
PERSECUTION

U.S.A. PEOPLE
& PLACE



BY DAVID K. STACEY

This is a recent reprint edition from an original copy of the 1962 "persecution U.S.A." outlining some of the beginnings of this Christian and patriotic work almost forty years ago.

The first several thousand printings of this booklet were on high quality slick paper and bound within heavy tan covers. However, due to lack of funds these copies are printed on cheaper paper and covers, but are still clear enough to relay the original information therein, and we wanted the reader to know that the originals were of much better quality, but still this issue is legible and usable.

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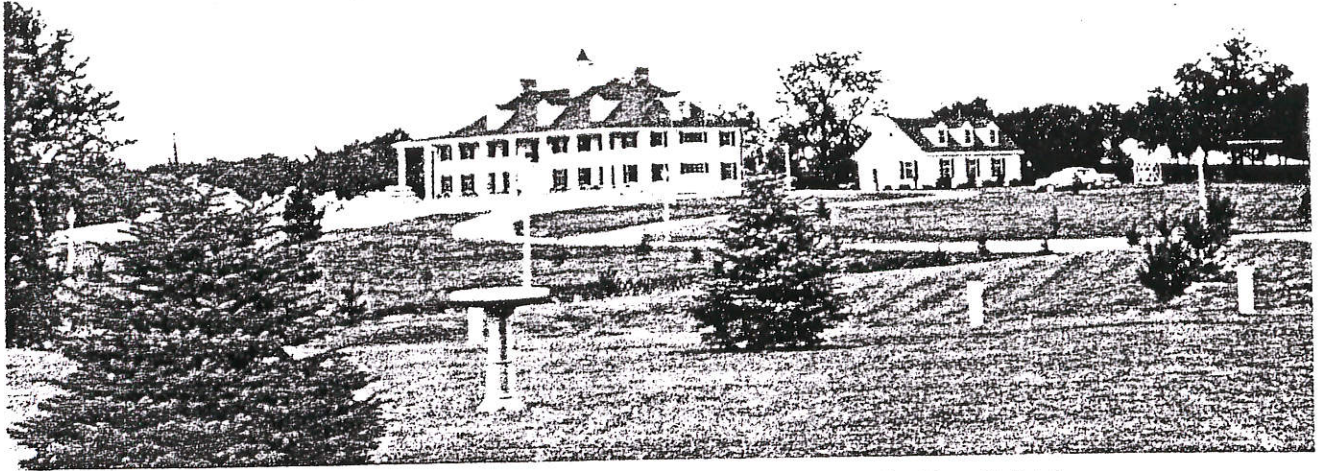
BY

DAVID K. STACEY

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A panoramic view taken of the Mt. Vernon House on the Harrell Estate.

Preface

Our founding fathers bought through blood, sweat, and tears the right of religious freedom which is incorporated in the first Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. To give the right of an individual or individuals to worship God according to the dictates of their heart has always been part of our sacred heritage.

It is surprising to find this liberty under violent attack and much abuse during this the enlightened twentieth century.

When I arrived in Louisville, Illinois, in February 1961, for three days I felt as if I had stepped back into the dark ages and had entered into a community that was not a part of our beloved United States.

I had come to deliver an address against Communism at the Christian Conservative Church, pastored by Reverend Comer. But I realized, hardly had I arrived, that a pastor friend who was with me and myself were not to be received by the community as ministers or as patriots speaking out against one of the greatest menaces facing our nation.

In the three days to follow, I found a citizenry of this Illinois town, backed by its law enforcement officials carrying on a most bigoted, vicious campaign against this little church and its pastor, and an influential member of its congregation, John Harrell.

We were harangued by telephone calls all hours of the night; the burning of crosses; the hanging of effigies; the throwing of fire-crackers into the church yard during my meeting; the sending out of false fire alarms; the disturbance of our service through caravans of cars honking and shouting vile epithets; the slapping of my face by one of their vigilantes in the sheriff's office where we had come to ask protection; the humiliating tirade by the States Attorney because I believed in Divine revelation and the freedom of individuals to worship God without molestation; and the humiliating search of my body and that of two other pastors by the sheriff department officials.

Why these un-American attacks? Why this dark age of bigotry? The main cause seemed to be that a man who was a member of their school board, who had fought valiantly as an aviator in the World War for his country, and who had become a successful business man not only locally, but nation-wide, had received the healing touch from God, and God had intervened and saved his life. He desired to let the world know that God was the same yesterday, today and forever; and for this he found trouble in his own church in his desire to proclaim Jesus Christ as a living reality and to speak out against the forces of materialism and Communism. It became necessary for him along with many others to remove their membership from a local church. To many narrow-minded and bigoted citizens of this community this became a crime that was unforgivable. They attempted to lure him into a mental institute; and when he fought back with suits, they began their drive of harrassment, smear and slander. Never since the days of the mobs in Illinois in the murdering of the Prophet Joseph Smith and Editor Lovejoy had this state seen such bigotry and mob violence. This has continued now for several years and only the grace and strength of God has made it possible for this little band of Christian patriots to continue living and worshipping under such harrassment.

One wonders how long the public would allow this to be carried on against a negro or some other minority race or religion, yet seemingly the press and legal officials have closed their minds and their eyes to this abridgement of civil liberties against the right to worship Jesus Christ according to the dictates of one's heart right here in America.

Where must John Harrell turn for grievance? To the United Nations, or to Russia? For truly he has not received it from the local and state officials.

I hope that this book which is written to tell the story of a "black" page in American history will have an effect in awakening and allowing the lethargic public to know what is happening in one small village in the United States; and may they realize that if this continues to go on, then it will become an example for the suppression of religious faith throughout our land.

The First Amendment of the Constitution was passed not only to protect the large denominational groups, but to protect every individual who has a desire to worship God according to the dictates of his heart; and when our founding fathers framed this amendment, they did not mean every individual but John Harrell. They meant every individual.

KENNETH GOFF, D.D.

About the Author

David K. Stacey was born and raised in Farmington, New Mexico. He has been conscious of a Divine Calling on his life during his early youth and as far back as he can remember. This Holy Calling awareness caused him to be misunderstood and rather "strange" in the eyes of his classmates. He endured this by being somewhat withdrawn, having only a few close friends, and separating himself from the activities common to youth of his age. Though he at times desired to be "like everybody else", and even tried to be so, yet the Call upon his life would not let him be content to be just another "conformist".

After being raised in a Devout Baptist home atmosphere, he served in the Korean "Police Action". This was quite a change, but very enlightening, for it was here that he received the Wonderful Experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit!

With the Quickening of the Spirit the Bible became a New Book, though he had read it since his early youth. He then began ministering to the Koreans when off duty and, with a group of Pentecostal GI's, helped buy materials for a church which the Koreans built.

Since his return from Korea, his ministry has been to groups of Truth-seekers and Independent churches from the West Coast to the Deep South. He has been blessed with the ability to be plain spoken and well understood — whether agreed with or not! As an Ordained Minister who has been active in Non-denominational circles for over ten years, he has many friends among the ministry and the laity of the groups where he has ministered.

He has been writing on religious subjects for some five years and is the editor of a Religious-Patriotic publication. Thousands have been reached through this writing ministry.

Concerning his visit to the Christian Conservative Group, he had a desire to visit this Group when he first read of it in a brief newspaper account which was on the Dion Davis Case. Even after hearing "slanted" accounts from the press and radio, he still felt this group must have something good. Since no address was known he more or less forgot about them, but while mailing literature to a list of over 2000 Right Wing groups, he sent literature to this group. Mr. Harrell felt Led of the Spirit to invite Evangelist Stacey to minister and wrote him to that effect. He did not immediately respond, but they had opportunity to meet one another personally at Kenneth Goff's Convention in Denver, Colorado. Evangelist Stacey was thrilled with Brother Harrell's message at the convention! A Oneness of Spirit and Purpose was apparent of the two and the invitation to minister was renewed. Both returned home.

Upon awakening one morning, the Spirit impressed to Evangelist Stacey that "A Blessing is in the East" . . . He left that morning and headed East. Having other calls to minister in the Oklahoma, Arkansas area, he stopped briefly in both states but became restless until he received the leading of the Spirit to come to the Harrell Estate. Little did he know that he would have the honor of a part in bringing forth this book . . . Persecution - U.S.A. . . !



Dedication

"Persecution - U.S.A." is dedicated to those who made it possible by their Courageous Stand for their Country and Convictions — To a Dedicated and Visionary Leader, Mr. John R. Harrell, who provided the greater part of the text — To the Group's Wonderful Pastor, A. Vance Comer — To Patty Kuhlig, faithful typist — To Mrs. Ruth Leib who kept Mrs. Kuhlig's child, Johnny, thus freeing her for this work — and To the Christian Conservative Group as a whole for their overall cooperation.

Our thanks is also extended to the Friendly Reporters, Newswriters, Feature Story Writers, Photographers, Independent Writers, and others of the Communications Media for their Assistance in getting the story out to the Public.



Introduction

The story you are about to read is one to which additional chapters are being written right at the present time within the Heartland of the United States of America. Were it not for the American names of people and places, one would presume that our story took place behind the "Iron Curtain" instead, of in a small county seat town in Illinois, U.S.A.

This is a story of the Persecutions of a group of people of various religious background who have nevertheless been drawn together by a mutual Inward desire for Freedom, Justice, and Righteousness in Outward Manifestation. In this group we find people who have left nice homes and good jobs to live in simple one and two room cabins with only the basic necessities of life — food, shelter, and clothing. Imagine, if you will, a people so Dedicated to, and Longing for, the Kingdom Order that they will forsake homes, jobs, and loved ones if need require, to live, work, fast, pray, and wait together with others of like Vision and Faith until the Kingdom Government be established here on this earth as it is in heaven! It is such a group that our story is about.

Consider what Divine Dedication to a Righteous Cause a well-to-do businessman must have to invest all he had gained financially to maintain such a

movement until the Kingdom is fully manifested. John R. Harrell, leader of the Christian Conservatives, is such a man.

After being on the grounds, visiting the people on Mr. Harrell's 100 acre estate, watching them work, play, and worship together, one is impressed with the Freedom of the Spirit and yet the Order that prevails — a Rare combination indeed! Such Freedom and Order will be more and more manifest as the Kingdom Order increases. There is no doubt in my mind that these people are a Divinely Called Vanguard of the Kingdom.

This group is a peace loving people desiring to serve the Most High in Spirit and in Truth. Violence is foreign to their nature, yet the Unjust Violence that has been turned upon them has required — yea, Demanded — that they Defend their Remaining Rights, their property, and their lives! Thus they stand guard at night and at times even during the day.

How could such a condition develop in our "Sweet Land of Liberty" — How did it all start — What tactics were used — Why is this Unjust and Unlawful Persecution Allowed to continue . . . ??? We seek to gather the facts, bring you the Truth, and thus the Answers, in this work . . . "Persecution — U.S.A."

PERSECUTION - U.S.A.

People and Place

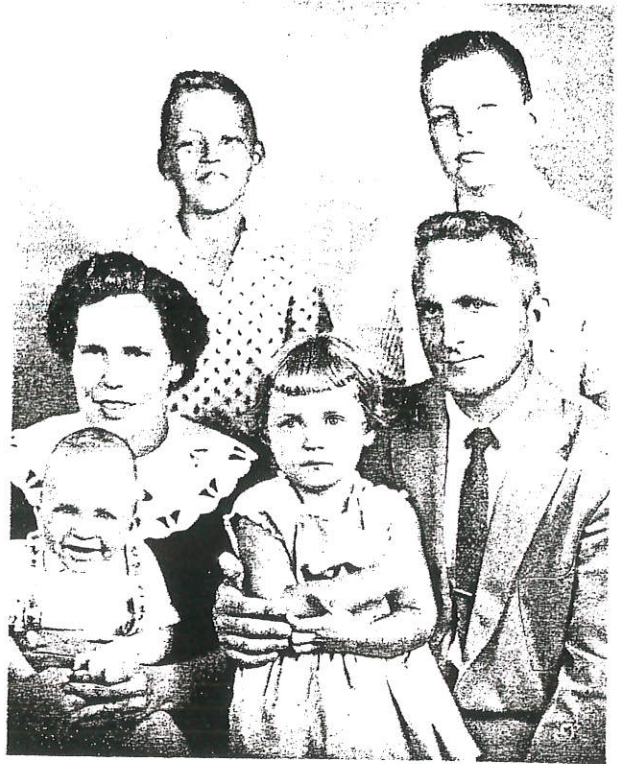
The beginning of our story centers in and around a small county seat town by the name of Louisville, Illinois, located some two hundred and twenty-five miles south of Chicago and some one hundred miles east of St. Louis, Missouri.

Louisville, in the center of the County of Clay, is a town of only nine hundred people, being one of the smallest county seat towns in Illinois as well as The United States, having a public square with a rather pleasant looking courthouse erected upon the rising plot of ground in the middle thereof. The town itself is complete for its size, including a number of grocery stores, bank, clothing stores, farm implement dealers, automobile agencies, gasoline stations, a motel and numbers of other small businesses.

Along the east edge of town curves and winds, in lazy fashion, the Little Wabash river from which the Village draws its water supply and a few miles to the east of town is a marker stating this is the center of population for the United States of America, therefore this also becomes the heartland of our country.

The Unlawfully Persecuted group of our story is led by Mr. John R. Harrell, a businessman who is the owner of a construction firm which operates throughout the United States and Canada. He is involved in a number of other enterprises. He owns and manages numerous business buildings, rental properties, and several hundred acres of land within the immediate or adjoining counties. (He also owns the local motel, which he requires his employees close on Sunday because of his religious convictions.)

In addition to this Mr. Harrell was quite active in local civic affairs as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club where for a number of years he had been the official song leader, having been selected on several occasions to lead the



Picture of the John R. Harrell family taken in 1960 with Mr. Harrell holding daughter Cathy, his wife, Betty, holding son, Jon, the oldest son, Tod, standing back of his father, and Xon, the second oldest son, behind his mother.

singing for Rotary District meetings which encompassed a large section of Southern Illinois.

Mr. Harrell for many years expended much effort in religious work, especially since his conversion to Christianity in July 1947. Shortly thereafter he and his wife on Monday night of November 10, 1947, while at home, underwent a three hour experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit which in effect was laying a base for a work which was to follow and began some twelve years later. Since these experiences in 1947 Mr. Harrell has been quite active in the affairs of his Church, being lay leader for a number of Methodist Churches in his area, holding several official capacities on boards and organizations in the Methodist Church, having been a board member of a Holiness Camp Meeting, which permitted the erection of a large expensive tabernacle with a seating capacity of one thousand. This was brought forth, to a considerable extent, by the contributions of Mr. Harrell and his furnishing much of the financial strength necessary to borrow funds in order to erect same.

In the year 1958 the Methodist church was completing a large two story education building. Mr. Harrell, not only had organized the fund raising campaign, and raised the fund personally at one meeting in the church, but in addition gave the largest single contribution towards the construction of the building. Also he drew the plans, furnished his own men to construct the building and personally supervised the entire project at no charge or expense whatsoever for almost one and one-half years, all this to give the church the much needed room as the Sunday School attendance had almost doubled in capacity under his leadership as Sunday School Superintendent for some ten years. Mr. Harrell in addition to being Sunday School Superintendent of his Church served on the Board of Trustees, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, Chairman of Pastoral Relations Committee, Evangelism and others.

Our story will now assume the form of an interview between Mr. John R. Harrell, leader of this group, and myself.

When-Where-How ? ? ?

Evangelist David K. Stacey: "Mr. Harrell, would you please give us some background as to when, where, and how this Move started?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "This Movement started to develop in 1958 and the Point of the Beginning was the Louisville Methodist Church which is by far the largest of the four churches in Louisville, having had as its Sunday School attendance average some two hundred fifty people each Sunday. Into this scene and by the moving of the Lord came Rev. A. Vance Comer, sent as the pastor of the Louisville Methodist Church from the Southern Illinois Conference, which met in Granite City in late May, 1958. Rev. Comer was not new into the area as he had been Dean at the local youth Methodist Institute where

the Methodist Church, a number of years before, had purchased ground at the north edge of Louisville." (Mr. Harrell was a member of the committee purchasing these properties and served as the first treasurer of the incoming funds coming from a large section of Southern Illinois for the first few years.) "Since Rev. Comer had served as Dean of this Institution, in charge of hundreds of youth, as well as having been a member and preacher of the Methodist Church for some twenty five years, being known as a Holiness preacher, sound in doctrine, and filled with the Spirit, it was natural for those who were in that section of Illinois to be acquainted with him. Rev. Comer is a native of Oklahoma, and graduated from a College in that State; thence to Asbury Theological Seminary for an additional three years.

"Rev. Comer is known among his fellow ministers as a dedicated man of God, untainted from the modernistic influence which was overtaking many ministers in the church, quiet by nature, deep in thought, as well as preaching, brilliant in mind, having finished as valedictorian of his class. After graduating from Asbury Theological Seminary he served as a teacher for that Seminary for a period of time.

"Rev. Comer's coming to the Louisville Methodist Church was due to efforts of myself, under the direction of the Lord. As a board member of the Methodist Church for many years and Chairman of the Pastoral Relation Committee in special conference with the Bishop of the Methodist Church and the District Superintendents of the Southern Illinois Conference, I personally waged a lengthy debate before them as to why the church needed this pastor and though there was much opposition within the Bishop's Cabinet this man was sent from the charge which he had just held as pastor of the First Methodist Church of Lebanon, Illinois, which was the mother church so to speak of McKendree College whose campus was adjacent and which the college intellectuals attended."

The Divine Healing of John R. Harrell

Evan. David K. Stacey: "It was about this time that you found that you had cancer, was it not?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "Yes, in May of 1958, my wife, Betty, brought forth our fourth child, and in July of that year a lymph node began to enlarge in my neck, which, after investigation by numbers of physicians and surgeons, was removed in November 1958 and found to be lymph cancer. During this time my physical condition deteriorated rapidly and became very noticeable by many in the area and of considerable concern to my friends.

"Upon further diagnosis and tests at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, it was determined that the most dreaded of all cancers, lymph cancer, had

spread throughout my body with the parent cancer being found to be the left kidney. I was given approximately sixty days to live.

"At Mayo Clinic immediate arrangements were made for an emergency operation to remove the left kidney in order to prolong my life a short time. Hospital, nurse, and surgical arrangements were made immediately in order to bring this to pass.

After all arrangements had been made, my wife and I were having prayer in our room before retiring, as had been our custom for a number of years. The presence of the Lord entered into our room in great force and Majesty at nine thirty P.M. on that evening of Friday, January 16, 1959, which

was my 37th birthday. For a period of three hours, from nine thirty P.M. until twelve thirty A.M., we received miraculous revelation and healing from the Lord. Thence a deep slumber came upon us for another three hour period until three thirty A.M. when we were both awakened again by the Spirit of the Lord from the deep Spiritual anesthesia and from that time until six thirty A.M. other great and unusual manifestations were present with myself being completely cured and healed of cancer! The Spirit of the Living God burned from me all disease as though He were a raging Celestial fire. These events, names, dates, places, medical reports, etc., are a matter of record, and the experience itself has been published in a book in late 1959, entitled "The Manifestation of God in the Healing of John R. Harrell"; therefore the details of this will not be gone into in this book as they are a book within themselves.

"After this experience that night I returned to Mayo Clinic early the next morning and told the Doctors of the experience, cancelled all surgical and hospital arrangements, returned to Louisville and regained my health, weight, and strength very rap-

idly. So great was the stir which this experience caused that my pastor Rev. Vance Comer requested that I give an account of it at the local Methodist Church the coming Sunday, which I did. People came from other churches and filled the building to overflowing with standing room only. Immediately thereafter, spontaneously, invitations began to come from other churches and other communities. I then related the experience in three of the four churches in Louisville. Week upon week and month by month for almost a year I travelled at my own expense never accepting one cent in payment for travel or any other operation overhead, relating this experience to thousands and thousands of people in a five-state area seeing often times as many as a hundred at the altar at the consummation of relating this experience. People came for salvation, desiring to be filled with the Holy Spirit, or wanting prayer for physical afflictions.

"At no time did I ever solicit or ask for churches in which to speak, going only upon invitation, never accepting a penny of offering and spending several thousands of dollars out of my own pocket in traveling by train, plane, and automobile."

Beginning of the Anti-Communist Phase

Evan. David K. Stacey: "This led into the Anti-Communist phase of the Movement, am I correct?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "Yes, I began explaining to the people in the Louisville Methodist church, as well as churches in which I was invited, of the Lord's revealing His getting ready to move against Communism and the events that were going to take place in the near future in our own land as we were being encircled from without and infiltrated from within.

"Rev. Comer also began to speak out against these evils stronger than ever as the Lord began to move upon him and revealed that my healing was the opening wedge of a struggle that was to develop. The Lord likewise revealed to Rev. Comer that the healing in this case was not a normal experience, but one which is termed as a Bible experience which happens only to those who have a work of considerable magnitude cut out for them by the Spirit of the Lord; therefore, Rev. Comer stood behind this phase of my testimony solidly.

"In the beginning months as the testimony reached out county by county, and state by state, both newspapers and radio carried a report within those areas of these speaking engagements. The testimony was accepted rapidly and well as I revealed only a small amount of what the Lord had told me about His moving against Communism, and I still have told only a small portion unto this day as God moves to do a mighty thing in our time. The Lord began moving closer still in July 1959, giving

guidance and directions which has seldom if ever happened in modern times."

Evan. David K. Stacey: "What was the Reaction of the people and their leaders?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "Those that once accepted began to draw away with a fearfulness of the thing which they felt might develop. Others in the Louisville Methodist Church were miraculously healed and they in turn went out to tell of their experiences, while others began to have visions of an awesome nature of the end time that was coming. These were people who were solid in their experience, stable by nature, intelligent, and they could give no explanation themselves why the Lord was revealing this unto them other than to relate it to others, and to groups, what they saw — which in some instances was in great detail and had to do with the fulfillment of the Great Prophecies in the book of Revelation, the opening of the Seals, the Horsemen, the grandeur of God, and the establishment of a Kingdom.

"Rev. Comer's brilliant, deep, and analytical sermons, in the later parts of 1959, began to stir the Methodist church and he began to come under pressure from the Methodist organization, in a subtle way, not to speak out against Communism, nor tell of their tactics or make-up of their cells, in spite of the fact J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI reported that every county seat town now in the United States has its Communist organization. He denounced the National Council and certain Methodist leaders for their left-wing activities. Rev. Comer began

to press down hard upon adultery and sin within the church and it was apparent to any casual observer that some were guilty within the congregation. Immediately after such sermons numbers of his congregation whose sins had been uncovered set out to remove him from the church in the middle of the conference year, which is extremely difficult to do. Since I was Chairman of the Pastoral Relations Committee, in charge and representing the church on matters pertaining to its pastor, they by-passed me and went to the District Superintendent, unofficially carrying stories, tales, and sowing dissention within the church claiming the congregation desired the pastor to leave and by far the majority were in favor of it — so they said. At the same time these agitated for my removal as Sunday School Superintendent, which I had been for many years. The Communistic tactics of fear, rumor, apprehension and consternation, were promoted to the fullest.

"As the rumors and stories were fed by the flames of passion, Rev. Comer secured a letter from the hierarchy of the Methodist Church that he was to appear before the Bishop in Chicago, the first part of December 1959. Since I was not only Chairman of the Pastoral Relations Committee but also Superintendent of the Sunday School, I, at the direction of the Lord, stood Sunday December 6, facing the accusers of the brethren and explained to them that a few of the group had been willing to whisper and agitate against Rev. Comer, but that now we would have an open vote that all could see and stand upon their own convictions. Since I was Sunday School Superintendent until May of the next year, I could not be removed; however, if the church wanted me to resign as Sunday School Superintendent, I would voluntarily do so as of that day. There would be a standing vote of confidence in the church, in which there were in excess of two hundred and fifty in attendance. I requested those to stand who wanted me to stay in and then requested those stand who wished me to resign, and out of the large congregation there were less than fifteen who stood for my resignation which revealed to the church immediately that only the agitators and those guilty of some of the things that our preacher had been preaching against, were involved.

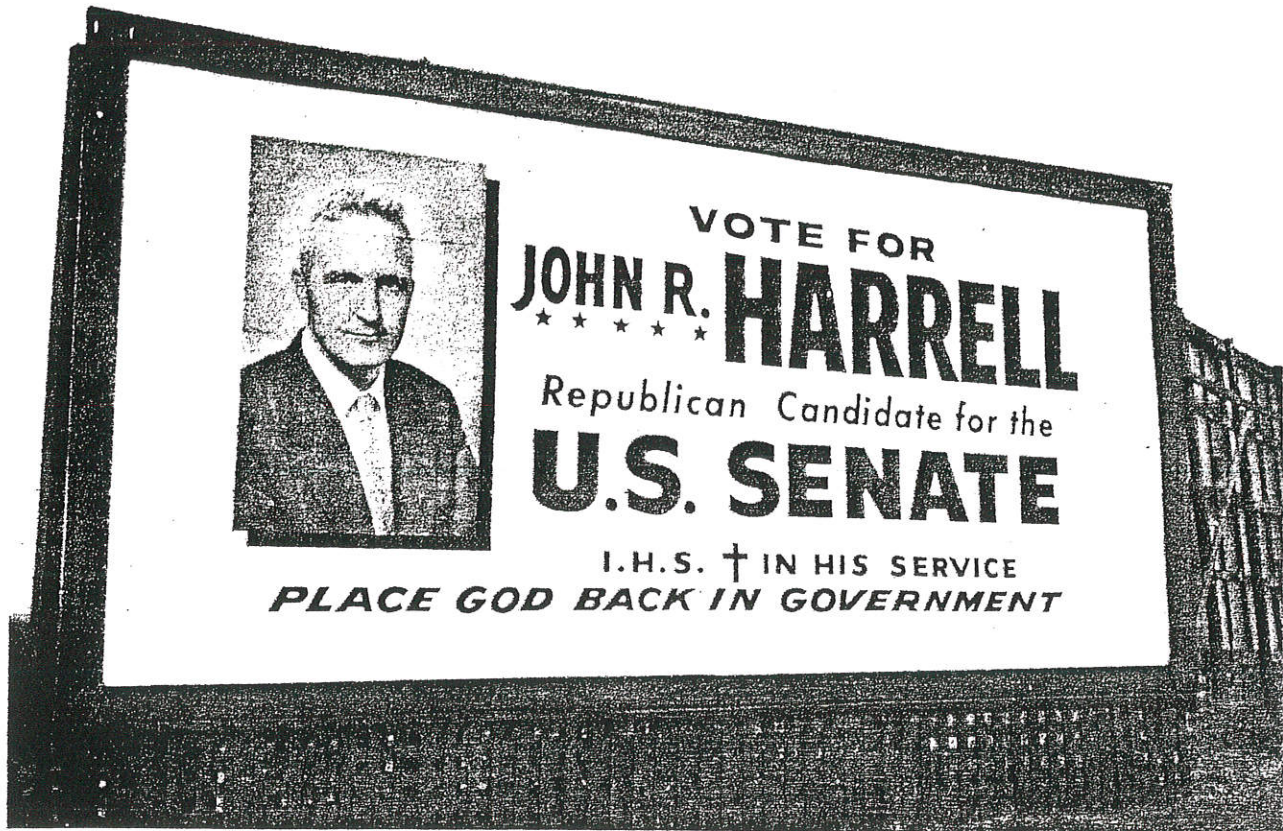
"Anger swept over the congregation, murmuring and mumbling as low threats were made. After that count was terminated, as Chairman of the Pastoral Relations Committee, I held up a full roster of the church membership, declaring by virtue of my office

that there would be a roll call vote of the church membership to accurately determine those who desired Rev. Comer to stay and those who desired him to leave, in order that all might see for themselves where each stood.

"At the announcement of this those few who had worked and agitated in the darkness jumped to their feet and objected to such a democratic action. They tried to stop my calling of the roll which was interrupted many times with objections, even to inferring that I must be mentally ill! Such is typical of those people who try to hide their acts and are exposed in some fashion! Strange indeed why anyone would object to a public roll call, unless they had something to hide, which they did.

"Calling the Roll in alphabetical order took some time. As the names of some were approached, they sneaked out side doors with some almost crawling down the aisles! Their vileness could be felt, for with their tongues they had slandered a Godly man, but they had not the convictions nor the courage to stand when the thing was brought to light! After the roll call had been completed and the vote taken, less than ten percent of the voting members asked for a change, and some of these were not opposed to Rev. Comer but because of the friction, and their not understanding the struggle, thought that it would be best to keep peace within the church. After the service the church became a seething inferno as the plans of those who had agitated and opposed Rev. Comer's speaking out against adultery, Communism, and the infiltration within even the Methodist Church were exposed for all to see.

"The next day was Monday, December 7, 1959, Pearl Harbor Day. The local Conspiracy Party could see their plans were upset and exposed. People were wondering why all the confusion and commotion when there had been a chance to vote in public in a democratic way. There were not many who were opposed and from whence then came all of these rumors, stories, and wild accusations against us who were speaking out against the Communistic infiltration? The double life which was being uncovered in the midst of this outwardly peaceful rural community was still a mystery to those in the street, but it was not long until the local conspiracy was to make a move which was to have far reaching consequences and still prevent the average local citizen from intelligently ascertaining developments."



One of the numerous highway posters used throughout the State of Illinois in John R. Harrell's bid for the United States Senate.

The Senate Campaign

Evan. David K. Stacey: "Tell us something of your campaign for U.S. Senator, the Reactions, your Platform and so forth."

Mr. John R. Harrell: "In the month of September the Lord began to direct that I was to run for the United States Senate on the Republican ticket of the State of Illinois. The issues were to be Christianity and Freedom against Socialistic and Communist Slavery. Since the Lord had revealed to many for numbers of months that this move was not only spiritual, but political and economical as well, I declared for the Senate race and it was so announced in local papers and papers throughout the state, beginning September 24, 1959. From the time that I announced for the Senate I started receiving threats and it was evident now that Communism was moving to bring about not only a smear campaign

but fear as well. The telephone began to ring constantly, day and night, week after week and month after month and continued to do so for almost two years, ringing all times of the night. One party called at ten P.M. stating, 'You have twenty four hours to live', called back at eleven o'clock saying, 'you have twenty three hours to live', called back at twelve o'clock, 'you have twenty two hours to live', and so on in an hourly count down!

"The Lord instructed me to run for the Senate in order that I could see first hand the political manipulation, the fraud, the deceit, and the crookedness in high places in this state, hence the more reason for the Methodist Church explosion and those things which were soon to develop as the character of myself and Rev. Comer, who solidly backed me, must be brought into disrepute."

Smear Tactics

Evan. David K. Stacey: "Just how did they go about this?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "At about 3:00 P.M., Monday, December 7, rumors began to spread of a confusion at the Louisville Community Grade School of which I was, and had been, a board member for the past seven years. At that time I called a local family and was informed that they were saying that I was going to bomb the grade school! It became immediately evident that the local Conspiracy had struck a solid blow for tearing up our well laid plans of the day before in the Louisville Methodist Church. It was only a few minutes until the fire department and state and local police had evacuated the local grade school and stirred up the children with such frenzy and fear that the whole town was disrupted. I was unable to leave my residence because of the threats of local people, who knew nothing but what they heard.

"The local Conspiracy Party had planned their move well. They had moved against the most sensitive spot of all the community — the children of the parents of Louisville and no amount of explaining would do one iota of good, for numbers of those in charge of our community affairs were part and parcel of the plot.

"The scene in Louisville was one to behold, a community, which had been peaceful, stirred up into a frantic frenzy by a carefully laid Communistic trick, which can only be learned through the Psychopolitical books written by Beria and others of Communist Russia. Through this hoax bomb-threat the communist party was working now not only upon the local situation but upon the Senate race, for this was the critical time in which I needed thousands of signatures from throughout the state in order to qualify and be placed upon the ticket. The petitions were then in the process of being signed throughout the State of Illinois. People who had known me all my life, many having benefited from gifts and benevolences I had made unto the community were suggesting now that I ought to be taken away and locked up — for any man that would threaten a school was mentally unbalanced! The truth of the

matter was that none of the Harrells knew what was going on! None of the officials who claimed to be so concerned — including the Sheriff, the Clay County Superintendent of Schools, the Principal of the Grade School, and the States Attorney — even bothered to ask me about it, because this was what they had desired! This was the way not only to stop what had been going on but to stop a political campaign that had become known from one end of the state to the other as one that was moving against Communism. The timing of the plot was exquisite. In the afternoon a telephone call went to the local grade school in which a voice on the other end of the line said something to the effect that John Harrell was going to bomb the grade school! Immediately numbers of others of the conspiracy began calling parents throughout the Louisville area who had children in the school stating to them frantically by telephone that they should get to the school quickly and get their children because 'John Harrell is going to bomb the school'. Hence within a matter of fifteen minutes and a few dozen telephone calls the town went berserk, the Conspiracy regaining public opinion on their side which they lost the day before in the Louisville Methodist Church! Such a drastic move from the standpoint of the Communist Party was immediately necessary to divert the town's attention from the exposures a few hours earlier, ere they had time to reason intelligently and conclude that the infiltration, spoken of by Rev. Comer and myself, was in their midst.

"On Tuesday, December 8, early in the morning, I drove over to the grade school and talked with the principal about the event. It was obvious that something was wrong and while there, I was called by the Clay County Sheriff, who had my home under surveillance and followed me as I went to the school. The Sheriff wanted me to come to the courthouse. They wanted to talk with me. I told them I was at the school, which they already knew, but that I would call them shortly.

"I went back to my residence just east of the city limits of Louisville and telephoned the Sheriff, who said they desired to talk with me. I told them

I was home if they desired to see me — which they did — the Sheriff, the Deputy Sheriff, and the other man with them who was a stranger. He was short and fat. Because of the events we had numbers of friends in the house. The Sheriff introduced what he called a psychiatrist, calling him Dr. Smith. The so-called Dr. Smith asked me what all the confusion was about in our town. It so happened the so-called Dr. Smith had been called to Louisville even before the bomb threat to play his part — this was the follow up to it. When he asked me what the confusion was about, my answer in the presence of many witnesses was, 'I don't know what is going on, why don't you tell me?' Then he asked, 'you are speaking out against Communism aren't you?' I informed him 'I most certainly was,' after which the so called Dr. Smith laughed and informed me that he had been all over the State of Illinois and that he had never seen a Communist. He desired me to explain to him what one was whereby I called to his attention and explained of the low, vile and most Godless creed of slavery the world has ever known. At this explanation the so-called Dr. Smith's face became flushed and red. He jumped to his feet immediately stating he had to leave. He was called in to declare me insane, but he was caught off guard by my vivid explanation of a Communist. Perhaps it fit too well.

"The so-called psychiatrist went back to town with the Sheriff and Deputy after I had informed each of them in the car in front of my house that this was a pure undiluted Communist brainwashing and mental health trick! At this explanation they became very nervous and drove off rapidly while I was still talking to them.

"Soon our group had reports that Dr. Smith had gone up to the Clay County Courthouse and informed officials that I was insane, and that I would need to be taken by force if I did not surrender voluntarily! I was judged insane because I said that there were Communists within our county, whereas J. Edgar Hoover and other known patriots had been saying the same things by book and by word for many, many months! Having gone through much vigorous training as a pilot in World War II and having known psychiatrists and psychiatric procedure, I quickly stated this man was not a bonafide psychiatrist, but a fake.

"On Wednesday the 9th the Lord quickened to me that they would soon return even though, as previously mentioned, they had told us they were leaving town. Within a short time they came again to our premises with the psychiatrist, coming into the presence of many witnesses, to his surprise. At this time the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon a number in the room. They began to question him as to his identity and if or not he was a psychiatrist. I asked him to produce the papers which gave him the right to invade the privacy of my home according to the Constitution. He broke down quickly and

said he had no authority or papers and soon left after it became evident he was not genuine and that he was the one who was in danger of being found out! In order to try to commit anyone to a mental institution they have specific procedures which must be followed that are a matter of record at the Courthouse. Papers must be duly signed and recorded for public inspection, but, to this date no record has ever been found. However, it is true that the blow they struck was quite successful, for while the town was in turmoil, the police force put out an alert that I might not be at my residence, which they knew was incorrect. They spread throughout the State of Illinois by radio to be on the watchout for Mr. Harrell, a Republican candidate for the United States Senate, and thought to be dangerous! Here was a smear, complete and absolute, made over the broad state of Illinois, and even beyond, which millions of people heard and even though they were not successful in incarcerating me because I said there was a Communist Conspiracy within our county, nonetheless the political effect was deadly. As the Lord had stated earlier, He wanted me to see with my own eyes the trickery, the conniving, collusion and fraud they will bring against anyone who tries to hold up the name of Christianity, and Freedom, and to sound a warning of the Communist infiltration from within as well as without. It was obvious Communism was deeply entrenched in Illinois.

"Within a few hours the Lord explained to me that the local situation had only quieted down until they could move and be totally victorious. He gave me instructions to leave immediately, go to a reputable psychiatric hospital and to take every test known to psychiatry in order that I could defend myself against their unlawful acts, which were bound to recur. I left Louisville and went into the Chicago area, where on the next day, Thursday, December 10, Rev. Comer was to appear before a Special Cabinet Meeting conducted by the Bishop of the Methodist Church for the State of Illinois. As Chairman of the Pastoral Relations Committee and having taken the vote, I was to report this to them and at the same time while in the area contact the FBI as well as secure psychiatric evaluation.

"The Cabinet of this Methodist Conference is comprised of the Bishop and the four District Superintendents of Southern Illinois. They first called in myself with my wife, Betty, and son, Tod. I gave them the report as to how the church had been agitated and how, when the actual Pastoral Report was made up by name and in public for all to see, that the agitation was by only a few, and over 90% of the voting members wanted Rev. Comer to stay. I explained further how their local District Superintendent, who was in charge of this area, had in numbers of incidences crushed spiritual Methodist ministers who were trying to preach the Gospel. I explained further of having been associated with the Methodist church for a number of years of having spoken in scores of Methodists Churches in that

area, and of seeing pastors weep as they explained what was going on and how they were powerless to do anything. I pointed to this District Superintendent, who was sitting to my left, explaining to the Bishop that not only was he not a minister, he was not even a man! At this the District Superintendent lost his temper, rose to his feet, and seized both of my arms, bending me backwards over the chair in which I was sitting! One of his associate Superintendents sitting beside him took hold of him and pulled him loose from me. After I was seated,

I pointed to the Bishop and asked if he could not see by that burst of temper and by his actions that he was not the man that he purported to be. However, it was evident that the hierarchy of the Methodist Church was aligned with the local Louisville conspiracy and was pushing on to the final conclusion as they wanted it, regardless of any rules, regulations, or the Methodist Discipline, supposed to be the law and order of the Methodist Church, but totally ignored! The political power of the church was now in force . . .

Outstanding Pastor Removed!

"After we retired from their presence they called in Rev. Vance Comer. In the Methodist Church the pulpit is purported to be free and at the discretion of the pastor. However, it became evident that they proposed to tell Rev. Comer what to do and how to preach. The sum and substance of the whole picture was that he should stop supporting efforts that were trying to suppress atheistic Communism and at this meeting they suspended him from the pulpit of the Louisville Methodist Church without any justification or due-cause-process of church law! It became revealed on the day they were trying to judge me insane and send me to a mental institution, December 8, 1959, they simultaneously had a church board inquiry in Louisville. They held their meeting, of all places, in a Public room of the Clay County Courthouse. This kangaroo

church board called only the few agitators, questioning them that had stood against Rev. Comer and myself. They never called any of the other 90 some percent, or gave Rev. Comer any notice or chance to appear and defend himself in front of his accusers, as specified by Methodist Church law! It became obvious to all that the Methodist Church was playing power politics and were part and parcel of the move, either knowingly or unknowingly helping the local conspiracy, to stop a regularly constituted Methodist Church from speaking out specifically against Communism! When Rev. Comer returned to Louisville he was denied permission to go into the Church building to attend services, even though they were conducted by another minister.

"This according to their ideas was Christianity and freedom of worship!"

Evan. David K. Stacey: "This is Outrageous! I know Pastor A. Vance Comer as a Dedicated, Well-Qualified Minister. His treatment is a shame to Methodism. As a minister I know that other major Denominations put similar pressure on their clergy who speak up Specifically on Sin and the Danger within. Mr. Harrell, what response did you get in your appeal to the higher Law Officials of the F.B.I.?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "From the meeting with the Bishop, my wife, son, and I went to the office of the FBI, reporting to them the numerous threats which we had been receiving by telephone, and, that our

Apathy of the Law

telephone line was tapped. We also related to them the bomb hoax threat against the grade school on December 7, all of which ought to be of great concern to this organization and within their jurisdiction. The FBI listened patiently to the explanation, took notes, and promised an investigation. Over two years have passed and no investigation was ever made! Letters to the FBI go unanswered with the local states Attorney telling the public and reporters that the FBI wrote him stating there were no Communists in Clay County! This conflicts with J. Edgar Hoover's numerous statements as well as his widely circulated book 'Masters of Deceit.' What a strange paradox!

Psychiatric Testing

"Mrs. Harrell, our son, Tod, and I went to a psychiatric hospital in the Chicago area where by prior appointment we had made arrangements

through a friendly physician and surgeon in the Southern Illinois area to undergo complete psychiatric evaluation by qualified personnel. I had done

this before as a matter of required procedure in some phases in my flying activity in World War II. At this Chicago area Hospital I was required to sign a statement that I would put my case entirely in their hands and, regardless of their findings, would submit to any kind of treatment they prescribed! For a period of four days behind locked doors under constant observation, I took written examinations that required at times hours and hundreds and hundreds of questions. I came out with my total overall score one of the highest they had ever graded! In Clay County on December 8 and 9 all the so-called phy-

chiatrist asked me was whether or not there were Communists in the area and when I answered, "Yes", it was said immediately that I was insane! Yet here in a Reputable psychiatric hospital in which days were spent for a total evaluation and upwards of a thousand questions written or otherwise asked of me, not one time was the question of Communism ever mentioned! Therefore it should be obvious to any casual reader that the issue was not whether I was insane, but rather one of stopping in any way and at any cost the moving against Communist forces as the Lord was giving specific guidance and direction."

Pastor Comer Resigns

"Due to the fact that Rev. Comer had the friendship and support of a great number of Methodist ministers in the Southern Illinois Conference, the issue became very hot for the Methodist Church Officials. They offered Rev. Comer a church at greater salary if he would accept it and leave Louisville. Rev. Comer told them that the Lord called him to preach and the Lord had directed that he should stay in this area, therefore, if it came to the point where it was incumbent upon him either to accept the direction of their authority, which had not been handled according to the Church Law in any sense whatsoever, or mind the Lord, that he would turn in his creden-

tials and voluntarily resign as a Methodist pastor! This he did, resigning one of the highest paying churches in the area and going out to preach the gospel free of charge. This is the acid test for a minister. The other Methodist ministers which had supported Rev. Comer were quickly placed back in line by church authority, and the convictions, which many of them so stoutly defended from the pulpit and said were in their own lives, did not prove adequate to the occasion when the heat and pressure of salary, position, and their place in the Methodist organization was threatened."

Superintendent Harrell Resigns

Evan. David K. Stacey: "Pastor A. Vance Comer most certainly is a man of Convictions, and has the Courage to stand for them. Mr. Harrell, just how did your leaving the church take place?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "Upon returning from the Chicago area and an extended visit in northern Illinois, I again took my position as Sunday School Superintendent of the Louisville Methodist Church on Sunday, December 20, passing out large numbers of copies of letters that had been printed from the original scoring of the psychiatric evaluation which I had undergone. This letter stated I was not only mentally sound, but in their opinion a man of high character!

"The passing out of these letters caused additional local agitation. It laid a base of evidence so wide and broad that the local conspiracy could not again revive and carry to a successful conclusion my incarceration in a mental institution as they had again planned to do upon my return! They thought in my leaving that I had run from the situation and might not ever return to the area, however, the converse was true. I did return with the proof in my possession and upset plans they thought were still in effect and still could be carried to a successful completion in some unguarded moment, according to the ways of Communistic mental health Conspirators!

"At this meeting of the Sunday School I also told them that I was stepping down from the Superintendency of the Methodist Church which I had held for so many years and which they had insisted that I fill for all of those years. I also at the same time resigned as teacher of a men's Sunday School class, some of the members of which were a part of the conspiracy which had worked so actively to incarcerate me! When I began to try to take legal action to bring out in the open those who had smeared the campaign, stirred up the community, and attempted to ruin a reputation that had been built up over a lifetime, I was blocked at every step of the way by the local school system, the States Attorney's office, the County Judge, and the Circuit Court, never being able, even though I spent many thousands of dollars in legal fees, to determine what happened, to get officials upon the witness stand, and by whose authority and from whence came the sheriff and so-called psychiatrist. Whence came the radio calls throughout the State of Illinois that resulted in one of the biggest smear campaigns in any political race? It was beginning to appear that the Constitution that guaranteed the rights of the individual was little more than molding parchment in the Archives Building in Washington, D. C., for those who speak out against Communism!"

Senate Campaign Pressures

Evan. David K. Stacey: "This being 1962, we know that you did not give up, but ran for U. S. Senator as you had felt led. Tell us more about this campaign if you will."

Mr. John R. Harrell: "The next months of January, February, and March were extremely busy ones campaigning in the Republican primary in which there were five more contestants for the same office besides myself. These were lined up by the political powers in order to split the vote for a very specific reason. During those months, my wife, sometimes my oldest son, Tod, and I trooped up and down the State of Illinois flying, and driving thousands of miles, speaking to thousands upon thousands of people. I took my turn with the politicians who were telling what their Political party was going to do, I explaining that the Lord God Jehovah was getting ready to move into the political arena and take wrong from the throne and remove truth from the scaffold!

"There were the partisan and bi-partisan rallies where governors, would-be-governors, senators, and would-be-senators, all took their turns. I spoke of the Lord in political circles from the gala, bedecked, throng-crowded ballrooms of Chicago's elite lakeside Hotels to the handfuls gathered here and there in the country side of Southern Illinois, or on the bank of the mighty Mississippi River. The world would have called it from the Sublime to the Ridiculous. The Lord termed it the warning of His people.

"Those who were interested in my campaign became concerned because of the political collusion and conniving which they had first hand knowledge about — especially in the Cook County Chicago area. It became evident as time went by that, except the Power of the Lord step in and require correct counting of votes, the election would be lost. When the election was held Tuesday, April 12, 1960,



Picture of John R. Harrell, organizer and founder of the Christian Conservative Movement, taken as a campaign picture in 1960 Senatorial Race.

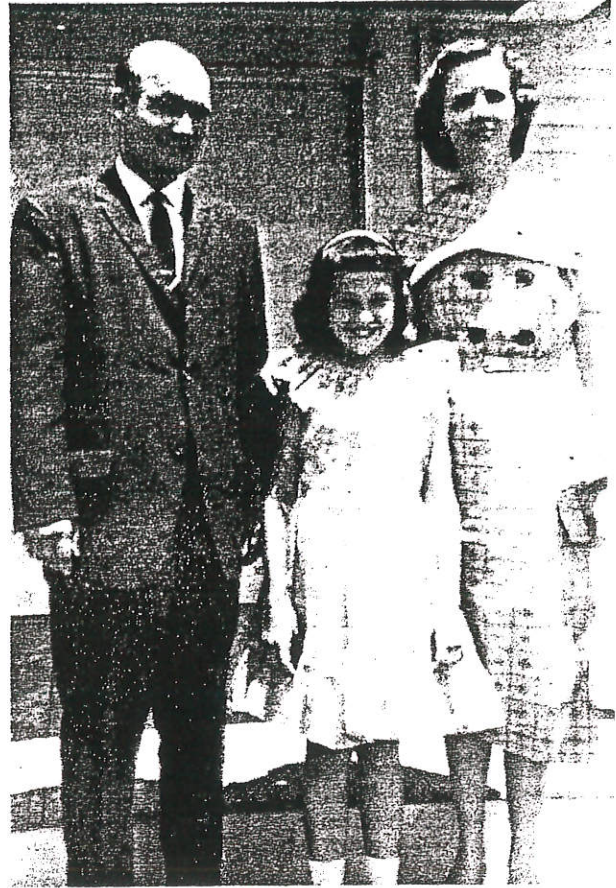
politicians said that Harrell finished fifth in the field of six. However, in checking into the returns in several areas it was evident there was something wrong, for some politicians, not knowing the circumstance at the higher state level, would make comment or produce figures in that particular voting area showing that in some cases I received more votes than all other five candidates combined! The election results were not to be contested at that time; the Lord directed me to run, with the results being in His hands. I payed for the entire campaign out of my own pocket at a cost of approximately twenty thousand dollars, with less than fifty dollars contributed from other outside sources. Neither politicians nor much of the Public was interested in "Placing God Back in Government", which was the campaign motto! Throughout the entire campaign I was constantly running up against those who would ask me if I was the one that was in the mental institution as had been reported, which proved that the smear campaign which came from the bomb hoax triggered on December 7 at the Louisville consolidated grade school had far-reaching effects throughout the state. "Masters of Deceit", as J. Edgar Hoover so aptly entitled his book on Communism, I was seeing first hand as the Lord had promised."

Christian Conservative Movement Founded

Evan. David K. Stacey: "The continuing existence of the Christian Conservative Movement testifies to this day that you didn't call it 'quits' then and that you are not about to quit now. Tell us how this movement had its start."

Mr. John R. Harrell: "After the primary election in 1960 the Lord began to move towards the establishment of a church and a political party. Some in the Louisville Methodist Church had withdrawn since the difficulty, others had gone to other churches, with Rev. Comer temporarily attending the Methodist Church at Bible Grove, Illinois and our family attending throughout the state as we campaigned.

"The Lord then directed that a small country church approximately two miles east of Louisville, formerly known as the Coles Chapel Methodist Church, which I had purchased earlier, was to be repaired and opened.



Reverend A. Vance Comer, his wife, Avelyn, and their daughter, Angelyn Sue, on the entrance steps of the Christian Conservative Church, where Rev. Comer ministers.



Numbers leaving the Christian Conservative Church after conclusion of a service.

"This was done. We were careful to retain its lines as a country church, installed auditorium seats, and, as the Lord directed, opened it as the Christian Conservative Church, on Sunday, July 10, 1960, with Rev. A. Vance Comer as pastor without salary. The Church was fairly well filled with persons who had the courage and conviction to stand through the earlier trials and tests. True, many had fallen by the wayside because of social standing, public pressure, political threats, and intimidations, and as our congregation continued to grow in the months to come there were those that were threatened from time to time because they were attending this church. All of this in a supposedly free country!

"The Lord gave the name 'Christian Conservative Church' for a two fold purpose — Christian for the meaning we all know, 'Christ-Like' — Conservative to let it be known it was taking an active part in political affairs of the nation. Therefore the Church is involved in both the Spiritual and Political fields. Both are vital to a free country.

"During this time, on our estate, there was nearing completion a larger than life size replica of George Washington's Mt. Vernon home which the Lord had directed to be built and upon which construction began in the fall of 1958, having a direct connection and bearing with this work.

"In the summer of 1960 the Lord directed that the newly formed Christian Conservative group should have one and two day meetings attended by those primarily living in the State of Illinois and who knew of our fight against Communism, in both Church and political arenas. These gatherings were to transpire with their being held on our grounds and in our church with guest speakers from Chicago and other areas shering their talents and knowledge with us.

"These meetings numbered upwards to two hundred as those from various churches and denominations both Catholic and Protestant came together to share with each other the things the Lord had



One of the several state wide meetings held on the Harrell Estate prior to the gathering of a permanent remnant and nucleus of the Christian Conservative Group. Picture taken September, 1960.

been revealing and the things which soon were to come to pass as Communism slowly but surely encircles our country and in time shall invade its shores. Also discussed was the money system which is in the process of crumbling. We admonished the people to realize that the Lord was moving not through spiritual values alone but through the total society of man, which is spiritual, economic, and political.

"Continued threats persisted against the Christian Conservative people with our church services being molested from time to time. In the month of December 1960 the Lord directed that I should draw up a notice entitled 'The Red Alert' explaining the time was now short and the Lord was gathering a people to fight at the proper time, and that there would be at least a two weeks retreat called on the Harrell estate with their being told that the call could come at any hour day or night. They were instructed what basic food supplies to bring in order to take care of their needs for at least two weeks. This alert went to approximately three hundred people, most all of them in the State of Illinois and as far North as Chicago and as far South as Carmi.

Pressures Preceding the Kenneth Goff Meeting

"For several weeks now the church had scheduled a three day meeting for the coming February 20, 21, 22 with Kenneth Goff to be our speaker. During December, January and February pressures against the Christian Conservative group continued

to mount with threats being regular and constant. Our estate was now under constant surveillance as people came from sections of Illinois and other states to consult with us concerning the move of the Lord that was developing.

Arson!

"Since my Mother, Mrs. N. E. Harrell, and myself own numerous properties in the area, these likewise began to come under attack. One house was gutted by fire and when the Illinois fire marshall called and investigated the situation along with an arson expert, they readily came to the decision that the fire was intentionally set, but when they were asked what they purposed to do, they said they did not want to become involved in the fight in which we were engaged; therefore the whole matter was dropped! Soon, however, the results were felt, as insurance companies began cancelling policies on our properties they had insured for many, many years. In another instance two car loads of men went in the night to one of my farms and with large clubs wrecked a well-built, five-room home. They beat the plaster from the walls, knocked supporting posts from under porch roofs, knocked out window glass as well as the window frames, ripped electric insulations such as meter boxes, etc., from the house, and even ripped electric wiring and electrical wall boxes from within the walls! Even though these incidents were reported to the Clay County Sheriff and law officials, nothing was done! There was even an attempt by some of the local rabble-rousers to organize a mob to march out en masse and give us twenty four hours to leave Louisville, a community in which we were born and raised! We had em-

ployed more people for the betterment of the community, built and erected more buildings over a few years period than had ever been known in the town's history . . .

"Many were puzzled at such activities, never realizing this is Communism moving fast and full in a small and unsuspecting community! The members of the local conspiracy were able to persuade the average person on the street, who had no idea what was developing, to believe that I was now berating the town and stating that everybody was Communist therein, which most certainly was not the case! The local newspaper then began to join in with the rest, but when I wrote them concerning some of the articles which they had published and asked them to publish my letter in order that the people might themselves determine the facts, they ran a large front page editorial that they would not publish anything which I sent them in their paper! It was evident the conspiracy could not only use gossip and rumor but the local press as well! Hence the people of the area were denied all media through which to secure information on Both Sides of the issue to make a rational decision. Certain local businessmen began to threaten Louisville citizens who became too inquisitive or didn't agree with them with economic and political sanctions to keep them in line."

Kenneth Goff - Patriot and Minister

Rev. Kenneth Goff of Denver, Colorado. National director of "Soldiers of the Cross," publisher of numerous books, magazine articles, etc., against the Communist Conspiracy. Internationally known Anti-Communist and Patriot.



Evan. David K. Stacey: "The Enemy certainly wanted to have a 'first Class' reception for Brother Goff, didn't they! Kenneth Goff is a man of Courage, a Great Patriot who Knows the methods of Communism. Would you give our readers a brief biography on Kenneth Goff — his past and his activity with the Christian Conservatives?"

Mr. John R. Harrell: "We have had numerous guest speakers at the Christian Conservative Church since its inception, but Kenneth Goff was a man who was powerful in his approach against Communism. So long as a person fights Communism in general terms and does not become specific, his efforts are relatively ineffective outside of general conditioning of the public and making them somewhat aware of the dangers. Our guest speakers in the past had not caused any great local demonstration but only a constant pressure was increasing upon the members of the Christian Conservative Church. It was about to take a turn for the worse as Kenneth Goff came to the community . . .

"Kenneth Goff was a dues paying member of the Communist party in the United States for a number of years, having been recruited by Eugene Dennis, who until his recent death was the head of the Communist party for the United States.

"Mr. Goff was and is considered by many as the foremost expert on Communism in the United States and after his Conversion to Christianity, he resigned from the party and went before Congressman Martin Dies when he was Chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee and gave three hundred pages of documentary evidence about the Communist conspiracy in the United States, Reveal-

ing their plan to overthrow the Government! While a Communist he fought the American way of life, and plotted the deaths of officials and Christian leaders! He used a number instead of a name and worked with the Communist party from New York to Hollywood and was even invited to the White House, while he was a Communist, by Eleanor Roosevelt! Congressman Dies in his book written on Communism gives high praises to Kenneth Goff for the evidence he brought to them and Mr. Goff's Testimony is recorded in volume nine of the Congressional Reports.

"One of Mr. Goff's assignments was to infiltrate the church. The Communistic conspiracy has had great success along this line through the use of modernistic ministers, watered-down versions of the Bible, and organizations such as the National Council of Churches. The results are tragic — a once vital, dynamic Spiritual America now reduced to ritual and only a form of Godliness!

"Mr. Goff's coming to our area with his name and reputation, and his being Editor of a patriotic paper entitled the 'Pilgrim Torch,' Executive Director of the 'Soldiers of the Cross', broadcaster of radio programs throughout the United States, and author of many books upon the Communistic subject which have been distributed throughout many countries, began to draw rapid fire in the Clay County area.

"When Mr. Goff arrived he knew very little of the local situation other than having been briefed earlier in his Denver, Colorado headquarters concerning the attempted incarceration of myself in a Mental Institution because I said there were Communists in the area. This type of action Mr. Goff

understood very readily since he had written, a number of years ago, and distributed a very valuable book entitled "A Synthesis of the Russian Textbook on Psycho-Politics." Mr. Goff knew these were Communist-backed tactics from the very first. Communism follows a very definitely set pattern to those who are familiar with its workings.

"From the very first night capacity crowds were present to hear Mr. Goff at our Christian Conservative Church, located two miles east of Louisville. One of our other Christian Conservative Churches at Claremont, Illinois, participated, along with its pastor and members. He spoke the first night upon the topic, 'Moscow's Master Plan for Conquering America', on Tuesday night, 'Brain Washing in our schools and Colleges', and the third and last night, 'From Communism to Christ, My Life Story'.

"During this period of three days Rev. Goff was in our home and could witness first hand the telephone calls, threats, and our needing to hold services under armed guard. Mr. Goff's last night on Febru-

ary 22nd brought the greatest demonstration of all. During the church service that night there were rumors going around and the comment being made to 'Wait until the siren blows'. Towards the last of the service we understood its meaning as a fire report was turned in with both of Louisville's fire trucks coming to the scene of the Christian Conservative Church, supposedly on fire, followed by scores and scores of cars with the intention of breaking up the service! While much could be written about the details that developed in those three days that Mr. Goff was with us, let us give to you some of the circumstances in Mr. Goff's own words as they were written and edited by Grace Oliver of Champaign, Illinois. She is the wife of a University of Illinois Professor, Revello P. Oliver, a widely known speaker, traveler, and writer about the Communist menace in America. This account was later published under the title of 'Blackout — the Story they would not Print'; therefore, as you read this, you no doubt shall receive some idea of what Mr. Goff's stay in Louisville was like."

BLACKOUT!

THE STORY THEY WOULD NOT PRINT

KENNETH GOFF

FACES MOB ACTION AT LOUISVILLE, ILLINOIS

February 21 and 22, 1961

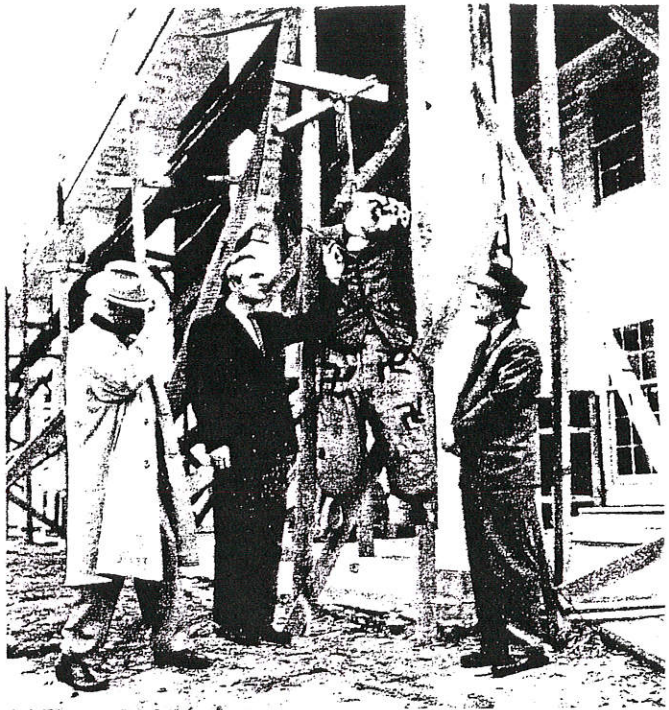
By Grace Oliver

Following is a first-hand account given by Mr. Goff to a few friends during a chilly 20-minute stop-over of the Illinois Central 4:10 morning train on February 23, 1961. The newspaper reporters said they would wait to see what the Associated Press etc. would send in; that it was the "role of the modern reporter" to select from what the AP or other "news services" sent to them. "We see all sides of what happens," they said. They were completely uninterested in talking with Mr. Goff.

The Champaign *News-Gazette* for that evening, the 23rd, carried a short AP story headed: GOFF CHARGES HE WAS 'HIT' AT LOUISVILLE; but the story was entirely omitted from the Rural Edition.

The Champaign-Urbana *Courier* did not even mention the incidents, although it carried plenty from the Congo, India, Russia, etc.

The story would have been of interest to at least a thousand persons and their families who had just heard Mr. Goff speak in the Twin Cities Saturday, Sunday and Monday, at five different group meetings, with enthusiastic reception at each one. You



Effigy with Nazi Swastika and arrow through heart hung on Little Wabash River Bridge between Harrell Estate and Christian Conservative Church during demonstrations while Dr. Kenneth Goff spoke at their Church against the Communist conspiracy. Effigy here displayed in front of Harrell's Mt. Vernon House. Left to right: Dr. Kenneth Goff, John R. Harrell pointing to arrow, and Rev. A. Vance Comer, Pastor of Christian Conservative Church.

wonder if the Press is interested in NOT WARNING the people that "It Is Happening Here"???

* * * *

(At 2:00 a.m. Kenneth Goff telephoned to say that he was just about to board the train at Effingham, "Where the State Patrol delivered us awhile ago. We'll be in Champaign on the 4:10 if anybody wants to come down: maybe the papers would like a scoop." A few friends went, eager to hear him, even though pre-dawn winds were cutting; Goff meets with warm hearts everywhere except where those exist who would destroy him.) Here is what he had to say February 23, 1961:

I never saw such a night! I thought I was behind the Iron Curtain instead of in the Corn Belt. The Sheriff, Police Magistrate, and the State's Attorney all refused me protection against mob heckling and even refused to register my complaint. They kept me there an hour and a half, grilling me, badgering me, and refused me even a drink of water or anything to eat, though I told them I had not eaten supper before the meeting and, being a dia-

betic, I had to have soup or something to sustain me after it.

The Sheriff even refused to call in the doctor (Dr. Curtis) who was outside the courthouse in my car, when I demanded he get a doctor to give me food.

Well, the Monday night service at Mr. John R. Harrell's Christian Conservative Church (2 miles out of Louisville in Clay County, 100 miles east of St. Louis) was OK, with overflow crowd as at the Tuesday and Wednesday meetings also. I had a very good meeting at the Champaign Woman's Club in the afternoon and felt good.

Tuesday, however, there was trouble in the air. Large crosses were burning along the road to church, and as we passed the little bridge there, saw a life-size effigy hanging — supposed to be me I guess — and it was covered with swastikas, of all things, and an arrow pierced its heart. Mr. Harrell posted guards who later prevented hooligans from transferring it to church ground.

From Rev. Comer's opening prayer, to the end of the meeting, a constant parade of cars went through the church parking lot and up and down the road, backing up, racing motors, honking, back-firing, with the drivers — mostly kids — yelling and throwing firecrackers, some of them getting out to throw rocks at our cars and at the church windows. But the people had come to hear me, and they heard me out for more than two hours. And the kids evidently gave up.

But we thought it best to stop by the sheriff's office on the way home and register a complaint, particularly against the leaders of the mobsters, seemingly a local hardware businessman and his wife. The sheriff, although he admitted knowing everyone in the "parade" refused to lodge a complaint; said he'd give us protection next night; said he'd removed the effigy at 9:30. This was not true, as an under-sheriff from the next county helped me take it down that very night later — at 11:45.

Mr. Harrell's home was harassed all night with telephone calls, most of them with no one responding, just ticking like a bomb about to go off.

Again Wednesday evening we had a capacity crowd. The local press was giving us **very good** coverage, by the way — both papers and radio. This is unusual in this day of generally communist-controlled communications media. Remind me to send you government bulletins covering part of the evidence for this. The public I talked to were anxious to know facts about the Communist Conspiracy — how it plans to take God from the skies and Capitalism from the face of the earth — and what they can do to defeat it, as you in Champaign-Urbana were eager to know.

But there are elements who for some reason are anxious to prevent your finding answers to what's going on; they work thru innocent people, like all those kinds in the mob raising Cain outside the church; it was probably fun to light those big

fires we saw out in the fields, fun to start up the "honking" parade again, fun to race down the road and enlist all the kids in the skating rink to join in the excitement, But half-way through our service, and over and above all the screaming heckling, snapping fires, bursting fire-crackers, rocks on the windows, racing motors, we heard the screaming siren of the Fire Engine coming out from town (2 miles away). Arriving to find a false alarm, they did not turn off the siren but came zooming up to the church turned around and went still screaming back to town. It must have cut up the parking lot pretty bad.

By the time we finished the service — the people stuck with me — the mob had become quiet, but we saw they had simply drawn up their cars to one side of the road we'd take and when we started up, they did too. It was a mess! What a traffic jam! Honking and heckling continued to plague us all the way in to the court house, where we were bound to make our complaint. The crowd of kids and their manipulators piled out and gathered in the courthouse yard, throwing gravel, firecrackers, anything at our cars, at us, and at the courthouse, walls, windows and doors. This continued all the time we were inside, and more people gathered from the town to see what was up.

Sheriff Walter Welch, when I demanded he write up a complaint for me, said there was nothing he could do, and refused. I got down the law book and showed him that it was an offense to disturb church services. He admitted that's what it said, but nevertheless, he didn't have no power to do anything. He'd ask the Police Magistrate: but he said he had no power. They asked the State's Attorney, and he did have power, but did not use it to help me. They palavered in an inner room awhile and then State's Atty. H. Carroll Baylor came charging out and pushed us back against the wall — me and the man who's driving me on this trip.

"Get back there, you two," he shouted, "We've decided you need investigatin'." And he forthwith undressed us and emptied all our pockets and they asked us questions on name, occupation, business, etc., for blanks they got out to fill there and then.

I said that I thought I was the one coming in to lodge a complaint, remember, and would they kindly oblige by getting me a drink of water and taking down what I demanded they record. Also I was badly in need of food. "Shut up!" said Sheriff, and we got dressed again. "I'm hungry," I said. They laughed and said I didn't need food. "Bring Dr. Curtis in from my car," I said, "and he'll tell you that as a diabetic, I **do** need food, and will get it for me." But they refused. They knew I was getting pretty tired of the whole business, in addition to being near physical exhaustion after 2 hours talking and now almost an hour and a half of grilling, with the mob growing bigger and noisier outside by the minute.

Maybe they thought I'd collapse and end their

troubles. But the Lord sustained me through this fantastic grilling.

The Sheriff became expansive. "Let's talk awhile," says he. "Now, we don't have no trouble in Clay county." Rocks continued pelting the windows. "You fellers don't need to come down here from Washington and tell us what to do."

"How about taking my complaint, Sheriff, and then do something about this racket outside the court house?" He ignored me.

"Now you told two papers that you didn't have no police protection in Louisville. Now, here's a statement for you to sign, and we'll give it to the papers and it says you retract that there statement. But first, answer me this: Do you really believe that God can speak in an audible voice?"

Astonished at such a question at this time, I nevertheless gave him chapter and verse, telling him the Popes and many religious sects testified to this as a fact, and I believed them and think it is true.

He rocked in his chair with laughter, hanging his tongue out derisively, and guffawing, "You don't believe that really do you? Not after the New Testament!" But he got hold of himself and straightened his face.

"Now listen here. We don't need the likes of you Washington fellers comin' to Clay County an' tellin' us what to do, as I told you. And don't you come down here talkin' about Communism. There's not a single Communist in all of Clay County."

A stranger standing beside the sheriff leaned across the desk about this time, and gave me a resounding slap! Of all the crazy things to happen. I grabbed the desk and kept my balance. I demanded that the sheriff arrest him. "Why should I?" drawled the sheriff, "I couldn't do that." I demand-

ed to know the man's name, but the sheriff said he didn't have any idea. Later I found out he is the sheriff's best friend and a local businessman.

"This seems, sheriff, more like the Old Country than like America. You won't give me protection from mobs, you won't even take my complaint, you won't arrest a man that strikes me right in front of you, and you want me to take back the truth I gave to the press. Once more I demand a glass of water, some food, and get me the State Patrol to get me out of here."

"Well," says the Sheriff, "Tell you what. I'll cooperate with you if you'll just do two things:

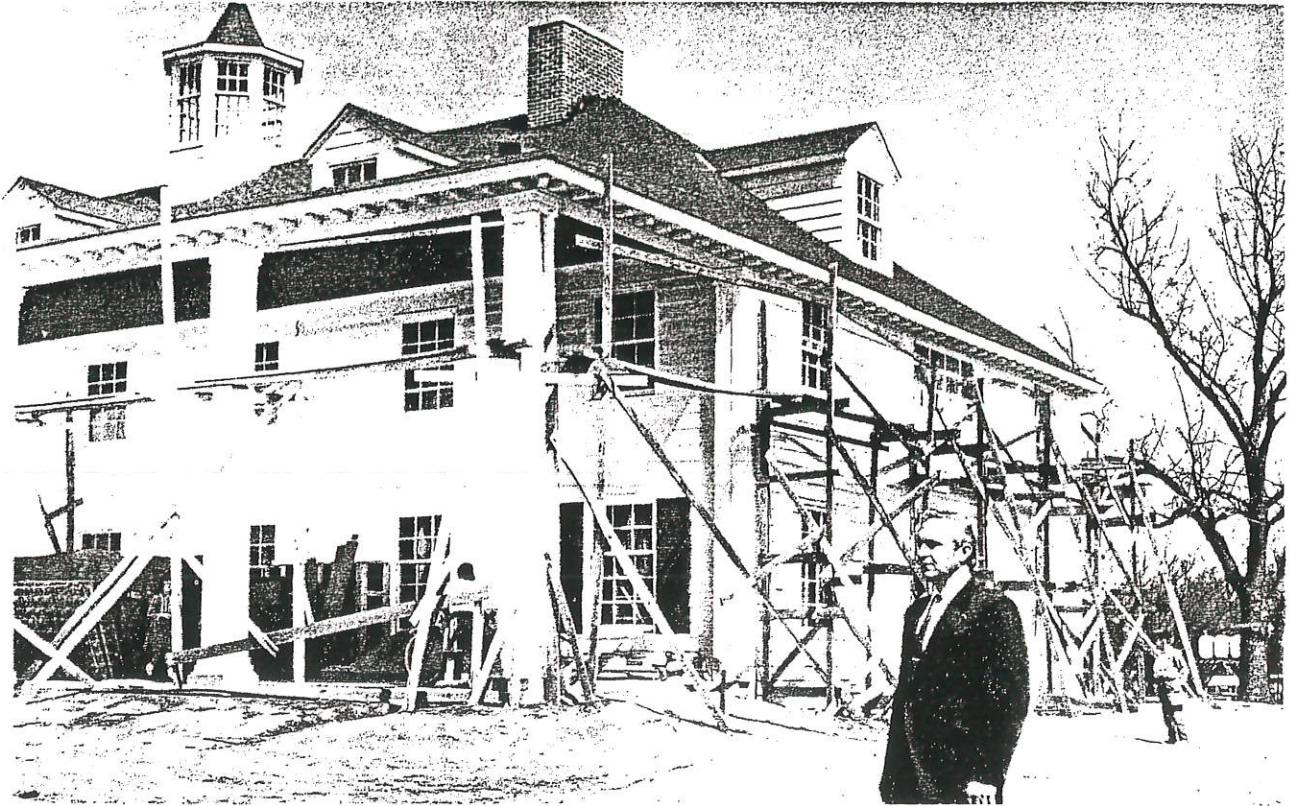
(1) Promise not to see any newspaper people and tell them about tonight and

(2) Agree to testify against Mr. Harrell" (who was my host and sponsor at the meetings!)

I jumped up in disgust and hurried out before he could get around the desk, shaking his fist at me. "Don't you dare, mister, to tell anybody like that there Walter Trohan up at Chicago about this!"

I wasn't sure I'd have the chance to tell anybody about it when I got to the porch of the court house. It was really a sight, that mob of about 200 yelling, screaming, kids, just like a lynch-mob it looked — tight-packed, intent with excitement, mostly young bloods out for kicks, but with the inevitable manipulators, older and in charge of operations in the back.

"I refuse to try to get through that mob without protection," I said. The sheriff laughed. "Aw, they're just standin' there, they won't hurt ya," he grinned. But I insisted and can't thank the State Patrol enough for rescuing us out of that amazing situation. Goodbye and God bless you! Tell others if you wish. I don't think the papers will print any of this.



Winter picture taken of the Mt. Vernon House, John R. Harrell standing in front. At this time upwards of 100 people were living in the house in a crowded condition. This was taken shortly after the Red Alert was activated, showing the front porch

cluttered with various personal belongings, washing on back clothes line, and children engaged at play. Scaffolding still in place prior to the completion of the outside of the Mt. Vernon Mansion.

Red Alert!

The first part of "Blackout!" confirms Brother Goff's doubts that the papers would print the Riot Story. Why did the press squelch this story . . . ? Can there be such a thing as a Controlled "Free" Press? Of Course Not!

Evan. David K. Stacey: "We will continue our story, Mr. Harrell, by letting you tell us of your counteraction."

Mr. John R. Harrell: "After the mob scene and the strong demonstration from the Communist party these last few days, the Lord began to give instruction that it was time to activate the Red Alert which we had sent, involving approximately some three hundred people in the State of Illinois. The Lord explained that now was the time for us to come together to pray and fast for the things that were about to come upon our land, and I was directed that, beginning at twelve-thirty A.M. on the morning of Friday, February 24th, the call was to go to cer-

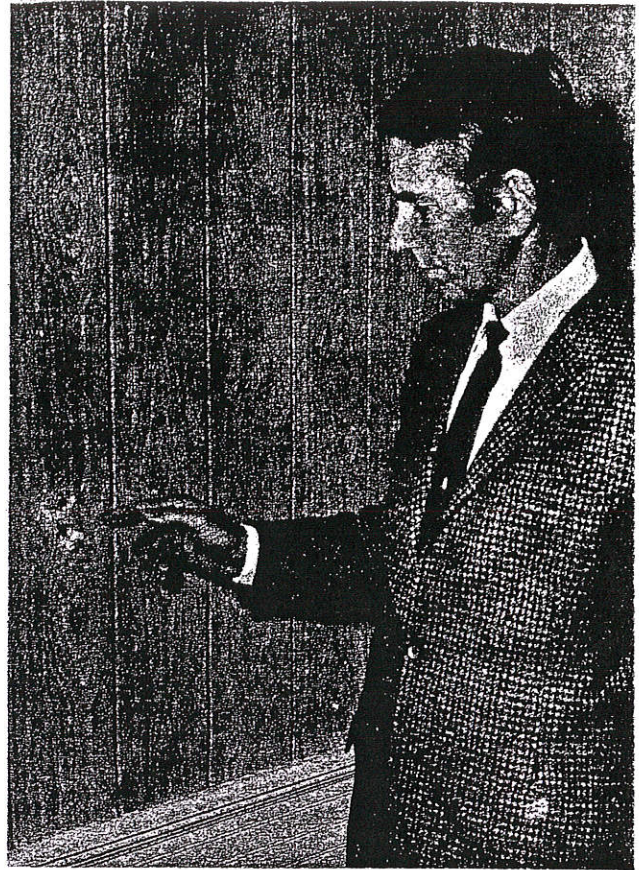
tain individuals throughout the State of Illinois, who in turn were to notify various ones of their groups. This was done and by the time the sun arose on Friday morning people were arriving on the estate, or had already come in during the rest of the night, bedding down in the large Mt. Vernon House or in their automobiles!

"It was a strange sight indeed — the men, women, and children coming by the scores, on such short notice, sleeping on floors, in chairs, and scattered beds throughout the large Mt. Vernon home.

"At the first service on the morning of February 24, it was announced that school classes would be held for the children while they were there for the retreat and that the group was to go into a program which called for Four Church Services Per Day, Fasting without food every other day, and Praying by twos around the clock, twenty-four hours a day.

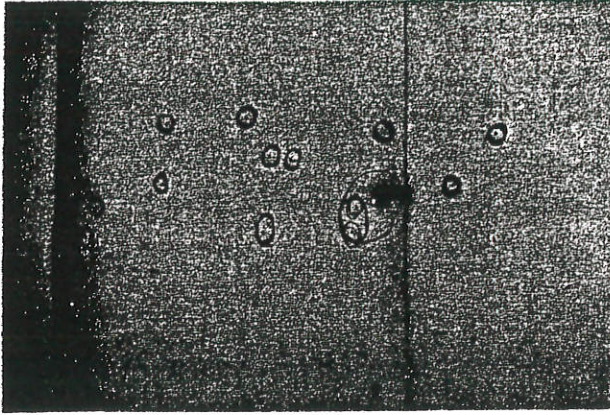
Church Riddled with Bullets

"It was also announced that the Lord was getting ready to move in a strange way and that He was going to bring to the attention of the American people the dangers that were in our country, using this group as part of His plan. Therefore day after day, night after night, service after service, the Lord's presence and might began to move through this people of both Protestant and Catholic background. In the group were those of many different faiths, a strange sight indeed to behold, as God kept revealing that He would do mighty things — with none of the people knowing what those words meant! Because of the pressures they had been coming under now for these weeks, climaxed in this particular phase by the riot demonstration against Mr. Goff, the newspapers had begun picking up the story and in some areas running it on the front page, showing the dummy which was hung in effigy with swastikas thereon and the arrow through the heart. As the newspapers began to print the story, so did the local conspiracy begin to increase their activities by damaging the Christian Conserva-

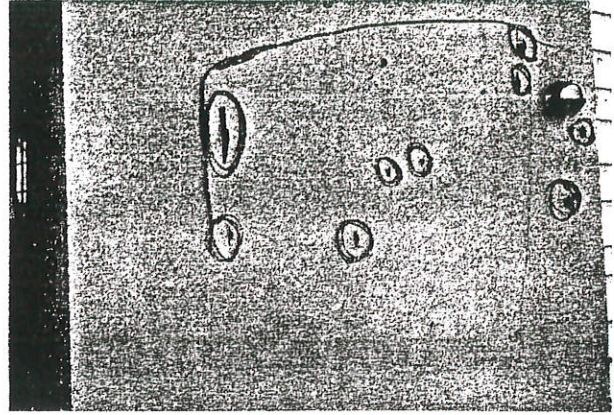


Lester Kellums, member of the Christian Conservative Movement, pointing to one of the hundreds of bullet holes in the Christian Conservative Church. This one coming through the outside wall into the auditorium and in some instances passing throughout the walls on the other side! Some of these bullets were from very large calibre and high powered rifles. Some of the local officials tried to convince others the damage was done either by rocks or by b-b guns!

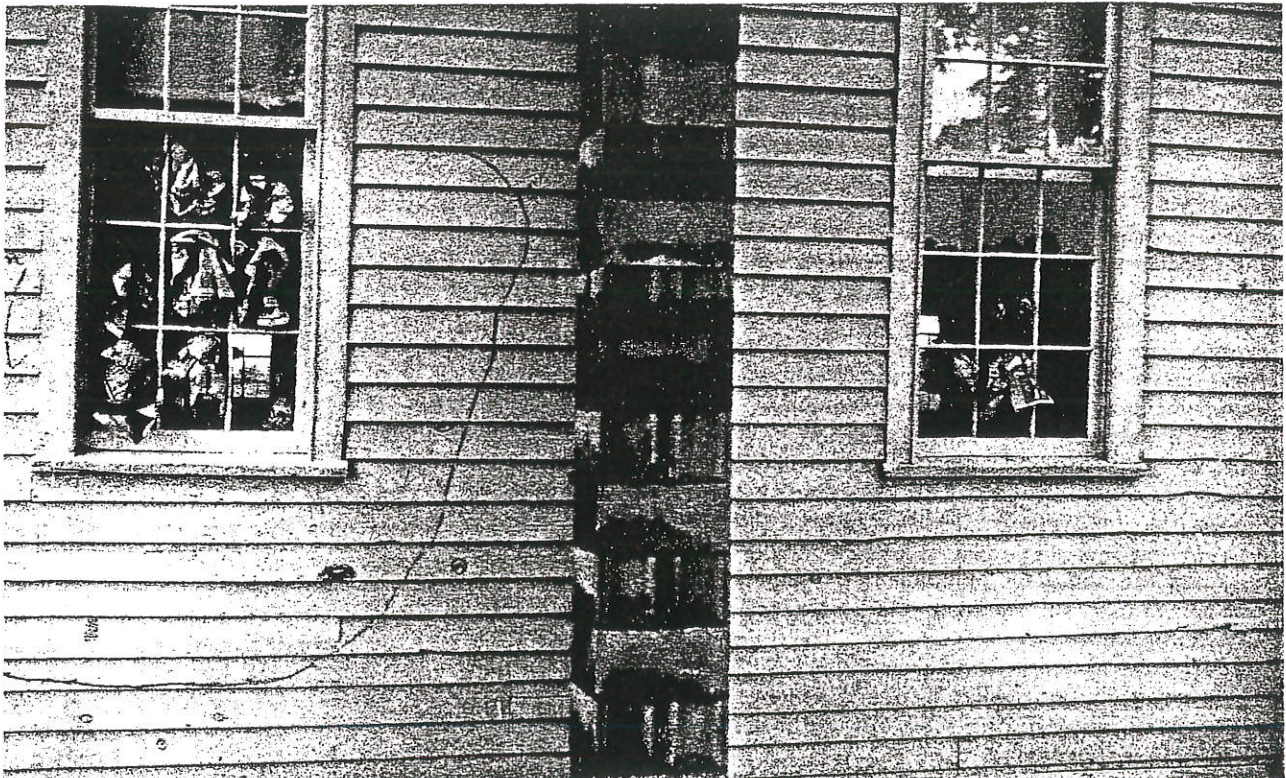
tive Church beyond usage for the midwinter weather! They riddled the church with rifle and shotgun blasts, as well as by hurling rocks through the windows and knocking the fittings and connections from the fuel oil tank which furnished the fuel for the stove, permitting its hundreds of gallons of fuel to run out upon the ground! Our complaint to the local law officials brought forth such answers from the Sheriff and States Attorney as "the holes in the church were made only by b-b guns" and that "the wind blew out the window panes"! This was ridiculous indeed for anyone who would care to investigate and especially to the many news reporters coming in. Rifle slugs were dug out of walls and some bullets had enough force to go through the side walls on one side of the church and out of the other, through wood, plaster and all!



The entrance doors at the Christian Conservative Church (located two miles east of Louisville) showing some of the bullet holes. This section of the doors shows 14 rifle shots that went through the doors and into the auditorium, and in some instances out the back wall!



Another photograph showing bullet splintered door at the Christian Conservative Church! You be the judge whether or not this was damaged by b-b guns and rocks as some of the local Clay County officials contended was the case . . .



A portion of the bullet ridden exterior of the Christian Conservative Church in which, visible even by photograph, are hundreds of rifle and shot gun perforations. The entire area marked on the left window has been riddled by gun fire, windows being shot out, temporarily stuffed with newspaper. Note holes in window shades in left window, also on the

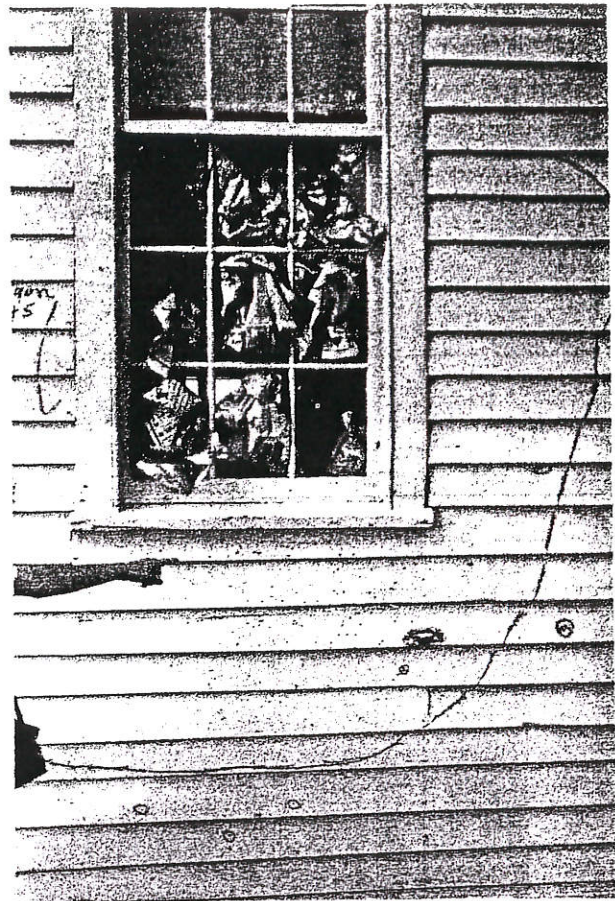
right window notice bullet holes that were not closed by paper. This is an example as to what churches can expect when they move actively and dynamically against the Communist Conspiracy and have those come to the church preaching and teaching against the same!

Radio Evangelist Pressured

A close up picture of one of the damaged windows showing bullet holes by high-calibre rifles and various shot gun blasts! This is some people's idea of "freedom of worship" . . .!

"As this was developing a courageous Baptist minister by the name of Rev. Bill Beeny decided that he would come to our church and speak on Communism as well as show films such as "Communism on the Map". He had been, and still is, a radio evangelist in the St. Louis area for twenty some years. He began to use his Radio Program to tell of this group's Religious Persecution. Immediately the Clay County State's Attorney began calling the St. Louis station and bringing pressure with regard to what Rev. Beeny was revealing on the radio broadcast about the local circumstances of lawlessness and of a People Not Free To Worship according to the dictates of their hearts. Soon thereafter for the first time in twenty some years Rev. Beeny was called in before the radio station owners. He was forbidden to even mention the name of Louisville, Illinois on his radio broadcast or anything pertaining to what had developed with regard to the persecution of the Christian Conservative movement. This in a supposedly free country! Little wonder Mr. Goff said, "He thought he was behind the Iron Curtain of Communist Russia instead of in the corn belt in the United States of America".

"The local Clay County State's Attorney likewise called Rev. Beeny and demanded that he not come to this area and speak in our church, which should be quite revealing as to the circumstances in Clay County when one who is supposed to be in charge of law and order would try to pressure and coerce a minister of the gospel to stay out of the pulpit and not further expose the Communistic in-



trigue within our land! However, Rev. Beeny did come and he did speak in the unheated church with the windows patched up and bullet holes covered to keep out the strong winter wind. Rev. Beeny requested and secured State Police escort in and out of the village of Louisville which he needed for his own safety and well being. Rev. Beeny did in time publish these facts along with pictures of the church shot full of bullet holes, and otherwise damaged, in a supposedly free land that had taken a stand against Communism and was undergoing the baptism of fire!

"As the Lord had promised, it did not take long for events to begin to develop at the Harrell estate against us who were praying and fasting that the Lord would move against the Communistic infiltration against our country. Of the almost three hundred that were in the call only about one-half came to the grounds. The Lord was sifting and testing to see who would move at His command. Of those that came to the grounds some left within a few hours as they found the rigorous schedule that had been set up something which they did not care to participate in . . . the fulfillment of what the Lord had indicated earlier when He said the cowards would never start, and the weak would drop out on the way."