

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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SPECIAL SABBATH FOR GIVING THANKS

by Herbert W. Armstrong

I am appointing a special Sabbath, November 15, worldwide, for giving grateful THANKS to ALMIGHTY GOD and the Head of the Church, the living JESUS CHRIST, for causing the attorney general of California to "LET MY PEOPLE GO!" by dropping the unconstitutional lawsuit against GOD ALMIGHTY, against JESUS CHRIST, and against GOD'S CHURCH!

In this battle we were forced to defend the rights of separation from state domination and total takeover of all churches of this world. Most of the major and several minor established churches came to our legal aid, for which we are grateful to our GOD.

I wonder if we have realized fully the real significance of this major persecution?

First, although I personally have suffered considerable opposition and persecution in the raising up and building of the Philadelphia era of God's Church, and many of our people have met with trouble and persecution, yet this was the first time THE CHURCH, as an organized Body, has been persecuted directly by Satan, who controls this world's governments. Therefore I have wondered, does this mean that Revelation 12:7 has now been fulfilled--the war in heaven, and Satan cast back down--and also verse 13, Satan's persecution--NOT of individuals, but of the CHURCH AS A BODY, prior to the Great Tribulation (verse 14) and his final persecution of the Laodicean Church, verse 17?

Plainly, verses 13 and 17 show two different persecutions against the whole church, in two different eras, the final one, and the 6th or Philadelphia era.

Second. Also consider Revelation 3:9, where those of "the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

The Book of Revelation speaks in symbols. Paul writes that in this dispensation he is a Jew who is one inwardly--SPIRITUALLY--in other words in the CHURCH.

In this lawsuit, the Catholic and leading Protestant churches, as well as the Jewish Synagogue Council of America, came to our legal aid. IT WAS THEIR POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR which passed the Petris bill, forcing the dismissal of the lawsuit.

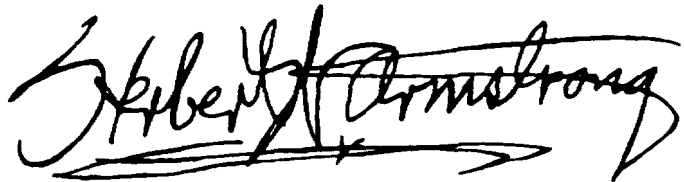
Did they SYMBOLICALLY worship before our feet, and know God has loved us? Always before they would not in any way even ACKNOWLEDGE US. They looked on us not as a bona fide church.

Perhaps this lawsuit and this world's organized church acknowledgment as fighting THEIR battle is a far more significant event in the fulfillment of God's great PURPOSE than we have realized!

I think there is more reason to be thankful and grateful to God than we have realized.

On the other hand, we are like the American soldier in a trench in World War I, when the Allies had just won a significant battle. He still didn't dare stick his head up, for the whole war was not yet over.

We must not underestimate Satan. He doesn't give up. He will strike again--at the whole church, or at the ministry, or some of the ministers, or at some members. He is a persistent antagonist. We must KEEP ON that WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sydney H. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESInternational News

Canada Good news on the radio front at the end of August as the all-news network, C.K.O., offered six nights a week (instead of five) beginning January 1st, 1981, plus one-minute spot ads for booklets every day of the year, plus six one-hour specials (if required) for Sunday evenings. The contract is still to be signed, but it looks extremely promising and may also include three new stations in Halifax, Winnipeg, and Regina during 1981. The C.K.O. network continues to provide the majority of new radio responses.

The Supermarket Information Centers distributing The PLAIN TRUTH in Ontario have opened up new outlets in Alberta and British Columbia. A test campaign will be run in Woodwards in British Columbia offering The PLAIN TRUTH via a specially designed flyer. If successful, this program could be extended to SuperValu and Safeway stores.

Church statistics continue very encouraging. The report dated July 31st shows baptisms up 56.6%, new visit requests up 58.1% and church attendance up 7.4%.

Scandinavia Our office in Radlett, England reports that The PLAIN TRUTH list for Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark has grown more than in any other area serviced by that office. The circulation now stands at 12,000 copies--128% up on the same time last year. 15,500 letters have been processed so far, a large number being the response to a very successful advertising program. Six and a half million copies of Scandinavian newspapers have carried our ad--in the English language--and the cost effectiveness has even exceeded the virtually identical ads placed in the United Kingdom.

There is also a small newsstand program, and replies are now coming in from 2,000 leaflets which an agent is inserting into various newspapers and magazine subscription requests.

English Language Europe and the Mideast Responses have just begun to come in to the first ad in Newsweek magazine. Like the previous Time magazine ad, the edition specified goes to influential people from Iceland to Southern Africa. In addition to advertising the English language PLAIN TRUTH, the half-page ad is also co-promoting the other four language editions. We are all looking forward to seeing how many replies will eventually come in, though with the much smaller circulation we would be very surprised if it pulled even half the quantity of the original Time ad, which has produced over 3600 responses to date.

The PLAIN TRUTH list in the two areas now stands at over 15,000. This figure represents a 29% increase in Europe and a 45% increase in the Middle East, and should move steadily upwards as the year continues.

One form of promotion which is assisting this upward climb is the direct mail program. Forty thousand packages have already been mailed to various English speaking lists, with 60,000 planned after the Feast.

East and West Africa Some of the Time magazines of the June 23rd issue which carried our ad also went to Africa. Though the file for this area tends to increase naturally by word of mouth, the advertisement was very worthwhile, as it put influential English-speaking people in the area on the file--undoubtedly many of them have commanding positions of authority in the various governments.

Over 42,000 letters have been received since January from East and West Africa, causing the file to grow by 38% to its present figure of 20,500 subscribers.

New Zealand All four of New Zealand's Feast sites reported an excellent and inspiring Feast of Tabernacles. The registration figures were:

Auckland	756	=	+11.2%
Christchurch	315	=	+ 8.6%
Fiji	140	=	+27.3%
Tonga	48	=	+11.6%
	<u>1259</u>	=	<u>+12.1%</u>

Once again, God's people showed their hearts are in His Work by giving some magnificent holy day offerings during the Feast. Right through the year, the brethren have given very generously to God on His holy days as shown by a +44% increase for 1980 in all holy day offerings.

The office there reports that "Although the Feast included much rejoicing, there was a time for sadness as we farewelled Mr. Bob Morton, our Regional Director for the past five years. Mr. Morton has served God's people here very loyally and diligently, and while we are sad to see him go, we wish him and his wife, Sandy, well on their new assignment in Australia."

Last-minute arrangements for a big advertising thrust in October are now being made. The PLAIN TRUTH magazine will be promoted by means of half a million householder cards; 115,000 full-color newspaper inserts; and simultaneous ads in various national magazines.

Evangelist Grateful for Prayers

Dear Brethren:

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow ministers and brethren in Christ worldwide who prayed to our great God for the healing of injuries I sustained in an auto accident last July. My arm is completely healed and I am very thankful to be able to serve God and His people once again. What a blessing it is to be in God's Work!

With Sincere love and gratitude,
Harold L. Jackson

Pastor Comments About the Feast

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This is just a short note to let you know how much we appreciated hearing you on the TV microwave screen in Spokane. Also, it was really wonderful to hear the great new truth that God revealed through you about the Last Great Day. I have never heard or understood how the Great White Throne Judgment will apply to people in this present world until you explained it during the Feast. It really added a lot of meaning to the day.

Jeff McGowan

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Terri and I want you to know how enjoyable and inspiring the Feast was for our family. As you have probably heard many times, there was something almost tangibly different about the atmosphere and spirit this year. Thank you for your relentless work toward that end.

Thank you also for the opportunity to contribute to the Feast. Terri and I always enjoy the songleading and musical side of things. And the privilege of speaking is a heavy responsibility and a remarkable experience. Terri and I certainly look forward to serving in whatever way you choose at the Feast of 1981.

Thank you again for your ongoing labor of love. We, as your children in the Gospel, love you and are behind you in every way.

Judd and Terri Kirk

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for the excellent Ministerial Refreshing Program that I just returned from. I was greatly reinspired about the calling and challenge of the ministry of Christ in the age we live.

The program was far more useful than any conference that I've attended because we had more time to absorb the knowledge presented and visit with those of the administration. Also, I enjoyed getting to know some of my fellow ministers better.

Once again, Mr. Armstrong, thank you for all that you have helped us with. My prayers are with you every day.

Victor Kubik

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Greetings from Australia. I've included a letter from my wife, Christine, and me for forwarding to Mr. Armstrong.

We just wanted this chance to thank you once more for the warmth and friendliness you and your staff showed to those of us on the Ministerial Refreshing Program.

We wish the entire Australian ministry were able to attend this past session with us. Our only regret was that the three weeks seemed to fly by so quickly!

John and Christine Comino

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your inspired leadership under Christ. Thank you for a truly fine refreshing program for the ministry. May God continue to bless you personally.

Guy and Helen Ames

Mr. Armstrong, thank you for your leadership and for this refreshing program. It has been very profitable. May God continue to bless you with good health and strength to finish the job you are doing.

Jim and Alice Reyer

Mr. Armstrong: It's so good to know that what we're being taught is coming from you. Thank you.

Ted and Opal Herlofson

Dear Mr. Armstrong: A most profitable three weeks. A tremendous boost to our ministry!

Dave and Linda Fiedler

God bless you Mr. Armstrong, we love you very much. Thank you, thank you for the refreshing program.

Carlton and Judy Green

It's been tremendously inspiring to see God's Church put back on the track, and solidly behind God's Apostle once again. Thank you Mr. Armstrong for the refreshing program.

Marc and Carolyn Masterson

Greetings Mr. Armstrong! Special thanks to you for the opportunity to partake of the wonderful refreshing program.

Kenneth and Barbara Martin

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, from the bottom of our hearts! These three weeks have been truly refreshing!

David and Sandy Mills

Dear Mr. Armstrong: We have enjoyed very much the opportunity to be here. We appreciate the fact that you have made all this possible.

Keith and Marian Brittain

Mr. Armstrong, we really do appreciate the refreshing program. It truly has been tremendously uplifting.

Jim and June Jenkins

Thanks to God's Apostle for having the courage to lead the Church!
We love and pray for you daily.

Dennis and Karen Diehl

Our love to you Mr. Armstrong. Thanks for this tremendous program!
You are always in our prayers.

Dan and Barbara Rogers

Many, many thanks to you Mr. Armstrong! The refreshing program has
been like a breath of fresh air.

Grant and Jenny Spong

Mr. Armstrong: Thank you for your dedication over the many years.
Thanks also for this three-week refreshing program. We love you.

Vernon and Dee Lee Hargrove

Thanks for your example, great leadership and the refreshing program.

Jim and Judy Servidio

Thank you so much Mr. Armstrong for your love and patience and for
the Ministerial Refreshing Program. You are our father in Christ.

Ray and Kathy Lisman

Mr. Armstrong: Although very tiring, the program has been refreshing
--especially from the standpoint of doctrine and fellowship.

Don and Karen Waterhouse

Mr. Armstrong, the fruit of your labors have resulted in the Church,
the ministry and the college being restored to the faith once
delivered. Thank you for everything.

Lyall and Wynnis Johnston

This is the best program devised for the ministry. You certainly
knew what you were doing when you said the children must stay home
and the wives must come. Our love to you, Mr. Armstrong.

Bill and Jenny Bradford

We're so very thankful for all this outpouring of love through this
refreshing program. We look forward to expressing it to the churches
in Prescott and Flagstaff, Arizona.

John and Helen Amos

Thank you Mr. Armstrong for the opportunity to attend a tremendous
refreshing program. It has certainly helped us see the need to
"recapture true values."

Leroy and Jean Cole

The refreshing programme has been named very well. Thank you.

Colin and Penny Jackson

Mr. Armstrong, thank you so much for this opportunity. It has been greatly appreciated.

Britton M. Taylor

Mr. Armstrong: Our deepest appreciation for the finest refreshing program! Thank you so much!

Ron and Rosemary Wallen

Many, many thanks for these sessions, Mr. Armstrong. They've been most inspiring.

Clarence and Billie Kay Huse

Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity to gain this knowledge.

Arvine Walton

Thank you Mr. Armstrong for this great program. It is really helpful and beneficial. We appreciate your instituting the refreshing program.

Art and Linda Dyer

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

DEUKMEJIAN DROPS SUIT AGAINST GOD'S CHURCH

It's official! God's Church is no longer engaged in a legal head-to-head with California's attorney general. Tuesday, October 14th, Attorney General George Deukmejian announced that he was dismissing the state's suit initiated nearly 22 months ago!

Without fanfare the attorney general said that actions against the Worldwide Church of God (and several other California churches) were being dropped. Pasadena area brethren reacted with a great deal of jubilation upon hearing the news. The following day Mr. Rader spoke to a packed house in the Auditorium and recounted to employees and students how the battle and this milestone case ended abruptly. Immediately following the employee forum, he proceeded to the Grand Lobby of the Auditorium where he answered questions posed by a battery of reporters from the electronic and print media.

Mr. Rader explained that on September 30, 1980 Senate Bill No. 1493 was signed into law by Governor Brown. It provides that the Attorney General of the State of California shall have no powers with respect to religious corporations (except for a few specific areas clearly defined) to supervise or monitor church affairs in the State of California.

"We of the Worldwide Church of God supported Senate Bill 1493," said Mr. Rader. "We were--and are--firmly convinced that it provides a protection badly needed by California's religious organizations and churches. The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is plainly applicable to the States by reason of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, but for nearly two years our Church has been engaged in a legal defense of that important right on behalf of ourselves and others."

Mr. Rader reminded both the audience and reporters that "George Deukmejian, attorney general of the State of California, our adversary in the lawsuits we have been fighting, opposed Senate Bill 1493. In his opposition, he stated he would have to dismiss the lawsuits against us if the new act became law."

When Senate Bill 1493 became law, the attorney general did drop the charges against the Church. "Mr. Deukmejian is a man of his word," Mr. Rader announced. "He has dropped the suit against us."

Mr. Rader went on to explain that it was always our contention that not only were we innocent of any alleged wrongdoing, but that the attorney general had no right to harass us in the first place. To this extent we are vindicated for he noted that the Church had convinced the legislature, the governor, both major and minor denominations as well as constitutional lawyers and civil libertarians of our rightness.

But are we totally vindicated? Not really. Mr. Rader explained that "there is a lot of poison to wash out of the minds of the public" as a result of the bad publicity. But Mr. Armstrong is even now writing more ads which will have the effect of diminishing or erasing the stigma in the minds of many people. Mr. Rader further explained that this would take time, but the publicity has given us a platform on which to build.

"The main thing this [case] has done for us is it has brought us out of our shell. A candle is not supposed to be hidden...", added Mr. Rader. He then noted that far fewer people knew of the Worldwide Church of God before the lawsuit. Now the "identification factor" is considerably higher. More and more people will be watching us, and Mr. Armstrong's ads and broadcasting will have a tremendous impact.

An employee asked about the effect this will have on other pending legal matters such as the Church's countersuit. Mr. Rader answered, "We are not looking to be vindictive--that's not our purpose. Never has been. We would not bring a suit just to make someone pay. But we would [do so] to vindicate ourselves--if that is the best way to do it and to stop others from demanding from us something they are not entitled to such as 400 and some odd thousand dollars of God's money." He reminded his listeners that he and Mr. Armstrong and others have been branded in some minds as criminals and charlatans. Their long-standing reputations for integrity should be restored.

So will we go ahead with the "big one"--the federal lawsuit? Mr. Rader said that question is already being studied. We will be getting input from our lawyers and also from Professor Tribe of Harvard. "We don't know the answer to those questions," said Mr. Rader. "We don't even know as yet the actual legal effect of the attorney general's withdrawal from the case on fees that have been demanded and approved by the lower courts for Weisman and his cronies, as well as fees requested by Chodos."

In the Forum Mr. Rader forewarned that the Church would inevitably experience other persecution in the future. In the meantime we can breathe a deep sigh of relief and be thankful for God's intervention. There is much to do and although persecution is part of our "job descrip-

tion," Mr. Rader reminded everyone of Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

FROM FLEET ADMINISTRATION

Winter is coming (even though you would never know it here in Pasadena) and you need to be preparing for the colder weather. Where necessary, check your antifreeze, washer fluid, oil and tires for winter running. You will also need to run the air conditioner about five minutes each week to keep the seals from drying out.

We process a lot of reimbursement requests each week and the volume is growing. Whenever possible, use the Gelco system for maintenance and fuel as it saves processing time. When it is not possible, or when the financial savings are significant, we will continue to reimburse directly to you. In the future, you should only send a memo and the receipts when requesting repayment. This is separate from the Vehicle Expense Report which is not used for reimbursement at all. It would also speed processing if it is sent directly to the Fleet Office rather than being included with other material to Ministerial Services.

It is also important to report all missing credit cards, lost or stolen, immediately to us as this will enable us to minimize any possible loss.

We are entering the 1981 model trades now and will be in contact with some of you who are approaching the 80,000 mile mark. As the income holds, we will be trading out more and more at lower mileage levels. If you have any special problems, please let us know.

FROM MEDIA SERVICES

Feast Update

What a Feast! It certainly was the best ever and probably the busiest ever. The live transmission, as all of you witnessed, had a tremendous impact upon the brethren. In order to improve our service to you next year, all the Festival Coordinators will be receiving a questionnaire for listing any problems that were encountered either with the audio or video aspects of the live microwave-satellite transmission.

So if any of you local pastors were familiar with a particular problem or have any suggestions you feel will improve the operation, please contact your Festival Coordinator so he can include it in the survey.

Festival Films

Could all the Festival Coordinators please return immediately all Feast films by United Parcel Service--UPS--(4th class mail is too slow) so we will have them available for redistribution?

These Feast films will now be available to the local ministry and their congregations for those programs that people either missed or want to see again.

Mr. Armstrong's opening message, the China trip, Mr. Rader with "Meet the Press" in the Philippines, Even From My Youth and the feast entertainment film are available on 16mm film, 3/4" video tape, Betamax video tape, or VHS video tape. Please send your written requests, stating what programs and format you desire to John Hicks here in the Television Department.

--Larry Omasta, Media Services

MAIL DURING THE FEAST

Each year while members and employees enjoy the Feast worldwide, mail continues to flow in from listeners and readers. With only a skeleton crew handling essential routine matters during these two weeks--such as picking up mail from the Post Office and preliminary sorting--a backlog of letters always awaits mail readers when they return.

At this time there are approximately 70,000 pieces of mail on hand. We are calling in all our reserves and part-time employees to handle the backlog, so it shouldn't take that long for us to catch up. The most vital mail requesting literature is being processed first so that we're not kept that far behind.

We'll have more news on mail trends in coming issues.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES SLATED TO RECEIVE AWARD

Every year, awards are made to the printing industry for excellence in mechanical production techniques and printing quality. This year we have been selected for an award in the magazine reproduction category. We in the production areas here in Pasadena are particularly pleased because the selection is made by the printing trade--our peers in the industry. The award is a real feather in our cap because all the mechanical work, type-setting, color separations, film preparation etc. is done in Pasadena by our own staff. An award like this is important because it shows us we are as good and in most cases better than the outside trade. Being an in-house facility, it's good for us to have our standards evaluated for us in this way.

--Publishing Services

ON THE WORLD SCENE

EUROPE: THUNDER FROM THE RIGHT? OR JUST NOISE? The radical right is stirring fears in many parts of Western Europe. Is Fascism about to be reborn? On the surface, at least, there is cause for alarm. In Italy--long under attack from the leftist anarchist Red Brigade--there has been seen an upsurge in right-wing violence, culminating in the indiscriminate bombing of the Bologna railway station, in which 83 people were killed and 215 injured. In West Germany twelve people were killed by a bomb at the Oktoberfest in Munich by a tiny neo-Nazi group. In Spain, 18 people have been murdered by right-wing terrorists this year. In Belgium, troopers in Nazi-style regalia openly display their affection for the fascist past.

The most troubling outbreaks of neo-Nazism, coupled with anti-Semitism, has been in France. Tensions came to a head on Friday, October 3 when a bomb exploded outside a Jewish synagogue in Paris. Intended to kill and maim the 600 Jews assembled inside, the bomb went off prematurely and killed four Frenchmen outside the building. Afterward, 150,000 French people representing the full political spectrum paraded in support of a crackdown on mounting anti-Semitic activity.

Responsibility for the blast is still uncertain, and may in fact be attributed to underground Arab extremists. Nevertheless, the attack came after a disturbing series of anti-Semitic outbreaks which have erupted--unchecked--all across France (120 incidents since 1975 with no arrests). In the week before the explosion, two synagogues and two Hebrew schools in Paris were machine-gunned. In a town southeast of Paris, a brick painted with a swastika was hurled through a display window of a Jewish-owned clothing store. A kosher butcher shop was vandalized in Nice and Jewish stores were targeted in Paris and Marseilles. In other places, walls of public buildings and synagogues have been smeared with ugly graffiti proclaiming "Dirty Jews" and "Hitler was Right."

President Giscard d'Estaing and his government have come under public fire for not doing enough to stamp out the attacks. It did President Giscard's image no good when he left Paris for a weekend holiday the very night of the synagogue bombing. And Premier Raymond Barre was heavily criticized for his thoughtless remark to a television reporter concerning the bombing, saying that the bomb was "aimed at Jews worshipping in a synagogue, but struck four innocent Frenchmen...." Barres' comment, said the rabbi of the synagogue on ABC's "Nightline," only proved once again that the average Frenchman still does not consider his Jewish compatriot as a Frenchman.

Leaders of France's 700,000-strong Jewish community--largest in Europe--have been cautious in trying not to exaggerate the incidents. Yet they are disturbed by what seems to be an official "Gallic shrug" toward the violence. Also disturbing them is a police union official's claim that 30 members of the force are known neo-Nazis. Memories of World War II, when the Nazi puppet Vichy government actively corroborated in rounding up 85,000 French Jews to be sent to German death camps, die hard.

No Popular Groundswell for the Radical Right

Yet, Raymond Aron, the most distinguished of the French political commentators, himself a Jew, has tried to keep a balanced perspective on the terrorism. He says: "There is not an important anti-Semitic movement in France. There are little groups of killers. It is not the same thing."

William Pfaff, one of the best American foreign affairs analysts today, noted in a column from Paris, published in the Los Angeles Times of October 12, 1980 that there is quite a difference between Fascism of the 1930's and the neo-Fascist terrorists of today:

"Europe's new fascists--those who bombed the October Festival in Munich and the rail terminal in Bologna--as well as those in France, need to

learn some history. Neither Hitler nor Mussolini came to power through arbitrary murders of innocent people. They exploited an atmosphere of public insecurity which their parties had helped to create, but they were put into power by the voters, and in the belief that they would bring order and dignity.

"Theirs were popular movements. That is something which a good many of the new fascists' enemies are reluctant to admit. Both Mussolini and Hitler came to power legitimately, through votes. Mussolini's Fascists marched on Rome in 1922 to threaten the government, but Mussolini was himself a parliamentary deputy leading a bloc which everyone recognized to be the most rapidly growing force in the country....People believed him. The king invited him to form a government, and Mussolini did so in the constitutional manner. His first cabinet had only four Fascists in it, while the Social Democrats, Liberals, and the Catholic Party all were given portfolios. Mussolini subsequently won the support of 65.25% of the vote in the parliamentary election of 1926, an undeniable mandate, notwithstanding the intimidation and frauds which marked the election. It was only afterwards that he seized complete power and imposed the dictatorship.

"Hitler's revolution, as British historian Alan Bullock says, also came after power, not before it. Germany's last pre-Nazi chancellor, Gen. Kurt von Schleicher, ceded to Hitler in 1932 after failing to find a non-Nazi parliamentary majority with which to govern....Hitler's party had won only a little more than a third of the vote for the Reichstag that year, but the opposition could not or would not combine against him. Yet in his original cabinet, only three of 11 portfolios were held by Nazis. In the parliamentary election which followed in 1933, the Nazis won 43.9% of the vote. By proscribing the Communists they obtained a simple majority in the Reichstag by themselves. But unchecked power came only with the so-called enabling law voted by the new parliament--441 votes to 94.

"Nowhere in Western Europe today is there the slightest sign of fascist parties obtaining the support of half or a third of the electorate. Nowhere have they a chance of more than a few percentage points of the vote. [Note: the German neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) got only 0.2 percent of the vote this time, down from 0.3 in 1976 and nearly 5% in an election in the 1960's.] Every episode of terrorist 'destabilization' in contemporary Europe has made the voters move even more massively towards the democratic center. [This happened in Germany on October 5, with a surge of votes to the moderate center party, the FDP.] There are no demands for strong men to save the state. Adventure finds no constituency today--which provides one explanation for the extreme right's recourse to violence: its frustration.

"But the matter is very serious nonetheless....There has emerged recently in France a form of right-wing thought, not itself anti-Semitic, which nonetheless in the past had a serious influence on the development of fascism and Nazism....This New Right is not at all like the traditional right. It spurns nationalism and religion. It is radical, not conservative. It is pagan, internationalist and claims to be scientific. It rejects Western monotheistic religion--Christian as well as Jewish--as 'a cult of weakness.' It believes in heroic virtues, which it attributes to the 'Aryan' Indo-European ancestors of modern Europeans. It is against egalitarianism of every kind--religious, Marxist, socialist or

democratic....These thinkers believe that there are human elites, and that such elites should lead the rest of us. Their critics, however, forcefully respond that Hitler and his followers already have given the modern world a sufficient lesson in the consequences of elitism, romantic paganism and blind heroism.

"The reality of the new fascism is not that it jeopardizes democracy, but that it corrodes it. Yet it is probably better for everyone that it has come into the open, where those who have connived at it must now confront the consequences of what they have done."

Quite clearly, Europe still awaits a popular groundswell support for authoritarian solutions. A downward spiral in the world economy, perhaps arising out of accelerated trouble in the Middle East, probably would have to come first.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau