

One of the great victories of foreign missions in recent years was in Ethiopia. Before World War II, before in fact in fact the Italians invaded Ethiopia, the missionaries had worked hard there and won a small number of converts and then were driven out. When World War II was over they went back and found thousands of Christians who had been reached by the local people as they spread the word of Christ. And within these last two years 3/4 of them probably have been massacred as the communist clique has taken over permanently to eradicate Christianity from their region.

The Soviet build-up is very great and most things that would strengthen the military have been vetoed within the last 4 years. The effort to rescue our hostages certainly showed our present weakness. To send 9 helicopters and have 3 of them fail shows how poor condition the equipment we had was, and to pick a place for them to land that was right next to a road! where they would be sure to be seen by a bus going by was mighty poor planning! Then when they decided to scrap the expedition to order a helicopter to move from one side of a plane to another and with a whole desert around them to have it run right straight into that plane and have both of them disappear in fire shows the utter weakness of our present preparation.

Sure God can protect us, but will He? I don't think with the way our country is going we can expect God to protect us. But that does not relieve us from our responsibility in our situation. We have locked doors on our houses. We have police systems. And there is abroad in the world something far more dangerous than any criminal situation in the U.S.

If we have another 4 years like the last with the progress we have made in growing weaker in the last 4 years one wonders whether our nation will last longer than another 10 years or 15 years.

But there's a third reason almost equally important. I have to rush on to it. I mention it in three parts: It is the growth of bureaucracy; the growth of government spending and deficits, and the resulting inflation. We've already noticed what happened in Germany as a result of the inflation there. In 1964 Pres. Johnson shortly before the election boastfully declared that he had worked up a budget for the next year which was 100 million dollars. He'd done that by postponing a few charges till the next year, because the next year it was nearly \$200 million. Now it is over \$500 million! I'm told that the interest on the debt that has been accumulating these last 26 15 years, takes 2/3 of the income taxes of individuals to pay the interest on the debt. It is a situation in which we simply cannot see an end of the tunnel.

In 1970 gold was \$35 an oz. In 1979 it was \$525 an oz.  
Silver in 1970 was ~~\$180~~ \$1.80 an oz. In 1979 it was \$34 an oz.