

# Senator Sam Ervin Says

MORGANTON—Air pollution has troubled us a great deal since World War II with the increasing industrialization and mechanization of our country. Of late, it has begun to plague more and more of our rural areas as air corridors have been clogged with contamination in an enlarged circle round our cities.

The 90th Congress recognized the seriousness of this problem, and wrote new legislation in an effort to deal with the ever-increasing amount of air pollution. The quest for cleaner air resulted in the Air Quality Act of 1967. This measure, which I supported, enlarges the federal effort to coordinate national-state-local and industrial efforts to control pollution. It came into being because existing efforts by all concerned were not adequately dealing with the problem.

The magnitude of the problem and its importance

to each of us can be seen by examining a few statistics. Each of us needs about 30 pounds of air a day to live. Heat provided by our home furnaces uses up another 200 pounds of air a day. Our automobile requires about 275 pounds of air a day just to move us from place to place.

These air needs are small by comparison with the mammoth amounts needed to generate power at one hydroelectric station or to operate a single industrial plant. Studies indicate that the sources of pollution will increase rapidly in the years ahead unless there is a coordinated approach to waste treatment and the explosion of noxious fumes and gases. The disposal of solid wastes, the increasing use of motor vehicles, industrial advancement and greater power generation could pose serious hazards to our environment unless we enforce air quality standards as we move into the next decade.

Not that the problem is altogether new in the world. The philosopher Seneca complained about the "heavy air of Rome" in 61 A. D., and some years ago an African doctor expressed concern about the polluted air breathed by Kenya villagers in their poorly ventilated huts heated by wood fires.

We have dealt with air pollution in this country for some time. A few of our cities had anti-pollution programs before World War II. The states began to deal with the problem in the late 1940's. Congress wrote legislation to

deal with the subject in 1955 with the passage of the Air Pollution Control Act which permitted the Public Health Service to conduct pollution studies. These efforts were broadened in 1963 with the passage of the Clean Air Act. Under its provisions, states, communities and the federal government, with the permission of the governor of a state, could institute a series of steps to halt hazardous sources of air contamination. Under the act, the federal government also provided nearly \$100 million for matching grants to regional, state and local agencies to prevent and control air pollution.

Following that major step, in 1965 Congress added auto pollution control and waste disposal amendments to the Clean Air Act. These amendments authorized the Health, Education and Welfare Secretary to fix emission standards for new motor vehicles and authorized new studies on pollution caused by sulphur oxides. A year later, Congress expanded the provisions of the Clean Air Act further and broadened the conditions under which grants could be made to maintain clean air programs.

These beginnings set the stage for the most significant pollution act now in operation which the 90th Congress passed on November 13, 1967. At the session recently ended, the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution continued its studies in this field, and it seems likely that pollution control will again receive major legislative attention during the 91st Congress.

# Make Church - Going A Habit . . .

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

### CHRIST SPEAKS TO HIS CHURCHES

International Sunday School Lesson For Dec. 8

Memory Selection: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."—Revelation 3:20.

Lesson Text: Revelation 1-3.

The central truth of the lesson with which we concern ourselves today might truly be held to be that—in every period of church history, Christ has spoken to His churches—whether it be to recommend them, or to reprove them.

Christ came into the world to teach, and to save. And when His allotted time on earth was up, He left His trusted Disciples to carry on from where He left off. And the churches that had sprung up, and brought the Word to the people, were to carry on this work, and expand, so that the doctrines of Christianity would gain a stronger foothold in the affairs of the world and of men, and become the foundation stones of comfort and assurance that every man—of whatever race or creed—basically needs. A solemn (and oftentimes onerous) responsibility indeed.

The Book of Revelation had something to say to the churches of the early Christian era in times of crisis; it still has something to say to the churches of these days and times. And it has something to say to the nations of the world today, just as it did in the times of the Roman Empire.

Of the seven founding churches named in our lesson, only two (Philadelphia and Smyrna) were pleasing in the sight of the Lord. True, they had their weaknesses, as has any fellowship composed of human beings, but they also had their strengths; they were not lukewarm, as was the church at Laodicea, nor had they allowed infiltration of their numbers by gnostics—as had Pergamum. And the church at Philadelphia had exercised patience and kept the faith—a performance of duty that was not to go unnoticed or unrewarded.

This little church, so small in number—"you have but little power"—(Revelations 3, verse 8)—is the type of church so sorely needed today. Such an one creates an opportunity for service and for evangelism that is unparalleled in fulfilling the basic requirements of Christianity in the world we know today.

In this modern day and time we tend to take our freedom of worship—as all our other freedoms, so hard won—for granted. We need to slow down and reflect, and in so doing we will become acutely aware that the faith we profess to so blithely, was founded in persecution and bigotry.

It is, perhaps, somewhat ironic that the average Christian's faith waxes stronger in times of duress than it does when things are going smoothly. Ironic—but human. For as we go about our daily lives we incline towards taking

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**"You Should See The Other Guy!"**

As a boy it was so easy to justify a fight. Publicly you gloated over your opponent's bloody nose (and privately you wished that his had been the black eye with its more-lasting embarrassment). But, somehow, the victory alone excused the battle.

As an adult how do you view the matter? Would the possibility of bloody victory be sufficient justification for attempting to heat the tar out of some irritating neighbor? You might be arrested for disturbing the peace . . . assault and battery!

But that is not the real reason we control brutal impulses. The real reason lies deep in our Christian heritage:—a sense of human dignity . . .—respect for fairness and justice regardless of might . . .—the belief that peace can be a blessing for weak and strong alike . . .—that patient understanding can enrich life.

Rooted in the same Christian faith are other great principles of life which challenge men's hearts and minds. We seek to understand and apply them as we worship God in our churches. They are essential in a world still threatened with a return to the black eye and bloody nose . . . or something worse.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Deuteronomy 32:30-38	Psalms 94:1-15	Isaiah 35:1-7	Luke 6:27-36	Romans 12:9-21	II Thessalonians 1:5-12	James 4:1-12

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Dear friends,

The Christmas Season brings such a fresh, inspiring array of music and drama to radio and television — such a welcome relief from the base and frantic fare of other months. One can only imagine the wholesome effect on community behavior if this uplifting Christmas entertainment prevailed throughout the year. Is this too much to hope in a God-loving nation?

Sincerely,  
*Marion Lubinski*

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