

Awake!

JANUARY 22, 1980



CAUGHT IN THE MONEY SQUEEZE

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?



WHERE WILL IT ALL END?

FEATURE ARTICLES

All over the world, rising prices are making life more difficult for people. Why is this inflation rampant everywhere, and what can you do to protect yourself? The following articles will examine such questions, and will call your attention to the solid hope of an incoming economic system that will bring prosperity and security to all.

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WHY THIS MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED

"Awake!" is for the enlightenment of the entire family. It reports the news, tells about people in many lands, examines religion and science. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real meaning behind current events, yet it stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. It also shows how to cope with today's problems. Most importantly, "Awake!" builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order within our generation.

The Bible translation used in "Awake!" is the modern-language "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures," unless otherwise indicated.

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Have You Ever Wondered

If God is love,
why does he permit
wickedness?

THIS is a valid question, and it deserves an answer. But before it's answered we should enlarge our view of wickedness and its permission. It's not realistic to limit the question to God's role in the matter. What about the role of humans? Many who object to God's permission of wickedness are persons who not only permit it but practice it themselves.

And when their practices of wickedness bring down upon their heads its penalties, why do they wail in protest, "Why me, God?" As much as to say that if it's someone else who is the victim, it's all right. This tendency of people to shift the blame to God is noted in the Bible: "A man's own folly wrecks his life, and then he bears a grudge against the LORD."—Prov. 19:3, "New English Bible."

Self-interest results in famine in many lands. Love of money makes industry pollute the environment, greatly increasing disease and deaths. By declaring wars men kill millions and maim millions more. By sowing social injustices and economic inequities people reap a bumper crop of crime. Their "new morality" ruins marriages, breaks up families and spreads venereal diseases. Overeating, they become obese and impair their health. Overdrinking, they get cirrhosis of the liver. Their heavy smoking is an invitation to lung cancer.

WHAT IF GOD STOPPED THEIRS?

Would those who complain about God's permission of wickedness be pleased if he stopped theirs? If he plucked the cigarettes from their fingers and the third or the fourth highball from their tipsy hands, would they rejoice that lung cancer and liver trouble brought about in that way had ended? And if God destroyed their armament factories, divided their food stores among the hungry and distributed their surplus wealth among the poor and disadvantaged—would they rejoice in that?

God forbids the conduct that produces most of the wickedness we now endure. It's within the people's power to stop it, but many people go right along with it.



The facts force us to conclude that it's not wickedness that most of mankind wants stopped but its consequences. They want to sow it but not reap its crop. If they can evade the consequences, many rush into wrongdoing. During blackouts when police are at a disadvantage, looters run wild. If cheating on taxes can escape detection, millions commit the crime. It's fear of punishment, not hatred of wickedness, that keeps many honest. As the Bible explains: "Because sentence against a bad work has not been executed speedily, that is why the heart of the sons of men has become fully set in them to do bad."—Eccl. 8:11.

WHY PERMITTED UNTIL NOW?

When a father gives to his son a possession or a responsibility, he is naturally interested in seeing how his son will care for what he has received. In like manner, Jehovah God made man the earth's caretaker. Man failed, disobeyed God, and thereafter Satan raised the challenge that God could not put persons on earth who would remain faithful to God.

That this issue existed is shown by God's words to Satan relative to Job: "He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil." Satan answered challengingly: "Would Job worship you if he got nothing out of it? You have always protected him." Satan was permitted to do his worst, short of killing Job, but could not break Job's integrity to God. (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-10, "Good News Bible") God has allowed Satan time to prove his challenge, even until now.

However, aside from meeting Satan's challenge, other purposes have been served by permitting hardships to befall mankind. Thousands of years of human rule have demonstrated man's inability to govern himself independent of God. "To earthling man," the inspired prophet wrote, "his way does not belong. It does

not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step." (Jer. 10:23) By experiencing hardships the nation of Israel learned that they needed God's guidance. (Ps. 107:11-13) We should learn also and realize that God's kingdom is the only way to free us from wickedness.

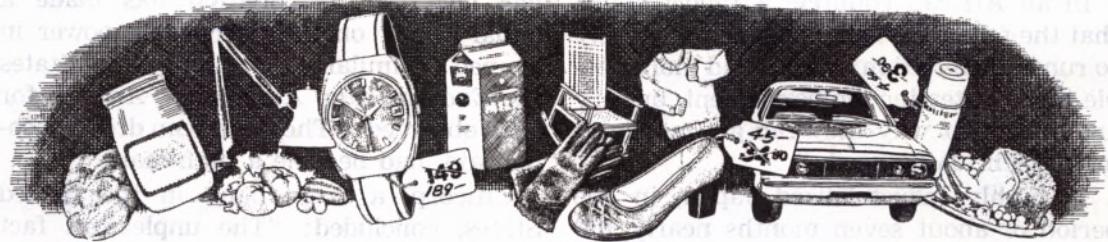
Mankind's only hope is to live in a paradise earth where God "will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore." (Rev. 21:4) Surely our appreciation of life without tears, mourning, outcry, pain or death will be greatly enhanced by our having experienced these tragedies in a world where wickedness was permitted. We take things for granted. Only after we lose them do we appreciate them.

HOW WILL GOD END WICKEDNESS?

In order to end wars, end warmongers. To end famine, end profiteers. To end pollution, end polluters. To end crime, end criminals and the bad conditions that may produce them. To end the immoralities that destroy families and breed disease, end the practitioners of immorality. Six thousand years of reformers, social workers, politicians, institutions for rehabilitation—all have failed to correct evils and end wickedness.

God's permission of wickedness will end by his removal of Satan and all humans who insist on practicing it. Many who complain of God's permitting wickedness also complain of his way of stopping it. But just as gardens can't exist full of weeds, so a peaceful paradise can't exist filled with evildoers. God's way is the practical way: "The upright are the ones that will reside in the earth, and the blameless are the ones that will be left over in it. As regards the wicked, they will be cut off from the very earth; and as for the treacherous, they will be torn away from it."—Prov. 2:21, 22.

What is happening to prices?



A MAN and his wife stopped at a grocery store to buy just a few small items. The clerk took the \$10 bill (U.S.) that the couple gave her in payment, but returned only 40 cents. The wife, expecting much more change, exclaimed: "Oh, Miss, you've given us the wrong change! We gave you a 10-dollar bill!" The clerk answered: "But that IS the right change! Those items now cost \$9.60."

The husband held the small bag of items in the palm of one hand, shook his head in disbelief and muttered: "What's happening to prices anyway?"

If you shop on any regular basis, you well know what has happened to most prices: they have been on a relentless surge upward. True, prices have been rising for many years, especially since World War II. But never has the increase been so persistent and so much as it has recently.

Nor is the situation confined to just a few nations. The entire world, practically without exception, is plagued by this phenomenon, including even the tightly controlled economies of Communist lands. And this is unique, because never before have all nations undergone such inflation at the same time.

"I'd starve to death if I didn't hold down two jobs"

Of course, wealthier persons are not bothered much by most price increases.

They can afford to pay more. But the overwhelming majority of people in the world are not wealthy, and many of them are suffering because of what is happening.

In country after country, polls show that people consider their greatest problem to be inflation. They feel as though they are in a trap that is closing in, with no way out. Many husbands work overtime, or on a second job. Many wives also work now; in some lands more than half of them do. Family life is affected, because one of the major reasons for family breakdowns is the fighting over money.

An American housewife lamented: "I wonder whether we'll ever get ahead." But while she was wondering about 'getting ahead,' others were wondering about survival. A truck driver in Brazil commented: "I'm getting panicky these days with the absurd cost of living. It seems as though there is no way out." In that same land, not unusual is the situation of one husband who has two jobs, works 12 hours a day, six days a week. His wife teaches sewing and also works as a seamstress at home. They stated: "Caring for a family becomes increasingly difficult." Indeed, one janitor in Brazil said: "We are not sure whether we are living or just existing."

It should not be thought that this situation exists only in poorer countries. In the United States, an Atlanta woman works 40 hours a week as a hair stylist and then as a waitress on weekends. She says: "I'd starve to death if I didn't hold down two

jobs; there's no way I could pay my rent." Her situation, too, is not all that unusual.

In an African country, a report states that the following is happening due largely to runaway inflation: "More and more people turn to stealing, embezzlement, bribery and any other way they can get money to meet their daily needs."

In highly industrialized Japan, in one period of about seven months nearly 100 people killed themselves because of troubles caused by *sarakin* (loan sharks). These people had gone deeply into debt, borrowed at high-interest rates, and could not pay the money back. Unable to face life, they committed suicide.

"The party's over," says economist

Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., asserted regarding the economic situation: "The party's over." He said that the days of unparalleled prosperity in some places must now be changed for discipline, sacrifice and a lower standard of living.

In France, a commentator declared: "The dream of a 'new society' of abun-

dance promised toward the end of the 1960's and extolled during the early 1970's has died out as inflation has made a lethal attack on the purchasing power in France." Similarly, in the United States the *Encyclopedia Americana Annual* for 1979 observed: "The American dream, people said, had become a nightmare."

Citicorp, a large bank in the United States, concluded: "The unpleasant fact is that the persistent inflation afflicting most countries will, if allowed to continue, ultimately have consequences that go far beyond what is narrowly defined as economic."

Yes, unchecked inflation can mean much more than just a matter of some people having less. It can threaten the entire way of life of a nation. In fact, in the past it has destroyed the economies of nations. This time, inflation threatens the whole world, and not just economically, but with staggering political and social consequences as well.

Just how much inflation is being experienced now? Why is it happening? What can you do about it? And where will it all end?

Inflation tightens its grip

"WE HAVE to recognize that we are at war . . . with inflation," declared *Business Week* magazine. It added: "We are, moreover, losing that war."

The "war" against inflation was being lost in the sense that, regardless of the measures taken so far, inflation has tightened its grip on the world's economy.

As a result, there is a loss of confidence in money—that is, paper money. This can

be seen from the price of gold. Historically, gold has been the "money" of last resort, most valued in times of trouble. So it is a kind of "barometer" of economic conditions. Less than 10 years ago the price of gold was \$35 (U.S.) an ounce. But in 1979 it went over \$444 an ounce! This represents a large measure of lost confidence in paper money, and is an indication of how savage inflation has been.

All during the 19th century prices were relatively stable. But after World War I they became more erratic. Then, after World War II inflation became a part of everyday life. In recent years it has become more pronounced than ever, so that even during recessions inflation persists.

During one month in 1979 inflation in the United States registered 12 percent above the previous year, 15 percent in Japan, 18 percent in Britain and over 10 percent in France. The Federal Republic of Germany, with one of the more stable economies, experienced a 10-percent jump that month.

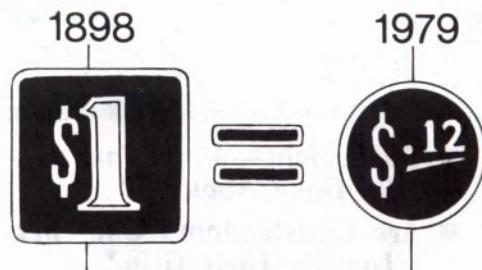
The Philippines reports that since 1966 the price of food, clothing and fuel has more than quadrupled. The price of Japan's staple food, rice, increased over 500 percent in two decades. Brazil admitted that inflation in 1979 would be about 40 percent, as in 1978. There, the magazine *Administracão e Servicos* observed, "68 million Brazilians are not able even to think about buying a simple electric iron" because of having to spend their money for necessities.

Some African countries have inflation rates of over 100 percent for just one year. Israel's rate was near that last year, and since its founding over 30 years ago the consumer price index there has risen over 5,000 percent!

The situation in the United States demonstrates what can happen over the years because of inflation. The dollar that was worth 100 cents in 1898 is now worth only 12 cents.

Workers whose wages just keep pace with inflation are being hurt two ways

However, have not wages also increased? Yes, they have. And for many workers wage increases have been greater than the



The U.S. Dollar Shrinks

inflation rate, so their standard of living has improved.

That is not the case with many other workers, though. In the United States, for example, about half of all workers find that inflation grows faster than their incomes, meaning a decline in their living standards.

Further, many poor people and persons on fixed incomes have fallen far behind. Note just one sample of this, a retired schoolteacher in New York city, who said:

"My present annual City pension is \$4,439 [below the poverty level in the United States]. That we find it difficult to get along despite our heroic efforts at economy will, we are sure, not surprise you."

"We have no car. We do not own our own home. We rent the same small apartment we have lived in for more than 35 years. We take no vacations. We do not travel. We do not eat out. We consistently shop only [at] sales, and only for the most important necessities."

"We use no tobacco. We never indulge in liquor—not even in an occasional beer. We have not been to the theater or even to a neighborhood motion picture since my retirement more than 21 years ago."

"We do not entertain. We spend no money on gifts to friends or relatives. We content ourselves with the occasional good will postcard for important occasions. We do not regularly buy a daily newspaper anymore."

"My wife and I are both in our mid-seventies. Neither of us is well or able to work."

In Future Issues

- **Overweight—What Can Be Done About It?**
- **Are Christendom's Churches Loosing Their Grip?**
- **What Is Death?**

Workers whose wages just keep pace with inflation are also being hurt. Why? Because inflation's bite cuts two ways. Not only do increasing prices reduce the value of hard-earned money, but corresponding wage increases put workers into higher tax brackets, exposing them to heavier tax burdens. The result is a net loss of purchasing power.

Also, inflation often penalizes thrifty persons who put money in savings banks. In one country, the interest paid by the banks was only about half the inflation rate. So at year's end, the bank account, including interest, was worth less than at the start of the year. What made this worse was that the interest was taxable.

People carry heavier and heavier debt

The money squeeze has resulted in an enormous increase in personal debts of all kinds. One reason is that people do not want to try to save money before buying things they desire. So they go into debt to get them.

But another growing cause for this debt is that, due to inflation's relentless surge, more people now borrow money just to maintain what they have. And the *Americana Annual* for 1979 also noted: "Those

who once borrowed rarely, and only for big ticket items, sometimes found their borrowings paying for necessities instead."

Then there are those who see no future ahead and so adopt the 'eat, drink and be merry' attitude, trying to enjoy all they can before it is too late. As one such person said: "I have a sort of doomsday-type attitude." Some others even borrow heavily with no intention of paying back, which amounts to stealing.

U.S. News & World Report called the trend in debt "a tidal wave" that is "throwing a new scare into economists." It also said: "Never before have people relied so much on borrowed money." Any severe economic setback would bankrupt millions of these people.

Why is there so much inflation today?

What is causing the type of inflation that is so rampant throughout the world today? Authorities do not agree on every aspect of the problem. But most of them do agree that one of the main culprits is the spending of more money than what is being made and going into debt to finance this spending. As the *Times of London* reported: "What is inflation, after all? . . . It's an economist's word for over-consumption; for living beyond your income; for taking more out of the kitty than you put in."

When governments spend more money than they take in from taxes, they must "create" money to make up the deficit. *Harper's magazine* put it this way: "The debt arising from the government expenditures that taxes won't pay for is covered by creating fresh new dollars." *The Wall Street Journal* also noted:

"By far the largest part of the upward pressure on prices, . . . has been inflation."

in the literal sense. That is, it's caused by a huge expansion of the money supply from years of excessive government deficits financed by the creation of money and credit, the modern equivalent of . . . running the printing presses."

An example of this source of inflation is the domestic debt of the United States. The government has had 17 years of deficits in the last 18. Whereas it took 167 years for the debt to reach the first \$100 billion, it now increases by that amount every year! The total is expected to pass one trillion dollars soon. And the interest on this debt is about \$60 billion a year now, the third largest government expense. All of this means more money chasing goods and services, pulling their prices up, as at an auction.

Making the situation worse is the oil problem. Only a handful of nations produce more oil than they use. These nations have banded together in OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. They have increased the price of oil to more than 10 times what it was a decade ago. Since so many things—gasoline, heating oil, plastics, chemicals and others—are petroleum-based, their prices rise accordingly.

Because of these factors, some nations now are so heavily in debt that they are

being kept economically alive only by further massive infusions of credit. Some of these countries cannot even pay the interest on their debt from their own resources, much less the debt itself.

Some economists wonder if inflation has gone beyond curing

How can inflation be cured? A number of economists wonder if the situation has not gone beyond curing. They compare it to a heroin addict who is too far gone, demanding more and more heroin to produce diminishing effects. If he continues, the drug will kill him. If he withdraws, the consequences of his drug-taking may still shorten his life.

To stop inflation, the overspending by governments, businesses and individuals must be severely cut. But this would mean people buying less, and so businesses would produce less. This would throw many people out of work, hence a severe recession or depression. The world economic system is now geared to such a high state of production from overspending that some observers claim it already is too late to be cut back drastically without causing about as much harm as is caused by the inflation itself.

What can you do about inflation?

THERE is little that you, personally, can do to stop worldwide inflation. You cannot control government budgets, mounting debts of others or economic policies of nations. But there are things that you can do to help cope with the money squeeze.

For one thing, if you live in a more developed country, it may mean settling for a lower standard of living. That is, it may mean doing without certain things that you have come to take for granted, but which most people in poorer lands never had in the first place. While this prospect

may seem very undesirable, it needs to be faced to prevent increasing frustration.

Too, as money becomes tighter, marriage mates need to talk openly and calmly about how their income will be used. Where the wife also works at a secular job, the need for communication over how family income is to be spent becomes greater. If the husband, or wife, spends without consulting the other mate, problems can mount.

Family food bills can be pared 20 percent if children are not allowed to go grocery shopping

The trend in food costs is up, up and up. How have some families saved money here, aside from the obvious way of cutting back on the more expensive foods? An *Awake!* correspondent in Japan says:

"Food is the biggest single expense on the budget of Japanese families. So the advertising sections in newspapers are carefully looked over so that all the bargains on shopping days can be taken advantage of.

"Also, at many supermarkets, just before closing, certain items are reduced in price in an effort to sell them before the day is over. Or, these same items, the first thing the next morning, are set out at the reduced prices to make them move before spoiling. Some housewives make an effort to shop at these times, and keep the family reasonably fed at moderate prices."

Joseph Coyle, a food editor in the United States, claims that people can save from 20 to 40 percent on purchases by making up a shopping list after studying advertisements on the best food-sales' days. In some places, 'no frill' stores sell at discounts because of having lower expenses.

In a recent year, grocery manufacturers in the United States issued 62 billion (thousand million) coupons offering price reductions, with an average value of 15 cents (U.S.) per coupon. These coupons are found

in magazines, newspapers and sales brochures. The key here is not buying a product merely because it is advertised at a reduced price, but buying the product you need at such prices.

Newsweek magazine observed: "Family food bills . . . can be pared by 20 per cent if children are not allowed to go grocery shopping—and aren't able to wheedle extra purchases from their parents." Too, a shopping list of genuine needs (not just wants) is important to avoid 'impulse buying' in stores. And when shopping, look for unbranded products that have the same nutritional value as advertised brands, but that cost less.

A Brazilian husband whose family is being hurt by inflation comments: "We had to cut down on luxuries, and my wife cooperates in every possible way. She never throws away any leftovers from meals." Others save by having the husband take his lunch to work instead of eating out.

It makes sense to save by cutting nonessentials

When money is tight, it makes sense to save by cutting back on, or cutting out, nonessentials. One such is the tobacco habit. It is not only costly, but deadly, since about 90 percent of all lung cancers, and many other health disorders, come from smoking, truly a habit that is a "defilement of flesh." (2 Cor. 7:1) Those who have given it up by exercising self-control find that they save hundreds of dollars a year.

Similarly, alcoholic beverages are costly, and their excessive use can damage health, and even family life. While the moderate use of alcoholic beverages is not condemned in the Bible, overuse is. (Prov. 23:29-35; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10) Here, too, hundreds of dollars a year can be saved.

Another source of savings has to do with recreation. It is not really necessary to spend hundreds, or thousands, of dollars to enjoy a change of pace from work. Commercial advertisers may make it appear that traveling to faraway places and staying at luxurious hotels are musts, but that is not the case. Traveling to places of interest near home, going on family outings, visiting with friends and other inexpensive forms of recreation can be very enjoyable. Appropriate television programs can help fill the gap left by cutting down on expensive movies and theaters.

In the old days families did not have radios, stereo sets, television, movies or other modern forms of entertainment. And the average family back there rarely, if ever, 'ate out' at restaurants. Yet they had wholesome forms of recreation and a measure of enjoyment in life—perhaps even more than we do in today's complex world. True, times are different, but humans are not that much different. They can still enjoy simpler, less expensive forms of recreation.

Many women now save much money by making their own clothes. Initiative and practice really pay off here. As an example, a housewife saw a relatively simple dress that she liked in a department store, but it was priced at over \$50 (U.S.). Instead of buying the dress, she purchased similar material and made the dress for less than \$5.

Certain stores sell secondhand clothing in very good condition, so a considerable saving can be made. Some people cut costs by washing their own clothes instead of having them laundered. They wash items such as sweaters in lukewarm water by hand rather than having them dry-cleaned, sending out only those things they cannot do themselves.

An important factor in saving on clothes is not being too concerned about fashion. Many people throw away good clothing

just because of style changes. But one man, noting that even men's styles were more swiftly changed now, declared: "Not this time! I'll never again be a slave to fashion designers trying to get me to part with my money. I wear what I have as long as it is neat, clean and respectable, regardless of what the fashion people say."

Another area that has resulted in much saving for some is learning how to make simple repairs at home. This not only saves repair costs, but gets much longer use out of appliances, furniture and other items.

One husband states that he has saved about \$200 a year on haircuts. His wife agreed to learn how to cut his hair, and is getting better with experience. With such varied hairstyles these days, the haircut does not have to be perfect anyhow.

Medical costs can be reduced by comparing prices of doctors, treatments and medicines. A television news team, visiting a number of different drugstores within a few blocks of one another, found that the cost of the identical prescription drug varied from two to five times as much from one store to another.

Of course, the list of things that can be done to save money is much longer. But these samples show that a little thought and planning can help in this time of money pressure.

Too large an appetite for material things has wrecked many a family

One of the greatest sources of trouble these days is having too large an appetite for material things. It has been the financial ruination, and home wrecker, for all too many families.

Some want more material things to 'keep up with the Joneses.' But such false pride can be very costly. Appropriately, one wit already has noted that it simply does not

make sense 'to spend money you do not have, to buy things you do not need, just to impress someone you may not even like.'

Regarding the need to control material desires, a family wrote the following to *U.S. News & World Report*:

"Our family lives happily on the amount many two-income parents pay day-care centers. We fight inflation by guarding against double-digit desire for material goods."

"We have a peace about raising our own children and find security in being a 'traditional family.' Full-time homemaking will never be obsolete because it is God's way for a woman to be perfectly fulfilled. 'Expectations about what marriage should be' have nothing to do with income. People, not combined incomes, make a marriage. People, not material goods, make a family."

The curbing of material desires is particularly helpful in avoiding a prime cause of unhappiness: an overload of debt. Borrowing too much money, and living with the frustration of trying to pay it back, is a sure path to trouble. Accurately the Bible states: "Borrow money and you are the lender's slave."—Prov. 22:7, *Good News Bible*.

According to interviews with families in serious credit trouble, many of their purchases were not needed. A young couple married only two years had already accumulated huge debts. Rather than pay those off first, they continued to borrow and spend. Their lack of self-control regarding material things soon took them into bankruptcy. Yet they told a credit

counselor that they had spent money only "on necessities." When questioned, it was found that these "necessities" included very expensive vacations and costly clothes that they really did not need at all.

Debt advisers suggest analyzing your take-home pay to see what percent of it you use for debt repayments. If, aside from a home mortgage, it is much over 10 percent, you are heading for danger. Some of these credit managers relate that when their clients cannot control their use of credit cards, they ask for these cards and tear them up in their presence. They note, interestingly, that this often causes "emotional hurt" to those who viewed credit cards as friends instead of the potential destroyers that they are to those who cannot use them wisely.



Rejecting excessive pursuit of material things can help to prevent serious problems

"The love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things," the Bible states. "And by reaching out for this love," it adds, many people "have stabbed themselves all over with many pains." (1 Tim. 6:10) Those truths are becoming more evident with each passing day.

What happens to those who make the materialistic view the main force in their lives? Our correspondent in Japan notes:

"In Japan, the average family simply takes on more work. The husband and wife work full time, plus overtime. Although they may feel that they are coping with inflation, it is the family that suffers because there is no mutual, upbuilding association."

"The whole effort is very shortsighted. It only concentrates on NOW, TODAY. The fu-

ture is not brought into the picture and hope is not part of the daily life."

But without upbuilding association, and without a genuine hope for the future, what will happen if the wife loses her income, or the husband does, or both of them do? When this world's economic systems are brought to ruin, what will happen to people who make the acquiring

of material things their chief aim in life?

Will this really happen? Yes, without fail! And this is what makes your view toward inflation, toward money and toward material things not just an exercise in coping with temporary economic difficulties. What you need to prepare for is the coming annihilation of all of today's economic systems.

The end of today's economic systems

IF YOU designed a machine and it did not work well, what would you do? You would likely try one modification after another to see if it would work better. But what if you found that after each repair it got worse? Would it not be time to consider that the machine itself was unsatisfactory, and that a different kind was needed?

Today's economic systems are not working for the good of all mankind. There are enormous injustices in them. Hardworking people see their money eaten away by inflation. Hundreds of millions live in poverty. Other hundreds of millions do not even have the necessities of life. The *New York Times* reported of some lands: "For many poor people the price of a single meal now exceeds a day's income," which is a striking fulfillment of the Bible prophecy, "A whole day's wage for a loaf of bread." —Rev. 6:6, *Weymouth*, Fifth edition.

Really, today's economic and money systems cannot bring the peace, security and prosperity mankind so desires. Selfishness, greed, pride and a heartless lack of concern for others are built into them.

What does all of this mean? Why the worldwide inflation, as well as food short-

ages, wars and other unprecedented troubles since 1914?

All these things are a sign of the times. They are conditions that were foretold to be a part of the "last days" of the present system of things. And included in the foretold conditions is that people would be "lovers of themselves, lovers of money, . . . without self-control, . . . lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God." All these things are part of today's political, economic, social and religious systems.—2 Tim. 3:1-5.

Hence, today's money instability and hard economic times for so many are part of the evidence that this system of things is rushing toward its finish, as Jesus himself foretold. (Matt. 24:3-14) Any patch-work improvements to try to keep today's economic systems going will be very short-lived. No repair can undo the selfishness, greed and injustice that are built into them.

So what all these things really mean is that this present unsatisfactory system is moving toward its greatest crash ever, but by divine action, not human failure. As Jesus put it: "For then there will be great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again."—Matt. 24:21.

Comfortingly, though, God's prophetic Word promises that this time of coming trouble will be followed by "a new earth" in which "righteousness is to dwell." (2 Pet. 3:13) That "new earth" means a new human society, which will include a new economic system, one that will work for the good of every person. The promise is: "The LORD Almighty will prepare a banquet for all the nations of the world —a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine. Here he will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow that has been hanging over all the nations."—Isa. 25:6-8, *Good News Bible*.

"In order to clear up the present economic problems everything must be set back to zero"

What will soon happen, then, is similar to what a Japanese businessman answered when asked about a solution to today's economic turmoil. He remarked: "In order to clear up the present economic problems everything must be set back to zero." He rightly saw the hopelessness of ever repairing the system. And God's Word agrees: it is too far gone. Hence, it will not be repaired, but will be demolished.

The possibility of today's economic systems crashing has been a more frequent topic of discussion among economists lately. For instance, American financial commentator Sylvia Porter spoke of the real possibility of an "inflationary blowoff in this nation and the world, destroying the confidence in any investment in 'paper' [money], and so undermining the functioning of our international monetary system that trade among nations would grind to a near standstill." The columnist added:

"The blowout would then ripple out to cause a rash of bankruptcies among businesses, a collapse of the dangerously swollen

credit bubble, an upsurge in unemployment, foreclosures of vastly overextended mortgage credit, and repossession of goods bought on installment loans the debtors could not repay.

"The scenario becomes more scary even as I write it."

"Nations cannot go on borrowing to improve living standards"

Political commentator Jack Anderson similarly commented on the shaky money situation, stating:

"Nations cannot go on borrowing to improve living standards. The money can never be paid back unless it is invested in production instead of consumption. For many countries, the debt is already greater than they can absorb without a financial breakdown. . . .

"Skyrocketing prices keep adding to the bad debts until the whole banking system is threatened with collapse."

The American Institute for Economic Research makes the following observations:

"During the next several years, the following economic developments seem highly probable:

"A severe and prolonged worldwide depression. . . .

"During a prolonged depression, social disorder might well become extreme. . . .

"Any person or family who appears to be substantially better off than those who are most adversely affected may become the target for mob violence."

When people rob, rape, mug and murder in such increasing numbers *now*, in a time of relative peace and prosperity, they would do much worse if a breakdown occurred. An evidence of this is what happened during the blackout in New York city in 1977. In certain areas anarchy prevailed. Looting, vandalism and robberies were epidemic. The police admitted that they were helpless.

Similarly, in an African country, a one third increase in the price of rice sparked rioting and looting in the capital city. The streets looked as if a war had just been fought. Martial law was declared and a strict curfew imposed.

"Into the streets they will throw their very silver, and an abhorrent thing their own gold will become"

Concerning what lies ahead for the entire world, the Bible speaks of a "great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning until now, no, nor will occur again." During that time, paper money will be worthless. Why, Bible prophecy even says: "Into the streets they will throw their very silver, and an abhorrent thing their own gold will become. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Jehovah's fury."

—Ezek. 7:19.

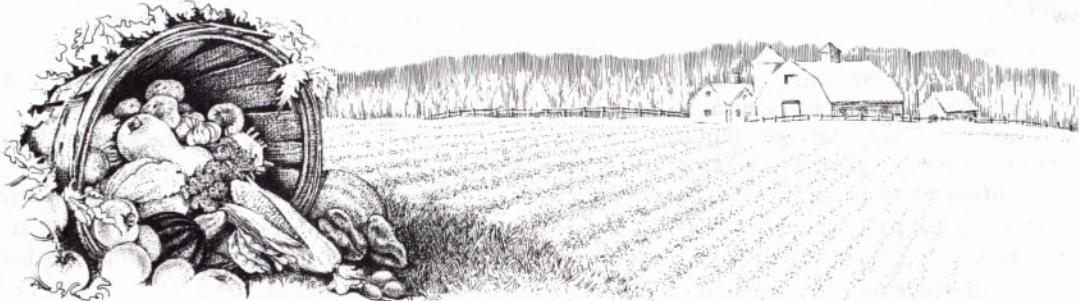
No human leader, nor any form of human government, will be able to forestall the coming "great tribulation," since it is God's judgment against this present wicked system. That is why his Word warns: "Do not put your trust in nobles, nor in the son of earthling man, to whom no salvation belongs." (Ps. 146:3) What, then, is the right course to take? The Bible answers: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding."—Prov. 3:5.

Those who trust in Jehovah now he promises to help even in an economic way. No, God will not provide his servants with luxuries, but he has promised them the necessities of life. (Matt. 6:24-34; Ps. 37:25) Nor does this mean that those who trust God will have an easy time in life, since they too are affected by bad conditions in the world. But they will certainly have more success than others do in coping with today's troublesome times.

In addition, such ones will have the assurance of God's protection during the coming crash, and of surviving into a righteous new system. (1 John 2:15-17; Ps. 37:27, 34, 37) That is why a family in Brazil who learned to trust Jehovah states: "Although beset by economic problems, we are a happy family because we know Jehovah, the happy God, and we know his purposes."

"Raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because your deliverance is getting near"

So, regardless of how severe the money squeeze becomes, there is the sure hope of the best of times directly ahead in God's new order. Hence, persons who have the right hope based on accurate knowledge, and who trust in God and not in material wealth, can 'raise themselves erect, and lift their heads up, because their deliverance is getting near.'—Luke 21:28.



Why Be A Scientist?

This was the question to be answered in an essay competition for young, aspiring scientists. The British magazine, "New Scientist," September 6, 1979, published the winning essay, by 15-year-old Gabrielle Horne of Blackheath, London.

"AS I see it, science today, for all its headlong onrush, lacks an inner sense of direction." She sees this lack as demanding a new kind of scientist: "Scientists can no longer continue along the road of 'scientific progress' without relating—imaginatively and vividly—to the effects the negative aspects of their work are having on our planet. We need a new breed of scientist/philosopher." She then lists some of the negative aspects.

¶ "Man, drunk on science, has become the bull in the china shop of nature." By burning fossil fuels, man has increased the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which could build up heat and a "greenhouse effect" that could ultimately render the earth uninhabitable.

¶ "Western man has behaved collectively like a drunken sailor. Worse—we have in effect said that so long as we can ride our motor cars today we don't care if our children and grandchildren starve, or freeze to death, or blow themselves up with nuclear reactors tomorrow!"

¶ By the use of certain insecticides, poisons accumulate in worms, which birds eat and they perish in the hundreds of thousands. "Another example," she says, "of our blindness to the cause-and-effect relationship has followed the deforestation of tropical areas for agriculture: this process also produced conditions favourable to the tsetse fly, which as a result proliferated and spread epidemics of sleeping sickness."

¶ The listing of such examples could continue ad nauseam. Man's calloused indifference to the environment is made more destructive than ever because of the tools placed in his hands by science, even to the point of wiping out man himself. She illustrates effectively this danger:

¶ "It could be said that, by gaining the incredible power that science has placed in our hands, we inevitably sow the seeds of our own destruction; that any species dominating the Earth to the extent that it endangers the survival of its co-inhabitants is bound to self-destruct, therein lying nature's safety valve. Just as a cancer destroys itself in killing its host, so man endangers himself through despoilation of the very resources he himself needs in order to survive."

¶ She feels the urgency of a new approach that will give moral direction to science, and feels that involvement in this endeavor is a strong incentive to be a scientist. Here's how she expresses it:

¶ "It is to meet this ominous aspect of the future that a new brand of scientist must evolve. A specialist who does not confine himself to pure science, but who is aware that above all science needs moral direction. To become a scientist now is to take up the direst moral challenge mankind has ever faced."

¶ Gabrielle Horne's awareness of danger from amoral science is commendable. It is shared by multitudes. But history shows that the perception of distant dangers has far less to do with the course of human events than present expediencies. As long as the threat is to a future generation, the present one will be more influenced by whatever affects it. Actually, this generation is already adversely affected by pollution, but until the damages are more obviously catastrophic, this truth will be conveniently obscured by the love of money and the mania for fleshly comforts.

¶ Nearly 19 centuries ago the Bible foretold not only the present polluting of the earth but also pollution's end. It will come, not from "scientist/philosophers" or other men, but from God himself. He is the one foretold "to bring to ruin those ruining the earth."—Rev. 11:18.



How Do You View Your Children?

"**A** BLESSING." "A gift from God." "A real joy." "A delight to our hearts." How heartwarming to hear such expressions from various parents! Particularly in view of the fact that not all parents consider their children a blessing.

But the question is: How do *you* feel about *your* children? Do you delight in the many facets of your role as a parent? Do you constantly assure your children of your love and gratefulness for having them? When last have you taken them in your arms and expressed your affection for them?

Assuredly, being a parent is not an easy task. It is hard, demanding work and oftentimes frustrating. Nevertheless, it can be extremely rewarding. And the good results achieved far outnumber the problems encountered along the way. Many parents feel that way. Do you?

Of course, there are dissenting views. Not all parents approach their roles with joy. To some, their children may represent a loss of privacy or freedom, since the children may have interrupted some

planned pursuit. Others may not have been emotionally ready for the complex roles involved in parenthood. Still others may have resented the sacrifices for which their roles called. But whatever the reason, it is, nevertheless, sad. Especially since such negative attitudes will undoubtedly affect how these parents will regard and treat their children. Why, some parents even refer to their *own* children as "brats" or "devils." It is little wonder, then, that certain children are unmanageable. They feel unwanted and unloved, and in various ways they seek to strike back.

Positive Aspects of Being a Parent

But what about those parents who do love and cherish their children? Can we learn anything from them? Can their view of their children give us some insight to help us to evaluate our own feelings? Indeed they can. The positive way they feel about their children is evident in the fruitage they bear: children who respond with love and obedience to the training and care they receive and who grow up into responsible and loving adults. Then they, in turn, eventually pass on to their own children the principles and fine training they received while young. And is that not what parenting is all about?

But what about your children? Are they responsive,

obedient, respectful? If not, do not despair. You are not unreasonable to expect such reaction to your training. Why do we say this? Because children were put under the direct control of their parents by the Creator himself. It is truly a godly arrangement. Ephesians 6:1, 2 states: "Children, be obedient to your parents in union with the Lord, for this is righteous: 'Honor your father and your mother'; which is the first command with a promise." This scripture, then, encourages your children to obey you in your God-given role.

To be successful requires hard work. As one widowed mother of five boys declared: "I spent time training them and now I see benefits coming from them—their conduct, their attitudes. They're not wild; but tame and respectful. The boys now say: 'Well, mother, you've been around longer than we have—you should know.' To me that's a blessing." How many mothers would not want to hear such expressions from their children?

On the other hand, if the children are to be responsive, the parents must be really interested in what their children are doing. It is not enough for the parents to set up rules and regulations to be followed. They must do all they can to keep the lines of communication open with their children. Those who keep up with their children's hobbies and interests have little trouble communicating with them. The mother of an 11-year-old boy attested to this fact:

"I'm learning things from him that I wouldn't ordinarily be interested in. For instance, I thought it would be good for him to care for something besides himself and so I got him some tropical fish. Well, not only did it work for him; it worked for me as well. Now I get so much pleasure in seeing those fish respond to me. As his interests expand, I find myself growing with him and it's drawn us closer together."

Is that true in your case?

In recent times, some fathers have become more involved in the emotional as-

pects of caring for their children. They have long been regarded as the disciplinarians in the family. But recent trends have projected them into areas of planning and caring for them as babies. One father said:

"I firmly believe that fathers should have an active part in their children's birth if at all possible. So I was in the delivery room when our first daughter was born. Well, I can't describe in words the beautiful feeling I had when the doctor put her in my arms for the first time right after her birth. Then and there I offered up audible words of thanks and praise to Jehovah God for this blessing. And my wife and I still think of both our girls as such."

Can All Children Be Viewed as a Blessing?

What about children who are not born normal and healthy? Can they also be viewed as a blessing? And can their parents also find joy in fulfilling their roles? Let us have the parents of a retarded child with a bad heart condition answer these questions. First the father: "The doctors told us that we could give her up since she was going to die anyway. I asked them what could be done for her and they seemed surprised that we wanted to keep her. They said nothing could be done and they let us take her home to die." The mother continued:

"From the start they encouraged us to institutionalize her but we wouldn't hear of it. We never thought for a moment of not loving her. Why, she was our long-hoped-for daughter (after 4 boys) and we just wanted her with us. Now the doctors are amazed at her improvement. She is now 14 months old, although they said she couldn't live past three months. She knows she's loved and this has blossomed her development despite her retardation and serious heart condition. And she's the most loving child I've ever seen. Of course, I love her because I'm her mother. But to see the love that Jehovah God has for her, that's what's tremendous. He and He alone has kept her going. So how can we not worship such a God?"

Admittedly, it is much harder financially and especially emotionally on the parents whose children are afflicted in some way. But such children require even more love and attention than normal children. And when the parental love is there, the child will usually respond in a positive way.

How to Cope with Problems

Nevertheless, problems do arise and the question is: What can parents do to cope with them? Little is accomplished by merely barking out orders to be obeyed. If children with problems are not allowed to communicate with their parents, resentment can develop and disrespect will naturally follow. As Ephesians 6:4 admonishes: "And you, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah."

One father of four boys shows the results of following such admonition: "I try my best to listen to them; to find out what's on their minds. Only then can I really help them. I conduct a weekly Bible study and we usually let the Bible solve their problems. The boys understand that the instructions we give come from God and not from us, and it's a great help."

Another great help in coping with problems is being available. When children have problems, that is when they need their parents the most. One mother expressed herself this way: "We are always available. We let them know they can come to us with anything. Even when the problem may be small to us, it's often very big to them; and that's what matters at the time. Because they know we care, they come to us with everything." How fine it would be if all children were free to approach their parents with any problem without first being condemned or criticized! Is that true in your case? Do you encourage your children to talk freely to you while you *quietly listen*?

Keeping your word is another important thing for you parents to remember. It seems that children can take a lot of things, but they cannot take disappointments or changes well. As one mother pointed out: "Making promises I can't keep only creates frustrations in the children. They depend a lot on my word. So once I give it, I try to stick to it. Then if I can't do something, I explain why and say I'm sorry. That lets them know that I fall short too at times and that has created a bond between us."

When last have you expressed sorrow to your children for not being able to keep your word?

What Should Be Avoided?

There are some things that parents, if given a second chance, would do differently. Some have regretted not listening enough to their children. Others have regretted jumping to conclusions when first approached. They may have been hasty in their judgments. Getting all the facts before making a judgment is the wise course.

Another important thing is to be impartial in dealing with children. Comparing one child with another is unwise and unjust. It can foster jealousy and resentment. Children have different talents and each one has his worth. When one is compared to another disparagingly, it cuts down the confidence and self-esteem in one and fosters superiority and haughtiness in the other.

Another thing that should be avoided is to allow children the indiscriminate use of the television set. "Nothing has so altered the condition of childhood in a single generation as has television." (New York Times, March 4, 1979) The truthfulness of this statement has alerted many parents to the powerful effect that watching television has over their children. No one can deny it can have educational value, but, at the same time, if caution is not

used, children can be adversely affected, for example, by a steady diet of violent programs. In fact, the recent increase in juvenile crimes has been directly attributed by some to the children's watching certain programs with violent themes.

Pal or Parent—Which?

Too much television watching may not be a problem in your family. You may even spend a good deal of time with your children personally, and that is commendable. But what kind of relationship do you have with them? Do they regard you as a parent or as a pal? It has been noted that in some homes, the children are allowed to treat and talk to their parents as equals. And when the relationship becomes too chummy the parents may find it difficult to administer discipline when it is necessary. It could even plant the seed of disrespect not only for the parents but for those outside the family circle.

One mother, disapproving of such relationship, said: "They don't see you as someone older to be listened to and obeyed. A 'pal' is on their own level, and children cannot think, reason or correct themselves as adults. They need their parents for that role." Her husband added:

"I believe in being a parent first, because if the firmness and respect are there, the friendship will follow and grow. Our children are encouraged to express themselves freely as long as they are respectful. We often tell them: 'It's not what you say, but how you say it.' We're trying to teach them how to say things. If they don't respect us, whom will they respect?"

Of course, this is not to imply that parents and children cannot be friends in the

true sense of the word. Many parents have a good, warm relationship with their children, and the children respond with love and respect. But in a world where respect for older persons is rapidly diminishing, care should be exercised that nothing is allowed to undermine respect for the parents' proper authority. Familiarity can breed contempt if carried too far in a parent/child relationship.

God's Role in Their Lives

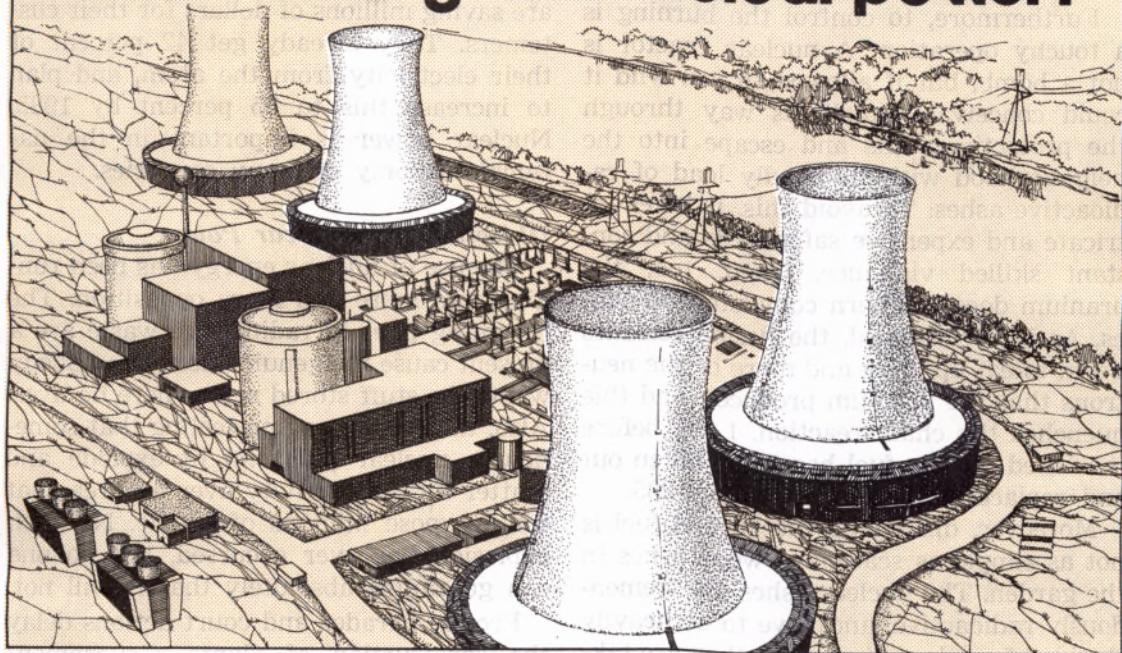
When children respect their parents and others whom they can see, they are then in a position eventually to worship their Creator, whom they cannot see. The parents have a unique position in this training. They can lovingly direct their children's attention to the Creator. Doing so lovingly is essential, but so is persistence. Parents must be diligent in giving such training. They cannot let either sentiment or pressure deter them. Nor can they delegate their responsibility to others—be it other family members, teachers or religious leaders—not if they want good results.

Clearly, there are no shortcuts. It takes time, effort, love and patience and many adjustments along the way. But good results are possible when the parents shoulder their God-given assignment. If they regard their children as treasures from God and let them know they are loved, the family unit will reap many blessings, and the parents will feel greatly rewarded. It is as the psalmist said: "Look! Sons are an inheritance from Jehovah; the fruitage of the belly is a reward."—Ps. 127:3.

May that be how you view your children!

"When anyone is replying to a matter before he hears it, that is foolishness on his part and a humiliation." (Prov. 18:13) Open-mindedness is one mark of a mature person. No one has the right to call himself mature who cannot listen to both sides of an argument.

What's wrong with nuclear power?



THE world was stunned by the first announced release of atomic energy in the destructive blasts over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But as people gradually recovered from shock and horror, they were offered conscience-soothing assurances that atomic energy wasn't all evil. It could also be controlled and guided into useful channels.

Early reports even stirred the hope that the energy produced by the fission of uranium might be the final solution to the energy problem. Although uranium was more expensive than coal or oil, it has a millionfold greater energy content, far overshadowing any other source of power that man had ever known. The cost of the fuel in atomic furnaces would be next to nothing. After the furnace was built and connected into the electric turbines, power costs would be practically nil!

Alas! This euphoric vision of free power faded away under a closer look. The first

sobering realization was that less than one percent of the uranium (the U-235 isotope) is susceptible to the chain reaction. And to get it in high enough concentration to keep the nuclear fire burning, it has to be separated from its heavier isotope (U-238). This is a difficult and costly operation, and a fair fraction of the energy that is gained from the U-235 when it is burned has already been spent in separating it.

Then we learned about the neutrons, which propagate the reaction from the burning to the unburned fuel. They are not like the familiar flames that leap from coal to coal in a stove. In atomic fission, the neutrons spilling out of the splitting atoms leave the fuel, the reactor and everything in and around it dangerously radioactive. So the reacting system must all be enclosed inside thick shields and have mechanical devices to operate it by remote control. What goes on inside is more frightening than a fire, because the pen-

trating invisible rays can burn us fatally without our knowing it.

Furthermore, to control the burning is a touchy operation. A nuclear reactor is not a bomb, but if allowed to run wild it could conceivably melt its way through the protective walls and escape into the neighborhood with its deadly load of radioactive ashes. To avoid this, it takes intricate and expensive safeguards and constant skilled vigilance. Then, too, the uranium does not burn completely to ashes. As it is consumed, the fission residues begin to eat up more and more of the neutrons that the uranium produces, and this quenches the chain reaction. Long before it is used up, the fuel has to be taken out and replaced with fresh uranium-235.

Moreover, discarding the burned fuel is not as simple as scattering wood ashes in the garden. The nuclear ashes are tremendously radioactive, and have to be heavily shielded for a long time after they are taken out. Some of the more abundant radio-elements in the products of fission last for centuries. There is far too much of it to dump into the sewers, or even into the ocean. Neither is it safe to bury where groundwater might reach it. Up till now, most of the radioactive waste has been kept in guarded storage, waiting for someone to figure out what to do with it.

Every one of these complications adds large costs, so that before any power is delivered to the electric grid most of the savings from the "free" fuel have been eaten up. In spite of these drawbacks, nuclear energy has been vigorously promoted, and it has come to be a part of the everyday energy supply in many countries.

Some economic analysts say that nuclear power is still not as cheap as power from coal or oil, and that it has gained its present foothold only by the help of government subsidies, which are not charged to the power companies. On the other hand, the utility company that

supplies Chicago's electricity has published cost figures to show that nuclear plants are saving millions of dollars for their customers. They already get 42 percent of their electricity from the atom, and plan to increase this to 65 percent by 1985. Nuclear power is important in the national economy of many countries.

Objections to Nuclear Power

The use of nuclear energy has been running into more and more opposition. The mounting piles of radioactive waste are a present cause for genuine concern; nobody wants the stuff stored near where he lives. Also, there is a nagging feeling that somehow a nuclear plant might explode and scatter its radioactivity over an area that could expose millions of people. No such explosion has ever occurred, but no one can guarantee absolutely that it will not.

Protest parades and court actions delay the construction of plants. Government agencies, to placate the protesters, put ever more stringent requirements on the approval of new plants.

The fears of a nuclear plant explosion were whipped up to a national frenzy during the recent mishap at a plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The reactor got out of control when some valves and instruments used to control the cooling water in the core failed to perform. For several days it was nip and tuck whether the reactor might overheat and melt down, or whether hydrogen gas accumulating in the top of the vessel might blow it apart. The building enclosing the reactor was designed to contain the radioactive materials in either contingency. But if that, too, failed, one could imagine that thousands of people in the vicinity would die. Many residents chose not to trust the official assurances and moved out until the crisis was over.

In the end, the danger was averted with no worse injuries than exposures about

like those received routinely in medical use of X rays, but the power plant was lost. It may cost as much to clean and repair it as to build a new one.

Although the danger was exaggerated in many press reports—one commentator said, "We almost lost Pennsylvania"—there is no doubt that the accident strengthened the hand of those who object to nuclear power. Emotion, more than reason, seems to incite the clamor to "shut down the nukes." When the hazard is compared with others that are accepted as a matter of everyday life, it seems to shrink almost to nothing.

For instance, people continue to drive automobiles faster than the law allows, knowing that over 8,000 more people will die this year (in the U.S.) than if they observed the speed limit. Even worse, people keep on smoking cigarettes, urged on by ubiquitous advertising and supported by government subsidies, although 80,000 people will die of lung cancer this year as a consequence.

In contrast, not one person was killed or injured, even in the worst accident in the history of nuclear power. Yet there are those who demand that all nuclear plants be closed. Undoubtedly, the insidious nature of the potential injury from invisible radiations contributes to the emotional nature of the objections. Nevertheless, this feeling is a real factor to be reckoned with, and it will make the authorities slow down and impose more exacting safeguards. The result of all of this will be to make energy still more costly.

How Long Will the Uranium Last?

Another deterrent to the growth of nuclear power is the fact that the supply of uranium is not unlimited. If the projected doubling of present capacity by 1985 is realized, the U.S. will be running short before the year 2000.

However, there is a way of greatly extending the present supply. It is based on the fact that while uranium-235 is being used up, uranium-238 is being transmuted to plutonium. This can be separated chemically from the used fuel, and it makes an even better source of energy than the U-235. In reactors fueled by plutonium, it is possible to regenerate the fuel faster than it is used up, so that ultimately nearly all the uranium, rather than just a fraction of one percent, becomes available.

But there is a risk that hangs like an ominous cloud over all present and future programs. The same uranium that is used in power plants can be diverted to the manufacture of bombs. For this reason governments have maintained a tight monopoly on the plants that separate uranium-235, and keep a strict account of where the product goes. In spite of this, whenever this material is used in power reactors, it is possible to accumulate the plutonium, enough, in time, to build an atomic bomb. India did just this, to the consternation of the Canadians who helped them build their reactor. The problem will be even more acute if plutonium is supplied as fuel. For these reasons some political leaders oppose the development of the breeder reactor.

Many scientists have set their hope on another way of getting energy from the nucleus. This is based, not on the energy from fission of a heavy atom into two smaller ones, but on that from the fusion of the lightest element, hydrogen, into helium. This is the nuclear process that goes on in the sun. In contrast to the limited supply of uranium, and even the much greater supply of coal, the amount of hydrogen available is as vast as the oceans. If this could be accomplished, would it not solve man's energy problem for all time?

An article on this subject will appear in a later issue of *Awake!*

Design In Nature



Bacteria Make Their Own Compasses

Dr. Richard Blakemore was surveying sediments in a dish and noticed that bacteria in one sample gathered at one side of the dish. He rotated the dish. The bacteria swam back to the same area—the north side of the dish. He placed a small magnet on the south side of the dish. The bacteria collected there. Whenever he moved the magnet, there the bacteria gathered.

Dr. Richard Frankel of MIT joined Dr. Blakemore, and together they discovered by chemical analysis that these bacteria contained 10 times the amount of iron normally found in bacteria. Furthermore, the iron was present as magnetite—a permanent-magnet material at room temperature. When electron-microscope pictures of a bacterium were taken, they showed a line of 22 to 25 magnetite particles stretched lengthwise inside the bacterium. The north-seeking pole of this bar magnet is at the opposite end of the organism's whiplike strands that propel it. That's why they always swim north.

Another startling discovery: each bit of magnetite is about 0.05 micron long, and only magnetite particles of this approximate size possess the magnetic properties needed to make a good compass! Just another one of the millions of coincidences postulated by evolutionary scientists? Rather, it's just another of the millions of evidences of design by an intelligent Creator.

But does their built-in compass serve a purpose? Dr. Frankel said that the magnetic field is felt both horizontally and vertically through the earth. This means, then, that in the northern hemisphere where these bacteria were found, north also means down. These bacteria are too small to distinguish from gravitational

pull in water which directions are up and down. So this compass that points them down directs them to the muddy bottom sediments they prefer.

Is this discovery a key to the age-old mystery of navigational feats performed by many animals? For a long time many investigators have suspected that some animals use the earth's magnetic field to perform their feats. Experiments have confirmed this in the case of pigeons, and recently researchers have found magnetite in the heads of pigeons. Also, they have discovered it in the abdomens of bees. And who knows where else it will turn up?

Human inventors may have the patents on compasses, but thousands of years earlier they were being made by the billions by one-celled bacteria!

Why Onions Make You Cry

When onions are sliced, an organic compound of sulphur is given off. Dissolved in water, it becomes sulphuric acid. So when this compound of sulphur gets into your eyes and dissolves in the moisture there, you have sulphuric acid produced. The old folk prescription for avoiding this: slice your onions under water. Then the acid is manufactured in the water, not your eyes.

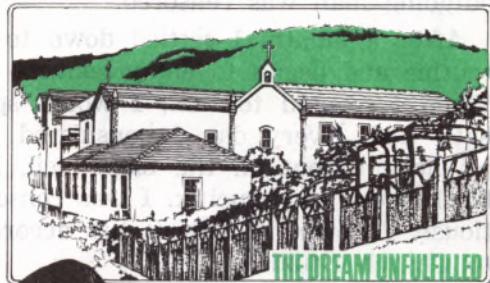
Plants That Manufacture Insect Repellents

When insects detect anything like sugar they react as many people—they start to eat! But the plant *Ajuga remota* foils this urge to eat by its own special chemical compound, ajugarin-1. It blocks the insect's receptor sites and eliminates its desire to munch on *Ajuga remota*. This chemical is just one of many anti-feedant compounds found among many members of the plant world. Some anti-feedants repel a broad range of insects; others spoil the appetites of only a single species. All are non-poisonous.

Scientists are trying to make anti-feedants in their laboratories to repel crop-eating insects. Perhaps next they can make anti-feedants that will turn off sugar-hungry humans.

MY DREAM TO SERVE GOD

-HOW IT CAME TRUE



THE DREAM UNFULFILLED

ON November 14, 1962, a cherished dream came true. I entered the convent of the Third Order of Franciscans of Calais, in Santo Tirso, Portugal, to become a nun. It seems that my entire life had been spent preparing for this moment. As I stood on the doorstep of the convent saying good-bye to father, his happiness and mine were so evident.

Ours was a devout Roman Catholic family. Father would go off to work in the fields, rosary in pocket, reciting his prayers. Every night our entire family repeated the rosary together.

All good Catholic families were expected to give one child to the Church. In our family, I was chosen. This was considered a great privilege. I diligently studied the catechism. I was interviewed by the bishop of Vila Real. Many of my closest friends and relatives already were nuns and priests.

Life in the Convent

To my surprise, adapting to convent life was not so easy. Our accommodations weren't the problem. The dormitory had partitioned sections, each with a bed, small table and chair. It was the long periods of silence that I had a real struggle with. After all, I was accustomed to the daily chatter and lively atmosphere of family life with three brothers and three sisters.

We rose daily at 6:30 a.m., spending the first half hour in the chapel saying prayers. Actually, only an hour a week was devoted to religious study using Church publications. Breakfast was eaten in complete silence, as were all other meals. Then we went to work in different departments.

After the noon meal each day we had an hour of recreation, during which we could speak with one another. No direct reference, though, could be made to re-

veal the name of our hometown. Vaguely, we would have to say something like this: "At a certain place . . ." Our incoming and outgoing mail was censored.

After a month, I settled down to the routine and began to enjoy convent life. When I wanted to talk, I would speak with God. Every day I considered it a privilege to put on the black veil, long black dress and crucifix. I was conscientiously following a devout life according to Church ritual.

A Disappointing Surprise

As the postulate period of six months came to a close, I looked forward to receiving a ring. This would signify that I was "engaged," so to speak, to Jesus Christ. Then, several years later, I would complete my training and take perpetual vows as a nun.

One day while working in the laundry, I was given the sign to go and see our Mother Superior. In a straightforward but kind way, she explained I would not be able to continue at the convent due to my health. I had developed bronchitis, and only those in good health could be kept on. Words cannot convey my shock. My life's dream seemed to be shattered. I insisted there must be some way to stay. But her words were final: I would have to leave.

After much weeping, I learned that my father was waiting outside to take me home. Trying to encourage me, the Mother Superior said I could do much humanitarian service. She promised to arrange work for me in the Holy Mary Hospital in Porto. Father was upset: "If my daughter can't be a nun," he said, "she won't go to any hospital. She'll come home and live with us again."

Back home, my zeal for Church traditions continued. I still considered myself a "bride" of Christ, and continued to follow all rituals such as observing holy days,

fasting and the recital of prayers. Before retiring each night, I kissed the crucifix. If I were away from home and the cross in my room was on a wall, I would stand on a chair, or even climb on top of a dresser in order to kiss it. My main desire in life was to serve God.

The Influence of a Cousin

Eventually I went to work in Lisbon, Portugal's largest city. During the Christmas season of 1973, I visited a cousin living near the city. She had three children of whom I was very fond, and I brought presents for them. On this occasion she gently broke the news that she was studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses. I had planned to spend my vacation with her the following May, but now my reaction was never to set foot in her home again. From what I had heard, Jehovah's Witnesses had "the worst religion around."

Later, however, I reconsidered and decided to go as planned. But I had a definite purpose in mind—to help her become a good, practicing Catholic again. My cousin, though, proved to be as determined as I was. Since I refused to consider any Witness literature whatsoever, she tried to show me several passages in a Catholic Bible translation. Still I doubted that it was a "legitimate" Bible. So she encouraged me to obtain one I would consider "genuine." It became obvious to me how much she desired that I personally examine the Bible.

During my last week of vacation, one day my cousin said that I would have to eat supper without her as she would be attending a congregation meeting. Although I had consistently disagreed with her on every religious matter discussed, I felt an enormous curiosity to attend this meeting. Surprisingly, I accompanied her to the *Watchtower* study and found the program very interesting. I suddenly real-

ized I knew a number of the Witnesses, as they had frequently called by my cousin's home during vacation. I found them to be friendly people and sensed a "family" spirit among them.

My First Bible

After vacation I searched in many a Lisbon bookstore for a Catholic Bible, all in vain. Finally one was purchased through a religious order. Going straight home, I started looking up the references my cousin had given me, becoming completely engrossed until four o'clock the next morning. It amazed me what the Bible taught about images, the condition of the dead and who God is. I asked myself: "Why did we not study the Bible in the convent? Why does the Church not follow the teachings of the Holy Scriptures? Why was God's name, Jehovah, not restored to its proper place?"

Immediately I stopped using images in my worship. After considering Hebrews 10:10, I no longer shared in Communion. From July to December 1974, I studied the Bible by myself, although now I gladly used the Witnesses' publications.

Having a cousin who was a prominent priest and president of the theology faculty of the Catholic University in Lisbon, I decided to confront him with what I was learning from the Bible. To my amazement he admitted that the use of images in worship was not Scriptural. However, he justified their use by saying: "Humans are weak and need visible aids, otherwise they would forget God." He readily agreed that God's personal name is Jehovah, but weakly maintained that the use of the term "God" is less offensive to most people. Interestingly, he did not discourage me from studying with Jehovah's Witnesses. Yet he attempted to undermine the Bible by saying that it was contradictory in many places. Obviously his faith was not very strong.

Wise Decisions

By December 1974 I made a decision: I would request a home Bible study with the Witnesses. A few days later, on December 22, I was among the more than 39,000 at a special meeting in Lisbon to hear visiting speakers N. H. Knorr and F. W. Franz, members of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses. The meeting had a tremendous impact on me. Here I was in the midst of so many people, all students of the Holy Scriptures, familiar with its teachings. This, I thought, is truly the kind of worship pleasing to God, "worship with spirit and truth."—John 4:24.

I began regularly attending all congregation meetings. In February 1975 I started going from door to door, telling others the good news of God's kingdom in obedience to Matthew 24:14. Now I truly dedicated my life to serve Jehovah God, based on accurate knowledge from the Bible. To symbolize my dedication, I was baptized at the "Divine Sovereignty" District Assembly that summer.

By November I began serving as a pioneer, a full-time worker of Jehovah's Witnesses. I told the elders: "Here I am ready to serve Jehovah. So you can send me wherever you want. I can be a regular pioneer, a special pioneer or a missionary. Just let me know what you think is best."

In November 1977 I was married. Now, along with my husband, I am happy to be preaching the "good news" here in Portugal. As others were patient and helpful with me, so I am keenly endeavoring to open the spiritual eyes of many still held in bondage by the traditions of false religion.

Rather than adopting "a life of contemplation and mortification," I have found Jesus' words and example to be the very best, namely: "There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving." (Acts 20:35)—Contributed.

BENEVOLENT SOVEREIGNTY

THE Bible states an obvious truth when it says: "Man has dominated man to his injury." (Eccl. 8:9) In contrast, Jehovah's sovereignty through his Messiah is poetically described in this way: "He will descend like the rain upon the mown grass, like copious showers that wet the earth. In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more. And he will have subjects from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth."—Ps. 72:6-8.

Under that sovereignty men will not dominate or injure their fellowman. Neighbor love will be the guideline. It should be now. In these two examples God ordains it: in marriage and in the Christian congregation.

In a marriage the man is to be the head,

but not in a domineering way. He is told to love his wife as he does himself. Even more than this, he is to love her as Christ loved his congregation—and he died for it! Husbands must remember this.

In the congregation the divine arrangement is for elders to have oversight, but never to domineer. (Eph. 4:8, 11-16) Jesus said: "Do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas all you are brothers. Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One." (Matt. 23:8, 9) Elders must remember this.

Yes, man *should not* dominate others to their injury. Under Jehovah's sovereignty, when only God's heavenly government rules all the earth, man *will not be allowed* to do so!

TWO DIVINE INSTITUTIONS

MARRIAGE

FAMILY

'God said to them: "Be fruitful and fill the earth."—Gen. 1:28.



HUSBAND, FATHER

'Husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies. Have children in subjection. Train up a boy.'—Eph. 5:28; 1 Tim. 3:4; Prov. 22:6.



WIFE, MOTHER

'Love your husbands, love your children, be workers at home, subjecting yourselves to your own husbands.'—Titus 2:4, 5.



CHILDREN

'Sons are an inheritance from Jehovah. Children, be obedient to your parents.'—Ps. 127:3; Eph. 6:1.



ELDERSHIP

EVANGELIZING

'Preach the word, be at it urgently, do the work of an evangelizer.'—2 Tim. 4:2, 5.



TEACHING

'Pay constant attention to your teaching. Exhort, with art of teaching.'—1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:2.



COUNSELING

'Though a man takes some false step, try to restore such a man in a spirit of mildness.'—Gal. 6:1.

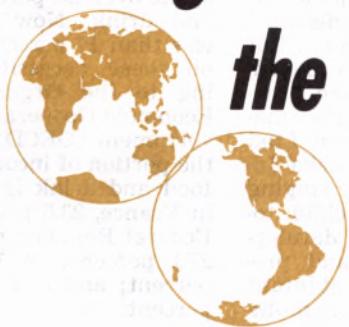


SHEPHERDING

'Shepherd the flock of God in your care, willingly; neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly.'—1 Pet. 5:2.



Watching the



World

'An Overmedicated Society'

◆ The new U.S. Commissioner of Food and Drugs plans to wage a campaign to reduce the intake of prescription drugs in the country. Dr. Jere E. Goyan, the first pharmacist ever to head the Food and Drug Administration, recently stated: "Too many people in this country are taking too many drugs without proper understanding of their potential harmful effects. Our society has become overmedicated." He plans to use various avenues, such as "education" methods, to reduce drug intake. "Americans must learn there is not a pill for every ill," he said, "and that they need not get a prescription every time they visit their doctors."

Kidney Cancer and Painkillers

◆ A recent Australian survey has indicated that people who took massive amounts of compound painkillers had 9,000 times greater chance of getting kidney cancer than those who did not use these analgesics. Australian doctors have thought that phenacetin in such compound painkillers was the cause of kidney cancers, but now they believe that it is the combination of chemicals in the analgesics. Said Dr. Cartmill, urology registrar at the Brisbane hospital: "We feel the greatest incidence of

the disease is in Queensland (which has the highest incidence of analgesic use in the world)," he said. "Overall Australia probably has the highest incidence of this cancer in the world."

Losing "the Fight

Against Illiteracy"?

◆ On the recent "14th International Literacy Day," the director general of the U.N.'s Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) called on all countries to combat illiteracy. "The fight against illiteracy," he stressed forcefully, "must take on a planetary dimension." Presently the situation is gloomy, he indicated. "If the present trends were to continue," he explained, "the number of illiterate persons would continue to increase because of the population growth and it would pass from 742 million in 1970 to 814 million in 1980 and to 844 million in 1990. So humankind, of which 800 million adults do not know how to read and write (about 3 out of every 10 [adult] persons), would enter the 21st century with 954 million illiterate adults."

On the Wings of Music

◆ In Australia a driver was recently stopped by police and charged with driving too fast. "I am not a fast driver normal-

ly," explained the driver to the court. But while driving he was listening to Joseph Haydn's "Divertimenti for Two Horns" in B-flat major. "I became so elated," he told the court, "that I felt my soul being transported to a higher region, while my foot became heavy on the petrol pedal." The court ruled that, in view of the driver's previous good record and the effect of the music upon him, the charges could be dismissed.

Methodists Accept Homosexual Pastor

◆ The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church, the Church's highest court, has ruled that an avowed homosexual may remain as pastor of the Washington Square church in New York city. The Council ruled that the homosexual pastor is in "good standing" and in "effective relation" with his congregation in the Greenwich Village area. The congregation itself is made up mainly of homosexuals.

Hydrogen Maser Clock

◆ The Smithsonian Institution's Astrophysical Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has built a hydrogen maser clock. Based on the natural oscillations of hydrogen atoms, it is thought to be possibly the most stable clock ever built. Over a period of 300 million years, it would vary by only one second.

Expensive Prayers

◆ The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to pay a Lutheran clergyman \$50,000 a year for opening each session of the House with a prayer. The previous chaplain received \$25,000 a year for such prayers. Commenting on the matter, news columnist Jim Bishop wrote: "The president's wage and price guidelines seem not to apply to a devout man whose duties consist of opening each session

of the House with a suitable (ergo: terse) prayer. . . . The reverend is not alone in this scam [swindle]. We are in an age where the clergyman is as interested in tax-exempt bonds as he is in the daily struggles of the Los Angeles Dodgers. When some ministers pop off to claim their eternal reward, they leave sizable estates."

Highway Deaths Among Young

◆ The World Health Organization has reported a disproportionate number of deaths from traffic accidents among those in the 15 to 24 age group. A study covering 30 countries revealed that deaths from accidents in this age group increased considerably when the 1955-59 period was compared with the 1970-74 period: 608 percent in Mexico, 448 percent in Thailand, 379 percent in Portugal, 52 percent in Italy, 48 percent in Sweden, 41 percent in the Federal Republic of Germany. As for the United States, deaths in the 15 to 24 age group rose from 8,770 in 1955-59 to 17,440 in 1970-74—an increase of 95 percent. The study, which included all kinds of motor vehicles, attributed the increased fatalities among the young mainly to abuse of alcohol.

Killer Diseases Increase

in China

◆ Reports from China indicate that high blood pressure, strokes and heart attacks are on the increase. In the Shih-zhingshan district of Peking, yearly deaths from heart attacks soared 60 percent, from 73.8 per 100,000 people during 1955-59 to 118.4 during 1974-78. Deaths from strokes more than doubled during that same period—going from 43.1 to 97.3 per 100,000. To combat this deterioration in public health, TV, radio, posters and pamphlets now urge the Chinese people to eat less salt and animal fat, to exercise regularly and to stop smoking. China remains the foremost consum-

er of tobacco products in the world.

Return of the Lullaby

◆ The singing of lullabies to babies seems to have declined over the past few decades. But now Swedish hospitals are endeavoring to revive the practice of lullaby singing in maternity wards. Dr. John Lind of Stockholm's Karolinska Institut says that lullaby singing "bonds mother and child together, hastens the development of the brain and promotes a healthier parent-infant relationship." To teach mothers lullabies, Dr. Lind has brought musicians into maternity wards. He points out that a lullaby does not require a sophisticated tune or lyrics; in fact, some lullabies are wordless. The doctor adds: "The baby coos in response to the singing and rocking. This increases the mother's pleasure in the baby. As a result, they're observing each other closely and there's increased communication by means of giggles, cooing, eye contact and smiles. This plays an important part in later speech development."

Turkey's Transfusion Toll

◆ Turkish newspapers report that at least 30 persons died in Ankara hospitals during a recent week as a result of blood transfusions. Doctors believe there may have been a mix-up with regard to labeling the blood bottles, or stale blood plasma may have been used. It happens, and not only in Turkey.

Mother Bites Tiger

◆ At a zoo in Kuwait a tiger caught a seven-year-old girl with its claws. Not waiting for other help to come, the girl's mother sank her teeth into the tiger's paw until the animal released her daughter.

Inflation Contradiction

◆ Most observers of the soaring cost of living assume that food is a leading contributor. However, though food prices

have been rising rapidly, the portion of income Americans devote to food has actually decreased since 1960, when they spent over 20 percent on food and drink. Now they spend less than 17 percent of income on these necessities. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in Canada the portion of income spent for food and drink is 21 percent; in France, 23.6 percent; in the Federal Republic of Germany, 27.1 percent; in Britain, 31.6 percent; and in Portugal, 47.5 percent.

Oiling the Pump

◆ At a recent medical congress held in Crete, heart specialists from all over the world noted that on that island, fewer persons, on the average, suffer from cardiac disturbances than in other parts of Greece. The *Athens Daily Post* says that the scientists "have reached the conclusion that the lower frequency of coronary disturbances and other heart diseases is attributable to the salutary effect on the veins of the [particular type of] olive oil consumed" by Cretans. The meeting of specialists was called "to examine this phenomenon," said the paper.

Underworld "Ministry"

◆ In late October New York priest and former city councilman Louis Gigante served a 10-day jail sentence for contempt of court. He had refused to answer grand jury questions about his alleged attempts to obtain special in-prison favors for a well-known underworld figure. The U.S. Supreme Court turned down the contention that Gigante was exercising his claimed "duty as a priest" in his relations with the prisoner, who is serving a 62-month federal sentence for interstate gambling violations and was additionally convicted of bribing a prison official. Yet the New

New York Daily News quotes Gigante as saying of the prisoner that he "is not a mobster, he is not a criminal. If you had the chance to meet him, he's one of the finest human beings you'd ever meet." At a funeral Mass in 1978 the priest also eulogized another notorious alleged underworld figure as a "family friend." While in jail, Gigante was visited 'secretly' by New York's Cardinal Cooke, who also issued a statement regretting the court action as "unconstitutional interference with the free exercise of his religious ministry."

Soviets Look

the Other Way, Too

◆ The failure of citizens to do anything about crimes they

witness because they do not want to get involved has been much decried in America. Now the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* complains that some Russians behave similarly. It cited a number of cases of "criminal passivity" on the part of witnesses to crimes who did not want to give information about what they saw.

Counting the Centenarians

◆ According to the U.S. Social Security Administration, nearly 12,000 Americans 100 years old or over are receiving benefits. The oldest of the centenarians, the former slave Charlie Smith, recently died in Florida at the reputed age of 137.

Solar-powered Station

◆ A small radio station in Ohio has begun transmitting with electricity generated by the sun, the first such commercial application of solar energy in the United States. More than 33,000 solar cells, each about three inches (8 cm) in diameter, are spread out on racks over one third of an acre of flat lawn behind the radio station. The racks are positioned so as best to capture the sun's energy. On cloudy days, the system still produces enough power to charge storage batteries, which can run the station for almost two days. The only time the system does not generate enough power is during rain or heavy fog.

the "new" government. It is not clear whether the new government will be able to implement its policies. The new government has promised to continue the policies of the old government, but it is not clear whether it will be able to do so. The new government has also promised to implement some new policies, but it is not clear what these policies will be.

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