

Light

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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN

BAPTIST CONVENTION

MARCH 1986

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Baptists Gave \$11.8 Million To Hunger Relief Last Year

Southern Baptists in 1985 gave a record \$11.8 million to world-wide hunger relief, shattering the previous year's record by more than \$4.6 million.

The 1985 total of \$11,830,146 contributed to the hunger funds administered by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards surpassed the previous year's total for the eighth consecutive time. The figure reflects a dramatic 65 percent increase over the 1984 total of \$7,166,772.

Hunger Chart Page 3

Figured on a per capita basis, Southern Baptists last year gave 82 cents per person to hunger relief at home and abroad.

The Foreign Mission Board reported receipts of \$10,625,897 for overseas hunger relief in 1985, an increase of more than \$4 million over 1984.

At the Home Mission Board, receipts for domestic hunger nearly doubled from \$617,871 in 1984 to \$1,204,249 in 1985.

The figures do not reflect monies given for hunger that were utilized in local churches, associations and state conventions.

Texas, the largest of 37 state conventions, again led all states in hunger contributions with \$1,921,962 in 1985, according to statistics provided by the two mission boards and compiled by the Christian Life Commission.

Three other state conventions also topped the \$1-million mark in 1985: North Carolina (\$1,309,421), Georgia (\$1,067,411) and Virginia (\$1,036,285).

Conventions with the largest percentage increases in giving over the previous year were Arkansas (521%), Utah-Idaho (262%), Tennessee (230%) and Nevada (224%).

The dramatic increases in Arkansas and Tennessee continued a pattern begun several years ago.

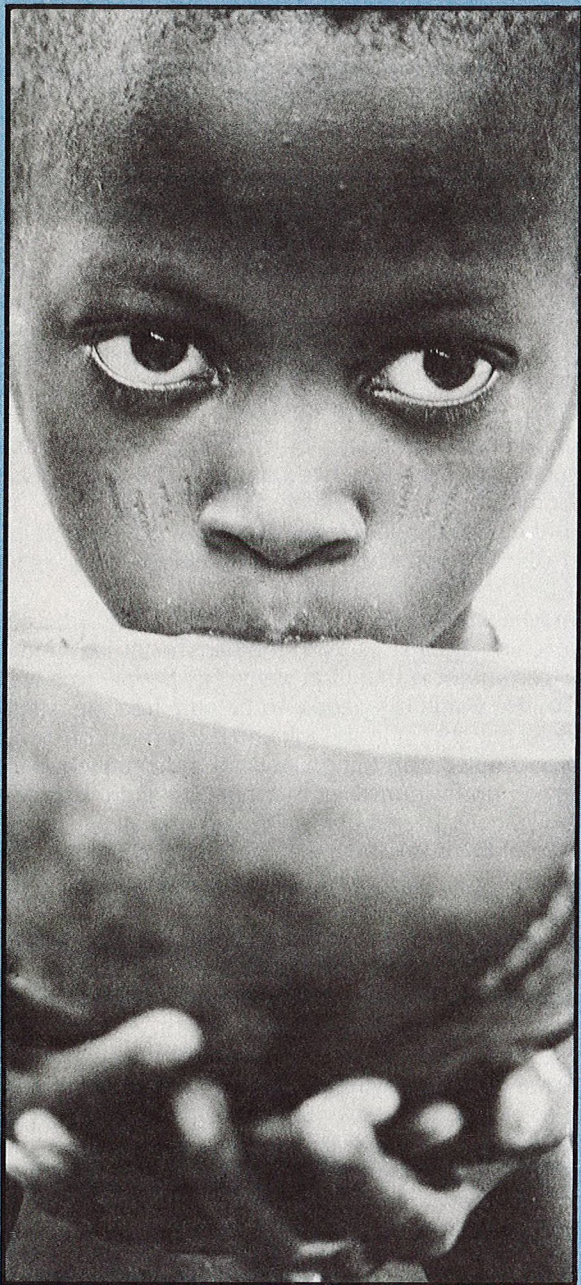
In 1983, Arkansas Baptists gave \$28,345 to world hunger funds. In 1984, they more than doubled that amount, contributing \$63,253. And in 1985, they gave \$392,842—more than five times the 1984 total.

Tennessee Baptists gave \$62,220 in 1983, \$171,966 (176% increase) in 1984 and \$567,269 last year (230% increase).

Only two state conventions gave less in 1985 than in 1984.

In terms of per capita giving, six state conventions contributed an average of more than \$1 per person for the year: New England

(Continued on Page 3)

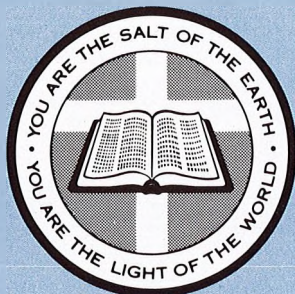


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Doubts About Debt

Today I have ended 25 years of indentured service. Thank God Almighty; I'm free at last.

The debt was to an insurance company which in 1961 loaned me \$26,500 to buy a house. With a final check, written with trembling and liver-spotted hand for \$9.04, I completed the odyssey—\$9 for the final payment of principal and 4¢ for the last few pennies of interest. This is a modest, underwhelming record when compared with that of Mr. Reagan and the alleged fiscal conservatives who have led us into the most profligate and incomprehensible debt in any nation's history. Of course, when I embarked on my own little journey 25 years ago, I was viewed by some of my peers as a breathtakingly reckless high roller. On an annual salary of \$10,700, I committed myself to making monthly payments of \$166.95 for 300 months, obligating myself to pay the lenders about as much in interest as they were lending me in principal.

Debt. What are we to make of it? How are Christians to think about it? Are we indeed compelled to consider it at all, personally and nationally, for dwelling houses and church houses, for tiny little push-over wars like our invasion of Granada or huge, mind-boggling, star wars like our current grandiose stumbling toward Armageddon?

Return with me for a moment to those blessed house payments.

Without that debt, my wife and I would not have had the house in which we have lived through the years, in which we have raised our children, in which we have cared for our aging parents, and in which we have, perhaps, "entertained angels unawares." Without that debt, we would not today have a roof (or at least that particular asbestos shingle roof with its twenty-five year warranty) over our heads. If I had taken literally Paul's counsel in Romans 13:8 to "owe no man anything," life for my family and me through the years would have been vastly different.

Does Romans 13:8 stand in condemnation of my having borrowed that money? Maybe so. I actually paid the insurance company in interest nearly as much money as all Southern Baptists together gave through the Cooperative Program for the Christian Life Commission to do its work in Christian ethics that first year in 1960 when I came to this job. Maybe I will be held accountable for bad stewardship in this regard.

On the other hand, maybe what I did was at least partly right. After all, the reason behind the teaching against usury in the Old Testament and against debt in the New Testament is that God wants His people to have no other gods before Him. He wants His people to breathe free. He wants us to be an Exodus people, caught up in the joy and excitement of being in His movement, not preoccupied with things, not too much attached to houses and lands, not laying up for ourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt and where thieves break through and steal.

Debt can rob the debtor of freedom. It can set the debtor's agenda. It can be the disintegrating center around which all our endeavors must be oriented. It can dictate life's major decisions until we have paid the last farthing. It can demand the last full measure of today's energies to pay for yesterday's whims. It can transform today's dreams into tomorrow's nightmares. It can transmute today's bright gold into tomorrow's rusty iron.

Few admonitions in the Bible have been more flagrantly disregarded than Paul's counsel to "owe no man anything." If we explain it away or weasel out of it or edge around it, I think we had better be ready to give some mighty compelling reasons when we stand at last to give an account of ourselves to God. In the case of Romans 13:8 which says in the Phillips translation, "Keep out of debt altogether," could we at least consider the possibility that the Bible means what it says?

Foy Valentine
Foy Valentine
Executive Director

(Continued from Page 1)

(\$1.76), Virginia (\$1.75), Hawaii (\$1.61), New York (\$1.43), South Carolina (\$1.31) and North Carolina (\$1.14).

At the opposite end of the spectrum, several state conventions averaged less than 30 cents per capita for 1985.

Per capita statistics were based on membership totals reported by state conventions for 1984, the latest year for which such statistics are available.

FOR THE RECORD

1985 World Hunger Receipts By States

State	Domestic (HMB)	Foreign (FMB)	1985 Total	1984 Total	% Change	1985 Per Capita Giving
Ala.	\$4,665	\$741,310	745,975	\$510,308	46.18	.74
Alaska	154	4,591	4,745	7,127	[-33.42]	.29
Ariz.	6,719	41,012	47,731	22,675	110.50	.42
Ark.	65,603	327,239	392,842	63,253	521.06	.84
Cal.	317	145,749	146,066	103,221	41.51	.39
Col.	1,405	38,340	39,745	20,699	92.01	.62
D.C.	50	16,073	16,123	6,163	161.61	.55
Fla.	80,744	471,708	552,452	340,562	62.22	.63
Ga.	150,393	917,018	1,067,411	585,430	82.33	.90
Hawaii	2,943	17,744	20,687	17,309	19.52	1.61
Ill.	24,417	147,074	171,491	76,253	124.90	.74
Ind.	838	50,558	51,396	40,881	25.72	.60
Iowa	1,061	N/A	1,061	612	73.37	NA
Kan.-Neb.	9,490	49,677	59,167	25,702	130.20	.75
Ky.	4,690	663,882	668,572	638,361	4.73	.88
La.	50,112	252,447	302,559	225,297	34.29	.53
Md.	1,308	51,431	52,739	41,645	26.64	.54
Mich.	4,006	9,133	13,139	5,749	128.54	.27
Minn.-Wis.	0	4,632	4,632	4,066	13.92	NA
Miss.	1,944	400,729	402,673	235,557	70.95	.62
Mo.	81,651	360,701	442,352	322,744	37.06	.71
Nev.	153	4,172	4,325	1,334	224.21	.24
N. Eng.	20	24,390	24,410	18,743	30.24	1.76
N. Mex.	36	81,630	81,666	36,348	124.68	.69
N. York	83	32,133	32,216	12,205	163.96	1.43
N.C.	170,187	1,139,234	1,309,421	820,884	59.51	1.14
No. Plains	523	5,572	6,095	3,261	86.91	.39
Ohio	218	61,438	61,656	31,895	93.31	.44
Okla.	47,806	273,184	320,990	177,899	80.43	.44
Ore.-Wash.	6,445	35,022	41,467	31,082	33.41	.53
Pa.-So. Jersey	1,192	10,545	11,737	11,840	[-.87]	.67
S.C.	75,037	829,083	904,120	656,655	37.69	1.31
Tenn.	91,901	475,368	567,269	171,966	229.87	.54
Texas	167,161	1,754,801	1,921,962	1,201,767	59.93	.81
Utah-Idaho	173	6,154	6,327	1,746	262.37	.39
Va.	147,273	889,012	1,036,285	657,735	57.55	1.75
W. Va.	1,089	12,677	13,766	8,341	65.04	.54
Wyo.	635	4,722	5,357	3,068	74.61	.46
Other States (2)		10,761	10,761	6,041	78.13	NA

Compiled from information provided by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Figures rounded to nearest dollar. More than \$266,700 also was received from foreign countries.

(NA—Not Available)

GLOBAL ISSUES: PEACE & HUNGER

Charlotte Conferences Focus On Critical Social Concerns

Southern Baptists concerned about the global issues of peace with justice and world hunger gathered in Charlotte, N.C., in January for back-to-back conferences sponsored by the Christian Life Commission.

The two regional meetings at Providence Baptist Church included major addresses by nationally-recognized experts, theme interpretations by Baptist leaders from the area and practical workshops on a variety of topics related to peace and hunger.

Throughout the conferences, Southern Baptists were called to move beyond education on these issues to active involvement in helping to shape public policy.

Excerpts from three of the major addresses are featured in this issue of *LIGHT*. Other addresses were by E. Glenn Hinson, "Peacemaking in a Hawkish Context"; Foy Valentine, "The Challenge of Peace"; Art Simon, "The State of the World: Hunger Abroad"; and Bill Hillis, "Hunger in the Global Village: What Then Shall We Do?"

For information about printed proceedings from the two conferences (including major addresses and theme interpretations), write the CLC.

Security in a Nuclear Age

By Rear Admiral (Ret.) Eugene Carroll

Today we live in a MAD world of Mutual Assured Destruction. Each side is armed with the power to destroy the other, and it is that fear of destruction which presumably prevents us from attacking each other. This is a world we built over the last 40 years, and we have followed a rather consistent policy which is now categorized as "peace through strength." You'll hear this often from the present administration, but it is not a new idea. I can trace it back in my brief work as a historian to the Romans whose famous general said, "If you would have peace, prepare for war."

Military men have loved that dictum ever since. It justifies every dollar and every budget that's ever been presented to any parliament or king or president. You threaten your adversaries with superior military force and thus you deter them from attacking you. That's our concept of peace today. We're always seeking more strength to provide more deterrence. We keep going after new and greater forms of strength in the belief—or at least in the pronounced assumption—that it will make us safer.

If the pursuit of deterrence is the engine of the arms race, the fuel is technology. Every time you think you've sort of balanced out and you have this thing under control, some scientist comes along and gives you a new idea of an even more destructive system that the military absolutely must have and the industry wants to build because there's a lot of money in it. So the technology pushes you up and up and up—action and reaction, always in a spiral, seeking more strength for more deterrence. The accelerator for this engine, by the way, is provided by the Pentagon and military industry which are all too happy to push this process further and

We've now reached the point in this process, after 40 years in the nuclear age, where the numbers of weapons we've built are irrelevant.

faster because it's good for business.

We've now reached the point in this process, after 40 years in the nuclear age, where the numbers of weapons we've built are irrelevant. The world now has about 55,000 nuclear weapons. That's simply so many that you can't envision their use. Nuclear weapons don't exist for any rational military purpose. You can destroy with them; you can never defend with them.

Often you will get bogged down in a discussion of who is "ahead." The people who favor this arms race are always trying to tell you, "They're ahead and we must catch up." The President ran for reelection on the grounds that we had to restore our strength which had fallen dangerously low.

As it happens in the so-called strategic systems—the long-range systems that extend from one continent to another or from the ocean areas into the homeland of the other nation, the so-called strategic missiles and bombers—the United States has the capability to deliver about 11,500 nuclear weapons on the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has about 9,500 that they can explode over the United States. We can each begin exploding those weapons in about 30 minutes from the moment the decision is given.

Are we ahead? No, we're not ahead. We simply can't use those weapons without committing suicide. It wouldn't make any difference if we had the Soviet weapons and they had our weapons; if either of us uses nuclear weapons, we both are destroyed. It doesn't make any difference who attacks first with which weapons. As long as you exchange any part of that monstrous arsenal of 20,000 nuclear weapons, both sides are destroyed in a mutually suicidal war. The truth about the nuclear balance today is that the United States and the Soviet Union are mutually inferior because in any war we're both going to commit suicide, and there is no way to commit suicide in a superior fashion . . .

You'll often hear our leaders talking about abandoning the doctrine of mutual assured destruction: "We're going to move to something more moral, something more sensible than mutual assured destruction. We're

not going to accept that doctrine anymore." It is not a doctrine. It is not a strategy. It is not anything that you can choose or fail to choose. MAD is a **fact** created by those weapons. If there were any doctrine that the United States never wanted to adopt, it was mutual assured destruction. We're perfectly in favor of the ability to destroy the Soviet Union, but we never wanted it to be mutual. Yet that's where we are today: trapped in that relationship.

Technology and testing have brought us to this level of destructive capacity. You can't invent something in the laboratory and translate it into a weapon without going through an elaborate testing process. It is technology, testing and then production and deployment which have built this monstrous MAD world. So how are we going to get out of this trap?

Believe it or not, the first step in getting out of it, according to this administration, is to do more of the same and do it better. Build an MX missile, which is obviously better than a Minuteman missile. Build a Trident II missile, which is obviously better than a Trident I missile. Build an advanced cruise missile, which is better than a cruise missile. Build a stealth bomber, which hides from radar and can sneak into the Soviet Union. It is obviously better than a B-52.

We're going to build more destructive weapons, using newer technology, and we've already tested every one of those weapons that I've mentioned. Some of the testing on stealth technology is not yet complete, but the testing is complete on the nuclear weapons for the MX and the Trident II and for certain neutron systems. We're just pushing more technology to try to get out of the technological trap. Worse yet, we're going to call on technology to create a new defense against nuclear weapons.

The President in March 1983 gave his famous speech in which he called upon our scientists to give us the defensive capability to render nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete. Now that is an extremely appealing vision in a world with 55,000 nuclear weapons. I buy it. I want

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to live in a world where those weapons are rubbish, useless, even more useless than they are now. He has called on the genius of our scientists to save us through technology from the consequences of technology.

Since we buy that vision, we must look at the program which is to turn it into reality. The concept of this space defense, the "peace shield," is to be made real by a program called the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

At this point in addressing an audience, I always

come to a sense of total inadequacy and almost despair to try to use the few moments that are available to get across to you the total fallacy of SDI in terms of the President's vision. The vision is good; the reality is monstrous. SDI only addresses a defense against one type of nuclear attack: ballistic missiles which pass through space. SDI does nothing about weapons which come in underneath space such as bombers and cruise missiles or missiles fired close to our shoreline by submarines. Furthermore, it will only defend against a

If SDI works as well as our engineers and scientists say it will work, it will constitute a leaky roof on a house with no walls.

limited attack. One of the assumptions of the SDI program is that the Soviets will agree to reduce their numbers of offensive weapons to the numbers that we can shoot down. That's quite an assumption, isn't it?

If SDI works as well as our engineers and scientists say it will work, it will constitute a leaky roof on a house with no walls. We will not be shielded from nuclear weapons. They will not be impotent and obsolete. We're going to go right on building all of these new offensive systems I told you about. Mr. Weinberger has said he can see no situation in the foreseeable future, even after SDI is deployed, when we can give up our offensive systems. SDI was never intended to replace nuclear deterrence, he says, only to enhance it.

This is just a pursuit of more deterrence in a MAD world. It won't change a thing because it will not defend us against a full Soviet attack, only against a limited attack. It makes it seem to the Soviets that we're up to something other than what we're talking about. They know it won't render their weapons impotent and obsolete. We must have some other idea in mind.

The idea they have worked out—because the system does give us this capability—is that we will use all of these new offensive systems to attack them first in a sudden, surprise attack to blow up as much of their offensive strength as we can, and then to use this imperfect defense to screen out the remaining few ragged shots they can fire at us. We can say we have no intention of doing that, but they don't believe us any more than we believe them. They see the capability, and they see that is the only thing that makes sense. SDI is part of a nuclear war fighting system intended to create superiority over the Soviet Union and to maintain peace through strength.

My conclusion is that SDI, if pursued, will end arms control efforts. SDI, if we put it into space, will break virtually every existing arms control treaty. It will accelerate the nuclear arms race on earth and in space because the almost certain Soviet response to our defensive efforts will be to increase their offensive capabilities.

Finally, when you get this terribly complex and un-

predictable relationship of offenses and defenses facing each other, in time of crisis the situation will be entirely unstable. The requirement will be to get in the first blow before you are attacked. What we are building is a first-strike system, and neither side can tolerate the thought that they will be the one attacked. They must attack first. It is an absolute disaster pursued at incalculable cost which will produce an almost certain nuclear war in this century

I've given you the horrible vision of Friday in military terms. Peace through strength which relies on technology is making nuclear war a near certainty in this century. Is there an alternative? Is there a way to Sunday? The answer is "yes." But first, we must change our way of thinking

A practical place to start is with arms control. It makes no sense to talk about making you safe while I

Peace through strength which relies on technology is making nuclear war a near certainty in this century.

am busily engaged in building weapons to blow you up. So what we have to do is make arms control work in a way in which it has never worked before.

We always approach the question of arms control in what I call the talk-test-build format. We talk about controlling weapons. We talk about reducing weapons. But while we're talking about these interesting ideas, we're testing and building new weapons, and today we're testing and building at nearly record rates. All these new weapons coming in are going to overtake any negotiations we do, and we'll never reduce nuclear weapons as long as we go on talking, testing, and building

If you take "test" out of the talk-test-build format, then neither side can get ahead technologically. Neither side can be fearful that the other side is gaining and that we must have more weapons in order to keep the peace and to maintain the deterrent. Then we can move on to other agreements, practical arrangements which have nothing to do with counting weapons but will cool this press for newer, more destructive systems.

Even then we have not solved our real problems. Arms control is but a means to an end, not a panacea. We must accompany arms control efforts with a broad range of political, economic, social, cultural, religious undertakings that lead to a cooperative world environment in which nations renounce the right to possess the weapons of war and to use them or to threaten their use.

We're going to be confronted with a great deal of opposition in our own community to this idea. I would be described as naive and pacifistic and as possibly doing things for the Kremlin if I were making this speech in front of the American Security Council or possibly even your Rotary Club. The fact is, what they

miss and what I want to give you as the second key point, is that we should be proceeding on this path with great confidence in our strength. Those people are fearful. They believe all of this propaganda about the overpowering Soviet Union. That is a bunch of hogwash. We're mutually inferior in nuclear terms. We are certainly their equal and their superior in conventional terms when you consider the alliances which we enjoy around this world. We are not at the mercy of the Soviet Union in military terms. We are much, much stronger than they are in these other forms of security that I mentioned earlier

Don't let anybody tell you we're vulnerable to the Soviet Union if we give up nuclear weapons. That is simply untrue. The Soviets are a fearful, defensive, gravely handicapped nation with a lousy political system, a terrible economic system, with social divisions that make us look like the brotherhood of the world.

But we're not going to make any progress toward this cooperative world order, we're not going to get people to give up the idea of peace through strength just by wishing for it. We're going to have to work for it because powerful elements in our government and in our industries want the Soviet Union as an enemy. The "evil empire" image serves a wonderful purpose in our national policies today. If we're going to change this, we must want peace as much as they want preparations for war. We must wage peace with the same energy and dedication as they seek the profits of preparing for war.

The choice is absolutely clear. We can seek peace through strength, placing our faith in technology and in more weapons, and we can end up in the war for which we are preparing Or we can choose the path of hope, a world in which we make our adversaries safe so that we may live safely in the same world. If you truly love this planet, if you love all the life on it today and all the life to come and all the promises that God has given us of the future, you will choose the path of hope, and you will commit yourself to peace. You will wage peace. And you will win peace. ■

Carroll is deputy director of the Center for Defense Information, Washington, D.C. A recognized expert on arms control and testing issues, he appears widely as a speaker and as an expert witness before Congressional committees.

Waging War on Jesus

By Jim Hug

The Reagan Administration has projected over the five-year period from 1984 through 1988 to pour about a trillion and a half dollars into building up our arms capabilities. While we are doing that, 33 million of our fellow Americans—one in every seven people—are living in poverty. Another 20 to 30 million people are right on the edge of poverty, one job loss away, the death of one spouse away or one illness away from living in poverty. There are 800 million people worldwide that the

president of the world bank has said live in conditions that under absolutely no criterion of minimal human decency could be called humane. Half of the world's population, 2.5 billion people, live in countries where the per capita income is under \$400 a year . . .

If we look at this poverty in closer terms, we begin to see, as the Bishop's pastoral on the economy points out, that it is disproportionately made up of minorities, blacks, Hispanics. It is made up of women, families headed by women, and children. The largest group of people living in poverty in this country are children. One out of every four children under the age of six lives in

As we build up our military capability to try to achieve peace through strength, we are actually waging war on the people with whom Jesus identifies.

poverty. One out of every two black children under the age of six lives in poverty. These are the people that should come to our minds when we hear the words of Jesus in Luke 4 . . . As we build up our military capability to try to achieve peace through strength, we are actually waging war on . . . the people with whom Jesus identifies . . .

Stockpiling weapons is but a small piece of the peace through strength strategy. To continue producing these weapons, we need a strong industrial infrastructure dedicated to the production of military strength. That infrastructure is maintained in a number of ways.

One of the first ways we justify it is through a strategy that began in 1950—the bomber gap strategy. In 1950 President Harry Truman's Air Policy Commission reported to him that the aircraft industry was in a slump and if something were not done, it would become too weak to keep us strong. To stay in shape, it needed to produce 30 million more pounds of aircraft each year.

In 1951 there was a report from the Air Force saying that they had suddenly discovered a Soviet threat to the nation—that Soviet bombers could reach every part of our nation and inflict terrible damage, and we did not have the aircraft capacity to stop them. Something needed to be done; we needed to build up the Air Force. How much did we need to build it up? Well, it would help if we were to be able to produce about 30 million more pounds of aircraft each year to stay in the race.

Ten years later Dwight Eisenhower, a military man and President, said that the bomber gap was always a fiction. There were no apologies, but he said it publicly. That is a very concrete image to think about every time we begin hearing about the gaps—the missile gaps, the windows of vulnerability, the yearly reports about how much stronger the Soviet Union is than we are. It's the fear factor that Glenn [Hinson] talked about. Part of the way our industrial infrastructure dedicated to military production is maintained is through the fear factor.

Another way it is maintained is by federal statute. This

is a law that I didn't know about until recently, but it has been on the books since the mid or late 1950s. This federal statute says that the Department of Defense can declare any company in danger of bankruptcy as being necessary for the national defense and can then provide it either outright grants or very generous contracts. In the 22 years between 1958 and 1980, this law was invoked and followed up on 5,664 times. In a quick calculation on the airplane, I figured out that this means roughly that the Defense Department has been saving one business a day, five days a week, for the 22 years that this study covered.

I suspect that part of what we see in the cost overruns, the scandals about high priced toilet seats and the rest, are part of the ways this works out. The corporations have come to depend on the contracts awarded through this law and even to demand them . . . The misuse of this statute has become epidemic, and that's one of the ways we maintain this extensive and expensive infrastructure necessary to support peace through strength.

Another way it is done is by the interchange of personnel between industry that is producing for the military and the military itself. Take the fact that Mr. Weinberger, head of the Department of Defense, came from the Bechtel corporation. One of Bechtel's main jobs is to build military bases for the U.S. overseas. Weinberger came with experience and expertise, but he also came with strong links to the military industry.

Take the fact that people who move out of the military after retirement very frequently move into military-related industry as experts, as consultants, as lobbyists. Gen. John Gussie, who just retired as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, now works as a member of the board and as a consultant for Martin-Marietta Corporation.

Part of the way our industrial infrastructure dedicated to military production is maintained is through the fear factor.

These and other factors create a very strong force working to maintain defense spending . . . On the day the summit meeting began in Geneva, the *Washington Post* published a story under the headline "Defense Contractors Worried Arms Control Plan Could Cost Them: Lucrative Contracts Might Be Affected by Superpower Talks." The story said defense contractors viewed the proposals for 50 percent cuts in nuclear weapons as "ominous." It said many U.S. contractors fear that weapons they have researched and developed for years will become objects of superpower bartering before entering the lucrative stage of full production. The article went on to say that a defense analyst for the First Boston Corporation said the aerospace companies had to look to Star Wars because "the traditional defense budget clearly is not going to grow in the near future. Every company is on notice that if they want to

be a long-term player, they can't let SDI get away"

Some people argue that this military buildup is helpful because at least it provides jobs for people and so it is a way of stimulating the economy. But increasingly the facts and the data are clear. What this new military buildup and the continuing military buildup really does is compound the problems of the economy

Arms production is inflationary. It is draining talent from other productive enterprises in our society into the military in great quantities. It erodes our international competitiveness. It produces fewer jobs that we could produce with that same money other ways. Finally, it is shifting our wealth from the lower parts of our population to the higher economic brackets. It is, in effect, one of the larger unnoticed forces of redistribution of wealth in this nation, and it is redistributing it up the scale.

Arms production in the end is inflationary for a number of reasons. We have already talked about the contracts and how they become easily padded. There is little or no competition and so costs are higher than they need to be, which means that if other industries who are not producing for the arms industry want to get good people in highly technical professions, they have to match those wages. So it is an inflationary pressure on wages throughout the economy for technically skilled people.

It [arms production] produces goods that are not productive for society. Productive goods are the kinds of goods that in turn produce other goods, creating a ripple effect in the economy that provides jobs for more and more people and provides consumer goods for people who want them. [The military-related industrial infrastructure] is putting more money into the demand side of the economy without putting more goods into the supply side of the economy. And whenever you have a higher demand than you have supply, prices go up. So in that way too it is an inflationary pressure.

The facts and the data are clear. What this new military buildup really does is compound the problems of the economy.

It also drains important talent from the society in ways that could be used to meet the other needs of our society. It is draining engineers in great quantities. By this fall, one-third of the MIT graduates, some of our best engineers, will end up building weapons. Nearly half of the U.S. scientific and engineering force today works in defense-related programs. In the 40 years since the second world war, the defense establishment has absorbed between one-third and one-half of the nation's scientific talent

Besides people, we are also pouring money down that drain. Over 60 percent of the research and development funds from the federal government now goes to the military, and when you add in the space

industries, over two-thirds, nearly 70 percent of all research and development, goes into military and space research. That doesn't leave us very much to meet the problems that are involved in increasing our productivity so that we can compete on the international level.

The *Washington Post* last month printed a chart comparing nations, how much they put into military spending and what their advances in productivity over the last 10 years has been. And consistently, right down the line, when you look at Japan, West Germany, France, Great Britain, and the United States, the more you invest in the military, the smaller the productivity gain has been.

The nation which has the greatest productivity gain over the last 10 years is Japan. They have invested the least in military. The next is West Germany, with a 2.3

Over 60 percent of the research and development funds from the federal government now goes to the military.

percent increase in productivity, and they also have put a small percentage of their resources into military development. And right down the line, the more that is invested in military, the smaller the gains in productivity over that period. The U.S. has invested the largest part of its GNP in the military and has the smallest improvement among all of these nations in productivity over that period. As long as that goes on, we are eroding our capability to compete in an international economy that is in crisis and in transition

While arms production produces jobs, it is capital intensive because military goods and military arms are quite sophisticated bits of machinery. You need machines to build machines that sophisticated. You need computers. You need people who are highly trained to do that kind of work. The figures show again and again that the monies poured into jobs for military production create fewer jobs than if they were used in other ways

A special UN study was done a couple of years ago to study very technically and scientifically the links between the arms buildup and the economy, between disarmament and the possibility of development. The strong and ringing conclusion, reaffirmed again and again, was that we can't do both. We can't continue to invest in military production in this way and hope to meet those problems of poverty and injustice. We used to say guns or butter, . . . but now it is guns or the basic necessities of life

The arms race is having a profound impact on the international scene as well. Because we are producing arms at such a high rate, we need markets for them. We are the No. 1 arms exporter in the world by a significant lead over the Soviet Union. Production is where the money is. The more you produce the more you can cut

your costs. So we need markets for our arms, and we are going out looking for markets in a way that was unprecedented before 1970. In selling arms to Third World nations and the developing nations, we're fueling and heightening regional tensions. To sell arms to Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan is to throw gasoline on smoldering embers.

The more money these nations put out for these arms the more their dependence upon us for spare parts and support and training increases. Their debt grows; they lose foreign exchange. To get foreign exchange and to be able to borrow money to pay off the debt, they are being forced to impose domestic austerity programs that we read about in the papers. They are forced to gear their economies to produce export crops. As a result, many nations of the world which once could feed their own people no longer can because they've turned their productive capacities into providing goods for export to pay off foreign debt. What that does is create social unrest within the nations which calls for further control, spawns revolution, escalates tension. And so we keep selling arms and the world gets more and more dangerous . . .

We need to realize that we have a profound pastoral challenge facing us if we want to be faithful to the gospel call to be peacemakers. The call to be peacemakers is to realize that this does not simply involve making sure that the bombs do not go off because even building the bombs, even building the weapons and even maintaining the industrial infrastructure to do this is in fact waging its own kind of war and is in fact killing our weakest and most vulnerable people.

We must realize that peacemaking must incorporate working for justice. It involves special concern for the poor. The Biblical notion of *shalom* never meant just an absence of war. It meant right relationships throughout society where everyone was cared for, where there was mutuality and where there was special concern for the poorest, the most vulnerable, the weakest in society. ■

Hug is a Catholic moral theologian affiliated with the Center of Concern, a Washington-based think tank on social and economic issues. He is a widely-recognized authority on the Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Economics.

The State of the Union: Hunger on the Home Front

By Nancy Amidei

Hunger is a problem in the United States. Every year the government through the Commerce Department issues a report called "Money, Income, and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States." The most recent volume is for 1984. This is not a narrative report. It is not a matter of somebody interpreting something. This is, as they used to say on "Dragnet," just the facts, ma'am, just the facts; these are just the numbers . . .

For 1984, the year in which you will recall we had a good, healthy economic recovery, we had, nonetheless, nearly 34 million Americans living in poverty. That leaves us with a poverty rate that is one of the highest since they began keeping count. (This same measure has been used now since 1960.) It leaves us with 15 percent of the American public below the poverty line—roughly \$8,300 for a family of three for a year.

So we know that there remains a sizable group of Americans at risk to hunger—about 15 percent. If we include the people whose incomes are just barely above the poverty line, a group known as the "near poor," then we bring it up another 12 million.

The second thing we know is that starting in 1978 unemployment began to climb. Unemployment has tapered off somewhat in the last year or so, but it remains very high, and long-term unemployment remains at a very high rate. In addition to these growing numbers of people with no jobs at all, we have a new

It would help to draw a map. Where would you go if you were a parent with hungry children and no money to feed them?

phenomenon of a growing number of the underemployed, people who work sometimes for a full year, full time, and still earn less than a poverty wage . . .

You may recall that we started in 1981 to cut back severely on assistance to people who are below the poverty line. Food stamps, school meals, the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, senior nutrition programs all had their budgets tightened in one way or another. So at the same time that we had more people at risk to hunger, we had a process going on that was providing less through public sources in terms of food aid to this growing group.

At the same time, unemployment insurance was tightened up. At this point only about one-fourth of the unemployed get any unemployment insurance . . .

Welfare eligibility was tightened once again. In three-fourths of the states, welfare plus food stamps leave poor families with less than three-fourths of the poverty line income. In many states, food stamps plus welfare leave poor families with only about half the poverty line income . . .

When those cuts were made, there were some assumptions, some hopes, some possibilities. One assumption and one possibility was that the state and local governments would replace what was being cut at the federal end. That happened with some programs, particularly services for the elderly and the disabled. It did not happen with respect to food aid. There is no state in the United States that has voted through its state legislature to replace the dollars that were cut from the food stamp program. Only five states have voted to put money into the federal WIC program.

There are only a handful of states that have voted state money to supplement or make up for federal dollars that were lost for school breakfasts and there are only a handful of states that are putting state money into expanding or supplementing senior adult nutrition programs

Incidentally, the amount of money that was cut as a result of the policy changes in 1981 is a total of about \$12 billion. Meanwhile, state and local governments have not replaced it, nor have corporations

We now have a picture that you can draw for yourselves. To nobody's surprise, starting at around 1979 or 1980, we began getting evidence that hunger was a serious problem in this country again after recently having gone through a decade in which we pretty much had eliminated hunger as a serious problem in our country Across the country the evidence has been pouring in steadily

It is important to acknowledge [the private response to emergency food and shelter needs] that is going on around the country. But it is time to move on.

In 1978, '79, '80, '81, when the recession started to bite deeply, . . . private emergency food aid was not very well developed, and that's where good, caring people put their attention. They built up those soup kitchens and those food pantries—many of them, incidentally, thinking that they were just going to help out in a crisis. They were just going to do it to get over the bad times and then it would be okay They were responding to visible, immediate need.

A friend of mine heads the social action committee at his church. He said: "In order for us to be effective, I have finally concluded after years of struggling with this, that we have three elements to our program. The first two we do very well, but the third we don't do very well at all.

"**The first is education.** We can line up speakers, line up a program, collect information and get out little fact sheets. We're very good on education.

"The second thing is direct service. We can organize

In many states, food stamps plus welfare leave poor families with only about half the poverty line income.

a used clothing drive; we can organize cots for people who need shelter; we can organize food drives—anything you want to name. We've had a lot of practice at that.

"The third part is taking that knowledge and taking the commitment reflected in the direct service and finding a way to get it reflected in our public policies. That part we don't do so well. We keep doing the first two, and we hardly ever get to the third because we don't really know how to do that too well"

We responded to emergency needs and to the gaps [in public and private assistance for] emergency short-

term needs, but now we're not dealing with an emergency. Five years of underemployment, six months of unemployment is not a short-term crisis. We are dealing with people like that lady in Los Angeles who is working, but not earning enough. She doesn't need a three-day supply of groceries. She needs a way to put food on her table for her children.

We have millions of people across the country who are just like that These people don't need a bag of

We have millions of people across the country who . . . don't need a bag of groceries. They need an ongoing source of food.

groceries. They need an ongoing source of food.

The emergency pantries and the soup kitchens are not the answer. A five-pound block of cheese, once in three months is not a substitute for a job. A soup kitchen that is open, serving three meals a week, is no substitute for a family that has to feed its children three meals a day, seven days a week

We have somehow gotten ourselves so busy moving the cans all over town, that we don't have any time left or any energy left to do something about why those people are hungry in the first place. That's the new challenge. That's where we have to go from here

We have to help find a way to capture that energy and that tremendous commitment shown [by volunteers in emergency relief programs] and put it in a new direction.

I have a couple of suggestions. What if the next time somebody said they want to do a food drive, we said, "How about doing a matched food drive? For every dollar you collect for emergency food, ask people to match it with a dollar for advocacy for the public food programs." How about if we even ask people to match in terms of volunteer hours: "For every hour you're willing to spend doing public education about the need for emergency food, we'll ask you to spend an hour doing public education about the role of the public food programs."

Wouldn't it be an interesting educational experience, even if we didn't get very far the first time around, to have people sitting in a room like this discussing how they were going to do public education about the role of food stamps in their communities? We would involve a group of people who have never been involved in those programs, and we just might be able to start putting the pieces together for what would really do something about hunger in this country: meeting the emergency needs through an emergency short-term system, the private system, and meeting the long-term needs through the public system—because we're going to need both.

Another possibility: How about hunger call-ins? I get

very caught up in the numbers sometimes, but I am conscious of the fact that zeros speak only to zeros, and the minute I start going into millions and billions, I can hear my own head start to rattle around, and I can see eyes glaze over and nobody wants to talk about millions of hungry people. We want to talk about real people, people we know, people we can identify with. Well, so do people in public life.

What if we asked those people who work in a food pantry or a soup kitchen one day a week or one day a month whether they would be willing everytime somebody came through needing emergency food to ask them what their circumstances are? After helping the person with whatever they can do, [the volunteer] would then call the local office of the congressman or senator and say, "Hello, I'd like you to know about someone who has just come to us for help. I'm at Providence Baptist Church, and I've just had a woman here who is a mother of two and she's working, but she's only earning \$602 a month and she can't feed her children at the end of every month. Do you have any idea where we should send her for help?" I wonder where they would send them?

If people did that on a regular basis, making those hungry people real and their problems real, we might have a slightly different response.

I think we need to map out hunger and the resources available to meet it. I think it would help to draw a map. Where would you go if you were a parent with hungry children and no money to feed them? How would you put together 21 meals a week? How many soup kitchens are open for breakfast? How many soup kitchens are open for dinner? How many are open even five or six days a week?

What do you do if you've been down to the church and the church says, "I can give you a three-day bag of

How about a matched food drive? For every dollar you collect for emergency food, ask people to match it with a dollar for advocacy.

groceries, but you know, we have a rule now. We can't let you have another bag for at least two months. That's our limit." Where does the family go when they've run out of that three-day bag of groceries?

What happens if you had to go to the food stamp office and it was 20 miles away? What happens if you went to the food stamp office and they didn't act on your application for a month or two and in the meantime you had to scrounge around trying to piece together meals from soup kitchens and food pantries? How far would you have to go? If you didn't have money for food, let's assume you didn't have money for gas. Would you do it on foot? Would you carry the children in your arms? How old are the children? How big are

they? What if it's raining? What if it's cold?

Where do you go if you're hungry? What does it look like on a map?

You can come up with other ideas. One way or another, we have to start moving beyond the pantries, wonderful as they are, to dealing with the longer-term

It is going to be very difficult to get a compassionate public response right now because the excuse will be . . . the budget.

needs and the role that the public programs can play.

Now, having said that we need both public and private responses, I'm very keenly aware of the fact that it is going to be very difficult to get a good, compassionate public response right now because the excuse will be that we can't do it because of the budget. The name of the excuse this year is going to be the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Budget Act.

This year is very unusual. The ripple effect is going to be felt in your town, in your county government, in your school board, in your state legislature. If it hasn't already started to affect you, it will very shortly . . .

It seems to me that we have a couple of choices. We can throw up our hands and say, "I can't stand it any longer. I'm going to go sell ice cream." Hopefully, we won't do that.

There is that energy and that commitment around the country. There are an awful lot of decent, caring people, and there are an awful lot of hungry people who need our help. And we are not going to be able to do the job for them if the only thing we're willing to do is give them a can of beans that we don't happen to want to eat, or give them the Soft Batch cookies that the local store couldn't sell, so they donated them to the food bank. That is not the answer to hunger. We can make other choices, and we can do better.

But, in this kind of political year, we are not going to be able to do it unless every person of conscience is willing to be involved and speak up. Each of you have to find your own way and the way that's consistent with your own conscience and your own way of acting. But it seems to me that this year particularly, since, thank goodness, we are still a democracy where every vote counts and every voice counts, doing nothing is a political act. You can't sit this one out.

This is the challenge for my generation . . . How we come through this one is going to determine what's going to happen to the next generation and to our country in very profound and fundamental ways. It's now in our hands. ■

An expert on domestic hunger, Amidei is a regular commentator on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." She is former director of the Food Research and Action Center, Washington, D.C.

TEACHING VALUES IN OUR FAMILIES

Discipleship in the Home Must Include Basic Instruction in Moral Decision-Making

By J. Clark Hensley

New Year's morning the pastor was called to the county jail to counsel a 16-year-old boy who in self-defense had killed his drunken father. Both were members of the church.

Alcohol is the No. 1 drug of abuse in families today and the preferred drug of teenagers. Year after year, 50 percent of highway traffic deaths are attributed to driving under the influence.

At midnight the counselor was called to a fashionable apartment where a young man was threatening suicide. The problem: break-up of a two-year "living together" arrangement. Both persons were from Baptist deacons' homes.

Sexual permissiveness may be the No. 1 threat to family permanence.

The Census Bureau reports two million such couples in the U.S. today. Sexual permissiveness may be the No. 1 threat to family permanence. Today's relaxed, immoral code includes pre-marital and extra-marital sexual activities. The U.S. also has the highest teenage birth rate of all developed countries.

Use of tobacco is not considered by many to be a moral question. As an early smoker I was astounded to learn my 10-year-old son felt I was on a death march. He was undergoing as much trauma as I felt by my father's use of alcohol during my boyhood. Thanks to my son,

smoking became a moral issue for me, in terms of my witness, my health and my stewardship of money.

Tobacco is the No. 1 drug of use by family members. It is the top selling item in commodities. From 1980-1983, the percentage of young women who smoke increased 3.4 percent. Meanwhile, young men are turning to snuff and chewing tobacco, choosing to ignore the potential of oral cancer from which 700 persons died in 1984.

While there are many other significant issues facing the family, these three alone, with their possible



The Southern Baptist Convention Christian Home Emphasis for 1986 is "Discipleship in the Home." Through new resources such as a church study course book and a module, both by the title of *Discipleship in the Home*, families can learn how to grow in Christian discipleship.

For more information about Christian Home Emphasis (observed by most churches from Mother's Day through Father's Day), write Family Enrichment Section, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234.

effects on your family and mine, should cause us to consider carefully the responsibility of the Christian home in teaching ethical values. Our long misapplication of the Great



Alcohol continues to be a critical family issue. It remains the preferred drug of teenagers.
(Photo by Jim Whitner)

Commission as Southern Baptists is coming home to haunt us. Jesus said, "Make disciples, then baptize, then teach." Our practice has been to baptize, failing either to make disciples before or to teach afterward.

President Calvin Coolidge is reported to have said more than three decades ago that "the true civic center of our municipalities is found around the family altars of our American homes." If it were true then, how times have changed! The scriptures clearly place the privilege of discipleship upon the home. It is in the home where faith is best shared, observed and experienced.

Too long have we delegated discipleship training to the church. It is time to hear and heed the word of Deuteronomy: "Those commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (Deut. 6:6-7, NIV). An analysis of this passage, echoed in Ephesians 6, indicates several specifics concerning the teaching responsibility of parents.

First, the teaching is to be done

Seminar To Focus On Teen Concerns

National studies in recent years have revealed some alarming trends related to sexual activity among America's teenagers.

One study claimed 80 percent of today's males and 67 percent of females are sexually active by age 19. Among these young people, half of the boys and 18 percent of the girls reported they first had intercourse at age 13 or younger.

Each year more than a million American teenage girls become pregnant. Four out of five are unmarried.

A Christian Life Commission seminar for Baptist youth ministers will address teenage sex and other moral issues facing today's teens.

The seminar, "Moral Problems and Youth," will be held April 21-23 at the SBC building in Nashville. Registration is \$20.

For details, including special hotel rates, contact David Lockard, CLC.

on the basis of experience—"these . . . shall be upon your hearts." To be sure, not all that we teach must be experienced to be learned; we can learn from the experiences of others. But we who have known the love and grace of God must share it. We must become mediators of that grace in our homes.

Second, parents are to teach diligently. We must use the teachable moments from daily events and activities. The fact that the lessons will sometimes be distorted or misunderstood by our children does not lessen the responsibility to take advantage of every teaching opportunity.

Third, consistency must be a part of our teaching. Our walk and our talk must agree. Nowhere is hypocrisy more transparent than in the home.

Some are saying the family is fast becoming an endangered species. Yet there are signs of a resurgence of concern and interest in Christian family values. Discipleship in the home must be on the cutting edge if we are to meet effectively the challenges and the threats facing today's family. ■

Hensley is executive director emeritus of the Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

ETHICS LIBRARY

Reviews of Works in Applied Christianity

Aid As Obstacle: Twenty Questions About Our Foreign Aid and the Hungry by Francis Moore Lappe, Joseph Collins and David Kinley. *Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1980. (Available for \$5.95 from IFDP, 1885 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103.)* Penetrating study about U.S. bilateral and World Bank aid. Thesis: world hunger results from the fact that poor people are without power to control "food-producing resources" and that foreign aid keeps impoverished people powerless and consequently hungry. Foreign aid exists as a barrier to ending worldwide hunger and as a benefit to U.S. economic and security interests and the elite of the recipient nation.

Authors use illustrative examples and substantive documentation to deal with 20 frequently-asked questions. They critique the web of assumptions about foreign aid, call for critical thinking and challenge Americans to believe change is possible through citizens working with others where they live while recognizing that real change takes decades or even generations.

—Robert Parham

Gospel Radicalism: The Hard Sayings of Jesus by Thaddee Matura, tr. by Maggi Despot and Paul Lachance. *Orbis, 1984.* Challenging, insightful treatment of the "hard sayings" of Jesus by this Franciscan New Testament scholar. Helpful groupings of sayings from the Synoptics and care-

ful exegesis of the texts are consistently set against the larger backdrop of the entire gospel message. Matura addresses the texts with intellectual honesty and practical realism while underscoring their relevance for today's readers. Excellent fodder for sermons—if the preacher dares to confront many popular notions of discipleship.

—David Wilkinson

A History of Black Baptists by Leroy Fitts. *Broadman, 1985.* Broadman and Fitts are to be congratulated on their commitment to fill a glaring gap in most Baptists' understanding of American church history. Fitts has accomplished a monumental task of historical research and has organized the material in a helpful format. Readers will gain both factual knowledge of black Baptist history and profound appreciation for the rich traditions of the black church.

No book is without weaknesses. Better editing could have eliminated the sometimes cumbersome and confusing sentence structure. Chapter 6 needs updating, particularly the section dealing with black Southern Baptists. Even with such weaknesses, this book is well worth reading.

—Chan C. Garrett

REVIEWERS—Parham is director of hunger concerns for the Christian Life Commission; Wilkinson is CLC director of news and information services and editor of *LIGHT*; Garrett is associate director, Black Church Relations Department, SBC Home Mission Board.

Military-Industrial Complex: What Would Eisenhower Say?

Twenty-five years ago, President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned:

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

"Today," *The Washington Post* recently reported, "the military-industrial complex—in Eisenhower's enduring phrase—is larger and more pervasive than he could have imagined. Linked by profit and patriotism, the armed services, corporations, scientists, engineers, consultants and members of Congress form a loose confederation that reaches almost every corner of American society."

Various measures illustrate the enormous power of this complex:

- The Defense Department is this country's largest single purchaser of goods and services.
- One of every 20 jobs is directly or indirectly tied to defense spending.
- Defense employs as much as one-fourth of the nation's scientists and engineers.
- In several states, defense employment is one of the largest sources of personal income.
- Five major defense contractors—Boeing, General Dynamics, Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas and Northrop—"clearly rely on government business for

90 percent or more of their operating profits," a federal report showed. Much of the defense industry business goes to contractors without competitive bids.

- The Pentagon plans to spend nearly \$300 billion this year, including \$34 billion for research and development—a sixfold increase in constant dollars over Eisenhower's last budget.

"Whether this confederation has gained 'unwarranted influence,' as critics charge, by skewing national priorities, or whether it combines the forces needed to undergird national security" continues to be "an issue of intense debate a quarter-century after Eisenhower's admonition," the *Post* reported.

—From news reports

Study Says Child Victims Hurt by Adult Legal System

Victims of child abuse should be given special consideration by the legal system so they are not traumatized by helping prosecute their attackers, a new study concludes.

In most cases, prosecutors and courts can institute simple changes to make the legal experience less intimidating for children, says the report by the National Institute of Justice, the research agency of the Justice Department.

Child victims "are needlessly victimized by the system, which was created for adults," said institute director James K. Stewart.

The report, *When The Victim Is A*

Want to Help Send the LIGHT?

LIGHT's readership continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Each issue is now being sent to more than 17,500 pastors, other church staff, denominational workers, seminary professors and students, and laypersons with special interest in applied Christianity. A number of readers have suggested a voluntary subscription program to provide a means for persons to help defray the costs of printing and mailing and to help underwrite a growing mailing list.

If you wish to contribute, a voluntary subscription is \$5.00 annually (10 issues). Checks should be made payable to *LIGHT*. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

Child, proposes that authorities in the pre-trial period videotape a child's initial statement and conduct joint interviews through one-way glass, rather than subjecting child victims to a battery of interviews.

The report concludes "virtually every cause of stress on a child witness can be ameliorated to some extent with practices that fall squarely within the trial court's discretion."

Currently 18 states bar or greatly curtail testimony from young witnesses, while federal rules in court procedure permit testimony from any competent witness regardless of age.

—The Tennessean

A BYTE OF HUMOR?

Valentine 'Suspect' on Computer Program

Who says a computer doesn't have a sense of humor?

A Christian Life Commission member's word processor recently offered an opinion on Foy Valentine which some people in Baptist life have been expressing for years.

David C. George, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville and current vice-chairman of the commission, was diligently working on his pastor's column for the church newsletter. The subject was Race Relations Sunday, and George, who is Valentine's pastor, appropriately included a reference to his prominent church member's leadership on race relations issues through the years.

After completing a draft of the column, George used a program which checks for misspellings and typos. The program stops at any word it does not recognize and offers a suggested spelling for it. If it does not find an alphabetically similar spelling, it will give a phonetic spelling.

When the computer came to the name Foy Valentine, it stopped and printed the following:

Suspect Word: Foy

Suggestion: Phooey

George couldn't help but laugh out loud "because so many benighted Baptists have had the same response."

Neilsen Rates Top Three Religion Shows on TV

More than 16.2 million households with television tune in "The 700 Club," according to Neilsen ratings for a recent four-week period.

That makes Pat Robertson the top star in religious programming, with a 19.1% share of the viewing audience as measured by Neilsen.

Numbers 2 and 3 are Jimmy Swaggart with 9.2 million households and 10.9% and Robert Schuller, 7.6 million and 9.0%

—Evangelical Newsletter

Hundreds of Wealthy Persons Legally Paid No Tax in '83

Of American taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes over \$200,000 in 1983, 447 found ways legally to reduce their tax bills to zero. That's a 71% increase over the previous year.

The figures reported by the IRS are for 1983 tax returns filed in '84. The year before, 262 taxpayers with \$200,000-plus adjusted gross incomes managed to pay no tax.

"It's a fairly rare occurrence," says tax specialist Theodore Reiner of Ernst & Whinney. "Four hundred out of 96 million returns shouldn't upset anybody."

If you're wondering how the 447 did it, don't ask the IRS. It won't discuss the specifics and won't comment on the cause of the 71% jump in the high-income, tax-free group.

—USA TODAY

U.S. Hispanic Population Continues Dramatic Growth

Hispanic population in the U.S. is 2.3 million people greater than it was in 1980, new Census Bureau figures show. Today, 16.9 million of the nation's 234.1 million people are of Spanish origin.

Hispanic population, 1980-85, grew by 16% while overall U.S. population grew by only 3.3%.

A higher percentage of Hispanics continues to live below the poverty level: 15.2% compared to 10.7% for non-Hispanics. Median income for Hispanic families is \$18,833 compared to \$26,951 for non-Hispanics.

Less than half of America's Hispanics complete four years of high school, compared to more than three-fourths of the population at large.

—USA TODAY

U.S. Farm Population Shows Decline in 1985

The financial crisis facing American farmers is being reflected in new census data showing a decline last year in the nation's farm population.

Figures released by the Census Bureau show that farm population in the U.S. dropped last year by about 7%, from

5.7 million rural residents in 1984 to 5.3 million.

By comparison, national farm population during the 1970s showed an average loss of about 3%.

Demographic experts at the Agricultural Department, which issued a joint report with the Census Bureau on the 1984 farm population, have questioned the accuracy of the 1985 figures.

But Diane DeAre, a Census Bureau analyst, said she stands behind the '85 numbers as a reflection of agriculture's growing economic problems.

In the joint report for 1984, median farm family income was \$18,925 in 1983, one-fourth less than that of non-farm families.

—Washington Post

Scientific Panel Decries Use of Smokeless Tobacco

A national scientific panel, alarmed by increased use of snuff and other smokeless tobacco, said the public should be warned of "convincing evidence" linking such products to cancer.

"This is not a safe alternative to cigarette smoking," said Brian MacMahon, chairman of the Consensus Development Conference.

Snuff, in particular, has been growing in popularity among teenage boys, who comprise nearly three million of the 10 million Americans who the panel estimates have used smokeless tobacco in the last year.

Some studies have found substantial use by grade-school boys.

Use of such products, the panel said, can cause gum problems and various ills associated with nicotine, including raised blood pressure and addiction.

The panel was convened by the National Institute of Health.

On a related issue, the American

Medical Association recently called for a ban on tobacco advertising.

While the AMA is one of the most influential lobbies in Washington, it faces formidable opposition from the tobacco industry and from media groups which take in about \$2 billion a year for tobacco ads.

The AMA says more than 300,000 deaths each year are related to tobacco use.

—From news reports

Many of the Hungry Found in Farm Belt

Many of America's hungry people live in the Farm Belt rather than in the traditional poverty pockets of the South or Appalachia, says a new study.

Researchers for the Harvard School of Public Health identified 150 counties across the country where they say poverty and restricted access to food stamps have left large numbers of residents without enough to eat.

"Hunger counties" were defined as those where more than 20% of residents live below the federal poverty level of \$10,609 for a family of four and where fewer than one-third of eligible residents receive food stamps.

Texas, with 29 counties, topped the list of states with hunger counties.

The study found no hunger counties in Mississippi, one of the nation's poorest states, because of wide distribution of food stamps.

The problem, said researcher Debby Allen, "is something we still have to find out. In rural counties, it could be a question of isolation. It could be the bureaucracy or the hostility of the people."

—USA TODAY

"Moral Scene" is compiled and edited by the editor.

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New Videotape Series Coming May 1, 1986



A new four-part videotape series on the family produced by the Christian Life Commission and the Southern Baptist Videotape Service will be ready for rental and sale by May 1, 1986.

This new series of "Help for Families" videotapes features the popular marriage and family specialist, Dr. Charles Petty, who deals with timely, sensitive subjects in a professional but down-to-earth manner.

Dr. Petty addresses the subjects of pornography, television, changing roles in marriage, and divorce. He has an uncanny knack for addressing these weighty topics with a fine blend of humor, honesty and forthrightness. Petty's entertaining delivery will help Christians remember the sound biblical principles he shares and will help them to apply them to everyday life.

These videotapes, filmed before a live audience, are excellent for use with large or small groups in a church or retreat setting or at home.

This series will be in great demand so don't wait. Rental requests will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis so reserve your show dates now. Videotapes can be purchased for \$25 each in 1/2" VHS format or \$35 each in 3/4" U-Matic format. Videotapes for rental or purchase will be mailed on or before May 1, 1986.

Help for Families: Pornography—Points out four dimensions of a person's sexuality and how pornography impacts on each of these areas. Discusses how pornography adversely affects a family and tells how a family can insulate itself from pornography.

Help for Families: Television—Discusses television's impact upon families and what families, especially those with children, can do to avoid negative viewing habits.

Help for Families: Changing Roles in Marriage—Examines traditional male and female roles which are in great transition and discusses concepts of authority, submission, equality and leadership in marriage.

Help for Families: Divorce—Gives special insight into the problem of divorce which now touches nearly every family in America. Focuses on the biblical grounds for divorce and what can be done to lower the chances of family fragmentation.

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Help for Families: Changing Roles in Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2" VHS	[] \$25	[] \$10
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