Watch Out for Phonies

BY THE MISSION SINGERS Kenny Rogers and the First Edition's other hits were great songs, but with Heed the Call they seem to be riding the jetstream of their previous success.

The song's rhythm is all right, but the singing is uninspired; and the meaning seems to be a babbled barrage of banalities, (excuse us Mr. Agnew).

Heed the Call is a hodgepodge of slogans that can mean whatever anyone wants them to mean. This song could be used as a plea to answer any call. good or bad.

And that's dangerous.

How are we supposed to know the difference between an honest challenge and a deceptive one? How do we pick out the men we should follow from the charlatans whose greatest talent is mouthing the ideals of others and diverting such ideals for their own purposes?

Those aren't rhetorical questions. History is filled with stories of what happens to people and nations when they indiscriminately heed the call of misguided or malicious pipers.

It's true that there were many, both inside and outside Germany, who believed that Hitler's "call' would lead to the salvation of the world.

Christian people and churches prayed for the victory of the Nazi army. Only after they had the chance to see what were the practical results of such a philosophy did they realize their mistake. Too late.

But let's not hide behind the safety of history, even if it is only 30-year-old history. Today we are hearing "calls" from every direction.

Have we learned yet to demand that our leaders be precise in what they are saying? Have we demanded of ourselves that we know what we want and how to get it? Heed the Call makes no such demand.

Politics is not cornering the market in issuing challenges.

What would Heed the Call say about the piping of a man like Timothy Leary? He claims he has the answers. A lot of young people take him at his word. And only too late do they discover that they were duped. Only too late do they find that they blindly followed a blind leader. Why did they fall for such a false tune?

holds true for another kind of challenge. The message of Christ has been drummed into our heads for years. How do we know whether this "call" is legitimate or not?

Jesus Himself gave a possible answer to this question of how to judge these challenges and the people who make them: "By their fruits you shall know them."



Heed the Call

Have you been listening (listen to the music)? Have you been sleeping (the summon's in the music)? A man standing next to you, he must surely be your brother. So brother, please, heed the call.

The piper, he's still piping the message in the music. The drummer, he's still drumming the message in the music. Sweet songs of loving you should be singing. So brother, please, heed the call.

Listen to the music. Heed the call of the music.

It's still early in the morning, there's still time for singing. Let's not waste our morning, join in the singing. The hour of the midnight be all too soon for swinging. So brother, please, please, heed the call.

Listen to the music. Heed the call of the music.

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THE FIRST EDITION





The same type of questions

Society Chooses

10 New Hymns

New York — (RNS) — Words for ten new hymns, chosen from more than 300 submitted from areas around the world, have been published here by the Hymn Society of America.

The hymns are now being submitted to composers who are invited to set them to music.

The Hymn Society of America says that "Ten New Hymns for the 70's" resulted from a search for new hymns "that would be especially welcomed by the young people of the churches and expressed in modern idioms."

A hymn on the work of the church by Mrs. Marian James of Aurora, Ill., says: "Where prejudice has locked the gates on real estate and school; she pulls down walls of racial hates and posts the Golden Rule."

Other hymns chosen for publication by the society include: "Give Us to Share a Dream," By Mrs. Miriam Drury of Pasadena, Calif. "Tune Me In, O God" by Dr. Franklin P. Fry of Bedford, N.J.; "Creator God Whose Glory is Creation," by Prof. Alice P. Kenney of Allen-town, Pa.; "God of Truth from Everlasting," by Miss Florence E. Cain of Cicero, Ind.; and "Thère is Enough to Feed this World," by Dr. Robert Newell Zearfoss of Evanston, Ill.

Courier-Journal



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