

CD-1082 Transcription

Speaks briefly regarding Moral Majority on Rolland Smith WCBS

program, The Moral Majority. undated.

M1: -- this obsessive pride, relying on worldly methods to sustain broadcast and urge moderation in the political arena. He's just the latest to oppose [Hope and Power?], and such as those preached by the founder of the Moral Majority, the Reverend Jerry Falwell.

M2: Set five.

M3: Speed.

M2: [All the way down to?] five. [Put the Mack key -- insert Mack key?]

M4: -- church in Lynchburg, Virginia, the Faith Partners and Friends present Jerry Falwell and the *Old-Time Gospel Hour*.

M1: Baptist fundamentalist Dr. Jerry Falwell is one of a number of television ministers taking newfound moral power into politics.

FALWELL: The homosexual and unisexual movement of America today is a threat to the family. It is my conviction that God established the home, the family, one man for one woman. And God did not create Adam and Steve, but Adam and Eve, and we have an obligation to guarantee that it continues as such.

M5: Moral issues [01:00] such as abortion, pornography, homosexuality, families, all these issues, have now become political, are not taboo to us, and we're not pre-emptive in addressing them simply because they are now in the political arena.

FALWELL: To think, to what kind of a God will America appeal to in our hour of best-written need?

M1: Religion at the polls has been called the sleeping giant of American politics. The power is not just Jerry Falwell's.

VANDER JAGT: For too long, Christians have seemed to think that politics was too dirty and messy for them to be involved in.

M6: We must establish morality. If it takes a constitutional amendment, let's do it. If it takes something else to take the power and authority from the Supreme Court over these [merit matches?], we must do it!

NUGENT: Christians need to get the salt out of the shaker, so to speak, and get involved in party politics and become the people who select the candidates in the first place. I hope you can merge all that. [02:00]

M8: You're doing a very eloquent job of doing it yourself, but I'll say amen to your sentiments, so that thank you so much, Bob. Bob Nugent, who's public affairs director for the great National Association of Evangelicals that

represents many, many Evangelical denominations, in 36 or more thousand individual churches around the United States.

M9: There have been some reports that if the country gets in great difficult, eight years hence, four years hence, that you will be available to run for president to save the country. Is there any truth to that?

FALWELL: No, whoever said that fabricated it. I would think we do not need a religious leader [to stand up for us?]. I believe in separation of church and state.

M1: Falwell insists his work in church and for the Moral Majority are separate.

TANNENBAUM: Friend of mine, who has been very close to New York State legislators and the City Council shared with me a copy of the questionnaire which [03:00] is headlined "Moral Majority Candidate Questionnaire."

M1: Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, of the American Jewish Committee, is disturbed over a questionnaire allegedly distributed by the New York State chapter of the Moral Majority to legislators in Albany.

TANNENBAUM: "Do you attend church regularly? How often? What is the Bible? What is your attitude toward it? Have you read any of the Bible within the last month? Do you believe statesmen should look to the Bible for guidance in making political decisions? If you stood before heaven's gate and

were asked on what grounds you sought admission, how would you reply? Have you ever been born again? If you died today, do you know how you would stand in heaven?" I don't know what that has to do with being a candidate for the New York State legislature.

FALWELL: I didn't like the questions about do you attend church, yes, etc., etc. It was almost like a religious test.

M1: That's precisely the ones he mentioned.

FALWELL: Yes, and, well, when I saw that, the National [Law Regard?] would never put that out, for that very reason. Had we, no doubt, that public buys them [04:00], we'll tell our offices not to do that anymore.

M1: There is a backlash to the Christian New Right.

F1: When I was a girl, church was the source of everything good in our lives.

M1: During the campaign, New Right pronouncements were countered with these commercials, produced by Norman Lear.

F1: "It disappoints me when a TV minister I like judges people's Christianity by the position they take on political issues. In our town, the ministers would never have done that."

M1: Father Michael Manning says he can't see Jesus joining a moral majority.

MANNING: I find it too powerful. I find it rising up too much of a concerted effort of power that is completely distinct from the real power of Jesus, which is a weakness, as Paul said, "When I'm weakest, that's when I'm strongest of all."

M1: Dr. Robert Schuller, one of the most watched TV ministers from his *Hour of Power* in California, sees pulpit politics dangerous.

SCHULLER: I think it is [05:00] extremely dangerous to use a negative approach to correct an injustice, whether it's a theological, a social, or a political injustice that exists in our society. It's just extremely dangerous to use fire to fight fire, and we mightn't not eliminate the negative situation, but land up with a very angry, paranoiac, suspicious, tense society. And then, we had lost our ultimate freedom, and that is the freedom to be open, relaxed, healthy, trusting persons.

M1: Tomorrow, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, and the money, are [pulpit-followed?]. When we return, what a work for the world's [closure?]. [06:00] (music)

END OF AUDIO FILE