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Lost Innocence

Krishnas — a Kingdom in Disarray

By RUSSELL CHANDLER
and EVAN MAXWELL,
Times Staff Writers

On Sept. 18, 1965, a small Hindu holy man named A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada sailed past the Statue of Liberty and into New York Harbor on the deck of a tramp steamer.

True to his vows of personal poverty, the former pharmacist from Bengal brought with him only the orange robe on his back, three crates of books and the rupee equivalent of \$8.

But Prabhupada also had a vision.

He believed that if he could convert the richest nation on earth to his brand of God-consciousness, as he called it, the rest of the world would quickly follow suit.

'New Age' Religion

He was, at that moment, the sole embodiment of what has come to be known as the Hare Krishna movement, a fundamentalist Hindu sect that has become perhaps the most visible and controversial "New Age" religion in the West.

From that meager beginning has sprung a remarkable earthly kingdom. It is also a kingdom in growing disarray.

Before his death in 1977, Prabhupada had attracted between 5,000 and 10,000 hard-core disciples around the world and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of followers.

More than 40 Krishna temples have been established in the United States alone. Worldwide, there are 121 temples and missions in 46 countries.

The movement owns 10 large farms in the United States, a \$3 million-a-year publishing business, square blocks of real estate



STEVE FONTANINI / Los Angeles Times

Hare Krishna devotee walks along corridor in group's Prabhupada Palace in West Virginia. Ornate hallway is decorated with gilt, marble.

Transplant Law Fails as Boon to Organ Banks

By LAURIE BECKLUND,
Times Staff Writer

It sounded like a brilliant and inexpensive way to save thousands of lives: Fill out the pink sticker you get with your California driver's license, sign it in front of two witnesses, and if you die, your organs could be transplanted to help others live.

States, Industry Key to Oil Shortage Planning

Solution to Energy Emergency Will Be Left to Local
Communities; Federal Intervention Last Resort

By ROBERT A. ROSENBLATT, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—To Emilio E. Baranini, a member of the California Energy Commission, the federal government's on-again, off-again plans for dealing with any future gasoline shortage are a bunch of "claptrap."

And as it turns out, a lot of people summarily dismissed the federal government's planning programs as unworkable and too expensive, came up with a program of their own.

To be issued in six weeks, their blueprint would provide, among other things, for these actions:

Unlikely Allies Fight Cuts in Federal Budget

By BILL BOYARSKY,
Times City-County Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON—Karen Brown speaks for management in the supermarket business and Arnold Meyer represents the meat cutters and retail clerks who are always asking the market owners for raises.

But now they are political allies.

Poles Urged by Walesa to Aid Regime

Calls It 'Our Last
Salvation,' Tries to
End Student Strike

By MICHAEL DOBBS,
The Washington Post

WARSAW—The leader of the independent Solidarity trade union federation, Lech Walesa, on Saturday described Poland's new government as "our last salvation" and tried to persuade students to end a 24-day-old strike.

The leader of the 10-million-member coalition said the new government must be given a chance to put the nation's strike-crippled economy back into shape.

Walesa made his comments following a first meeting in Warsaw with the government's newly appointed chief negotiator with labor, Deputy Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski. He also confirmed that private farmers had agreed to suspend their demands for registration of a rural branch of Solidarity until a new union law is passed by Parliament.

Negotiations Planned

A government commission is to travel to the southeastern city of Rzeszow in the next few days to negotiate an agreement with farmers who have been occupying a local administrative building since last month. The agreement is to cover all their grievances with the exception of the Rural Solidarity issue.

Among the principal topics discussed by the deputy premier and Walesa was Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski's request for a 90-day moratorium on strikes.

"Our position goes even further," Walesa said. "We don't want to strike at all." But he shied away from agreeing to Gen. Jaruzelski's request unconditionally, saying "it all depends on the government na-

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Before his death in 1977, Prabhupada had attracted between 5,000 and 10,000 hard-core disciples around the world and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of followers.

More than 40 Krishna temples have been established in the United States alone. Worldwide, there are 121 temples and missions in 46 countries.

The movement owns 10 large farms in the United States, a \$3 million-a-year publishing business, square blocks of real estate throughout the country and a chain of vegetarian restaurants.

One Krishna official has estimated that its U.S. street missionaries have collected \$75 million in the last decade.

By material measures, at least, the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) is very successful.

No Dilution of Heritage

And, as A. L. Basham, a leading authority on India and its religions, said, the ISKCON movement has spread in the West without significantly diluting its Eastern heritage.

"Here, for the first time since the days of the Roman Empire, an Asian religion new to the West is being practiced openly in the streets of the great cities of the Western world by people of Western race and Judeo-Christian background."

Indeed, as Basham avers, Prabhupada's followers have embraced a whole culture, a world view, a diet, a psychology and a geography foreign to most of the West.

The Krishnas' world is rather like a "Dungeons and Dragons" for adults, complete with a caste system and a cast of thousands—demons, deities, spiritual masters, de-

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Transplant Law Fails as Boon to Organ Banks

By LAURIE BECKLUND,
Times Staff Writer

It sounded like a brilliant and inexpensive way to save thousands of lives: Fill out the pink sticker you get with your California driver's license, sign it in front of two witnesses, and if you die, your organs could be transplanted to help others live.

The idea was a good one, the California Legislature decided in 1976, so it passed the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act that set up the pink sticker system.

For the last five years, the state Department of Motor Vehicles has been sending out four to five million stickers a year in the mail, advising drivers that if they sign the stickers, "donation takes effect upon your death."

But, as it turns out, donation rarely "takes effect upon death" because of the stickers.

At Worst, Tragic Results

An informal survey of organ banks, hospitals, and transplant specialists in the state indicates that the results of the sticker program at best are disappointing, and at worst, tragic.

Hundreds of kidney patients on dialysis in Southern California still have to wait two or three years for transplants. The list of blind people waiting for corneas in Los Angeles alone is nearing 500. Burn centers have only 10% the amount of skin they need to save the lives of seriously burned patients. And there are similar statistics for deaf people who need a middle ear bone to hear and dwarfed children who need a pituitary gland to help them grow.

"There may be two million people
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States, Industry Key to Oil Shortage Planning

Solution to Energy Emergency Will Be Left to Local Communities; Federal Intervention Last Resort

By ROBERT A. ROSENBLATT, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—To Emilio E. Baranini, a member of the California Energy Commission, the federal government's on-again, off-again plans for dealing with any future gasoline shortage are a bunch of "claptrap."

And as it turns out, a lot of people in Washington agree with him.

So, if America's foreign oil supplies are curtailed again and the country plunges into another oil or gasoline shortage, the burden of dealing with the crisis will fall on oil companies, electric utilities, state officials and individual citizens—not on the federal government.

It has become clear that Washington will intervene only as a last resort. For after two chaotic experiences with gasoline station waiting lines in six years, the federal government still is ill equipped to deal with a crisis in oil.

Rationing Abandoned

Gasoline rationing, kicked around in Congress and the executive branch for several years, has been abandoned as unworkable. So disillusioned was the Reagan Administration that it canceled former President Jimmy Carter's budget request for \$35 million to prepare a rationing plan authorized by Congress.

To top it all off, every state except Nebraska has ignored a request by the federal government that the states join in a complex and cumbersome emergency planning program.

It was in the face of this situation that Baranini and other members of the California commission, having

summarily dismissed the federal government's planning programs as unworkable and too expensive, came up with a program of their own.

To be issued in six weeks, their blueprint would provide, among other things, for these actions:

—Local governments would be ordered, within five hours after the declaration of an emergency, to begin steps to shorten waiting lines at gasoline service stations. Police would enforce minimum purchase requirements to prevent "tank-topping." Service stations would stay open for specified periods, and odd-even plans restricting purchases to certain days of the week would be instituted.

—Electric utilities would be di-
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Pontiff Set to Begin 11-Day Far East Trip

By LOUIS B. FLEMING,
Times Staff Writer

ROME—Pope John Paul II sets forth Monday for the Far East on an 11-day voyage that will complete his papal encirclement of the world.

The principal visit will be to the Philippines, where two-thirds of all the Roman Catholics in Asia reside—a visit just 10 years after the first papal call by Paul VI.

The last time he tried to visit Manila—as a cardinal from Poland—he was refused a visa and won permission to go there and celebrate Mass only after an appeal to immigration authorities, according to an informed source here.

Special importance is also attached to a three-day visit to Japan, the first by any Pope, that will include a peace appeal from ground zero in Hiroshima, target of the first atomic bomb.

In addition, there will be short stops in Karachi, Pakistan, and in two American dioceses, Guam in the Mariana Islands of the Pacific, and Anchorage, Alaska. The tour will
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Unlikely Allies Fight Cuts in Federal Budget

By BILL BOYARSKY,
Times City-County Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON—Karen Brown speaks for management in the supermarket business and Arnold Meyer represents the meat cutters and retail clerks who are always asking the market owners for raises.

But now they are political allies. Brown and Meyer are part of an unusual coalition of special interest groups fighting sharp reductions in urban programs that are expected to be part of the budget cuts President Reagan is to announce Wednesday night.

The alliance was formed by representatives of the nation's cities, alarmed by preliminary plans to reduce appropriations the cities use for construction, transportation, sewage treatment and many social programs.

Tom Cochran, lobbyist for the United States Conference of Mayors, said the coalition consists of groups that have political and economic stakes in the cities and includes business and labor unions as well as organizations that have traditionally spoken for the urban poor, such as the Urban League.

Illustrates Difficulties

The alliance illustrates some of the difficulties Reagan faces in cutting the budget and is a clear example of the complicated way political power is wielded in Washington.

Take the case of Brown, vice president in charge of consumer affairs for the Food Marketing Institute, which represents market owners, and Meyer, vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents 1.3 million meat cutters and retail clerks who work in the markets.

On the surface, there seems little reason why either of them would be

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liament.
Negotiations Planned
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Among the principal topics discussed by the deputy premier and Walesa was Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski's request for a 90-day moratorium on strikes.

"Our position goes even further," Walesa said. "We don't want to strike at all." But he shied away from agreeing to Gen. Jaruzelski's request unconditionally, saying "it all depends on the government position."

The breakthrough in the dispute with the farmers leaves the students as the only major group still in open conflict with the government. About 10,000 students have occupied university buildings in the central city of Lodz and have received promises of support from students at other universities and technical colleges.

Student Union Issue

The sole outstanding issue in their dispute concerns the registration of a new, independent students' union with the Ministry of Education. Government negotiators have insisted that additional clauses be inserted into the union's statutes recognizing the leading role of the ruling Communist Party and making future strikes subject to a nationwide referendum of students.

Walesa's intervention in the strike, Poland's longest so far, came as the Lodz students were debating whether to accept the government proposals. Earlier this week, Education Ministry officials accepted student demands for dropping the compulsory study of Russian and Marxism, easing travel abroad, and ending a system of unpaid manual work during university vacations.

In return, the students did not press calls for a reduction in military service, the release of political prisoners, and an investigation into the powers of the security apparatus.

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Vital Iowa-Wisconsin Link Closed

Bridge Cracks and Town's Economy Sags

By BARRY SIEGEL,
Times Staff Writer

PRAIRIE-du CHIEN, Wis.—Extravagant celebrations marked the 1974 opening of a \$10-million, two-mile-long, high-arched bridge connecting this Mississippi River town with Marquette, its Iowa neighbor.

The local newspaper heralded the new bridge, fruit of a 12-year-long effort, with a banner headline. The aging, rickety suspension bridge it replaced was demolished without regret. The American Institute of

