

Identity Church Is Threat To Society

(Cont'd from page 3)

bers have carried out violent acts in the past. Wieland, also from Colorado, has been proposed as pastor for the local Identity Church, according to Smith.

Not Much Response

Reports conflict as to the response the ministers received at the gathering. Two individuals sent to the meeting by the JCRB reported that some of those in the audience seemed very sympathetic but that others were less than stirred by the anti-Semitic words.

In fact, Smith said, the two JCRB observers told her that Peters mustered little response when he asked those present to echo his statements with "amen."

"They said that a lot of people were skeptical," Smith stated. "They weren't already deeply into what was being said."

She added that after the event, the JCRB received a call from one woman who wanted to voice her disgust with the whole affair. "She said she felt she had been tricked," Smith said. "She had been really shocked at the anti-Semitism. She thought she was just going to a meeting for a Christian church."

However, another observer at the meeting told *The Chronicle* that the anti-Semitic rhetoric voiced at the event, with the exception of a statement that violence against Jews could be necessary, received much support.

The observers said that overwhelming cries of "amen" were heard in agreement to statements such as Jews are "Satan's children" and that Jews are the source of many problems in the U.S.

Motel Warned About Meeting

Randy Gould, a member of the steering committee of RUAH/New Jewish Agenda here, went to the motel to protest the event along with three other individuals. They eventually were requested to leave the premises by the Grandview police.

Gould maintained he called the motel upon first hearing of the event and said he warned a motel worker about the Christian Identity movement. He suggested the motel management "find out who these people are and what they stand for," he said. A spokeswoman for the Heritage Inn acknowledged that two calls had come in concerning the meeting. She claimed the callers "asked if the meeting was being held here and when."

Rabbi A. James Rubin: "Christian Identity is a cancer attacking the body of American society. We are dealing with an 18th century problem in the 20th century...the ideological heresies of these hate groups which keep recurring because we have not spoken out strongly enough about them. Hate often needs and uses religion as a base for its development, and we can not make these heresies go away by ignoring them; they stem from the hate mentality of our society."

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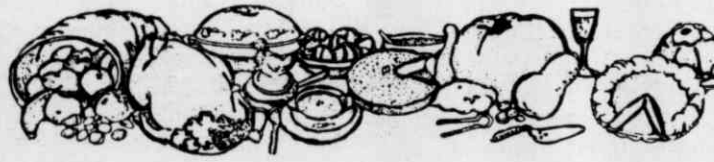
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