

F.A.C.S. REPORT

FOUNDATION for the ADVANCEMENT of CHRISTIAN STUDIES

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Celebrations!

by Ian Hodge

It started as a gleam in this writer's eye. A conference with R.J. Rushdoony and Otto Scott. The former happens to be my preferred theologian, while the latter occupies the place of favourite writer and business historian. It ended with their departure on October 2nd. Since September 1992 commemorates our 10th year of continuous publishing, it was planned to hold a birthday dinner and conference with the nominated guests.

In between the beginning and the ending there was approximately an 18-month period of planning and preparation. The result was a superb 10th anniversary dinner, attended by 75 people, while 95 people rolled up for the conference the next day. Another group of 45 heard Dr Rushdoony in an address to pastors and students entitled *The Pastor in the Modern World*.

By all standards, the events were an outstanding success; not only for those involved in the organising, but also for the attendees. Great food, superb lectures, one or two not-so-brilliant jokes delivered by yours truly — and a bargain in books. We had, naturally, arranged to have a display of books written and published by our visitors. At the anniversary dinner, one of the guests — a student at Reformed Theological College in Geelong who shall remain nameless — asked for a birthday discount on the books. Without fear (or forethought, for that matter) your humble servant instructed a 50% discount on books for the next half-hour. Mayhem was the result as the book tables were flooded with people.

Meanwhile, somewhat perturbed by my generosity, Dr Rushdoony suggested we ought to take up an offering to ensure there were sufficient funds to pay for the books. He had quite natural concerns that I was giving away his books at a fabulous price and we would be unable to pay his bills. It was, however, too late to halt the stampede. I replied that we would have to grin and bear it, and he (i.e. Dr Rushdoony) would have to trust us that his bills would be paid on time.

Since one of our primary purposes over the years has been to get as many

good books as possible into the hands of our subscribers, it was a pleasant surprise to discover that by the end of the conference all the stock we had ordered on consignment had been sold. It was a delight to know that so many wonderful books were in the hands of our subscribers. Naturally, we are confident that all these books have been read by now!!

The conference began seriously with the arrival of our guests on September 24 in the early hours of daylight. With a necessary adjustment for time-zone changes, Dr Rushdoony was keen to spend his first day in a second-hand bookstore. I soon discovered that he was willing to spend most of his spare time in a second-hand bookstore. No, make that any bookstore. Both Dr Rushdoony and Mr Scott prefer the second-hand stores for price reasons, as well as the availability of out-of-print books. Any store is better than no store, apparently!

Our guests, both men in their seventies, had remarkable vitality and energy. I wondered what it would take to slow them down. They spoke at our various meetings, and Dr Rushdoony also preached twice on Sunday. Eventually, I discovered what it would take to make these gentlemen sit quietly: it took seven (I repeat, *seven*) bookstores in one day (one afternoon, actually!) before I saw them sit in silence — 4-1/2 days and several events after their touchdown at Sydney airport.

At the anniversary dinner, tributes were paid to both F.A.C.S. and Chalcedon. While it may have been our 10th birthday, it is certain that without the work of Dr Rushdoony and Chalcedon, not to mention others involved in Christian Reconstruction, F.A.C.S. would not exist, nor its work continue for the past decade. Three people spoke on behalf of F.A.C.S. (John Lawson, Joe Micallef, Peter Frogley, and Rev. David Mitchell), while Otto Scott paid an appropriate — and long overdue — public tribute to Dr Rushdoony and his work through the Chalcedon Foundation.

It has been a matter of curiosity over the years to see our work surface in the

The Unknown Candidate

Ian Hodge

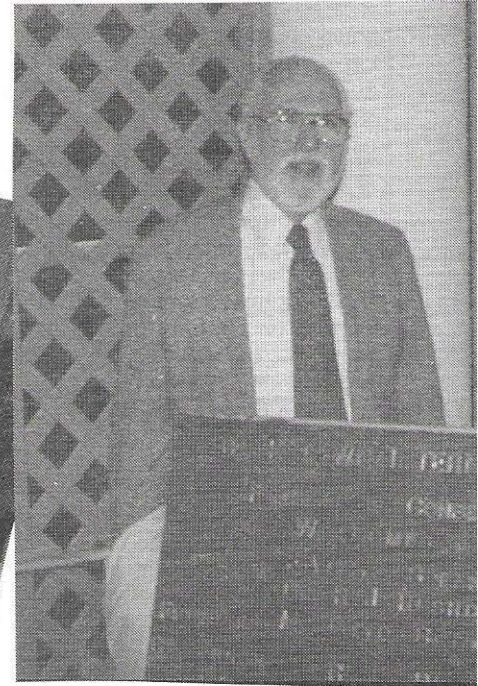
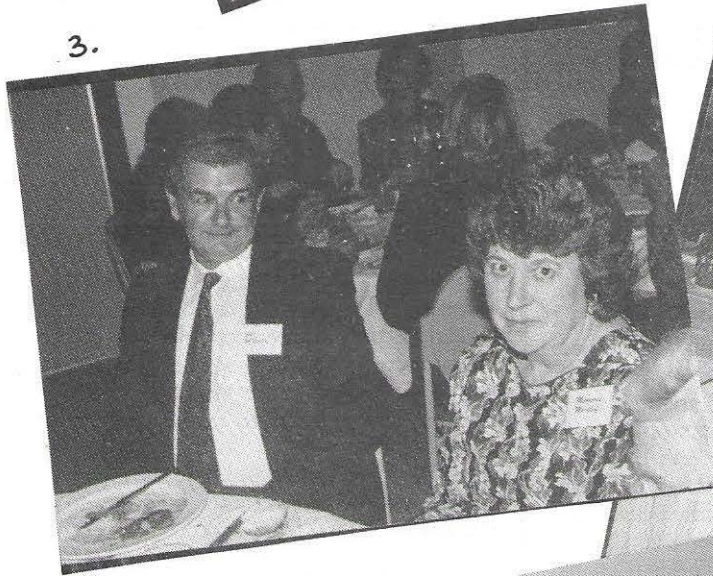
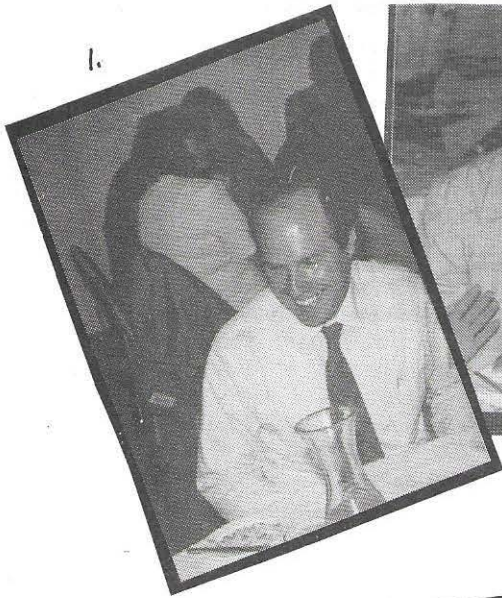
The recent televised debates between the U.S. Presidential candidates was revealing. It is a brave man who will put himself into a situation where he must think and act — or, in this instance, speak — on his feet. It requires great skill and practice to be able to do this. Clearly, those who can handle public debate can use the vehicle remarkably well to aid their cause.

What was missing from the debate, however, was the fourth candidate, Howard Phillips. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Phillips in the U.S. last year, and he is a man of remarkable character. A former public servant, head of the Office of Economic Opportunity under the Nixon administration, Mr Phillips is no newcomer to politics. He is also chairman of the Conservative Caucus, a pro-family and Christian organisation working in the political arena.

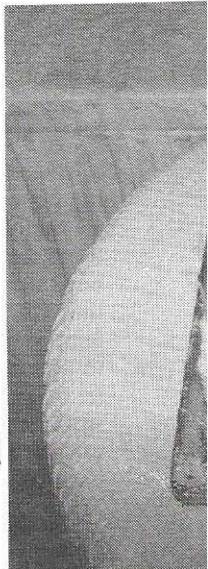
Mr Phillips is also a friend of Chalcedon and Dr Rushdoony, and last year it was suggested to Mr Phillips that he run for President. To expect a newcomer to win the Presidency in just over a year was not the immediate agenda; the long-term aim is to have a conservative Christian in the White House by the end of this century. And Howard Phillips might just pull it off. This year he will appear on the ballot in almost half the United States.

As in Australia, third party candidates do not always do well, but Mr Phillips is optimistic. But maybe, just maybe, Mr Phillips' political agenda has wide appeal. Among his major reforms, he plans to abolish the federal income tax, end foreign aid, and outlaw federal health and welfare programs. He wants to limit federal spending to just \$1 trillion per year.

Other plans would see the abolition of



1. Angus McGillivery (Garvoc). 2. Rev Bob
3. Joe & Margaret Micallef (Camden). 4. I
McDonnell (Wollongong) with Grant & Lib
John & Lyndal Terpstra (Miranda). 7. Pas
(Campbelltown). 8. Rev David Mitchell (H
awake. 9. R.J. Rushdoony & Otto Scott. 1
11. Kevin & Ruth Else (Carnarvon), hold
for the conference. 12. John & Caroline C
McPhillips with sister (Westmead). 14. Gr
15. Marc Bevilacqua (Adelaide) with Matt
16. Nick & Lisa Aroney (Brisbane).





10.



11.



9.



12.



13.



14.

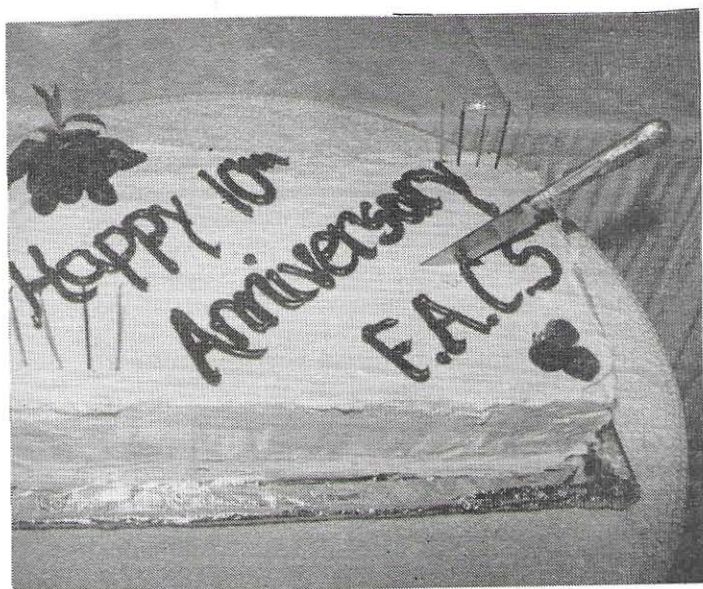


15.



16.

Mrs Burcher (Lakemba).
& Jessie Hodge. 5. Rory
Edwards (Adelaide). 6.
Adrian & Mrs Rietdyk
(part) helping Otto Scott say
John Lawson (Tumut).
record for traveling furthest
ver (Belrose). 13. Jim
am Drew (Blaxland).
w Todd (Epping).



most unexpected places. While our subscription numbers are small, people pass on the newsletters, or make copies, and so our materials have a much wider circulation than our mailing list. The results are often pleasing, though we do get our share of complaints and criticisms.

The Next 10 Years

It has been a remarkable testimony to the work in which we are involved that we have been able to operate so consistently for the past decade. We began with one small donation of \$12, enough to print a single sheet of paper which contained on one side the first page of our first newsletter, while on the reverse side a brief comment about our planned venture, with an invitation to purchase a set of tapes which we had received from Rus Walton at the *Plymouth Rock Foundation* in the United States. Mr Walton had encouraged me to commence this work, and his kindness with the tapes permitted us to have something to offer potential subscribers in addition to the newsletter. For those who appreciate a little irony, the tapes were by an Independent Dispensational Baptist pastor, and we raised the funds to begin by selling tapes at a Fundamentalist conference at which this pastor was guest speaker. Over our first decade we have never been short of funds for our publishing program.

We commence our second decade, however, at an interesting time. The world-wide economic situation has affected many people, and some have been unable to continue to support our work. This is not just peculiar to us, but many Christian ministries in both Australia and the U.S. are finding their financial support is dwindling.

While it is necessary to cut back our current activities, we do plan to continue our work with some changes. The first change is reflected in the newsletter itself. New style, new banner, and a change of format which will provide different articles of interest to readers. Also, it is encouraging that a number of younger writers are wanting to contribute articles for publication. This, I think, is one of the most important achievements we've had over the past decade: that we've been able to help other Christians to articulate and apply the faith in their respective callings.

As a cost-cutting exercise, however, it is necessary for us to reduce our output to one newsletter. The size of the newsletter will vary from four to eight pages, funds permitting, and depending on the

importance of the information we wish to get to our subscribers.

We also commence the second decade with a new book about to come to market. This is a biblical view of wealth and money, with some practical advice on money management and wealth creation. The manuscript has been accepted for publication in both Australia and the U.S., and is scheduled for release in Australia in the second quarter of next year. It will be published in this country by Anzea-Bookhouse and by Ross House Books in America. Considering the financial status of the nation, this book is a timely contribution to the economic debate. It contains, by the way, a full chapter on the Bible and debt and should invoke an interesting response in the marketplace.

We are also planning to have published the texts of the addresses from our conference this year. Both Dr Rushdoony and Otto Scott have given us permission to publish their lectures. This, I believe, is an important issue, for the conference was an attempt to focus attention on the biblical doctrine of the church. Funds permitting, we would like to see this book in print by early next year, and we are establishing a special publishing fund to achieve this goal. You'll hear more about this in the next newsletter.

Conclusion

Finally, a special word of 'thank you' to all our subscribers over the past decade who have supported our work in one way or another. The letters of appreciation we receive are a joy to us and, on so many, many occasions, have helped us through those periods when everything seemed against us. Your prayer and financial support has enabled our work to continue and provide a fitting end to our first decade.

And, as a way of showing our appreciation, we've decided to extend a 25% discount to all subscribers for a strictly limited period, and on existing stocks only. Please see the enclosed catalogue for details.

It is our hope and prayer that we might see this beautiful country of ours become a nation where righteousness and godliness replace beer and sunshine as national pastimes. And even if we don't see it in our own lifetime, we pray that God might use all of us as stepping stones to that future day when "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:11).

the Federal Reserve and see the government get right out of education. According to this Presidential candidate, "Sending a child to a public school today is a form of child abuse."

He practices what he preaches, an unusual feature in political circles. He has pledged not to accept one penny of campaign funds from the Federal treasury. This is not because he's so rich that he doesn't need the money: he's the only non-billionaire Presidential candidate.

Can he do it? Mr Phillips is optimistic. The U.S. Taxpayers Party is a dark horse in the Presidential race, and not too many would put money on it this year. But what about the future? "When a train is going over a cliff, it doesn't matter if you get there at 90 mph under Clinton or 80 mph under Bush, you're still going over the cliff," argues Mr Phillips. He, on the other hand, is offering to lead the country away from the precipice.

Not only is he optimistic, but Mr Phillips has a record of trying to put things right. While head of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) under President Nixon, he came under intense criticism for attempting to put a halt to "Great Society" programs. He knows that the country can be turned around, he knows how to do it, and is seeking the chance to do it.

Mr Phillips is a patient man. He knows victory in the political realm will not be easy. There are many, many Americans who will have their lifestyle changed if Mr Phillips is elected to the office of the President. On the other hand, there are many other Americans who realise that financial sanity and biblical morality are more important than the financial benefits they might receive from the government. These are the people who form Mr Phillips grass-roots support and they are growing in number almost daily as the policies of Roosevelt's New Deal bankrupt and ruin the nation.

Pray for Mr Phillips, his family and his campaign. A victory by a conservative American President — one who is pro-family, anti-abortion, pro-Christian, pro-parental education, and anti-big government — would have a world-wide influence of enormous repercussions. Even in Australia, we have an interest in Mr Phillips' ultimate victory.