immediately after New Year's and gave him a letter, which concerned me, the essence of which I will read to you, because Mr. Armstrong excerpted certain paragraphs in a letter he wrote back to me dated Jan. 1.

And the sum and substance of the pressure, you see, was to find a way before the lawsuit began for me to step down as treasurer, because if that were possible, if I were off someplace in Japan on a trip, and the events of this past week occurred, the battle would be over, because as a news report on CBS television said (and we have the tape, and they will show it), I am "a fighter." And I am going to fight for Mr. Herbert Armstrong. And we found out in the last 72 hours we have a lot of fighters, because I could not have done it alone. Mr. Helge and I could not have done it together without the people who worked with us for almost 72 consecutive hours.

We were locked out of our offices. We were blocked from our files, but our lawyers turned over their offices to us, and their manpower, and their secretaries, and when it got too late for them to continue they left the building and just left us in control of their entire office. We were making calls all over the world for information, and they were not worried about who was going to pay the bill for the long-distance calls and what have you.

At any rate, they wanted to see if there was some way to get me out before the lawsuit hit, and they also had some very uncomplimentary things to say about another individual named Helge, because you see, he'd throw up quite a bit of resistance also.

Now the letter that Mr. Armstrong wrote was written to me 48 hours

after we had a little argument on the phone. Apparently what they had told Mr. Armstrong was bothering him a little bit, and he happened to call in on a Sunday, and there was one person working in the Administration Building that day. It happened to be Virginia Kineston. She just happened to be working there that day. And he had called in. See, he doesn't remember too well that Sunday is a "day of rest." And as far as he was concerned, he had just finished writing another article, and he was going to dictate it to somebody. And he got her on the phone, and after he got finished working with her, she made a mistake, apparently. She said, "And by the way, Mr. Armstrong, the cover for *The Plain Truth*, February number, was delivered here Friday."

And out of the clear blue sky, he exploded! Because, you see, Mr. Cole had told him that Mrs. Kineston was selecting the covers for *The Plain Truth* magazine. It was not enough to say I was running the Work. That portion that I was not running obviously Mrs. Kineston was running. She came over to my house in the afternoon, and that was New Year's Eve, the 31st, and it was a Sunday. And she came over in tears. And I felt that she had been unfairly attacked. And I called Mr. Armstrong, and I did the unforgivable again. I again blew my top.

But Mr. Armstrong is pretty accustomed to that, and he knows that I do not have anything in mind that is really disrespectful of him and his authority, but I get it off my chest, and I guess that means I will not have an ulcer. And when we got all through he had said he did not know why Mrs. Kineston was upset, and then he said, "Well, I guess I said more than I should have," and I should tell her that it was quite all right, and he did not mean it and so on. But I could tell that he could tell that there were things under the surface.

So I sent him another letter telling him that the more I thought about it, the more I felt that my feelings for the past eight months, which were becoming a little bit more acute in the last quarter of the year, were such that within a reasonable period of time I would want to go back to doing what we were doing before — as his chief adviser, traveling with him, the foundation and helping in the legal and financial end of things. And he said, "Well, we will talk about that later. There is no rush. But, Stan, you may be more right than wrong."

The next day was New Year's, and that was a Monday, and then the following day was Tuesday, which, of all days, was the day before the

Wednesday when all of this other activity began. And Mel Olinger rang my doorbell that evening at about 9 o'clock, I believe. And I would like to read this letter with you, because it will show you just how Mr. Armstrong and I deal with one another openly, although we do not often share the letters that we write to one another. It was dated Jan. 1. He had written it on New Year's Day, for he had prayed about it, as he told me, and he did not have it sent in with Mel until Tuesday. He did not want to send it in by the QUP machine that we had, because he wanted it to be a private letter to me. This is what he said:

"Dear Stan, I regret exceedingly having triggered the violent emotional outburst [that is putting it mildly] over the telephone last evening. Our personal relations together through the years have been too pleasant, stimulating and rewarding, and based on mutual esteem, loyalty and trust, to let anything come between us. I'll certainly do my best to prevent any such outburst in the future." So once again, he let me off the hook, because he did not really say anything to me that should have made me go into orbit. What he had said, he had said to my secretary. He caught the flack, and I, of course, apologized.

He goes on, "I had been considerably distraught by things brought to my attention, or I should not have spoken so emphatically to Virginia. As I said on the phone, I am deeply sorry. Things have been brought to my attention that seriously threaten the very life of God's Church and Work. I feel I must now candidly bring it to you. If ever I needed your help, Stan, it is now. You have been a faithful help to me in the Work that no one else could have contributed. Ted has been playing overtime on the rift between himself and you. I told you last spring that I felt I could come more effectively to your defense after I got the Church turned around and had built back my own credibility. I did accomplish that and sincerely, Stan, I'm sure that feelings that may have been aroused against your integrity, honor and loyalty have not disappeared, and I will continue to defend your good name as do you mine. But from a number of coordinators and field ministers as well as from Pasadena, I have learned that definitely the following situation does now exist, which could prove fatal to the Work unless cleared before the ministers' conference.

"I have the following report from the Office of Pastoral Administration: 'Quite frankly, Mr. Armstrong, a very large number of members and ministers see only two choices for the future.' The words themselves, you see, were not emphatic enough. These two choices are Ted and Stan. Though many, most, actually, don't want to leave you and follow Ted, they see the only alternative as following Stan, and they'd rather see Ted lead the Church than Stan.

"To reinforce this attitude in the minds of our people, Stan is doing everything he can to present himself as *next in line* under you to run the Work in a purely physical way. It is common knowledge that Stan did not allow very much time to pass after Ted's departure from his office before he, Stan, moved in. That office is part of the executive suite. It is seen as a symbol — the place for the man next to you in authority. Stan uses the underground garage, and he uses your private elevator. It is a very common belief that very few, if any, people can get to you [this is the irony of error] to talk to you privately without going through Stan. Mr. Armstrong, I could go on and on, but why? My point is that Stan is his prominent position in the Work is causing many people to *stumble*. This causes offense. God's Word says that we who are converted and

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Excerpts

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have a godly love for our fellowman will suffer even *wrongly, unjustly* [last words underscored, which I agree]. The apostle Peter said: "What reward is it when you suffer for things deserved? But one is humble, is like a little child. He is willing and ready to suffer wrong rather than give unnecessary cause for offense and stumbling to others."

"Stan, I know you have done these things to help and serve the Work, and to help me. I love you as a son, as you well know. I have accepted such things as moving into Ted's former office as trying to most efficiently serve the Work."

"But actually, the letter quoted above is mild compared to things I've heard from other sources. CERTAINLY NONE OF IT IS IN ANY REFLECTION ON YOUR INTEGRITY." (That's all in caps by Mr. Armstrong.) "I don't hear any more reflections against your good character. But I do hear that people believe you are pushing your way in to take over."

"But no matter how false, God says we should avoid even the appearance of wrong and avoid causing little ones to stumble. Even though I do not feel as if I were over 45 years of age, people do look at that 86-plus figure. And most people do feel that anyone past 60 is old, and past 70 is sure to die any moment."

"I know and you know that I will go on living as long as God needs and wants me to live. But the little ones out there seem unable to see that. I know, Stan, that this is the general attitude in view of the ministry, and brethren, generally, around the country. I have been assured of it from coordinators and ministers from widely scattered areas. And, although I think we have cleared any false charges against your personal integrity, they do look on you as an attorney, familiar with finance and business, and not as a shepherd over God's flock."

"So what I propose is this, that we go back to the status as it was prior to Ted's departure, that you resign from administrative responsibilities in the Church and the college, but continue as vice president, executive vice president for the foundation, as my personal assistant and adviser, as our auditor, CPA and legal counsel, and of course, perhaps most important of all, continue with me in the great commission overseas. It might even look better for the Church to pay you an annual retainer for legal counsel, financial adviser, etc., subject to additional billing where warranted, and the foundation to pay you also a salary or fee, as you think best. I do want you and NEED YOU [in caps] to continue as my personal assistant and adviser, especially in projects such as our overseas and marketing of my books."

"Stan, I believe this will remove the last remaining serious threat to the Work of the great commission. I know that if we do what Christ leaves for us to do, and as I know He has led me in the above, the living Christ will preserve His Church and Work, will bless you and me and all in the Church and lead us to gloriously finish the great commission."

"With deepest love in Jesus' name."

I picked up the phone that evening and told Mr. Armstrong, of course, I was in complete accord. And we discussed the person that we would bring back to fill the office that I would resign from. And we settled on Mr. Frank Brown, who for years had been here. I helped train him. And we agreed that we would probably make the announcement sometime during the ministerial conference or at the time of the annual board meeting.

And then the next morning was Wednesday. So they almost got away with it! But just like I said at the Feast of Tabernacles, God kept Mr. Armstrong alive to see what the Work would be like if he hadn't taken the steps vis-a-vis his son. Once again God stepped in and showed Mr. Armstrong who would have tried to seize power if he were not around to stop it.

Now, what happened this week can perhaps be best summed up by an analogy. If it were not for all of what I have just discussed, the background concerns that it were of seven or eight months' duration; but for that background, we could have summed it up a little differently. If this had just been a vicious effort on the part of a few disgruntled people, coupled by an extraordinarily harsh, unnecessary and unjustifiable action on the part of the State, backed up by the courts — Satan's courts, Mr. Armstrong has called them, the unjust judges and what have you — if it had just been that, nothing more, no background, then we could describe it a little bit like the situation in Europe during the Second World War.

And in those Nazi-occupied territories, those of you who studied history will know that there were people who were collaborators. Now they might not have wanted to invite the Nazis in, so they might not have been the fifth-column type of individual. They might not have been guilty of the seditious conduct. They might not have been guilty of espionage and what have you. But once the Germans were in power, some people liked it. Some people thought they would never be rid of the Germans, and they thought it would be better to collaborate.

Now that is pretty much what happened here on the very second day, I guess it was, of the events of this week. I guess it was Thursday, because the first action on the part of the receiver, as extraordinary, because he was temporarily appointed, *ex parte* — no notice given to anybody. First thing he did is to announce that Mr. Armstrong was fired and Mr. Rader was fired. And then he turned to Mr. Cole and he appointed Mr. Cole as acting head of the Church. Now anybody who would accept such an appointment, acting or otherwise, would have to be characterized in euphemistic terms as a collaborator.

If I had been here and that man had turned to me and said, "Mr. Armstrong was fired and you, Mr. Rader, acting." I would have said, "You are ridiculous. You can not appoint me. No one can take away Mr.

Armstrong's authority as Christ's apostle, as His personal representative on this earth at this time. Nobody! And certainly you, an unbaptized, unconverted person could never appoint me or anybody to run this Church!" Now that's all there was to it.

If that had not happened, we might have been in greater difficulty. If Mr. Cole had not accepted, we might have had a tougher time in court yesterday. But the judge saw through it very clearly. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is Christ's apostle as far as that judge is concerned, just as we know he is. And he has been given the court's official recognition as the man in charge, the man who hires and fires, the man who ordains and disfellowships. No receiver is going to sit here as he did for several days and intimidate our people and tell our people that his name is going to appear on our checks. No! That's not going to happen, either.

So, as I said, it could be summed up just that easily but for the fact that there was this history. Without the history it might have simply been opportunism. Maybe some people do think Mr. Armstrong's over the hill. Maybe he's right when he says, "Everybody thinks anybody over 60 is old, and past 70 is sure to die any minute." But I am going to share something with you, and that is, he said he is going to execute that letter, disfellowshipping the four people that Mr. Meredith just announced, before he falls over and drops dead. So that is what he thought about it. He had told me yesterday at 2:05, that he had made that decision. And I told him I was on my way to court, and he said, "Do not worry about it. God is on His throne." And when I got out of court that day I called him and I said, "You were right. God is on His throne."

So I think it is going to be a better Church in the future. I think we are going to have unity. We are going to have a ministry that's not divided. We are going to have Church government as it was here up until about 10 years ago. And we are all going to know what the doctrines are, and we are all going to agree. And we are going to have a renewed faith and a rebirth.

Now I am a little tired. I wanted to tell you a little bit more about the events, but Mr. Helge is here. And he is tired, too. He just came back from Tucson as well. I would like him to fill in. I asked him if he would please take a few notes on the things that I might have omitted concerning the events of these past few days. And I know you will bear with us because I think you would like to have it given to you in one, two, three, four order.

So, Mr. Helge, could I call on you now to say a few words? Thank you.

Oh, excuse me. I almost forgot. The main reason I had to read this, besides the background, is that as much as I would like to get on to doing those things which I know I can do best, and as much as Mr. Armstrong and I had planned that I be able at an early time to resign, until this entire matter is over, until the lawsuit has been smashed — and it will be — and until the attorney general has decided that we are what we are, an institution of integrity, of 46 years vintage, I must remain in office because I must be in a position to protect the Work and to protect Mr. Armstrong.

So, although Mr. Meredith was quite right when he said, because I called him this morning at 7 o'clock and explained to him that I wanted to let him know precisely what had happened in court yesterday, and to let him know that Mr. Armstrong and I had been discussing, as I knew Mr. Armstrong had mentioned to him that I would be resigning, it will not, unfortunately, be in the very, very near future because I do expect that procedurally there will be a lot of things for us to work out before we crush the opposition. And, believe me, we will! Mr. Helge and I have never lost a case, and we are not going to start with this one.

So, those of you who are unhappy that I have that title of treasurer, well, I will try to make you a little happier. I am not running the Work. I am defending it, and I have always tried my hardest to do that. And Mr. Helge and I will be in there pitching with the others to put these people to rout.

And one thing, as Mr. Armstrong and I agreed today, we do not sue people by attacking them first. But, boy, when they attack us, then they find out what kind of ball game they are in. So now it is a changed ball game. And all those people that have been taking the pot shots at us with impunity, they are going to find that it is a different game. And we are all armed with the whole armor of God. And I think you will find that God's Work will prevail. But, Mr. Helge, can you fill them in, in a one-, two-, three-, four-step manner, so they understand a little bit more thoroughly what has happened?

Mr. Helge's comments

I was in Tucson working on a case, and returning home, walking in the airport when I received a call. I picked up the phone and heard a frantic voice say: "What am I going to do? What am I going to do? They're banging on the door. They're bang-

ing on the door. They want all the files. They want everything in here." That happened to be Virginia Kinston.

Now, whatever limitations Virginia Kinston may have, I'll tell you, I have come to admire her stamina in the way she held out, because they were banging on the locked door to the executive suite, and they were threatening to take the files and to put her in jail. But she held out there.

I'll tell you, I could see it was a battle. If I could just bring the point home that *we are fighting Satan!* This is a battle, and I mean a real fight! Satan has stirred up an attack on God's Church.

Since that banging on the door we've been awake consistently for three days except for only a couple of hours of sleep, trying to fight this battle. But God is on His throne in heaven, and there are so many things we could tell as to the way He made circumstances work out for us.

Well, at that point we came back. We found that a suit had been filed, and that certain people had gone out and had themselves appointed, under the attorney general. This "attorney general" happened to be a deputy who was rather antagonistic to us (I know because he called me one time, and I could tell his attitude just by the tone of his voice). He had read something in a paper and was just a little bit embittered. So the dissidents go to him, and he took certain steps in their behalf, saying in effect, "Okay, I'll kind of give you authority so it looks as though the State attorney general is doing it, you see, so the people of California will be the plaintiffs. My question constantly is: "If there has been a wrong done, why do you pick dissidents from the Church — disfellowshipped Church members to come and file the suit? Why don't you, attorney general, have enough guts to do it yourself? Why didn't you do it yourself?" That's a question that has to be answered.

Then what happened? They had certain documents, went to court, and sold the court on something that I thought would never happen. You talk to every attorney, and they will tell you it is impossible to have happen. But I'll tell you, there's a Satan, and he's got power to sway men's minds.

I had heard about it in a rumor from Mr. Frank Brown. And you know what I told Mr. Brown? I said, "Whoever told you that could happen is a liar. You go back and tell him he is a liar. That could never be done in the courts here." Then, before long, I had another call from him. He said, "I tell you, I heard it again! Could you at least check it out?" I said, "I wouldn't even dignify it by checking it out. It could never happen!" But it *did* happen!

They got into court even though the court rules say that if you're going to come in and try to have any action taken against anybody, you must give them a *minimum of four hours' notice*, so they can at least come in and explain what they're going to do.

Now what they asked for was — in every piece of law I checked — was the most extreme possible remedy that could ever be exacted on anybody. That is to have somebody appointed to walk in and take charge of everything — I mean buildings, assets, records, everything owned — and run it! This is something that the law says is so extreme, considering our Constitution and our means of law, that you just virtually can hardly ever get it done with *notice*. But they walked in and they got it done without even giving us notice!

If they only had given us notice, we could have come in and explained the lies and the petitions that they filed and the erroneous affidavits containing conclusions. They said, "Oh, they are shredding files." But

(See EXCERPTS, page 8)



APPOINTED RECEIVER — Retired Superior Court Judge Steven Weisman, temporary court-appointed receiver of Church assets, is interviewed by a television reporter. [Photo by Tom Hanson]

Excerpts

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tell me; who saw whom shred a file? Who? Nobody! A minister in charge of a church (and this will tell you then how much credence you can give this man — supposed to be leading a flock here but taking God's money), and he files an affidavit on this. He says, "Oh, a lot of people told me files were being shredded." But he didn't give one single example. It's the same man who says: "Oh, I'm a relative of Mr. Armstrong. I can tell you, he is senile."

I can stack up articles — and that's what we did for the attorney that had to go into court because we couldn't since we were named as defendants — that Mr. Armstrong had written in the last couple of months — more than the other man had written all his life. And he's supposed to be senile! All you've got to do is talk to him and you'll find out.

I don't want to keep downing people, but you have to understand who the loyal people are. That's the only reason I'm going to mention names here. My first thought when I learned who had filed the suit was, "Look, these people have been disfellowshipped — Mr. Wayne Cole, I'll get him on the line because we've got to . . . then I realized these people had not yet been disfellowshipped, as I understood. They may not have been because of the policy that was established by Mr. Ted Armstrong that we don't put anybody out of the Church. And, as a consequence, regardless of how wicked or wrong they are, the thing festers and festers and festers. This is contrary to Mr. Herbert Armstrong's long-standing instructions that say you've got to keep the Church clean, and if a person causes division, you put him out. But that rule was changed, so it permitted these people to say they were members and be able to file this suit.

So I tried to call Mr. Cole. Where is he? I was going to ask, "Could you disfellowship these people?" The greatest battle in God's Church is taking place now. They have police up there in the Administration Building. They're going to take all the files, and I can't find Mr. Cole. Where's the general? Where's the captain? He's gone. He's disappeared. Well, later we found out he went to see Mr. Herbert Armstrong. He'd left, but no one would tell us where he was. He comes back with a certain document appointing himself in charge of certain things that enabled him to end up all of a sudden "in charge of the Church."

Okay, we didn't know that at first. All these pieces didn't all fall together at once. You see what I'm getting at? There's a little snatch of information here, a little snatch there; this is unusual, that's strange, so on and so forth.

The receiver was here. He was appointed. He took charge of everything. Although I think he is a responsible man, he went far beyond any authority that could ever be given to him by a court of law, and that was exemplified here just recently [at the Friday, Jan. 5 hearing] in this court order.

We have no concerns with somebody looking at our records. The Internal Revenue had just spent 18 months going through our records. There's nothing to hide in the records. In fact, what they attached to their petition was our records! That was supposed to be the sneaky thing — we had records! And they attached a copy of the *Pastor's Report* where all the information had been sent to all the pastors in the field. It wasn't somebody saying, "Hey, I've got some secret, inside information that nobody knows about." It was their own records they had cited.

The attorney general had full authority to come in and say, "I'd like

to look at your records." We could say: "Here, sure. Here they are." But all of a sudden, somebody is banging on the door and wants to take those records. With a little bit of thinking later, it began to fall in place today and I mentioned it. Those records are our salvation here insofar as a physical matter is concerned because they show that no wrong has been done. But now, all of a sudden, dissident Church members were going to get their hands on these records and could carry them out of this building. And I began to see that once they accomplished that, we would lose the very protection that showed that we're innocent. Do you see that?

And you know what they said? The only evidence they had was that we had a file shredder someplace. Well, Mr. Rader didn't even know it. I didn't know it. We were ready to even put in an affidavit that we don't even have a file shredder. We learned that there was a little waste-basket-like one in Mr. Ted Armstrong's office all along.

Then when we were in court, rumor comes out, "Mr. Henry Cornwall has taken \$52 million from the Work — \$52 million!" Now, how do you even carry that much out?! But you see, how in the world are you going to show such things to be false if your records are gone? How can you do it? For example, they said the Big Sandy property was worth \$30 million! The only basis they had was a newspaper article. That's all they had. I tell you, we'd sell it tomorrow for \$30 million! Do you see the stupidity in their saying it's worth \$30 million? But they're not saying that we're selling it to a friend of ours. They're not saying that we got an "in" with it, that we got part of the business. Do you see the silly allegations?

So I saw the importance, and pretty soon this conspiracy began to kind of take hold. If the dissidents could get hold of the records, they would disappear. We'd probably never see them again. And how are we going to defend without records and proof? You see, just like this property value now. We have an appraisal. The appraisal shows it was worth less than what we got it for. But, you see, that file is in somebody else's possession now. What would happen if that appraisal disappears? How are we going to show that we did the right thing? So you see how dangerous that was.

So, you see, don't misunderstand this battle. One thing I want to do is get clear in your mind the issues. We are not trying to hide the records. There is nothing to hide. The only fact there is, we are not about to sit back and let a man come here and say, "Mr. Armstrong, you are out." You should have seen the dedication of the large number of people that came down to court to attest to that. You should see the dedication of the people who were down at the law office where we were working till 5 o'clock in the morning! People came from all over this Work to help out.

I'll tell you, there's one thing this has done — it has brought this Church, I feel, together so much stronger than it's ever been before. It's given a renewed faith because now we do have persecution for the first time. People used to tell me they had persecution because they did something wrong on the job and they were fired. I said: "That's not persecution. You earned it." But this is persecution here.

Don't let somebody tell you we're trying to hide the records. We, of all people, want to protect those records. We are willing to show them to responsible individuals. IRS has consistently been here looking at them. You've got to understand that. So don't let people dupe you.

The battle was to protect the records, and most of all, the battle was

to keep Mr. Herbert Armstrong the head of God's Church. If God wants him out, God will remove him. And nobody from the State is going to do it, at least not as long as God gives me power. And, of course, with the help of everybody else. I'll tell you, this wasn't a one-man job. Fortunately we could pull together a lot of people from the Church. They had to help to get the thing accomplished.

So the conspiracy became very clear. I've got a letter here. I'm not going to bother reading all these things. It contains another piece that falls together today.

We were at Mr. Armstrong's place. Mrs. Armstrong said, "I just happened to get a letter in here. Do you want it? I haven't even read it." I said, "Yes, let me read it here." And, boy, there it is! This poor lamb, an innocent member out in the field, he can't understand what his local minister is doing. He can't understand the rumors that his local minister is passing out about a conspiracy, where certain people are going to take over the Church and Mr. Wayne Cole is going to lead it. This came to us just by happenstance today, to kind of reconfirm everything that happened here as we were going to court.

Another thing really hit home after we worked all through one night preparing everything to go to court to get the receiver put out. Now, remember, the receiver was appointed by the State. He came in, and after certain consultations with Mr. Cole he appointed Mr. Cole, and reconfirms or puts his appointment in as head of the Church because Mr. Armstrong has been put "out of the Church." So Mr. Cole is in the top spot of the Church, the leader, and who put him in, now? The receiver.

The receiver was the one who did the appointing, remember now? Okay, so now we have a different man in charge of the Church, and they were having lunch together, and all of a sudden, Mr. Cole was telling everybody, "Now look, you cooperate with this receiver. You do exactly what he wants. Remember, the receiver is running the Church now, both spiritually and physically, right? And you obey that receiver." But Mr. LaRavia says, "No, listen. We can't do that. You know, Mr. Armstrong's in charge of this Church." And the assistant attorney general, what did he have the gall to say? He not only said Mr. Armstrong was out, he said, "This institution has been too autocratic in the past." He said, "Henceforth, we're going to run it more along traditional lines!"

Now, can you imagine that?! That is like somebody going into the Catholic Church and voting for the pope. That's pretty ridiculous! That is like him saying, "The whole Catholic Church didn't vote for the pope so I am going to take over the Catholic Church!"

I tell you, this is so mind-boggling for anybody who's ever studied constitutional law that one simply can't believe it. But, anyway, that was the essence and tone of the statement and that was what was not going to be permitted. And that is where the battle came and the catalyst came as he appointed Mr. Cole.

Further, I found out another piece of the puzzle today. Mr. Antion and Mr. Cole had called Mr. Herbert Armstrong and said, "Say, Mr. Rader and Mr. Helge and others have got this attorney [Mr. Browne], and they're all going to go to court and try to have this receiver removed — to get him out of here." That call of theirs was kind of strange. Mr. Armstrong was told: "You shouldn't do that. They [Rader and Helge] have got some bum attorney, and they don't quite know what they're doing so you should rescind their actions and keep that receiver in there."

Mr. Herbert Armstrong was given an ultimatum. They said, "Mr. Arm-

strong, you'd better keep that receiver in there — the one already chosen, or else you're going to be out!" That's the ultimatum. And Mr. Armstrong said: "Look, we will participate willingly in any investigation. If it says we've committed a fraud, they can look at our records." But he went on to say, "I'm not going to retreat one inch if they think they're going to run the Church!" And he hung up because he wasn't going to accept any ultimatum!

So then a big event occurred. We went down to court to have the receiver removed. We were going to battle to protect our records and to get them back in our fold so we could surely protect them. We are not saying, "You can't look at them, attorney general." We are saying: "We want the records in our possession, and we want your receiver out insofar as running the Church and the temporal affairs of the Church are concerned. But we don't want you signing the checks to the ministry. We don't want you saying we can't buy tapes." He had stopped payment of checks to pay for tapes for the broadcast to go out. And he admitted in his testimony last night the fact that he was going to make decisions about the broadcast and everything else. Understandably, we didn't want that.

So we are at court now and what's the first thing the attorney for the dissidents pulls out? He said: "We have here, your honor, a letter from Mr. Wayne Cole. He has been appointed as head of the Church, and he has confirmed the receiver running the Church. Therefore, the receiver (seeing he's in charge of the Church with Mr. Wayne Cole) does not want these men — Mr. Rader, Mr. Helge, this other attorney [Mr. Browne] — to have any authority to represent the Church or to try to put the receiver out."

Do you see what that ruse would have done? That would have effectively put Mr. Herbert Armstrong out of authority in God's Church for good. It would have put the receiver in charge of everything, and Mr. Wayne Cole in charge of everything, along with certain others. And by limiting us we could not even have spoken in court to say what the people, let alone God's apostle, wanted. We would have been effectively barred from all that. But with the help of God, that case didn't go to trial because it kept being juggled around before one judge and another judge. And the time began to be eaten up until finally they said, "No, we have to hear it tomorrow." And that gave us more time for Mr. Armstrong to learn more of the conspiracy and then change a document he had been forced to sign so that he could be represented. If only I had time to tell you the many different things that had to fall into place.

All of a sudden, while we're busy working, we get word, "Somebody has gone into the computer department, and they're trying to get the computer cranked up." I could just see that they were going to go ahead and send a letter out to the membership saying somebody else was in charge of the Church, that Mr. Herbert Armstrong was out, and so on.

I tried to call the police immediately. I said: "There is a break-in. Get someone down there." He said: "Oh, I know you people are having trouble over there. But I don't think I want to go." Then I said: "Look, I happen to be the secretary of that Church and I'm the attorney for it, and I'm telling you to get down there." He said, "Well, I know about the trouble." So I said: "Look, I don't care what trouble you've heard about. Does that make us fair game for a bunch of burglars?" He replied: "Well, okay, I'll send somebody down. But if I send somebody down and there's no break-in — that they went in with a key — no literal break-in, I'm not (See EXCERPTS, page 13)



EXECUTIVE SUITE — Above: An attorney from the State of California searches for records in the executive office suite in the Church's Hall of Administration. Below: A locksmith changes the lock on a door to the Church's accounting department to safeguard records.



MEDIA COVERAGE — Above: Stanley R. Church in this case, are interviewed by two Los Angeles television news anchors. Below: Representatives for the various media agencies are granted access to his office in the Hall of Administration.



News accounts

(Continued from page 3)

No other description is given nor are the recipients of the gifts stated.

"\$26.12 for 'Golf Balls for King Leopold.'

"Three August 27, 1975, bills, from Gucci, Beverly Hills, paid by Gotoh's credit cards, totaling \$1,215.82. No further details.

"Asked by the *Times* to explain generally the purposes of these and other expenditures Rader replied:

"You have to understand we are not like commercial enterprises owned by stockholders where the board of directors is constrained to show a profit or pay dividends. We had a commission to spread the Gospel by radio, the printed word, television and evangelism. This all takes money."

"Rader, who serves as treasurer and general counsel of the church, added: 'Some people might not agree that this [the expenditures] is the way to spread the Gospel, but we feel it is. I don't believe it is their [the State and dissident members] right to tell Mr. Armstrong he should not give golf balls to King Leopold.'

"Allan Browne, an attorney representing Rader and the church, offered a similar explanation. 'For the past 10 years, in accordance with church policy, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader have spent an average of 225 days each year establishing religious and charitable programs all over the world with their staff proclaiming the word of Jesus,' Browne said.

"'Enormous sums of money are spent,' he added. 'Sometimes in meeting with prime ministers and other world leaders, you bring him [the dignitary] something, and it may be that it's from Gucci's.

"Many important people have stayed at Stan Rader's home, and you

don't take them out to McDonald's, you take them to Perino's.

"This is a \$70 million-a-year church,' Browne said, adding that the amount spent on travel and public relations makes up only a small percentage of that total. 'Most publicly held corporations spend considerably more,' he said.

"Browne argued that expenditures by a church should be of no concern to the attorney general's office.

"If the members are told about a program and approve it, what business is that of the State?' Browne asked. 'Can the State say that instead of shopping at Gucci's, the church should shop at Bullock's? It is a dark day for religion if that can happen.'

"Rader said presentations of expensive gifts such as Steuben crystal were made to dignitaries including the late Israeli Premier Golda Meir, President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Philippines, the Japanese crown prince and several Japanese prime ministers.

"Deputy Attorney General Lawrence R. Tapper said he intends to prove in court that the expenditures listed above, plus other financial moves, made by top leadership of the church, represent 'an illegal diversion of funds from public use to the personal use and enjoyment of the individuals involved.'

"In other developments Tuesday, Browne confirmed earlier reports of a church-controlled Swiss bank account and church holdings of gold bullion. The church has had a Swiss account for 15 years, Browne said, adding that it also has bought gold bullion, which is clearly carried on its books as a church asset.

"Is there anything wrong with that?' said Browne. 'Is this the beginning of the State telling the pope what kinds of robes he can wear or that he should not live in such splendor in the Vatican?'

"Rader said some of the larger expenditures for air travel were chalked up by Gotoh. While Armstrong and Rader normally crisscross the globe in the church's Grumman Gulfstream II jet, Rader said, Gotoh did virtually all of his traveling on commercial airlines.

"Mr. Gotoh coordinated many of our campaigns around the world,' Rader said. 'He became our general campaign organizer and general factotum, setting up appointments and arranging banquets and sometimes motorcycle escorts when we arrived. He was always there to meet us when we arrived at world capitals, and he was the last man we saw when we left.'

"Rader said some of the large hotel bills also were due to the fact that sometimes 'our entire party, which included Mr. Armstrong and myself and our staff and crew of about 15, had to be accommodated.'

"In addition, Rader said, Gotoh lived for about 100 days of the year in the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo so that he could make arrangements for church activities in different parts of the world.

"Wherever we (Armstrong and Rader) went in Japan, Mr. Gotoh was received as a man of unbelievable stature in the highest places,' Rader said.

"Through Gotoh, Rader said, he and Armstrong were introduced to the highest dignitaries in Japan, including the emperor and other members of the royal family and successive prime ministers and members of the government. Rader noted that he and Armstrong had both received Japan's Order of the Sacred Treasure for their services in Japan." (Los Angeles Times, Jan. 10.)

'APOCALYPSE NOW'

"For nearly a decade, dissident

members of the Worldwide Church of God have grumbled that all is not holy — or honest — in the \$80 million empire created by eccentric evangelist Herbert W. Armstrong. Last week California's attorney general agreed, accusing Armstrong and his chief aide, Stanley R. Rader, of "pilfering" church assets and diverting several million dollars "to their own use and benefit."

"A California judge immediately placed the church in temporary receivership, and State attorneys seized armloads of financial records from the sect's offices in Pasadena.

"Although Armstrong pledged 'every effort to cooperate with the attorney general's office,' the suit threatened to unravel the incredibly prosperous organization he started 46 years ago. Claiming to be Christ's ambassador on earth, Armstrong preached a bizarre fundamentalism that upheld the Jewish Sabbath and a kosher diet and disavowed Christmas, Easter, the Trinity and other Christian doctrines. But the key to his success was an apocalyptic insistence that the end of the world was near. Only by heeding his prophecies could his followers avoid fiery extinction.

"By 1972, groups of Armstrong's ministers began to complain publicly that the ambassador and his family had become more wealthy and worldly than his message allowed. On an annual income of as much as \$75 million from no more than 70,000 followers, the sect paid its inner elite six-figure salaries and established the 80-acre Ambassador College and a lavish Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, both in Pasadena.

"Meanwhile, the aged Herbert Armstrong now lives in virtual seclusion in Tucson, Ariz., with his new, much younger wife. 'Church members still believe he is God's representative on earth,' said former member John Trechak, one of the church's leading critics. 'But he is so senile that his messages are whatever he has been told in the last 15 minutes.' Within a 24-hour period last week, Armstrong fired and then rehired Rader, to the chagrin of his many opponents in the church. Rader promptly sought to have the suit dismissed as an unconstitutional infringement on the freedom of religion. His motion failed, but a hearing is scheduled this week to determine whether the receivership should be continued." (Newsweek, Jan. 15.)

'CHURCH GETS COURTROOM KNOCKDOWN'

"Herbert W. Armstrong's religious empire was dealt a blow Wednesday afternoon in its effort to thwart the restraint of a court-ordered receivership when a Los Angeles Superior Court judge ruled that the receivership does not violate any constitutional right of religious freedom.

"Although Judge Title denied defense attorney Allan Browne's motion to end the receivership based on constitutional law, Browne will argue today against the receivership based on the facts of this specific case.

"On the other side, Hillel Chodos will argue for the plaintiffs that evidence of misuse of funds necessitates the presence of a receiver to keep questioned documents in safekeeping.

"Rader, who leafed through a Bible during the proceedings, told reporters at the conclusion of the hearing that the United California Bank has withdrawn \$1.3 million from the church's account by calling in a demand note, raising a question as to whether the church will be able to meet its payroll.

"Browne is expected to continue today with evidence of the receivership's crippling effect on the \$80 million empire that includes the church, Ambassador College and

Ambassador International Cultural Foundation . . ." (Pasadena Star-News, Jan. 11.)

'MOTION TO LIFT RECEIVERSHIP ON CHURCH DENIED'

"The efforts of attorneys for the Worldwide Church of God to get their \$80 million religious empire removed from a temporary receivership seemed to go nowhere in court Wednesday.

"Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Julius M. Title denied a motion by church lawyers seeking to remove the receiver . . .

"Title showed little sympathy for the arguments made by Allan Browne, chief attorney for the church, that the church stands on the brink of financial ruin because of the court-ordered temporary receiver.

"Browne said the church and its affiliate college and cultural foundation were having problems meeting their payroll because the United Bank of California has called in \$1.3 million in demand notes owed by the church to the bank.

"Testimony will begin today as the hearing continues. Title still could remove the temporary receiver — or if he finds some validity to the State's claims, impose a permanent receiver." (Los Angeles Times, Jan. 11.)

'STUDENTS KEEP THE FAITH, HOPE AT AMBASSADOR'

"They seemed remarkably complacent and self-assured for students whose college and church — Herbert W. Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God in Pasadena — are troubled by court battles and internal turmoil.

"Classes for the new semester started Monday and continued — except when preempted by the court hearings the students were encouraged to attend (six buses were provided to take them to Wednesday's hearings).

"Theology students at Ambassador College have been through institutional mud wallowing before, they say. And because they have survived negative publicity about their church leaders in the past — the mass departure of high-ranking church ministers and last year's excommunication of the church patriarch's son, Garner Ted Armstrong — they expect that they and their church will survive again . . .

"Of 20 students interviewed on the campus this week, not one expressed doubt about the church or college's future and nearly all felt both would be strengthened rather than damaged by the court proceedings and internal turmoil.

"As one student, a California native who declined to be identified, put it, 'We're getting all the bad apples out of this church. The State doesn't bother me — they're just doing their legal duty.'

"A few students declined to speak with the press, which they feel has mistakenly portrayed their prosperity-conscious religion as 'an indulgent fanatical, brainwashing cult.' And of those who were interviewed, only two would give their names, the others fearing they would be seen as publicity seekers.

"Religion is the high point of our life. It doesn't mean we're brainwashed. We are no cult," insisted one student.

"I think a lot of people think we're like Guyana,' added another. 'I've been here four years, and we've constantly been rubbed into the ground. I think it's all gonna come out in the wash, and the wash will be clean.'

"If there is one theme reiterated by the students it is that they are not ruled by Herbert W. Armstrong (they call him 'HWA' as opposed to 'GTA,' his son) or Stanley Rader or any man, but by Jesus Christ.

"I think all the students will say

they're not pro-Stan Rader or pro-Judge Steven Weisman (the retired Superior Court judge named as temporary trustee to control the financial affairs of the church). They'll say they're pro-Jesus Christ. The ultimate outcome will be following God's will. It could be God even set this up. The way He works — GTA leaving — it's created a lot of turmoil in the church. I feel God's finally come down and is saying, 'We'll clean all this up and show everybody this is an upright church.'

"At a Tuesday question-and-answer session for employees and students at the Ambassador Auditorium, nearly all the questions posed to attorney and codefendant Stanley Rader were respectful and sympathetic. The closest any question came to doubting that Rader and Armstrong were innocent was put this way: 'The other day in court it appeared the prosecuting attorney was attacking you personally. The information may become public. I guess what I'm asking from you is a reassurance that those allegations aren't true.'

"Rader replied that he was confident the records would reveal no improprieties on the part of church officials. 'Figures don't lie but liars figure,' he told the filled auditorium.

"Asked, 'What would be the worst possible outcome should they find anything or think they find anything?' Rader said his mind 'really doesn't work that way. I don't think it's productive to think about what could happen if God is not on His throne. We know we will prevail. Some good will always come from the bad.'

"He was asked why church founder Herbert W. Armstrong had not come to Pasadena from Tucson to be with his church administrators. 'It would be particularly undesirable for Mr. Armstrong to be pulled down to their level,' Rader said, adding that the patriarch is suffering from a severe chest cold and 'his voice is pretty well shot.'

"Quoting the 86-year-old Armstrong as saying, 'There are buzzards and vultures hovering, waiting for me to die,' Rader replied to an inquiry about why the church's internal difficulties seemed to be coming from the ministry rather than the membership of the church. 'If you're not a minister, you don't have to worry about that (Armstrong's death and appointment of a successor) and how it will affect you because you would not think of yourself as a possible successor.'

"Rader denied the persistent rumors that he, a layman, is a possible successor to Armstrong, noting that there were two recent deaths of popes, and nobody predicted the successor would be a prominent Catholic layman." (Los Angeles Times, Jan. 11.)

'JUDGE HINTS CHURCH GUARDIAN TO STAY'

"Herbert W. Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God should continue under some sort of court-ordered guardianship, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge indicated Thursday afternoon after hearing conflicting evidence about the need for receivership.

"Judge Julius M. Title instructed attorneys to return to court today to make their final arguments on whether to continue the present receivership at the Pasadena-based corporations — including Ambassador College and Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

"He also asked the attorneys to submit proposals on what sort of guardianship the court should impose, suggesting that a hybrid of a receiver's total control and a referee's watchdogging might be a method of safeguarding the questioned documents and assets pending trial.

(See NEWS ACCOUNTS, page 15)

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der and Allan Browne, attorney for the Angeles, Calif., television station report a interview Mr. Rader as he waits to gain n.



FORUM

WITH STANLEY R. RADER

This issue's "Forum" is a result of an all-employee meeting Jan. 9 in which Stanley R. Rader, general counsel to Herbert W. Armstrong, fielded questions concerning the present crisis, which has the Work placed under receivership.

Greetings, everyone. We were waiting for Mr. [Ellis] LaRavia because he wanted to read this announcement, but I think he must have been tied up with the various people who were getting back into our buildings over the past two days.

I'll just read this. It says, "For those interested in showing support for the Church, Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong and others who are being compelled to resist a flagrant effort of the State of California under the authority (or color of authority) to interfere with our rights to administer our own affairs, you can do so by going to court tomorrow to lend us some moral support."

I've said before, we have four kinds of resources. It's necessary at a time like this, if not always, actually we should always marshal our forces, but sometimes we have to do so a little more effectively.

We have the spiritual and the moral resources — the material resources, the physical resources, the financial resources. So by showing up tomorrow, if you want, we're going to arrange for six buses at the Student Center parking lot at 8 a.m., leaving at 8:15. And the address for those who want to drive themselves is the Superior Court, Dept. 1, 100 N. Grand, Los Angeles, Calif. The buses will reload at 4:30 p.m. and leave at 5.

How many of you were down there last week? That's pretty good.

Now, let me explain first that we do not have a courtroom. And we do not have a judge as yet. You have heard, I'm sure, about the fact that our court system is pretty well clogged up — has been for many years. So we go down to Dept. 1 and we kind of start shopping — really. We shop for a courtroom and we shop for a judge. And sometimes that goes on for even more than a day. And Mr. Browne was telling me he has a beeper, now. Is that right, Allan? Do I get a beeper? The idea being if a courtroom suddenly opens up, you can be contacted and get there quickly.

I understand it was very hot there, and I was down yesterday with Mr. Browne, and it was intolerably warm even though the courtroom was less than, I guess, 5 percent filled. I'm not sure what's causing the buildup of the heat, but I understand it was really wretched last week.

Now, I'm a little stale from all this. I've told everybody the same story over and over again to different reporters and networks and what have you, people that we've had to work with. I'd much rather just have you ask the questions. I know you must have a lot of questions on your mind, and we'll take an hour and see if we can't get many of them out of the way. Would that be preferable, do you think? Or would you like to hear a narrative? Someone speak up. Narrative? Would be better? Okay.

Mr. Armstrong has already written a letter. It's going out, so you'll be getting that, and it tells a good portion of the overall events of the past few days. The *Pastor's Report* I think runs what — 55 pages? I really think this should be made available to everyone. You ought to print more copies of it and see that people have it. It's very informative, and it might be helpful that people who want it can have it.

But maybe I can start at the beginning, and we'll see how far we get

before we have to leave.

Mr. [Ralph] Helge and I have been defending the Work in the courts and out of the courts together for some 23 years.

That's 46 years of experience between us. And we've never lost. So we don't intend to lose now. But there have been rumors that have been circulating for years and years and years, and you finally get to the point that you don't even dignify the outrageous rumors by trying to make an inquiry. And Mr. Helge (I think he told some of you who were here in church on Saturday), when he heard a rumor that something as unlikely as what occurred on Wednesday was being predicted, called me. And before I had a chance to respond, he said: "But of course it's ridiculous. The State can't do that." And he's not going to dignify it by even making an inquiry.

Well, I was teasing him about that most of Wednesday when we had a little bit of time. But I agreed with him fully. And every lawyer that we've talked to would have given the very same answer and anyone you would have talked to would have given the same answer.

But somehow, the inexplicable happened and under the color of State authority, the plaintiffs in the attorney general's office showed up here without any announcement whatsoever on Wednesday — no notice at all, not even the four hours notice that they should have given us.

And they thought that they would just be able to walk in here, I guess, and everyone would roll over and play dead. And the Church would belong to the State or whoever the State and certain people working under the color of the State authority would decide would best head the Church. They had already decided before they walked in that they didn't like the spiritual leader of the past 46 years. And but for the grace and will of God, perhaps they could have been successful, but they were not.

And just by happenstance, Mr. Helge was not in the office. He wasn't even in the city at the time. And I was just a couple of blocks away, but no one tried to call me to enlist my aid — not those who were working with the people who were coming into the buildings.

So Mr. Helge and I, as soon as he got into town, he drove from the airport and I drove from here, we met in Beverly Hills [Calif.], commandeered Mr. Browne's office, his staff and checked into a hotel and we worked for 72 hours, while others here were holding down the fort and fighting almost a physical battle, it seemed. Mrs. [Virginia] Kinston, Mary Ellen [Dahlgren], and other people behind the doors of the executive suite, of course, Mr. LaRavia, supported by a lawyer on the outside, who told them not to worry. If anyone was going to go to jail, he'd go.

And we managed to do what was necessary to get the papers ready, went into court on Thursday, but no one appeared to have enough time to hear it, so it was continued till Friday.

You all heard on Friday that the restraining orders were dissolved, and we were ordered back in charge of everything with some very minor exceptions, one of those being that the receiver would act as a custodian or trustee of our records. This bene-



FORUM — Stanley R. Rader conducts a forum for students and employees in Ambassador Auditorium Jan. 9.

fits us even more than it benefits the State, but they don't realize that at the present moment because they would like everyone to believe that Mr. [Jack] Bicket and others in his area are busily destroying records or thinking up ways to destroy them just as soon as they have access to them.

They also misconstrued the very nature of the executive end of the building. They thought we had records there. We don't. We have copies of some things, reports that are generated elsewhere. But every time I need some information, I have to ask somebody for it. And they produce it and they make it available to me if they think I ought to have it. And sometimes I get it right away and sometimes it takes a little longer. And I don't know what happens to those particular copies of reports that generated in the data processing center and accounting area. I leave that up to the secretaries in the executive office. And it was impossible to get that across to anybody, I think, until yesterday.

Yesterday they began to realize, for example, that I hadn't been in the accounting, data processing center in 10 years, and I am embarrassed about that, as you know, those of you who have been on my staff, so to speak, because I don't know most of you. And there were no books and records in the financial . . . you can clear everything out of my office, I don't care, but just get out of here. Take the papers and get out. Anything that's there can be reproduced. But they don't understand that.

I tried to explain how I began to be embarrassed after a while to always have to ask for every little bit of information and interrupt the work of people a quarter of a mile away in the center where all that work is produced. And I said to Mr. Bicket a few months ago, maybe you could get me a terminal so that I could interrogate the computer up here and ask questions and not bug you. I don't think anybody understood what I meant when I tried to explain that Thursday and Friday. It would be nice to be able to interrogate the computer, read it out on a screen, and not have to call Mr. Bicket every five minutes and ask him for another piece of information that I might need in putting together some kind of study.

At any rate, that's all been cleared now. And we have a cooperative effort between our security people and our employees in the key areas, working arm in arm in total cooperation with the custodian who is going to be able to tell people when it becomes important to do so that we are not destroying records; we are preserving them. We are not changing the records, but our books and records reflect what has taken place and will continue to do so. And that everything in our data bank is properly reflected on our financial statements. That battle, I think, is over.

We still have to be certain that the State understands that this is a Church and that Mr. Armstrong is the leader of this Church — the spiritual leader, as well as the chief executive

officer, the pastor general, the chairman of the board, the president, all those things. And we keep telling them that, and I'm sure after a while they're going to get that message.

Notwithstanding, the lawyer for the opposition, standing up in court yesterday and stating that we don't have any rights. In essence, he was saying, we belong lock, stock and barrel to the State.

I don't think the judge yesterday bought the argument, but if carried to its logical conclusion, everything here is the State's, all you people are working for the State, your tithes and offerings belong to the State. And it's just absurd. It's an absurd argument.

So we are still going to be fighting the next few days, once we get a courtroom and judge, we're going to be fighting what you would call the procedural aspects, to put everybody in their right place. And then Mr. Helge and I can turn our attention, along with Mr. Browne, to the merits of the case and smash the complaint that has been brought, line by line, cause of action by cause of action.

In the meantime, we are preparing lawsuits ourselves because, as I said, Mr. Armstrong has always said we don't attack first. We don't believe in the preemptive strike. But once we're attacked, we will fight back with all that we can muster, and believe me, with the support that we've had and the strength that we know lies within the Church and in each and every individual, there's no question that, God being on His throne, that we will prevail in every manner.

Now with that as a background, is there anybody who wants to ask a question?

Can the State be held liable for our losses?

We're looking into that now. It's a difficult thing. However, if any official of the State has abused his powers or his discretionary powers, there might be some recovery. But there are other parties involved here and action may hold against them. But we're looking into it. We have, you know, a battery of people who are looking into each and every aspect of the case to see what kind of recovery we will be able to make, finding a "deep pocket," of course, is always helpful. And we'll be diligently looking for that person or that group of people.

Has access to Donation Mail Reading been restored?

Yes, our people are there now. The payroll is being worked on; the checks are being cleared. All the checks bear only Mr. Armstrong's signature and mine. I don't think my signature plate is used or even exists. But Mr. Armstrong and I have signatories on the account. I think you'll be getting checks in his name. And it will continue that way. All of our vendors will be paid. Everything will be paid in the normal course by our own people processing our own checks, processing our own original data, issuing our own purchase orders, everything is being done and administered — both policy and execution of policy by the same people who were here before Wednesday, and that's the way it shall be.

Do we have access to our incoming mail?

Yes, yes, yes, we'll pick it up as quickly as we can, but we had to clear these people out of the way. The last thing in the world we'll ever do is let anybody look into our mail. And that's one of the constitutional rights that we have. And the State is going to have to learn that that's true. They don't have any right to know who donates money here. They don't have any right to know who a member of the Church is. Certainly, we don't have a right . . . certainly we have a duty, let's put it that way, to protect your rights of privacy as individuals. And we're going to do that.

When can we cash payroll checks?

Right away. No problem. Any

checks that might have been returned, we're advising people to just send them back through, and they will be processed in the normal course of events. My payroll check bounced, by the way, so . . .

What is the basis of this suit?

Well, as I said, I think they believe that we belong, lock, stock and barrel to them. I mean, it's an absurd process of reasoning. But apparently they think that voluntary tithes and offerings that have come from all over the world, only at best 10 percent of anything that comes in here comes in from the state of California. And because we have chosen to operate in California with a nonprofit corporation, that all the physical assets that we have belong to them also, and they're letting us use them. I mean, the idea that we belong to them and that we're here by their license and privilege. But the judge didn't buy it. I mean, that's the argument being made. And consequently if they don't like what is being done, they can get somebody else to run it.

And, of course, there are other little aspects to the situation, which, you know, make it even more interesting. The fact that when the people came here, they were somehow or other directed to Mr. [C. Wayne] Cole. And Mr. Cole is not an officer of the corporation and he wasn't then. He isn't now, of course. And somehow they were directed to him. Now, he was the director of Pastoral Administration. That means he has a job that gives him an administrative role vis-a-vis the other ministers. But somehow or other he was the man they went to. So you can see there was more there than met the eye. No effort was made to contact the secretary of the corporation who officially is, you might say, the custodian of the records — that's Mr. Helge.

I wasn't served until Friday afternoon in the cafeteria of the courtroom. They weren't in a hurry to get me involved. And Mr. Helge probably hasn't been served yet. Although yesterday he was on television and those of you who saw the first time, he wanted to know if he was being denied access to the corporate records as the secretary.

But you might ask yourself, how did they ever get to Mr. Cole? The answer is fairly obvious. We don't have to debate it here. But people don't come here asking for Mr. Cole when they have business to transact, particularly legal business. They go elsewhere.

Could you explain why Mr. Herbert Armstrong hasn't appeared here?

Sure, absolutely. First of all, it would appear to me to be particularly undesirable for Mr. Armstrong to be pulled down to their level. That's why he had some of us as the soldiers. If Mr. Helge and I and others, all of you, can't protect him when he's attacked at a time like this, what good are we? Why should he come down and get involved in this mire and the like? He has been active, however. He wrote a press release to buy time for about 16 hours. Then he revoked the press release, followed up by an affidavit. He's written an article for *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News*. And now his member letter.

Now, you tell me what he could have done that would compare to that, if he had been here. Would it have done any good for him to be harassed as I have been by the media? Would it have been good for him to have to show up as I did yesterday and be denied access to his own office? What good would that have done? None. If we can't do our job at a time like this, then he ought to get rid of all of us.

And then on top of it, he did get a cold. And quite a severe chest cold. And his voice is pretty well shot. Mine is not too much better. But his

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is really shot. And he was running a temperature. But I don't think that was the thing. His work product is fantastic.

But essentially at a time like this you let others do the work. And this is not pleasant work. And it's demeaning to think that someone like Mr. Armstrong could hear by the grapevine that somebody else is now head of the Church.

Now, it's not going to be that way, and it didn't last very long. But I'm very happy that he happened to be in Tucson at that time. And I'm very happy and proud that all of us were able to defend him and hold his arms up and save him that very unpleasant two or three hours yesterday morning when we had to make it apparent that we still couldn't get into our offices despite a court order on Friday directing that we be allowed to go in.

What is the State's attitude to Mr. Cole now?

The State doesn't have any attitude toward Wayne Cole at all. It recognizes Mr. Armstrong's sole right to hire and fire or to delegate specifically to somebody else to do that and has recognized his position in the Church.

When was Mr. Cole appointed by Mr. Armstrong? Thursday?

On Wednesday evening at midnight, Mr. Cole, in the company of other people, went to Tucson. Mr. Armstrong called me and told me they were coming. He told me that they had asked him to meet them at a motel. He said, "No." They then demanded that he ask his wife and his wife's mother and Rona Martin and Mel Olinger to leave the premises. And at about 12 o'clock at night he went to his typewriter and he wrote a press release. And it wasn't labeled as a document or an official document. It was called "press release." And it started with words, I guess, "I was shocked by the raid..."

Now, what is a raid? It means somebody came and went. Somebody left. It was described by him as a raid on our executive offices.

And then the second paragraph began with the statement, "I don't have all the facts..." And then a little bit later, he said, "I'm appointing Mr. Cole as the acting chief executive officer" — something, words that have never been used before, ever. That's a title that was never given to Garner Ted Armstrong at any time.

So those are kind of key words, weren't they? Kind of a tip-off to everybody else back here. But he also said "under me."

And then at 12:30 at night or so after they left, he called, found me in the lawyer's offices. He told me what had happened, he told me to call in the morning. In the meantime, Mr. LaRavia was calling him, I was calling him, other people were calling him.

Then he found out there was a receiver. And at 2:05 that afternoon, approximately, Thursday, we had to leave for the courthouse. And when I got there, I called him again to let him know that we thought we were going to be heard that day. And upon the advice of counsel I told him he had better send out something to clarify the situation.

And so he went to his typewriter, wrote his own comments again, and in essence commanded in the name of Jesus Christ that Mr. [Roderick] Meredith, Mr. [Raymond] McNair, Mr. LaRavia, Mr. Helge and I, be commanded that we do whatever we could within our power — everything in our power to protect the Church and his position.

And then he gave that letter to Mel Olinger, who flew with it in our G-II to Ontario [Calif.], and the two Dean

brothers, at Mr. Armstrong's behest, went by helicopter from Burbank [Calif.]. They went from the courthouse to, I think, Burbank, and from Burbank to Ontario, and Ontario back to Burbank. And then by auto back to the courthouse to arrive 20 or 30 minutes after the court had been dismissed and carried over to the next day. Well, God was on His throne again because you see, it was impossible to get Mr. Armstrong to have an affidavit prepared in that short time. He could only go to the typewriter himself. He couldn't put it into the proper legal form.

That evening, Mr. LaRavia and Mr. [Gregg] Gittler, who you might have seen around here lately (he's a young man, a lawyer, who was standing right at Mr. LaRavia's side during these crucial hours), flew in the G-II that was dispatched for them by Mr. Armstrong to Tucson. And Mr. [Dennis] Luker, at Mr. Armstrong's request, drove down immediately from Phoenix [Ariz.]. Mr. Armstrong met with them, consulted with them, and Mr. LaRavia was an eyeball witness for three days. Nobody saw as much and observed as much as Mr. LaRavia and Mr. Gittler. And I guess they returned, maybe 6 o'clock in the morning, I guess, 5 o'clock in the morning to the Los Angeles [Calif.] area. And that affidavit, of course, became a very important part of our documentation, produced to the court at the hearing on Friday.

So you must read the three together. You must see events as they actually transpired and recognize what in essence had occurred. I don't think we have to debate it here and now, but there obviously was some unwarranted, to be most euphemistic about it, cooperation between the authorities of the State and the people who were here and whom they were directed to. We know that there was contact on Wednesday by telephone between several plaintiffs and several of the people who were disfellowshipped and announced here on Saturday.

But it will make a very interesting story when it's all told. And I imagine maybe it will be told at the proper time and the proper place with all the emphasis that can be brought to bear on it.

But Mr. Armstrong has described it very well for himself and I don't want to preempt the letter that you'll be getting. Only he can tell the story as well as he can tell it. And I think you'll appreciate it even more when you get the letter.

The question is, why does it seem more often than not that the internal problems seem to be directed from the ministry or groups of the ministry more often than the membership or groups of the membership?

I gather you're not a minister. Well, certainly a fair question, isn't it? And I think most of you probably know the answer. How many of you were at the Feast of Tabernacles? How many of you were in St. Petersburg [Fla.]? Big Sandy [Tex.]? Tucson?

If you were there and listened carefully, the answer is I think, unfortunately, contained in what Mr. Armstrong said in his inimitable classic manner with all the power that he has as Christ's apostle. He said, there are buzzards and vultures hovering, waiting for me to die and worrying in essence about when that time will come. And if you're not a minister, you don't have to worry about that in terms of how it will affect you because you would not in any possible manner think of yourself as a possible successor to Mr. Armstrong.

He was very emphatic about it. And he said it with great emotion, and he said it again and again and again.

And the interesting thing is that there has been a false rumor concerning myself that's caused endless dif-

ficulty for years now. But certainly it became a little bit more widespread since the spring. People were saying that I'm being considered as a successor to Mr. Armstrong. And that was a rumor, or whatever you want to call it, that was either created by the media to just give a little more interest to their stories, or it was one sent out like a test balloon by enemies of the Work, and then the media might have picked it up.

But there were two deaths of popes recently. As I've told everybody in the media, did anybody for one moment think that the successor to Pope Paul would be a prominent Catholic layman someplace? No. They don't ask themselves those questions.

So, unfortunately, we do have a situation obtained where you have people in the ministry, I guess, and they might have all kinds of views about doctrine going from the very conservative to the very liberal. That breaks people up into factions. Whereas I think the loyal Church members know what Mr. Armstrong teaches, and they adhere to that very faithfully.

They wait for his pronouncements, and they know as Christ's apostle he's the one who speaks out on doctrine and no one else could make those kind of decisions. I've never met a member and had someone tell me he's a conservative or he's a liberal, he's hard on D&R and he's soft on something else. But I've heard ministers characterized that way. And all the problems have stemmed from the ministry in this internal political arena since, I would say, 1971.

That was the first time we had somebody who was being called an acting executive vice president. Mr. Ted Armstrong had been the executive vice president at that time when he was sent away on a temporary leave. And then Mr. [Albert] Portune was made the acting executive vice president. I would say since then there's been a certain amount of unrest.

In 1974, as I was just relating to somebody today, Mr. Portune, Mr. [David] Antion and a lot of other ministers raised two principle issues when we had that so-called ministerial revolt or rebellion. There were only two. One had to do with the qualifications of Mr. Ted Armstrong for the ministry. And the other was what was called Church government.

How many read the Pasadena paper this morning? Did you read it carefully where one of the plaintiffs, [Earl] Timmons, told you what they had in mind for Mr. Armstrong? How many people would agree with that position?

Well, that's what we have to let people know tomorrow, directly and indirectly. They would like to retire Mr. Armstrong and have him as some kind of emeritus figure. And we've been told they'd like to have voting; they'd like to decide things amongst themselves and so on.

So that's what it's all about. It can be summed up in terms of power. Mr. Armstrong has always said, anyone who lusts for power will never get it anyway, if we're talking about the power that can only be conferred upon one from God. And I think it's been proved that every single person who has lusted for the power of his office has been blown right out of the saddle. Sometimes it takes a little longer. Sometimes it takes less than 12 hours.

So, if I were a minister, and I were going around in any possible manner where others would be able to say that I was looking for some kind of ultimate power of Mr. Armstrong's position, I'd be mighty careful — mighty, mighty careful because if he disfellowshipped his son, and primarily it was over the same issue coupled with the other sorry aspects of the checkerboard history going back to 1971, he isn't going to fail to act decisively, effectively and swiftly

vis-a-vis anyone who tries to strip him of an office that was conferred upon him by the living God.

And as long as I'm around and Mr. Helge is around, I guarantee that no one is going to be effective. That's why there was some effort made, there's still an effort being made, to keep Mr. Helge and me from defending Mr. Armstrong. We have both been named as defendants making it harder for us to defend him.

In other words, we can't go in as counsel of record. But fortunately, we have Mr. Browne, who I guess they hadn't counted on. So God does work in mysterious ways, and we seem to have an inside pipe to those ways. So we will prevail.

But it's a good question and I think the answer is obvious. Does that help? Did I answer it? Essentially, that's where the problems will come from. I tried to tell the media, by the way, but they just ignored every single interview that I gave. They just couldn't believe it when we've said that if something were to happen to Mr. Armstrong, and we do not expect it to happen, then there is no possibility, not even the remotest possibility that I would replace him. But they don't want to listen to us. They have a preconceived idea of the way things are, and that's the story they want to print.

There was a big article in, well, many papers where they labeled me as heir apparent. How many saw that foolish headline? Of course, I don't blame that on the writer — that's a headline writer. But nonetheless, that was the way they tried to pique audience attention.

Mr. Rader, in court they mentioned, the prosecuting attorney mentioned that he had upwards of 48 hours of evidence proving the improprieties and I wondered if they didn't have that evidence, and if they did, what kind of evidence? If they did, then how in the world can the State do something like this to this Church?

Well, they haven't done it. They tried to do it, and they have not succeeded. That's the first point. They now are going to try again, and they will not succeed again. We will not have to address ourselves to the merits of the case for some considerable period of time. We'll still be debating the procedural aspects.

But the fact is that the evidence that they have tried to give so far in the form of exhibits — their complaint and their affidavits — are things that are contained in our records. They have our own records — things produced by our accounting department for internal use. So it's there. Those are part of our records, part of our history, part of our heritage. They reflect themselves on our financial statements, and we're not saying, if the record says that it's so, that it is not so; it's the improper characterization that is being placed on it.

I was asked by a reporter today about a dozen golf balls. I'm not kidding you. A dozen golf balls purchased for King Leopold. That's why I was late, really.

So it goes from that kind of thing all the way to what, I guess, they would consider to be compensation that Mr. Armstrong shouldn't be paid and I shouldn't be paid. Yet, yesterday, the lawyer of the plaintiffs, the same one who made the argument, in essence, that we belonged to the State, said he works all day long for \$200 an hour. That's pretty good. Multiply it out. I work seven days a week, as does Mr. Armstrong, a minimum of 12 to 15 hours a day. Get your calculator and multiply it out.

Now, his statement's absurd. But I mean, you can see that there's much that can be discussed in that area. But this isn't the place to discuss that. They'll probably make a lot of other wild allegations tomorrow. There'll be no finding of any impropriety to-

morrow any more than there has been in the last three appearances downtown. That isn't what's being litigated at this time. I'm not kidding you. I was asked by a reporter about the dozen golf balls for King Leopold. And so I didn't even bother answering that. Couldn't be concerned with it.

Can you summarize briefly what happened in court yesterday? Did you argue contempt against the receiver?

No, no, no. We had to have a clarification. We're very, very pleased with the working relationship that's been established with Judge Weisman because what he is doing now under the court order that was laid out on Friday, works totally to help us to avoid any further malicious slander, which unfortunately is totally protected in the courtroom. They have an unqualified privilege to say almost anything they want to say. But every time they say it, from now on Mr. Browne will be able to just simply make them eat it. It's the truth.

So he'll help us. But then there was one paragraph in the judge's order of Friday that was that the State attorney general's examination is without limitation. So we had to go down and make it plain that those words "without limitation" did not wipe away the bill of rights, the State constitution, the federal Constitution, everything. And that's when that argument was made by the other attorney, the heavy-set fellow that makes \$200 an hour. And the judge said, in essence, at some other point of discussion that he wasn't going to be too much impressed by that kind of argument.

So the judge ruled in our favor, and he actually asked the attorney general's auditors to leave the building until at least 48 hours.

I would like to know, how have the events that have taken place so far affected the membership outside of California?

Well, we don't know as yet. We've had some ministers who have told their members to send their tithes in to C. Wayne Cole, but Mr. Meredith, who has had the longest tenure in the office of Director of Pastoral Administration. It used to be called something else — CAD — Church Administration. He'll handle those problems. He'll handle them very effectively. I think he was in that office for some 10 years at one time and maybe more. So those are problems he'll have to deal with with his staff. You don't have to worry about it. I don't have to worry about it.

Mr. Armstrong's letter will overtake everybody else's wild and weird comments. Mr. Armstrong's second, you know, piece of paper was sent out to overtake the first. His affidavit overtook the first and the second.

The *Pastor's Report* is going out and by the time it's through these people will be thrown out on first base, second base or third base. Just a question of, you know, there may be two people on the same base, and they'll both be out. But it's happened before, and it will happen again. Every minister that's defected has found himself out on a limb and very quickly the weight's too much and the limb breaks.

Has the State brought any of the records back that they were required to under Friday's order?

I don't know. I don't think they brought them all back by any means, and we're still trying to get them back. We'll pursue our rights there as diligently as we can, as forcibly as we can. We've also put a lot of former employees around here on notice that they had records. When I was asked by Mr. Armstrong to begin officiating in the executive wing area back in May or June, when our secretaries went in there, after 10 years of occupancy, not 10 years but

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eight years of occupancy up there, there were no records.

The place was pretty well stripped. So we've been trying to get records back from Garner Ted Armstrong, Bill Evans, from Lois Chapman, from people of that sort for a long time. Robert Kuhn was executive assistant. We've been trying to get records back of all kinds, and we haven't been successful.

So now we're involved in a record game. We'll be a little more diligent in our search for those records and use a little more muscle to get them. Now that, you might say, we don't just simply have to ask politely any more. We've been playing the game by a different set of rules — turn the other cheek. You all understand that. Those are the restrictions that are placed upon us because of the Bible. But once we're attacked it's different.

You know what Mr. Armstrong has said? I think I mentioned that Saturday, and it's in — somewhere where he's written recently — he said that we are to obey God, not man. So that's what we're operating on at the present moment.

The attorney general has stated that we are, the Worldwide Church of God has become, a public trust charitable institution?

Yes, you belong to the State. Yes, that's what they would like.

And all the religious organizations up and down California are very excited about it because they're trying to do it to them, and yet they've done it to us and now they are in jeopardy.

Well, we'll think that if the attorney general continues to pursue this ridiculous line of argument that all the religious institutions will jump in and help us as we've helped them in the past. Mr. Helge has been very active for years in filing friend of the court briefs, and we'll have the same kind of assistance. We've already had several calls from other denominations that have offered to help. It's just an unreasonable attitude to take, and he will not be backed up by the courts. And I don't think he's doing freedom of religion any good in general by making wild, irresponsible statements of that kind.

Can you expand a little bit on the statement that you made a couple days ago about Mr. Cole being the leader of a liberal faction for several months?

There was a group of people that Mr. Armstrong has been watching for a very, very long period of time. And all of it flowed from what he has considered to be, and he has written about it, the most satanic effort to undermine the doctrines of the Church, and that was the so-called STP project — Systematic Theology Project.

A particular number of people, who were very much associated with that project, kept trying to palm it off as something that he had been in favor of, or had participated in or had in some way approved of. All of which was false. So anyone who had taken that particular point of view was a person who he had to watch.

And he was particularly mindful of Dr. Kuhn, who had been the major writer of the STP doctrine, and Mr. Armstrong, you know, has been attacking the STP project for eight months. I think you all realize that. There hasn't been anything he's written that hasn't referred to it.

So people just kind of, I guess, break down into groups, somehow or other, and Mr. Cole was part of an element that was pushing for Mr. Armstrong to accept the STP. He also was opposed to the new and effective leadership that Mr. Armstrong put into the college. And his

opposition was too vigorous and for the wrong reasons.

Who is the attorney general?

The attorney general is Mr. [George] Deukmejian who just was put into office yesterday. Evette Younger just finished his term. He chose not to run again. He ran for governor, as you know, and lost. But this is a deputy, deputy attorney general.

And I might share something with you because it is kind of interesting. And I know you'll enjoy hearing it. The deputy attorney general and I and Mr. Browne were classmates. We all went to USC [University of Southern California] at the same time. We were in the same graduating class. I was No. 1, Mr. Browne was No. 2 and Mr. Tapper was where? Somewhere. So you know, there's a little of that involved, which you have to understand — human beings being what they are.

And he is the person we are dealing with as an adversary. He's the person we have to listen to, and we have to listen to what he says to other people. Have to sit there and abide by the rules the time he says it. And that will work itself out. But it is kind of interesting. It's a small world and it gets smaller. I just thought it would be an interesting fact to share with you because it is true.

Before I begin, I hope that all of you guys who are working for the Work have had time to keep in contact with God, because we need it.

We always, matter of fact Mr. Helge turned to me just as we were about to proceed yesterday, and he said almost the same thing. He said, "Well, now is the time to say a prayer." And, of course, we did. We know we have your prayers also, which gives us a lot of feeling of support. I've always told you, I feel, and I know Mr. Armstrong does, and you all should, that there's kind of a special cloak of protection anyway that keeps us from suffering too much from the slings and arrows of fortune and the law of delay and what have you.

Mr. Rader, perhaps you have addressed this question to some extent, but what motive do you think the attorney general has at this time for wanting the control of the Church? At the hearing Friday, apparently Judge Weisman informed the court that it was not the intention at all to take over Mr. Armstrong's position in any way.

Unfortunately, much took place on Wednesday and Thursday and Friday that is a matter of record. There were events that were witnessed, as I said, by some of our most reliable and trusted people. I wasn't here, remember. I was 30 miles away as was Mr. Helge, but I'm talking about some of your most respected and admired people. They know what happened. We don't have to dispute each and every statement that's made.

But you could read the newspaper account today and see what the modus operandi was and what the intention was. And Mr. Armstrong was out. He was locked out of his offices. His secretaries had been dismissed. So you have to draw your own conclusions as to why. I think they just bit off more than they thought about. I think they now know they have a tiger by the tail, and I think that they just got carried away by emotion.

Now we have to see to it that the law protects our rights and that the issue is resolved. I don't really think that in a few more days the State is going to be as interperate in court as it has been in terms of what the rights of the Church are vis-a-vis the State.

What would be, say, the worst possible outcome if the State finds anything or feels they have found anything and they pursue it in court? Would they remove officers? Would they not have grounds for taking over the Church?

My mind doesn't really work that way. I think you should think of what Seneca said. He was a Roman playwright and poet, third or fourth century A.D., and he said, "Men in general have many more fears than they have real dangers." And if you know that you are right, and you know that God is on His throne, why should we contemplate what could happen if? We could spend all of our time thinking about what would happen if. If the attorney general were to be believed it would be as I've said. We belong to him, all of us. We're in this room today because he says it's okay.

I don't think it's productive at all to think about what could happen if God is not on His throne. I mean, that's really what you're saying when you come right down to it. If God is not on His throne, then maybe other things will happen. But we know God is on His throne. We know we will prevail. We always have prevailed and therefore we have a job to get done.

In the meantime, we have a little obstruction. All it's really done is galvanized the Church into action. It's brought us all closer together and some good always comes from bad. It's flushed certain people out of the woodwork, which Mr. Armstrong has wanted to occur. He didn't want it to happen this way, but he wanted to know for certain, with absolute certainty, that which would confirm what he suspected. So as I said, some good will always come from the bad.

But to be concerned about "what ifs," we'd have to start with the premise that God is not on His throne, and therefore we should worry more about it. Then we would have to deal with the problem as men would have to deal with it. And we deal with all problems a little bit differently than other people.

This question might fall into the same category, but at the hearing the other night, it appeared that the prosecuting attorney was very much attacking you personally.

I wasn't there, I didn't hear everything he said, of course. I'm waiting for the transcript; we haven't received it yet.

A lot of the allegations he claimed were directed at you, and I assume that as time goes by and the weeks go on, a lot of those will become public. And it's hard to phrase, but I guess what I'm asking is a reassurance from you that those aren't true.

Look, I have confidence that whatever he wants to ask me will be answered and whatever our books and records indicate will be revealed. And whatever the books and records reveal will contain no improprieties. The State may still choose to try to characterize something like they did the king's, like the reporter and the king's golf balls. You have to understand it's the State saying this is wrong or that is wrong. We have people who don't think we should have spent this much money on this building. And it's all kinds of things of that sort. So I'm not concerned about that final outcome. Nor is Mr. Armstrong.

And we, for the moment, stand accused in the wild complaint of the same misconduct. And I am as confident, and he is, that there has been no misconduct. And I've told you before that figures don't lie, but liars figure. And these people may be trying to take our data and give it a different twist and then that's up to us defending the Work and defending ourselves to put everything in the proper perspective.

I can't stop people from making wild allegations. I've had all kinds of wild allegations cast in my direction. All kinds, not just financial. As have Mr. Armstrong and Mrs. Armstrong. I mean, people say the wildest things under these circumstances.

How many of you saw John Kinston yesterday on television? Well, if you think he was heated yesterday,

you should have heard a conversation he had with a so-called fellow Church member the night before, who accused him of taking things out of this building.

I mean, we can't stop it. If people are going to make wild accusations we'll just simply have to meet them one by one. But whatever the records indicate will be made public, and whatever initial, shall we say, coloration should be given to any transaction or any particular figure by the attorney general, we will meet the challenge and we will prevail. So I hope I could assure you of that now. I'm perfectly confident of that as is Mr. Armstrong.

Do a number of the executive secretaries now know where their loyalties lie? The other night in the courtroom it was brought out that



TELEVISION INTERVIEW — Stanley R. Rader, accompanied by Church attorneys Allan Browne and Ralph Helge, is questioned by a Los Angeles, Calif., television station interviewer.

they were asked and did not know. In fact they said they [their loyalties] lay with you rather than with the Church.

I do know that one of our executive secretaries was asked to leave, take a week's leave of absence to decide during that week where her loyalties would lie, although her loyalties could never be put in question by anybody acting under color of State authority. That person didn't take the week vacation so I think that gives you your answer. But I assume you weren't imputing her loyalties, were you?

No, the first secretary said they were with you and the other three did not know.

Said that to whom?

Judge Weisman. He told the question to the first secretary and said, "Do your loyalties lie with Mr. Rader or with the Church?" and she said, "Mr. Rader."

I can't believe that any secretary would say that. I mean, I don't understand how anyone could even ascribe that kind of statement to any one of our secretaries. But where did you hear that?

Judge Weisman.

I can't believe that. I think it's pretty clear where their loyalties are. They wouldn't be in that sensitive position to begin with if they weren't loyal. And if it would have been left up to Virginia Kinston, they might still never have gotten into that building. I guarantee you.

If Church assets were dissolved, would they go to AICF?

It's just ridiculously untrue. It's just patently false. It wouldn't make any difference though, would it, if it were true, because AICF [Ambassador International Cultural

Foundation] belongs to the Church. I mean it's false to begin with, but even if it were true it wouldn't make any difference. AICF is not a private corporation. It's a nonprofit corporation controlled by the very same board, for all practical purposes, that controls the Church. It's just another one of Ted Armstrong's wild allegations. If he had a "deep pocket" we'd probably go after him now, but he doesn't. Mr. [Henry] Cornwall, for example, is waiting. I once described him like a Doberman pinscher straining, but no sense going after him until he does have a little something.

How do we know what the attorney general has done with the records that were removed?

We're not at all unhappy with the arrangement, as I said, that's been

worked out with the receiver. I feel that there were some things that took place that should never have taken place, and I do not want to, in any way, feel that the receiver was the one who precipitated those things. There were a couple of people or more representing the plaintiffs. These attorneys were the ones that may have seen to it that certain things that should never have taken place did take place.

But most of that's behind us. We haven't argued some of the points you're mentioning. We're at a very specific level or stage of the lawsuit. It's a procedural fight. You have to play according to the rules. These people went in originally ex parte, that means nobody was there to rebut anything. And they got a court order restraining us from doing something and restraining us in certain ways and giving broad powers to a receiver. And we had to go on a temporary basis. So we had to knock that in the head first. And we did. Now we're going in tomorrow on almost the same arguments, but having coming to this stage, having won everything that we really wanted to win at those first two hearings, we feel that we will have the same kind of result tomorrow. Then we will get into other things as to where our records are. Did they have a right to take them? If they did take them on the color of authority that was wrong, can they be sued? If they can be sued, how much can we recover?

And I say there are some lawsuits that are pending and some of them are not within our direct control, but we know that people are working on them to more or less recover whatever we can, or whatever they can for what has amounted to this unjustifi-

(See FORUM, page 13)

FORUM
WITH STANLEY R. RADER

(Continued from page 12)

able conduct. But it's a procedural thing. You must play the game according to the rules.

That's why Mr. Armstrong has described the courts in a certain way from time to time. And he has told you it won't be like that in the world tomorrow. So now you're beginning to learn a little more about what he has said for so long.

Will the ministerial conference that was to be held be on schedule?

No. Mr. Armstrong has postponed it for one week, not because of the trial, but because of his heavy cold this week. He needed 10 days to prepare for it. He has not had a chance to prepare adequately for it, and he intends to conduct most of the plenary sessions. I've just been told by my secretary that Judge Weisman, from now on, by the way, will be called a trustee rather than a receiver. And that will give us much more help in dealing with the public, who will never be able to catch up with all the facts. Receiver sounds like you are insolvent. It's causing us some credit problems, which will have to be corrected in the next few days. The word trustee will change that.

I detect from my perception that there's an attitude of my that are actually in the attitude of rejoicing that now you will be found out. And I wonder why, in your own words, why is it that you feel that there are so many that fear you in your position and the way you are?

Well, I would say that the more obvious reasons are tied up in what we all know are basic elements of human nature that we all have to cope with. I would say envy, jealousy and greed. But I do know and Mr. Armstrong knows that there are those persons who know that I have stood in their way, not by being the person who would be able to replace Mr. Armstrong, but who would be able to thwart them in their lust for power. It's just that simple. He knows that and I know that. That's where he knows, as the common expression is today, he knows where I am coming from. And they do too. So anything they can do to try to knock me out of the way is one less defense for him.

But you've got to add to that this business of lust, envy, greed, whatever you want to call it, resentment. And Mr. Armstrong himself, you know, hasn't helped the situation when he writes letters, and he says not one of you can do Mr. Rader's job. It's true, but he doesn't have to say it every time.

I might tell you that, as long as we are being very candid with one another, that my daughter who was baptized walked out of the service here Saturday because of the intemperate nature of the remarks here and the tone. And I've chosen to just ignore both the tone and the nature of the remarks, and I've reminded him of the old adage about glass houses, and I'm going to leave it at that.

But she's a newly baptized member, and she sees things in black and white. Although she's 25 she's never learned to understand the gray areas. And it was an unfortunate thing. But as it turned out God was on His throne, and I got back here in time to clear up some misunderstandings concerning Mr. Armstrong's plans and my plans for the long term, which have for the moment been a little bit, shall we say, put on the back burner until this problem has been resolved. And I have not had a chance to talk to my daughter about it, because I know she was very much upset at the tone of the comments and I hope to see her. I just haven't had the chance to see other members of my family who are not living at home, and I'll try to do that before

too long.

I'm employed in graphics. We have offices in the accounting building, and we have been denied access for five days. I understand there's going to be access now to the building back on limited basis.

No, we can't get everybody in there all in one day, and we have to staff up for it. I mean, it isn't enough, for example, to just put some bodies into the building to protect the records. Those people, I mean from the trustee's office, they have to be also people who are competent to testify.

Now this is a very sophisticated world we're living in. With the attorney general running around my office looking for books and records, we have to be sure that if someone is down from the trustee's office to see what goes on, he can say, "I know nothing's going on that's wrong," and when he speaks he will be understood, and when he speaks he will be believed.

So it takes time to staff up. And that with the auditors who the trustee has engaged, and he's desperately trying to find the personnel. So until he can get adequate personnel to go in there on a 24-hour-a-day operation, I've demanded 24 hours a day in certain areas of that building. So just bear with us. We're all cooperating to handle the problem. It works for us, in other words.

I was wondering about the sale of the property on Del Mar, supposedly for under the true price. Could you comment on that?

I've already commented someplace about it. Those transactions, all the real estate transactions in the Pasadena area during the past six or seven months, were handled by Mr. [Ray] Wright in conjunction with Mr. Evans. And I had no reason to believe that any of the properties were being sold for less than fair market value. And with most of the properties I didn't have any authority to do anything about it anyway. They were being handled by Mr. Wright.

But the transaction on Del Mar, which involved five houses, when I heard about it, was still in escrow. I tried to kill it, not because I was positive I was right, but because I thought maybe it would be better to sell the properties one by one, the idea being that five properties might bring more on an individual basis than the very attractive bird in hand that was accepted by Mr. Wright, which was five properties for a little over a million dollars.

But when I consulted Mr. Helge he assured me that it could not be done without a lawsuit, a major lawsuit. It had gone too far, in other words. We would have had to go in there and argue that Mr. Wright didn't have the authority as vice president for financial affairs. It would have been too awkward, you see, and we let it go by. And I don't know whether I was right. I really don't. I just thought maybe it shouldn't be sold five at once. It's a matter of judgment.

How does this lawsuit affect Mr. Armstrong's scheduled meetings with Sadat in February?

We hope it won't affect it at all, and we've already communicated to the people in Cairo that we're hoping to be there in the second half of February. It could also, you know, be in March. We have three or four weeks of leeway. I'll let the TV people know.

As you haven't been in DPC for a while, I don't know if you can answer the question. I hope it's a fair question, but when I was working as custodian last year in Data Processing as well as some of the other buildings, there were certain things — computer printouts — that's what they were. I don't think they were permanent records, but they were computer printouts which were regularly classified and typed out by the computer as classified, shredded. I am aware that that might be

the basis for some of the allegations, and it brings a question in my mind, just what is routinely done?

That's a very good question. You understand the problem. I mean, if I call Mr. Bicket and I say, Mr. Bicket or Mr. [George] Birdwell, would you please send me a printout of certain expenses for the month of January, okay? And he sends it to me. I don't have to keep the bloody thing, do I, after I have looked at it? I'd wind up with a building bigger than his, just to keep the records. Those are duplicate copies, but they don't understand. They are not conversant with the problems of the computer age.

But you are conversant with it, you see, and you know those are just like file copies. You don't need 10 copies of everything. You certainly don't need to keep every copy that some department head, who had a right to request it, has received. If he wants to keep it, fine. Now he ought to be smart enough, if it's the kind of document that involves Church business and our private affairs, as members of this Church, not to just simply allow it to go to everybody. But it's produced by us and what's produced by us, as far as I am concerned, within the constitutional safeguards, will be made public if necessary.

You would have been very much irate, just as I was, as you try to explain to them, there are no books and records. I begged them yesterday, I said, "Just take everything out of my office. Take every piece of paper." They couldn't understand how I could say that. They didn't understand I did not have one piece of paper: that wasn't recorded somewhere else. They couldn't believe it. But it happens to be true, because everything there was generated someplace else.

Do you know that I don't even open my own mail? My mail is opened for me elsewhere, or by somebody else, and I don't get all my mail. I only get the mail that my very competent secretaries think I ought to have. And most of the things they farm out immediately to other people. Or if it involves very minor things, they take care of it. And I just get a handful of letters every day. And my secretary, knowing my habits, housekeeping habits in there (I'm not the best housekeeper), makes a copy of everything before she gives me anything. So we're pretty protected.

Last night on Channel 11, a correspondent hinted that a grand jury investigation was in the offing. Can you comment?

I don't know anything about that. Someone told me about the comment, and grand jury investigations are very private and therefore whatever he knows maybe we will find out about, but we're not concerned about it.

Having studied a little bit about journalism and production like that, I'd say that that comment was probably designed to make people watch his program the next night.

I assume so. But this is, you know, a pretty wild age we're living in, and we didn't expect to have it easy when we started doing God's Work, so whatever is necessary to be done, will be done, and we will prevail.

Could I also say that last night I heard on Channel 7 news that Herbert W. Armstrong was excommunicated.

That's right. But what's funny is that there were certain people who believed it. And acted upon it. And that was the overt act that he needed. It was more the action of others who heard that and acted upon it that was important. In other words, when they were willing to believe it, or believe that he was no longer head of the Church, that was the overt act. If nothing else had taken place it would have been enough. But much had taken place.

I think we've covered much of it.

Excerpts

(Continued from page 8)

going to do anything."

I said, "But they have access to a membership list that is worth millions of dollars." By the time I called Mr. [Walter] Dickinson and he had run out there, they had already gone. Ghastly, I thought. Look what happened. It's all over. They got the membership list, and now they're going to put themselves in control insofar as the membership is concerned.

You know what really happened? The computer wouldn't start! So I'll tell you, we're great believers that you've got to have faith and that "faith without works is dead." You've got to have works to supplement your faith, for as somebody very astutely said, "Faith without works is dead; yes, but works without faith is useless."

Then, during the night we made some calls. I began to think of all the loyal ministers we knew. (This is not an exhaustive list.) But we got on the phone right away and tried to get in touch with Mr. Norman Smith to have him come, and to get Mr. Dean Blackwell down, George Meeker, and of course many others — including Dennis Luker. I'm just giving a few names here, but there are many, many faithful ministers.

But with that, then things were put together, and we went to court. And the court changed the court order to a very large degree saying that Mr. Herbert Armstrong is the one who has authority to hire and fire. And, you see, with that inspired decision, it gave Mr. Armstrong the unobstructed authority to clean house. Now I say, let's "clean house." Because of the conspirators and those of their ilk, there were problems I can't even tell you about.

Before all this happened we couldn't understand the rumors, rumors, rumors, going out. They weren't being squelched and ministers were calling the legal office saying, "I need information to squelch them." I said, "Well, I guess it's not my job, you know. You've got an area [Pastoral Administration office] especially for that." But they weren't being fed with the proper information. You see, all this now has come out. This suit actually, I feel, was inspired by Satan. But, I'll tell you, I believe that God is just making use of it in such a way as to build unity in the Church and to bring forth this conspiracy.

I just want to make one more brief comment before closing. I feel there was a source of rumors, but I feel that it's out of the Church right now. And I'll tell you, in many of those rumors (which ultimate source is Satan who uses certain instruments), there's one man who has constantly and continuously been castigated, and that's Mr. Rader. Now, I know I am called "a Rader man," so anything I say is highly suspect. But you see, it so happens that when Mr. Rader got his law degree, then it was just the opposite. Then it was rumored, "Helge, you got a lot of trouble with Mr. Rader — very jealous, probably because he's next to Mr. Armstrong and he has now got his law degree." And that time I was his antagonist, according to the rumor, but now all of a sudden I'm in his hip pocket, so to speak.

Well, I'll tell you. Neither has been true. We just have a great admiration for each other. But I want to tell you something about this man that I feel I must. And this comes from my heart. And Mr. Armstrong gives me my pay, not Mr. Rader, just so you'll understand, okay?

So many times over the years there have been rumors against Mr. Rader — how he does this and so and so forth. But so many times, he didn't have to tell me (see, I'm in a lesser

position than Mr. Rader and I'm not ashamed to say that; I really am, so he doesn't have to try to build himself up in my eyes in any way). But he is continuously, never-endingly, always, I tell you, praising Mr. Herbert Armstrong. He always tells me about Mr. Armstrong's tremendous judgment. Every time something happens, he will often say: "You know something? Mr. Armstrong said that was going to happen. He said, 'That man was that way,' but I said, 'No,' and I fought with him, and I argued with him in behalf of the man. But you know, he was right." And he tells me it happens every time. He says: "People don't realize how great that man is. The people don't realize how inspired he is. They don't realize the judgment he has." He has consistently built up Mr. Armstrong. I'll tell you, that has given me great faith in Mr. Rader, so that, in turn, I have defended Mr. Rader over the years.

And you know, they say he controls Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Well, I'll tell you, all you've got to do is know Mr. Armstrong and you know better! It was very interesting recently when I gave Mr. Rader an eight-paragraph document saying: "Look, here's a recommendation I'd like to make. I really think this is a very good idea, and here it is." He looked at it and said, "I think you've got something here. I really think this is good, and I'm going to present it to Mr. Armstrong."

Now, he's supposed to control Mr. Armstrong, right? He calls me back the next day. He says, "I want to tell you something. You know, you really kind of did it in for me," he said. "You know," he said, "I brought that document to Mr. Armstrong and he not only rejected and struck out each paragraph, some he struck out twice!" So I'll tell you, if he controls Mr. Armstrong, he's got a funny way of showing it because this whole idea of mine, which he thought was very good, was shot down the tubes.

I do want to thank you for the support that so many of you gave when we were in court. I feel that God is using these events to bring this Church forward to something we've lost under Mr. Ted Armstrong, and that's the idea of prayer, faith and fellowship. Let's keep an ear tuned so we can all, through the type of preaching we heard from Mr. Meredith, come to a oneness again and just be together.

Dr. Meredith's closing comments

We kept you over three hours and you're still clapping. I think this is really like the old days in that way. Do you know that our average service, the normal service time in God's Church up in the library, used to be for years from 1:30 to 4:30 every Sabbath? And Mr. Armstrong often ran over half an hour or so, and that's what we're doing now.

I thought I was going to come up and Mr. Rader would say a few things and I'd give a final scripture and try to inspire you and then sit down. But really, Mr. Helge has done such a good job and you've been here such a long time, I think you're probably ready to sing. But I just want to say that most of you know Mr. Helge, I'm sure. He has been a member for 20 or more years. I know him very well and I have worked with him a great deal so I know he is a very dedicated Church member working for Jesus Christ. Of course, we're all working for Christ, and humanly for Mr. Armstrong. So I'm very grateful for his comments in Mr. Armstrong's and, of course, in the Work's defense.

Hang in there. I hope all of you will do that and hope you will pray a whole lot for the other brethren who might have not been able to be here and get the story as thoroughly as you did. Let's do remember them. Thanks a whole lot.

Excerpts from Mr. Helge's comments at Jan. 13 services

(Continued from page 2)

ary and there's Mr. Dennis Luker's salary and there's Mr. Rod Meredith's salary. Nothing wrong with these salaries. They are okay, no problem. But we want to let you know what they are.

You know, they have special means of reporting in law for charitable organizations that the legislature of this state has passed. They say that you report to the attorney general. The IRS — they have a means of reporting by the college. The college must break down all their income very definitely. They say churches, you don't have to break it down quite that much. Why? Because the legislatures, both the state and federal, realize that there is a constitutional right of churches.

But this attorney general doesn't want that to be exercised. And I'll tell you why. Because he got smacked right between the eyes recently by a particular (that's figurative, of course) gentleman called Dr. Gene Scott. How many of you saw him on TV? Now I'll tell you, we, I know, don't agree with Dr. Gene Scott's doctrines. I'll go along with that. But I'll tell you, Mr. HWA and Gene Scott are two of a kind when it comes down to being scappers and being fighters. If you have ever heard that man, it's really amusing. I'll tell you he really battles and he lets them know about it.

You know, we have the rest of the churches, the big churches, the massive churches (they're like sleeping giants). They're starting to wake up now. They are going to have to wake up. Some of the people now are realizing, hey, wait a minute, wait a minute. If they can tell the Worldwide Church of God how to preach their doctrines, they can tell my church. See. But they are sleeping giants.

This is the time to fight. This is not the time to sleep. This is the time darkness is attempting to take over. Those churches are going to have to wake up to that because I tell you I'll show you a little later you no longer have churches in California. You don't have the Worldwide Church of God. You don't have the Presbyterian Church. You don't have any other church. All you've got is the Church of the State of California, if that attorney general prevails. That's what you've got.

Now let's go into the present court order that's existing. I want to make certain that nobody misconstrues anything I say as to being or suggesting or recommending in any way that you disobey that order. Because there's an injunction in there and if anything I say or Mr. Meredith says that might possibly be construed, we might be fired, we might be held in contempt of court. So from a physical standpoint, I want to be careful we don't do that.

Now if it ever comes down to choosing between the physical and the spiritual you're going to have to make your own choice. I hope that never happens here with the receiver. I don't think it will. But I have to keep that scripture in mind should it come down to it. I repeat again, though, we don't want to do anything to disrupt the physical procedure of the receiver.

Now that court order provides that the receiver has the power and the authority to hire and fire anyone that works for the Worldwide Church of God or Ambassador College at his full discretion. There's an exception to that. He cannot fire Herbert W. Armstrong or Mr. Rader.

No, he has to bring them before the court and the court will fire them. That's the court order. The judge (this is Judge Julius Title, Superior Court judge), he was very quick to let the receiver know he had to be

very careful to exclude from that, that, however, Mr. Receiver, you don't have authority to excommunicate. That's how broad the order was. But I'll show you another qualification to that a little later.

So I had to advise Mr. Rader not to say anything, to be careful. There is a man there, physically and spiritually, that this Work needs and that Mr. Herbert Armstrong needs. I am not saying that God cannot get along without him, without me or without you. He can. I am just saying that we need that man.

I am doing nothing but saying Mr. Herbert Armstrong was right when he chose him as his assistant and used him as his special persona to speak on behalf of the Church. Mr. Armstrong is one that can judge character and abilities and that was his choice, not mine.

So if he doesn't speak, or he speaks with very conservative statements, understand why. No, I don't know who's going to tell Mr. Armstrong what to say. It's sure not going to be me. I'll leave that to Mr. Rader. He can tell him, Mr. Armstrong, I want to edit your letters, please. You want them to go through a battery of lawyers down there at Wilshire, going to have them look at it, and they will x out the different points that you shouldn't talk about. Mr. Armstrong has great pride in his authorship. And you don't go around changing his memos, believe me.

It is kind of interesting. The lawyer asked him: "Say, I notice, Mr. Rader, on this paper that Mr. Armstrong has got a typewriter that's much larger than usual. Is that correct, Mr. Rader?" The implication, you know, he's blind, you see. Mr. Rader says: "Yes, that's true. He needs the big type to read without his glasses, but he reads all the small print with his magnifying glass. He's got a special light in there so he can read real small print."

The next part of the court order is that we cannot interfere with the operation of the receiver, not that we would. But the attorney for the other side says, Oh judge, they're not going to obey that order. Man, they wouldn't let everybody come in and just rape the organization there and take all those files out. That should be indicative of they're not going to obey in the future. The court discharged that argument.

So I had to tell Mr. Meredith and discuss his sermon. Ralph K. Helge, an attorney, not a minister, has to talk with one of the higher-rank ministers and hear his sermon now to make certain that it can be preached in the House of God. And the court wants to tell me that this is not an interference with religion.

There are certain people who are spreading dissent. We were going to disfellowship them. They are disfellowshipped spiritually. Judge Title and nobody else can change that. That's what God does. Maybe he can hold Him in contempt. I had to advise Mr. Meredith, better not mention those names. Maybe they were employees. And if you disfellowship them they can't be amongst us, that might in some way interfere with the operation with the organization. So you had better hold it until superior judges can rectify the heinous, ridiculous order that was entered. And I'll call it that. I'm not going to say, I'm not going to disobey it. I'm an attorney, and I've got a right to criticize that order, and I'll tell you that order is void.

The receiver was given possession and control of all of God's property. The tithe money that you sent in here to build these buildings, this House of God, is being placed in the hands of somebody who is not even of our religious persuasion.

There's an article Mr. Meredith is

going to read or refer to written by a nonmember of the Church into the paper and blasting their decision. saying: "I thought we had freedom of religion. I thought the Church controlled itself." I'm going to tell that lady I appreciate her letter. It was a very favorable one, very good.

But there is no church in the state of California today. The only church is the Church of California. Because they said that the State owns all the assets of every church, and it's the judge who will come in and decide every expenditure as to whether or not it's reasonable.

And Judge Title had the unmitigated audacity, that because of the wild, flagrant, unsupported allegations, to question Mr. Herbert Armstrong's capacity. Well, I'll tell you, I'll stand behind Mr. Herbert Armstrong's capacity before I'll ever stand behind that judge's capacity.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong is of a sound mind, and I'm not going to stand back and Mr. Rader's not going to stand back and see that even suggested or imputed because it's a rumor of the dissidents.

Look at all the articles he's written. And we had stacks and stacks and stacks of articles in there. He just came back from Jerusalem visiting the high officials over there, and he has the audacity to even suggest.

Now how is God using this? I'll tell you how God's using it all. There was a left-wing dissident church faction here that was talked about many times. These were the wolves amongst us. They wanted to change the doctrine. They just want to say, Oh, just pray about things like this. Just pray about them. I'm not suggesting we don't pray about it. I'm pleading with you to pray. But they want you to stand back and do nothing because they know what the scripture says. They wanted to twist the scripture to Jesus Christ when he said jump off the building, Christ; there are angels to guard you.

And Christ had to tell them, wait a minute, no that's not the full scripture. That's not all of it. He says, don't tempt the Lord your God either. So you can't just sit back and do nothing and tempt God. You've got to add works to your faith. But this group, this dissident left-wing group wanted to have that. They want to say love. When after the thing was over one of the men walked out and he says: "Mr. Helge, I love you, Mr. Helge. I love you. But I just can't do anything for you." What is their concept of love?

They want to do away with the law of God and just have the word "love." What does love mean, then? Love means anything they want it to mean. They want to do away with the law of God that tells you what love is. So that's one thing that God is using this for. He's gotten rid of that dissident faction. He's purged the Body of Jesus Christ.

The second test is to give an ultimate test. Let's understand. You know that scripture where it said that if you cause a little one to stumble what's going to happen? It says that the person who causes it to happen is going to have a millstone tied around his neck and cast into the ocean.

But you see, it didn't say what's going to happen to the little one, did it? You know, it's here a little, there a little. What happens? What's going to happen to you or to me, if we stumble over this suit for the wild, false allegations that are being made?

What does the Bible tell us? It tells us we're going to have to go through the tribulation to have our robes made white. It tells us that if a roof of bitterness grows up because of it, that we've lost our salvation, totally, and we can never again repent. So you

see, that's the test to the wicked ones. That's the test for the little ones who fall away.

And what about the ministers? Remember in Corinthians, I remember Dr. Meredith teaching this so clear that where it talked about the tithing of the minister. That when the fire comes to the congregation where the hay, stubble, if it falls away, it will just be burned up. On the other hand, if it's precious gold and gems they are made more bright and more perfect by fire. So you see, when the congregation goes or falls away, then the minister loses part of his reward with every teaching he had there. So you see, it's a test for all of us. And it's a test now, it's a test between the dissidents, it's a test between the State of California on one hand to choose, to make a decision, this is the time of decision. And a decision has to be made.

Now I'm not again referring to that court order. I'm not referring to disobeying it. I repeat that. But I am saying that this is the time of decision now to we're either going to be on the side of the State, on the side of the dissidents, or we are going to be on the side of Mr. Herbert Armstrong. And I'm proclaiming right now, and I am professing that I am behind and with Mr. Herbert Armstrong. And in his camp is Mr. Rader. And if you want to knock him, you can knock, but that's where I stand.

Now I tell you I was told before, when Mr. Ted Armstrong was on the rise and his father was kind of ill, you know, you've got to kind of make a choice here. Now make the right choice, Helge. Because on one side you've got a young man who's obviously going to be here a lot longer than his father, who is older. It was very simple for me to make choices, I tell you. You can just pick that which is right. And I said, as long as Mr. Herbert Armstrong stands and lives, I am behind him. Now that was foolishness. Why? Because it was contrary to all the odds. It was physical foolishness. See, that's not wise, is it?

Is it wise at this time? Man, you've got the State in power, you've got the receiver in power. You'd better not hang around Mr. Rader any more. They're throwing a lot of rocks at him now. It might be safer for you to stay away. But I'm telling you now, I'm not going to do it. I know where my loyalties lie. I will never be able to back out of it now as long as Mr. Armstrong remains faithful to this Work, and I am sure he will. So I'm on record.

Let me just look at something here in the scriptures if I can, please. I want to turn to Acts 25.

In verse 11 it says (Paul is speaking to Festus): "For if I be offended or have committed anything worthy of death, I don't refuse to die. But if there be none of these things wherefore these accuse me of, no man may deliver me unto these Jews. I appeal to Caesar." Now a little later we are going to see how this was a very great physical mistake. In verse 17 he says: "Therefore when you come hither without any delay on the morrow [sending for Paul, I believe] sit on the judgment seat [this was Festus speaking] and commanded the man, Paul, to be brought forth. Against whom when the accusers stood up [right, remember the Jews followed Paul all the way down here now], and against whom when they stood up against him, the accusers they brought none accusation of such things as they supposed." But they had certain questions against him of their own superstition and of one Jesus which was dead. "Now mind you, 'their own superstition,'" you see. They wanted to run the Church, they

the State of California, the dissidents want to run it. The same charge and accusations are here today.

And he said, "and they brought superstitions and of one Jesus which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive." Now I tell you, if we can't convince the judges of this constitutional argument, how in the world are we ever going to convince him that a man who is dead is alive?

And that was Paul's job. Then in verse 31 he said: "And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves [these were the kings there, the judges] and they said, this man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds. [See, that's exactly the proof that was against us. Not death or even of bonds.] Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Do you understand that? Now remember Paul said "I appeal to Caesar." And here Festus said, "Paul, I would have let you free, but jurisdictionally speaking, when you appealed to Caesar, I lost jurisdiction over the case and I cannot let you free." Now do you understand? Look at this physically. What a tremendous boner Paul pulled. You want to choose to follow Mr. Armstrong in these days of trial and tribulation. That's kind of foolish, physically, isn't it? It's kind of foolish now for Paul, what Paul did.

Let's look at Acts 23:11, and it said, "the night following, the Lord stood by him [Paul] and said, be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness to me in Rome." And that's where Paul was going. So you see, physically speaking, it looked like he pulled a boner. He could have been criticized and ridiculed for doing a wrong according to all the physical facts, but you see, it was according to God's will.

So I don't care how black these things look, I'm still proclaiming who I am going to follow because I know that God's behind it, and it's going to turn out right for good at the end for doing so.

That's what you are being trained for, whether or not you're going to follow Jesus Christ. Because if you won't follow His representative on earth today, then Jesus Christ knows you won't follow Him. And He's going to say, Get rid of them, slay them right in front of me. This is the ultimate test that I feel this is bringing about today. It's making it a division, a very clear division. And you can go either way you want, either side. You are free to choose.

You have got free moral agency. You have got free legal rights. So you are not bound.

You know, there is a song sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford. The one verse that always impresses me is when he says, "When the host of hell assail and my friends begin to fail, thou, God, who has never lost a battle, stand by me." Now can you imagine that, what does that strike you? Who never has lost a battle. We've got somebody on our side who has never lost yet, never lost one time.

I've got a general: I've got an army who's never lost. Every time He goes into battle, He comes out the winner. And that's what we have got behind us. I tell you, the bottom line is written there, and it's scripture when it says, "How long do you halt or choose between two opinions?"

And that's the choice you've got to make today. I've made mine for Mr. Herbert Armstrong, the man, and other people and men and representatives he has chosen. "How long are you going to halt between two opinions?" You've got freedom of choice. I just pray that you make the right decision.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

BIERER, Daniel and Alice (Dix), of Williamsport, N.Y., boy, Philip Edward, Dec. 12, 1:20 a.m., 7 pounds, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

FINCHER, Dale and Sylvia, of Gadsden, Ala., boy, Josef Tyler, Nov. 6, 8:28 p.m., 6 pounds 8 ounces, now 2 boys.

GEORGE, Clyde and Pamela (Brown), of Bakersfield, Calif., boy, Jacob Alexander, Nov. 24, 5:04 a.m., 9 pounds, first child.

HAACK, Gordon and Kate (Hansen), of Rochester, Minn., girl, Kelly Leann, Oct. 11, 11:05 p.m., 8 pounds, first child.

HONOR, Noel and Becky, of Modesto, Calif., boy, Ryan David, Dec. 20, 4:52 p.m., 8 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

KIEFFER, Paul and Monica (Burouist), of Dayton, Ohio, girl, Rachel Anna, Dec. 26, 6:23 p.m., 8 pounds 15 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

LASHUA, Gary and Roberta (Phillips), of St. Petersburg, Fla., girl, Rebecca Lynn, Sept. 18, 11:44 p.m., 7 pounds 12 ounces, now 3 girls.

LEAVER, Richard and Gail, of Perth, Australia, girl, Ngara Janne, Dec. 1, 4 a.m., 7 pounds, now 3 boys, 1 girl.

MARTIN, Lonnie and LucyAna (Miller), of Columbus, Ohio, girl, Jessica Ruthanna, Dec. 14, 7:51 a.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

MOLANO, Robert and Mary (Hughes), of Abilene, Tex., boy, Silas Michael, Dec. 19, 8:15 a.m., 6 pounds 8 ounces, now 2 boys.

OLSON, Robert and Evelyn (Lusby), of Everett, Wash., girl, Angelina Evelyn, Oct. 26, 9:59 a.m., 8 pounds 1½ ounces, first child.

PREBLEY, Kerry and Carla (Davison), of Springdale, Ark., girl, Jessica Ruthanna, Dec. 14, 6:39 a.m., 9 pounds 10 ounces, first child.

PRUTSMAN, Keith and Diana (Evans), of Peoria, Ill., boy, Justin Michael, Nov. 24, 10:38 a.m., 7 pounds 7 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

RAU, Bill and Janet (Leathers), of Toledo, Ohio, boy, Joseph John, Aug. 19, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

REDMOND, Willie and Beverly (Wells), of Los Angeles, Calif., girl, Ja-nae La-chelle, Dec. 13, 1:50 p.m., 7 pounds 11 ounces, first child.

RICHARD, Sylvain and Nancy (Smith), of Montreal, Que., girl, Jessica Ruthanna, Dec. 14, 12:34 p.m., 8 pounds 8½ ounces, now 2 girls.

SANDERSON, Gary and Debra (Pendleton), of Swanton, Ohio, boy, Joshua Garner, Dec. 20, 10:50 p.m., 10 pounds, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

SHADOAN, James and Sandy, of Park Hills, Ky., boy, Eric Kevin, Dec. 15, 10:55 a.m., 7 pounds 3 ounces, now 2 boys.

STANSBURY, Dale and Julia (Farrington), of Anadarko, Okla., boy, Brandon Geoffrey, Dec. 3, 11:50 p.m., 5 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

SUROWIEC, Roman and Dianna, of Detroit, Mich., boy, David Michael, Dec. 13, 5:20 a.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 boys.

TARRANT, Graham and Pat, of Douglas, late of Man., girl, Joanne Gayle, Nov. 14, 2:25 a.m., 7 pounds 3 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

TATTERSALL, Derek and Diane (Lemieux), of Padinham, England, boy, David John, Dec. 5, 12:10 p.m., 8 pounds 13½ ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

TAYLOR, Larry and Joan (Wilmoth), of Atlanta, Ga., girl, Gina Marie, Dec. 16, 8:21 p.m., 6 pounds 7 ounces, now 3 girls.

TAYLOR, Thomas and Judy (Cullter), of Massena, N.Y., boy, Timothy Michael, Nov. 8, 8:21 a.m., 7 pounds 5½ ounces, first child.

VAUGHAN, John and Carol, of Melbourne, Australia, girl, Karen Michelle, Dec. 13, 1:45 p.m., 7 pounds 3 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. G. Beckers of South Caulfield, Australia, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter, Tina, to Tibor Siposs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sunny B. Stewart of Mulgrave, Australia. A pre-Feast wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph A. Miller of Hialeah, Fla., are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Karen, to Eric Newman, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Both Karen and Sunny are former Ambassador College students. The wedding is planned for July.

Lona V. Snyder of Eugene, Ore., would like to announce the engagement of her daughter, Joyce Marie, to Robert H. Phair, also of Eugene. No wedding date has been set.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Trimble are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kerry Marie, to Byron Mark Newcomer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Newcomer of North Vancouver, B.C. The wedding is set for March 17.

WEDDINGS

Mr. and Mrs. Clem Hagenburg happily announce the marriage of their daughter, Sandra, to Gerald Brenner, Aug. 5, in Cullinane, Mo. Don Mason, pastor of the Joplin and Coffeyville churches, officiated. The couple will reside at 1427 Vista Lane, Manhattan, Kan. 66502.

Conna Hoffman of Duluth, Minn., and Cethon L. Veal of Birmingham, Ala., were united in marriage Nov. 12 in Hannover, West Germany at the home of Victor and Ruth Roper. The couple is currently employed by Ambassador College, Poppelsdorfer Allee 53, 5300 Bonn 1, West Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Barger Sr. of Adamstown, Md., are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Carol Adele, to Paul Michael Dempsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Dempsey of Olney, Md. The wedding was held at the home of Victor and Ruth Roper. The couple is currently employed by Ambassador College, Poppelsdorfer Allee 53, 5300 Bonn 1, West Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Barger Sr. of Adamstown, Md., are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Carol Adele, to Paul Michael Dempsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Dempsey of Olney, Md. The wedding was held at the home of Victor and Ruth Roper. The couple is currently employed by Ambassador College, Poppelsdorfer Allee 53, 5300 Bonn 1, West Germany.



MR. AND MRS. K. SCHROEDER

Cheryl Ann Melvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Melvey, Polcan Lake, Minn., and Keith Arnold Schroeder, son of Mrs. Arnold Schroeder, Appleton, Wis., were married Oct. 8. The ceremony was performed in the Italian Gardens of Ambassador College, followed by a buffet luncheon and dance. Mr. Charles Oehlman officiated. Keith is employed by Ambassador Printing Services.



MR. AND MRS. TONY OBERMEIT

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hames of Dalby, Australia, and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Obermeit of Mount Hope, Kan., are happy to announce the marriage of their children, Laurel Elizabeth and Tony Lee, Oct. 7. The marriage took place at the home of the bride's parents in Australia and was performed by the bride's father, Ern Hames. Trevor Hames officiated as best man, and Janet Hames as maid of honor. The couple now reside at 427 S. Marengo, No. 5, Pasadena, Calif. 91101.

Janet Naomi Hoover, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred F. Hoover, of Eugene, Ore., and Robert F. Breckmeyer of Kansas were united in marriage in an evening service May 20 in Denver, Colo. Leroy Cole officiated.

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 32nd anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin J. Carmon Jan. 26 with lots of love, Catherine.

On Dec. 8, 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Kenneth Brady celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary highlighted by a surprise party from the Miami, Fla., church brethren. One interesting gift presented was a plastic tree with 225 silver dollars attached to the limbs. Mr. Brady is a minister here.

Mom and Dad—happy anniversary. Wishing you many more years of happiness, from all your kids with much love, Fred, Kathy, Jeff, Bobby, Randy, Bertie.



MR. AND MRS. L. PATTERSON

Amy and Lowell A. Patterson of Youngstown, Ohio, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 23, 1978.

Obituaries

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Darrell Gene Piker, 22, died Nov. 3, 1978, in an automobile accident. Mr. Piker is survived by his father, Lenard Duncan Piker of Bradford, Ark.; his mother, Jean Babb, of Greenville; and his sisters, Dolores Fern Piker of the Champaign, Ill., church, and

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

We'd like to let the readers of *The Worldwide News* know about your new baby as soon as it arrives. Just fill out this coupon and send it to the address given as soon as possible after the baby is born.



Our coupon baby this issue is Derek Ian Kaply, son of Gary and Carol Kaply of East Grand Forks, Minn.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT 'THE WORLDWIDE NEWS' BOX 111 PASADENA, CALIF., 91123, U.S.A.

Last name		Father's first name		Mother's first name	
Mother's maiden name*		Church area or city of residence/state/country			
Baby's sex <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl		Baby's first and middle names			
Month of birth	Day of month	Time of day <input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.	Weight		
No. of sons you now have			No. of daughters you now have		

*Optional

Susan Diane Piker of Greenville.

PILLAGER, Minn.—George W. Hix, 90, died Dec. 22 after a short illness. He has been a member of God's Church since 1960 and attended the Brainerd, Minn., church. Robert Roufs, pastor of the Brainerd and Grand Rapids, Minn., churches, officiated.

Mr. Hix is survived by seven children, 24 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. His wife Ruth, also a member of God's Church, died in 1962.

SUDBURY, Ont.—Amelida Guerette, 61, died following a lengthy illness. Mrs. Guerette was a member of God's Church. Mrs. Guerette is survived by her husband, Roland; a brother, Ovil; and two sisters, Mrs. John Grills and Oliva St. Louis, all of Neolville.

TERRA ALTA, W. Va.—Carrie Faye

Wood, 76, died Dec. 17 after a long illness. She was born Aug. 24, 1902, and had been a Church member for 11 years. She attended the Clarksburg, W. Va., church. David Johnson, pastor of the Belle Vernon, Pa., and Clarksburg, W. Va., churches, officiated.

TOLEDO, Ohio—Willis Keese, 51, died Dec. 18 after a long illness. He was a faithful Church member since 1963. George Kackos, pastor of the Toledo church, officiated at funeral services.

Mr. Keese is survived by his wife Jean and two daughters, Phyllis and Yvonne.

Mail your announcements to: Announcements, *The Worldwide News*, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, U.S.A.

News accounts

(Continued from page 9)

"But this met with a vehement objection by Hillel Chodos, attorney for the persons who have joined with the State attorney general in charging Armstrong and his top aide Stanley Rader with pilfering millions from church funds.

"A mere referee, Chodos said, would not be a sufficient remedy in light of the evidence of attempts to obstruct the court-ordered receivership. 'Your Honor has seen today the possibility for misunderstanding, deliberate obfuscation, conflicts in interpretation and antagonistic positions,'" Chodos argued.

"Title replied that he hadn't 'the slightest notion' of what remedy to employ, adding that it might be impossible 'to walk on the middle of the road.' Evidence submitted in the day of oral testimony, the judge said, showed that the receivership could seriously and irreparably damage the church, but also raised the equally serious possibility of misappropriation of funds within the \$80 million Armstrong empire." (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 12.)

'AMBASSADOR RESTRAINTS GET TIGHTER'

"State control over Herbert W. Armstrong's \$80 million religious empire was tightened Friday after a Los Angeles Superior Court judge ruled that restraints must be imposed on the financial operations of the Worldwide Church of God.

"The order will be appealed, attorneys for Armstrong and other defendants said.

"Pending a trial on civil charges leveled by the State attorney general, a receiver will monitor all financial

transactions within the Pasadena-based church, Ambassador College and Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

"Judge Title's ruling came at the conclusion of a three-day hearing in which attorneys for Rader and the church argued that the temporary receivership imposed last week had irreparably harmed the church.

"Defense counsel Allan Browne said that the order will be appealed in both state and federal courts.

"In my view, this is a total abrogation of the First Amendment," said Browne. "We'll take this to the highest courts in the land."

"While agreeing with Browne that the receivership is a drastic remedy to check the possible mishandling of funds, Judge Title said that the evidence of misappropriated funds was a 'cause for concern.'

"'Astounding amounts of money have been expended by Armstrong, Rader and others,' Title said. While some expenditures were no doubt proper, the judge said, the matter would have to be open for examination at the time of trial.

"The judge did not go into detail about the charges against Rader, but expressed concern about Rader's involvement in several financial transactions, including an aircraft leasing firm that leases jets to the church, and real estate purchases that have allegedly titled homes to Rader at church expense.

"Under the court's order, retired Judge Steven Weisman now has authority to expand his protective role as receiver into an investigative one, auditing the church's financial records.

"Judge Title said that management of day-to-day affairs on the campus will be conducted by the employees, but if Weisman senses that something is out of order, he has authority to interfere.

"Weisman was also given authority to hire a full staff to assist him and to fire any church employees who might attempt to obstruct the receivership. In effect, Weisman is the new boss for church employees, pending trial.

"Rader and Armstrong are to remain in their positions, Title ruled, unless Weisman deems it necessary to remove them. If this occurs, Weisman is to return to court for a dismissal order for the two top officials.

"Financial compensation to the named defendants, including Rader and Armstrong, is also subject to Weisman's discretion, although payroll checks to other church employees will continue to be automatically processed.

"Judge Title emphasized that the receiver's duties control only financial affairs, not ecclesiastical ones." (Pasadena *Star-News*, Jan. 13.)

'RECEIVER TAKES OVER ARMSTRONG CHURCH'

"A Superior Court judge Friday ordered a temporary receiver to 'take possession and control' of the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church of God in an action that seems certain to set up a major legal confrontation between the church and the State of California.

"Judge Julius M. Title ruled that receiver Steven Weisman is to assume all administrative powers over the \$80 million religious empire of Herbert W. Armstrong—including the church, Ambassador College and Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

"Title hedged his order to continue the receivership with an admonition to Weisman to stay out of 'ecclesiastical affairs of the church,' presumably meaning Weisman is not to interfere with matters of faith, doctrine and clerical promotion.

"I'm leaving it up to you," Title told Weisman, a retired Los Angeles Superior Court judge.

"Title told Weisman he can hire and fire whomever he wants—with two major exceptions.

"Weisman cannot remove from the payroll Armstrong, a self-proclaimed apostle of God, or Stanley R. Rader, Armstrong's chief adviser, without first obtaining the court's permission.

"The church's chief attorney, Allan Browne, vowed at the end of the three-day hearing to appeal the decision immediately to both state and federal appellate courts.

"Browne called the decision 'a total abrogation of the First Amendment,' denying the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and State.

"He said he would file petitions for appeal Monday morning.

"Whether or not the petitions are granted, Title's decision opens the way for a continuation of the legal battle that has been raging since Jan. 2, when the State attorney general first filed suit.

"Title ordered that the coming trial have priority on the court's calendar, and estimates from attorneys on both sides of the case concerning the delay until the trial begins range from one to six months.

"In handing down his decision, Title admitted he was imposing on the church 'a hard and drastic remedy.'

"But, he added, the evidence given in the hearing had indicated to (See NEWS ACCOUNTS, page 16)

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Basil Wolverton, author and illustrator of *The Bible Story*, died here Dec. 31 following a series of strokes.

Mr. Wolverton, a self-professing atheist when he first made contact with the then Radio Church of God in September of 1938, was the first local elder ever to be ordained into



BASIL WOLVERTON

the Church. His death came after almost exactly 40 years of association with the Work.

It was in 1958 that Mr. Wolverton, already a nationally known artist and writer whose work appeared in more than 50 magazines, first began running *The Bible Story* in serial form in *The Plain Truth* magazine. His work led eventually to six volumes published in book form that enjoyed immense popularity among Worldwide Church of God members and co-workers.

The Worldwide News will present a tribute to Mr. Wolverton in its next issue.

☆☆☆

BRICKET WOOD, England — The final Sabbath service of the Bricket Wood church was held Dec. 30. The church here was canceled because of the sale of the Bricket Wood campus. In its place are the following four churches: Borehamwood and Luton, England, with

Peter Nathan as pastor; St. Albans, England, with Frank Brown as pastor; and Watford, England, with Paul Suckling as pastor.

☆☆☆

PASADENA — A benefit performance of *The Bob Hope Comedy Special* was videotaped in Ambassador Auditorium Jan. 4 for later airing as a one-hour NBC network special.

In addition to Bob Hope, other performers appearing in the program included Sammy Davis Jr., Pat and Debbie Boone and Debbie Reynolds.

The performance was the fourth network television special to originate in the Auditorium, following *Bing!*, *Gene Kelly — an American in Pasadena* and the Ford 75th anniversary show. A special featuring Pearl Bailey is scheduled to be taped in the Auditorium Feb. 1.

Ministerial change

(Continued from page 1)
director of the ministry for 11 years, from 1961-1972. Before his new appointment, Dr. Meredith was serving



DR. RODERICK C. MEREDITH

New board of trustees named

PASADENA — A new board of trustees of the Worldwide Church of God has been formed by Herbert W. Armstrong, who is resting in his Tucson, Ariz., home from the lingering effects of a cold and possibly the flu, according to Roderick C. Meredith, newly appointed director of the ministry worldwide (see article, page 1).

Dr. Meredith made the an-

nouncement here in Sabbath services Jan. 13, after receiving a signed transcription from Mr. Armstrong only hours before.

Nine men now compose the board of trustees of the Worldwide Church of God, said Dr. Meredith. They are: Mr. Armstrong (chairman); Stanley Rader (treasurer); Ellis LaRavia, facilities director at headquarters; Richard Rice, Mail Processing direc-

tor; Raymond McNair, deputy chancellor of Ambassador College; Dr. Meredith; Dabar Aparian, director of the French Work; Dennis Luker, assistant to Dr. Meredith; and Leon Walker, newly named acting dean of faculty at Ambassador College.

The Worldwide News will feature a special article with photos of the new board members in its next issue.

Excerpts from news accounts

(Continued from page 15)

him 'some possibility of truth' in the State's charges.

"The State, Title said, had failed to back up its charge that Armstrong, Rader and others were selling church-owned real estate at prices far below market value.

"But the State did succeed in raising 'serious question' about the use and transfer of other church assets, he said.

"Title said he was concerned by

'the astonishing amounts of money' spent by Armstrong and Rader on global travel, accommodations and gifts.

"Title also said there had been 'enough in the way of questions raised' concerning Rader's apparent conflict of interest between his church positions of general counsel and treasurer and his self interest.

"Title pointed particularly to a corporation Rader set up to purchase and lease planes to the Armstrong empire, his acceptance of three expensive homes purchased initially by the church and Rader's employment contract of \$200,000 per year plus expenses.

"Title ordered Weisman 'to conduct a thorough audit' of the church, school and foundation's books immediately and 'review all allegations of malfeasance and neglect.'

"He told church officers to 'refrain from interfering with the receiver' and ordered them not to attempt to dispose of any further church assets." (Los Angeles Times, Jan. 13.)

'SUPPORTERS RALLY AROUND CHURCH'

"The directive by Judge Julius M. Title keeping the Worldwide Church of God in receivership and stripping away the veil of secrecy, which Herbert W. Armstrong for 46 years has held over his \$80 million religious empire, only seems to strengthen the resolve of followers to support their leaders.

"A cacophony of cheers and clapping and vows of support from a throng of church members greeted Armstrong's top aide Stanley R.

Rader as his bank of attorneys ushered him out of the door after the ruling Friday.

"'God is on his throne,' Rader responded, clutching the Bible that had been his companion throughout three days of receivership hearings in Los Angeles Superior Court.

"Those rallying to his aid were unimpressed by charges levied in court . . ." (Pasadena Star-News, Jan. 14.)

'ARMSTRONG HAD LUXURY: ATTORNEY'

"Hardly had the judge's order been completed than Allan Browne, attorney for Rader, Armstrong and the church, said he would take the case on appeal to the 'highest courts in the land.' He will be in both state and federal courts of appeal Monday morning, he said.

"Browne argued on Rader's behalf to rescind the receivership. The implications for Rader of continued direct control of church financial records by a receiver — retired Judge Steven Weisman — were obvious in Rader's subdued demeanor following the ruling.

"Judge Title also was impressed by documents which showed \$2,031,643 was spent in 1975-76 for such needs as travel and lodging, public relations, gifts and meals. It was explained that those were mainly to entertain foreign dignitaries.

"A large share of those expenses were incurred by Osamu Gotoh, a former Japanese cab driver who became Armstrong's advance man, making arrangements for visits to international leaders." (Pasadena Star-News, Jan. 14.)

Affidavit of Herbert W. Armstrong in support of application for order removing temporary receiver and dissolving temporary restraining order

Hearing date: January 5, 1979
Time: 4 p.m.
Dept.: 86

Herbert W. Armstrong, being duly sworn, upon his oath deposes and states:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein stated and if sworn as a witness could testify competently thereto.

2. I am the founder, Pastor General, and spiritual and temporal leader of defendant Worldwide Church of God, Inc. ("Worldwide"). In addition, I am chief executive officer, chairman of the board of directors and chairman of the board of trustees of Worldwide and its two related entities, defendants Ambassador College, Inc. ("Ambassador"), and Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, Inc. ("AICF"); together with Worldwide, Ambassador and AICF will collectively be referred to herein as "the Church."

3. The Church, which was originally known as the Radio Church of God, was founded by me in the mid-1930s for the purpose of proclaiming "the Gospel throughout the world as a witness of the coming of the Kingdom of God." Matthew 24:14. I am the appointed Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ and, as such, have been both the spiritual and temporal leader of the Church from its inception. In the more than 40 years since I founded the Church, the Church has grown and flourished to the

point where it now has approximately 100,000 members worldwide as well as countless "co-workers," all of whom donate funds to further the mission and purpose of the Church and to support the many activities in which it is engaged on a worldwide scale.

4. On January 3, 1979, I was advised by Mr. C. Wayne Cole, a minister and Director of Pastoral Administration over the Church ministry worldwide, that the California State Attorney General's Office had initiated an investigation pursuant to which it had attempted, that morning, to invade the Church's executive offices in Pasadena, California, on the pretext of examining the Church's books and records in an attempt to obtain evidence of financial improprieties on the part of myself, my personal adviser Stanley R. Rader, and others. Although I was astonished beyond belief by this bald governmental intervention in the Church's private financial affairs with its equally clear impingement on the right to religious freedom, I was not, and am not, afraid of an inspection of our books and records since it would clearly show that no improprieties were engaged in. However, knowing very little of the facts, I nevertheless felt that I should (a) insure that the constitutional rights of the Church and its members were not infringed or unduly impeded and (b) reassure the Church members that their

confidence in its leaders and those leaders' integrity were fully justified. Therefore, I appointed Mr. C. Wayne Cole, Director of Pastoral Administration, as acting chief executive officer under me in my absence until this matter was resolved; I implemented this appointment by press release dated January 3, 1979, a true copy of which is attached hereto as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

5. On the morning of January 4, 1979, in conversation between myself and Mr. Rader, I learned that Mr. Cole had not fully presented all of the facts to me. I learned, for example, that far from a situation involving a mere investigation by the State Attorney General's Office, a court-appointed receiver was in fact attempting to come in and administer all functions, both spiritual and temporal, of the Church. Indeed, I learned that the receiver had tacitly denied, in a called meeting of department heads, that I had authority to even appoint Mr. Cole as acting chief executive officer under me and further that the receiver himself had appointed Mr. Cole to replace me as spiritual and temporal leader of the Church. Mr. Cole's acquiescence and cooperation in this attempt, and his purporting to act as the Church's spiritual and temporal leader, was rank insubordination and totally inimical to every tenet for which the Church has stood from its inception.

6. At about 12:15 p.m. on January 4, I attempted to telephone Mr. Cole but was unsuccessful in reaching him. I then called Ellis LaRavia, a long-time trusted and loyal minister of the Church, to have Mr. Cole call me. I am also informed that Mr. Cole purporting to suspend Mr. LaRavia.

7. Although I want the Church to cooperate fully with the Attorney General's Office in examining any records they legitimately have a right to examine, I will not submit to government's administering the Government of God's Church and Work. Therefore, as the appointed Apostle of Jesus Christ, I commanded Messrs. Raymond McNair, Roderick Meredith, Ellis LaRavia, Ralph Helge, and Stanley R. Rader, in Christ's name, to do everything possible to protect the Church's operations under me; I confirmed this in writing of January 4, 1979, copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B, and incorporated herein by reference. I also hereby appoint Mr. Meredith as Director of Pastoral Administration and relieve Mr. Cole of that office. I further confirm that Allan Browne, Esq., of Ervin, Cohen & Jessup is the attorney authorized to represent the Church in these proceedings.


Herbert W. Armstrong