

“WATCHING” THE “SIGNS”

Bro. Ted Smith

(Hymn 318—Watching For the Day)

Luke 21:34-36, “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Dan. 12:4, 10, “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

Vol. II—19-3, “Those who watch keep separate from the world.” “Our watching properly includes the signs of the times.”

Being Christians, being “in the Truth”, involves much more than rejoicing in the knowledge of God’s goodness to the human race. We have duties and privileges in connection with our covenant. One is “watching”—not only of our conduct and motives, but also the signs of the times. There is great danger if we think otherwise. Some think it is below their spiritual dignity to be interested in the signs; they have false ideas of what constitutes Christian development. The flesh is very subtle.

We are never to forget that God’s plan is FOR HUMANITY. Our position is an exalted one, not in the sense of losing interest in the welfare of humanity, but in the sense of being used eventually as blessers. We should beware of any disposition to feel superior to the methods outlined in Present Truth.

The “signs of the times” have to do with evidences of the breaking down of the old order. There is a “Jubilee shout” of release from age-old bondages; there is a “running to and fro,” and also an “increase of knowledge”. There is a “Time of Trouble” such as never was in all human history. There is the regathering of natural Israel; and there is general confusion and great fear on the part of mankind.

Reporters of the news in newspapers, magazine articles, over the radio and T.V. are fairly shouting the “signs of the times,” only they do not know it. For a long time we have been saving these reports and indexing them under certain headings. There are signs of “general hysteria on the part of the public.” “Revolution” in various forms is world wide. War and preparations for war, and fear of war is very prominent in the news. Truly the

signs betoken a “time of trouble” such as the world has never known before, and more is to follow before the world hears the “still small voice” of the Kingdom. bringing peace and a reign of righteousness for man’s blessing.

We are going to briefly touch upon a few of the items that we have saved over a considerable period of time. The first one is in the form of an amusing cartoon. It shows a house which is called “Economic Structure of our Way of Life.” Around this house at some distance is a high and sturdy wall and this wall is called “World-Wide Expenditures to ‘Contain’ Communism.” There is a little man who is all excited with his hair standing on end and he is shouting to U-NO WHO, “If necessary to extend the Wall, we’ll just have to use the stones out of the house.” The title of the cartoon is BUT IT WAS BUILT TO SAVE THE HOUSE. And so it has been. The fear of Communism has been so intent on the part of certain extremists, that they want to spend millions and millions of tax money to try to contain Communism and Dictators have been supported with money and military equipment to form a wall of protection. (#246)

The next item is from the San Francisco Chronicle (#308) and is entitled OATHS AD ABSURDUM. The writer commented: “It serves no useful purpose, as we have repeatedly said in discussing loyalty oaths, because such oaths do not reduce the number of Communists in the U.S. and most certainly do not help to identify the kind of Communists who have no more compunctions about swearing falsely than they do about attempting to overthrow the Government that gives them freedom as well as low-cost housing.” It wasn’t many years ago when suspicion went wild and if a person expressed a desire for improvement along any line for the betterment of mankind, right away he was looked upon as a communist or a “pink.” The spirit of suspicion held sway and “guilt by association” was very cruel in many cases.

Another item (#437) was entitled Aesop Up to Date. It was quite involved so I shall not try to give all the details. But the gist of the item was that extremists wanted to recognize and ferret out all suspicious people, and it did not matter how unfair the method was or how much liberty was destroyed. These extremists set up standards of their own and woe unto you if you did not agree with their standards. I can remember when we were having a Fourth Volume Study some time back, and the Pastor was reasoning on conditions in the world and pointing forward to the equitable conditions of the coming Kingdom, and I could not help wondering what would happen to us if these extremists read what we believed.

Next I shall consider another item (#500) in the form of a cartoon. It showed Uncle Sam with a huge sifter trying to determine who were dangerous people in government service. There were “Partisan Politics, Charges and Counter Charges,” and many a man in government service was wrongly accused and deprived of his means of making a living. And it has been only in recent years that books have come out proving that these men

were possessed with accurate knowledge and were endeavoring to give important facts to those in authority and they were true statesmen, but were labeled as dangerous in government service. I followed this very carefully for several years and marveled how hysteria can lead to all kinds of excesses. We are in the Hour of Temptation and we must be balanced and have the spirit of a sound mind, and be perfectly fair to everyone.

Another item was labeled One Jump Ahead of Ridicule (#835). One paragraph is worth careful consideration. It reads: “Communists quite some time ago stole some of the free world’s most precious words, such as democracy, peace, liberty, rights. And some probably well-intentioned anti-Communists have persisted in confirming the theft by proclaiming that these words henceforth belong to the Reds, not to the heirs of Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence. This booklet’s ‘clues’ have tried to make suspect some of the language in which any informed citizen would discuss issues of the day.” And how true it was that the language you might use in discussing world affairs would be suspect and you would be accused of being a Communist.

The last item we have under the heading of Public Hysteria is entitled “Perils to Liberty.” It is a brief book report. One book by Alan Barth was entitled Government by Investigation and another book entitled Red Scare by Robert K. Murray. (#838) Robert R. Brunn who gave the book report said “America has come to the beginning of the end of an historical era. It was a period of national uncertainty based on world tension and was characterized by infringement of civil rights and pressures to conform. We have not seen the last of the books that have been called forth by this difficult but fascinating time.” Truly it was a difficult time, and there may be more ahead that will test us as Christians.

Next we shall consider a few items that touch upon the evidences of Revolution brought on by the Jubilee shout. (#17) This news item is entitled World Changed With Shock of 1914. We quote a portion: “The chain reaction that started... On June 28, 1914 closed one book of history and opened a new volume, the pages of which are still being written in the fresh red blood of each generation. On that day in the Bosnian city when a youth shot a useless archduke, the world seemed as solid and as lasting as the Rocky Mountains. We were fooled into believing that everything was safe. Law and order, habits of mind, mores were so taken for granted that not even a Jules Verne or a Karl Marx questioned their durability. Then without warning civilization cracked up. Anarchy became king. We have been living in Miltonian chaos ever since. We no longer know life as a reality but see only Plato’s shadow on the walls of our imagination.”

We consider the next one entitled Asians Look to Results—Not Platitudes—in U.S. Leadership. (#114) Two paragraphs are quite thrilling to read: “Then in the Indian’s view, American vision faltered. ‘Your country,’ he said, ‘failed to perceive that an actual revolt, a fundamental revolt, against the feudal system was at last working among the

millions of Asia. Failing to perceive this,' he said, 'America set up, or supported, those Asian leaders who were identified with feudalism in the people's thoughts.'" (And we comment here, that this has been going on for several decades and is still going on.)

Another paragraph is very significant: "For generations these peasants were mute. They endured the virtual slavery of their lot because they knew nothing else. All that had developed western civilization through the long years, including Christianity, was unknown to them. Then the West 'opened up' the East. For the first time some of their own class gained a glimmer of democratic freedoms. This glimmer began to grow, to spread, until, finally, the explosion point was reached." Ah yes, the "explosion point" brought on by the Jubilee shout of truth and knowledge. And things have been exploding in every direction all over the world ever since.

The Christian Science Monitor had a short piece entitled "What Does Communism Mean to Asia's Millions?" (#123) The first two paragraphs read as follows: "Before democracy can hope to defeat communism in the Far East, the peoples of the West must learn to look at communism through Asian eyes. They will then see that—to the masses of Asia—communism does not come as a threat to freedom, but as a partial release from bondage.

"Communism, in the view of many Chinese and Indo-Chinese, already has freed them from an ancient enemy—land hunger. One of the first acts of the Chinese Communists, wherever possible, was to break up feudal estates and give the land to the former tenants."

Another one, somewhat similar is entitled Indonesia: Many Islands, One Nation. (#179) Here is how one paragraph reads: "Bali, Java, Sumatra, Borneo—these islands of romantic name all are part of the new Indonesia. But the swift drive of nationalism which threw off Dutch rule left the new country seething in many ways. No longer are the islands romantic, sleepy, placid." Yes, what a change the Jubilee trumpet has brought about!—no longer "placid" but "seething." The masses all over the world are restless and agitated.

The next item is by Joseph G. Harrison, Foreign Editor of the Christian Science Monitor. It is headed MEN AGAINST THE JUNGLE—CRISIS IN IRAN. (#185) There is more to the heading of this particular item: Iran Sits Atop Crisis as Explosive as Oil on Which It Feeds. This was dated March 26, 1951. So way back in 1951, 28 years ago there was a serious agitation in Iran. Here is the first paragraph: "Whole nations, peoples, and areas—some of them with cultures thousands of years old—are in upheaval, discarding the old, trying the new, overthrowing governments, strengthening democracy, or establishing dictatorships." Another paragraph farther along reads: "Lying on the southern borders of the Soviet Union and within a few minutes' flying distance of the main Russian oilfield, Iran is of great importance for at least two reasons.

“First is its strategic importance. If Iran should go Communist, Russian influence would reach the Indian Ocean, the Middle East would be isolated from India, and the whole balance of power in that part of the world would shift.

“The second reason is oil—black, thick, priceless, and nearly inexhaustible...”

On farther we read: “Yet important as this oil is to the West...it would be even more important to the Soviet Union...”

Still farther we read: “As well as any place in the world, Iran typifies what the forces of democracy are up against in their effort to establish stability and to insure peace. Simply put, Iran is a bewildering compound of unbelievable poverty, stupendous riches, diplomatic intrigue, and hatred for foreigners...”

There is much more to this item and today we see events which are exciting the whole world. Oil and Communism are subjects for violent emotions.

The next item is entitled Korean War Due to Revolution. (#188) The first paragraph reads: “The war in Korea is due to a revolutionary situation that did not have its inception in Communism—the revolution of oppressed and subject peoples in Korea, the Orient, other countries, and even beginning to boil up in Africa.” Revolution is taking hold everywhere and Africa is boiling in many of its parts.

The Christian Science Monitor had an interesting item dated July 16, 1951: New Dawn in Oil Partnerships Breaks Across Arabian Desert. The first two paragraphs are very significant: “The wave of increasingly strong and sometimes violent nationalism making itself felt throughout the Middle East is rapidly forcing the western nations to adopt a new outlook toward that crucial area.

“There is a growing realization that if the West is to continue to do business in the Middle East it must take into greater account not only the needs of the individual peoples but their national attitudes as well.” (#236) This is excellent advice, but is ignored in many cases and the result is more and more hatred generated against the West.

The next one is entitled British Press Spotlights Concern at Egypt Crisis (#248) and the last paragraph is extremely significant: “The day of the old imperialistic relationships between the Arab and western worlds is gone forever.”

There was an Editorial entitled Land to the Landless (#275). And accompanying this was a cartoon that I will try to describe. There is a desert scene entitled MIDDLE EAST. A man in ragged clothes, with a pack on his back and a staff in his hand is trudging along

and looking intently toward something that resembles a mirage. The supposed mirage is beautiful and over it are the words LAND REFORM—BETTER SHARING OF PROFITS. The cartoon is labeled LOOKS LIKE MORE THAN A MIRAGE. Yes the Jubilee Trumpet is sounding loudly over the whole world and people are striving to gain better conditions, and they are no longer satisfied with mirages.

Another one from the Christian Science Monitor, dated April 7, 1952 was entitled U N WARNED TUNIS CRISIS STIRS ASIANS. (#294) Two paragraphs are interesting to us as “Watchers.” The “awakening” of these peoples, the struggle for “political and economic liberation...in Asia, Africa, and Oceania,” Dr. Santa Cruz said, constitutes one of the “salient facts of the age in which we live.”

“The doors of the United Nations should be opened to these peoples, not slammed in their faces,” the Chilean delegate said, lest their upsurge be diverted to violent channels.” Apparently this advice has not been followed in every case, for we find violent uprisings all over the world.

We shall next consider an item entitled HUMANITY IN REVOLT. (#298) This is dated April 25, 1952 and the final paragraph reads in part:...While the state must necessarily build military strength to counterbalance the aggressive possibilities of Soviet power, and while democratic society as a whole must close ranks against Communist subversion, the Christian conscience must furnish the dynamics for so improving democracy and extending its benefits to the outreaching masses of mankind as to furnish a nobler hope and a sounder leadership for ‘humanity in revolt.’” Yes, “humanity in revolt”—how significant this is as a Sign of our Times for us Watchers.

The next one is very similar (#313). It is entitled ASIA: AREA OF RESTLESS MILLIONS. The first paragraph reads: “The peoples of Asia no longer can be mentally stared at, pitied, perhaps, for their poverty, and then thrust out of thought. They are too restless and powerful to be forgotten.” Yes, “too restless and powerful to be forgotten.” However, the coming Kingdom will be capable of bringing order out of world-wide anarchy and restlessness. The nations will be “ruled with a rod of iron” to bring righteousness in full control—“nothing shall hurt or destroy in his holy mountain.”

WHAT IS THIS REVOLUTION by Harry B. Ellis (#314). We shall quote just three paragraphs: “What is this ‘revolution’ in Asia, that lurks behind every news item from the Far East? What is this wave, this ground swell, that has swept over India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, and freed them from British rule; that has ejected the Dutch from Indonesia?”

“Colonial regimes of the West are in the discard in Asia, cast out by peoples first subjected, then educated, by the West. Result of education was the desire for self-government.”

“Guns, sometimes, are easier to grasp than are ideas. Guns, at the moment, are the immediate answer to Communist aggression. But, in the long run, only an understanding of what is emerging in Asia will put the guns out of business.” Some however, will never accept any argument but the use of guns, and this is the reason the world is going through such a long transition period. Again we say, it will be only the Kingdom that will bring in peace and righteousness to a troubled and suffering world.

An Editorial entitled Peaceful Revolution, dated Aug. 6, 1951 is very interesting. The first paragraph we shall read: “The situation we are in today cannot be understood unless one realizes the revolution stirring in the rice paddies, the turnip fields, and the sugar plantations of the world. An acre or two of his own, free of the crushing burden of rent and taxes he has always known, is the deeply conservative dream that fires the poverty-stricken peasant’s new radicalism.” (#318) How much suffering has resulted from “Man’s Inhumanity to Man.” Selfishness has endeavored to live luxuriously while riding upon the backs of those who toiled in the fields, suffering the intense heat of the sun and enduring aching muscles year after year.

Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam spoke to some churchmen a number of years ago, and he said (#382) that “The west must keep in mind the unprecedented speed with which this revolution is progressing. Asia is passing the intellectual, social, economic, industrial, and political revolutionary phases which it took the West five centuries to achieve.” We are inclined to feel that things are progressing at snail’s pace, but such is not the case. The changes are rapid and violent, but there are so many things that need changing all over the world, and this takes time.

This brings us to our next item entitled SHADOW AND SUBSTANCE IN AFRICA. A picture is shown some place in Africa (#386) and under the picture are the words “Tide of Nationalism BEATS Against Old Structures.” Nationalism is defined in the dictionary as “the policy of asserting the interests of a nation, viewed as separate from the interests of other nations.” Actually this is not synonymous with Communism, and because of this many people do not understand what is going on in the world. The words under the picture: “Nationalism Beats Against Old Structures” reminds us of the symbolic language of Luke 21:25, “the sea and the waves roaring.”

“Poor and Rich India” is the title of the next item—“A Stirring Account of India’s Progress.” The first three paragraphs are of special interest to us. “The first year that the tractors came to the villages of Madhya Pradesh the villagers ran from them in fright. Never had they seen a motorized coaching of any sort. These large red monsters, which

snorted and bellowed over the rough fields, were terrifying. A year later, on the annual festival when the devout Hindu in almost every part of India 'worships'—or blesses—his work animals, his seed grain and his tools, these same villagers came with garlands of yellow marigolds and bedecked the tractor engines." (#428)

EGYPT is our next item. The reporter, Saville R. Davis said that Egypt was a land "Which audibly groans under poverty and over-population and a vast weight of numbness and despair on the economic front..." However great social changes were being brought about—"This is the same force that is operating all over the world where the bodies of men live on an animal level and only their minds can look up. It is taking them by the hand and saying, 'I will help you up.' It is true that at such a time hope leaps far ahead of economic possibility. But hope, too, nourishes life." (#447) The nations are trying various schemes to better themselves, but only the Kingdom will have the power and wisdom to bring in a new order of equity and blessing for all. We are living in the transition period, a time of trouble such as the world has ever known.

We consider next BLACK AND WHITE ON AFRICA. (#482) Marian Sorenson writes: "In the 175 years since the shot 'heard round the world' was fired in the American colonies Great Britain has reverberated with the echo of many shots and many campaigns for independence in its once great empire.

"In the mighty upheaval that has transformed an empire into a commonwealth, Britain has faced everything from the fierce military campaigns in the American colonies to the mighty passive resistance movement in India.

"But nowhere, in over a century and a half of empire, has Great Britain faced more of a maze of problems, racial tensions, the sharp challenge, and the call to conscience than are found in British Africa today.

"...in Africa the colonial picture has become many sided and vastly more complicated. On one side stands Britain, confronted with the problem of leading its African empire progressively toward independence. On another side stand the great masses of Africa's black peoples, still split into thousands of tribal groups, illiterate and largely poverty stricken, becoming increasingly politically conscious before they have either the education or economic advantages to control this consciousness."

Under the heading of SOUTH AFRICAN FUSE BURNS, the Rev. Michael Scott said that "the whole structure of South Africa 'is based upon the active principle of racial discrimination in politics, the law, the courts, and the administration.' The situation there, he added, is 'fast reaching its culminating point.'" Truly it is well stated—"South Africa Fuse Burns." (#448)

“The people of Asia face revolution. It has to come.” So says John Allan May, staff writer of the Christian Science Monitor. (#530) As we said at the beginning, the reporters of the world are fairly shouting the fulfillment of prophecy, only they don’t know it. The Jubilee Trumpet has sounded and the time has come for the great change from Satan’s empire to the empire of Christ and his Church.

LAND REFORM—FREEDOM’S TOP NEED is the title of the next item. (#670) It shows a picture of workers with bended back planting rice in fields flooded with water. It almost makes your back ache just to look at this picture. We will read one paragraph: “The land problem is very acute also in Latin America, where conditions often exist similar to those of Asia. The main feature of the agrarian structure is the high degree of inequality in land ownership, and the main feature of the system of land utilization is wastage of land.” This reminds us of Isa. 65:22, “They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat; for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” Ah, yes, what a glorious time that will be when “they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.”

The next item is in the form of a cartoon (#705). The heading of the cartoon is “DAWN COMES UP LIKE THUNDER.” The cartoonist was Yoes of the San Diego Sun, and it was copied by the Christian Science Monitor, July 20, 1954. The cartoon shows the sun breaking through a dense bank of clouds, and there is a little man called Asia, with his back to the sun, and he throws a tremendous size shadow called NATIONALISM. Yes, that is the great idea that is occupying the minds of the “Have Nots.” They want to have a place in the sun. They want to be free nations. They want to get out from under colonial yokes. It is knowledge and education that has brought this spirit of liberty into their minds.

Another cartoon appeared about a month later (#802), and it pictured an hourglass and the sands of Colonialism are just about all run out. How thrilling it is to us as “Watchers” to see the spirit of prophecy in worldly cartoons and news items! The Pastor was right when he said our “watching” includes watching the signs of the times. These signs of the times confirm our understanding of prophecy today.

Another cartoon appeared about six months later (#842) and it was entitled the “BEE TREE.” Carmack was the cartoonist and he showed the stump of a tree with limbs having no leaves. This tree was called POVERTY AND BAD GOVERNMENT, and pictures South East Asia. There is a large hole in the tree and bees are buzzing into the tree. These bees are called “Communist Subversion and Infiltration.” If men had been wise they would have tried to bring relief to the people of Asia and then they would have been satisfied and in no danger of being influenced by Communism and hatred of the West.

The last one we have under the heading of Revolution is also in the form of a cartoon (#868). It shows the base of a statue, and the base is entitled Colonialism. But all that is left of the statue is one boot and it looks in a bad state of repair.

We will pass on now to a different subject, although closely related—Time of Trouble.

The first one (#39) is in the form of a cartoon. If I had the ability to draw I would have liked to draw cartoons, as it is possible to express some powerful thoughts in the form of cartoons. This particular cartoon shows two men talking to one another seated across from one another at a desk. On one side is a Statesman, with his large sheets of paper called World Progress Reports. On the other side of the desk is a Scientist with a sheet spread out on the desk entitled H-BOMB PROGRAM. The Scientists have been urged to develop terrible bombs for the destruction of mankind. And the Scientist is asking the Statesman, “The Question Is, How Fast Can YOU Work? Yes, that is indeed the question—if the Statesmen cannot work out a way for men to live together peacefully, then the Scientists will have their terrible bombs developed and then it will be too late. Another cartoon is shown. There are three bombs, all scowling at a little man who is terrified, with his hair standing on end and his hat flying into the air. There is the little A Bomb; then a larger Bomb called the H Bomb; and next is a gigantic Bomb called the Z Bomb, and below the cartoon are the words “Most Anytime Now?”

The next one (#72) is entitled Peace: No Time for Detours; and below these words is the grim statement that “Opportunities Seen Running Out for Nations to Adopt One Government.”

The following item (#159) is entitled Bunche Says United Nation Might Must Be Based on Right. The final paragraph is very interesting: “Refusal to apply reason has brought the world to the brink of disaster, he said, but ‘if the United Nations cannot ensure peace, there will be none...But the United Nations need not fail. Surely, every man of reason must work and pray to the end that it will not fail.’” The trouble is that selfishness is in full control, and there are not enough unselfish men to control world affairs with justice and kindness.

Joseph P. Kennedy, former Ambassador to Great Britain said that the foreign policy of the U.S. was “suicidal” He said further that the U.S. foreign policy had “solidified communism,” sapped our economic strength, failed to provide a strong defense in this hemisphere and is “politically and morally a bankrupt policy.” These are strong words indeed. Kennedy was a powerful and prominent man and could make such a statement without fear of reprisals.

Britain Bucks Tide of Disenchantment by John Allan May. Mr. May wrote: “Britain is passing through a very difficult phase, a mood of serious disenchantment. Its people are out of sympathy with their government. Its members of Parliament bicker and bray and squabble away into the night, squandering 1,000 years of dignity in a wild inflation of party egos. Its navy no longer rules the waves...” (#182)

Another one by the same writer is entitled (#252) Britain in the Valley of Decision.

French Youth Take Grim View of World. (#289) “Only an invasion from mars is likely to lead to world unification. That is the way one young Frenchman expressed the prevailing pessimism of French youth on world affairs. We quote one paragraph: “Gandhi was the personality most widely regarded as having had the most beneficial effect on the age, and General MacArthur was felt to have had the most harmful effect.” Really youth is in a terrible spot today, as former standards have been destroyed, and they have no reliable guides, and they are floundering around in confusion.

The next one is in the form of a cartoon. It shows a large black pot furiously boiling, and the pot is labeled MIDDLE EAST. The fuel is Feudalism, Poverty and Oil. Over the hill, in the background is the head and shoulders of a man, who is smacking his lips in anticipation of a feast. The man is labeled Moscow, and he has a red star on his cap. This item was dated 1952, and now we are in 1979, 27 years later, and the Middle East Pot is boiling more fiercely than ever. (#289) Some of these cartoonists were keen students of world affairs.

West Europe Hoists Distress Banners in Economic Crisis. (#296) So says Egon Kaskeline. He wrote, “America’s allies in Western Europe have hoisted distress signals. They say their economic stability is threatened by rapid rearmament, their currencies are tottering, the dollar gap in their foreign trade is widening, the their social structure is deteriorating.” Well, it would seem that the shoe is on the other foot in our day—the United States is experiencing financial distress. The economic structure is so complicated that it is difficult to put your finger on the working of money. But there seems to be an abundance of warning of disaster ahead unless some remedy is found to stabilize the money situation.

Measuring the Tempest was written by Joseph C. Harsch. (#355) He said “No wise man would attempt such a foolish thing as to measure now the weight, the meaning, and the implications to all branches of human endeavor of the event which took place a few brief weeks ago around Eniwetok Atoll in the far Pacific when mankind moved from its brief sojourn in the simple atomic bomb age on into the hydrogen bomb age.”

He then said, “Thus we face the onrushing prospect of living in a world driven by a great power struggle in which both sides will be equipped shortly with weapons capable of far

greater and more decisive damage to the human race than ever was possessed by an Attila.” Jesus said that unless these days were shortened there would no flesh be saved. Today we are right in the midst of this prediction by Mr. Harsch. How grateful we are that we have the Truth—the knowledge of the Divine Plan, so we know about the coming kingdom to rescue mankind from the rulership of Satan and man’s own selfishness. As far as man’s viewpoint is concerned “there is no way out.”

Nebulous ‘Strengths’ in Europe is commented upon by Volney D. Hurd. (#469) He had talked with an Italian while on a train headed for Paris. The Italian said “The fact Italy and France vote so largely Communist, is further enough proof that they are too soft to be able to count on them in a military way. You thought your fifth column in the last war was bad in France. It was a drop in the bucket compared to the Communist setup there today.” So the scheming and planning goes on and on. The contending parties are trying to block one another with alliances and military threats. But alliances have a habit of changing friends and making enemies—there is nothing stable or dependable.

This is borne out in the next item entitled U.S. Foreign Policy in Crisis and Transition. (#653) France, Britain, the U.S. and Russia were playing a game of chess with one another over the problem of Indochina. This was back in 1954. How thankful we can be in having a knowledge of prophecy giving us a bright hope for world peace and righteousness when God’s kingdom is finally in full control and Satan vanquished or fully bound.

Roland Sawyer wrote a short piece entitled A Stable or a Suicidal World? (#687) Mr. Sawyer comments: “A stable world must be built to prevent a suicidal world. A stable world must be built on a principle. Aggression must not be allowed to succeed...” But the contending powers have become so powerful that there is no way to overcome the spirit of selfishness—it seems that “every man’s hand is against his neighbor.” Each one is watching out for self only.

Shifting Alliances contains some interesting thought by Joseph C. Harsch. He wrote: “If the picture of Washington’s foreign policy seems these days to be blurred and uncertain, as though it were a film taken from a motor car going over a bumpy road there is a reason. U.S. foreign policy is moving at an unusual pace over new and sometimes unfamiliar ground. Change is in the air all around. The shape of the power world is changing, and adjustment to change is sometimes difficult and uncertain.” He goes on: “Under these conditions of new uncertainties and of changing patterns, Washington faces decisions more difficult and more dangerous than any that have come up before since the end of the war. Does Washington shift the basis of its European policies from France to Germany? Is there anything it can do to make Moscow’s control over Peking at least as insecure as its own prospective control over Bonn? How can France be tied and reconciled to a European policy which raises Germany and assigns a secondary role to

France? If worse comes to worse, must a choice be made between France and Germany? If such a choice is made in favor of Germany, how can a defense of Germany be planned without an assured supply line across France and a system of rear-area bases in France?" (#704) How thankful we can be that the Lord's will and ways are based upon the solid and unchanging principles of justice and righteousness and that we have a clear pattern to follow in our Christian life. No shifting alliances are in the Lord's will for us.

I think the items that displayed the most alarm were those related to the threat of War. We will touch upon a few in closing. The first one is entitled H-Bomb Alarms European Sector of Atlantic Treaty. (#41) The reporter, Volney D. Hurd said "Throughout western Europe, terrified by the development of the hydrogen bomb and by being caught between the American and Russian giants, there is a rapidly growing wave of opinion in favor of the military neutralization of Europe." All this manifests so clearly the tragedy of unrestrained and uncontrolled selfishness. If all the nations had followed the Golden Rule, they would not be in the mess they are today.

Notice this next one (#43) entitled U.S. Rallies After H-Bomb Leak: More Secrecy or World Curb? Hope is based on America's industrial strength in a super-armament race with Russia. It feels that certain sacrifices of democratic procedures are necessary under such conditions. Yes, in their desperation, they feel they must sacrifice certain democratic procedures. It goes on and on and gets worse rather than better.

Here Is the Dark Human Fact, a book report by Harry B. Ellis. The book itself is entitled World Without Heroes. (#62) The writer of the book, Arthur C. Fields, was a young man who went through the realities of war, and he points out the devastating effect war has upon the mind. Mr. Ellis said there were American soldiers who had "every normal instinct blotted out." One young man "became so inflamed with the lust to kill that he slew one of his fellow soldiers with a bayonet in the midst of battle." So the world is filled with men now that have been brutalized by their war experiences. Is it any wonder that we read of many tragedies today in the use of guns?

From the Emporia (Kan.) Gazette we find an item entitled Chariots. (#170) A verse from Isaiah was quoted "Woe to them that trust in chariots because they are many." The writer comments: "Then one day a bomb was exploded in Russia. And suddenly, though we might not admit it, we knew that our world had changed, and that our chariots would henceforth avail us nothing. We knew that, even if we were to win an atomic war, our bank accounts, our houses, our cars, our minks and diamonds, our stocks and bonds could be wiped out in a dozen well placed explosions. Our old securities had crumbled, and we began to look around for a new security which thieves would not steal nor moths corrupt." Yes, serious thinkers are realizing the truth of our Lord's words, that unless these days be shortened, "no flesh would be saved."

Questions—\$25,000,000 Ones. This is the heading of a short article by Roland Sawyer. Yes, military airplanes cost millions of dollars; not a few years ago, the military men talked in terms of millions of dollars, while now some military equipment runs into billions of dollars. (#245) Is it any wonder that men's hearts are failing them for fear?

"We did not laugh when the band sat down to play." Under this heading (#309) Roland Sawyer gave an eyewitness report on the unveiling of the atomic cannon. Mr. Sawyer said: "And you remember the Secretary of Army's words a day or two before in Washington, where he said: 'The hard, cold facts indicate that we are in a race with the Communists to improve the quality of manpower.'" Then Mr. Sawyer added these sad words: "Intuitively you wished Frank Pace could have stressed the need to improve the quality of mankind." Ah yes. That is what is needed—the "improvement of the quality of mankind," and that is just what the coming Kingdom of God is for: "the improvement of the quality of mankind." Not "manpower," but "mankind."

Next we consider an item that was signed by five prominent reporters. (#451) One of the leading paragraphs is worded as follows: "The atom-hydrogen age basically has altered the pattern of life far more than is apparent now, or will be apparent for some years." We are living 25 years beyond the date of this item and we can agree that the pattern of man's thinking today is very different than it was say fifty years ago. Accompanying this item was a small cartoon. It showed Uncle Sam with an umbrella over his head entitled Civil Defense Appropriations, and the umbrella is made of some flimsy cloth material. Near by was an enormous figure in the form of a bomb which dwarfed Uncle Sam entirely. The bomb is saying "IT LOOKS DARLING." This cartoon is very expressive, for you can imagine the deep booming voice of the bomb expressing amused contempt for the umbrella over Uncle Sam's head. Really there is no defense for atomic-hydrogen bombs. No one can win in an atomic war; and that is why I personally do not believe the Lord will permit atomic war to ever start, for the earth would be unfit for habitation after an atomic war.

World War III? No, Thanks! (#795) This is the title of an editorial by the Christian Science Monitor. The Editor was commenting upon the appeal of the President of South Korea who was urging the U.S. Congress to start a war against Communist Russia. It is shocking to realize how some people in this world can urge the horrors of war, seemingly not realizing all that would happen if such a war were started. The Editor remarked: "We hope the brazenness of this performance will help awaken Americans as to where they are being led by the Rhee and Chiang Kaisheks. Not only does he seek to drag America into a war with 600 million Chinese, but he suggests that if Soviet Russia supported China there would then be opportunity to bomb Soviet 'centers of production.' As if that were all that would happen!"

Reign of Terror is the title of an item in the Monitor—the quoting from a letter by a man in Japan. (#804) The first paragraph is all we need to quote: “Americans, can you suppose how horribly the Japanese people suffered and were terrorized by the ‘tests’ at Bikini thousands miles from Japan? Now it is about 150 days since the first H-explosion of March 1. But as times pass by, the panic of a few H-tests produced is far from decline; everyday, it is giving us Japanese an indescribable shock, striking overwhelming terror into our hearts.”

Strauss Discloses H-Bomb Menace. (#861) Under this heading Roland Sawyer wrote: “In a statement vital to all humanity, the U.S. confirms officially that thermonuclear weapons, hydrogen bombs, will threaten the continuance of civilization if they are ever used. The Strauss statement makes clear that if a hydrogen type of war should ever be unleashed, no nation and no people involved could expect to experience anything but ruin.

Our final item is in the form of a cartoon. It is entitled The U.S. Budget Isn’t All That’s Out of Balance. (#864) The cartoon shows two individuals. One is a husky man with legs crossed seated on the ground. He has a war helmet on and is entitled Cold War. He is holding a large bowl with outstretched arms, and into that bowl is being poured the “World’s Wealth and Abilities.” This husky man has a satisfied expression on his face. The other man has a head resembling a world globe. He is in tattered clothes and is called “Undeveloped Resources” and he is holding out a small bowl with his outstretched arms. And he has a longing look on his face for he is not getting anything poured into his small bowl.

In closing we would like to say that with our desire for justice and peace, we would be in agony if we did not have the Truth today. The Truth enables us to keep control of ourselves and not become agitated and disheartened by the conditions in the world today. Truly we pray constantly with a longing heart for the coming Kingdom to bring relief to suffering humanity.