

Day In Court Seen

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

It appears that God is going to have His day in court — at least in California.

Longhaired folksinger Lou Gottlieb has deeded his 31-acre ranch over to God. The ranch had become something of a hippie haven and had been under constant surveillance by the police

and occasional condemnation by the public.

Gottlieb got tired of the harassment from the outside, marched into the county courthouse in Santa Rosa and told the county recorder he was transferring title of the land to God. The reluctant recorder finally gave in when Gottlieb showed him a coin on which was engraved "In

God We Trust" and specified, "It's this one."

A QUESTION then arose about taxes. Who would pay them? Gottlieb answered and said, "For God's sake, I'll pay them." It was revealed later that Gottlieb had included a clause in the transfer of title stating that even though the property now legally belonged to God that he

For God...At

(Gottlieb) and his friends could continue to occupy the ranch as long as they liked.

About this same time

Perspective

lightning struck the home of an Oakland secretary. Her attorney immediately brought a civil

suit against God for allowing the lightning bolt to strike. He's suing God for \$100,000 in damages and charging Him with "careless and negligent" operation of the universe — including the weather. Since state insurance regulations call such things as lightning "acts of God," the attorney feels he has a pretty good case. When

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asked what he hoped to get out of it he said he would at least try to collect by attaching Gottlieb's ranch ("property owned by God") when — and if — God fails to show up in court.

ALL OF WHICH raises some interesting speculative questions. What would happen if God really did show up in court in Oakland? What would

happen if God suddenly decided to lay claim to His property, which includes not only Gottlieb's former ranch, the islands of the sea, the cattle on 1000 hills, the Oakland secretary's house, her attorney's property (including his office), Ronald Reagan's mansion, and a lot of other things — including a few souls?

I keep getting the pic-

ture of this brash young attorney stomping up to the bench in court shouting, "I demand my rights. I want what's coming to me." Only to suddenly find out that God's not the defendant — but the judge. And that sure enough. He's about to give him what he deserves.

So it appears that sooner or later God will have His day in court.