

What Can We Replace Congress With?

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Now that we have more properly identified our national legislative body as "The National Association of Wimps, Knaves, Corruptible, Greedy and Arrogant," let us citizens consider LETTING OUT THE WHOLE BUSINESS ON CONTRACT!

Surely there cannot be any greater harm if we were to follow the prevailing trend in industry where former in-house functions are let out on bid to PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS. We understand that not only does one get more "bang for the buck," but just think of the money saved as we dispense with the huge free health bills, cheap meals and haircuts, stationery, gyms, parking, limousines, personnel for the private bank and post office, and Lord knows what else. It occurs to you, I'm sure, that the same Government Accounting Office is just beginning to audit those perks including \$23,000 an hour Air Force I trips to out of town golf courses.

But not to despair, there is hope that the treasury may not be completely depleted: President Bush has PUT SKIRTS ON WILLIE HORTON. He made a national radio address to announce that he has signed a waiver that will stop Wisconsin WELFARE MOTHERS in their reproductive tracks. "The next baby is out!" Of course he had nothing to say or offer in terms of a meaningful process for a translation to training or jobs, which along with daycare is the only solution to the problem.

Now, what else is engaging our attention on center stage at the National Comedy Store? The CNN Network carries a Michigan prosecutor's proud declaration that his state has "met the drug

problem head on and the people will be freed from its terrible grip." Been to Detroit lately? For possession of several ounces of cocaine, Michigan law prescribes LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE as the mandatory sentence. It is interesting that this is the amount of the drug most commonly found on bush league street peddlers; consequently 50% of the lifers are black--while only 15% of Michigan's population is black.

It is even more interesting that several decades ago a congressman by the name of GEORGE BUSH VOTED FOR REPEAL OF FEDERAL MANDATORY DRUG SENTENCING--upon which the Michigan bill was modeled. And now State Senator Rosenbaum who sponsored the Michigan bill says, "it has failed. THE WRONG PEOPLE ARE GOING TO JAIL." Everybody knows that as we see General Noriega convicted as a drug lord while the country of Panama is acknowledged to have become a greater transshipper of drugs than ever. We believe it was the Bush White House that engineered this great coup (like it permitted drug exchanges to facilitate the Iran/Contra operations).

And we have a frightened, do-nothing Congress that knows as we do who the real pushers and facilitators of the drug trade are; From the bankers who wash the money, aided and abetted by scores of top lawyers with political clout (like the Bank of Credit and Commerce International) to the White House-controlled State Department and Armed Services who evidently are ordered "NOT TO STOP THE FLOW OF DRUGS ACROSS OUR BORDERS." They could, you know!

The word "Wimp" has its very personification in those congressmen

who refuse to stand up against the National Rifle Association and who also will not design legislation that can and will effectively remove the most dangerous of automatic weapons from our streets. It has come to our attention that the old and revered COLT'S MANUFACTURING CO. is one American industry that has survived foreign competition and surged ahead with a good profit showing on its balance sheet. Is it nostalgia and a reverence for the old west and its six guns that have saved this 150 year old-firm from bankruptcy?

No, this premier fire arms company has come out with its most deadly weapon yet, the "A-15, Model 2" (the street wiper).

While Colt's says the weapon "is difficult to convert to full automatic, there coincidentally has suddenly appeared on the market a number of magazine articles and manuals detailing how to quickly convert the guns to full automatic. We do note that the guns are not Japanese made. The Attorney General of Ohio, a state where there are strong sales, is suing the Colt's company and STATE OF CONNECTICUT. It seems the company was bailed out of financial difficulties with state (tax payer) funds--now the A-15.

This is not exactly what we expected when some of our industrialists promised to mend their ways and begin to push production and jobs instead of JUNK BONDS. Again, perhaps it is not too far-fetched to contemplate hiring specialists with demonstrated expertise to carry out the prime functions of this republic and to prescribe reasonable rules and laws that would endure our security and well being.

Virgin's Real World Label Releases JUBILATION From The Holmes Brothers

Virgin's Real World label--the imprint founded by Peter Gabriel to record and promote a wide range of music, from the traditional to the modern from all parts of the world--has released *Jubilation* from The Holmes Brothers. The album was recorded in August 1991 at Gabriel's Real World Studios in England during the first annual Real World Recording Week, when over 75 musicians and producers from around the world convened to record and perform together. *Jubilation* has the distinction of being the first Real World album by artists from the United States: The Holmes Brothers were raised in Virginia and are currently based in New York when not on tour.

Jubilation is a rousing collection of traditional gospel songs, including "Jesus Is Alright" and "A Closer Walk With Thee." It was produced by Andy Breslau and Scott Billington, and features The Holmes Brothers, bassist Sherman Holmes, guitarist Wendell Holmes, drummer/vocalist Popsy Dixon, and pedal steel guitarist Gib Wharton. On various tracks they were joined by a number of international musicians who participated in the Recording Week's work, including members of Remmy Ongala's Orchestra SuperMatimila (from Tanzania), singer Mari Boine Persen (from Samiland), and flutist Guo Yue (from China).

Earth Day Project Encourages Region's Drivers to 'Give Earth A Breather'

Northwesterners can breathe easier on Earth Day if they'll stop to give the earth a breather on Wednesday, April 22, say sponsors of the second annual public affairs project, "Give Earth A Breather."

Northwest Natural Gas, KATU Channel 2, Tri-Met and the Oregon Department of Energy have combined efforts to ask residents of the Portland metropolitan area to take action to promote clean air and reduce air pollution. Since pollution from cars and trucks is the biggest source of the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, collectively altering transportation habits could make a significant difference.

Business and professional people, students and families can "Give Earth A Breather" by leaving the car at home for the day and riding the bus or MAX; carpooling for work and school as well as for recreation, and walking or biking whenever possible. When people must drive, planning errands and appointments in advance can help them consolidate trips. Also, using fleet vehicles that operate on alternative fuels like natural gas can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 90 percent and limit other pollutants as well.

RELIGION

Held Hostage by Satan

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS

In the midst of the seventies and the eighties, everywhere you looked and every place you read--there were stories of hostages being taken for various reasons.

The airlines were having an awful problem. Different groups were snatching planes right-and-left. Every time you looked in the papers or listened over the air-waves, this headline seemed to be a carry-over from week to week--"Hostages Taken!"

Some people in Iran, the Irish Republic, the Palestinians, just to name a few, were hijacking planes or planting bombs in buildings that were densely populated. And the why for this kind of action was, they were terribly unhappy with the way their government was handling things--so, they held people, human lives, against their wills--to make their demands known. Some people were killed. Some were imprisoned for years scantily clad and under-fed. When the hostage takers decided to return their hostages, many were malnourished or very ill or damaged beyond repair.

There was such a rash of these occurrences until it seemed to be a "fad." Disgruntled children tried their hands at it. Vietnam Vets and many, many others all made attempts to voice their plights by using other human lives as shields and/or bargaining tools.

As Christian Believers, we have been given the ability to make choices--by God Almighty. And why do I say this? Because--we, as Christian Believers, cannot be held hostage by Satan unless we let him.

The people who were captured and held hostage from the planes or from the buildings were all held against their wills. Without their permission. But we, Christian Believers, allow ourselves to be captured, tormented, raked over the coals and agitated beyond limits by Satan, the evil one. The problem with this situation is--as Christian Believers, we chose to be in those precarious situations.

Yes! Once you have made the choice to follow Jesus, your choice came with some bonuses in the pack-

age, such as: being redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, power to resist Satan, having all your sins forgiven (starting all over again with a clean slate), mercy, grace, salvation. Those are some pretty good benefits.

If we are supposed to have those bonuses, how can we be held hostage by Satan? How? Because--we let him. Yes! We let him! Stupid isn't it! No one wants to be called stupid--but, that's exactly what you are when you allow Satan to reek havoc in your life. Especially when Jesus has already paid the price. Especially when Jesus has already won the battle with Satan. Especially when clear instructions have been carefully laid out for us in the Holy Scriptures. So--why do we still allow this to happen? We are not exercising that very important tool, "FAITH." When faith is in place, we trust in God with all our hearts and all our minds. We won't take foolish chances by going out onto dangerous limbs unprotected... unshielded... ungirded... unshod... without a helmet...without your fighting tools.

Over two thousand years ago, Christ Jesus took that long walk down that road and up to a hill called "Calvary" to save us from these kinds of attacks.

When the Blazers and the Lakers are on the basketball court together and the Blazers have the ball, the team members have confidence in the one handling the ball. Each team member believes that he will take that ball down the court and put it in the basket; but, along the way, the player gets distracted and passes the ball to the other team. Well! Needless to say, we all know how his team mates feel about him; but, more importantly, how he feels about himself. You know the rules of the game, you know the play because you have been practicing for a long time, you are expert in ball-handling and you've made this play time-after-time. But--this time you allowed your other thoughts to enter into your mind while you were on your journey of "trying to reach your goal."

Don't be easily distracted! It is during times like this that Satan makes

his move. And you can assuredly believe that he will be right there waiting for you to flub-up and make a boo-boo. However, instead of being too cocky and being side-tracked, look to Christ Jesus for your strength and direction. He is right there by our side. Not on the side-lines but by your side. He's on the court of life with you.

Before Christ ascended up to Heaven, he assured us that he would never leave us or forsake us. He promised! Yes! He promised to never leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell with us. Not just sometimes but very second, every hour and every minute of every day.

Keep in touch with your Heavenly Father through prayer. Prayer is a communication tool that has to be used often if you want results.

Take a child, for instance: When a child wants something, he/she never lets you forget it. The child will tug at your coat or dress-tail. He/she will persist until you comply with his/her wish. Well! We are God's children. We must talk to him on a regular basis. Prayer! Tug at God's coat-tail and get his attention. Prayer!

There is an old song that says....

"Jesus on the main line
tell him what you want.
Tell him what you want right now.
When you're sick and can't get well,
tell him what you want.
When you're down and can't get up,
tell him what you want.
When you're broken hearted and all alone,
tell him what you want.
Yes! Tell him what you want right now."

Oh! You've got to know Him! He will be your friend! Yes, he will! Don't let Satan get so close to you until he feels comfortable. Kick him to the curb in the Holy name of Jesus Christ. Tell him to get away from you because you have been redeemed by the Holy and Precious Blood of Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!

This Easter season remember to celebrate LIFE. Christ died that we might have life and have it more abundantly. O, Praise his Holy Name!

MJB Debuts MJB Lite (TM) Half Caffeine Coffee



MJB (R) Coffee has introduced MJB Lite (TM) 50 percent caffeine coffee, a revolutionary addition to the full line of MJB premium coffees. MJB Lite, one of the first "Half-Caff" coffees on the market, responds to the consumer demand for increasing options in coffee.

No longer do coffee lovers have to choose between the extremes of regular coffee and decaf. MJB Lite is blended from the finest regular and decaffeinated coffee beans--carefully roasted for a smooth, mild taste.

"Research shows that 80 percent of consumers polled are interested in buying a half-caffeine coffee," said Andrea Cook, Assistant Public Relations Manager. "MJB Lite gives consumers an additional option regarding their caffeine intake. It is a great way to cut down on caffeine without going all the way to decaf."

MJB Lite is available in 12 oz., 24 oz., and 36 oz. cans. A special 1.75 oz. trial size, ideal for brewing just one pot, is also available to encourage product trial.

75th Anniversary of EMO

1992 marks the 75th anniversary of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. For 75 years, churches and denominations have worked together to enrich and enhance the quality of life in Oregon and S.W. Washington. Ecumenical Ministries has worked to develop a broad partnership between the church and the community; a partnership which has focused much of its resources in addressing the needs of the sick, the addicted, the homeless, the refugees, and the poor.

As Ecumenical Ministries moves into the 4th quarter-century of ministry, it is happy to announce that the Collins Foundation has awarded it a \$10,000 matching grant. For every dollar raised, the Collins Foundation will match it dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. Ecumenical Ministries has sent this news to its seventeen denominations and 2000 local congregations and is now appealing to the wider community for assistance.

Ecumenical Ministries was able to open the first freestanding HIV Day Center in the country that serves lunch to over thirty people each weekday. The Old Town Clinic last year cared for over 5,000 patients, many of whom were women and children. In November 1991, the Hopewell House was opened as a hospice facility and is already at capacity. Last year 7,500 persons were provided with emergency food from Ecumenical Ministries NE Emergency Food

Program. Ecumenical Ministries has assisted hundreds of farmers throughout the state, who are facing the loss of the family farm, by distributing \$100,000 of Farm Aid money, and advocating for the family farmer at the state legislature.

Camp Odyssey is held each summer for one week where 60 teenagers of diverse racial, ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds from all regions of the state come together to experience the rich diversity that makes up the state of Oregon. The long-term goal is best expressed in the words of a camper from last year: "The experience was the most memorable and intense thing in my life. I discovered myself as well as other cultures and became life-long brothers and sisters with fellow Camp Odyssey people..."

Each year the Collins Foundation provides a grant to Ecumenical Ministries to sponsor the Collins Lectures when a renowned theologian comes to Oregon to give a series of lectures for the public. This year scripture scholar, Dr. Raymond Brown, will be the featured speaker.

These are just a few of the ways The Collins Foundation works in partnership providing ministry to the people of Oregon through its support of the 30 programs of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. As we move into the 90's, Ecumenical Ministries looks forward to maintaining a close partnership with the Collins Foundation.

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