

## Six Clergymen Appraise Upsurge of Religious Interest

BY LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press Correspondent  
Washington — (U.P.) — Evangelist Billy Graham said today there is no doubt that we are experiencing the greatest religious renaissance in American history.

But he and other leading ministers warned that awakened public interest in religion must be translated into a deeper commitment to its teachings before the current back-to-church movement can be called a true spiritual revival.

Graham was one of six prominent clergymen who participated in a United Press symposium of the significance of the rapid growth in church membership recorded during the past few years. Other participants were theologian Reinhold Niebuhr; Dr. Norman Vincent Peale; Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, Methodist Bishop G. Brockley Oxnam; and The Right Rev. Angus Dun, Episcopal bishop of Washington.

All based their comments on a recent report by the National Council of Churches showing that church membership in the United States has passed 100 million for the first time, and is continuing to grow at a rate that outstrips population gains by more than 50 per cent.

Most of them agreed with Graham that a powerful religious movement is sweeping America, but they varied widely in their interpretations of it.

**Social Problems Hit**  
Graham, who took one of the most optimistic views, acknowledged that there is "little evidence" so far that increased interest in religion has been accompanied by higher standards of "personal morality" or by a more Christian approach to "basic social problems" such as race relations.

"If every church member were committed to Christ, I doubt if we would be having the racial violence, the unbelievable crime in our major cities, the high divorce rate, the terrible slum areas of our cities, and many other social problems," he said.

But the fact that the present "religious renaissance" has yet to exert a major transforming influence on American life does not mean that it is insincere, Graham said.

He recalled that there was a "time lag of nearly a quarter of a century" before the 18th

century Wesleyan revival in England showed its effects in British social life. Thus, he said, there are grounds for "hope that the renewed religious interest of today will make its impact on the America of tomorrow."

Niebuhr, noted author of theological books and professor of applied Christianity at Union Theological Seminary, New York, was the most reserved in his appraisal of rising church enrollment.

"I think it is questionable that it indicates a genuine spiritual revival," said Niebuhr. "Certainly going to church is popular. Perhaps it is too popular—it has become the fashionable thing to do. It establishes a sense of community in the impersonality of the city. It is significant that church membership is now more popular in the cities than in the country, whereas it used to be the other way around."

A sharply different view was expressed by Peale, popular author, broadcaster and pastor of Marble Collegiate church in New York.

"I firmly believe that the increase in church membership is not a superficial salute to religion in general," said Peale. "It has happened because people are definitely looking for adequate solutions to personal problems and because the church has discovered how to make religion a daily source of guidance and inspiration."

"This new interest in religion is derived from the necessity of finding meaning in life and of discovering new ways for more effective living."

Sockman, whose "National Radio Pulpit" sermons have been heard by millions of Americans since 1917, said the nation is undergoing "a religious awakening" but "it is yet to be determined whether it becomes a real religious revival."

"The American people are waking up to the fact that secular living—even in a period of great prosperity like the present—is not enough," he said. "They are looking for something more. The test will be whether the church can give them what they need and not merely what they desire."

"Some people come to church looking for 'happiness' or peace of mind." But you can't make a worldly success story out of the cross.

"The church has got to get back to its original message—a call to service and sacrifice. Religion is not a commodity to be sold but a cause to be served."

Oxnam, Methodist bishop of Washington, said the "remarkable" growth of U. S. churches "reflects the increased effectiveness of a better-trained clergy and a carefully-developed program of religious education and of community service."

"It is not an emotional flare-up born of fear," he said. "It is clear evidence of a deepening religious interest—the expression of thoughtful decision upon the part of increasing numbers in one of the great movements of history."

Bishop Dun said it is "surprising and perplexing that the churches of the United States are showing such a dynamic quality in the midst of exceptional prosperity."

**Growth Suspicious**  
"By Biblical testimony and by historical experience," he said, "the church has risen to its greatest heights when it was under handicaps and even oppression. It is right that we should be a little suspicious of a great growth in church membership which occurs at a time when America is enjoying this world comforts to such a high degree."

"No one can say dogmatically what motivations are behind it. We can only speculate."

"One factor, I think, is that the increasingly urban character and mobility of our society has left many people rootless, without any deep sense of belonging. Churches, with their strong community and social aspects, offer people one of their best opportunities for 'belonging.' This relationship in itself may not have much real Christian depth but it offers an opportunity to draw people into a deeper association."

"Also, while it is true that America is prospering and outwardly at peace, we have been living through times in which people generally could not fail to have a sense of foreboding and anxiety. It may be that a sense of ultimate insecurity and of the tremendous responsibilities inherent in our situation may be working to make people take life more seriously."



APPRECIATIVELY SNIFFING CARNATION, Adlai Stevenson thanks Laurie (left) and Dana London, 3½, twins, for bon voyage gift as he prepares to take off from Washington National Airport for campaign tour in northeast sector. (International Soundphoto)

## Suez Isthmus Marks Trail Of History's Old Caravans

Washington — The 100-mile-long Suez Canal splits a sun-baked land route that was old in the time of Moses.

The two largest continents, Africa and Asia, face each other across the low-lying Isthmus of Suez. Only 72 miles wide, the neck of restless sand marks the ancient path of caravans from the Nile to the Euphrates Valleys, and from many-godded Luxor to Nazareth.

Via the land bridge, young Joseph was carried as a slave into Egypt, a land that he was later to save from famine. At the dawn of Christian history, another Joseph fled from Galilee with Mary and the Christ Child over the same narrow expanse of desert.

**Led Out of Bondage**  
West of the isthmus lay the Biblical land of Goshen where the Israelites, slaving for Pharaoh, built the treasure cities of Pithom and Ramses. To the east stretched the Wilderness of Shur and Sinai. The tongue of the Red Sea extended farther north then, and a miraculous wind parted its waters to make possible one of man's most dramatic escapes to freedom.

"And the children of Israel went into the midwest of the sea upon the dry ground," it is recorded in Exodus, "and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left."

Even today it is possible to retrace the supposed route of the Israelites. Led by Moses, they trekked through the scarred barren wastes of Sinai to Gebel Musa (Mount Sinai) where in Old Testament tradition, the great prophet received the Ten Commandments.

Among the major present-day towns of the isthmus—Port Said on the Mediterranean; the garden city of Isma'iliya; and the Red Sea ports, Suez and Taufiq—only one existed before the Suez Canal was built less than a century ago. The old settlement was Suez itself, and Arab town rising on salt-encrusted land. Nearby are the ruins of an old canal lock.

**Life from Sweet Water Canal**  
Long before the advent of steamships, Egyptian canal builders dug a sand ditch into the isthmus to connect the Nile with the Red Sea. For 22 centuries various generations were either rebuilding the ancient canal, trading upon it, letting it fall into disrepair, or deliberately destroying it to discourage invaders.

Today's Sweet Water Canal follows another ancient bed, originally built to irrigate Goshen and dating from Tuthankhamen's reign. The T-shaped Sweet Water channels fresh water from the Nile to Suez Canal towns, for brine from the sea fills the isthmian lakes, Manzala, Timsah, Great Bitter, and Little Bitter.

Now, as in days gone by, life

**Defense Nears End Of Brink's Testimony**

Boston — (U.P.) — The fate of eight men accused of robbing Brink's Inc. of \$1,218,211 six years ago may be decided today.

Paul T. Smith, criminal lawyer, who has carried the burden of the defense through 43 days, was scheduled to begin final arguments.

The defense Thursday turned their attack on star government witness Joseph (Specs) O'Keefe who has testified that he led masked bandits into the Brink's money vaults Jan. 17, 1950.

O'Keefe was branded a "confessed thief and a liar" by Attorney Robert De Giacomo who is defending Adolph (Jazz) Maffie.

"The government," he said, addressing jurors, "asks you to accept the word of a convicted and admitted thief. We ask that you take the word of Maffie's wife."

**THEFT ALMOST FATAL**  
Miami Beach, Fla. — (U.P.) — Sam Sorokin told police Thursday night a prowler stole \$1.50 and a wrist watch from his apartment and almost strangled himself during the getaway. Sorokin said the thief, running in the dark, was staggered by a neck high wire clothesline, but regained his footing and escaped.

## Rosary Crusade Opens In Catholic Churches

The Rev. Nicolas Deis, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic church, Medford, has announced the start of a month-long family Rosary Crusade by Catholic parishes in the valley during October.

Climax of the special period will be a family prayer rally in Medford, Thursday, Oct. 25. The Rev. Edward D. Howard, archbishop of Portland, and the Rev. Patrick Peyton, director of family prayer crusades and Hollywood's Family Theatre, are expected to attend. It is tentatively scheduled to be held in the St. Mary's school gymnasium.

Father Deis has appointed lay committees in Medford to plan the details of the crusade. Named were R. F. Higgins, chairman,

and Harold Lunden, Charles Hackett and G. L. Clark, co-chairmen.

The Medford parish has been divided into nine districts with two team captains selected from each district. Committee members and team captains will meet Sunday evening at 8 p.m. in the rectory of Sacred Heart church, to plan arrangements for the rally.

### WITNESS JAILED

Chicago — (U.P.) — Sidney Tinnelle appeared in court as a witness in a narcotics case but found himself in jail when the day was over. A bailiff said that Tinnelle left with somebody's overcoat after he finished his testimony.

### Sperry, Hutchinson Open Medford Office

The Sperry and Hutchinson Green Stamp company will open a new merchandise redemption store at 221 South Central ave. Saturday, Oct. 6.

The company this year is celebrating its 60th year. S and H maintains 12 stores in Oregon. There are also stores located in Klamath Falls and Roseburg.

The S and H store in Medford is managed by Mrs. Lillian Hinman, and assisted by Ruth Sieman, Mildred Dorman, clerks, and Charles Eller, warehouseman.

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6-bottle carton Double-Cola for only 1¢ with purchase of 6-bottle carton at regular price (plus deposit on bottles)

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CAMPBELL'S **Tomato Soup** 10 cans 98¢

VAN CAMPS **Tuna Fish** 5 No. 1/2 cans 95¢

RED CROWN **Chili & Beans** 5 16-oz. cans 98¢

**AA Large Eggs** doz. 63¢

LIBBY'S **Corned Beef** 2 cans 79¢

**1-lb. Pkg. Zoom** BOTH FOR \$1.15  
**10-lb. Fisher's Flour** You Save 16c

**POST TOASTIES**  
2 LARGE PKGS. 39¢

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ONLY 45¢ lb.

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3 lbs. 98¢

SWIFT'S PREMIUM **HAMS** TENDERIZED 10 to 12 lbs. 59¢ lb.

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50 lbs. 79¢

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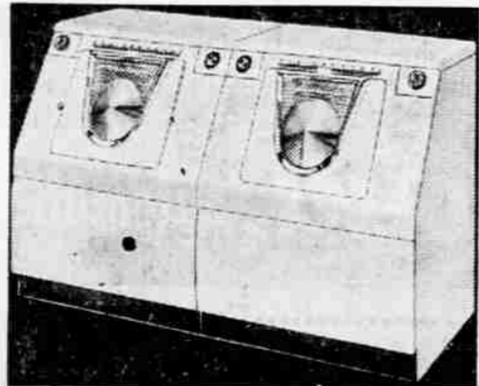
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