

Falwell's Gospel Machine Crusades On

The Rev. Jerry Falwell is on a self-proclaimed crusade to save America, which includes expanding his well-established ministry into a political machine.

In 1978 Falwell began to consolidate his efforts into a "Crusade to Save America." By inserting "morality polls" as paid advertisements in national publications, he compiled a mailing list of over one million names.

In 1977 he wrote to his followers and mailing list, "I believe God has called me to be an instrument in His hands to bring this nation back to God."

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In August 1979, the creation of Moral Majority Inc., a national lobbying organization, was announced. Moral Majority Inc. was an offspring of the alliance of the New Right and fundamentalist Christians.

For several years, a New Right movement had been growing in American politics. The New Right advocates a "pro-family" position, emphasizing three issues: homosexuality, pornography, and abortion.

Originally, the New Right had had no ties to fundamentalist Christians like Falwell. But both groups soon recognized their areas of agreement and common effort.

According to a story in the Charlotte Observer of 7 Sept 1980, Falwell told a crowd of supporters in Alaska in August that he had demanded of President Carter in January, "Sir, why do you have known, practicing homosexuals on your senior staff here in the White House?"

According to Falwell, the President said he wanted to represent all people. Falwell said that he replied, "Why don't you have some murderers and bank robbers to represent?"

A tape of the conversation reveals that the alleged question had never been asked.

According to the Charlotte Observer, Carter advisor Bob Maxwell cheerfully attacked Falwell and Moral Majority, Inc. for lack of integrity.

Press aide Ray Jenkins said, "The Moral Majority assigns a rather low rank to truthfulness on its scale of moral values."

One of Moral Majority Inc's first goals was to secure the passage of the Family Protection Act introduced in 1979 by Rep. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev), a Reagan advisor.

The act is a collection of school prayer, anti-union, and anti-feminist proposals. Three of the 38 items are explicitly anti-gay.

Moral Majority Inc. seeks to create a power base by using previously untapped political resources. Its pollsters discovered that there were approximately eight million non-voters who were sympathetic to MM's goals. Many were also fundamentalists.

(FALWELL, cont. p. 13)

Moral Majority Upsets Two Primary Elections

Moral Majority, Jerry Falwell's fundamentalist Christian, anti-gay lobby, is receiving substantial credit for two upsets in recent primary elections.

Gay Rights National Lobby reports that in the Alabama GOP primary, Moral Majority's candidate, former Vietnam POW Jeremiah Denton, upset by an overwhelming margin Armistead Seldon.

The "born-again vote" was pointed to as the key factor in the upset by GRNL. Denton is now given a fair chance of defeating incumbent Democratic Senator Donald Stewart.

In another Alabama primary, Rep. John Buchanan, a Southern Baptist minister was upset by Moral Majority-backed Albert Smith.

Buchanan, who had not supported lesbian or gay rights, nevertheless apparently offended Moral Majority, by his support for black civil rights and women's rights and by initially opposing prayer in schools legislation, according to GRNL.