

'Parson' Walker's Message of Doom

By Bob Strebigh

FORMER Major General Edwin A. Walker came to the Bay Area last week to admit his country's defeat by the enemy and to call surviving patriots to a kind of religious war.

The general's thesis was that America has been captured by the Communists, who are now merely mopping up pockets of resistance and consolidating their control of a supine nation.

No institution has escaped enemy seizure, according to Walker. The Presidency, the Senate, the Supreme Court, the military establishment, the churches, the schools and the press. All ... all are lost.

This message was delivered by him in San Jose's civic auditorium, at Stanford University, the University of California and Scottish Rite auditorium here.

General Walker's visit to the Bay Area was made possible by the San Francisco Forum of American Opinion, according to forum chairman Bob Gill. The 34-year-old Gill is also a member of the John Birch Society and temporary chairman of the organization committee of the San Francisco Citizens' Council.

Organizational meetings of Citizens' Councils were held last week — coincidentally with General Walker's arrival — in Berkeley and San Francisco.

Torchbearers

The news of their country's conquest — if news to them it was — was received with cheers and applause by some 600 men, women and children in San Jose. For an evident glee pervaded this audience, an apparent joy in our national destruction. From old embers, there had come a revival; a new kind of hell-fire was flaming, in which the faithful could watch the unrighteous burn.

The anthropomorphic fallen angel — whose forked tail, horns and cloven hooves once chilled the faithful to the marrow — had been supplanted by an amorphous fountain of evil: communism.

And so the 600 came to civic auditorium to savor amid proper shivers of horror and satisfaction the wedding of politics and "that old-time religion."

For the occasion, the Christian Laymen of Santa



GENERAL WALKER

Clara County — sponsors of the event — had decked the hall appropriately.

Most prominent among the displays in the lobby was a huge poster depicting a saddened but hopeful 40-story Christ knocking patiently on the wall of the 39-story United Nations building. The latter — and, by implication, godless — institution was to be Walker's main target that evening.

Almost as prominent was a billboard advertising the specialty of William E. Opie, one of the evening's headliners. Opie identified himself as a national director of the Torchbearers for Christ, from Tulsa, Okla., heart of the Bible Belt.

At the door to the auditorium, early arrivals were being welcomed by the Christian Laymen's chairman, Dr. G. B. Simpson, who is also a director of the San Jose chapter of the

Citizens' Council of Jackson, Miss.

They entered in small clusters of two or more — no loners evident among them — a reserved, quiet and dignified group, neatly dressed in every shade of gray. Many seemed to find friends among the gathering audience, with whom they exchanged hushed greetings or hesitant waves across the lobby.

Perhaps half wore "Goldwater for President" badges. One woman explained to another with forthright simplicity, "I forgot mine," and was rewarded with a wintry smile.

Before entering the great hall, they browsed among the tracts, pamphlets and paperback books, all of the far right and all free for the taking.

Near the book-laden tables, Christian layman Simpson patiently explained to a man who may have missed the message: "A vote for Johnson is a vote for communism."

American Gothic

The simple, quiet dignity of the crowd endowed the barren chamber's movable chairs with the majesty of pews. A Grant Wood might have relished the American Gothic character of the assemblage as it waited patiently for its sermon on the virtue of hate and fear of those with whom one differs.

Pinned to the backdrop of the auditorium stage was a huge 50-star American flag, flanked by two smaller ensigns. One was the American flag of 1777, a circlet of stars brightening its field of blue. The other was a white banner, the blue square in its upper left corner occupied by a red cross. This, Simpson's wife said, is "the Christian flag."

"I'm not surprised if you don't recognize the Constitutional flag," Mrs. Simpson said, "but I should think anyone would know

the Christian flag."

Beside the lectern at stage front-and-center, languished a fading bouquet of red, white and blue flowers.

Rebel Yells

Then, suddenly, there was a stirring of interest. Opie strode on stage with a catlike grace, unexpected but not uncommon to portly men.

In a voice that filled the huge room with sound, he led the crowd in "God Bless America."

After that warmup, he told of his trips behind the Iron Curtain and of crying as he knelt and prayed with 42 Christians underground in East Berlin where they were burrowing a 450-foot tunnel to freedom. For his audience in San Jose, he sang the verses he had shared with the diggers: "Prayer is the key to heaven, and faith unlocks the door."

In a harsh accent as abrasive as broken glass, Opie told his audience, "I look purty, but I'm not a sissy. And, you know, I cried."

As the sympathetic titers died away, Opie cried, "Thank God, for a free America."

Opie then pointed to the rear of the auditorium and said: "Now a big welcome for General Walker."

The audience's reserve, quiet and dignity fell apart as the general strode through the room, tall and ramrod straight. In one corner, a boy waved the Confederate Stars and Bars and the rebel yell reverberated to the roof top.

As soon as the crowd had settled itself, the general briefly disparaged attempts to unify the armed forces on the ground that "in any enterprise there is absolute necessity for competition."

He continued: "People are hard to amalgamate and integrate in many areas, and it doesn't matter if they are black or white."

From that springboard, Walker dived into the heart of the matter: what should be done with anyone who disagrees with "our Bible, our form of government, our doctrine."

Said Walker, "I think our Christian faith should be shoved right down their throats."

Again, the shouts, applause and rebel yells. A similar reception greeted other opinions advanced by the dark-browed general speaking in a strong voice tremulous with passion:



On the churches that have adopted liberal causes: "They are pulling the rug out from under 50 to 100 years of missionary work."

On United States restraint in the exercise of its military and nuclear muscle: "You've been cheated of \$50 billion — that's the defense budget — if there's no use for it."

On the American press: "It's the most radical press I've seen. I've no respect for it."

Communist Confusion

On the Warren Report: "Ridiculous, a sham and an insult to the American intelligence."

"Americans," Walker said, "don't know any more about the assassination than about the (political) demise of Khrushchev." The Soviet leader's demotion, he said, "was timed for the deliberate purpose of having the American people not know where they stand."

This confusion, Walker intimated, was calculated by the Communists to favor election of the incumbent administration in Washington.

In a change of mood, Walker drew general laughter when he called the youth in Dallas who spat on Adlai Stevenson "a patriotic, youthful fellow."

But he drew only titters

when he told the crowd that if spit had been used instead of bullets, "Kennedy wouldn't be dead." And the general confided to his audience: "I don't think Lyndon Johnson is running this country."

He said, "The conspiracy started right in Congress when they signed the United Nations Charter on July 28, 1945."

This surrender to a godless organization marked the beginning of the end, he told his appreciative audience. "The Christian faith is not even mentioned in the United Nations," he cried. "It's a building with no reference to Christ."

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights was described as the principle instrument for subverting America. "Member States must legislate to fulfill the UN's Bill of Human Rights, and that means you will integrate," Walker said.

Everywhere — Isms

To this, Walker attributed the use of Federal troops under his command in Little Rock, Arkansas, during the school integration crisis there in 1957. "Federal troops are being trained for use against the American people," he declared.

"Don't be misled by books like 'Dr. Strange-love' and 'Seven Days In May,'" Walker said. "You're not going to have a military takeover. What you're getting is a takeover of the military right under (Defense Secretary) McNamara's eyes."

Throughout his long address, Walker referred to "isms everywhere," of "isms so bad in Congress." "This country," he said, "is penetrated by an ism, fed and supported by an ism."

"There are so many Oswalds on the street corners of America that they don't have to go to Minsk for two years of training," he said.

When he ended his address with an appeal for "a change on November 3rd," he received a final ovation.

The crowd filed out to chat for a while in the auditorium about what one man called "the general's inspiring talk." Then once more in groups of two or more they melted away into the night.

The general had already gone . . . gone to carry his message of doom to the political Sodoms and Gomorrah of his country.