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Insight

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Q. The withdrawal of 4-D exemption from ministerial students must surely pose a threat to the existence of seminaries, including the one you teach in. When the Federal Government thus hampers the existence of institutions so integrally related to the existence of churches, there must be a church-state issue a-lurking!

A. Those who see such a constitutional issue point to the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law . . . prohibiting the free exercise" of religion.

The future may hold dips in seminary enrollments, but if so, normal times will probably follow. Ministerial hopefuls, drafted early in their college days, can return to classes after their tours are completed and in due course enter seminary unchallenged by the military.

Q. You put out a vigorous magazine. I'm grateful for your eternal vigilance and your Christian principles. But I'm also "grated on" by dozens of everyday tensions. I believe you could say something to people like me that could help us on the nitty-gritty level as well as in regard to national and constitutional crises.

A. A good friend of mine, a committed Christian, developed a condition recently as the result of tension and overwork. Realizing that he hadn't been letting his religion work for him he took a vacation and spent some hours each day reading and thinking about Jesus. It has done wonders.

He says he has come to see as a reality in his own life what before he had only believed as objective truth, namely, that God the All-Powerful cares for him personally. Instead of wor-

rying all night he now tends to leave things in God's hands and goes back to sleep. He has also learned in a new way that real Christians are concerned more for others than for themselves, and so spends time praying specifically for the needs of friends and business acquaintances.

He now quotes old Bible verses with new relish: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

He cites with special insight one of my own favorite faith classics: "Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing." —Ellen G. White, "The Desire of Ages," p. 330.

Q. What move do you think the parochial people will make next now that the Supreme Court has allowed government money to go to church-related colleges but denied it to church-related elementary schools?

A. The Court's decision was based on the avoidance of excessive entanglement rather than on absolute separation between church and state. I assume therefore it will be viewed by many as encouraging rather than discouraging government aid, provided only that the aid be offered in an acceptable manner.

Government scholarships to individual students (e.g., the GI bill) have been around for many years and have yet to be successfully challenged on constitutional grounds. In answer to

your question, therefore, I climb out on a (short) limb and predict that we will soon see numerous bills in State legislatures proposing tuition vouchers for all children, redeemable at any —perhaps any racially integrated—school of the parents' choice.

Q. Perhaps I misunderstood one of your replies in the July-August issue. Is it true that Seventh-day Adventists don't celebrate Easter because it is pagan? If you people believe in the Trinity, how can you deny that Jesus Christ arose from the dead (usually celebrated at Easter) by saying this is pagan? In effect, aren't you saying that God is dead?

A. I guess there is a misunderstanding.

Easter as commonly celebrated does contain pagan elements, notably rabbits and painted eggs, which are leftovers from ancient springtime fertility rites.

Christ's resurrection itself is anything but pagan! It is at the heart of Christianity. It is vital to Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the plan of redemption.

The Bible nowhere asks Christians to observe Easter Sunday, or any other Sunday, in honor of the resurrection. That's right! Sundaykeeping is a tradition that has grown up in the church. Adventists, who do not oppose a Christian Easter, celebrate the resurrection many times a year—at every baptism, in harmony with Romans 6:4, 5—"We are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life . . . in the likeness of his resurrection."
