

Stanley Rader quits post as church treasurer

By DICK LLOYD
Staff Writer

Stanley R. Rader, treasurer of the Pasadena-based World-wide Church of God, Sunday ended speculation that he will one day assume the leadership of the church. Effective July 1, he will resign his position as treasurer of the church, he said.

His resignation, he said, will fulfill a promise he made last September that "when the lawsuits against us are won and our church is free from attack, I will resign my official church position."

He said at the time that he

would return to private law practice and public service.

Rader was the principal defendant in a now-defunct lawsuit that charged him and other leaders of the church with misuse of church funds. California Attorney General George Deukmejian dropped the lawsuit last October after the state Legislature stripped him of powers to bring civil actions against church officers.

However, Rader's resignation will not end his association with either the church or church founder Herbert W. Armstrong, he said. He will

continue as "personal assistant" to Armstrong and as executive vice president of the Ambassador Foundation (formerly Ambassador International Cultural Foundation which also was a defendant in the state lawsuit).

The foundation, Rader said, carries on the non-sectarian work of the church.

He said also that as an attorney, he will "continue to defend the interests of our church worldwide."

Rader dated his notice of resignation Jan. 3 "as a kind of symbol," he said. On Jan. 3, 1979 church offices were "as-

saulted by the officers of the attorney general," he said. It was on that day that the church was placed in receivership under court order.

But Rader, who also has served as general counsel for the church, orchestrated a legal defense that held the state at bay for 22 months, finally winning dismissal of the case.

The resignation was a kind of quid pro quo.

"The attorney general kept his word, now I will keep mine," Rader said.

Deukmejian said he would drop the lawsuit against the

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church if SB 1493 became law, and he did, Rader said. "Therefore it is time for me to keep my word."

Rader's original notice of resignation was given last September, he said, "because it had been insinuated that I was ... personally ambitious and might even have visions of succeeding Herbert W. Armstrong."

Those insinuations, he said, "created a public presence that apparently leads some persons to question my sincerity (and) my motives become

Turn to RADER,
Page A-7

Rader resigns as church's treasurer

Continued from Page A-1

suspect as I continue to defend our church's work.

"But they are wrong," he said. "The only thing I want for myself is a return to a more private life. I continue the fight because I believe it is a good fight. With all my heart and soul I believe in the righteousness of our cause."

The July 1 resignation, he said, "will end forever any speculation about the possibility of my succeeding Mr.

Armstrong as head of our church.

"I do not expect anyone to succeed Mr. Armstrong," Rader said. "The Living God has entrusted Mr. Armstrong with a great commission and God has never taken a man before his work was done. I do not look for or expect another pastor general. Under no circumstances will I ever be the pastor general of our church."

Rader said he hopes also that the announcement will

"clear the way for my return to a more private life, a move I have desired for more than two years."

He noted that he had resigned his positions before the lawsuit was initiated. "I stayed on only because of the battle that needed to be fought. Now that the fight is won, I am looking forward to the tranquility of a private life that my family and I have missed so sorely during the past two years."