

PASTOR'S REPORT

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SIGNIFICANCE OF POPE'S DEATH --

a statement by Herbert W. Armstrong

The death of Pope Paul may have tremendous significance to God's Church and to God's Work!

Some twenty years ago when Pope John was elected, I wondered if he would be the Pope who would offer his good offices to the nations of Europe to bring about the political and military, as well as economic, union so many European nations have desired.

In other words, to "resurrect" the "Holy Roman Empire," which ruled Europe under the Popes from 554 to 1814. But immediately we could see Pope John was not the man to do this. He sought to strengthen the Roman Catholic Church by launching the Ecumenical Movement -- hoping to bring back to the "Mother Church" her daughters that had gone out of her in PROTEST -- calling themselves Protestant.

Fifteen years ago I felt that surely Pope Paul would be the stern Pope that would bring about this "United States of Europe" (Rev. 17), sternly ruling all Europe with police and military FORCE! (Rev. 13.) But he, too, was a more kindly, gentle type of man.

During the decade and a half of Pope Paul's rule, the Catholic Church faced its period of greatest trial and test in many decades. Pope Paul continued the efforts of the Ecumenical Movement, but it brought no real results. But his greatest stress was within the church itself. Many priests became of the more liberal persuasion -- many married, many nuns married. Probably 90% to 98% of the church laity neglected completely to follow the church edict that sexual union must be used solely for purposes of reproduction -- and that any other use of sex, even in marriage, was a sin, even though only venial.

At the same time Pope Paul had to contend with another power group among the priesthood, who stood sternly for the traditional conservatism. This Pope walked a tightrope, and did manage to hold the church together -- though in a time of great and mounting stress.

It had seemed that the resurrection of the Catholic-ruled Europe was considerably past due. But in Revelation 7, when the time had come for the trumpet plagues to be poured out, you will read how God held up events, until the sealing of the 144,000 and other great innumerable multitude. So, it has seemed God has deliberately HELD UP the resurrection of the "Holy Roman Empire" UNTIL God's GREAT COMMISSION is completed.

When this European combine -- politically, militarily, religiously, with a common currency -- occurs, our work will be just about over -- and it will be well for us to HEED that warning!

Now, as the world awaits in anxious suspense the election of the next Pope, it is well that we realize that our days to finish God's Work may be fast closing in on us! This time, the Pope elected MAY BE THE ONE that will signify the imminency of the GREAT TRIBULATION.

This is the time of the trial and test of GOD'S PEOPLE! (Dan. 12:9, 10.) We are in the process of seeing the living HEAD of God's Church, Jesus Christ, enthroned once again along with the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD in our hearts as never before! GOD'S CHURCH is now striving with God's power to root out liberalism, secularism and spiritual lethargy and neglect from our midst! God's Church and Work has been completely turned around in the past two months.

We are, praise to our Leader Jesus Christ, now making a NEW START in the right direction!

We need to be AWAKE and plunge with renewed vigor into the work before us, for the night draweth on when no man can work!

Let us GIVE as never before, of our earnest and heart-rending PRAYERS for God's Work, and for those Christ is using in it -- in our enthusiasm and warm-hearted encouragement and support -- both in attitude and words, and in tithes and offerings -- that God's Work now will make the FINAL DASH ON THE HOME STRETCH, WITH A RENEWED VITALITY, VIGOR AND POWER!

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REPORT FROM FINANCIAL AFFAIRS MEDIA increases in radio and television coverage continue to mount for Mr. Herbert Armstrong's programs. We have now purchased time on six additional 50,000 watt stations bringing the total number of 50 KW stations to 22. Our total number of radio stations (including 50,000 watters) has increased to 77, and the total number of television stations is 45. New stations are being added daily. Mr. Armstrong is now on radio Sunday through Friday six days a week, and on television one half hour weekly.

In addition to this, the media ad campaign for the Modern Romans booklet begins today (August 7th) on TV stations all across the country, with spot ads running at an average of 20 to 30 ads per week for an initial three-week period. These spot ads will be running throughout the day and will be carefully monitored for telephone response after each ad is shown in order to evaluate the most effective times to advertise. We are anticipating in excess of 20,000 responses per week to the Modern Romans ad. These ads will be followed shortly by Plain Truth advertisements for which we anticipate a large response as well.

INCOME continues to come in on schedule and the fiscal year-to-date figure through July 31st is running at a plus six percent. The anticipated annual budget looks good -- we are in a better financial position now than we have been in the last two and a half years. In August we normally have to draw down large amounts on our lines of

credit, but at this point in time we have not drawn down any of our lines of credit. If the income continues to look as positive and come in as it is, we will probably be able to go into the Feast period without having to do so.

Summer is normally our low mail and income period -- especially just prior to the Feast of Tabernacles -- because of the long stretch between Pentecost and the fall Feasts. Another factor in this is that many people are travelling during the summer and engaged in other activities prior to the school year. But this year we are doing better than expected on our annualized budget, and we are anticipating a steady growth factor from this point onwards.

Richard Rice's SUBSCRIBER DEVELOPMENT program, which had to undergo considerable change with Mr. Armstrong emphasizing the church once again, is just now starting to get underway, and so we have not had time to see the impact of this program which generated considerable mail and income before revitalization. Now that this program is on again with its new format as directed by Mr. Armstrong, we anticipate that it will certainly aid in our mail count and income. For the first time in many years the Work has a sharper focus with a message that is consistent. The direction from the top is giving management the ability to function in such a way that growth-oriented programs are actively producing once again in the Work.

As mentioned earlier, media coverage is on the road to blanket-ing the entirety of the United States with "The World Tomorrow" program. We are also for the first time doing what we call "cross-plugging" where we will saturate an area with half-hour radio six days a week, a weekly half-hour television program, sixty-second spot ads on television, together with the newsstand program. All of these cross reference to the other so that we will get maximum identification of our programs in a particular area. This cross-plugging will maximize our coverage in getting the message of the Gospel into specific areas as never before.

Just wanted to let you fellows know that the Work is getting done, since many of you have asked what is taking place and what are our plans. It certainly is a lot easier to plan as Mr. Armstrong makes the decisions and gives us the direction and guidelines to follow. With that direction newsstands are going forward, media is going forward, income is increasing, and the Work is steadily moving onward! Progress in all these areas is very encouraging and a very positive sign. Certainly it is the very thing that many of us have been praying for over a long time!

--Ray Wright, Financial Affairs

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES Mr. Wayne Cole is down with a (hopefully) slight case of the flu after returning from a visit to the Pittsburgh area. Overall his health has been good lately, so this illness shouldn't hold him down too long.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong's office asked that we keep abreast of what the various newspapers across the nation are saying. Since you all regularly send normal news clippings in to the News Bureau, perhaps you could also begin to include items affecting the Church.

Also, it might be appropriate to use the same avenue to send us dissident printed materials in order to keep HQ abreast of developments.

I might mention that things are going quite well at HQ as far as Ministerial Services is concerned. We appreciate our daily contacts with each of you and the good level of response you give.

The current policies and procedures seem adequate to most situations encountered; at least it seems that is a rational explanation for the smooth functioning we've been experiencing.

Administrative policies, of course, are only guidelines which help insure uniformity. However, policies can eventually outlive their usefulness. When that happens we hope to be alert enough to meet the need. Having your help and cooperation makes meeting the need that much easier.

Next Pastor's Report we'll include some information on the 1978-79 budget that I'm sure you will find pleasing and helpful.

--Ted Herlofson, Ministerial Services

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM WATS A couple of weeks ago in the Pastor's Report, we mentioned that The Modern Romans booklet was scheduled to be highlighted in spot commercials across the United States, and that the WATS section of Mail Processing was gearing up to handle the literature requests in response to the ad. Now we'd like to give you more "behind the scenes" information about what's going on:

It's an exciting time of great anticipation for the WATS section -- and for many brethren throughout Southern California. The number of phone lines are being increased from 33 to 62, and a new California WATS line will be in operation. (Before, California callers had to call collect to a Pasadena number. This new WATS number will make it easier for them to request literature).

The anticipated work load is making it necessary to hire 40 to 50 new people, and to ask for volunteer help on the Sabbath from local brethren. We project that we will receive some of our heaviest responses on the Sabbath -- and six volunteer crews are being scheduled to answer the phones around the clock! (Of course, each crew will work only a few hours).

This volunteer Sabbath program for answering the phones is creating a sense of "esprit-de-corps" among local members not employed by the Church -- a feeling of direct, personal contribution to the Work -- of seeing fruit borne before one's eyes! It's much like what was experienced in the earlier years when special volunteer crews would be brought in to help insert Mr. Armstrong's co-worker letters. Only in this case, brethren are actually speaking, via the phones, to new people requesting literature from the Work for the first time. It's helping to build more of a feeling of service and camaraderie among many brethren around the Headquarters area. Some volunteers are coming from as far away as San Diego (125 miles) to help in this effort!

It's expected that we could receive as many as 15,000 to 20,000 calls per week from these spot commercials. (The first spot commercials will

actually be a series of three-week tests in 60 different television markets across the country. So different areas will hear the commercials at different times).

We will keep you updated on the progress of this new program and our market tests.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

DR. HOEH'S BIBLE STUDY COMMENTS ABOUT MR. RADER'S TV INTERVIEW

Editor's Note: At 1:00 a.m. Thursday morning, July 28, Mr. Stanley Rader's pretaped interview with Tom Snyder was aired on the NBC television network show, "Tomorrow." Since this show has national coverage, its impact would seem to be important at this time of widespread publicity and stress in the church.

A videotape of the program was shown to the brethren at the evening Bible study in the Ambassador Auditorium with Mr. Herbert Armstrong's permission, and again before the main sermon Sabbath afternoon. Since a number of the brethren and ministry missed the program when it was aired over their local stations, plans are to show it at all festival sites for their interest.

In the meantime, we are including with this report some excerpts of comments by Dr. Hoeh which he made immediately following the screening of the interview during Bible study. Those comments follow.

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The questions and answers are very meaningful to the churches as a whole. I hope you will appreciate that some of these questions were handled in a manner not everybody could handle as smoothly as did Mr. Rader. It was a good illustration of the favor that we still have -- and should have if we trust God -- when going before some men who, as interviewers, could be far more pointed and critical if they wanted to. But he /Mr. Snyder/ asked what I would regard as responsible questions under the circumstances, and it would be very educational for all of us to reflect on how the answers have been presented. There isn't any doubt that how one handles a question is very important in terms of the job he has in a work such as this. The first thing that occurs to me, and I see no reason not to be candid, is this: I briefly wrote Mr. Rader a letter after I had seen the last part of the original TV program (because of a problem in getting my own TV to work). I mentioned that I thought it proper to give him some support. The reason I said that is that there is a tendency in people to discount some of the responsible decisions that have been made with the aid of Mr. Rader's advice. What was said near the beginning /of the interview/ may help you to understand part of the reason why people can think negatively about things for which they have no real basis, in attempting to analyze a person's role such as that of Mr. Rader, who is not an ordained minister.

If you recall, Mr. Rader said that his fundamental job is to report to the Chairman of the Board. His job is not to report to a whole series of departments or to be accountable to a local church. If he reports to the Chairman of the Board, that is, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, then of

necessity there are matters that are submitted to Mr. Armstrong that are reported to nobody else. Therefore, a natural gap exists between the membership and Mr. Rader. There is also a gap between the ministry and Mr. Rader merely because he doesn't owe reports to them. If Mr. Armstrong wants him to give reports to the headquarters church or the church as a whole at the Feast of Tabernacles, he does so. This gap will occur with any individual who seems to have significant input at a high level, but who doesn't interact every day or every week with the people who are essentially underwriting in prayers, tithes and labor, God's Work day by day, week by week, and month by month. I do believe that the absence of that daily and/or weekly contact, as we in the ministry have on the Sabbath or during Bible study, puts Mr. Rader at a disadvantage in terms of what people want to think about him. It would be better to acknowledge what we don't know and not draw conclusions, rather than assume that what we don't know must be something that isn't good.

I've had only minimal contact with Mr. Rader over the 20 years I've known him. That's a lengthy period of time. My contact has always been favorable. I think I can say that he's a very fair-minded individual in weighing any question and in giving advice to anybody at any level.

I was very pleased with the important help Mr. Rader gave me in particular, and others on the staff in the academic area during 1970-71. I've also appreciated very much his input and judgment in assisting Mr. Armstrong in terms of how to help and evaluate projects around the world....Having been involved myself in one of the projects, in the sense of getting some on-the-spot information about the hill tribes in Thailand to Mr. Armstrong, I do feel that the judgment that he has had in advising Mr. Armstrong on the worldwide trips has been very important and truly worthwhile....

When you see a man like Mr. Tom Snyder ask questions, you realize how important it is to know what your attitude is toward a problem. If your conscience, if your understanding, is clear, no matter what is thrown at you, you needn't be concerned. And some of those were very personal and touchy questions that Mr. Rader fielded.... There is no doubt that in showing respect for Mr. Ted Armstrong he handled a section very diplomatically and properly -- the way that all of us would be expected to.

The question of religion in terms of holidays was certainly fielded in a way that was very direct at the beginning. Mr. Rader went right to those things -- especially the Sabbath -- which are thought to characterize the church uniquely in terms of our relationship to Judaism versus the traditional relationship to the general Christian community. Where Sunday and the world's secular or religious holidays are concerned, Mr. Rader found it easy, and I think any of you could find it easy, to describe the Feast of Tabernacles as one of joy and responsible pleasure. Certainly this ought to be apparent in contrast to the excesses that arise on Christmas more than on any other day of the year. He made the religion that the Church of God exemplifies come across quite respectably.

I hope you do reflect on how these things were fielded both in terms of how the character of the Church was conveyed, and how you can be diplomatic in explaining certain matters when somebody is trying to fish for an answer that frankly is better not said in some other terms.

Concerning the question of the nature of our Work: I wanted to dwell briefly on something that, although it isn't the way any of us in the ministry would word it, we should consider why Mr. Rader, taking a generalization, said what he did. He said we tend to baptize people only after they are 21. That is not, of course, a statement of fact as it is literally practiced. But on the other hand, it says something that ought to be considered seriously.

Many students come to college at 18 and are baptized by the time they are 19 or 20. We've had a small number who have been baptized prematurely, which is what I am addressing.... The human mind doesn't really mature as early as some might think, and it pays to give some serious consideration as to whether young people are always ready when they first are emotionally swept off their feet by something they may never have really understood before. Have they actually counted the cost to know how long they are willing to stick with their convictions, as represented by baptism?

If more would give heed to maturity and to making decisions and counting the cost and in knowing that one has to come to the point that no matter what, he or she will never turn back, we probably would not have some of the marital problems that have arisen among people who have been baptized prematurely.

I thought the interview was a very fine presentation without being critical. It was a sensitive, accurate, respectful evaluation of a problem that we are living through in the Church and shall continue to live through for sometime, without a doubt. I hope if any of you are interviewed you will give some serious thought to how someone else has handled an interview.

One thing I think we did learn this evening that would be of help to any of you in answering questions, at the level of which you would be responsible, is to be able to tell it bluntly, be friendly, and not imply that the interviewer doesn't know anything. After all, Mr. Snyder's description of the end-time events was far removed from some biblical realities. But Mr. Rader put it in a way that I thought was very diplomatic. He said, "You're not that far wrong," which leaves it up to the audience to decide how far "far" is.

It's also important to feel comfortable with the person who's asking the questions....Mr. Rader may have talked with Mr. Snyder in advance /actually he did not -- editor/ and learned something of what was on his mind. Once you get to know people, you can be freer and more comfortable in the way you explain things.

This was an education for all of us. Not merely to inform us of what the Church has stated on certain matters; that is helpful, but to be informed of how anyone who is a layman and not a minister (Mr. Rader is an educated layman), can handle things that many ministers are called upon to handle quite often. Reflect on how you may have done it. It was done commendably, and it was a thorough credit to the Church.

ON THE WORLD SCENE

POPE PAUL'S DEATH: WHO WILL SUCCEED HIM? The big news over the weekend, of course, concerns the death of Pope Paul VI. The pontiff was close

to 81 years of age, having ruled over the Roman Catholic Church for 15 years, ever since the death of Pope John XXIII in 1963. He presided over the church during, perhaps, some of its most tumultuous years of modern times, initiating many changes in Roman Catholic beliefs and customs while affirming traditional views in other areas, such as celibacy and birth control. He was a heretic to some, a stubborn arch-conservative to others.

Attention now turns to the selection process for the papal successor. The balloting by the college of Cardinals will begin 15 to 18 days from the date of Paul's death. Who emerges on top will largely be determined by the relative strength of the various factions comprising the electors.

According to Vatican observer Malachi Martin, in his recent book The Final Conclave, the Roman Catholic Church is today split into four major factions. 1) The first is the Progressivist, composed of the Christian Marxists (who advocate a close alliance between Christians and Communists), the "New Theologians" (who believe that practically everything in the Church is out of date and in need of modernization) and the Charismatics (who place great emphasis on the "gifts of the Spirit"). The Progressivist faction is believed to control about 26 votes out of the 118 voting Cardinals. 2) The Traditionalist faction, with 50 votes, holds that Pope Paul VI was a heretic and a traitor. The Traditionalists want to reverse most or all of the changes he made in the Church since his election in 1963. 3) The Conservatives, with 35 votes, decry both the Progressivists and Traditionalists. They prefer to steer a steady course with some gradual changes now and then. They feel that Pope Paul may have gone a bit too far too fast, but in no way consider him to have been a "heretic." 4) The fourth faction is the Radical, with but 7 votes, which feels the Church should divest itself of all political and financial entanglements, and concentrate its energies on spiritual concerns alone.

Interestingly enough, one of the Cardinals who is mentioned as one of the "frontrunners" to become the next Pope is a man who was given the job, by Pope Paul, of actually pushing for a United Europe! He is Cardinal Giovanni Benelli, 57, the former righthand man of Pope Paul VI as the Vatican's Undersecretary of State. Benelli is a "traditionalist" in the Catholic Church who led the battle against Italy's new abortion law. In his book, Martin notes that Benelli has acquired such nick names as "the Gauleiter," the "Cossack," "Il Duce," and "the Hangman." Furthermore, he has, in Martin's words, "set out to re-create the idea of a unified Europe." Martin states that Pope Paul VI gave Benelli the role of "organizer of a 'new soul' for Europe." He goes on to predict: "Benelli will seek to galvanize political, religious, economic, and cultural interests in, and support for, a new unity in Europe."

While Benelli's open sympathy for the Catholic archtraditionalist dissident, Archbishop Lefebvre, has weakened his political standing in the Vatican, he is still considered, in the words of an Associated Press report, as "one of the kingmakers in any papal election."

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau