

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 8

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 19, 1982

WHY SOME MINISTERS HAVE FAILED

by Herbert W. Armstrong

I was just reflecting on why some ministers have reached the top or close to the top in rank in God's Church, and then found themselves outside, many working with their hands, unqualified for any outside job, position or profession.

Two serious mistakes proved their undoing: 1) they wanted "the chief seat" for themselves and 2), they wanted to be served instead of serving. And back of both of these reasons is probably the fact, saddening and regretful as it is, they may never have been really converted in the first place. How many think that just being a "Church member" means being converted!

They say an alcoholic cannot be cured until he admits he is one. It seems to me, the longer I live and the more I see and experience of humanity, the more it seems the two most difficult things for any person is, 1) to admit he or she is in the wrong--thinking wrongly, doing wrong, actually being wrong. And 2), the most rare thing is to BELIEVE Christ--not merely believe on Christ but to believe Him--believe what He says. He is the Word --the spokesman--the revelatory thought of God. He is GOD speaking. He is God's word in person--the Bible is God's word in writing--the same identical Word. Self-professed would-be "scholars" in "Biblical research" have labored long to exalt their own ego and prove the Church in error by distorting, twisting, wresting the Bible, using human reason instead of the Spirit of God, in order to relieve their inner feeling of inferiority and lift the SELF above the Church. They attempted to discredit and accuse the Church in order to lift their own vanity above it. Yet they were only using human reasoning carnally, devoid of God's Spirit.

But some wanted "the chief seat." They wanted the highest, most prestigious office. Not so much coveting money as coveting "importance" in the eyes of the brethren and other ministers.

I know well what this is, because in my early life before conversion, I was beset by this fallacy of human nature. At age 16, I became fired up with ambition. I wanted to be "a success" in life. That is, I wanted to be looked upon as "important" by important men. I wanted it so intensely I was willing to drive myself to work hard and diligently to achieve that state of "importance" in the eyes of the worldly important. But as God struck Saul down and molded him into the Apostle Paul, so He struck me down economically and in self-importance to humble me and replace self-confidence and ego with FAITH and humility. Once I became merely a "SERVANT" of Christ--a mere lowly human instrument in the superior hands of the Master Potter--to allow Him to mold and shape my life HIS way, He was able to use me. For some six years I was the "tail end" and lowest of the ministers--and thought of myself only as such. Then the living Christ started the Philadelphia era of

His Church through me with 19 members. But, like the grain of mustard seed it GREW at the rate of 30% per year for thirty-five years. Yet this growth was seemingly so SLOW that God never allowed me to become exalted. Like Paul, I had my "thorn in the flesh," which, like Paul I won't describe, to keep me from ever becoming exalted. I thank God for the "thorn in the flesh."

But some have apparently not been blessed with such a handicap or "thorn" to keep them humble, and so sought the chief seat as rapidly as possible. One who had a good degree of natural ability became a minister after graduation from Ambassador College. He immediately set a goal--not for humble service, but for SELF glory. He was going to become "Evangelist" rank, next to highest, by a certain year. When ordained Evangelist, he exclaimed proudly, "I MADE IT--right on schedule!" But, like some in Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed, he fell by the wayside. He no longer is in God's Church.

Others have wanted to be served, and not to serve. To serve was "beneath them." By sheer natural ability, after graduation from Ambassador, they rose to a fairly high rank, either in the ministry or at headquarters. One would never arrive at his headquarters office until around 9:30. He would be gone to lunch by 11:30. He would return around 2:00 or 2:30, and be gone for the day by 4:00 or 4:30. But he was good at delegating his responsibilities to others. Another, a minister of Pastor rank as area coordinator, preached a sermon no more frequently than once in six weeks, leaving all that to ministers under him. He was "too busy" loafing to bother to visit or pray for the sick. But he was very strict with the ministers under him.

I was thinking of the former archangel Lucifer, the exalted Cherub. For a long time he was on the inside of God's Kingdom, just as some have been for some time on the inside in God's Church. Lucifer came to a very high rank. He was one of the two Cherubs whose wings overspread the very throne of God at God's heavenly universe headquarters. Then he was given a tremendous responsibility and opportunity, being placed on the throne over the earth and a third of all the angels. But he was ambitious. He wanted the chief seat of power. He made himself not only heir to the throne of the universe and number two man under God, but he organized his "staff" of angels and conspired to dethrone God. He said, "I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above" Almighty God. "I will be" GOD. He tried to "take over" from the inside. But he was cast back down to earth, now on the OUTside. He became Satan the Devil. Now on the OUTside of God's Kingdom, he tried to DESTROY! He got to the first man Adam through his wife. He deceived the entire world. He tried to destroy the Christ child as an infant. He tried to destroy Jesus at age thirty by the great temptation. He deceived leaders in the Church, introduced a counterfeit Christianity, tried to stamp out the true Church. He used his -false church to martyr millions of saints. Even the tiny fragment remaining of the true Church in the day when I first came among them had lost most of God's Biblical TRUTH.

And now Satan is trying to DESTROY God's Philadelphia era of the Church. His "MO"--if you can't "take over" from the inside, destroy from the outside!

But what a tragedy that some have come as Ambassador College students, graduated, become ministers, and then, after a few years, going out or

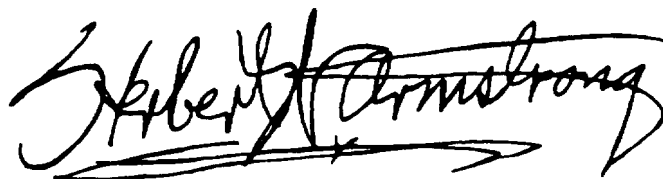
being put out, find themselves unqualified for any other profession. Some have had to find employment at manual labor.

Becoming a minister of Jesus Christ is a very serious matter. To the young minister Timothy the Apostle Paul instructed to "be instant"--keep at it--in season and out of season. And Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Again, Jesus said "Remember Lot's wife," who turned back.

One should never start in the ministry until he is fully converted, has received and is really being led by the Holy Spirit of God--has given his life to God to be used in SERVING, not GETTING--until he has come to really admit how wrong he is and has been, and wants to serve rather than be served. It's for LIFE--and for ETERNITY!

Saul was the tallest man in Israel, but was small in his own eyes. But when he became BIG in his own eyes God could not use him any longer. Can we allow Christ to use us effectively, bearing good fruits, and at the same time remaining small and humble in our own eyes? That is what is required.

The motive must be to GIVE--to CONTRIBUTE--to help and cooperate, and not to GET rank or power or position, or money for SELF! And we must not TAKE credit to ourselves, but GIVE God all the glory, for He will not share that with any one.



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Guidelines for the "Night to Be Much Observed"

As a reminder, the "Night to Be Much Observed" should be held in family groups in private homes. Proper planning and preparation should be made to see to it that everyone, including all elderly and singles, will have a place to go to be with the brethren on this very important occasion. The following is once again a quote from a pastoral letter of April 8, 1970 giving Mr. Armstrong's last official statement on the subject:

Mr. Herbert Armstrong had intended to write you all a note regarding how to conduct the "Night to Be Much Observed." However, with the financial crisis and many other things, he has been extremely busy and unable to. In fact, he is out of town today. So he told me to go ahead and tell you that he has now decided that there should not be any type of service or Bible Study on that evening with the new format we will now be using.

He said to simply tell the brethren to have two or three families eat and fellowship together on that evening in an attitude of thankfulness and rejoicing for the deliverance from sin which we as New Testament Christians experience. The host or leading man should ask God's blessing on the meal and the occasion but no

further "sermonizing" will be necessary or helpful since the brethren will be meeting, for the most part, without an ordained minister present.

You ministers be sure to explain carefully the Sabbath before the meaning of this night of rejoicing and then tell the brethren to bear that in mind as the background and focus of the spiritual fellowship through that particular evening. But we feel it is better NOT to give them an outline of some kind of service...they will all get to hear from God's ministers twice on the very next day, the Holy Day, anyway. So, no Bible Study or sermonizing is necessary on the previous evening. It will merely be your responsibility to appoint elders and deacons to check with the brethren and be sure that the widows and other single people are included in the dinner and fellowship with one or more families so that no one is left out of the fine feast and fellowship on this night which pictures Israel's thankfulness and rejoicing in coming out of Egypt and our deliverance from sin.

In addition, be sure to remind the brethren to plan well in advance for this entire Holy Day season so that they won't have last-minute hardships due to meal needs on the first Holy Day. There should be two services on that day as on all Holy Days except Atonement.

International News

Conditions in Ghana The following letter to Mr. David Stirk, Business Manager for East and West Africa working from our British office, was written from Ghana by the pastor of our Churches there.

After reading the letter you will see why our prayers are needed for the safety of our pastor in Ghana, his wife and their three children, as well as the ministerial trainee assigned there and our 95 members.

Any members or ministers who correspond with brethren in Ghana are cautioned that specific references in letters to the source of any information they have heard about the situation there should be avoided totally.

I'm writing this on plain paper, and will not write my name on it, or include our address on the envelope. I don't want to sound overly melodramatic, but there is a great deal of anti-white sentiment at the present time. "Defence Committees" (to defend the aims of the "revolution") have been set up and they are investigating various people, organizations, factories, etc. ("investigating" usually means beating up the management).

Our landlord is in trouble. His bank account has been frozen. If anything suspicious is found, the house "and all his assets" will be taken by the "people." I've never seen the man so depressed as he was yesterday. It seems that all his staff have left him. He sees no future for himself here, and can't even do his business.

One of our members, in a management position in one of this city's few functioning factories, had a real scare last Thursday. One of the "boys" at the factory had gone to the ruling PNDC

(Provisional National Defence Council) with an accusation (untrue) against the management, which is Swiss, German and Lebanese. The PNDC soldiers came round and started beating them up. Now the workers are simply refusing to obey any orders from the management....

The city is rife with rumours. That's not uncommon. Last week, the headline in the paper was that Ghana was about to be invaded by British, American and Nigerian "imperialists." Of course, it was utter rubbish, but the people believe it. The thinking amongst ex-patriots is that it was an excuse to bring in foreign soldiers to "defend the revolution."

Last Thursday morning, we sent Frank (one of our employees) out to buy us some kenkey for lunch (we're now almost 100% on native food again, through necessity) and the kenkey seller was about to leave. She was telling Frank that the white men have come to invade us; so she packed up her things and went home. I left the house at 11:30 a.m. to go to the dairy and on to pick up our daughter from school. At the dairy, I noticed the owners' children there and asked why they were not in school. They told me that a friend in the army had visited them that morning and advised them not to send their children to school (they go to the same school as ours) as there was going to be trouble. Boy, did I drive to school fast! The school was deserted. Only about a dozen kids were left. Parents had collected all the others earlier, or in some cases not sent them to school at all. We all knew there was going to be a big demonstration to denounce "U.S. and British imperialism" that morning, but it was in the center of town near the bank. I had told all our employees to stay away from there that morning and didn't think a second thing of it. But the rumour was that they were going to go right to the High Commissioner's house (which is next to the school) and even demonstrate outside the school. There's nothing worse than an African mob, and this demonstration was a real big one. However, Rawlings [leader of the ruling council] went to the demonstration and told them not to harm anybody and to stay away from embassies. But we didn't know that until later.

Making things worse that morning were two other incidents. Three military planes arrived at the airport at about 8:00 a.m. carrying foreign troops. The rumour went round that we were being invaded, and a panic set in. (Fortunately, nobody took it out on those of us who come from the lands of the "invaders.") It turned out they were friendly planes (i.e. Libyan or Russian). There was also a shooting incident at Burma Camp, which is also near the school. Turned out to be somebody escaping getting shot.

The curfew continues from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. and people breaking it are punished severely. There are rumours that those hours are used to bring in foreign troops and "show them around." Certainly, there are more Russians around. Yesterday, at the bank, there were only two other whites there, both Russian. And at a coffee shop there were three other whites, all Russian. I commented on this to somebody and then learned of the rumour that Soviet troops are being landed at Tamale, in the north of the

country. Certainly, it would all fit in with the invasion announcement. It should also be remembered that Rawlings' formative years at school were during former President Nkrumah's years in office. Nkrumah was very socialist and had many Russian troops and advisers here. They were kicked out in '66--maybe they are now coming back.

Shortages continue to worsen. I'm hoping to go to Nigeria next week, so we can stock up then. I'm not too keen on leaving my wife and children behind right now. Would appreciate your prayers at that time.

The hall where we meet is like an oven. The electricity does not work at all and there is now no water supply. The toilets are filthy. So we are busy looking for a new hall. I'm thinking of using the school's open air facility. It has a roof, so would be O.K. in the rain. It's cooler and cleaner. Also, the present hall can be very noisy. Last week, a funeral took place just outside of it. The ministerial trainee gave his sermon to the accompaniment of drums. Both the funeral and the meeting were later interrupted by "young revolutionaries" on garbage trucks driving by shouting slogans and banging lids together. I thought the mode of transport rather appropriate. Immediately after our meeting, the local "Peoples' Defence Committee" meets for their weekly witch hunt. They usually sit outside waiting while we finish, so we have to be careful what is said....

During the coup, it was reported that the two city morgues were overflowing with bodies, and they had to set up a temporary refrigeration unit to cope with the overflow.

Report From Canada January has started the year off well for God's Work in Canada. Finances for the month are plus 26.5% over January, 1981.

Presently the Mail Department is working on the semi-annual letter response, as well as the "regular" mail. It will take a few more days before everything is tabulated and final figures can be given, but to date we have received approximately 22,000 responses to Mr. Armstrong's offer in the last semi-annual letter.

A new record was set for WATS line responses on the weekend of January 23/24 with a total of 325 calls being handled.

Results from the advertising campaign continued to trickle in during January. The total now stands at 18,646. The highest response came from an advertisement in the French magazine, PERSPECTIVES--a total of 5,569. This particular advertisement appeared on the back cover of the magazine--a point to consider when we do our next advertising campaign.

Severe winter weather has played havoc with Church activities. A number of snowstorms have forced pastors to cancel activities during the month. Philip Shields, pastor of the Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John Churches, found himself stranded after a Friday night snowstorm.

January saw the start up of the newsstand program in the nationwide chain of CARA stores. From Gander, Newfoundland to Vancouver, British Columbia, The

PLAIN TRUTH magazine could be seen in most international airports, major train stations and many shopping malls. We will soon be distributing almost 270,000 magazines via the newsstands. In 1981, one third of our new subscribers came from newsstand responses!

New Zealand Update This year got off to a good start with well over 6,000 items of mail coming into the office--an increase of 46.1% over last January. Income for the month was up by 22.5%.

Over 7,100 responses have come in as a result of Mr. Armstrong's December, 1981 semi-annual letter, already representing a response of 19.5%. Eighty-four percent of these people requested the new booklet NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD, 68% requested a YOUTH 82 sample copy, and 58% requested THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY.

With 40,000 newsstand copies of The PLAIN TRUTH now being distributed every month, newsstand responses are becoming an increasingly more important factor in our incoming mail. 574 cards came in during January, more than double December's count. In fact, January's total was almost as many cards as arrived in the whole of 1981!

A series of advertisements for The PLAIN TRUTH, which appeared in some local magazines in October, November and December, 1981, have now brought in 830 new PLAIN TRUTH subscription requests.

Mr. Armstrong's full-page WALL STREET JOURNAL ads will be running in the NEW ZEALAND HERALD for eight consecutive Mondays during February and March. This will be an excellent opportunity to get God's message from His Apostle across as a witness to many New Zealanders, and we're excitedly waiting to see how the ads will go.

During January our Regional Director, Mr. Peter Nathan, along with Wellington Church Pastor Mr. Lyall Johnston, were in Pasadena for the Ministerial Refreshing Program.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from The Netherlands. Thank you very much for the opportunity given to my wife and myself to attend the International Regional Directors' Conference and the first session of the continuation of the Ministerial Refreshing Programme.

Thank you again for your continued guidance and leadership through your direct contact with us and through this programme. It will enable us in the ministry and the Church to understand more of God's way of life, His standards and values. Your lectures and those of the men functioning under you in Pasadena inspire us to be of better service in the Dutch-language area of God's Work, assisting you in carrying out the Great Commission and feeding the flock.

We are also thankful for the opportunity to fellowship with the men and women on the programme from various parts of North America and the world.

Last, but not least, we would like to express thanks also to those people on the most unique and beautiful campus on the globe who served us from behind desks, machines, counters, pots and pans. They contributed greatly to this most enjoyable refresher.

Finally, Mr. Armstrong, we wish you God's blessings, inspiration and good health in the weeks and months ahead.

Bram and Trudy de Bree

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I thank you for the many opportunities enjoyed and profited from during our visit to Pasadena to attend the Regional Directors' Conference and the Refreshing Program.

We sincerely appreciated hearing from you personally and having our minds set on the meaning of the two trees. We thank you for your instruction.

It was a rare privilege to have dinner with you in your home. What a delightful experience!

We pray for you daily.

Roy and Tine McCarthy

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have just returned from the first session of the new Ministerial Refreshing Program in Pasadena. It has truly been an inspiration and an exciting two weeks for us.

Your message to us the first day about life and doing God's Work was a real highlight of our stay in Pasadena. The example God is causing you to set is outstanding--I just hope to drive myself in the same manner.

I know that we have but a short time to complete the Work before Christ's return. These ministerial programs have been tremendous in getting all of us united and in harmony with Christ and His headquarters.

What is most gratifying is to see the team of evangelists you have chosen to assist you, supporting you and God's direction through you. I believe it is apparent that God is now using a team of servants who are not only submissive to His government, loyal, and dedicated--but are also very competent in their appointed areas. From the fields of finance, college administration, teaching, scholarship, management and business to pastoral affairs, ministers' personal lives and real brotherly love--there is a common bond of cooperation between them all. Thanks so much for your part in leading us into God's glorious Kingdom.

Thank you for providing this essential training tool for the ministry. May we loyally support you in leading God's people through the problem times ahead. Your care and concern for us is

obvious. We love you and are grateful to God for your continued leadership. We are behind you 100%.

Joe and Pat Dobson

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MINISTERIAL USE OF 800-423-4444 WATS LINES****

Telephone operators manning the Work's media WATS lines (800-423-4444) are trained and equipped primarily to take literature calls from Mr. Armstrong's telecast and other advertising in the Work. We would like to discourage administrative calls on these lines whenever possible except in infrequent cases such as phoning in Holy Day offering information around Feast times.

Many ministers call 800-423-4444 and request member file information, such as a member's address or status. Most of the time we have been able to accommodate them by passing the call on to Cledice Decker (Member File Control); however, to do so is awkward for us. We can only transfer the call if it comes in on one of our first seven lines. Much of the time these lines are in use and the call will arrive on line eight or above. Then the operator must request the minister to call back.

It will prove helpful if more use can be made of the ministerial WATS line (800-423-4464).

An excerpt from the PGR dated May 16, 1980 is published here just as a reminder:

Other than asking who you want to talk to or what you want to talk about, the switchboard (800-423-4464) will not take messages. Their new procedure will be to ask you to give them your number and hang up. They will then immediately call you back on an out-bound line as soon as one is available (usually immediately). At that point they will ring the desired department. By using this procedure you can be transferred to any department on campus.

We think you will like this new procedure a lot better. It will allow you more freedom of access to the departments on campus.

Remember--when you call for a department on campus, use the 800-423-4464 number.

By using this procedure, we can eliminate confusion and expedite the handling of both your calls and those people responding to media.

Feel free to use our media lines to request literature, but please expect to have your call handled like any other routine media call. Direct any special requests, such as multiple copies of literature and bulk shipments, through the 800-423-4464 number. (This number is for ministerial use only. Please do not give it out.)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

--Fred Gilreath/Bill Butler,

Communications and Telephone Response Departments

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING CENTERLong-time Readers of The PLAIN TRUTH

Some of our PLAIN TRUTH subscribers have been receiving the magazine for twenty-five years. A few readers remember the very first issue in 1934! Below are some of their comments:

I am 87 years old and read all I can of The PLAIN TRUTH. I have been reading it ever since you started sending it out and always enjoyed it. You were in Eugene, Oregon then. I have a lot of PLAIN TRUTH magazines. Please keep sending them.

Mrs. F.C. (Irving, TX)

I truly love, appreciate and pray for you and have received and read your literature since back in the 1930's--so you know that I am one of your longtime friends.

Mrs. G.T. (Sylacauga, AL)

I pray that God will give you the very best of health and protection to carry on this great Work that God has chosen you to do. I have the first PLAIN TRUTH you put out--it was just written on two sheets of paper, folded and mailed. It has really grown since then. I pray that it will continue to grow.

Mrs. A.W. (Heidelberg, KY)

I am sending you a little love gift and wish I could help more. I love your magazine. I have been taking it ever since you started to print it in the 30's. I think I received your first edition. So please keep up the good work. God bless you and your co-workers.

B.B. (Clarita, OK)

I have been receiving The PLAIN TRUTH since 1956 when one day our postmaster said to me, "I have a book here that I think you would enjoy reading." I have been thanking the Lord ever since as I enjoy it so very much.

Mrs. A.S. (Stockdale, TX)

It has been my pleasure to read and hear your wonderful messages of Christ and world events since you first started. There is no other source I know of that enlightens one so much as The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I enjoy it greatly.

Mrs. D.P. (Mesa, AZ)

I have been receiving The PLAIN TRUTH since I was 62--I am now 94. I still read it from cover to cover and would like to continue receiving it for the little time I am here. I enjoy it as well as the other reading materials I have asked for. Thank you very much for such a wonderful magazine.

F.W. (Yreka, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CLOUD OF CIVIL WAR HANGS OVER ZIMBABWE The rift between the two bitter rivals was bound to come sooner or later, and on February 17 the announcement was made: Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe--formerly Rhodesia--fired his main political rival, Joshua Nkomo, from his ministerial post in the government. Mugabe accused his former ally in the guerrilla war against white-minority rule of plotting a coup-d'etat. Most observers felt the action raised the possibility of new civil strife--meaning tribal warfare--in the black African nation.

When Mugabe ousted Nkomo and three of his supporters from the Cabinet, the move broke up a 22-month-old coalition government. Nkomo, the father of black nationalism in the country and Mugabe's political mentor in the early 1960's, had been serving as "minister without portfolio" after his demotion last year from Minister of Home Affairs, with authority over the police and immigration.

Prime Minister Mugabe said at a news conference that a plot had been uncovered when arms and equipment sufficient to outfit a 5,000-man brigade were unearthed February 6 on farms and other properties owned by Nkomo and officials of his Zimbabwe African People's Union party. Nkomo denied the accusation, of course. He charged that Mugabe's real motive was to divert attention away from what he claimed was the Prime Minister's real aim--to remove his ZAPU party from the ruling coalition (Nkomo had 20 out of the 100 seats in Parliament, Mugabe 57) and to institute a one-party state.

Some of Mugabe's staunchest supporters--who stem from the Shona tribesmen composing 85% of Zimbabwe's population--seemed to indicate they would like to see just such a political development. The Reuters news service reported that the morning after Nkomo was dismissed from Zimbabwe's cabinet, thousands of Mugabe's supporters gathered outside his office to acclaim their leader and demand the creation of a one-party state. A small cardboard box draped with a black jacket and crowned with a wreath of weeds was brandished before the jeering 3,000 supporters. "Josh is dead and here's his coffin," cried a demonstration organizer, wiping away mock tears.

A few yards away, an Ndebele from Matabeleland province, where Mr. Nkomo has long been undisputed political "king" said: "It's just like when they killed Jesus. They laughed at first, and celebrated, and the tears came later. Mugabe can now get his one-party state. He has the following."

Another Ndebele commented, bitterly: "They are not talking of a one-party state. They are talking of a one-tribe state."

Mugabe and Nkomo had been very loosely united in a marriage-of-convenience arrangement during the seven-year-long black independence war. They fought under the umbrella "Patriotic Front" tag. But there was deep distrust between the two, then as now. Showing the depths of his bitterness toward Nkomo, Mugabe said of his rival after his dismissal that having Nkomo in the government was like having "a cobra in the house. The only way to deal with a snake is to strike and destroy its head."

While Matabeleland is quiet for now, the minority Ndebele, observers feel, will not take their isolated minority status lying down forever. The once warlike Ndebeles, tribal cousins to South Africa's martial Zulus, once

lorded it over the far more numerous Shonas, whom they considered to be inferior. A big question mark now hangs over the loyalty of former ZAPU (Nkomo's) guerrillas who make up 40% of Zimbabwe's army ranks and 50% of the officer corps.

Any fighting, of course, would have a pronounced impact upon Zimbabwe's remaining whites, now down to about 200,000 in number, compared with 270,000 prior to independence. Should full-scale tribal warfare erupt it is hard to see the whites, caught in the middle with no political influence, risking their lives and businesses.

At stake is the bread--more accurately the cornmeal--on the tables of Zimbabwe's nearly seven and one-half million blacks. Without the 5,000 white farmers, who have prospered since independence, Zimbabwe's agriculture would collapse.

The relative prosperity and stability of independent Zimbabwe during its nearly two years of independence, heartened liberals in the West who thought a harmonious multi-racial, multi-cultural, politically pluralistic society could be created in Africa. But they overlooked reality, reality expressed in an editorial back in 1976, in DIE BURGER, a Cape Town, South Africa newspaper:

"The discord and strife among the black people is an important aspect of the Rhodesian problem which is not taken into consideration seriously enough, especially by the outside world. Even if the whites of Rhodesia could be wished away, it would not ensure that a solution would be found. Possibly rather the contrary, for then the strife between the black groups, who have already so clearly indicated their bitter animosity towards one another, could be intensified....

"It is considered...vitaly important to keep as many whites as possible in Rhodesia. As things stand at present, a stabilizing influence can come only from them."

Thus, Zimbabwe's "experiment" in representative majority rule may not last long. It is certain that the leadership of neighboring South Africa will point to the Zimbabwean example as being reflective of the reality of African affairs.

As a footnote, referring to South Africa, the dramatic accidental sinking, on February 18, of the flagship of the South African navy highlights once again the vulnerability of the Cape Route. The 2,380 ton President Kruger was one of only two operational ocean-going, anti-submarine frigates in the small but efficient South African navy.

Because of a U.N. arms embargo against South Africa, the British-built ship is not likely to be replaced. South African shipyards do not have the capacity to build vessels of this type. Britain once patrolled the Cape Route--oceanic superhighway for Middle East oil--out of the Simonstown Naval Base but broke her agreement in 1974. South Africa--even more so now --doesn't have the capacity to patrol the route properly by herself.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau