

Korean Prays in House Caucus Room

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—

The Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the Korean revivalist whose sermons strongly imply that he may be the messiah, held what was billed as a prayer meeting today in a House of Representatives caucus room.

Speaking in Korean, in a counterpoint with his interpreter that sounded almost liturgical, he told the handful of Congressmen who turned up that he had been divinely sent to serve as "an alarm and inspiration to America."

Mr. Moon's theological message had a temporal crux. He said it was "the will of God" that the United States continue to "safeguard Korea." Presumably he meant South Korea, where his Unification Church has maintained cordial relations with the regime of President Park Chung Hee.

A quizzical smile regularly played at the corners of the revivalist's mouth when he paused for his interpreter. The United States was chosen to receive the messiah "in our century," he declared, while Korea was chosen as "the ignition point of God's final dispensation."

'God May Leave'

But Americans are not measuring up to "God's plan for America," he said. "I know that if America continues along the present road of apathy and complacency, God may leave America."

There were no prayers at the prayer meeting. Aside from Mr. Moon's discourse, there was only an introduction by Representative Richard H. Ichord, chairman of the House Internal Security Committee, who broadly compared the millionaire clergyman to Moses, John the Baptist and Jesus. Mr. Moon, like all great religious leaders, has had to confront

jealousy and misunderstanding, the Missouri Democrat said.

The Unification Church, which has worldwide assets estimated at more than \$15 million, has amassed considerable property in the United States in the last few years, including a 22-acre estate in Tarrytown, N.Y., where Mr. Moon spends most of his time. It claims 30,000 American adherents but none as yet among the members of Congress.

14-Showed Up

"We're always hopeful," said Neil A. Salonen, the church's national president. Forty-two congressmen, Mr. Salonen said, had indicated that they would show up for this morning's meeting and a buffet breakfast that preceded it. By this afternoon, a spokesman for the church could furnish the names of only 14 who had put in an appearance.

Absent from the list was Speaker of the House Carl Albert, whose hospitality to a follower of Mr. Moon was the subject of a Jack Anderson column last week.

The Unification Church keeps 16 of its members in what Mr. Salonen described as "a ministry" on Capitol Hill. Susan Bergman, who has been calling on Mr. Albert, said in an interview she and her colleagues were

just there to lend "spiritual support."

Miss Bergman said she was the daughter of a Westbury, L. I. dentist and a graduate of Cornell University. She has been calling on the Speaker for the last year, she said, usually several times a week.

"I like to bring him flowers for his desk," she said. "All different kinds, lilies and roses. If he's doing work he just works on and I just kind of sit there and meditate." Her visits, she said, last a half hour or sometimes an hour, depending on Mr. Albert's schedule.

She and the Speaker discuss "universal questions," she said, but he has evinced little interest so far in Mr. Moon's teachings. Miss Bergman said she doubted that he read the tracts she took to him.

Moments after Mr. Moon began his speech Miss Bergman excused herself and slipped out of the caucus room. A half hour later she returned with a Congressman in tow, Representative James L. Howard, a New Jersey Democrat. They arrived in time to hear Mr. Moon promise that "prosperity will be eternal" in the United States if Americans embrace a new spiritual movement.

"That movement is none other than the Unification Church movement," he said.