

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Last Sunday, February 24, we completed a very successful series of U.S. Festival Coordinators meetings in Pasadena. The theme was the same as that of the recent Regional Directors Conference: unity. In attendance were coordinators from all 22 U.S. Feast sites, as well as Mr. Richard Frankel and Mr. John Halford, coordinators of the Jerusalem and China sites respectively. Also attending were business managers and other assigned personnel who will be serving at the sites, as well as Mr. Dibar Apartian, Regional Director for the French-speaking areas, and Mr. George Patrickson, assistant to Canadian Regional Director Mr. Colin Adair.

The two-day conference began on Friday, February 22. Mr. Ellis La Ravia, Mr. Leroy Neff, and I addressed the group about matters pertinent to our respective areas. On the Sabbath, each congregation in Southern California had the opportunity to hear from one of the Festival Coordinators. Mr. Larry Neff, coordinator of the Sacramento site, gave the sermon in the Auditorium morning service, and Mr. Burk McNair, coordinator of the Big Sandy site, spoke to the afternoon congregation.

Meetings resumed Sunday morning with presentations by Mr. Mark McCulley of the Festival Office, Mr. Larry Omasta, Director of Media Services, and Mr. John Prohs, Manager of Technical Operations and Engineering. A question-and-answer session followed. The coordinators then enjoyed a fine luncheon of Mexican food, Southern California style, before preparing to return home. We are looking forward once again to another wonderful Feast of Tabernacles this fall.

Unity is a subject that affects not only Festival Coordinators and Regional Directors, but each of us as ministers of Jesus Christ. We are all under authority: Jesus Christ is under the authority of God the Father; Mr. Armstrong is under the authority of the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ; and the ministry is under the authority of Mr. Armstrong. Unity is maintained and preserved through submission to authority. That is how God's Church is able to follow God's instruction to "all speak the same thing." As ministers, we must always strive to maintain a spirit of cooperation and submission to the authority God has placed in His Church here at Headquarters. But it is not natural for human nature to be responsive to Headquarters. It is quite easy to allow an attitude of self-will and independence to develop. However, that kind of attitude will eventually cause one to fall away! We must remember the instruction Paul gave Timothy in II Timothy 1:6. We must stir up God's Spirit. Unity cannot be maintained without our own effort and the spiritual help of God!

What do you do when you find yourself out of step with Headquarters policy? Do you get back in step immediately? Or do you have a tendency to resist? Don't allow yourself to fall into that trap!

God holds the ministry responsible to point the congregations in their care toward Headquarters. God demands unity. A spirit of resistance is con-

trary to His will. It is natural, it seems, for the human mind to think, "My situation is different," "They don't understand my needs," or, "We'll just go ahead and do it our way here." That is exactly the type of reasoning Lucifer used. It is presumptuous. Of course, it is easy to begin thinking that way, but it must be diligently guarded against! Satan is interested in influencing you to cultivate a divisive spirit. He does it slowly and subtly. It starts out small. But it grows. Most of you are aware of some of those who have allowed this spirit to develop to the point that they are no longer in God's Church. It can happen to you! It creeps up on you!

Do you spend time "second guessing" Headquarters? Or is your attitude one of wholehearted desire to serve God faithfully, SUPPORTING AND BACKING the government He has placed in His Church? Do you consider it disloyal and distasteful to speak negatively about Headquarters' instructions, policies and procedures? Or is such talk a way of life with you? Think seriously about your own personal attitude. Don't think it is not reflected in your performance in your local congregation. It is! And God knows it is.

There is a right way to approach a matter with which you may feel there is a problem. Simply contact Headquarters about it. Don't spread a disagreement to others, thereby undermining their spiritual development and potentially offending one of God's begotten children. That is what the devil would like you to do.

Once you have contacted Headquarters about a matter, be willing to abide by the decision. God is training us to be a part of His coming government. He holds us ministers responsible for setting a right example for His Spirit-begotten children in His congregations. You are on dangerous ground if you violate that trust by showing an uncooperative or resistant attitude through words or actions. It harms God's people when you don't respond to His government in His Church. And you can be sure God notices.

I tremble for a minister when I hear he has neglected backing up or complying with a directive from Headquarters, or has simply put off immediate compliance till he "has time" to find out if he can be an exception. What do you think God has to say about such an example? Is He pleased? Think about it! Yet, sometimes we can fall into that trap if we are not carefully seeking to have the mind of Christ through His Spirit. I'm quite sure no such attitude will ever exist in God's Family!

Let's seek God daily in prayer for the pure, faithful attitude of unity He wants us to have. Unity is a beautiful thing in God's sight. It is something that will last forever in His Kingdom. As His servants today, let us strive all the more to fulfill our individual responsibilities to maintain Godly unity in His Church now.

International News

From Mr. Frank Schnee The work of God's Church in the German-speaking area was able to achieve good growth and at the same time achieve a degree of consolidation in 1984. In addition to our office in Bonn, we opened sub-offices for mail receiving in Salzburg, Austria and Zurich, Switzerland.

Advertising continued to be a main thrust for adding new subscribers to the German PLAIN TRUTH (KLAR & WAHR). During 1984 we added a total of 65,000

new subscribers. It was in 1984 that we began advertising in a big way. Between 1980 and 1984 we have added a total of 375,000 new subscribers to The PLAIN TRUTH list for the German-speaking area. In December of 1984 we ran an ad (a flyer attached to a travel magazine) in most of the German trains. This campaign is expected to bring us 10,000 new subscribers at a cost of about \$1.50 each.

Our PLAIN TRUTH list stood at just around the 100,000 mark at the end of 1984. Our income for the year showed an increase of 11.5% over 1983. Our financial base is made up of approximately 5,000 people: 500 members, 1,760 co-workers and 2,770 donors.

Our GOOD NEWS list almost doubled during 1984 to just under 24,000. We received 250,000 pieces of mail, which is six percent more than in 1983. During 1984 we sent out 230,000 pieces of mail, which is 63% more than the year before. During 1984 4,500 students were enrolled in the Bible correspondence course and our Personal Correspondence Department reports an increase of 67% more letters answered than in 1983.

We have a total of 14 congregations in the German-speaking area with attendance at about 800.

The 1984 Feast of Tabernacles was held in Bonndorf, West Germany (in the Black Forest) with 960 in attendance and in Brno, Czechoslovakia with 275 (including 15 from East Germany) in attendance. 1985 will see a new Feast site for 140 people opened at Krakow, Poland.

At the beginning of January, 1985 we completed another very successful session of our annual YOU Wintercamp. This was the sixth year the youth from all over Europe (including some overseas guests) came together for 11 days of alpine and cross-country skiing, tobogganing, Austrian curling, ice skating, youth Bible studies and much more. Seventy youths were present at the camp in the beautiful Alps of Saalbach, Austria. Wintercamp coordinator Wolfgang Thomsen commented that this was a fantastic opportunity for the youth to get together, since the Feast of Tabernacles is the only other time for the young people to have close contact with one another. Due to financial constraints and long traveling distances, the youth are not able to meet together very often.

January brought good news for one of our young Church members here in Germany. Robert Geis, a member in the Darmstadt Church, was awarded conscientious objector status by a German Administrative Court after having been turned down twice previously by his local draft board. Until new legislation that was recently passed, when applying for conscientious objector status, the defendant was virtually pitted against the State of Germany, having to answer many difficult and sometimes tricky questions. Robert had applied before the new law and therefore was asked such questions as how he found the Church, its typical doctrines, how he became a member, and then on to more intense questions such as why did ancient Israel fight wars, why was the death penalty instituted in ancient Israel, how does one explain the "eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth" scripture, what would you do if you saw someone being attacked and the only way to save the person would be to kill the attacker? etc. Mr. Alfred Hellemann, associate pastor of the Darmstadt, Dusseldorf and Bonn congregations, commented that God's inspiration was evident in Robert's successful answering of these questions.

At the end of January, Office Manager John Karlson, his wife and my wife and I flew to Pasadena for the Regional Directors Conference. We found the conference very beneficial and unifying. With the evident unity further solidifying, we can expect great growth in God's work in the months and years ahead.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

Everything is coming along very well with Ambassador College at both campuses. My wife and I recently spent 10 days at Big Sandy and had both a profitable and very enjoyable stay on our sister campus.

While there I was able to guest teach five different subjects--Life and Teachings of Jesus (first-year Bible), Principles of Living, Marriage and the Family, Epistles of Paul and second-year Speech. Also, I was privileged to speak at the Forum and gave two sermons (at Tyler and Big Sandy) the first Sabbath of our visit and one sermon the following Sabbath at Lufkin, Texas.

I was in Big Sandy during the annual Speech Banquet at the Pasadena campus; but, fortunately, my wife and I were able to attend the annual Speech Banquet at Big Sandy. This is always a very interesting and entertaining event, and this year at Big Sandy was no exception.

Also while in Big Sandy, my wife and I visited with various of the faculty members, College administrators and their wives. I thought our visit was both profitable and most pleasant, and felt everyone made us welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. Les McCullough are now in Pasadena on the annual faculty exchange program. They will be here through the rest of this week and plan to return to Big Sandy on Sunday. While the McCulloughs have been here, Mr. McCullough has taught a number of classes and gave the Forum on Tuesday, February 26th. They have also been able to visit with a number of ministers and faculty.

Wednesday, February 27th, the McCulloughs, along with several of us at Pasadena, attended a special Rotarian Luncheon at the Pasadena Huntington-Sheraton Hotel. There Mr. Herbert Armstrong was presented with a special sapphire pin by Mr. Richard Fiedler, president of the Pasadena Rotary Club. The Young Ambassadors were asked to perform before the distinguished guests of the several combined Rotary Clubs of the Southern California area gathered for this occasion. They did a superb job, and everyone seemed to enjoy their performance very much. (More details of this event will be covered in the March 4th WORLDWIDE NEWS.)

On Thursday, February 28th, Messrs. Armstrong, McCullough, Ralph Helge, Aaron Dean and I were able to discuss various matters concerning Ambassador College.

College faculty and administrators have spent many weeks in carefully and prayerfully evaluating the third- and fourth-year students in our Student Progress Meetings and have just about finished selecting next year's student body officers. We have also made certain decisions and recommendations concerning the graduating seniors. This coming May the Church will again hire quite a few of the graduates.

Soon, the admissions teams of both campuses will begin selecting those A.A. and A.S. students who will be admitted into the four-year Bachelor of Arts program at Pasadena. This will take many hundreds of man hours.

God continues to bless both campuses of His College. We are continuing to have a very good year on both campuses, and I know God will continue to bless us richly--if we continue to make certain (as the Founder and Chancellor has taught us) that the Word of God is the FOUNDATION of every class and activity of Ambassador College!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Big Sandy Campus) 2/12/85

Greetings again to everyone from the campus in Big Sandy. It has been several weeks since the last update on the activities here. During that time a new semester has begun and there has been a variety of activities.

January fifth, after our afternoon Sabbath services, 149 students boarded three buses and some of the college vans to leave for what has become the annual ski trip to Vail, Colorado. We were joined there by 83 students from the Pasadena campus. Everyone had a most enjoyable time. It is an excellent opportunity for the students to get to know one another, as well as a number of the faculty, in one of the most delightful settings possible.

We stayed at the Antlers Hotel, which was the condominium unit used by the ministry when the Feast was held in Vail in 1980. The conditions were ideal. Once again, we had a number of students along who had never seen snow, so the opportunity to roll in it, throw it and ski on it was well received.

The Big Sandy students stayed in the homes of Church members on Friday night and seemed to make a good impression. I talked with one family who had asked to host some students, hoping they would be girls. As might be expected, they somehow got fellows. But the wife said she would ask for men next time because they were such a good example of helping with dishes, etc. The Denver church then made us welcome on the Sabbath with a potluck meal after services before everyone set out for home.

Shortly after returning to Big Sandy, the weather turned cold and we ended up with ten inches of snow. This is the second consecutive year in which we have had heavy snow and, for us, very cold weather. For the first time I am aware of, we had to cancel services for the Big Sandy church on the Sabbath. We did have services for the students, but it was too dangerous for the outlying members to drive to the campus. The snow is gone now and we are back to normal East Texas winter days of about fifty-five degrees (13 degrees Celsius) and clear skies.

Mr. Raymond McNair is here this week on the faculty exchange program. Some of the faculty from both campuses spend a week in classes on the other campus. The program gives us the opportunity to coordinate various activities more closely. This exchange program began many years ago when Mr. McNair and I exchanged between Bricket Wood and Big Sandy. Those involved in the program find it very profitable. My wife Marion and I will be going out to Pasadena shortly for our week out there.

Mr. Russell Duke has been working with the newly formed Big Sandy "YAs" (Young Ambassadors). They have performed for the Big Sandy Silver Ambassadors, the older folks over fifty. (Don't laugh. Many of you now qualify even if you don't realize you are "older folks.") We have also, in cooperation with Ministerial Services, been able to perform for a couple of the local congregations for special music and/or an evening of entertainment. The response has been very enthusiastic. The Big Sandy and Pasadena YAs will join to do some filming for the Feast film. I think you will really enjoy the production.

I would like to remind you local Church pastors to encourage Ambassador College applicants to send their completed applications in immediately. Although the deadline for receiving applications is March 1st, both colleges will be accepting some late applications. Mr. McNair and I appreciate your help and the evaluations you make. We have seen some excellent applications. Thank you for your efforts and the instruction you are giving in your congregations.

--Leslie L. McCullough, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

The Importance of the Computer Index Number

From time to time, you may be asked about the purpose of the file index number which appears on the top line of labels for The PLAIN TRUTH and other Church publications. For your information, we'd like to review just how this number is used and why it is critical to our mail processing operations.

An index number is given to each person who is added to our files. Each individual is assigned his own unique number, and it will never be assigned to anyone else. This number is used in the following ways:

- It allows our employees to immediately identify an individual when handling transactions such as literature requests, Feast registration, address changes, etc.
- It prevents errors that might occur when two people have the same name or address.
- It helps us to make sure that literature is sent to the person who requested it.
- It enables us to quickly and accurately check a person's record when he inquires about such matters as to why his literature may be late, never arrived, etc.
- It ensures that all contributions are properly credited to the right person.

With the above in mind, we would appreciate very much your encouragement of the members to always use pre-labeled envelopes when writing to Headquarters. Additional envelopes will be sent upon request. Also, it is helpful to us for members to use their index number when calling on the WATS line for literature, changes of address, etc.

Although the index number is a vital processing tool, we want to assure you and our members that they are never considered "just a number" to God's Church or the employees at Headquarters. The use of these numbers simply helps us give better, more personal service by avoiding errors and handling requests more efficiently.

Annual Receipts and Tax Information for U.S. Contributors

Annual receipts for all contributions made in 1984 were mailed in late January. If any members in your congregation have not received their receipts and need one, please ask them to call our toll-free number (1-800-423-4444). These receipts are sent as a courtesy to contributors and contain the total amount they have donated to God's Church during the previous year. (Contributions given at an international Feast site would not be included on the receipt.)

Members should always verify the amounts on their receipts by checking their personal records, especially when they claim their donations as a tax deduction. It is advisable for members to save these records for at least three years.

Members occasionally ask whether they can include the donations of their children as a deduction on their personal tax form. According to U.S. tax regulations, children's donations that have been recorded separately cannot be included with the parents' contributions as a deduction on the parents' tax form.

We hope this information will be of value should questions arise.

Severe Weather Affects Many Subscribers

The severe weather we've had across the U.S. this winter has impacted the lives of many individuals writing in to God's Church. Some view the changing weather patterns as yet another sign that the end of this present age is near. Following is a sampling of the many comments we've received:

We are seeing changes in the weather as the Lord said we would see them. The whole weather pattern has changed, not only here, but in other parts of the world as well. I pray that it won't be long before the Lord returns. Meanwhile His work is growing by leaps and bounds. I am very excited about it and thankful for the little part I have in it.

M.O. (Brooklyn, NY)

We have really had some cold weather. I will soon be 86 years old. I've never seen it this cold here in Georgia before. I had never seen it as hot as it was this past summer. Everything is really changing. May God continue to bless you and His work.

Mrs. G.S. (Sparta, GA)

Well, 16 inches of snow came to Cleveland a week ago Tuesday. Then we got another eight inches yesterday. So we are up to our knees in snow--that is if your knees are high. Well, spring is not far so I guess we have that to look forward to.

T.P. (Strongsville, OH)

We have been having some very cold weather here. Sabbath services were canceled and also Bible study. We certainly missed both and everyone was happy to be together again this Sabbath.

Mr. & Mrs. R.W. (Crete, IL)

We just had a killing freeze here in Florida. Although my husband's work is not directly tied to agriculture, it will be felt in all areas of our economy. Florida has truly been blessed and protected for some time now. We were wondering how long it would continue, as we watched the terrible conditions in the rest of the U.S.

R.R. (Lakeland, FL)

Here in central Texas we are having one of the coldest winters I've ever seen in my 56 years on earth. I know this is something we people have brought on ourselves. May God have mercy on us.

M.R. (Temple, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

U.S. FARM CRISIS; AUSTRALIA'S KEY ROLE IN ANZUS;
THE CHANGE IN RELIGION; MR. REAGAN EXALTS HEROES

The first big domestic crisis confronting President Reagan is the explosive farm credit crunch. State house representatives from the Midwestern farm belt have trekked to Washington this past week, imploring the Administration for interest rate reductions and emergency loan guarantees for hard-pressed farmers, who might not otherwise be able to plant their fields in a few weeks. Some aid may be forthcoming, but Mr. Reagan has promised to veto any expensive measure that would seriously impact the already strained federal budget. He is proceeding from a top-level report that contends that the problem of failing farms is concentrated in about one farmer out of every 15 who got overly aggressive in buying rapidly-appreciating land in the late 1970s. Farmland values have since fallen drastically and these overextended farmers are stuck with huge indebtedness and a shrinking net worth. Of course there are other factors as well, such as depressed commodity prices, mountainous surpluses of some products, the strong dollar (which has reduced some export sales) and the carryover effects of past government political decisions, such as boycotted grain shipments to the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, the President and Budget Director David Stockman have announced their intentions of gradually eliminating most if not all farm subsidy programs. It just could be that the Republican Party could get nailed with the blame for the farm crisis by voters in the Midwest in the 1986 off-year elections. The February 4, 1985 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT carried a feature article entitled "America's Farmers Down the Tubes?" Some excerpts follow:

A recent Agriculture Department survey found that as many as 243,000 of the nation's 2.3 million farms may have serious financial problems, and 145,000 more are in extreme trouble. Many of these debt-laden farmers fear they will be forced out of business

this spring because they have exhausted their credit and will be unable to borrow money to plant crops.

As more and more farmers are driven from the land, small towns and cities are dying. Equipment dealers, grain elevators and mom and pop stores along Main Street are closing. Banks that have extended repayments and renegotiated loans to hard-pressed farmers now are threatened themselves. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's latest problem-bank list included 231 farm banks, more than double their number a year earlier. Since that June 30 report was issued, more than half of all bank failures have involved farm banks.

Almost 30 percent of the federal Farmers Home Administration's 25.2 billion dollars in outstanding loans are delinquent. The problem is most severe in the heart of the nation's breadbasket--Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Indiana and Ohio.

The crisis had its beginning in the 1970s, when the Soviet Union began buying massive amounts of U.S. grain and predictions of worldwide famine made agriculture a fast-growth industry. Established farmers rushed to expand operations, while about 70,000 young Americans took up the occupations of their parents. Many borrowed heavily to buy land and equipment. Farm debt jumped from 73.3 billion dollars in 1974 to 182 billion in 1981.

The heavy borrowing was backed by rapidly escalating land prices. Between 1974 and 1981, the average price of farmland in the U.S. rose from \$302 an acre to \$795. Prime Midwestern land shot up to \$4,000 an acre. The boom peaked in 1981, and land values have careened downhill ever since. Economists blame the global recession, a stronger U.S. dollar, years of high interest rates and politically inspired embargoes on food exports that made overseas customers doubt the reliability of American suppliers and provided an opening for competitors.

Net farm income fell from 31 billion dollars in 1981 to an estimated 24 billion, at most, this year.... Emanuel Melichar, an economist with the Federal Reserve System, estimates that 83 percent of the farm debt is owed by only 29 percent of farmers. More than two thirds of them have debts equal to 40 percent of the value of their farms--the point at which they owe more in interest than they earn from their crops.

A February 11 report received over our Reuters wire added the following:

Neil Harl, a professor of economics at Iowa State University, ...[said that] banks are already overextended.... They have loaned more than they can now recover since the collateral involved, the land itself, has sharply fallen in value. An acre of prime Iowa farmland which sold for \$2,147 in 1981, he said, sells today for \$1,357--when a buyer can be found....

Today the total U.S. farm debt is estimated to be \$210 billion, more than the entire combined debt of the governments of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, and second only to the U.S. government's

debt. Tom Curl, a farmer from Clinton, Ill...said: "Our debt is second only to the federal government's. We are forced to compete with the federal government for credit. We have substituted credit for profit to the point where we've used up our equity. Our net income the last several years has not been sufficient to even service the interest on that debt."

More on ANZUS: The Key Role Played by Australia

So far, New Zealand has drawn the spotlight in the brewing ANZUS crisis. Prime Minister David Lange is presently on a tour of Europe, explaining his government's non-nuclear stance. He explained his position while in Los Angeles on a brief stopover. On network television, the outspoken Mr. Lange generally portrayed himself in the underdog role; it was Washington, not Wellington, he maintained, that threatened the breakup of ANZUS. Asked whether the U.S. could be expected to continue to defend New Zealand with its "nuclear umbrella" he emphatically replied that his government no longer wanted such a covering, that New Zealand was more secure without it.

However, many experts emphasize that the real country to watch is Australia, chiefly due to the highly sophisticated American military installations located there. Loss of these facilities would have a sizable impact on the extension of U.S. power in the Pacific, and would affect American security itself. Because of the strategic importance of these installations, the U.S. chose to go easy on Prime Minister Bob Hawke when he announced his government was cancelling participation in an MX trans-Pacific missile test. Here first are excerpts of an article in the February 10 SUNDAY TIMES of Britain:

The blunt answer is that New Zealand does not matter much to America's defence strategy. Australia does, because it houses three crucial American military bases.

At Pine Gap, near Alice Springs, there is a satellite receiving station, codenamed "Merino," which is the principal collection point for information from America's spy satellites which pass over Russia and China on a north-south polar orbit... The monitoring station...relays the information to the National Security Agency at Fort Mead, Maryland, near Washington, for analysis.

Six hundred miles south of Alice Springs at Nurrangar, a second station, codenamed "Casino," receives what is called "imagery"--high-definition television pictures from the satellites, which is then transmitted to Washington for analysis by the CIA.

The third major U.S. base in Australia, at North West Cape, is perhaps the most important. It consists of three naval communication installations... The third and most awesome [of these] is a 5,500-acre, 2m watt "extra low frequency" radio transmission station. This is used to relay orders to American submarines at sea, and is the largest of the three principal U.S. submarine transmitting stations in the world. It is also the only station outside America. Without it, the nuclear-armed submarines on which America's defence partly rests could not operate in the Pacific.

So Washington chose to regard Hawke's mishandling of the MX affair as a minor irritant--and hoped it was not a signal of worse to come.

Writing in the February 17 SAN DIEGO UNION, P. Edward Haley, director of the Keck Center for International Strategic Studies, added the following in his article "ANZUS: New Zealand Pulled Plug on Pacific Pact":

Australia is the critical factor, not New Zealand.... These [above mentioned] facilities are of enormous value to the United States. They make Australia a target of Soviet nuclear weapons.

Finally, Australia could prohibit the transit of U.S. nuclear-armed ships and planes through its waters, ports and airfields. At present, U.S. "hunter-killer" nuclear attack submarines call frequently at Cockburn Sound in Western Australia. Generally, there is one American sub at Cockburn 25 percent of the time (for one week each month) to allow replenishment of supplies and rest and recreation for the crew. U.S. nuclear-armed ships can use their Australian ports because the Australian government overrides local protests by resorting to its constitutional foreign policy powers. American B-52s make regular use of the RAAF air base at Darwin in northern Australia for reconnaissance flights and conduct other types of flight training over northern Queensland.

The refusal of "transit" rights would seriously harm the ability of the United States to project its naval power into the Western Pacific. The nearest alternative facilities are in the Philippines, and the political situation there is not encouraging. The loss of surveillance, communications, and transit facilities would endanger the security of the United States itself, for it would undermine U.S. capabilities to deter Soviet nuclear attack.

Religious Tradition Changing

On a totally different topic the following article excerpted from the NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE last December shows the changes that have taken place in religious belief in the United States:

Americans are turning away from the dictates of organized religion and are drawing upon spiritual feelings of their own to define their faith, a leading researcher in religious values has found. Dr. William J. McCready, program director of the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, told a group of philanthropists here that the shift represented a major change in the nation's religious character.

Religious faith remains strong, McCready said, but for growing numbers of people an individual search for meaning has become the central religious experience, replacing unquestioning obedience to religious authority. "The transition is not from authority to anarchy but to conscience," he said....

McCready's research [shows]...that 60 percent of Americans recently surveyed rejected the concept of "absolute moral guidelines". Ten years ago, only about 40 percent of Americans held

that view, he said. At the same time, he said, more people appear to think of their religious faith in "mythic, imaginative and reflective" terms rather than as standards for behavior.... "Americans don't respond to moral imperatives," he said. "They increasingly behave any way they want to. They've been told to trust their consciences, and that's what they're doing."...

Americans themselves seem to be unaware of the extent to which their compatriots hold religious values, he said. For example, he said a survey asking about the Ten Commandments found that 85 percent of Americans personally embraced them. But only 45 percent believed that the general public espoused them. "People are still religious themselves," McCready said, "but they don't think society is."

This brings up an interesting Gallup poll of teenager religious beliefs--and understanding--as summarized in the January 6, 1985 issue of PARADE magazine:

According to a poll by the Gallup Youth Survey, four out of five teenagers feel the Ten Commandments are valid. The same survey also stated that only three out of 100 teenagers can name the Ten Commandments.

How President Reagan Has Restored the Place of "the Hero"

One reason President Reagan has been so successful a leader is that he has restored a sense of honor to the nation; he continually and publicly acknowledges and awards common citizens who have performed acts of bravery or outstanding service. He is quick to give "honor to whom honor [is due]" (Rom. 13:7). His immediate predecessor in the White House (a professed "born-again" Christian) did not do much of this. The following article, which moved over our AP wire on February 19, 1985, gives another insight into Mr. Reagan's character:

"I'm a sucker for hero worship," Ronald Reagan once said.... Most politicians pay at least lip service to heroic behavior, but Reagan has sounded the theme perhaps more insistently than any president. Since his first inauguration in 1981, he has revived a program of presidential awards to young Americans for bravery and service; twice used his annual State of the Union message to Congress to recognize people he called American heroes, [and he has] ...over and over again, praised "the countless quiet, everyday heroes of American life."

"The emphasis on heroes being among us in every day life is a consistent part of his populist theme that the people are better at governing themselves than the government is," says David R. Gergen, former White House chief of communications. "Heroes to him show what individuals are capable of achieving."...

When Ronald Reagan was growing up in Dixon, Ill., its main street was spanned by a reminder of heroes--an arch built for a triumphant parade of returning World War I veterans. The young Reagan also found heroes on the playing field, on the stage and between the covers of books. He read Edgar Rice Burroughs' tales of Mar

tian warlord John Carter and Harold Bell Wright's "That Printer of Udell's," in which the hero rises from printer to successful businessman to member of Congress through hard work and Christian principles. Recalling his childhood reading when he was 66 years old, Reagan said, "There were heroes who lived by standards of morality and fair play."...

Reagan tried his hand at some heroic behavior of his own early on. Beginning at age 15, he worked seven summers as a lifeguard at a city park on the Rock River and claims to have rescued 77 people from possible drowning....

Reagan, who began his acting career in high school, played a villain in his second production, a play called "Captain Applejack," and said, "I learned that heroes are more fun." He never played an unsympathetic character on film until his last theatrical movie, "The Killers," in which he portrayed a mobster. He has said many times that accepting the role was a mistake.

During World War II, Reagan's exploits were confined to a movie lot, making morale and training films for the armed services. "A great many people to this day," he wrote in 1965, "harbor a feeling that the personnel of the motion picture unit were somehow draft dodgers avoiding danger. The Army doesn't play that way." Reagan was classified "limited service" because of poor eyesight and said that he and others in the film units contributed to the war effort by making films that, among other things, cut the training time for aerial gunners by six weeks....

As president, Reagan's penchant for heroes became evident in his first inaugural address on Jan. 20, 1981, when he told the story of Martin Treptow, a small-town barber who joined the Rainbow Division in World War I and was killed after writing in his diary that he would "do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."...

On Sept. 10, 1981, the president paid posthumous tribute to Gen. Douglas MacArthur in a Pentagon ceremony, calling the Pacific commander in World War II a "front-line general...a wise statesman...an authentic American hero." The very next day, Reagan presented medals to seven young people selected by the Justice Department for outstanding acts of bravery or service to others. Some of them had performed the deeds as long before as 1975 or 1976, but had not received the medals because former President Jimmy Carter had not continued the practice of presenting them, although the program had been going on since 1950.

Another indication of the remarkable contrasts between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Carter was the difference between the boundless, almost magnetic optimism exuded by the President during his most recent State of the Union address, and the nationwide telecast, about five years ago, by Mr. Carter, in which he bemoaned what he perceived to be a spreading "national malaise."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau