

no. 10: 1-5



SUBJECT: Death in Detroit

[County the cause of death  
of consumers]

D 475

(GP)

## Sound-Off

*Houston Post  
Su. Aug 22, 75*

# Betty F. fallout keeps on falling

... President's wives (Sound-Off Aug. 14, 15, 19, 20) ... should be seen and not heard.

**Bruce Branick**

567 Waco St., Conroe

### • He for one

How dare the editorial writer ("A loaded question," Post Aug. 15) make such assumptions. I for one wrote CBS News and I'll bet hundreds more did, deploring the bad taste of the question. It irritates the devil out of me for someone to assume they are speaking for everyone when in fact they are only expressing their own opinion. I frequently find such statements in Sound-Off as "most of us," "all of us," "We Christians," etc.

The editorial writer was certainly right. It was a loaded question. He might as well as asked Mrs. Ford (whom I do NOT admire), "Have you quit beating Gerald with a whip every night?" ...

**K. M. Bennett**

5109 Patrick Henry, Bellaire

You deplore expressions such as "most of us" but you say you bet hundreds more did just what you did.

The editorial writer had no way to know about your letter to CBS.

The editorial writer, however, could have read this sentence in Connie Koby's letter, which appeared in Sound-Off the day before the editorial appeared: "... In my opinion, the questions put to Mrs. Ford were of an extremely personal nature and did not require the courtesy of an answer at all."—Editor.

### • Mere fable

Thank God for Dr. Criswell and his courage to speak against the immoral attitudes of this country's first lady.

The Ten Commandments have become a mere Bible fable to many in our country ... especially the younger generation. Each feels he has a right to do his "thing." I remember hearing Bishop Sheen say, "It's time we stopped doing our thing and start doing God's thing."

I would hope that more ... would take a lesson from Dr. Criswell and begin to return to



**Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor,  
First Baptist Church, Dallas**

God's law and the fact that there truly is such a thing as sin.

**Mrs. Kevin Barry**

13610 Indian Creek



FELIX R. MCKNIGHT

*Herald  
8-13*

# The First Lady

BETTY FORD, free soul, might consider having a closed door chat with Mrs. Gerald R. Ford, wife of the President of the United States.

Or, if that doesn't work out, sit down with son Michael, the White House theological student, and talk things over.

No one wants to inhibit the First Lady but if she elects to go on public display and express her views on premarital sex and experimental marijuana smoking, she must consider the impacts.

NOT THE political impact on her husband's future, but the impact on a young generation which might seize her remarks: indulge in a little free love, try pot for kicks and defend, rightly or wrongly, with "Mrs. Ford doesn't think it is all that bad."

Which, again rightly or wrongly, is the impression she left on the Sunday night soul-baring CBS show, "Sixty Minutes."

Now, we will take our humps along with her early twentyish son who wants to be a minister, Michael, and admit to being a bit old fashioned. That was Michael's comment after hearing his mother answer the hypothetical interview question: What would she think if 18-year-old daughter Susan came to her and said, "Mother, I'm having an affair."

"Well, I wouldn't be surprised," said Mrs. Ford while Susan watched the show. "I think she's a perfectly normal human being like all young girls. If she wanted to continue—and I

would certainly counsel and advise her—and I'd want to know pretty much about the young man she was having an affair with; whether it was a worthwhile encounter or whether it was going to be one of those . . . she's pretty young to start affairs."

FURTHER ASKED, in light of Susan's background of reacting, if it would cause Mrs. Ford surprise, she replied:

"No. I think there's a complete freedom among the young people now. And, in some cases, I'm not so sure that, perhaps, there would be less divorce."

On the question of drugs—whether as a parent she had ever worried about her children being involved with narcotics, Mrs. Ford replied that she had not. She added, in response to the question whether she would have tried marijuana while growing up:

"Oh, I'm sure I probably would when growing up at that age. I probably would have been interested in seeing what the effect . . . I never would have gone into it as a habit or anything like that. It's the type of thing that the young people have to experience, like your first beer or your first cigarette, something like that."

MRS FORD'S uncluttered candor is refreshing to a point, but the answers she gave to CBS's needling Morley Safer left her open to misinterpretation and misunderstanding. Telephone calls from disturbed parents substantiate that observation.

Someone else could have said the

same lines and come off with nothing more than a lost item somewhere in the newspaper. But the wife of a President carries a heavier responsibility.

Certainly Mrs. Ford does not condone any set of circumstances that would cause moral deterioration in her daughter Susan, or anyone else's child. But, the unrehearsed give-and-take of the television interview left the First Lady bogged in some treacherous holes with many American parents.

THE LADY who had most Americans admiring her personal courage in recovery from cancer surgery and for openly speaking to the issues, now should come back in clarifying comment to repair some of the sagging bridges left in the television interview.

Some of her words came as shafts of disappointment to troubled parents who know the torture of seeing their own 16-year-old graduate from pot to LSD to pregnancy and, finally, confinement in an institution as nothing more than a broken heap.

To them, all of this is a little more than the blandness of "that first beer or cigarette." Maybe the "complete freedom of young people now" needs further study, rather than uncontested acceptance.

Most of the parents who contacted this desk after Mrs. Ford's television interview seemed to think so.

*(Felix R. McKnight is vice chairman of the Times Herald.)*

Tuesday, 8-12-75

W. A. Criswell:

## Fire, Brimstone and Detente

Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of Dallas' gargantuan First Baptist Church, does not very often preach politics, but when he does—zowie! Criswell last Sunday took Soviet-American detente apart joint by joint and barbecued it. The odor still lingers.

The Soviet Union, he said, is like the Assyrian empire of Biblical times—"ruthless, merciless, cruel." Why then are we appeasing it? The reason "lies in the left-wingers . . . who are eager to support a government that more

and more regiments the people and grasps the reins of industry."

Criswell raised a supremely pertinent point: What are we getting out of detente? The Kremlin promises to give its people a few "basic human rights," like receiving foreign visitors. In return, the American president declines to invite Alexander Solzhenitsyn to the White House "because we are afraid of offending Russia."

"Bow your head," enjoined Criswell, "and pray for God's world."

Amen, Brother.

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

p. 2A, Tuesday  
8-12-75

## Criswell Blasts Mrs. Ford

By HELEN PARMLEY  
Kelliston Editor of The News

Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church was "amazed and shocked by the outlook on premarital relations expressed by Betty Ford on national television Monday night."

"That's gutter type mentality," said Dr. Criswell concerning Mrs. Ford's suggestion that in some cases, premarital relations might lower divorce rates.

"That's animal thinking," the world renowned preacher told The News. "You know animals have no morals. They are promiscuous."

"To say that in general premarital relations might lower the divorce rate is evil and hateful."

Mrs. Ford, in a taped interview on CBS' "60 Minutes," told correspondent Morley Safer she "wouldn't be surprised if her daughter Susan announced she was having an affair."

She said she would "counsel and advise her on the subject."

"Bringing in her daughter was unthinkable," said Dr. Criswell.

"Even if we know that premarital relations goes on," said Dr. Criswell, "I couldn't believe the First Lady of our own land would talk like that."

"She should be working to elevate the moral and spiritual life of our people."

When Dr. Criswell heard Mrs. Ford also told Safer she has a great religious faith and prays nightly, the preacher said, "I cannot understand how anyone could get on their knees and talk to the Lord Jesus and say things like she said."

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, approaching that in the teachings of The Lord."

"What she said is patently, plainly and emphatically against anything The Lord ever said or taught."

# Pastor Blasts Leftists

By HELEN PARMLEY

A Baptist pastor here Sunday blamed "pinko" left-wingers for the expansion and acceptance of the "ruthless, merciless, atheistic Red Russian empire."

"The left-wingers, the socialists, and the welfare-stateers are in all the governments of the world, and wherever they are, they are soft toward Communism and easy on Russia," said Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church.

An estimated 6,000 persons attended two worship services at the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention to hear the 66-year-old preacher speak on "Death in Detente, or The Curse of Communism."

Unable to restrain their agreement with his charges, they burst into applause when the fundamentalist preacher pointed to "Senator Halbright of Arkansas" as one of the "left-wingers" in the United States government.

"He and other congressmen and senators who are exactly like him . . . have weakened the power of America," charged Dr. Criswell.

ONE OF THE MOST influential voices in the 125-member million denomination, Dr. Criswell recently returned to Dallas from a trip around the world and, in a break from his traditional style of Bible oratory, he reported to his 18,000-member congregation about the spread of Communist influence.

Using the scriptural text of Isaiah, Chapter 10, he compared the oppressiveness of the Assyrian Empire to that of modern-day Russia.

"In the ancient days," he said, "the ruthless, merciless, cruel empire held a whole civilized world in an iron hand. Four times Assyria overran Judah. She destroyed forever the northern kingdom of Israel and was

a venerable ogre to the Jews.

"But in our modern world, here is an empire far greater, more brutal, more ruthless, more merciless. And it is appeased and accepted by the modern nations of the world.

"All other modern colonial empires have been liquidated. Four times, colonies of the Communist empire have rebelled, and four times they have been crushed. They are now occupied by Russian military, lest they rebel again."

DR. CRISWELL said God may allow the continued expansion and influence of Red Russia as "a scourge to the decline of Christian faith in the free and Western world. Only God knows that.

"But I understand the reason for the acceptance of the Russian empire. It lies in the left-wingers . . . who are eager to support a government that more and more regiments the people and grasps the reins of industry.

"The only thing the liberal is against is the conservative who believes in work, paying your debts and living within your budget."

Detente with Russia, said the pastor, is an agreement between nations that allows the borders of Russia to expand to the heartlands of Central Europe.

"AND WHAT DO we get out of it?" he asked. "We may have the privilege, under certain circumstances, of visitation, or, they say, of allowing a correspondent from the other side of the world to come and look at us.

"These are basic human rights.

"Why should we be afraid of Russia?" asked the pastor. "It cannot support itself; it cannot feed itself. We give them our power of technological achievement. We sustain and subsidize their failures. Without us,

they would not exist."

Critical of the recent White House "snub" of author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the preacher said, "It was openly published that this man who believes in God was not invited to the White House because we are afraid of offending Russia.

"This is detente."

DR. CRISWELL said that throughout Europe newspapers carried pictures of President Ford as he fell from the plane during a stopover there on his way to Helsinki.

"As I looked at him, grasping and groping for a

way to stand," said the pastor, "I thought, this is a picture and a parable of the great and mighty glory of America, down, grasping and groping for a way to stand up."

His voice breaking, the fiery preacher said, "For our basic human rights, we say we concede to the Russian government and give away forever the peoples that live in the small Middle-eastern world.

"This is detente.

"The Red menace spreads and spreads, India, Portugal, Africa.

"Bow your head and pray for God's world."

The Dallas Morning News

Monday, 8-11-75

# Criswell blasts detente

## 'Left-wingers' blamed for U.S. setbacks

By DOUG CULBERTSON  
Staff Writer

The Communist "empire" is spreading and liberals are largely responsible for its growth, says Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of Dallas First Baptist Church.

Speaking on "Death and Detente" in a Sunday morning sermon before an overflow congregation of more than 2,800, the Rev. Mr. Criswell said, "The expansion of Red Russia lies with the leftists, the liberals, the pinks and the welfare statists who are soft on communism and easy toward Russia.

"They are eager to support governments that trample the people and grasp the reins of industry," said the Rev. Mr. Criswell in one of his infrequent "political" sermons. He returned recently from a trip to the Far East and Europe.

U.S. Rep. Jim Collins, a Dallas Republican, sat behind the pulpit during the televised service while several hundred church members and visitors either sat in the aisles or stood in the back of the packed sanctuary.

The Rev. Jack Bird, ministry of



Dr. W. A. Criswell . . . warns of communism

media at First Baptist Church, estimated that at least 800 persons were turned away from the 11 a.m. service

and added that the Rev. Mr. Criswell had preached the same sermon to 2,000 in an earlier Sunday worship service.

The fiery silver-haired minister introduced his sermon by reading the tenth chapter of Isaiah, which deals with the destruction of Israel by the Assyrians.

Then, at the outset of his address, the Rev. Mr. Criswell warned, "There is an empire far greater, more brutal and more merciless than Assyria and it is appeased and accepted by the modern nations of the world."

Wearing a white suit with blue vest and a red tie, the 65-year-old minister assailed American diplomatic overtures to Communist countries, including President Ford's recent negotiations in Helsinki, Finland.

The Rev. Mr. Criswell also blasted socialistic policies in Britain under the Labor government, and American grain exports to the Soviet Union.

"We subsidize their failures," he said, referring to Russia's need to import food. "We think we can feed the wolf and finally he'll go away."

The head of the world's largest Southern Baptist church frequently croaked "amens" from his approving listeners and even drew applause after he attributed the fall of South Vietnam to "effists in Congress, especially former Arkansas Sen. J. William Fulbright.

"We have seen our flag hauled down in shame, in disgrace, in ignominy because of the left-wingers, because of Sen. Fulbright and other members in Congress and in the Senate who are exactly like him," he said.

The minister also scorned Ford's initial refusal to meet with Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Russian novelist who has spoken out against detente.

"Our government snubs him," the Rev. Mr. Criswell said. "Why? We will not receive him because we are afraid of offending the Russians.

"We are following what the Kremlin chooses and what those enigmatic convocations decide inside those forbidding walls," he said.

Criswell, a graduate of Baylor University and the Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ken., observed that the British, French, and other colonial empires have been "liquidated," while the Communist world continues to grow.