

6 Quest Magazine editors resign in protest

By Jonathan Friendly

NEW YORK — The six top editors of Quest Magazine have resigned to protest what they said was the insistence by the magazine's owners, the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, that Quest publish a cover article by a controversial California minister who heads the church that set up the foundation.

The editor, Robert Shnayerson, said he and five of his colleagues had tried unsuccessfully for a

month to convince the foundation that publishing the article, by Herbert W. Armstrong, would undermine "a basic premise that the magazine was independent of the church."

However, Armstrong's second-in-command at the church, Stanley R. Rader, said Shnayerson had quit because he was unwilling to take direction from the publisher, Lewis W. Gillenson.

Gillenson said he thought the

editors were not objecting so much to the specific content of the article by Armstrong as they were to the idea that he had the right to publish whatever he wanted in the magazine.

The article, to be published in the May issue, deals with the plans of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to build a peace center in Sinai.

Shnayerson identified the others editors who had resigned as Philip

Herrera, executive editor; Noel Werrett, art director; Margaret Simmons, associate editor; Corby Kummer, assistant editor, and Leslie Smith, managing editor.

Rader said the article by Armstrong was a "founder's message" and only one part of a package of stories about the Middle East in general and Sadat in particular.

Shnayerson, formerly editor of Harper's and senior editor of Time,

had been editor of Quest since it was started, in February 1977, to cover "the pursuit of excellence in all major fields." Now published 10 times a year, it will claim by April a circulation of 375,000.

The church had said it would not interfere in the editorial decisions at the magazine, a pledge Shnayerson said was incorporated in his original contract and continued "by tradition."

Rader also said that the maga-

zine never operated independently of the foundation and that he personally read and approved every article before it was published.

Rader is treasurer of the 100,000-member Worldwide Church of God, a conservative Protestant sect with headquarters in Pasadena, Calif. It is fighting an investigation by the California attorney general's office into allegations that he, Armstrong and other church officials had misused church money.

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