

FORUM

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Loma Linda Chapter Debates Investments in South Africa

by Bonnie Dwyer

Discussion of divestment of investments by American corporations and the Adventist Church with companies in South Africa turned into an all-out debate at a June Adventist Forum meeting, cosponsored by the Loma Linda chapter of the Student American Medical Association.

Tom Dybdahl, an editor at Rodale Press in Pennsylvania and senior editor of *Spectrum*, addressed 150 people who met in the Randall Visitors Center. He said it was almost too easy suggesting that the church not deal with South Africa, because it is so obvious that the government there has such a blatant policy of racial discrimination that defenders of it are hard to find. However, defenders of South Africa also attended, and the audience voted to extend the meeting to continue debating the subject.

After outlining the horrors of the apartheid movement, which began in 1948, Dybdahl said it is not virtuous just to say we oppose these policies in South Africa; we must do something about them.

Theoretically, the first option would be to do nothing. Since it is a political matter, we could say it is not our business. Dybdahl suggested this was a dangerous option, because preventing degradation of people should be our business.

The second option, "constructive engagement," is the current policy of many United States companies and is based on the principles of Leon Sullivan. This policy advocates being friendly with the South African government and encouraging it to act morally, and in so doing help the system move

toward change. Adherents to this position suggest that if United States companies leave, the situation will only get worse. Dybdahl suggested that this option does not go far enough, because it does not address the nature of apartheid.

Economic pressure was the third option. Dybdahl said it would be best for United States companies to stay in South Africa and work for change, but change is unlikely to come about that way. The Congressional approach has been to propose a timetable for improvements and aim for withdrawal of United States business, but there has been little action.

Divestment, which he said was the only real option for action, takes money out of companies doing business with South Africa. Six states, 24 cities and 40 universities have taken this step.

To the question of whether divestment hurts the South African blacks, he answered yes—in the short term. But he noted that there is much support for divestment among blacks. For example, Reverend Tutu, the Anglican bishop of Johannesburg and the most recent recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, favors strong economic sanctions.

The Adventist Church can use its investment dollars more morally, he concluded. It should not profit from industries that destroy people.

Four respondents were given four minutes apiece to reply to Dybdahl's message. James Green, the business manager for the Loma Linda campus, said the church should not divest itself of stocks for Dybdahl's reasons because the Adventist Church should not be involved in politics. Two physicians from South Africa, Ralph Harris and

Henry De Jaeger, argued about conditions in their home country. Harris said the lot of blacks was terrible; DeJaeger disagreed, saying things were improving.

When the audience was invited to ask questions, one attendee, George Colvin, a political science graduate student and a consulting editor of *Spectrum*, admonished the organizers for not providing a more balanced presentation. When he had successfully convinced the audience to vote in favor of staying for more debate, he launched into a defense of South Africa. Among other points, he claimed South Africa's record in human rights is better than many of its neighbors, and that South Africa's strategic location and reserves of essential and scarce minerals mean demands for improvements in moral conditions must take a back seat to geopolitical considerations.

Bonnie Dwyer holds a masters degree in journalism from California State University, Fullerton, and is the news editor of Spectrum.

First AAF Books Off Press

by Lyndrey Niles

This month the first two books published by the Association of Adventist Forums are off the press and available for order. *Festival of the Sabbath* and *Pilgrimage of Hope*, in words, music and art, explore the meaning of the Sabbath and the Second Advent, our denomination's defining affirmations. Both books include fresh ideas by writers at the creative edge of the church's thinking. But they do more. They evoke how Adventists feel: joy in the Sabbath, disappointment in Christ's delay, hope for the future.

For some time individuals have asked for further copies of the issue of *Spectrum* devoted to the Sabbath. Some said that issue proved to be the most positive introduction to Adventists they had found. Unfortunately, it has long been out of print. Now people can have all that previously appeared plus new material.

Others have sought a convenient method of sharing essays on the Second Advent that have appeared in different issues of *Spectrum*. Now they can have those articles, along with considerable fresh work.

Both paperbacks should be useful in personal study, as gifts for friends and relatives, and as lively supplementary reading in classrooms and church

study groups.

The Association appreciates those individuals who have supported the beginning of this project and the concept that the Adventist community benefits from a variety of printed materials: the editor, Roy Branson; the many writers, artists and musicians whose work appears in the volumes; and those whose financial commitments have made it possible to launch the project.

Lyndrey Niles, professor of communications at Howard University, is president of the Association of Adventist Forums.

Walla Walla Explores Apartheid, Bioethics and Refugee Sanctuary

by Marianne Scriven

The Walla Walla chapter of AAF held its annual spring retreat on Sabbath, May 25. About 50 members and their families met in the Walla Walla Valley Academy lodge in the foothills of the Blue Mountains above Weston, Oregon.

The morning worship consisted of a liturgy of readings from Scripture interspersed with appropriate hymns, many of which came from the new Seventh-day Adventist hymnal. The readings were based on materials by Charles Teel of Loma Linda University and dealt with several church doctrines, beginning with the Creation and ending with the Eschaton.

In the afternoon, after a potluck dinner, Dr. Alden Thompson of the Walla Walla College theology department presented the topic, "What Should I Tell My Children About Ellen White?" This presentation was the final one in a series, "The Adventist Heritage."

During the year other meetings in this series included a talk entitled, "Where Are Our Young?" by Ray Tetz, pastor of the Eagle Rock SDA Church in southern California. Another dealt with the current debate over the ordination of women. The local chapter cosponsored a meeting with the Association of Adventist Women in which a local pastor, Elder E.A. (Bud) Roberts, a member of the General Conference Commission on the Ordination of Women, was a participant. Several other individuals made short presentations on the issue of women's ordination.

Another series of discussions during the year

focused on "The Christian and the World." Just before the general election in November, Dr. Carlos Schwantes, professor of history at Walla Walla College and visiting professor at the University of Idaho, lectured on "God and Politics: An Adventist Perspective." In December, a local attorney, Barbara Clark, gave a presentation entitled, "Providing Sanctuary for Political Refugees: A Christian Task?" In addition to her remarks, she showed a video about Central American refugees and the response of the Sanctuary Movement in the United States.

Two Walla Walla College theology professors contributed to this series. Dr. Gerald Winslow, a bioethicist, lectured on the subject, "Redesigning the Human Race: New Problems in Human Biology." Dr. John Brunt, having just returned from a quarter-long teaching assignment at Helderberg College in South Africa, reflected on his visit under the title, "South Africa: Adventists and Apartheid."

The Walla Walla chapter is looking forward to another year of stimulating interchange. Last year's officers, under Roland Blaich, president, ended their term of service at the spring retreat. The new officers elected at the retreat are: Marianne Scriven, president; Henry Lamberton, vice-president; Norma Brendel, secretary-treasurer; Linda and Thomas Emmerson and Rosemary and Ray Watts, representatives-at-large.

Marianne Scriven is professor of music at Walla Walla College and president of the AAF chapter in Walla Walla.

Washington, D.C. Hears Adventist Education is at Risk

by Kathleen Srour

The Washington, D.C., chapter has been active this spring with lectures and its first party. On March 23 more than 100 people from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia met in H.M.S. Richards Hall on the Columbia Union College campus to hear Richard C. Osborn, principal of Takoma Academy, speak on "Adventist Education at Risk."

Osborn referred to the rising tide of mediocrity (also known as educational "disarmament") with

problems common to all schools—public, private and parochial. He singled out three areas of special concern. First, test scores are declining, particularly in the verbal and math sections. Second, increasing "values expectations" are being placed on our church schools. As the disappearance of strong family ties affects the church as well as society, the schools have become for many the last bastions of hope in maintaining moral and spiritual standards. The problem is that Adventist schools can rise no higher than the church communities that support them. Third, our schools must adapt to an increasingly multiethnic environment, particularly in the greater Washington area. Because the minority population is mostly young, while the typical white family is aging or childless, there is substantial growth in enrollment of black, Asiatic, Hispanic and Oriental children. This, said Osborn, should be a strength, but not all parents are supportive of the multiethnic student situation. We need to learn to live with racial diversity in our schools.

Declining enrollment has meant cutbacks in teaching staff and programs. For tuition to be kept within reasonable limits, there must be more help from church members as a whole, and a rethinking of priorities when parents choose between public or church schools.

In conclusion, Osborn proposed a somewhat revolutionary idea, based on recent studies and a forthcoming report: consolidation of church schools in the greater Washington area. This would not only save money but would also strengthen the academic and spiritual program. Why not reduce the number of schools and pool resources to have the best possible school system at the most affordable cost to the broadest number of church members? And if the schools are a number-one priority, should not conferences be willing to consider their own reductions in staff and organization in order that more tithe funds can be made available to support education?

On April 28, the D.C. chapter organized its first party. Held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Farid Srour in Potomac, Maryland, the occasion was designed to help members become better acquainted. About 65 people attended a buffet supper, which was followed by music and drama. Songs of the 1930s and 1940s, were directed by Leland Tetz and Nate Day. The drama department of Columbia Union College presented a series of readings from that period, with Rodney Vance acting as master of ceremonies.

Kathleen Srour, formerly a member of the Columbia Union College faculty, is a business woman in Potomac, Maryland.

Orlando Studies Atonement, North American Division

by Kathleen Srour

Randy Tompkins, Orlando, Florida, chapter president, reports a healthy, growing interest in chapter meetings, with attendance reaching 100. Following are some highlights of meetings in 1985:

On February 9, Dr. Hans LaRondelle, professor of theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, addressed the topic "The Atonement" as it is portrayed in the Gospels. He also discussed current trends at Andrews University, sharing his concern over the exodus of some key faculty members and theologians from the Seminary, stressing particularly the effect this might have on the training of future ministers.

Later in February, Doug Hackleman, editor of

Adventist Currents, spoke about the need for an independent press in the Adventist Church. Approximately 90 people attended the two-hour meeting, exploring with the speaker the mind-set of the church in North America, and the need for dispensing clearer information.

Ray Cottrell, former associate editor of the *Adventist Review* and the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, spent two sessions in April with the chapter dealing particularly with the need for church reorganization. Cottrell gave a brief history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organization and its functions from 1901 to 1922, and underscored the need for the creation of a genuine North American Division.

For your Information: Adventist Forum Regional Representatives

Atlantic Region

John Hamer Jr.
c/o Digital Equipment Corp.
75 Reed Road
Hudson MA 01749
Tel. (617) 568-5244 (o)

Southern Region

Grace Emori
2502 Asbury Court
Decatur GA 30033
Tel. (404) 325-0360 (h)
(404) 329-3518 (o)

Northern Pacific Region

John Brunt
Walla Walla College
College Place WA 99324
Tel. (509) 529-8114 (h)
(509) 527-2194 (o)

Columbia Region

Theodore Agard
Radiology Department
Kettering Medical Center
3737 Southern Boulevard
Kettering OH 45429
Tel. (513) 434-0045 (h)
(513) 298-4331 (o)

Central Region

Darrel Huenergardt
O'Brien, Huenergardt & Cook
Attorneys at Law
109 South Walnut
Box 490
Kimball NE 69145
Tel. (308) 235-4217 (h)
(308) 235-3617 (o)

Southern Pacific Region

Mike Scofield
720 S. Webster, #112
Anaheim CA 92804
Tel. (714) 828-1348
(714) 680-2212