

1111-2nd STREET

50,000 CAREER GUIDANCE SCHOOLS

YOU -whosoever you
are can help save
your country and
your world by
starting one....



A CHRISTOPHER PROJECT

500,000 copies in print
Additional copies may be secured at cost
(9c a copy, \$8.50 for 100 copies, \$80 for
1,000 copies, all postpaid), by writing

The Christophers

18 East 48th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Father James Keller, M.M., Director

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Purpose of The Christophers

Less than 1% of humanity have caused most of the world's recent major troubles. This handful—regardless of their labels—share a militant hatred of the basic spiritual truth upon which this nation is founded *and without which it cannot endure*: each and every human being is a child of God, deriving his rights from God, not from the State.

Anyone driven by such hatred seldom keeps it to himself. He becomes a missionary of evil striving to reach the many, not the few. He usually gets into a field that touches the lives of all people the world over: (1) education, (2) government, (3) trade unions, (4) the writing end of newspapers, magazines, books, radio, motion pictures and television.

If another 1% go as apostolic workers—as Christophers or Christ-bearers—into these same four fields and strive as hard to restore the fundamental truth the other 1% are working furiously to eliminate, the trend toward “darkness” can be changed for the better!

That is the purpose of the Christophers. Each participant works as an individual. He takes out no membership, pays no dues, attends no meetings. Tens of thousands have already gone as Christ-bearers into the marketplace. Our aim is to find a million. It is far more important to get workers of good in, than to get workers of evil out, necessary as that is. Positive, constructive action is needed. Little is accomplished by complaining and criticising. *“It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.”*

For expenses of \$400,000 annually, we depend on voluntary offerings. (All gifts are deductible from taxable income) . . . For wills our legal title is *“The Christophers, Inc.”* . . . Christopher *News Notes* are sent free of charge each month to 400,000 persons doing Christopher work or promoting the Christopher idea.

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50,000 CAREER GUIDANCE SCHOOLS

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Prayer of the Christophers

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

It is recommended that all say together, and aloud, the above prayer at the opening of each session,

A. YOU AND A CAREER GUIDANCE SCHOOL



You — whoever you are — can start a Career Guidance School. Less than a dozen persons with a Christopher objective can make up such a school. It is easy to set one up in your home, on your lunch hour, among your classmates, in your factory, on vacation—in fact, anywhere and among any group of people. You need not be a teacher to conduct one of these informal schools.

What you need most is a deep conviction that as many people as possible with a Christ-like purpose should make their influence felt in the careers of vital influence. The urgency of doing something constructive without delay is becoming more apparent every day. Unless more are awakened to the necessity of going as Christ-bearers into the marketplace immediately, the future of our country and our world will be in greater peril than ever.

hope of the future

We of the Christopher movement are convinced that there are tremendous energies in the “grass roots” of America waiting to go to work in a practical way for the love of God and mankind. They can be the hope of the future, and, with the help of divine grace, they may do much to shape world trends.

We have seen from actual experience what great good can come when the Christopher approach to career guidance is put into practice by individuals in such diverse groups as labor unions, church societies, armed services, teen-age groups, bridge clubs, parent-teacher associations, literary societies, student organizations, veteran groups, as well as family circles.

Because of successful experiences in the past and the imperative need for the future, we have decided to expand this encouraging development on as big a scale as possible. We can think of no more effective way of doing this than through the immediate establishment of 50,000 small, informal Career Guidance Schools throughout the United States.

All that is required to make this thrilling objective a reality is to find 50,000 persons like you who are willing to start one of these projects. Our purpose in writing this booklet is to provide the basic material in a simple practical form that can be put to use by almost anyone.

the role you can play

This booklet* dealing with government is the first of a series which will include guidance courses in such other vital fields as education, communications, labor relations, social service, and allied spheres.

Each course will be divided into 12 topics or parts, thus providing material for 12 sessions, which can be held as often as the group wishes—once a week, every two weeks or once every month. On the completion of this course, another now in preparation will be available.

* It is advisable that everyone participating in a Career Guidance School have an individual copy of this booklet to follow during each session and for reference between sessions . . . As stated above, additional copies may be had at cost (9c a copy, \$8.50 per hundred, \$80 per thousand, all postpaid) by writing: *THE CHRISTOPHERS*, 18 East 48th St., New York 17, N. Y.

This course on government, based on the new Christopher book, "*Government is Your Business*" seeks to stimulate all citizens to participate in the vital functions of government as far as they can.

the more you know, the more you can do

The more the individual citizen familiarizes himself with the workings of government on all levels, the greater interest he is likely to take in it.

Until the majority of Americans understand that government depends upon them individually, we will be in danger of losing our form of democracy, and thereby our liberty.

Every citizen has some part to play—great or small. Most attending these schools will not be able to undertake a full-time career in government themselves. But they will be in a better position to encourage qualified persons to go into government services and work for the common good of all. They will learn the countless possibilities that the individual citizen has of participating in the functioning of his government.

great possibilities ahead

The interest stirred up already by the numerous small Career Guidance Schools now in operation is living proof of the great possibilities ahead if this project is expanded on as wide a scale as possible—and *in a hurry*.

Individuals in all parts of the nation have picked up the idea and are acting on it.

A family in New Mexico has a group meeting in their home.

A personnel director in a textile plant in New Hampshire began a Career Guidance School among a group of high school students.

Several college undergraduates in Toronto took up the idea and have an active unit.

The owner of an employment agency in California has started a Christopher career school on the side. He was distressed at seeing so many people with talent do nothing more than take an indif-

ferent job when they so easily could have taken "a job with a purpose."

In Korea, a group of G. I.'s have set up a school of their own. They want to learn as much as possible about the "jobs that count" in order to be better prepared to take one when they return to civilian life. They see better than ever before that a few people living for peace might well save millions dying for it.

an 81-year-old grandmother

No one is too young or too old to get some benefit from a Career Guidance School. If they cannot use it personally and directly themselves, they can do a big service in acting as "*transmitters*" by passing on to others the information and inspiration they obtain in such a school.

In Detroit, where more than 40 Career Guidance Schools are in operation, we have an excellent example of what even an 81-year-old grandmother can do. A friend asked this lady why she was bothering to go to a career guidance school at her age.

To this she said quietly:

"I have reached the conclusion that most of our trouble today results from the fact that the wrong people are in the right jobs."

With a smile, she acknowledged that it was pretty late for her at 81 to embark upon a new career in a vital sphere. Then, more seriously, she said:

"I feel that I ought to know about these careers because I have fifteen grandchildren. If I can get them started thinking about the possibilities for good in worthwhile careers, I feel that I will have done something for my God and for my country."

So much for what is being done. Now for a passing glance at what many others are planning to do.

they speak for themselves

A few months ago in the *Christopher News Notes* we announced plans for expanding our

Career Guidance project. We were deeply impressed not only by the large number of inquiries, but even more by the Christ-like warmth and hope that they convey. We wish that you could read them all. Brief excerpts from a few of them will give you some idea of what we mean:

1. _____, WASHINGTON—"I should like to begin an informal Career Guidance School in my home. This is an answer to a prayer. Our only son, before he enlisted in the Paratroopers, told me I should do something for the young people in our town so they wouldn't just graduate from high school and then go to the lumber mill here to work. So many do and they are not satisfied. Please do tell me what I can do and how to go about it."

2. HUDSON, OHIO — "Your Career School idea interests me very much even though I am in a rural community. My fifteen year old daughter keeps asking me '*What shall I be?*' I am sure that questions of this type are also in the minds of countless other youngsters. The more we parents know about your Christopher suggestions along these lines the more chance we will have of guiding them to lead useful lives."

3. BOSTON, MASS.—"I am a bookkeeper at the _____ Bank here in Boston. Even if I am not in a vital field I can do something to help others get there by setting up a Christopher school in my home. I feel that quite a few of the other employees here at the bank would also be interested in such an undertaking."

4. WYMORE, NEBRASKA — "I am 21 years old and would like to organize one of your schools among my friends. I work during the day but I could easily devote one evening a week towards such a wonderful project."

5. CLEVELAND, OHIO — "My job as secretary, desk clerk and all-around helper in _____ Hotel is not in one of the vital fields but even at 57 years of age I feel I can do something to get

others there by helping to get a Career Guidance School under way."

6. CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA — "Both my wife and I are interested in starting a Career Guidance School. Please send us the information and we shall begin immediately."

7. WASHINGTON, D. C. — "The Christopher Movement has certainly been a source of inspiration to thousands. Your books have lifted me out of the doldrums of a seemingly purposeless existence. I am trying to interest the college faculty here in introducing your Career Guidance ideas."

8. LOS ANGELES, CAL.—"I happen to work on a newspaper, but I would like to do more. Your Career Guidance idea sounds great! Count me in for pushing one school."

9. ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA—"Four of us here in this part of Oklahoma would be delighted to make a try at getting a Career Guidance School started. You send the information and we'll do the rest."

fifty thousand times one

Yes, the possibilities are limitless. If the "*children of light*" show as much daring as the "*children of darkness*" in "*launching into the deep*" a tremendous change for the better is bound to take place.

There is hardly any group, any place, any situation where a Career Guidance School cannot be launched. Some will be tempted to underestimate what their little group can do to change the trend of the times. They should remember that their effort, *blessed by God*, and multiplied by 50,000, is all that is needed to do the job.

B. SUGGESTIONS FOR FORMING A SCHOOL

The direction of the Career Guidance School is left entirely in the hands of those who make up the group. They have no obligation whatever to Christopher headquarters and therefore are not obliged to seek permission or make a formal re-

port to us. We would, however, welcome any communication concerning the starting of a group and its progress, so that we may be able to share its experiences with other groups through a special bulletin, which we will supply free of charge to any who wish it.

The classes should as far as possible be self-operating. For the sake of order, however, a leader (who conducts the meeting and the reading of material) and an observer (who watches the progress of a session to ensure participation by all) should be chosen.

As far as possible and practical a different leader and observer should be selected for each session in order that each will have some experience in leadership.

keep the group small

We feel that the best results are obtained when the number in each school is restricted to 10 or 12 persons. Keeping it small and informal gives each a chance to participate in a more active and individual manner.

Each thus has a chance to express himself, raise questions and make suggestions, which would not be possible if groups were larger. Furthermore, with a small gathering, it is easy to find a meeting place and there is no expense involved.

If a group grows too large, it would be valuable if some of its members would volunteer to start another or several of their own. One from the older group would do well to join each new school to help get it started.

length of classes

The length of the classes should be determined by each group. Circumstances will vary. Some will prefer a short session, others a longer one.

keep classes informal

Class discussions and recommendations should be confined to basic principles and methods, so that it will be left to the resourcefulness of one

and all to put them into application according to his own talent and circumstances.

We have found time and time again that this simple freedom as well as sense of individual responsibility results in a more dynamic sense of purpose, a more spontaneous originality, enterprise and persevering enthusiasm than can be acquired in no other way.

stepping stone to the world

To assure the Career Guidance School of far-reaching effects, it would be well that all those attending it be frequently reminded that each class or session is *only the first step*. Action must follow discussion and reflection, otherwise all the considerations still remain up in the air instead of being carried into the mainstream of life.

Every precaution should be taken lest classes degenerate into mere talk fests. The Devil doesn't mind if we do nothing more than talk, pass resolutions and beat the air. But it does upset his plans very much once we start "*doing*", as Christ urges each of His followers. "*Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only.*"

If each one attending a session looks on it merely as a first step—in which to be informed and stimulated for action outside the class—then each session may well be a stepping stone to real achievement.

between classes

That the most may be gained from every class, it would be wise for each one attending it:

- a. *to glance over the subject matter in this booklet beforehand.*
- b. *to re-read it a few days after the class in order to deepen and intensify interest and plans for action;*
- c. *to do some reading between classes of books or pamphlets that develop the theme being discussed.*

half-hour session

The topics are gauged for half-hour classes with each session divided as follows:

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Material for Consideration (10 min.)
- III. Discussion Period (15 min.)
- IV. Practical Application (5 min.)
- V. Closing Prayer

Planning the class on a half-hour basis has the definite advantage of permitting it to be adopted to the widest variety of circumstances, e.g., a lunch hour, before or after a club meeting, at home when more time is not available.

The classes can easily be lengthened by extending any or all portions as circumstances require.

supplementary reading

Supplementary reading material which can be used in the longer sessions can be found in the following Christopher books:

- Government Is Your Business*
- You Can Change the World*
- Careers That Change Your World*

These books are available in both 35c pocket-size (Permabook) and the \$2 edition (Doubleday) with the exception of *Government is Your Business* which is printed at present only in the \$2 size. Any of these books may be obtained at your bookseller or by writing: THE CHRISTOPHERS, 18 East 48th St., New York 17, N.Y.

a few safeguards

1. AVOID POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS

Due to the nature of the Career Guidance School and the fact that this particular course is on government, great care should be taken lest this project be used for the special advantage of any political party.

Those attending the classes should be frequently reminded that they must always remain free to join the party of their preference, vote as they

please, take a job of their own choosing or participate in whatever way they see fit.

2. AVOID FUND-RAISING

In keeping with the Christopher policy of no dues, no memberships, no fees of any kind, it is earnestly recommended that no fund-raising should be carried on by any Career Guidance School for any cause whatever. Any literature supplied by Christopher headquarters will be provided either free of charge or at actual cost for printing and shipping.

emphasize individual responsibility

The object of the Christopher movement is to develop a sense of personal responsibility and initiative in bringing back into the marketplace the major truths which alone guarantee peace for all mankind. It is therefore hoped that the chief fruit of the Career Guidance School will be to foster in each person attending it a consciousness of his own individual responsibility.

It is important then, that such a school be kept on as informal a basis as possible, in order to stress the fact that each one participating in the various sessions is entirely on his own. It is up to him individually to make his own decisions. Everything is between God and himself.

Christ the model

In keeping with the objective of the Christopher movement to bring Christ into the marketplace, it is recommended that each Career Guidance School keep Him uppermost in its motivation and frequently recall His commands to "love," "pray," "go," and "teach."

Each member of the school should keep in his heart this question: "*Where can I carry Christ today? Tomorrow? In my life work?*"

Each should be constantly aware that through his efforts Christ may be brought to some person or surrounding where He might otherwise never reach.

C. GENERAL PLAN OF EACH SESSION

I. OPENING PRAYER

The Christopher prayer, to be recited aloud by all, is suggested as a fitting opening for all classes of the Career Guidance School. You will find it on page 2.

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

This period is devoted to the reading of appropriate material on the topic under consideration. Its purpose is to help the members of the group gather their thoughts—and to act as a springboard into the discussion period which follows. Members, during the reading therefore, should formulate ideas for positive action in order to present them for discussion in the following period. The reading should be conducted by the leader of the session.

1 1 1

III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

This period is for discussion of the reading matter. In this booklet a few questions for discussion have been listed only as suggestions. As far as possible members should originate their own questions. This does much to keep the discussion on a more personal and spontaneous level. All those attending sessions, therefore, should be encouraged to propose their own questions, raise objections, and make observations of their own.

It is the job of the leader as well as the observer to see that the discussion is kept lively and to the point. They should see that all have a chance to speak if they wish, and that the subject matter is completely covered and is always aimed toward constructive action.

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

Little is accomplished if each one fails to aim at some practical application after the class. All the discussions should terminate in this period on a note of constructive activity.

Two kinds of action should be aimed at. There is, first, the long range and more important one of determining what one can and should do in reference to one's career or life work.

The following possible categories will help each member to determine the general basis of his plans. He should:

1. Inquire into the possibility of a career in government for himself.
2. When this is impossible, see what chances there are of part-time participation.
3. Become a "committee of one" to interest others in this vital field of influence.
4. Above all, resolve to include government in his prayers.

No report of decisions reached need be given at the class, though those who wish can do so as an aid to other members.

short range projects

It is suggested, although not obligatory, that the possibility of doing something from week to week be considered. It will help to prevent the long range goal from becoming a vague and indefinite form of wishful thinking.

For this purpose a short list of suggested projects or actions will be given in the fourth part of each class. It is for those who wish to do a little "field work" in applying what is learned in class.

Very often ideas can be suggested by the leader or the members of the class. They should be accepted voluntarily, and no report need be given unless the members wish it.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

The leader should select any appropriate prayer to be recited by all.

D. HINTS FOR CONDUCTING A CLASS

For each meeting, the 10 or 12 who make up the Career Guidance School should select a leader

and observer. These two people should be changed every meeting, until all have had a chance to lead and observe.

DUTIES

Leader:

- Do's:*
1. Starts meeting with prayer.
 2. Appoints one or more to read topic.
 3. Launches and guides discussion.
 4. Keeps group on subject.
 5. Summarizes positive points.
 6. Closes meeting with prayer.

- Don'ts:*
1. Avoids over-emphasizing.
 2. Refrains from dominating meeting.
 3. Takes care not to get off on a tangent.

Observer:

- Do's:*
1. Listens to discussion.
 2. Notes whether ALL participate and get a chance to talk.
 3. Observes whether one or another monopolizes discussion.
 4. Makes observations at end of short meeting or every fifteen or twenty minutes of longer meeting.

- Don'ts:*
1. Avoids saying anything outside of time called upon for his or her observations.
 2. Refrains from making comments that are personal rather than objective.

Members of Group:

- Do's:*
1. Listen attentively and formulate positive thought for action.
 2. Speak to one another in an informal but courteous manner.
 3. When making suggestions, aim to submit them rather than impose them.

- Dont's:*
1. Avoid interrupting one another.
 2. Are careful not to underestimate or minimize another's idea.

SESSION 1

GOVERNMENT IS YOUR BUSINESS



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

One of the biggest problems of our day is to convince the average American that it is up to him to run his own government if the United States is to survive as a free nation.

Much of the world's troubles today are due to the fact that countless individuals have taken a "let George do it" attitude about public affairs. They often failed to see until it was too late that it was more their neglect than the power of a few subversives that led to their downfall.

Since the end of World War II, in 1945, nine countries with a total population of over 700,000,000 souls have been reduced to a condition of slavery without precedent in all history.

warning from a Czech

Over and over again it has been the same old story — *neglect, neglect, neglect* on the part of those who had every reason to be cautious.

A young man who escaped from one of these countries, Czechoslovakia, came to the United States to remind us that we are heading in the same direction. He made a fervent plea to Americans not to make the same tragic mistake as that made by his countrymen.

His words are addressed to *you*. If you catch their full implication, you may be able to do far more than you think to save your country—and your world. Here is what he said:

“The same conditions exist in America today that preceded the downfall of my country. Everybody took it for granted that because we were a freedom loving people we could never lose freedom. We paid no attention to repeated warnings that the Communists were infiltrating into the heart of everything that affected our destiny.

“The majority of us went on living in our smug little worlds, too busy with business, parties, ski trips, and the rest to realize the frightful penalty we were soon to pay for our neglect. One morning our bitter fate came upon us like a shot out of hell. We were helpless to do anything about it. Machine guns lined the streets. The government, the army, the schools, communications—everything had been taken over by the Communists overnight.

“Our money isn’t worth two cents on the dollar now. Will we ever get a second chance? Only a few like myself escaped. Our one ambition is to warn you Americans not to make the same mistake.”

two reminders from Lenin

From an altogether different source comes an almost sickening reminder of how a terrible tragedy could have been averted for 190 million

Russians and the nearly one billion human beings now under Communist domination.

If only a handful of "good" Russians had had the sense and courage to fight as hard for the common good as they did for their own selfish interests the whole course of modern history might have been changed. This unusual tribute to the power of the individual comes from Lenin himself:

"If there had been in Petrograd in 1917 only a group of a few thousand men who knew what they wanted, we would never have come to power in Russia."

These few thousand learned too late that if they had only worked to save others they might have saved themselves. Now both are lost—and hundreds of millions with them.

Once again at the end of his life, Lenin, of all people, came back to a belated recognition of the importance of the individual who is dominated by spiritual ideals when he said:

"I have made a great mistake. Our main purpose was to give freedom to a multitude of oppressed people. But our method of action has created worse evils and horrible massacres. You know that my deadly nightmare is to feel that I am lost in this ocean of blood, coming from innumerable victims. It is too late to turn back now, but in order to save our country, Russia, we should have had ten men like Francis of Assisi. With ten such men we would have saved Russia."

Communism could disappear

The collapse of country after country over the world is an increasing cause for alarm to the American public. It is disturbing them more than they care to admit. But they don't seem to realize that the same desintegration is already taking place within our very midst.

Communism is only a small part of the trouble. If all Communists disappeared overnight the big problem would still remain. This is the failure of

the average good citizen to participate in the functioning of his government and to see that it is staffed by the best possible workers.

But let's not forget for a moment that the Communists are working day and night to hasten the downfall. Don't be fooled by their temporary set-backs. The one everlasting goal they have is to take America without firing a shot—to take it "with the groceries still on the shelves."

our weakness, their strength

But the combined efforts of all Communists are not doing as much to wreck America as our own failure to do what we should. In fact, *the chief strength of the Communists is our weakness.*

There is real hope in this state of affairs, desperate as it seems. Alert enough good Americans to do what they should as quickly as possible and the disaster that threatens everyone of us may be averted.

This should have a particular meaning for *you*, because you are truly interested in doing your part to save your country. The mere fact that you are participating in a Career Guidance School is a sure sign of your sincerity and willingness.

The more you realize that "*government is YOUR business,*" that you have an individual, personal responsibility towards it, the more you are likely to act on your own and the more you will stir others to "doing" and not merely "talking" or "complaining." You will become more and more positive and constructive. You will be a living testimony to the fact that "*it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.*" You will sense more than ever that *either you run your government or government runs you!*

America to you

The objective of this first session of your Career Guidance School is to emphasize *your* importance as an individual—that America is noth-

ing more than *you* over and over again and that consequently, the government of this great country is *your* business.

In order that you may appreciate more fully why "*government is YOUR business*" and what *you* can do about it we have chosen what we regard as vital subjects for consideration in the 11 remaining sessions. You may care to glance over the titles of these again in the table of contents on page 1. We believe they have a bearing on what you can do.

pass it along

The knowledge and inspiration that you may gain during this course can have a far reaching effect. It is good for you to gain this for yourself. But it is even better if you take the time and trouble to pass it on to others who may not be reached except through you.

It will not be too easy to do this, but God will bless your every effort. Expect people to be disinterested, cynical, unbelieving or downright critical. Don't be disheartened. With most you are making much more headway than you think. Sometimes a single word will start them thinking. In any event, you will be doing your part.

actions speak louder

Jack Johnson, the great negro heavyweight boxing champion, made a remark during his bout with Jess Willard in 1915 that offers encouragement to those who are striving. A spectator at the ringside directed a running fire of abuse at Johnson. He criticized Johnson's style, his color, and finally his courage in the ring. Johnson, knowing how to disagree without getting disagreeable, leaned over the ropes between rounds and cheerfully said to his critic:

"Man, you're down there talking, I'm up here fighting."

a breath-taking challenge

God has blessed our country in a special way and expects you and every other American to respect and protect those blessings.

Whether acting individually, or through the home, the church, the school or any other organization, it is your responsibility and that of each citizen to take an active interest in his own government for the good of the nation and the world.

You personally can do much to shape the future for yourself and for everybody else. It is a breath-taking challenge. In a very real sense, *you can change the world*. For as America goes during the next five or ten years, so probably will go the world.

In a talk at West Point many years ago Woodrow Wilson gave a forceful reason why you should cherish the heritage that is yours in America. It deserves your prayerful consideration.

"America came into existence for a particular reason. It was as if in the Providence of God a continent had been kept unused and waiting for a peaceful people who loved liberty and the rights of man more than they loved anything else, to come and set up an unselfish commonwealth. . . .

"There is none like it in the whole annals of mankind—men gathering out of every civilized nation in the world on the unused continent and building up a policy exactly to suit themselves, not under the domination of any ruling dynasty, or of the ambitions of any royal family, doing what they pleased with their own life on a free space of land which God had made rich with every resource which was necessary for the civilization they meant to build up. There is nothing like it!"

✓ ✓ ✓

III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The points suggested below may assist you. On the other hand, you and other members of your

group may have questions of your own that you would prefer to discuss.

1. What does the average American citizen do to improve his own government?
2. Do you hold up service in government as an honorable occupation to which the best citizens should aspire or do you tend to belittle those who undertake such a career?
3. In your opinion what can be done by individuals such as you to get over to the average person that "Government Is Your Business"?
4. An increasing number of Americans are expecting "someone else" to provide first class government at second class rates. Why is it that they expect this when they themselves wouldn't work for such a low salary? What can be done to change this dangerous trend?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. In conversation in your home, at work, in school, in various clubs and organizations to which you belong, bring up the subject that more and more Americans are taking the "let George do it" attitude. Much good can come from this because the majority are at least well disposed and their neglect is more thoughtless than malicious.
2. In order that government gets the thought and attention from you that it deserves as a citizen, it is essential that you familiarize yourself not only with its fundamental structure but also with the way it is administered. You can do this in part by reading reports and developments in newspapers, magazines and reviews.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 2

THIS NATION UNDER GOD



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together--see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

A woman crossing the Atlantic for the first time was frightened by a violent storm. The ship was going up and down, deeper and deeper each time. She was afraid it might go down and not come up! White with fear she went to the captain, seeking some shred of assurance.

"*Captain, Captain! What is going to happen?*" she exclaimed.

The master of the ship decided to give the very best reason to put her at ease.

"*Don't worry, Madam. After all, we're in the hands of God.*"

The woman, far from being appeased, exclaimed:
"*Good heavens! Is it as bad as that?*"

Fortunately for all of us it is not "*as bad as that*". On the contrary it is "*as good as that*". It is still God's world and He always does His part. Sad to say, we have been very neglectful in taking care of the share He has left to us.

getting the devil

More than two hundred and fifty years ago, when the charter of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was being written, William Penn, the Quaker, sounded a warning which, for our day, has a far greater significance:

"Those people who are not governed by God will be ruled by tyrants."

There is no time to lose. Not only have the great majority forgotten this fundamental fact, but, still worse, millions of our young people are slowly but surely being conditioned to the Marx-Hitler dogma, that the state is the only god. It took Hitler only twelve years to sink that concept into the minds of German youth. He knew full well this was a necessary prelude to the fulfillment of the frightful orgy of death and destruction he was about to launch.

It is an old story: *those who don't want God get the Devil.*

translate it into action

As Americans, we do a thorough job of inscribing "*In God We Trust*" on our coins. But for various reasons we are failing more and more to see that "*In God We Trust*" is translated into action into all phases of public as well as private life.

An increasing number of voices are being heard throughout the length and breadth of the land be-moaning the general moral breakdown that is taking place under our very noses. They all sound the same warning: *that something has gone wrong.*

Unfortunately, most of those who express sincere dismay have given no thought to what a sound solution might be. It's the human weakness;

people don't want to be ill, but they don't want to take the medicine that makes them better, either. As it says in the "*Imitation of Christ*", they want peace, but not the things that make for peace.

Freedom, although God-given, depends on us too. It is a fragile gift entrusted to us, which we must preserve and fortify.

Freedom is not for the lazy. It demands character, will and education. It requires decisions, self-respect and self-reliance. A man must guard and preserve his freedom as he loves his home and his children, with a devotion that doesn't count sacrifices and constant effort.

they know our weakness

Strangely enough, *the Communists know this too*. They realize that the most effective way to make anyone lose faith in freedom is to deprive him of faith in Almighty God. From long experience all the totalitarians know that once the Divine Cause of freedom is eliminated, the effects automatically disappear. Destroy the roots and the branches eventually wither.

This explains why there is no let-up in the Communists' continual war against everything connected with religion. When the Communists set to the task of enslaving a country, religion is always the first target for ridicule, undermining and eventual extermination.

Indeed, if there were no reason why we should be *for God*, the mere fact that the Communists are so much *against Him* is a strong argument that there must be some intimate connection between God and the basic freedoms that all of us cherish. Obviously, they recognize, even more clearly than do the people who enjoy those liberties, that the body languishes and dies once the heart is seriously affected.

But, as we keep repeating, all trace of Communism could vanish in thin air and the *much greater weakness* would remain; namely, that more

and more Americans are losing sight of the fact that their liberty is rooted in a divine origin. They are actually abandoning the spiritual force that accounts above all else for the greatness of America. The dire warning of Abraham Lincoln over a hundred years ago seems to be more timely now than ever before:

"If this nation is ever destroyed, it will be from within, not from without."

the hopeful side

Despite the seriousness of the situation, there is a note of hope. The average American is not anti-God or anti-religious. He simply has been conditioned by education and literature, as well as by government, to a godless or secularist attitude. This situation can be changed for the better once enough stalwarts are found to lead America back to its source of strength. Once a spark is ignited it can burst into flame. This is a challenging and inspiring objective for any God-loving, true American.

Fortunately, it is not necessary to resort to any radical changes or innovations to repair the damage. What is required is to restore to public consciousness the cornerstone of American life, which, as our Founding Fathers repeatedly said, is God Almighty. All changes or reforms that may be needed in our country must always be solidly grounded on this foundation.

Can enough persons be found to reintegrate into every branch of government this basic American belief that the purpose of government is to secure the God-given rights of all?

Without a moment's hesitation we say it can be done! And furthermore, that it must be done—without delay—if we are to survive as a free nation.

a new threat

We must be cautious to preserve the spirit of the heritage of our Founding Fathers, who believed so strongly in our dependence on God as the

foundation stone of our government. Of late, a small group of atheists have proposed that we make our official religion a "religion of democracy." As one of them has stated it: "the religion of science and democracy is no less a religion than any other." These men would make of democracy an all-embracing religion to the exclusion of the judaean-christian faith and traditions which have always been the basis of our American way of life. This danger must be clearly seen and opposed by all of us if we are to preserve the heritage which has made us a great nation. Our faith in democracy must remain strong, but it must in no way tend toward destroying our faith in God.

already on the job

All right-thinking people in America should find deep satisfaction in the realization that a number of those in government service work quietly and conscientiously to revive the letter and the spirit of our traditions in various government branches.

One man, for example, who occupies a very high and responsible position in Washington prays before each major project that he will be blessed by God in acting for the best interests of the country and for all the citizens he represents. Because he is constantly aware that he must one day render an account of his stewardship to God he is scrupulously honest and strives to avoid every trace of inefficiency and favoritism.

A young college student in Portland, Oregon, explained why she turned down offers of better jobs to take a minor post in the State Department:

"I took the State Department job because I felt it offered me an unusual opportunity to meet my obligation to God and my country", she said.

A young lady entrusted with secret files in a federal agency in Washington said frankly:

"The one thing above everything else that keeps me honest with my country is that I am first of all honest with my God".

the ultimate aim

These are only a few of countless cases showing what God-minded people can do. It is heartening and refreshing to know that there are persons such as these in our government who are willing and anxious to work and even suffer that it continue to be "*this nation under God*".

But unless many more followers of Christ go into government and the other vital fields, we stand in danger of becoming "*this nation without God*". Too many Americans are slipping into the dangerous belief that they can do without the Supreme Founder of our democracy. If this attitude is allowed to persist, it will inevitably prove fatal to the health of our nation.

warning for all

This alarming increase of secularism among Americans provoked a comment in 1947 from the Catholic Bishops of the United States. In discussing the attitude of many Americans toward God, the Bishops said:

"For the most part they do not deny God. On formal occasions they may even mention His name. Not all of them would subscribe to the statement that all moral values derive from merely human conventions. But they fail to bring an awareness of their responsibility to God into their thought and action as individuals and members of society. This, in essence, is what we mean by secularism".

Furthermore, Murray G. Ross, in a recent survey sponsored by the Y. M. C. A. disclosed that most young people in the U. S. have had little contact with religion and therefore religion is "*not a directing, compelling force in life*".

Mr. Ross said that approximately three-quarters of the young people he questioned "do not feel that their individual lives are very important in the larger scheme of things. . . . Few share in the

life of a group dedicated and actively devoted to the highest goals of mankind”.

sheep without a shepherd

Mr. B. G. Sandhurst, in his “*How Heathen Is Britain?*”, pointed out that “Nearly half the young men leaving our public and secondary schools are almost pagan . . . are starting life in ignorance of their nature, their purpose and their destiny”.

Mr. Sandhurst went on to say in a conclusive manner, however, that while most of this number “denied they were anything more than animals”, at the same time there was a definite desire on the part of even the most skeptical among them to know more about religion. They were really groping for some authentic leadership to rescue them from the disillusionment that follows in the wake of no faith at all or in the worship of false gods.

These young people, “sheep without a shepherd”, were gradually realizing that when God is eliminated from the lives of men, men invariably turn to the State as a substitute for God. They replace a vital sense of dependence on God and self with a frustrating and often enslaving dependence on the Almighty State.

This is exactly the sort of diseased environment that those bent on enslaving mankind wish to create. We can defeat them only with the aid of God and a government that believes in fact, not merely in theory, in the Divine Creator as the source of all rights. Truly, if this nation is to survive the onslaught of our godless enemies, which is threatening us at this moment, it must strive to remain — “*this nation under God*”.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The following are a few points that may be talked over. Each, however, should feel free to propose his or her own points for discussion.

1. How much longer do you think America will survive if the present tendency to ignore and exclude God is continued?
2. Why is it that those who hate God make such a personal sacrifice to take any job in government — even those that pay little money, have little glamor and offer no prospects for advancement? Why do such people work so hard at their jobs?
3. Why is it, on the other hand, that so few followers of Christ undertake a career in government with any sense of purpose beyond self? Why do they overlook the great opportunity to work for the best interests of their country and the general welfare of all?

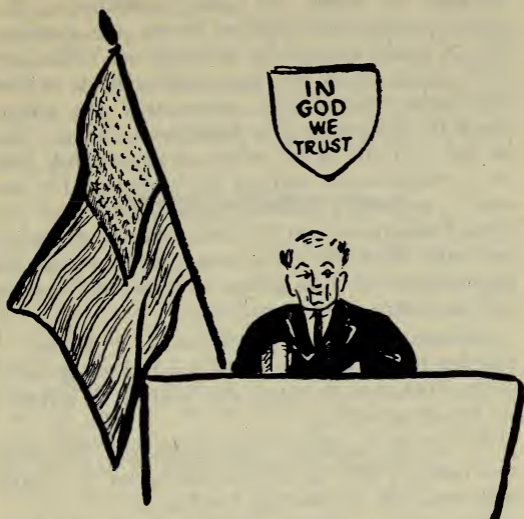
IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. One important service that everyone can render is to pray that more take an interest in maintaining and protecting our form of government that respects the truth of God and the God-given rights of the individual. You would do well to make it a habit to pray daily for some particular government official of your own choosing whose decisions affect the well-being of all. Those who are good need your prayers. Those who are confused, purposeless or even disloyal need your prayers even more.
2. Whether or not you yourself can undertake a career in government, you can do much to encourage at least one other person with a Christ-like purpose to dedicate himself for a few years, if not for a lifetime, to the service of others in the sphere of government.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 3

BETTER MEN MAKE BETTER GOVERNMENT



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

Recently in San Francisco the simple courage of one young lady swung a man from a lucrative career in business to a post in the State Department.

The two first met at dinner. The young man, a native of Boston, quickly got on the subject, of "what's wrong with government." He had nothing but criticism and fault-finding for those in government employ. His dinner companion let him talk himself out. Then, when he had wound up all his critical remarks about his own government, she smiled sweetly and said:

"And what are YOU doing about it? It's your country, too!"

Taken aback, he was at a loss for a reply. Her question made him realize that for years he had been complaining about bad government, and exerting no effort for good government. For several months he tried to forget the question, but he could not rid his mind of it. "What are YOU doing about it?" kept coming back to him. Finally he realized that government was just as much his business as any American's. He saw that he had no right to ask others to devote their lives to it, while he did nothing but complain. He forsook a promising business opening and took the State Department job to make what contribution he could. With his new attitude of service to his government, we can believe that his contribution will be substantial.

Whether you are a housewife, a farmer, a butcher or a baker, the more you feel government is your business the more you will do to improve it. All of us can say:

"It is my country. And when my life ends, this country will be a little the better or a little the worse for my having lived in it."

deep conviction needed

Faith is the important ingredient here. Faith in the country will keep you from feeling hopeless about it. Faith in God and in yourself will show the way. But you must decide for yourself what you will do, and how you will do it. Oftentimes in performing your duties as a citizen you may feel frustrated and forsaken by all but Him. Abraham Lincoln once said:

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no place else to go."

But Lincoln did not stay on his knees. He got up, his faith fortified by prayer, and went on to perform faithfully the tasks set before him.

Faith in your Creator and loyalty to your country go hand in hand. A Presbyterian Minister,

the Reverend Benjamin F. Farber, noted this relationship recently when he said:

“No people has ever been known to endure long without a faith in God . . . With no vision or understanding of the moral and spiritual teachings that lie at the heart of a religious faith, there is bound to be a disregard for truth, honor, and justice . . . We cannot neglect and disobey God and His commandments without paying the price of a decadent nation.”

bigger responsibilities ahead

Judging from the 1950 census, this country will grow at the rate of 25,000,000 every ten years. We are now a country of 150,697,361 souls. By 1960, the population should increase to 175,000,000. This prospective growth should remind us that our present duties and responsibilities will be multiplied in the future with every year of growth. If we fail to discharge our responsibilities toward present duty, who will look out for the 25,000,000 future Americans?

Our government on the local, city, county, state and national levels, stands as our biggest business today. The number of public employees in all branches of government now runs above 6½ million persons. In Federal Government alone, civilian employees number more than 2,400,000. *Roughly one American in every twenty-three holds a government post of some-sort.* In pay, government employees receive about 19½ billion dollars a year or some 1½ billion dollars each month. Don't you owe it to yourself to investigate the calibre and character of these employees?

phenomenal growth

The number of civilians in government employ has shown a phenomenal growth in the last twenty years with the buildup of the armed forces and the extension of health and welfare benefits. Is the number too large? It's your business to find out. It's your country.

With the growth of population, we must expect an expansion of government services as well. How much is too much should be your concern and that of every other citizen.

It is to your interest also to see that the best type of worker is found in every level of government. To be a vital force for good government, the employee must feel a deep sense of responsibility to God and his fellow man. He needs the same sense of dedication to a vocation which distinguishes the parent, a religious leader, a teacher, or any other figure who moulds the destiny of others.

From President down to the lowliest clerk, any position in government service is a position of trust. That is true whether the office is village alderman, city policeman, file clerk in the Atomic Energy Commission, or membership in the U. S. Senate. The public expects each of its servants to make public service his first consideration, with the proper compensation warranted by the job, a secondary consideration. Reversing the order results in a dangerous situation.

two ways to destruction

In Denver recently two young men made decisions of the kind that weaken America instead of strengthening it.

One was a young lawyer of unusual character and ability. He was offered an important post in the State Department. It gave him the opportunity to make a valuable and much-needed contribution to his country's welfare. After thinking the offer over casually, he decided against accepting it.

"First of all," he told a friend, "it would mean moving to Washington. Then it means leaving my old friends and making new ones. Third, it would mean a slight cut in income, and I don't feel I can afford it."

All three reasons went directly to his personal convenience. Not one word did he utter about

the chance offered him to serve his country when the nation needed his services.

The second young man was of a wealthy family. A friend of his told us about this individual's shift to Communism. Despite the latter's American background, he had become devoted to it while in college. In his case the cause of advancing Communism proved more compelling than his own self-regard. As part of his development as a Communist he had broken away from religion years before. Here is his reasoning:

"I believe in Communism and I want to do something about it. That's why I turned down a business opportunity in Denver with fine prospects and decided to enter a Teacher's College. As a teacher, I felt I would have a wide opportunity to impart my ideas on government to young students. The students in turn will put these ideas into practice."

two contrasts

Here we have two young men, both residents of the same city, who chose opposite courses. The loyal American, offered an opportunity to strengthen his nation, declined it. The Communist made his own opportunity, at personal sacrifice, to advance the cause he believed in.

Governments all over the world are being weakened by the work of these two types. Those with real capacity for improvement remain on the sidelines, doing nothing. Those least fitted to play an active part in American life get themselves into positions of influence where they can spread their poison.

Once a sufficient number of people realize that the future of their country is at stake we will have a better atmosphere. Once these people realize that they, personally and individually, can do something about betterment, we will see an improvement.

the task ahead

TASK 1: To Deepen the Sense of Purpose in Government Workers.

First and most important is the task of developing a higher sense of purpose in those who serve us in every section of government.

Many workers are beset by the lack of vision and sense of purpose that afflict most of us, but we feel many of them could easily be roused.

TASK 2: To Guide Into Government Those With High Purpose.

With its rapid employee-turnover, government needs a constant flow of replacements. Where will we find them? In families, churches and schools.

Government itself seeks the best individuals for its service. If it cannot find them, of necessity it falls back on the second-best or third-best. With an employee turnover of about 10 per cent monthly, government loses up to 65,000 employees each month and must replace them with 65,000 newcomers.

TASK 3: To Eliminate Those Harmful To Good Government.

We believe your main effort should be bent toward encouraging higher purpose in those already in government, and developing it in prospective government employees. If these steps can be accomplished, the elimination of persons harmful to government will be almost automatic.

government is only as good as the people in it

To sum up, in order to get better men in government we must encourage a deeper sense of high purpose among government employees and get those people into government whose character and background are best fitted for it, and lastly by keeping a vigilant eye out for those who are inefficient or subversive.

III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

This subject "Better Men Make Better Government" offers numerous possibilities for discussion. The following points may suggest questions that are personal to you:

1. Why is it that so many are interested in "chasing out" inefficient workers or those bent on evil and show so little concern about "chasing in" those who are well qualified?
2. How many ways can you think of to impress upon the general public that government, no matter how ideal, can never be any better than the people who staff it?
3. What measures can be taken to eliminate inefficient, wasteful or unnecessary (as well as disloyal) workers from all branches of government service, while protecting those who are doing a conscientious job?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. An excellent way to encourage better workers to stay in government as well as to get into that field is to commend them for any job well done. It instills in them a greater sense of purpose. A personal letter to such an individual or to your local newspaper about him can have far reaching effect.
2. Circulate the important idea that the one place above all where those of doubtful or questionable loyalty should not be is *in government*. The standard of George Washington "Only Americans on guard tonight" should prevail in a particular way in every phase of government.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 4
WHAT ONE INDIVIDUAL CAN DO



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

Recently a lady in the midwest reviewed The Christopher book, "*You Can Change The World*" for a women's organization of the Presbyterian Church to which she belonged. She laid special stress on the part that Christian women should play in bettering politics.

Next she brought the Christopher idea to a study club of which she happened to be a member. "She ended the program," one lady wrote, "with an earnest appeal to the club, which is seventy years old and which has always adhered to intellectual pursuits for their own sake, *to come out of its ivory tower and be a real force for good.*"

A political committee subsequently was formed among the women of the church. Its purpose was to inject Christian principles into government life. It formed a "*get out the vote*" program before a recent election.

One member made a brief speech on "*What Just One Vote Can Do.*" Announcement was made that baby sitters and transportation would be provided for all who could not go to the polls

otherwise. This resulted, on election day, in a man just out of the hospital and a woman almost blind calling the chairman for transportation and casting votes that would not have been possible without this arrangement.

by telephone

A telephone squad undertook to phone the entire church membership either the evening before or the morning of election day. This effort was well received and praised by the members. And if there was a member of the church who didn't vote, the committee doesn't know who it was.

At the next meeting of the committee, a woman who had recently moved into the community told the chairman: "After your talk, I went right to the village hall and registered. I never would have bothered if it hadn't been for what you said." Another said: "Entirely because of what you told us that day, I accepted a job on a campaign committee I didn't feel like taking, and have been working getting out literature and helping in every way possible ever since."

a handful could do it

St. Paul said: "*Be not overcome by evil, but overcome evil by good.*" (Romans: 12:21) His words were never more appropriate than they are today. The future of America will probably be determined—for better or for worse—by a small handful of people who are dedicated to a cause bigger than themselves.

A comparative few, fired with the love of God and country may be able to overcome the evil forces that now threaten to engulf us. One of the many hopeful features of our Christopher work is to find countless persons who, with just a little encouragement, suddenly become imbued with a high sense of purpose and often do a more thorough and constructive job in civic circles than those who have engaged in this work over a long period of time.

We believe that the best way to show what can be done in government is to point out what has been done by individuals who already have accomplished more than a little in helping to change the world for the better.

Here are just a few of the numerous examples of what one person can do that have come to our attention here at Christopher headquarters. God willing, they should prove to be practical inspirations to all those who are wondering, "what can I do in a concrete way to serve better my God and country?"

proved by doing

One man who confessed to us that he had at first been somewhat skeptical "about the practicality of the Christopher approach," found when he put that approach to the test that it "really worked." In his letter to us he wrote:

"Last December when I decided to give it a trial, I was surprised. With no political background or influence, I wrote to the newly formed E. S. A. and offered my services as an attorney. I had served as an enforcement attorney with the old OPA for about two years and while there had become disillusioned about the viewpoint of those who were formulating the policy of that organization. I left to return to private practice.

"When I made my decision to go back into government, however, I was astonished that my offer was accepted. Within the last two weeks I have been appointed Chief Enforcement Attorney for the E. S. A. in..... Although the salary I will receive in government service will nowhere approach my earnings in private practice, I feel that I have a real opportunity to carry into effect the Christopher ideal."

midwestern style

A lawyer in the midwest has been doing his share too. Seven years ago he gave up a lucrative practice to do what he felt was his duty. He has always been a man of deep spiritual convictions

and has led a very religious life. He felt a special obligation, therefore, to work for the common good of all and not merely for his own private advantage. He became Judge of the Circuit Court. His record on that bench has been an enviable one. Difficulties confronting him have been many, but there has always been a deep consoling satisfaction of knowing he has had the privilege, through his work, of solving many problems for his fellowman and of leaving the world a bit better for his being in it.

a 25 cent start

In a talk not long ago in Washington, a newly elected member of the U. S. Congress from the South claimed that a pocketsize edition of "*You Can Change the World*", which he picked up at a newstand, sparked him to make a try. The going was not easy for him. But he kept fighting, and to his surprise, he was elected.

a press of his own

The importance of a clerical post in a town or village cannot be over-estimated. One young man we know who had caught the Christopher idea, made it his business to concern himself directly with the government of the village in which he lived. He knew little when he started, as shown from the fact that he had to ask one of the local policemen where a certain political organization had its headquarters. After that, however, he took it upon himself to attend the next organization meeting and there he discovered how generally apathetic the others were to matters which vitally concerned them.

Using his initiative, he bought a mimeograph machine and, with a friend of his, he printed handbills calling on the hundreds of members to bring about a change in the organization. He aroused so much interest in the village generally that party officials began a house-cleaning all on their own.

no handicap here

A young marine veteran, wounded at Iwo Jima, heard a lot of people complaining about bad politics in their district, but nobody appeared to be doing anything about it. He plans to run for district leader. He says that he expects it to be a "tough fight", but that he is encouraged by a growing number of persons who are surprised and delighted that someone like himself is taking a stand.

perspective does it

Another young man, whose specialty is personnel work, recently gave up his job in a West Coast department store. He went into the same type of work in his state government because he was convinced of the greater good he could do there. Moreover, he intends to stay in the government service, even though his new post means a slight reduction in pay. He realizes that through his presence in the vast sphere of our government he may be able to make some little contribution towards maintenance of sound administration. In personnel work, especially, he has endless opportunities to see that only loyal, efficient Americans are employed.

how to get results - - while teaching

A school teacher in Kentucky, alarmed at the disrespectful attitude toward government workers by many in her community, is doing her bit in the field of government. As she related in a letter to us:

"Since being caught up with the Christopher idea, I've been hammering away here at the boys to take up careers in the vital fields, especially in government. It's hard getting a new idea into people's heads. Most of them are interested in getting just a job and politics seems off somewhere on Mars to most of them—indeed, sometimes it seems as if I could say that about all of them. But I'll keep at it until they graduate. I feel confident

that some of these boys will go into careers where they can influence others for the better.”

to build rather than destroy

Then there's the young Air Force officer, who had been assigned to making pictures connected with the atomic bomb tests during World War II, and who had his own post-war future pretty well in mind. He was a writer, and with a good deal of experience to his credit, he had a line on several Hollywood jobs before he left the Army.

But after he had laid aside his uniform, he began to think of what his experiences in the Army had taught him. He had learned a great deal about the destructiveness of the atomic bomb—now he began to think of its peacetime possibilities. The more he thought, the more he became convinced that he personally had to do something about it. Yet, on the other hand, there was Hollywood and the kind of writing job he had dreamed about.

He wrestled with his conscience for a long time. Finally, he sat down and wrote a letter to the atomic energy commission in Washington.

The answer came by return mail. The commission had been searching for just such a man. He was needed urgently—could he report immediately?

He did—and he's there at this writing—turning out films that show the limitless peacetime possibilities of atomic energy. He's doing the work of three or four men—it's that kind of job—but he's happy in what he's doing because he has a purpose.

it could be you

Each one of these citizens came from various sections of our country—large cities, villages and towns. Their jobs ranged from Congressman and lawyer to personnel worker and village clerk. By catching the Christopher ideal, their jobs—their entire lives—have become filled with a new life-giving purpose. In every instance each went into a post of his own choosing.

For most of them, the price of doing a worthwhile job will not be a small one. There are bound to be heartaches and heartbreaks. But in the midst of it all there will be that deep sense of satisfaction in knowing that they have served the high cause of God and country.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

You may have ideas of your own that you wish to propose for discussion. If not, you may care to consider these.

1. What individual in government service is your ideal of what all should be?

2. How can a greater sense of individual initiative and personal responsibility be conveyed to a person already in public affairs but who is listless and apathetic because he has no goal other than self?

3. What ways and means can you suggest to get more individuals of character and competence to undertake a career in government?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. Keep repeating in the home, church, school, and every place where people gather that government can never be any better than the individuals who staff it—that the “players make the team.” Point out, therefore, that the only way to improve it is to get better “players.”

2. A Minnesota newspaper headlined not long ago: “5 Declined to run For Municipal Post”. It captioned the story of how five citizens refused to be candidates for a municipal court judgeship. Bring to the attention of as many as you can that if enough individuals shirk personal responsibility in such important matters the running of government may go by default to those who are poorly qualified or even subversive.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 5

PROTECT YOUR MATERIAL BLESSINGS



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

A young American who attended a Communist training school in Moscow in the mid-thirties reports that the school stressed that Communists feel they have two major obstacles in their efforts to dominate the United States. The first is religion, which gives mankind faith and hope in God as a Supreme Authority above the state. The second is the savings of the American "middle class." With these two factors eliminated, Communists believe their goal of world domination would be much nearer realization.

The American readily understood Communist opposition to religion because religion reminds everyone not only of his eternal destiny and his social obligations here below, but also that one of the primary functions of the state is to preserve the fundamental rights he receives from God and God alone. In the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution the derivation of these rights from the Almighty is clearly and specifically stated.

a double strength

The student, however, was somewhat astonished to learn that elimination of "middle-class" savings ranked as the No. 2 objective in the minds of his Soviet teachers. Upon reflection, he saw that savings were a bulwark against the economic adversity on which Communism thrives. To the downtrodden, the "What have I got to lose?" argument carries strong appeal. They can easily be persuaded that Communism is no worse than their present state, and might be better. The man with even moderate possessions does not swallow the propaganda so easily.

The type of American most feared by the Communists, then, is the type who recognizes the need for the practice of religion as well as a basic minimum of material security.

The mistake the Communists make, however, is the failure to see that ours is not a class-divided society. The great majority of Americans are members of the coveted "middle class", they speak about. As well as the self employed and the white-collar worker, our "middle class" includes auto workers, salesmen, teachers, garage mechanics, railroad workers, farmers, and so many others.

Also, it is the aim of our government to see that all who wish them may have the opportunity to procure these goods for themselves. It is the pride of America that it is perhaps the only world power in human history in which the majority of its citizens are "middle class" or can reasonably aspire to it—where both an aristocracy and a proletariat have no place.

When we speak, therefore, of the "middle class", mentioned in Moscow, we refer to the status of the average American. In this way, the Communists are very right: as long as we maintain our faith in God and protect our "middle class" savings, their plan to overthrow us has little chance of success.

advantages many, defects few

While there are more than a few defects in our economic system which should be corrected, and positive reforms are needed, yet most Americans enjoy a standard of living considerably higher than the average person in the rest of the world.

Almighty God has certainly blessed the United States with a productive capacity and material assets far exceeding that of any other country. We have natural resources in various stages of development and a huge productive machine which gives us employment at reasonable wages. True, some are not yet receiving an adequate wage and it is the job of all of us to see that they do. Nevertheless, the earnings of the American people as a whole are the envy of the entire world.

you are a stockholder

Why, then, should we worry about how wisely the government spends or whether our resources are sufficiently protected? Because our government is the biggest business in the world today. American government, federal, state and local is the largest customer of all other forms of American enterprise. In the next fiscal year it will spend more than 71 billion dollars. Each of us is a *stockholder* in that government.

The spending policies of our government therefore have both domestic and international reactions. These policies affect you as an individual. And, with increased taxes, government spending will affect you more in the future than it has in the past. It is for you to do your part in seeing that all such spending is done wisely.

you pay the bill

It is up to you to decide whether your taxes are too much or too little. You are the taxpayer. You support the government. Government in it-

self has no inexhaustible bank account. It derives its income solely from its citizens, for *it has no other source of funds but your earnings*. You have a financial stake in the country. For better or for worse, it is your business.

Literally, none of us can afford to be indifferent toward government spending. The money comes out of our pockets just as surely as the butcher's bill or the milkman's weekly collection.

Today the American citizen is constantly demanding bigger and better service from his government. But where does the government obtain the money to render these services? From the people. The citizen pays for each government service he receives—whether it be social security, veterans' benefits or similar services. *If he does not pay for it personally, other citizens like him pay for it.*

taxes and debt

The rubble of World War II has already left each person on earth \$1,708 in debt. The American people must wake up, and fast, in order to avert economic disaster.

Some of our taxes, like the income tax, are clearly visible. Others, like the tax on your car, your television set or your handbag are not so apparent. It is important to remember that these hidden taxes that we notice the least are the ones we pay the most—every day of the year.

They show up just the same in the government tax collections at the end of the year. And it is your pocketbook they come from. That is reason enough for you to be constantly on the job to see that a dollar's worth of value is gotten out of every dollar paid in taxes.

However, two factors may push up costs still higher:

1. The demands of national security in time of emergency.

2. The demand of most Americans for increased benefits from their government.

Yet this should not be a reason for relaxing our vigilance but rather for increasing it.

watch the spending

In approaching the problem, you can apply the same sense of proportion and economy that you use in your home, shop, factory, office, in buying a suit of clothes or taking a vacation. No matter how urgent the need or how much you desire it, you know you should not spend any more than you possess—or at least avoid going into debt that you cannot carry.

Don't ever take the attitude there is nothing you can do about our national economy, that you are too small to count. Time and time again, one person, making his voice heard has been able to bring about a more efficient apportionment of funds in city, state and federal government and not infrequently to cause those who are administering public funds to curtail unnecessary expenses.

As Americans, we have no excuse for failing to have the best government in the world. It was founded upon Divine Truth, and we pay more for it than any people ever paid for government. God does not bless those who are negligent or wasteful of their blessings.

a pointed warning

Only recently the Holy See warned Spaniards against the dangers of "inflation" and "excessive taxes" which, it pointed out, kill the "spirit of saving" and thus prevent the formation of a strong "middle class". This warning was given through Msgr. J. B. Montini, substitute Secretary of State.

Referring to the "middle class" as a large and varied one, he also included in his statement the following which is well worthy of note: "Its members come from industry and farms, trades

and business, they are clerical workers and career people. They represent a great part of the population with characteristics of their own and whose social influence deserves special attention.

"The proper characteristics of this class is economic independence by means of which it is possible for it to attain social stability and the production of wealth, thus bringing about a harmonious balance between personal work and private property.

"Through his own efforts and work, the 'middle-class' man preserves his autonomy and dignity, without having to beg for his living.

"By means of private assets he attains a wholesome and just distribution of property which thus retains a character of responsibility without falling into forms of corporate collectivism and preserves its true function as a pillar of the social order."

to summarize

As individuals we have two big legacies, one of moral wealth and one of material wealth. Our enemies seek to destroy us by destroying these two inheritances.

Shall we aid our enemies with our own indifference and apathy towards what our government does?

You can help supply the right answer. As an individual citizen you should seek to strengthen the moral and economic foundations of your government. You can do much to encourage the spiritual and material stability that it must have in order to endure.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

As we have said before, each one should feel free to formulate his own questions if those such as the following do not strike you or the other members as appropriate for your circumstances.

1. How many of you know the total debt of your country? Your state? Your community?

2. From personal experience, you know how far you can go into debt and still avoid bankruptcy. To what extent do you think your government can operate "in the red" without plunging into an economic collapse from which we may never recover?

3. What can you do, individually, to bring about reasonable economies in government?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

Christ has commanded us all to shout "from the housetops" the truths that make us free. The topic that you have just read and discussed offers numerous opportunities to pass on by "word of mouth" some practical information on problems that can make or break our country.

Select any point you like and try spreading it in your home, church, school, office, farm or factory. For instance, you can show that many of us may be playing into the hands of the Communists by a wasteful attitude toward our God-given material blessings, and thus bring about inflation, depression, over-spending, etc. Spreading just one fact like this can arouse many to do something about it.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 6
BEGINNINGS OF GOVERNMENT



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

A legend goes that one day Frederick the Great of Prussia was walking along a road on the outskirts of Berlin when accidentally he brushed against a very old man. "Who are you?" asked Frederick out of idle curiosity as the two met.

"I am a king", the old man answered.

"A king?" echoed Frederick. "Over what principality do you reign?"

"Over myself", was the proud reply, "I rule myself because I control myself. I am my own subject to command".

The beginning of all government is within each individual. The more he sees the necessity of governing himself, the more likely he is to see the need for direction and guidance through government in his relations with others.

Government comes easier to those with a spiritual background. They realize that they are children of God and heirs of heaven. They have

learned the need for self-respect, self-improvement, self-reliance and self-discipline.

As children of God they are constantly reminded by Christ Himself that "*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*". And although this often runs counter to their own selfish interests, they have learned by many a sad lesson that men enjoy the peace given here on earth in much the same measure as they show interest in the well-being of others.

can't get along without it

Difficult as it may be for man to put up with government of any kind, history shows he can't get along without some form of it, even in the most primitive society. Whether he realizes it or not, a man is a political and social animal. He is a product of group living under all its legitimate restraints which are invoked to preserve the common good.

Man is born of a group — the family — and gets his entire training and means of livelihood in a group — the home, the farm, the school, the community. Without group living his survival would be difficult indeed, with few if any opportunities to develop his talents and strive for the pursuit of happiness.

The very laws of nature remind man that the order essential for the survival of the family was even more necessary when a number of families, early in history gathered together in a clan, a tribe, or a colony. At the very outset such a merging of interests took place as a matter of course since it immediately became apparent that certain measures would have to be taken for the health, safety and general well-being of everyone.

their job to serve

Since most of the people had to be busy running their homes, doing the farming, building, carrying on trade or engaged in other occupations necessary for their livelihood, they chose others to act for them in the performance of the ele-

mentary duties vital for the preservation and continuance of the community. For this those thus employed to conduct the public affairs were provided with adequate support for their daily sustenance.

Yet even then it was recognized that if this arrangement was to work out satisfactorily, everyone involved would have to keep ever conscious of the role of those individuals set aside to represent the community. It had to be borne in mind at all times that in whatever capacity they acted, they were employed by the majority to serve their best interests.

servants not masters

In the full sense of the term, they were public servants, charged with the responsibility of serving the public. They were made to understand that whatever authority they possessed was delegated to them by the people themselves. They were to be servants not masters.

But this concept of government is based on Christian ideals. It took many centuries before it became a working reality.

the Mosaic law

More than 3000 years ago one man who possessed a deep reverence for God devoted his life to bringing peace and order to his people. He realized that to have law and order among them they would need some plan or code as a basis for self-government. He knew that he did not have the wisdom or the ability to make such a plan.

In his humility this man, a young Hebrew called Moses, appealed to the Almighty for assistance. God rewarded his trust and gave him the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone. They were to be the basis of government down through the ages, and a guide to keep each and every one reminded of his obligations to his fellowman and his Creator.

By sacrificing himself for the common good of all, Moses showed how one individual might

change the destiny of a whole people for the better. Through these Ten Commandments of God, not only did Moses bring his brethren out of their enslavement in Egypt, but he made them a free and independent nation, the first to honor and worship a single God.

But having a code of laws, even from God Himself, doesn't automatically solve the problem of giving society that order on which harmony and peace depend. More than knowledge is necessary. The will to do must follow.

The ordinary human being usually doesn't want to be bothered with any control, any restraint. All through history he has shown a tendency to resist control, and even revolt against it when it runs counter to his own inclinations.

lessons from history

The Greeks were the first to recognize the need for joining together to produce effective government. Anyone interested in the origins of government would do well to look back into early Greek history. Greek society expanded into a complex structure and the need of a small group of rulers or "kings" was created. Rule under them finally became intolerable and the people chose Solon to write a code of laws to improve conditions. It stands as a landmark in the history of government.

Solon's code not only protected the people but forced the average citizen to take a personal interest in his government. Thus were sown the first seeds of democratic government.

The next great civilization which developed was the Roman Empire some 500 years later. Also founded on a code of laws, this nation was to rule the then known world. To be a Roman citizen was considered a prize treasured above all else.

But as the Greek experiment before it, the Roman Empire suffered from human defects which eventually brought about its destruction. It became a dictatorship, its morals vanished and its culture disappeared.

the Christian contribution

Outwardly the rule of Rome brought order, but it was an order founded on force and power. It was an order that benefited only the Roman citizen; the rest of the world was in slavery. A new idea of the dignity of the human person had to appear before freedom could come to all people.

At this point in history God became man and reminded men that they were made to His own image and that they were endowed with immortal souls, and therefore, could never be lawfully trampled on or degraded by any government. All human institutions were to help him attain his eternal destiny.

On two occasions during His life Christ gave directives to serve as guides for all the governments of the world. While standing on trial for His life, confronted by Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, in order to show the source of all governmental authority, He said, "*Thou shouldst not have power against Me unless it were given thee from above*". (John 19:11).

And in order to emphasize that government has its own proper sphere of activity, and in reply to a question about the coin of tribute, He said, "*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's*". (Luke 20:25).

The Christian contribution then was definite and clear and all good government after the time of Christ would have to accept it. In general, it can be reduced to 3 points:

- a) the human person is sacred and has inalienable rights;
- b) all authority is from God;
- c) all legitimate governments have an independence and proper authority.

the year 1776

In the momentous year 1776 a great advance was made toward true Christian democracy in the American Declaration of Independence which provided the basis for our American Constitution.

After many failures and partial successes mankind had at last put Christian democratic principles into an actual government.

the essence of democracy

In almost the same words as the great theologians of the Middle Ages and the XVI Century, Thomas Jefferson and the Founding Fathers wrote:

- a) Man is "endowed by his Creator with certain inalienable rights."
- b) It is the function of government "to secure these rights."
- c) Rulers receive their authority and power "from the consent of the governed."

The Founding Fathers made it clear that the purpose of all political leaders was to serve the best interests of the majority of the people. In the full sense of the term, the heads of our government were public servants, charged with the responsibility of serving the public.

where responsibility belongs

For example, we, as members of the public, give the power to make laws to our elected representatives; we assign the tax-collecting function to the collectors, and turn over the administration of justice to our judges.

The delegation of authorities like this is a matter of convenience for each of us. However, our responsibility doesn't stop there.

Turning over authority to someone else and then forgetting all about it is not discharging the functions of citizenship. We must remember always that our rights impose an obligation on each of us to see that those rights are properly exercised.

As long as every one in the community did his share, and those entrusted with the running of government clearly understood that it was their job to serve the best interests of all as a public trust, good government for all usually resulted. But as soon as the people of the community failed to see that this was done, then those who should serve became the masters.

It is this lack of interest by the people that can lead to the weakening and downfall of any government. As Americans we must see that this does not happen here.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

Here are a few questions that your group may wish to discuss. Each one should feel free to submit in preference questions of his own choosing.

1. The phrase "our priceless heritage" is frequently used. What is your understanding of that expression?
2. How does our form of government derive its strength from the spiritual and political foundations?
3. What was the early concept of government service and why have we lost it?
4. Can you give practical examples of how our Christian heritage is being ignored or eliminated from our government at the present time?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. One of the best ways to refresh yourself on the beginnings of government in America is to read and analyze the Declaration of Independence.
2. You can achieve much by asking friends and acquaintances when they last read the Declaration. You will be amazed at how many have never read it. Your asking them may prompt them to do so and spur them on to putting the same question to their associates.
3. Get as many persons as possible to check all schools in your locality to see if the Declaration of Independence is properly taught. You can and should do this as a citizen and taxpayer, whether or not you have any children in these schools.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 7
POLITICS AFFECTS YOU WHETHER YOU

LIKE IT OR NOT



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

A grey-haired veteran of government service, who has been serving under both Republican and Democratic administrations made this comment recently:

"I come from a little town up in Vermont," he said, "and when I go home sometimes, I'm ashamed to say that I'm in the government."

This man has real ability and great patriotism. He is a man who obviously could have risen to great heights in private industry. It seemed a terrible thing that he should feel *ashamed* to say that he was in the service of his country!

a common mistake

Who were the people who made this man feel ashamed? Well, they were ordinary good people in a small town. They were like you and me—no better, no worse. They meant no harm. But they were doing what so many of us do—complain and

criticize and yet do nothing to make government better.

What if these people made this fine government official so ashamed, so weary of criticism that he quit his job in government? Think what we would have lost—a *good man doing a good job*.

Who knows what kind of person would have taken his place? But whoever took his place, we would have lost *him*. Could the Communists have done more to weaken our government than the thoughtless comments of well-meaning people? If the majority of people continue to have such an unfavorable and unfair attitude, how can we possibly hope to get better people in public affairs?

What hope have we to withstand the greatest threat in history to our nation when people upon whom our government must depend not only do not take the time or effort to understand how its political system works, but often attack it without knowing all the facts?

A recent survey showed that 82% of American parents who were asked if they would approve of their children taking a part in politics stated emphatically that they would "disapprove".

Another poll revealed that 5 out of 7 people interviewed believe that *all* politicians are dishonest.

it can be changed

Can this dangerous attitude be changed? We believe that in a comparatively short time it can—if enough people make it their business to "*build up*" rather than "*tear down*". Government "by the people and for the people" is possible only with an alert and intelligent electorate. For a people to be politically indifferent is unconsciously to lay themselves open to dictatorship.

The more the love, truth and justice of Christ is brought into government, the less chance there is of the opposite holding sway.

Our Christopher thesis, therefore, is that the big job to be done with regard to all phases of activity connected with government, is "*to get good work-*

ers in" rather than to become too preoccupied with "chasing out" evil or questionable workers—important as that task is.

curious confirmation

This point of view was brought home in a curious sort of way about two years ago by Artie Samish, who has been referred to, in an article in Collier's magazine, as "the secret boss of California." When Samish was asked what could be done to get rid of the unusual influence that he exercised over the legislator through lobbying, he answered very frankly:

"There is one way. The people must take more interest in the men they elect."

the public makes them

Even those who have become successful in politics by "political machine" methods are forced to admit that public indifference and cynicism was the main cause of their rise to power. No stronger testimony is needed than this.

If the unfortunate attitude toward politics which persists today among the majority of people is to be changed, two things must be done. The average citizen must become aware of how the party system in our democracy works. Then he must be encouraged to do something about it.

On the other hand, a survey made a few years ago showed that 2 out of every 3 citizens said that they would be willing to serve without pay on civic committees to deal with housing, education, labor-management problems, public welfare, and other vital subjects. This is an encouraging sign, but greater efforts must be made by all citizens to learn the rudiments of political activities and to take greater part in them, on a part-time, if not a full-time basis.

what you should know

If you are going to play your rightful part in politics, you must understand at least a few elementary ideas about its workings.

A. For the administration of government within a democracy, various persons with similar ideas gather together in groups to decide on a common policy and to find out those among them best fitted to apply those ideas to the running of government. These groups are called political parties.

The American political system is built on the party system. It is usually distinguished from those of other countries by being a two party system, that is, two major parties with equal rights for minor parties. By it we have been able to run between the dangers and the disadvantages of a one party rule, as those of Stalin or Hitler and the many party system such as in France. On the one side we have avoided dictatorship, on the other a weakness and instability of government.

B. The backbone of political parties are the *committees*. The members of these committees are elected at various primaries and select nominees from the President of the United States down to local alderman.

C. The *Precinct Committee* is the basic one in the mechanics of politics. They get their names on the ballot by petitions, and are selected in primary elections. Serving as precinct leader is one of the best ways to begin a full-time career in politics.

D. Next above the precinct is the *ward* in urban areas; in the rural areas it is the *county* or *assembly* district.

E. In the city the *ward leaders* form a *city committee*. This latter forms a *central executive committee*, which is responsible for party policies and slates.

F. The *county committee* is equally important. The members are usually chosen at the primaries. There are more than 3,000 counties in the U. S. which 45,000 officials serve.

G. The *Congressional District Committee* draws on the county committees. Together they coordinate their activities with the state and national organizations.

H. The *State Committee* is the next rung ascending the political ladder. It is supreme in the State and is in contact with the county committees.

I. In Presidential election years the National Committee overshadows all. It is made up of a man and a woman from every state. It works with the *national convention committee* and both employ many workers in special divisions to take care of the many details of the campaign.

The jobs on all the committees from the precinct up to the national level are held by men and women from all walks of life. They make politics an important interest.

what you should do

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Acquire a working knowledge of the political set-up in your locality, city, and state.
2. Get facts — about candidates, issues, etc.
3. Offer your services for the essential chores and "leg work."
4. Maintain the basic principles of morality and fundamental Americanism.

Even if you can't make government service a career, you can still make your voice heard.

James A. Farley, who has had long experience in politics, made this statement recently:

"Leaders do not spring full-blown into public office . . . but must patiently climb to eminences of trust through accomplished performance in positions of trust whether public or private."

There is a role for you and your friends to play in the political life of our country. It's up to you to decide what you shall do.

politics will never be any better than the people in it

The only way to improve politics is to encourage more people with high ideals to take an active part in all legitimate political activities. Then back them in every way you can and especially by getting out the vote.

Merely complaining about "dirty" politics accomplishes little, except, perhaps, to allow it to become "dirtier."

A man with a weak heart is only hurting himself if he does no more than make fun of his condition and neglects it. If his heart stops, everything stops.

The main strength of the enemies of democracy is the weakness of those who would support it, but fail to do so. . . . You can certainly do something about that.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

It is important that each one of the group feel completely free to raise whatever question he or she thinks pertains to the subject under consideration. The following proposals are made only for your convenience.

1. What can you do to reach out beyond your little circle and remind the multitude that the better the workers in politics, the better it is for everybody?
2. Name the different ways in which individuals like you can and should participate in legitimate political activities.
3. Point out the harm done by unthinking good people who deliberately discourage the best type of citizen from having anything to do with politics.

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. As far as your circumstances will allow, make it your business to take an active part in some phase of the political life upon which our democratic form of government depends.
2. Make a list of ten men or women, regardless of their party affiliations, who are rendering service in the political field. Tell others about them and encourage more to follow in their footsteps.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 8

VOTING - - THE FOUNDATION STONE

MY VOTE
DOES COUNT



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

During the recent Senate Crime Investigating Committee sessions, Senator Charles W. Tobey questioned the underworld figure, Frank Costello, on what he had done to show his appreciation to the United States for all the advantages he had enjoyed as an immigrant to this country. At one point the Senator asked:

"Mr. Costello, bearing in mind all that you have gained and received in wealth, what have you done for your country as a good citizen?"

"Well, I don't know what you mean by that," the witness squirmed. His tortured fingers locked and unlocked on millions of television screens.

"Look back over the years," the Senator explained, "to the time when you became a citizen. Now—twenty years after that—you must have in mind some things you have done that you can speak of to your credit as an American citizen, if so, what are they?"

An anguished pause ensued. Costello seemed to be racking his brain for some evidence, no matter how slight, which would identify him as a good citizen. Finally, he said hesitatingly:

"I paid my taxes!"

When the laughter in the courtroom subsided, Costello was asked if he had ever aided any American war effort.

"No," he mumbled in embarrassment.

Under further questioning Costello testified he had never voted. He *justified this omission by saying that there were millions of other Americans who never went to the polls either.*

is this you

Few members of the 30,000,000 television audience could be classed with Costello as former bootleggers, slot-machine manufacturers or gamblers. But the vast majority of viewers were probably grateful that they were not under the public spotlight, testifying under oath as to whether or not they vote.

As Mr. Charles Edison, former governor of New Jersey, once said; "*Citizens will die for democracy, pay taxes for it, and give their blood for its soldiers. But vote? Work at democracy? It takes a revolution or a miracle to arouse them.*"

Our rights in a free democracy come to each of us from Almighty God. It is only when we abdicate these rights, by failing to register and vote, that the government can become the prey of those who neglect or betray the public interests.

No one should let his vote go by default by failing to register and to exercise his franchise. It may even be a serious sin of omission. You can be sure that those who want to wreck our country make it their business to vote in every election. *They always use freedom to destroy freedom.*

We believe that the failure of so many Americans to live up to their obligation of voting is not due to any malice, but simply to laziness and the feeling, "*well, what difference does one vote make one way or another?*" We believe, therefore, that this dangerous situation can be changed by showing each individual citizen how vitally important it is, and how the voice of the majority,

as expressed at the polls, is indeed the foundation stone of our democratic way of life.

True, voting for the sake of voting only is not enough. By itself, voting is a means to an end, and this end is the welfare of all the people. While the Christopher position is that everyone should vote as he sees fit, it is equally true that when one does vote, he should vote from more than merely selfish motives. Good government is government for all. Everyone can vote for the party or candidate of his choice, yet his ultimate aim should be to put into office only those who will have a concern for everyone and will bring about better government for all the people.

everyone counts

You ask: "*Well, what can I as a single, small individual do about it?*"

Just consider that the United States is made up of individuals just like you—150,000,000 of them. And for a round figure, we may say that of this number 87,000,000 are qualified voters.

How many "stay-at-homers" are there in this group?

Let's take, as a recent example, the last national election in 1948, when the Truman-Barkley ticket ran against the Dewey-Warren ticket.

Remember, this was a national election with four candidates running for President. Our domestic policies and our international policies depended on the results. This election occurred at a time when America was counted upon for world leadership. The Communist threat was growing. We were only a few years away from the outbreak of hostilities in Korea. In all respects, the 1948 national election was one of the most important in the history of this nation.

look at the record

With these considerations in mind, we may assume that every voter qualified to cast a ballot

in this country actually would cast one. But what do the figures show?

Of the 87,000,000 presumably qualified to vote, about 40,000,000—almost half—chose not to vote. What was the margin of victory for the successful candidates? The actual difference in votes between winners and losers was 2,135,747. Divide the difference in half, and we see that 1,067,873 votes actually meant the margin between victory and defeat. That number of votes, plus one, applied to either of the two major tickets, could have spelled "Win" or "Lose".

So we come down to the net result of apathy and indifference of a good segment of American voters. For a nation of 150,000,000 souls, a vote slightly over 1,000,000 could decide the policies, foreign and domestic, which will rule them for four years.

Is this the democratic principle in practice? By no means; the democratic principle depends for its survival on *voting by majority*.

what one vote can do

Going back a little further in our own national history, we find that two of our most famous presidents, Thomas Jefferson, and John Quincy Adams were each elected to office by a single vote in the Electoral College. Another president, Rutherford B. Hayes, was elected by a single vote. When his election was contested the matter was referred to an electoral commission.

Again, Hayes was the winner by a single vote. The man who cast the deciding vote for him was a congressman from Indiana, a lawyer who had himself been elected to Congress by a single vote. And that one vote may have been cast for him by a client who, though seriously ill, insisted that he be taken to the polls.

The National Institute of Social Relations pointed out that "in 1924 . . . one Missouri congressman got in by a margin of 300 votes with

63,000 qualified voters in his district staying away from the polls. A Pennsylvania congressman nosed in by a margin of 500 votes in the same election, with 40,000 voters not bothering to say "yes" or "no" to him. Each one was probably thinking "What does my vote matter?" In the usual city or county election, only a handful of the voters decide who is going to run local affairs, and how. One vote counts for an awful lot in those elections.

In the above examples, as in countless others during the past, the number of persons who actually voted was far less than the number qualified to vote.

If half of the voters stay away from the polls, as is often the case, the successful politician will not be responsible to any great force of public opinion. Those who vote in the election are not numerous enough to demand a high standard of conduct for the office-holder to meet.

Whose fault is it, then, if we have inferior government? The responsibility must fall upon the individual American who tolerates this condition by failure to think enough of his responsibilities while insisting on his rights.

reason for hope

Dark as the picture may seem at times, it has many hopeful aspects. Most noteworthy of these is the gradual public acceptance of the fact that good government requires workers of integrity and ability. This realization has brought about a decrease in the power of the purely political machines. In many states, the once all-powerful machine politicians have had their wings clipped by the public.

In addition, more citizens are becoming convinced that the individual must make his voice heard in behalf of the general good. The one tie that should bind all together is common interest

in honest and efficient government at all levels.

Going further, we realize that government influences our daily lives not only as local residents, but as residents of a county, a state and a nation as well.

Try as we may, we cannot divorce ourselves from government. Our best course, then, is to adopt a sense of personal responsibility toward it which will produce the best government at the least possible expense.

Voting and "getting out the vote" is not the total answer to the problem but it is the first and indispensable step in a democracy like ours.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

In an effort to be helpful we suggest points of discussion such as the following for each session. But they should always be considered as secondary to those that members of the group may propose.

1. There is an old French saying "*the absent are always wrong*". How does this apply to the citizen who fails to register and go to the polls?
2. Since failing to register automatically eliminates the possibility of voting, what can you do to arouse more people to the necessity of registering?
3. Why is it that so many people neglect to vote at the Primaries? What is the resulting harm?
4. Why is it those who strive to destroy our form of government are eager to vote at every election and to encourage the good citizens to stay away from the polls.

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

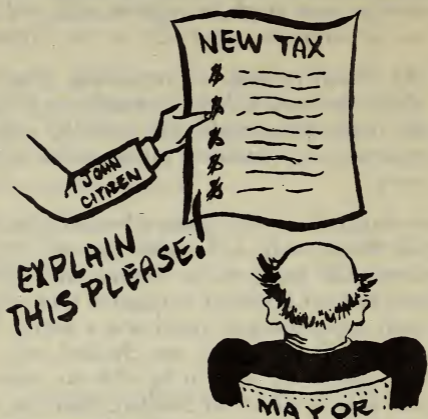
1. You can do much by persuading everyone within your reach to register early and vote at all elections, especially at the Primaries.
2. An effective way of reminding people of the widespread failure, especially on the part of those who benefit the most by our democracy, is to make an investigation of your own.

A young lady in St. Louis who did this said: "In our block only 5 families out of 20 had registered. Of these 5, it turned out that 2 husbands had not bothered to register. One woman who both registered and voted was a native born Russian. Of all the people we checked only one said how proud she was to be able to vote.—A little old lady, a native of Sweden, who was very enthusiastic but a little shy and embarrassed about going to the polls because she didn't see too well. Of those that turned up on election day, a good percentage were foreign-born. One outstanding family, all Greeks, arrived together with their sons and daughters-in-law."

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 9

CITY GOVERNMENT DEPENDS ON YOU



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

A few years ago a friend met the mayor of New York one Friday night in Madison Square Garden. Then, as now, Friday night was a "fight night" at the Garden.

"What kind of a job is it to be Mayor of New York?" he asked him.

"Well, it's something like the championship bout we're going to see," was the Mayor's reply. "A boxer steps into the ring at the Garden trained as finely as experienced hands can make him. All through his training he has had the good counsel and wise advice of old-timers in the ring who know every angle of the game.

"If he gets into trouble during the bout, he has skilled seconds who know how to get him out. Their keen eyes are alert for any sign of weakness in his opponent. Through long experience they know how to take advantage of an opponent's weakness.

"Now — with all this sound preparation — he comes in here to fight a main bout at ten o'clock on a Friday night. The referee calls both boxers to the center of the ring and makes sure that they understand the rules. Then both boxers go back to their own corners. Then they ring a little bell for the start of the first round. And — when that little bell rings — *you are on your own!* That's the kind of a job it is to be Mayor of New York."

The comparison was apt. A boxer's seconds and handlers could be compared to the political advisers around a candidate. The public—personified by the referee—is there to see that any man gets a square deal if he abides by the rules.

just good housekeeping

Running a city government seems, to the outsider, a complex and mystifying business. The purpose of this session is to remind the average citizen that it is essentially simple, with little mystery about it. Only a few phases of city government can be touched on in this short space, but they may suffice to encourage you to do further investigating of your own.

Any American housewife should have the fundamentals of city administration at her fingertips. If she sweeps her sidewalk; disposes of her garbage; checks her water supply; makes sure of proper schooling for her children; and protects the life and property of her family, she is doing what every city government does. The only difference is that she performs her daily tasks as an individual.

The city does the same things on a much larger scale. City administration is essentially a *house-keeping job*. And there are many skilled housewives who feel justified in believing that they could do a better job of running their cities than the city administration does.

If you are to play an active, intelligent part in local government, whether you live in a small town or a large city, it is important that you first become acquainted with its assets and its liabilities.

the individual can do much

In the final analysis, it is the individual in each case who has to make the decisions and suffer for them if they are wrong; benefit by them if they are right. The individual can do much to control the ultimate decisions of his city's administration.

One city resident concerned about his city's growing indebtedness consulted an expert and learned how to analyze the figures in his city's budget. At that time his city was being run by one of the nation's most notorious politicians. Within a few days the well-prepared citizen went to a budget hearing to ask some pointed questions. When he asked them, the police threw him out.

Not easily discouraged, the same civic worker turned up for the budget hearing the following year. Once more he was evicted, but this time, more gently. In the end, his efforts succeeded. He was elected to a city post where his persistent pursuit of good government made substantial and beneficial changes in his city.

a good barometer

"Taxation for revenue only" is still a sound principle. Sound economists have enumerated the rule that two extremes should be avoided: first, for a city to carry a surplus of income over expenditures which would serve as a soft cushion, or second, to borrow on future generations by floating bonds for present indebtedness. They say every city should operate on a "pay as you go" basis.

Cities should not have surpluses of income over expenditures. Still, they manage to wind up the year with a surplus. How do they do it? Chiefly by underestimating tax receipts. Budget-makers almost never shave down to the last penny. As an individual, you can check last year's tax estimate against the amount actually collected. If you find the "cushion," that will tell you what to do about this year's estimate.

look into this

Items of "miscellaneous expenses" in a city

budget always warrant careful scrutiny. If the expenses are legitimate, there is no reason why they should not be itemized. Another point worth investigating is "transfers from accrued funds." A salary account, for example, may not be fully used in a year because of deaths, retirements or transfers of employees. Many cities take these "accruals" out of the account they were voted for, and use them to pay for new jobs or new services not included in the original budget. On a day's calendar of city business, the "transfer of accruals" item may look harmless. But sometimes it isn't.

still paying

You should also know something about the use of city bonds for major improvements, as against the use of cash on a pay-as-you-go basis. On some New York City bonds issued for a fifty-year term, for instance, each bond dollar has cost the taxpayers \$2.53 — more than two and a half times as much. Still, when your city wants to build a school, the chorus always goes up:

"Let's finance it with a bond issue and reduce the taxes."

To the voters, the bond issue sounds attractive. They figure they won't be around when the due-date arrives, so perhaps their grandchildren will pay it.

New York is still paying on bonds originally issued to build a bridge in Brooklyn. The bridge has long since been demolished and replaced, but the bond payments go on still.

After World War I, New York State issued state bonds to pay a bonus to the veterans of that war. The last of these bonds was retired in 1949, thirty-two years later.

everyone counts

Every city administration has within its ranks thousands of hard-working, good-living employees who do their honest best for the city that employs them. These are the "career employees," the wheel-horses who perform the actual work of running

the city and perform it well. By and large, they are motivated by a love of God and country.

The positions they hold have been gained usually after a lifetime of plugging through one competitive civil service examination after another. As a group they exercise the responsibility for good city administration regardless of the party in political power at the moment.

Many of these individuals have literally devoted a lifetime to the study of city administration. It is not uncommon to find an unsung accountant who can rattle off budget figures for a series of years without hesitation.

A fire captain may invent a new type of hose nozzle useful in fighting stubborn fires underneath wooden piers. A police officer may develop a new time-saving technique in police administration. Even a street sweeper may figure out a better type of broom than the one that has been used for years.

new methods step up efficiency

Cities are the same as any large enterprise. Methods of governing tend to become static as the old-timer teaches the newcomer the same methods that were used in the distant past. It is to your interest, as a citizen and taxpayer, to insist on the most efficient methods possible and to see that the cost of government is cut without cutting the essential services it provides.

That can be done by discarding old techniques in favor of newer methods. If your city keeps its tax records and sends out its tax bills by hand, perhaps it could benefit by installing business machines. Take a good look at the methods your town uses to buy materials. Most purchasing systems are so cumbersome that it costs more to make out purchasing forms and certifications than the article purchased is worth.

Another angle to watch is city specifications so drawn as to exclude all but one favored product. The specifications should read so that a number of products may fit them, and not merely one

that has a political connection. Many cities have found it economical to centralize all their purchasing activities in one purchasing agency which buys for all departments and offices. Dishonest politicians don't like that idea.

test of real loyalty

There are endless possibilities to serve the common good in the field of city government. There is little glamor in most of the jobs and often little thanks or appreciation is shown for the devotion and energy that has been expended over a long period of years in this area of public service. But that is the test of real loyalty to God and country—to carry on despite lack of recognition.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

For this session we recommend that, if you have no other preference, you consider as points of discussion some or all of the suggestions listed below under "*Practical Application.*"

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. Arouse popular interest in municipal affairs.
2. Watch for undemocratic and dishonest election methods.
3. Object to unnecessary centralization of power in any part of the government.
4. Keep an eagle-eye for all forms of graft and corruption.
5. Point out the need for new methods in government and wastefulness of antiquated systems.
6. Study the records of all candidates for office.
7. Keep honesty and public service uppermost in your own mind, and in the minds of all city officials.
8. Pray for the courage always to stand for what is right in civic affairs and to condemn what is wrong.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 10

STATE GOVERNMENT VITALLY AFFECTS YOU



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

Dorothea Lynde Dix gave an excellent example more than a century ago of how one individual can affect the course of state government. As a writer of children's stories and devotional works, she paid a chance visit to a jail in East Cambridge, Mass., at the age of thirty-nine.

She found that the mentally ill were mingling together with felons and minor criminals as was the common practice at the time. The conditions and treatment of the insane so aroused her indignation that she sat down and wrote a strong protest to the Bay State legislature.

"I come," she wrote, "to present the strong claims of suffering humanity. I come as the advocate of helpless, forgotten, insane and idiotic men and women, of beings wretched in our prisons and more wretched in our almshouses. I proceed, gentlemen, briefly to call your attention to the state of insane persons confined in this Commonwealth in cages, closets, cellars, stalls, pens: chained, naked, beaten with rods and lashed into obedience."

Her plea struck the conscience of the legislature and people. Massachusetts soon enlarged its State Hospitals for the Insane. But Miss Dix was not content. She visited eighteen other states to make

a similar appeal. Eight states responded and established similar hospitals and others, several of which, like Massachusetts already had mental hospital systems previously, humanized their methods of treatment.

the state and you

Many of us know in a general way that the state stands between local and national government. But consider how the state figures in *your* life.

If you drive a car, it is registered by the state, your driving license is issued by the state, and the major highway you drive over has been built by the state.

The state has many functions in our everyday affairs. Its main tasks are education, highways and welfare, although there are many other spheres of its activity.

As a parent, some duties to your children are prescribed by the state. Your children may go to schools constructed partly by state aid and study under teachers whose qualifications are set by the state. To advance and graduate, your children must meet certain minimum educational requirements established by the state.

The state will not permit you to work in an unhealthy or poorly constructed building, because it sets standards for factory and office building construction.

Through its penal code the state decides what is law-abiding conduct and what is criminal. In civil law the state protects your rights in its state courts.

in many ways

When you die, the state regulates what disposition will be made of your property. It will tax you for state purposes, and rebate part of the yield to your local community for local improvements.

If you like to hunt or fish, you carry a state license in most states.

The state licenses your doctor, your dentist and your nurse.

Through its state police or highway patrol your state controls traffic on major roads and enforces law and order in smaller communities. With its inspection services it safeguards public health.

If you are a farmer, you often get a helping hand from your state agricultural service.

Felons are incarcerated in state prisons. Thousands of patients are cared for in state hospitals.

By its welfare program the state looks after the unemployed, the aged, the indigent, and dependent children.

Through its regulation of public utilities such as electric and gas companies, and railroads operating entirely within one state, the state government exercises supervision over your daily life.

In the field of recreation your state may provide state parks, beaches, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

All these functions follow the U. S. Constitution and its guarantees of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Like other branches of government, states assume the duty of maintaining public order; providing for the security of their inhabitants; insuring equal rights among residents in the political, social and economic fields; and offering each citizen the opportunity to develop his maximum usefulness.

guardians of our liberties

In his first inaugural address, Thomas Jefferson described the relation of state and federal government in these words:

"The support of the state governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns and surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies; the preservation of the general (i.e. national) government in its constitutional vigor as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad—these (are among the principles that) form the bright con-

stellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation."

dependent on the states

Even our national affairs depend to a large degree on what the states do. A student of government history from Rhode Island told us not long ago that the best authorities tend to recognize our state governments as "training schools" for national government. He pointed out that:

- 1) two-thirds of our Presidents have served in state legislatures;
- 2) the majority of our national leaders received their political start and experience in state government;
- 3) state governments frequently serve as proving grounds for testing federal acts or laws.

Laws that have been successful among many states have a good chance of being enacted on the federal level. Laws that fail among many states will in all probability never reach Congress. From the particular experience of the states in legislation the Congress is able to write on a broader basis successful national legislation.

From all this it is obvious that the kind of national government we get depends to a large extent on the quality of state government.

the part you can play

State government involves large numbers of men and vast sums of money. In 1949, state and local government employees numbered slightly more than 4,000,000 and their monthly payroll exceeded \$900 million. For every 37.5 inhabitants we have one state or local employee. The more you know about this, the better for everybody.

In 1890, state and local government revenue amounted to only \$562 million annually. The

latest figures show that it has grown to over \$17 billion each year, with every prospect of increase as the population grows and production increases.

With these tremendous financial resources, state government also offers the individual a wide choice of employment. Because of the diversity of its activities, the state has jobs such as game wardens, hospital dieticians and therapists; in teaching, library work, and a wide variety of jobs in law enforcement and public welfare. There is scarcely an activity maintained by private enterprise which is not duplicated by your state government.

In recent years a higher caliber of employee has been flowing into state service. Many state governments offer high-level courses in public administration to qualify individuals for more responsible jobs.

State government offers a healthy, challenging climate for the employee with new ideas.

the rest is up to you

What is presented here about state government is only a small portion of what you ought to know even for a working knowledge. It would be well to do further reading and investigating on your own. The more you know about the vital role that state government plays in both local and national life, the more incentive you will have to participate in keeping it sound and strong.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

Here are a few questions that you may find helpful to get your discussion under way, if you do not have any particular ones of your own to propose.

1. What do you think would happen if state government became so weak that it had to depend entirely upon one central government?

2. In your opinion how far should the state go in providing health and welfare services for the citizens? *How far is too far?*
3. Name several ways in which the average citizen can take a more personal interest in the running of his state government.

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. One effective way of stimulating people to become better acquainted with the functioning of state government is to ask them in a friendly way to name their state senator or state assemblyman. A gentle reminder such as this often spurs a person to investigate further.
2. Look into some project that is sponsored and supported by the state. You might render a real service by checking to see how great the need is for it, how efficiently it is being carried out, or how it can be improved. As a taxpayer you are paying part of the bill and not only have a right but an obligation to do this. Get others to take a similar interest.

V. CLOSING PRAYER



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

A girl, just out of college, went after a job with the federal government in Washington with such dogged determination that she wouldn't take no for an answer—not even when they told her the only job open was that of messenger.

She became a messenger—to the bewilderment of her friends and even of the people to whom she delivered messages. Finally, somebody asked her:

“What do you think you're proving?”

“I'm proving,” the girl laughed, “that I can deliver messages faster than any girl in Washington!”

And what did that prove? Nothing much until another girl messenger was found to have deliberately mislaid an important document on China.

The prompt delivery of this document would have been of real benefit to our government. Its delay would help no one in the world — except the Chinese Communists!

This girl's sense of responsibility toward her national government which moved her to leave her own locality and take a government job inferior to many she could find at home is a forceful reminder to all of us of the true sense of loyalty we should have toward our country.

To us, as to her, it should be a precious trust that every citizen should strive to safeguard and preserve by personal participation in it.

everybody's job

Our national government has grown in size and complexity since its first days. Today it is the most gigantic human enterprise on the face of the earth.

Our national government is one of the best in the whole history of government. Its Constitution, drafted in 1787, is still a model.

The job of protecting our rights, and developing our material blessings is a great undertaking and a sacred trust. It is everybody's job. We believe in self government, and it is our task to select our representatives and also to take an active part in the workings of our national government.

The importance our national government has assumed both in our country and among the countries of the world makes it imperative that the best qualified citizens take an interest in running it. It has been the target of Communists and subversives and is the prey of secularists who have forgotten our godly beginnings.

The condition of our national government will determine to a large extent the well being and security of our state and local governments on the one hand, and of international government on the other.

a world to win

One of the chief obstacles to the problem of manning our national government with good

citizens is the single fact that, unlike the case of local and state administrations, a usual requirement is changing one's residence to Washington, D. C. or overseas. This is an act that is not likely to be undertaken unless one is strongly convinced of the high importance of the job to be done in national government.

A young man who works for a brokerage concern in New York told us a story concerning himself which illustrates in glaring detail one of the major causes of our trouble in America today: namely, lack of personal interest in our own government.

While he was a senior at college this young man once applied—in what he described as a “moment of idealism”—for a job in the State Department. Several months later, however, when the State Department phoned to inform him that he had been accepted for a position overseas immediately after graduation, he got “cold feet” and decided to back out. As he put it: “The thought of leaving New York to go to Europe or South America or the Far East scared me to death.” He began to make excuses as to why he couldn't accept the offer.

A short time ago we met him on the street. His opening words were an expression of regret for passing up the opportunity to serve his country.

“Now I'll probably be going into the army to fight in Korea or some place else. If only I and a lot of fellows like me had made a small sacrifice a few years ago and gone into government, we might have been able to do more than a little to prevent the mess we are now in”.

causes for concern

Recent investigations of the Senate Crime Committee and the House Investigating Committee which have uncovered evidences of Communism in our State Department and both corruption and inefficiency in high places has served to draw the attention of the public to the task before us; it

as caused a national anxiety. This may help to remedy the problem but it should not veil from us that the problem is ever recurring and not just one in time of emergency.

Many Americans are fearful that decisions are now being made and trends developing in government that may fatally jeopardize the future of our nation. They are very much afraid that our country is being sold short by those in high places in government who, even though not malicious, may be making tragic mistakes from which we may never recover.

It is up to you, as a citizen and stockholder in America, to look into this and separate the wheat from the chaff. It is not only your business. It is our holy duty to make sure that even in cases of doubt the best interests of all are safe-guarded.

The problem, as we constantly stress, is much larger than Communism. The one thing about Communists, however, is that they can be depended upon to do all in their power to cloud the issues, spread defeatism, confuse objectives, and weaken us in every way possible, so that all that remains for them is to step in and take over when the collapse they expect takes place.

the root of our trouble

One Washington newspaper, commenting on Senator Fulbright's plan to form a Commission to draw forth the meaning from the mass of data" of the recent investigations, wrote:

"The corruption of our sense of values has not come overnight. The process has been a long and cynical one. This disintegration of public morality has been accompanied by impairment of our private sense of values. One need only glance at the degradation of old standards of family life, at the futile pursuit of material things in the name of happiness to see that this is so.

"These conditions are not going to be remedied by any report. The cure must be generated in the

hearts and consciences of men. Those in public life can do much by setting a worthy example, which many of them have not been doing. But in the last analysis the plain citizen must be his own healer. There will be real improvement in our public standards of morality when he decides he wants improvement and not before."

When will the average citizen decide? Time is running out.

a glimpse at federal government

Every citizen should have at least a rudimentary knowledge of how our national government is built. For most people the federal government is something vague and far away. Except for the President and a few better known Senators and Representatives, very little is known about the general structure of department and positions of federal government at Washington and elsewhere.

departments and agencies

In our national government there are 52 agencies and 9 regulatory commissions. It is not possible to go into each of them here. Most civics books give all the necessary detail. We aim at giving merely a glimpse with a suggestion on the more important spots.

All jobs in national government are important in one way or another, and a loyal and competent personnel is essential to them. Of particular concern, and of greater interest to one with a Christopher purpose, however, are certain sections of national government which are more closely concerned with the security and well-being of all our citizens.

state department

Those who aim at taking the world could find no better spot to accomplish this objective than the State Department. It leads all others in importance.

It has 22,000 employees, with 8,000 in Washington.

The Foreign Service branch of the State Department offers wonderful opportunities from higher to lesser posts in the overseas area.

Special recruiting and training departments of the State Department have been launched to encourage and train young students to seek leadership in State Department work. Within it there is a great variety of key spots going from policy making, through research and information to personnel and communications work.

the department of justice

The chief purpose of this department is to provide the means of enforcing federal laws, to interpret them and provide legal counsel. The Supreme Court, the F.B.I. and the Attorney General's office are in this department.

the department of labor

The enforcement and administration of laws affecting the welfare of wage earners falls to this department. Under the Secretary and his staff there are several units or Bureaus for research, library work and personnel.

the department of the interior

This department is responsible for the major programs in land, water and mineral resources. There are many positions for Christopher-minded persons in its different Staffs, Divisions, and administrative posts.

The Federal Security agency, the National Military Establishment, the Federal Mediation Services, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Voice of America, the Civil Service Commission are a few more vital spots in the network of national government positions.

All aim at one thing: the efficient and honest administration of American laws and traditions.

our sacred trust

Our heritage is a proud one. It was won by hard work and suffering. Our Founding Fathers per-

formed heroic deeds in drafting a Declaration and a Constitution which would guarantee the God-given rights and the welfare of all for untold generations.

The price of preserving this heritage is careful attention to it and an active interest on the part of loyal citizens in their national government.

The election of leaders with integrity and the manning of the 3,000,000 federal posts with the best of our citizenry are the tasks of all if we are to pass it on to future generations.

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

Select your own points for discussion if it is convenient to do so. If not, you may find some value in these few:

1. How much do you know about the structure of your National Government? Explain the function of the legislative, executive and judicial branches.

2. Why do many people think only of what material advantage they can get out of Federal Government and overlook the fact that it is coming out of their own pockets or those of other citizens?

3. A personnel official in the State Department told us: "At no time in the last ten years have enough people even applied for all the rank and file jobs that are open in the State Department. If the best qualified Americans neglect to staff an important division, isn't that an open invitation for the "next best" or even the "worst possible" to take over these vital positions?"

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. Encourage as many people as possible to write their Senators and Representatives respectful, constructive letters. Too often those who do the most

writing are those who are anxious to hurt instead of help the country.

2. Make it your business to encourage at least one person with a Christ-like purpose to dedicate himself to a career in government.

A young lady unable to go into this vital field herself decided to become a "committee of one" and persuade others to do so. Her suggestion to a friend of hers that he go into government drew this negative response, "*Nothing doing! You can't make enough money in government*".

"That isn't the point!" she flashed back. "You're supposed to put in, not only take out. Remember, it's your government as much as it is anybody's. The trouble with you is that you want someone to do the job for you. You want to let 'George' do it. Well, that's the same mistake the Germans made a while back. 'George' certainly did it, but his name was Adolph!"

The young man is now doing a fine job working for the Federal Government.

V. CLOSING PRAYER

SESSION 12
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



I. OPENING PRAYER (All say together - see p. 2)

II. MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION (10 Minutes)

A young musician who plays on radio and television programs was recently summoned for jury duty. The call came at a bad time for him because as a free-lance he had just lined up several lucrative engagements. Practically all of his friends urged him to "get out of" serving. His forthright answer is worth reflection.

"Serving on this jury is probably going to cost me a nice job on a regular television program", the young musician said. "I can pick up some odd

jobs at night, but I still have to be in the courtroom at nine-thirty every morning. The law says each man accused is entitled to a trial by a jury. That's why I don't feel that I should try to be excused. If I were on trial myself, I would want every right the law provides for me."

the price: personal inconvenience

Here is a case that involved personal sacrifice for the sake of upholding the basic principles on which America is founded. Far too many of us have permitted defeatism and a cynical attitude to dull our minds. In some circles it is considered "reactionary" to be loyal, "old-fashioned" to be patriotic, and "quaint" to uphold a decent moral code.

Fortunately for our country, there is still hope for the future because the great majority of Americans still believe in loyalty, patriotism, and decency, however little they may put these virtues into practice.

In our quest for better government, success can be achieved by a relatively few persons. If only a small percentage of Americans would fight for good government, they alone might be sufficient to provide the strength our country needs.

do something

In the Army, infantry platoon leaders are trained according to the pressure they may expect to find on the battlefield. The cardinal rule in a tight situation is:

"Do something."

The Army reasons that some form of "doing" in a constructive way is better than none at all.

It is in the same spirit that we should develop our attitude toward government. We may justifiably have no patience with the "do-nothing" employee or official, but merely complaining accomplishes little if anything. Doing something about it is far more constructive—and hopeful.

What, you may ask, can we do? First of all, we need to renew our faith in God, faith in our-

selves, and faith in others. We need to realize all over again the priceless advantages of American citizenship and the duties and obligations that go with it. As a newspaperman describing the reactions of American soldiers newly-arrived in Korea recently said:

"They weren't here long before they came to the conclusion that our government, with all its defects, is about the best government anyone could have."

All of us are indebted, under God, to our nation. And one of the best ways for each of us to show his gratitude is to play a personal role in strengthening our government now and for the future. There will be great hope for our country if you—and enough like you—take the time and trouble to do this.

you have a mission

The more conscious you are that *you* are important and that you have a mission to perform, the more likely you are to plunge into the mainstream of life instead of withdrawing to the backwaters, there to wait hopelessly for the world to fall on top of you.

You not only have a stake in the future but you can do much to shape it for yourself and for everybody else. In a very real sense, *you can change the world*. For as America goes during the next five or ten years, so probably will go the world.

It is a breathtaking challenge. It is a great time to be alive—to participate, even in the smallest way, in the fashioning of a future that can bring the love and truth of Christ to America and the world—to play a part in helping not only Americans but all mankind for time and eternity.

Now, specifically, what can *you* do for *your* government? You should shoulder the obligations of an individual citizen. What are the duties and obligations of good citizenship? For clarity, we will list them briefly:

1. First and most important, you have a duty to register and vote in elections on all levels from local to national.

2. You have a duty to keep yourself informed on happenings in government so that you may vote intelligently on men and issues.

3. You have a duty to serve on a grand jury or a trial jury if called upon to do so. You should not place your personal convenience above your obligation to uphold the jury system and the principle of a fair and open trial for all persons accused of crime.

4. In wartime you may be called to the colors. You have a duty to serve, since America can draw its armed strength only from its own population.

5. You have a personal obligation to see that all branches of your government — local, state and national — are staffed by the best Americans, whether they are elected, appointed or retained by civil service. Even if you cannot dedicate your own life to public service, you can help others to undertake this important responsibility. Try to work in some capacity in some part of your local, state, or national government at some period of your life. This will do much to give you a sense of belonging.

6. You have a sacred obligation to count your blessings as an American citizen, and a duty to do more than complain and criticize; to act toward correcting what you believe to be evils in government. God will bless your efforts.

for you and others

While government is your business, it is also your privilege to protect and fortify it for the benefit of countless others. Remember, your children and your children's children will benefit (or suffer) by your actions today just as we are still benefiting by the actions of those who founded our country at great personal sacrifice!

Finally, we can think of no simpler or more inspiring note on which to conclude this series of Career Guidance sessions on your government than the oath of loyalty to the United States which each President repeats on the day of his inauguration.

It not only applies to the President but to everyone. Each citizen, for instance, upon taking a trip outside this country is required to take the oath before receiving a passport.

Americans can do two things in relation to this oath. For themselves, they can memorize it and live according to it. For others, they can demand that each office-holder who takes it, must live up to it. Here it is:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation, or purpose of evasion: So help me God."

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III. DISCUSSION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

Questions such as the following are presented to you as mere suggestions for opening the discussion. Points that you think up on your own should have preference as they would probably be more personal and appropriate.

1. What are a few instances showing the tremendous sacrifices of early Americans that made possible the liberty that you enjoy today?
2. What is your obligation to future generations of Americans?
3. To what extent are you participating in the betterment of your government so that the hope of the future may become a reality through your efforts?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION (5 Minutes)

1. Be on the lookout for specific examples of love of God and country shown by individuals in deed and not merely in word. Tell others about them. Call the attention of the newspapers to them.

* Here is such an instance: A Greek immigrant left \$5,000 in savings bonds to the United States Government in gratitude for what this country had done for him. This appreciative donor, Matheos E. Aligizakis, came to this country from Crete about 40 years ago. He earned most of the money operating a candy store in New London, Connecticut, and saved it dollar by dollar.

2. When you hear someone complaining about the way the government is run, ask him this little question: "*What are you doing about it?*"

V. CLOSING PRAYER

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