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Nazarene

Sent
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The only Church in U S A National Church to take
such a stand -

A NAZARENE STATEMENT

A Response to the Effect of the Playboy Mentality on our Society

We are Nazarenes who are concerned about the effects of all forms of pornography upon our community. As an international group of Christians, we have witnessed the pursuit of hedonism and selfish materialism - the Playboy Mentality - become the lifestyle in much of the western world and especially in the U.S. of A. We have watched while young children have been enslaved and sold as sexual merchandise to fuel the pornographic industry. We are appalled that the entertainment media with its emphasis on casual promiscuity has become a major tool for degradation of true human sexuality.

We have observed the personnel within the pornography industry become honored celebrities. We see the commerce of our land support this destructive trend by pouring millions of dollars into the advertising coffers of the pornographic industry. Most importantly, too often we see the responsible Christian men and women in our society condone this philosophy by their silence.

We call upon Nazarenes in every society and community to stand in opposition to this rapidly growing pornography industry and its increasing effect upon our communities, especially the young families and the youth. No nation can afford a lifestyle which annually produces 1 million unwed pregnant teenagers, untold numbers of abortions, massive psychological damage, and rampant rates of divorce and venereal disease. Nazarenes must not keep silent about this Playboy Mentality, a philosophy that has no room for the aged, the sick, the poor, or the unlovely.

We call on our members everywhere to appeal to their business communities to cease the sales and circulation of pornography. We call upon all businesses to discontinue advertising in any form of media which encourages the growth of this Playboy Mentality and the destruction of our families and homes.

As Christians, we recognize that this situation often exists because we have been silent. We commit ourselves to the reaffirmation of scriptural principles which promote human dignity, protect our children from sexual exploitation, and provide healthy roles for the expression of human sexuality.

...General Christian Action Committee
Church of the Nazarene

ARTICLES OF CONCERN

The following Articles of Concern prepared by the National Federation of Decency have been endorsed by the General Christian Action Committee, Church of the Nazarene. Individuals and local churches are encouraged to translate the articles into action in their own communities, and by correspondence with appropriate officials. Let every church official and leader disseminate the information and rally concerned response.

...B. Edgar Johnson, for the
Christian Action Committee

Believing that pornography is debasing and degrading and a cancer to the human spirit, we call upon the American public to observe October 24-30, 1982 as Pornography Awareness Week by support to the following Articles of Concern:

ARTICLE I.

We urge the President of the United States, the United States Attorney General and other responsible officials to enforce the laws pertaining to obscenity;

ARTICLE II.

We urge churches to observe Sunday, October 24, as Pornography Awareness Day, with ministers and leaders calling attention to the harmful effects pornography has upon our society and to call their people to involvement to eliminate it;

ARTICLE III.

We urge responsible and respectable corporations to cease advertising in pornographic publications;

ARTICLE IV.

We urge responsible and respectable retail establishments to cease selling pornographic publications;

ARTICLE V.

We urge responsible and respectable video outlets and theaters to refrain from stocking, selling and showing pornographic films;

ARTICLE VI.

We urge responsible and respected television cable companies to refrain from airing pornographic films;

ARTICLE VII.

We urge newspapers and other media to refrain from advertising "X" rated films;

ARTICLE VIII.

We urge concerned individuals to make their views about pronography known to their elected officials, to retail establishments selling pornographic material, to corporations supporting pornographic magazines with advertising, and to other responsible officials.



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Handwritten initials/signature

September 12, 1983

*Violet -
Yes. Good group.
Deservos message.
M. Bradwell
10/6/83*

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 19806

Dear Mr. President:

In the month of October, the Protestant denomination known as the Nazarene's, will celebrate their 75th anniversary. Local churches around the world will be participating in special services to mark this occasion. Originally founded in Texas in 1908, this fundamentalist group of 600,000 strong has a deep patriotic love of America, and the freedoms we enjoy.

I am a small businessman who belongs to a small Nazarene church of about 300 members, in a suburb of Youngstown, Ohio. As you are well aware, our area has been hit very hard in the economic downturn of recent years. Our unemployment still hovers near 20%, and many of our congregation are a part of that group. We hope to turn this 75th anniversary celebration into a "new begining". Our communities have not had much to celebrate in the last few years, and we want to change that by fostering a new optimistic outlook.

I believe a letter from you of "best wishes" that could be read to the congregation during the month of October would be a real blessing to them. It is sometimes hard for the average family to believe that they are not forgotten by those in political power. I am sure that a note from you would assure many that their community and their problems have not been forgotten.

If you would care to drop us a note, please address it to a young optimistic minister who has helped this congregation through the "rough spots" these last few years:

Rev. Michael Burns
Cherry Lane
Hubbard, Ohio 44425

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

With kindest regards,
Dick Steinlechner

Richard C. Steinlechner

*Merton B- may we please have your
recommendation - 75 years -
Thank you!*