

Moral Majority Vice President Defends Role in Politics

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Moral Majority Vice President of Communications Cal Thomas. NEXUS/Greg Harris

"There is something worse than war, worse even than speaking out. It is silence. We may not always be right, and in fact we are not, but we will never be judged guilty of saying and doing nothing," Cal Thomas, vice-president for communications of Moral Majority Inc., said, defending that organization's increasingly active role in American political life.

Thomas, who has been associated with Moral Majority for 16 months, spoke before a large Campbell Hall audience Monday night as guest lecturer for the UCSB course entitled "Religion and Politics in America Today."

"We have left the Judeo-Christian ethic for no ethic, and are adrift on a sea of moral relativity without a compass or a reference point and are hopelessly lost," Thomas said, explaining that one of the goals of the Lynchburg, Virginia-based group is to restore the influence of religious principles in public life. Answering critics who maintain that the First Amendment requires separation of church and state, Thomas argued that the Constitution was framed by men who were themselves deeply religious, and added that "nowhere did our founders advocate separation of church from state."

Those who criticize the efforts of the Moral Majority often claim that attempts by religious organizations to lobby for conservative causes represent the imposition of one group's code of morality on the rest of the population. Thomas responded to this by saying "all law, philosophically, is the imposition of someone's morality over someone else's morality. The question is not whether morality will be imposed; the question is whose morality."

Thomas characterized the goals of Moral Majority as fourfold: the group is pro-life, pro-traditional family, pro-moral, and pro-American.

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