

CHALLENGE

MOLLEURUS COUPERUS

Few if any periods in human history can equal ours in the magnitude of change to which we are subjected nor in the degree of tension and chaos that are interwoven. These disjunctions and alterations are evident in the political, economic, and ideological struggles that tear at the very roots of man's existence. Science, technology, philosophy, and religion, all, are involved in our feverish striving for change.

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Increasing fear of man's inability to solve the almost overwhelming complex problems of our age generates progressive doubt and finally abandonment of what seemed, until very recently, securely established bases for judgment, faith, and action.

A bewildered and disillusioned generation now gropes for answers that may still save mankind from both utter meaninglessness and doom. Everywhere there seems to be spurning of old patterns of thinking and embracing of new. The participation of the younger generation in this unprecedented passion for rejection of the old and quest of the new is particularly evident in the areas of authority, morals, and personal involvement. Confrontation with political, judicial, cultural, and religious traditions, thus, is unavoidable.

Even though new views and solutions often may be futile and unrewarding and may end in blind alleys, striving for change and improvement has ever been the way of man's growth. The questing quality of the human spirit is evident in the bitter struggles for truth, and for the freedom to express it, that are part of the history of every area of human knowledge and endeavor. And when this will to search is suppressed by any means whatever, stagnation, impoverishment, spiritual enslavement, and a steady darkening of mental horizons follow, until at last revolt is the only course left for those whose spirits remain free. The agonizing struggle now going on within the Roman Catholic Church provides an example.

It is in this search for new visions and better answers that we feel impelled to participate. *SPECTRUM* is dedicated, from a Christian viewpoint, to probing the questions that trouble the minds of modern man and to

examining the illnesses that sicken our society. We are much concerned about God's relation to the human situation, about what the truth is about God, and about how to speak the truth in language that is fresh and pertinent to today.

Our discussion of the important issues of our time ought to be frank, sincere, tolerant, and charitable. As much as we are able, we hope to look without prejudice at all sides of a subject, to evaluate the merits of diverse views, to be critical only if we can do so constructively, and to stimulate discursive interchange among readers. In all this, our purpose is to promote growth and development.

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We hope that many able men and women from all disciplines will provide contributions that are based on sound scholarship, that result from critical and honest investigation, and that spring from deep Christian concern for all mankind, including Seventh-day Adventists.