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## SPIRIT OF CHRIST: AN IMPOSSIBILITY IN POLITICS?

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Is it impossible to be at the same time a genuine Christian and a successful politician? Are Christian love and the drive for political power incompatible?

One of the greatest difficulties in applying Christianity to politics is the considerable segment of the population that believes an unbridgeable gulf separates the demands of Christian ethics from the demands of political behavior.

Political scientist Hans Morgenthau makes this assertion, saying that Christianity demands love and self-denial, whereas the requirements of politics are self-aggrandizement and the use of one's neighbors as a means to power. He contends that to the extent that one tries to be the good politician, he must cease to be the good Christian.

When astronaut John Glenn announced a few years ago that he was planning to run for the U.S. Senate, Morgenthau's contention seemed to be confirmed by many a housewife who commented sadly, "He's such a good person that he should not get involved in politics."

If one contends that the spirit of Christ is inherently incompatible with the world of practical politics, what he really is saying is that the spirit of Christ is inherently incompatible with the world. The quest for power in politics is no more intrinsically evil or debasing than the corresponding struggle for power in the world of business, labor, education, the arts, or even the institutional church.

All human endeavor involves a kind of struggle for power, prestige, or status, and to accept Morgenthau's thesis would seem to require one to say that being a Christian is incompatible with living in the world. Competition in the business world is an especially cut-throat game, and Morgenthau might just as well have said that no compromise is possible between the great commandment of Christian ethics (love thy neighbor) and the great commandment of business (defeat thy neighbor).

Since I cannot accept any definition of Christianity which requires withdrawal from the world of reality, I suggest a more reasonable statement: It is difficult to live the Christian life--and impossible to live a perfect one--whether in the world of practical politics, practical business, or practical church administration. But we can pursue and exercise power because we love God and our neighbor and want to use that power to ease the burdens of our fellow man at home and around the world. Christian ethics will make both our means and ends different from those of the non-Christian.

One of the better known textbooks on city government asserts that "a candidate who declines to dodge or evade and who refuses to appeal to prejudice or class cannot go far in American city politics." Many would agree with this statement and would readily enlarge it to be one who believes that the honest and straight-shooting candidate can win, although it is sometimes like trying to pierce the sound barrier.

If it seems as if only those win who shrewdly pose as all things to all people and who play fast and loose with the facts, this is far more a reflection on the voter than on the candidate. In reality the problems faced by Christian politicians may be more the result of the political ineptness of his Christian supporters than anything of his own doing.

To state the problem a little differently, the real problem may be not so much that politicians aren't Christian enough, but that Christians aren't political enough. In order to have Christian statesmanship, it is essential for those citizens interested in Christian statesmanship to learn how to be more politically effective. The so-called "unbridgeable gulf" between the spirit of Christ and the spirit of politics will disappear in a democracy if even an active minority of Christian citizens will become masters of the fine art of politics.



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Federal Funds To Church  
Schools Get Court Test

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By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two major cases are on their way to the U. S. Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the use of Federal Tax funds in church-related schools.

A New York suit (Flast v. Cohen) challenges titles I and II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. These titles provide for special educational services and for textbooks and other instructional materials in private schools for the use of teachers and school children.

A new suit in Hartford, Conn. (Tilton v. Cohen) has been initiated to test the Higher Educational Facilities Act of 1963. This act provides for the expenditure of federal funds for the construction of buildings such as dormitories, libraries, laboratories, classrooms and general purpose structures in both public and private colleges.

The way was cleared by the Supreme Court earlier this year for such cases to be considered by the courts. In a decision in Flast v. Cohen it was decided that under certain circumstances a taxpayer can challenge the constitutionality of a federal program. The case is now pending in the New York courts.

It is not known when these cases will reach the U. S. Supreme Court. It normally takes about three years from the initiation to the conclusion of such cases. They are introduced in the district courts, appealed to the State Supreme Court, and then taken to the U. S. Supreme Court.

In the event that the two cases reach the U. S. Supreme Court at approximately the same time, the court could choose to announce their decisions simultaneously two or three years from now.

Two other cases already handled by the U. S. Supreme Court are significant in relation to the present cases. In 1966 the U. S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from Maryland's highest court involving the use of state funds for church colleges. Maryland's court held that state funds for closely related church colleges violate the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.

A 1968 case that reached the U. S. Supreme Court (Allen v. Board of Education) challenged a New York state law that provided the loan of textbooks to public and private school children in grades 7-12. The court said that this law was not a violation of either the New York or Federal Constitutions.

It is impossible to predict the outcome of these cases. However, observers agree that the stage has been set for taxpayers' suits contesting federal expenditures on first amendment grounds. They foresee that landmark decisions are in the making regarding the use of tax funds in church schools.

In announcing the New Connecticut case (Tilton v. Cohen) the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union stated that in the past four years \$1.6 billion in federal funds have been granted for college construction. They estimate that 10 per cent of this total has gone to religiously-oriented schools.

Under immediate challenge in Connecticut are federal construction grants totaling \$987,739 to four church-related colleges. All four are Catholic schools. They are:

Albertus Magnus College of New Haven, recommended for a grant of \$24,632 for language laboratories;

Annhurst College in South Woodstock, \$350,697 grant toward the construction of a building for music, drama and art;

Fairfield University of Saint Robert Bellarmine in Fairfield, \$245,310 grant toward the construction of a science building; and

Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, \$367,100 grant toward the construction of a library.

El Paso "Encuentro" Crusade  
Captures Border City Spotlight

EL PASO, Tex. (BP)--Fiesta Chamizal spirit was upstaged by the Holy Spirit in the border town of El Paso this week as more than 100 people made decisions for Christ at the "Encuentro" Spanish-language crusade.

The Chamizal celebration commemorates the end of a long-standing border dispute between the U.S. and Mexico, but under the tent on the El Paso coliseum grounds, the relationship between modern man and the eternal God was being settled.

Texas Baptist evangelist Rudy Hernandez set the crusade theme on the opening night when he lamented man's rebellion before God. "But even so--God loves us," he added. Enthusiastic audiences ranging from 700 to 775 packed the tent each night from Sept. 28-Oct. 4 to hear the diminutive preacher.

"Competition from the wrestling matches in the coliseum, the Shrine Circus nearby and the Fiesta Chamizal did not hurt us," Hernandez stated. "In fact, I like to think that we became a part of the Fiesta Chamizal, in that we as Christians celebrate the ending of our enmity with God through Christ's atonement--our personal treaty with Christ.

The music ministry was led by Rudy Hernandez Jr. (no relation to the evangelist) and Ray Robles, both of Los Angeles, Calif. Musical highlight of the meetings was the powerful rendition of "Cuan Grande Es El" (How Great Thou Art) by Robles and the crusade choir.

The revival was sponsored by the El Paso Baptist association through the 17 Spanish-speaking churches and missions in the area.

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Pictures available upon request

Panel Asks New Approaches  
To Help Mentally Retarded

(10-4-68)

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--The President's Committee on Mental Retardation has issued a report urging that public and private groups work together increasingly to tackle the many-sided problems of mentally handicapped persons.

The committee entitled its second annual report "The Edge of Change." In it there are major recommendations for a "Fundamental Revision" of community services for the mentally retarded and their families. If these recommendations are enacted, they would involve a pooling of resources and responsibilities by all groups concerned with mental retardation.

The panel of health and education specialists cited samples of innovative projects throughout the country where private, non-profit groups and various government agencies have worked together to provide help for retarded individuals and their families.

These "hundreds of new-look activities" have brought the nation to the dawn of a new day of hope for its six million mentally retarded citizens, the panel said. But, it emphasized, the day has not fully dawned. It urged all leaders in the field of mental retardation to face up to the need for a comprehensive ministry to meet the multiple problems of the mentally retarded.

"Because resources of money and people are short and because human needs are so deeply interrelated, people and organizations interested in specific handicapping conditions will need to work together increasingly," the report stated.

The development of all-inclusive approaches to handicapping conditions will promote more effective services for the retarded, the report pointed out. Such approaches would end the "Tragic Limbo" into which the emotionally disturbed retarded have so often fallen, it stated.

Wilbur J. Cohen, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, is chairman of the standing committee on mental retardation. The report covered recommendations in three areas: Residential care, manpower and mental retardation in poverty areas.

Overall, the suggestions would affect the quality of projects sponsored by religious groups for mentally retarded persons, as well as increase financial aid to develop more and better programs.

Specifically, the committee's major recommendations that would involve church groups include:

\* Encouraging Public and Private Welfare Agencies to "clearly identify" a portion of their resources for welfare services to the retarded and their families. This would include increasing services such as casework, adoption, home maker services, foster care and day care.

\* Appropriating more funds to improve standards in existing residences for the retarded and the development of community-based alternatives to these institutions, looking toward the development of a system of accreditation.

\* A system of loans or grants to assist private, non-profit groups to establish different types of residential care, such as hotels, group homes, nurseries, residential vocational training centers, nursing homes and extended care facilities.

\* The involvement of private groups in researching and developing innovative uses of specialist personnel. More funds for hospital in-service training programs and other projects to train unskilled or semiskilled persons were suggested.

\* An aggressive promotional program by public and private groups to develop career planning and opportunities for health, educational, and social services.

\* Grant programs to government and private groups to form volunteer adult and youth groups to work with mentally retarded persons, especially in poverty neighborhoods,

In its first report, issued in December 1967, the President's standing Committee on Mental Retardation identified 75 per cent of the cases of mental retardation as resulting from socio-environmental factors.

The second report spells this out by stating that three-fourths of the nation's six million mentally retarded are to be found in the isolated and impoverished urban and rural slums. A crisis exists especially in rural areas and requires immediate special attention, the report stated.

Specific problems that contribute to mental retardation among poor families were identified as a lack of prenatal care, avoidable complications of pregnancy, pre-mature births and high infancy mortality rates, and the absence of medical check-ups prior to elementary school.

The committee recommended that priority attention be given to establishing community and neighborhood health and education centers. This would provide preventive health care and systematic screening for children, and prenatal care and counseling for pregnant women.

It also asked priority for day care centers and early developmental education programs, beginning in the child's first year. A network of such centers in poor neighborhoods should be started quickly, the panel urged. This could be done if there is a wholehearted commitment by community leaders, both governmental and private, the committee members said.

There is mounting evidence, the report shows, to an intimate relationship between diet and mental and nervous disorders.

Low incomes, economic stagnation, high rates of malnutrition and high incidence of disease, health problems and mental retardation are all found together in the nation's poverty neighborhoods. Even though specialists do not directly link these, "more than coincidence is obviously at work," the report stated.

The committee, composed of prominent government and private citizens, said the meaning of the known and apparent facts is clear:

"The conditions of life in poverty--whether in an urban ghetto, the hollows of Appalachia, a prairie shacktown or on an Indian reservation--cause and nurture mental retardation.

In its special plea to the President and the nation, the committee urged that private and public agencies act now to make health and education services available as the right of every American child, regardless of his potential.

The committee's report on statistics show that some 2,100 children who are or will become mentally retarded will be born every week in 1968. It pointed out that until more ways are found to prevent mental retardation, we must expect that up to three per cent of our annual baby population will be or will become mentally retarded.



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