

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a maga derstanding



POWER SWITCH
in BONN

What our READERS SAY

"The article on Halloween I couldn't agree with you more. I wonder, with a mind as open as your editor seems to have, if you would consider doing an article on the origin of Christmas. I am sure your readers would find it very enlightening, perhaps you yourselves also."

Mrs. Kenneth S.,
Palos Verdes, Calif.

• See "Short Questions," page 39.

"I look forward to receiving *The PLAIN TRUTH* each month but must confess that I am bored by 'What Our Readers Say.' The reason is plain. It is because, mainly letters of praise are printed, and that isn't worthy of you. If, for instance, I said of your fascinating articles on evolution, that they never discussed change by mutation, I guess you would push such a letter aside and not include it. Exclude abusive letters if you will, but do let us air our doubts!"

Frank H.,
London

• We're quite happy to print letters of complaint, including your own. It is remarkable, however, how most such letters take the form of useless diatribes, and offer no constructive criticism.

"I am an educator. But it seems like something was missing until I read your fine literature. I read the article, 'Death Rides the High Road' to my sophomore class. They are young adults just starting to drive and I think they got the picture. All I can say is, 'It is terrific.' Many students wanted to order the publication. Would it be safe to say that they are more than welcome?"

Clayton O.,
Grass Valley, California.

• Certainly!

"Cancel, please, my subscription at once — your cover [NOVEMBER] is obnoxious to any American of the true

vintage. The commie oriented and just plain punks delight in publicity concerning any revolt against what our country really stands for. I believe that such recognition is misplaced."

Grant E. P.,
Oregon

• We do not imply support for the cause of news-making individuals merely because we print their pictures. In past years, we have printed pictures of the Pope, Churchill, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, and a host of other well-known figures. This does not imply our endorsement of all their views.

"I have just finished reading another edition of your magazine, and have been sickened by your self-righteous obtuseness... In 'Modern Romans' (October, 1969) you condemn nudity in entertainment and 'public lewdness', seemingly because your mind is not willing to accept change. Change must come, and when it does it will be feared and hated; these fears and hatreds, not changing morals, will be the causes of the destruction of our society."

Tom T.,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

• We're willing to accept any change for the better — and somehow fail to see public nudity, lewdness, pornography, sexual promiscuity and growing divorce as change for the better. Put your clothes on, Tom — or at least go find a rainbarrel. While you're at it, you may as well soak your head.

"We have been informed that Ambassador College is the publisher of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, which my City Manager receives regularly. I had the privilege of reading the October issue, and found one story, 'The Blazing Fury of Fire!' to be one of the most outstanding articles I have seen written in quite some time."

George R. M.,
Fire Department Chief,
Campbell, California

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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Personal from the Editor

I KNOW this may sound incredible, but it's true. And it's time the facts were understood! "Editors, newscasters, foreign correspondents and reporters do not understand the real meaning of the world news they report, analyze and discuss."

Equally incredible — "heads of government are utterly unaware of the true significance of the world-shaking events with which they deal! They have no conception of where these events are leading."

These are the first paragraphs of chapter one of a recent book which events may prove to be the most significant book of this century — which I will tell you about. It is an eye-opening book you may want to read (we don't sell it).

But in my *Personal* talk with our readers just now, I want to comment on these rather complacency-jarring statements. The statements are true. But WHY?

Yes, WHY?

Last month, in my *Personal* talk, I discussed the fact that others report the news, describe problems — *The PLAIN TRUTH* gives you the *meaning* of the happenings, the *answers* to the problems. I explained how we came to know.

But this month I want to comment further on that same theme, and to make plain why those dealing professionally with world happenings and with personal and social problems do not know.

To explain why we do understand, it was necessary to sketch, in brief, certain personal incidents and experiences in my own life. I explained how, at age 16, ambition was aroused. It was a burning ambition to attain status in the business world. In extracurricular study, outside school hours, I began frequenting the philosophy, biography and business administration shelves of the public library.

I began occasional dating with girls around age seventeen or eighteen. If a girl could not discuss intelligently the philosophies of Plato, Socrates, Epicurus, I lost interest. That was, of course, vanity.

Then I mentioned the fact-finding surveys, a sort of pioneering forerunner of the public opinion samplings of today. I was obtaining, analyzing, classifying and recording the facts of merchandising, business and social conditions. I was learning that we were living in a chronically sick world. I was impressed with the general discontent, the unhappy family relationships, the empty lives of executives of major corporations and the greatest banks, on down to the lowliest, most illiterate and poverty-stricken.

From early boyhood I had always wanted to UNDERSTAND. Always I was asking WHY?

Subconsciously I viewed situations and conditions from the commonly accepted concepts of philosophy and psychology. But with this approach I *couldn't* understand the WHY of the unhappy conditions in the world. WHY was not the life of the average individual more rewarding? WHY not more full and abundant, more enjoyable and happy? WHY so much poverty and ignorance, hunger and disease, filth and squalor in areas containing far more than HALF the world's unhappy population?

WHY war — WHY no peace? It just didn't make sense.

And WHY couldn't the great minds in science, psychology, education, religion and government give us the answers? None had the solutions.

WHY?

Writers with no solutions pictured the unhappy conditions — when they were not trying to "kid themselves" and

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Ambassador College Photo

OUR COVER

West Germany's new Chancellor is the well-known Willy Brandt, former mayor of West Berlin. In 1966 Brandt joined with Kurt Georg Kiesinger to form the "Grand Coalition," which resulted in his being appointed to the office of Foreign Minister. In late October of this year, through a new coalition with Walter Scheel's Free Democratic Party (FDP), Herr Brandt became the first Social Democrat to hold the office of Chancellor since 1933.

their readers by misrepresenting conditions as good.

There was, for example, my rather philosophic "Ben Franklin-minded" uncle, Frank Armstrong. He was then the leading advertising man in my native state of Iowa. Always he saw the optimistic side of the picture. He would say, "Oh sure, the belly-achers, the calamity-howlers, the do-gooders are always predicting the downfall of humanity and the end of the world. But I've always noticed that the world hasn't gone to pot yet. We're not going to just fold up and disintegrate." By "going to pot" he didn't mean what that would mean to "Hippies" now, some fifty-five years later. In his own inimitable style of literary slang, he was no "muckraker" or prophet of doom.

I, too, like to be an optimist. But looking only at the bright side does not make the dark side go away. I've always found that when people run away from problems their problems don't disappear. Solutions come from UNDERSTANDING and meeting troubles head-on!

But in the world today, writers, leaders, statesmen, educators, psychologists, seem unable to come to clear-cut conclusions. So they speak and write about world conditions and social problems with a vagueness of thought, couched in abstract ten-to-twenty-letter words to cover up their own ignorance.

In last month's *Personal* I described the processes by which most people come to believe whatever they believe. They automatically accept whatever they have always heard, read, or been taught. And they accept automatically whatever their crowd or group believes. They "go along," because they want to belong. Further, people generally will believe what they *want* to believe, true or false. And they refuse to believe that which they don't want to accept, no matter how true.

Then I related how I came, in a manner totally different, to understand the true reasons for all the world's ills — their causes, and the solutions. I was finding proved what I did not want to believe.

Actually, I learned that most of the

great minds fail utterly to comprehend the answers because they have never learned, or been taught, the most important BASICS of knowledge. They do not know the meaning and purpose of life. They do not know what a human being really *IS!* They do not know the difference between animal brain and human mind. And they do not know what makes that difference.

Not understanding the truth of the makeup of the human mind, the psychologists start out with a total misconception of human nature. Therefore their entire structure of teaching on psychology is based on a false premise. And I have noticed, too, that nearly every error is based on a false premise, assumed or carelessly taken for granted without question or proof. And when the premise is false, the whole structure of arguments based on it is erroneous.

The assumed premise is that human nature is essentially good. Once I believed that. Then one day, 36 years ago, I came in contact with a most unique country physician. His office was 15 miles out from the nearest small city. But at almost any hour of the day one would find six to a dozen patients waiting in his reception room. He was a unique philosopher.

"There is not," he solemnly declared, "a single thing in all of God's creation that man has ever gotten his hands on, that man has not polluted, perverted, ruined, injured or destroyed."

"Oh come now, Doctor," I exclaimed, with a smile, "surely we humans can't be that bad."

"Name one thing," he challenged.

At the moment, I couldn't. But it seemed an astonishing if not incredible statement. Ever since, I have been trying to find one thing man has not befouled, injured or polluted. At first glance I have thought I had found an object of man's improvement — or at least something uninjured. But closer examination proved otherwise. I am still seeking it, 36 years later.

My mind began to change about human nature. I then began to assume that human nature was a mixture of good and evil. One might yet dig up some article or booklet I have written

with that statement in it. But I have been compelled — on evidence and proof — to change my mind. The "good" is simply not there, regardless of common acceptance to the contrary.

Why do people think human nature is *good*? Simply because human nature is VANITY. The most difficult thing for the natural vain mind of a human to do is confess it is wrong.

Of course you've heard the story that George Washington, the first President of the United States said, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I chopped down that cherry tree." The reason that story gained fame is simply the fact that to confess a wrong is so rare that it has been used as an example of good character in America's first President.

Human nature does not want to say: "I am evil. I am wrong. What I believe is error. What I did was wrong." Human nature wants to BE right (or believe it is right) while *doing wrong!* It wants to think of itself as right, not wrong.

This very trait in human nature has led even the so-called experts to believe human nature is automatically good.

Human nature often has an impulse to rise up in anger and indignation if accused of being wrong, or having done wrong, even though guilty. I suppose I shall receive some indignant letters from some of our readers who will resent my statement. For, if human nature is basically evil and not good, that includes all my readers. But if it includes *you* dear reader, remember I have to include myself in the statement also. And I have long since resigned to that fact — and I hope that the excessive youthful ego has also long since been punctured and properly deflated.

Is it a sign of ignorance or weakness to confess error and change to truth? Does it do one discredit to admit he had been wrong? I think — as I stated above — that in general it is the hardest thing for any person to do. Not, any longer, for me. I have had to admit being wrong under very humiliating circumstances. But I think it's like going swimming in the ocean. The first time you stick a foot into the very edge of

(Continued on page 47)

Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

the cold water, you draw it back quickly and almost decide not to go in. But once in the water, you say, "Come on in — the water's fine!"

The President of the United States just over a hundred years ago, Abraham Lincoln, said, "I shall adopt new views so often as they are *proved* to be *true* views." He was a man of courage.

As for me, however, I find that the more I confess error and change to proved truth, the *less* error there remains to reject.

When the country doctor-philosopher asserted that everything man's hands have touched has been polluted, perverted, ruined, he simply meant that man is putting good *things* — God-given things — to a *WRONG USE!*

There are the two basic broad *WAYS* of living. I often express them as the way of *GIVING*, and the way of *GETTING*. One is the way of outgoing concern. Outgoing concern is the true definition of the word "love." That is the only right and practical way of life. It is the only way that pays off.

Not many believe that. Humanity has always gone the opposite way — the way of getting, taking, acquiring. The way of competition, of getting the best of the other fellow in a deal. The way of vanity, greed, lust. Of envy, jealousy, resentment, hatred. The way of strife, violence, war.

Humanity thinks that is the better way. Man has put that way to the test for 6,000 years. He has written the lesson in human unhappiness, discontent, wretchedness and suffering. He has written it in human blood, in murder, in wars. But he *REFUSES* to *learn* that lesson. Human nature does not want to confess "I am wrong."

For example, look at the institutions of learning, where the world's leaders of tomorrow are being trained. Nearly all follow the way of human nature — the way of pleasing *SELF*, of promiscuity, the "new morality," vanity, jealousy, lust and greed. What is the re-

sult of that way? Protest, rebellion, marches on the president's residence, violence, chaos.

Then there are the three campuses of Ambassador College — in Pasadena, California, in Texas and in England. Here you find young men and women of the highest caliber — young people with a *PURPOSE* — young people being taught the *WAY* of outgoing concern, self-discipline, right moral and spiritual as well as intellectual values. Here, you see students and faculty that are *HAPPY!* They exude smiles, they radiate good cheer. They *ENJOY LIFE!* They find that way of life practical! It pays off. It makes life full, enriched and abundant.

Once, as a young man in late teens, I accepted without question the philosophies about life and ways to live it of the ancient Greek and Roman philosophers. That titillated my vanity of intellect. I felt it stamped me as a scholar — added status. But after I found the true *WAY OF LIFE* — that of giving and sharing as opposed to getting and taking — I realized that these ancient pagan philosophers were pursuing a very false and unrewarding way of life. Yet to a large extent their philosophies and false theories still today have a glamorous appeal to intellectual vanity.

And *WHY?* Neither they, nor their followers in higher education today, have had understanding of the basic foundation of knowledge. They have not known *WHAT* man is, *WHY* man is, where he is going, and *HOW* to fulfill the real purpose of life. They have not known the true *WAY!*

They have not understood even themselves. They have not understood the human *MIND*, and the vast gulf between it and the animal brain.

The world has its great minds, still today. Einstein worked out a highly complicated theory about time and space which few minds can grasp. Steinmetz was an electrical wizard. Edward Teller has been called "father of the H-bomb." But they knew not how to produce world peace.

Next month I should like to comment still further on this same theme, and explain *WHY* such great minds cannot solve the most important and vexing human problems.

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