Editorials

by Agatha Lubbers

1984!!!! I remember my first encounter with the book *Nineteen Eighty-Four.* George Orwell, pseudonym for Eric Blar, invented such terms as "Big Brother," "Newspeak," and "thoughtcrime." The approach of the calendar year A.D. 1984 seemed to many to be more ominous because of the seeming verity of many of the events predicted by Orwell.

A.D. 1984 has arrived. It is not the year of "Big Brother's" creator but it is the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A.D. 1984 is the year of Him Who said, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. To me are given the keys of heaven and hell."

A.D. 1984 is the year of Him Who said, "I come quickly and my reward is with me."

In the hope of His blessed promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us, we wish all our readers a blessed A.D. 1984.

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Christian School Comment published by the Association of Christian Schools International reports in the Volume 14, Number 5, issue that the IRS has dropped racial quota for Christian schools. Many of the new Christian schools have arisen during the last decade following enforced integration in the public schools. Dr. Paul Kienel writes as follows:

> I am pleased to report that the IRS has returned to the more reasonable racial policies of 1977 rather than the racial quota system initiated in 1978. This information was given to ACSI attorney William Ball and me by the U.S. Assistant Attorney General Glenn Archer at his Washington, D.C. office on December 14. This was good news indeed.
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> The ACSI position on racial discrimination has been widely circulated. Administrators of ACSI member schools and colleges must affirm annually that the school or college they represent does not discriminate racially. This is a strong Biblical conviction of ours based on Romans 2:11. We object strongly, however, to a government agency such as the IRS establishing racial quotas for our schools which attempt to racially balance our student bodies, faculty, and boards as previously proposed.
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> Our persistence has paid off. I find personal meetings with high-level government leaders are often more effective than court confrontations.

We are not "out-of-the-woods" with the IRS racial regulations, especially in Mississippi, but the situation has improved dramatically.

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We commented in the fall issue of *Perspectives* about new provisions being proposed for Christian Schools regarding the Social Security Law. In *Christian School Comment,* Volume IV, Number 5, Dr. Paul Kienel writes about the appeal of church and Christian school leaders to U.S. Senate Finance Committee to amend the new Social Security Law. I quote:

> Senator Robert Dole was noticeably surprised when he walked through the door into the packed Senate hearing room on Wednesday, December 14. He was also surprised at the concern and resolve of the Christian community regarding the government's first attempt to reach over the "wall of separation" and *demand* that churches and Christian schools pay social security taxes. Eighty percent of the nation's religious ministries already pay social security. It is a heavy financial burden. But participation is voluntary. A serious separation of church and state problem arises when the government *demands* that the church or Christian school pay the tax. The *demand* implies that the government has authority over the church – that the church or Christian school is subservient to the state.
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> Congressman George Hansen from Idaho testified, "Our insatiable lust for revenue has led us to the point where, given a choice between defending the First Amendment-guaranteed freedom of religion and finding sources of that revenue, we have become blinded to the full implication of going to war with the very groups which form the character of the nation."
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> The outcome of the hearings was positive. It appears certain that Senator Dole and his finance committee will revise the 1983 Social Security Amendment in response to our concerns.

Most of the teachers in the schools which are responsible for the publication of *Perspectives* have for years paid the FICA tax. They have done this in the hope that one day, when the need will arise, they will also be able to receive support through the Social Security Program.

Traditionally Christian schools in the Reformed churches have not resisted the demands of government. School boards have willingly paid FICA taxes. School boards have also attempted to abide by state laws when hiring faculty. Teachers with certification have been hired in preference to those who are not properly certificated.

The principle of Scripture is that we should obey all those who are in authority unless or until they ask us to do that which is contrary to the Word of God. Jesus Himself said, "Give unto Caesar that which is Caesar's." Christians are law-abiding citizens. They obey every commandment of man for the Lord's sake (cf. I Peter 2:13).

The principle of Scripture is confessed for us and by us in our Netherlands Confession, ". . . Moreover, it is the bounden duty of every one, of what state, quality, or condition soever he may be, to subject himself to the magistrates; to pay tribute, . . ." (Art. 36).

The argument of the ACSI is that the FICA tax should be a voluntary tax. One does not receive the benefits, if he does not pay. Nor should one be forced to pay when he sees that this is part of the attempt to take away his religious freedom.

The results of this confrontation will be interesting to observe.

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Chalcedon is a non-profit, tax-exempt foundation, described in the *Newsweek*, February 2, 1981, as the "think tank" of the religious right. I have in my possession the first issue of the *Chalcedon News*, January, 1983, a small informative newsletter concerning the activities of Chalcedon. The newsletter reports the involvement of the men in this foundation in church and state battles. I quote the report.

> As many know, we are active in church and state battles. Dr. R.J. Rushdoony is known as the number one witness on the theological aspects of church and state. He is not paid for his witnessing; Chalcedon contributes his services, and usually, the travel expenses to and from the trial city. In one case recently argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, both Dr. Douglas F. Kelly and William Kellogg provided data to the law firm defending the Christian organization involved in the case.
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> At present, to provide data to lawyers, legislators, pastors, and all concerned Christians, three studies are in progress. Dr. Rushdoony is writing on the theology of the state from a Biblical and historical perspective. Dr. Kelly is collecting data from an historical study of the relationships of church and state. Mr. Kellogg is working on Tudor and Stuart legislation because the courts are now going back to English tyrants for legal precedents. It is claimed that the powers of the kings of England were inherited by the federal government. This would mean that the federal government is the Head of the church (a la Henry VIII), and that the church is wholly under the control of the state. These are serious matters, and only Chalcedon is giving major attention to them. Thus, your support is making possible the defense of Christian freedom in the courtroom, and the preparation of an arsenal of ideas for the furthering of our cause.
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> The Chalcedon Position Papers have been studied and used by lawyers, pastors, educators, and others. In one city recently, a lawyer, in filing a protest with a city planning agency, included a copy of Dr. Douglas F. Kelly's article, "Who makes Churches Tax-Exempt?", from the August, 1982 Chalcedon Report No. 204. ■