

Sam J. Ervin Says:

WASHINGTON — Much of the dissension abroad in our country can be traced to the war in Vietnam, centralization of governmental power in Washington, and the failure of our society to effectively control crime. These are the major forces shaping the lives of all of us, and how the nation deals with them is of immense importance.

Almost everyone wants the war in Vietnam to be concluded, but it is apparent that there are many shades of opinion as to just how this can be accomplished. This is the foremost issue confronting the country, but it is certainly not the only one troubling us.

There is widespread concern about the effort underway to make the American people conform to certain goals designed by federal planners. These planners are convinced that with an open federal checkbook and enough bureaucrats sitting on the banks of the Potomac, they can remake America according to their blueprints. We find that people have their own opinions about how they should live. Anyone who has come to Washington to try to obtain some of the "free" federal money soon learns that there are a lot of strings tied to these outlays, and problems that once could be ironed out in a matter of minutes over a cup of coffee in the county seat can take months and years when they are brought to the massive complex of cement and granite buildings here.

The system is well rec-

ognized as a part of getting enough money to remedy particular problems, and in many instances the federal government can help a great deal, but one often wonders if we are creating a system of subsidies that is stifling initiative in the process of having to run to Washington with almost every problem under the sun. There are side effects in this outlay of funds. Federal spending is at such a high level and forms such a portion of the cash flow in the country that the consumer and the taxpayer are aware of both inflation and the fact that there are no "free" federal monies. The applicants for these programs soon learn that the distribution process is not at all even.

One of the aspects of centralization of power in Washington has developed into a constant irritating force in the public schools of the country. For many years, the federal government gave out funds with no effort to dictate local school policies. All that has shifted now. Indeed, one often wonders if federal policies have not lost sight of the prime objective of the schools which is to educate the pupil. Children are bused miles beyond their neighborhood school to satisfy the social whims of some planner in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Years ago students had to walk to school. Now they often have to ride beyond the bounds of reason.

We are confronted today by a national fear of crime. Paradoxically, in spite of our great peril

from crime rates which rise by the month, we are greatly divided as to how to cope with it. In my judgment, we will not make much progress in our efforts to control crime until we recognize that the certainty of punishment is the greatest deterrent of criminal acts.

We have prided ourselves on the responsiveness of government to the people, and these are some of the matters that are foremost on the hearts of those who move the country in new directions.

Bob Scott: Law and Order Concern Of All

RALEIGH—Lt. Gov. Bob Scott said law and order is the business of everyone in North Carolina.

"It is the business of parents, of churches, of schools, civic clubs and industries of North Carolina," Scott said. Government has a great responsibility to maintain order and uphold the law, but it cannot do the job alone.

"Law and order must be maintained if we are to have a peaceful, progressive and prosperous state," he added.

"I have proposed an effective program for maintaining fair and firm law and order. Briefly, this is my program:

"We shall have a government of laws rather than of men, a position I want to make crystal clear. The law will be upheld and law enforcement officers will receive full support under my administration."

"We will establish a police academy for training law enforcement officers. This training should include riot control.

"I recommend that a statewide police information network be established in North Carolina, linking all law enforcement agencies in the state.

"We should provide more personnel for the State Bureau of Investigation and other state law enforcement agencies.

"We should provide law enforcement officers with the latest and best equipment available to perform their duties.

"We should encourage local governments to pay better salaries to law enforcement officers and provide more fringe benefits.

"The state and local governments should work to develop programs to provide better housing and better job opportunities coupled with more emphasis on vocational training. The programs would be aimed at eliminating conditions that breed crime, unrest and lawlessness.

Make Church-Going A Habit . . .

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GOD'S OWN PEOPLE

International Sunday School Lesson for Oct. 27

Memory Selection: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."—I Peter 2:9.

Lesson Text: I Peter 1:2; 10-25; 2:1-17.

The central truth contained in our lesson today is that Christians are God's special people, chosen by Him to live according to His lights, and to do His will among the peoples of the world.

More concisely, still, the aim of this lesson is to stress the necessity for awareness on the part of Christians their obligations, as God's own people, to lead others to be saved in His holy name. For it was through the shedding of Christ's precious blood that salvation was brought to sinners in Christ's own time; that salvation is brought to us in our own day and time. Surely we cannot fail to respond to such love—respond in the way that He wants us to—by spreading His gospel, and the comfort and security it brings to the yet unsaved of our own generation. Times change, yet human nature changes little. In the early days of Christianity the early Christians were faced with prospects of jail, of torture, of death and imprisonment for their beliefs.

Today we are blessed with freedom of speech, of movement, with freedom to worship as we choose; but we face the gravest of uncertainties as our world has (through modern travel facilities) has grown smaller and more compact; as man's questing and sometimes brilliant mind has conquered the mysteries of the atom, and of outer space. Modern weapons and aggressive nationals add to our danger.

Yes, indeed, today we are more than ever in need of the awareness that we are "special" to God; in need of the comfort and reassurance that our belief in Him brings to our troubled minds and innermost beings. For it is only when our faith and our hopes are contained in God, that we can find the strength to go through life to our ultimate fulfillment.

And—as the writer in I Peter reminds us—our redemption was not bought with tangible things—neither with gold, or silver, or anything of that ilk, but with the precious blood of Christ's body. The supreme sacrifice, made out of an all-encompassing love for mankind.

This world in which we have our being today is not the ultimate goal of our existence; we are but pilgrims passing through to better things. But reverence for the Almighty and a measured consideration for His holiness and His laws against sin and unrighteousness must be the stepping stones to our realization of our own particular Promised Land.

We are but agents of God's mighty purpose in this world, of necessity constrained to serve God,

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It's easy—when you know the answers

All of life is not far removed from the classroom. There are truths to be learned every day. And there are questions to be answered.

But some people don't have the answer when they need it. And some people do . . .

Any teacher will tell you it's a question of preparation. And any preacher will tell you the same.

The people who go to church on Sunday have no more problems than those who stay home. Nor do they expect as a result to have any fewer.

They believe simply in preparation—preparation of the mind, conscience, heart and soul . . . faith.

This is the preparation God offers men . . . for the questions that will confront us all tomorrow!

THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . .

ALL FOR THE CHURCH
The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

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Sunday I Kings 10:1-9	Monday Proverbs 16:1-10	Tuesday Matthew 22:15-33	Wednesday Matthew 22:34-46	Thursday Acts 17:16-21	Friday Acts 17:22-34	Saturday Revelation 21:1-8
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Dear friends,

It is wise to plan ahead in the selection of a cemetery plot or mausoleum before the need arises. In fact, some persons now arrange their own funerals in advance of need with the funeral director of their choice. This can save the survivors considerable time and worry when death occurs and is most sensible for elderly persons having no close relatives or those desiring an unusual type of funeral service.

Respectfully,

Margaret Schinckel

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