

The Apr75 A.D. UCC edition has this letter of Bill Webber but--  
though I too am UCC--not this letter of Willis, which was in the  
UP edition....oh, well....

### Frankly Shocked

Two years ago the United States finally signed an agreement designed to bring peace to Southeast Asia. Our prisoners of war came home, our fighting troops were withdrawn. But peace did not come in South Vietnam. To our nation's continuing dishonor, we have fueled the Thieu military forces and sustained his corrupt and repressive government.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Paris accords I spent two weeks in Saigon. . . . In long conversations with the American press . . . I was frankly shocked to discover that they were of one mind in affirming that nearly all the cease-fire violations they had been able to assess were initiated by the Thieu forces.

Thus the current attack by the United States Government on the supposed violations of the cease-fire by the North Vietnamese sounds like an obvious and tragic effort to reverse the downward trend of our arms and supplies to Thieu and once again escalate our participation in the destruction. . . .

Those who seek peace can only hope that our new Congress will pay no heed to the foolish demand that we increase aid to Thieu. Why cannot we at last confess the tragedy of our long, terrible years in Vietnam and begin on a path to genuine peace and reconstruction?

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### No Laissez Faire Bible

Martin Marty, a highly gifted theologian, is irresponsible in using as his only sanction against "forcing your kids to go to church" ["Don't Force Your Kids to Go to Church," January A.D.] the projection that if you force them now they won't go later, and anyway God is *laissez faire* with us.

What an odd book to pick to support *laissez faire* treatment of children--the Bible, with its ethic of obedience to a revelation of a will imposed on parent and to be imposed on child!

The issue is not force, but place. God places us in Eden but does not force us to accept his will; rather the opposite: He puts the apple within our reach. Parents place child in crib, in bed, at table, in church, in school--with only secondary consideration for the child's "I don't wanna." The alternative is parents worrying God about children's future.

Furthermore, as to manipulating the child-become-adult into church attendance by being *laissez faire* about her/his whereabouts when parents are in church, can such behavior be defended as even honest? This game of outguessing the child is more seriously a game of outguessing God: Who are the parents to know (a) what the character of the future will be vis-a-vis church attendance and (b) whether the child-become-adult should "attend church"?

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