

AN ALTERNATIVE OUTLOOK

By Everett W. Gross

Now we are watching our national legislature agonize over whether to send a hundred million dollars to aid the Contras in Nicaragua. The issues and arguments now sound quite complex, but they grow out of something that was quite simple one or more generations ago. When moral principles are trod underfoot, the necessary steps to solving the resulting problems get more complex and not simpler.

Nicaragua is one of several countries where the masses of people suffered severe oppression under governments endorsed and supported by US (the US). In each case, when the people rose up in revolt, they latched onto the only other alternative they had ever heard of. Also, in each case, if that alternative was not already communistic, the followers of Karl Marx quickly stepped into the picture.

Now we worry about a "threat at our doorstep". In case you haven't noticed it, the threat is a lot closer than that. Our own academic community is leaning ever farther toward the Marxist ideology.

Even if we succeed in helping the Contras win a military victory over the Sandinistas, do you really believe the communistic threat can long be delayed in coming to us?

In our own country, the poor are getting poorer and increasing in numbers. This is happening not only in agriculture. Our national debt is growing out of bounds and you can name a dozen more symptoms of just plain old poverty.

If the masses of people of Nicaragua are divided as to whether their true rescuers are the Sandinistas or the Contras, the poor cusses don't know they will be disappointed in either case. No one has ventured to tell them about a third alternative -- social and economic justice.

We spend most of our time with more exciting subjects such as athletic contests. The causes of the problems which threaten us are operating over a long time. When we think we are going to solve them by throwing a few dollars that way and hurrying back to our athletic contests, we are mistaken.

We can study the principles which will save us from a calamity that has not yet shown its face, or we can be destroyed.