but the book's title expresses an indisputable fact. As the 1975 chaplaincy study predicted:

The liberal mainline's churches will continue to decline in members, while the conservative, evangelical churches will continue to grow. Within the liberal churches themselves, the trend will be away from the humanistic extremes of the sixties and early seventies, toward a recovery of transcendence (the recent much publicized 'Hartford Affirmations' point the direction of the future), coupled with continued social concern but without the social radicalism of the sixties. The liberal establishment as the voice of American religion is not dead, but conservative voices will continue to grow in strength and influence in those church structures dealing with the military.

Despite the trend toward social conservatism, it seems clear that certain social gains which have been associated with the personal-libertarian and human rights orientation of the past quarter-century, will not be reversed. Most prominent among these are the new status of minorities and women. With regard to minorities, the conceptual battle is won. The entitlement of blacks to full equality is firmly established. Ahead lies a period of consolidation of gains, marked by increasingly full acceptance and "normalization" of minority equality.

The future for women in society is less a settled issue. The extremes of the feminist movement have already receded. The ultimate adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment (significance of which has been largely symbolic) seems increasingly in doubt. The traditional role of women as homemakers is not likely to be seriously undermined. However, the opening up of alternative roles, and full equality with men for those women who choose such alternative roles, is not likely to be reversed. This fact has significant implications for the military and the chaplaincy, which we will note a little later.

"Demythologizing" of Institutions

One would expect a swing of the pendulum toward social conservativism to bring with it a heightened respect for traditional social institutions—government, church, business, the educational establishment, union, and the armed forces. Ultimately this may turn out to be the case, and the conservative trend may in part reflect an unconscious longing for a basis on which confidence in such institutions can be restored. For the immediate future, however, such institutions will continue to be viewed with few illusions and with considerable skepticism.