

What about the moral welfare of those 28,000,-000 children, 11,000,000 under thirteen years of age who attend the movies each week? In fact what about the total weekly attendance of upwards of 70,000,0001 Hollywood quickly shook this moral responsibility from her shoulders and pointed an all-telling inger at the very vortex of its every activity be it good, bad or indifferent-the box office. As our Most Reverend Archbishop so wisely putit in his appeal to pastors this week to enlist their parishoners in the Legion of Decency, it is now hightime to serve notice on the Hollywood producers "that they must put their house in order."

Eorma to He added: decency.

Bad for Business

"Dirty entertainment, however, is box office. The vaudeville circuits, burlesque shows, small town circuses and carnivals and even the legitimate theater are all dead or dying today because of indecent entertainment. The movies are headed in the same direction and unless they are checked, they face the same fate."

To prove his contention that box office receipts are falling off, Father Lord said that a recent issue of the Motion Picture Daily, national movie periodical, showed that the theatrical ors of motion pictures to improve the "gate" is at the lowest point in hisfory.

of the country to the other are in- the leaders of the Roman Catholic dicative of the present status of Church on the subject, and at the ing that an executive of a nationallyknown chain told him that the end their recent meeting," the committee began "the day the stage started to recommends:

go dirty." Exhibitors, who are forced screen Hollywood's products, are almost unanimously in support of the drive spainst indecency on the screen, by refusing to patronize objectionaccording to Father Lord. Some of them see an improved box office as one of the first tangible results.

Discuss White List' Father Lord's publication each week contains a list of films which violate the Producers' Code of Decency which he helped formulate in 1930. Asked if any steps are being taken to insure the publication of a white list" containing films fit for public consumption, he replied:

"Whether the committee of priests organized to handle this campaign at last week's meeting of the bishops in Cincinnati does anything on this

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Pope Exhorts Press To Laud Good and Censure Bad Films

In a letter sent on behalf of Hi Holiness, Pope Plus XI by Cardi-nal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State to Canon Brohee of Brussels, president of the Catholic Interna tional Cinematographic office and chaplain general of the Centre Catholique d'Action Cinematographique en Belgique, the Holy Father declares:

"It is highly desirable that organized Catholics should occupy themselves constantly with the cinema in their meetings for Catholic Action, in their programs of study, atc.

"It is equally important that all the Catholic papers should offer criticium of the cinema, praising rood fine and consuring the bad.

urged to cooperate with the object Cardinal tells the readers. "You can tives of the Catholic Legion of De- not be merely indifferent to these incency, in a list of recommendations fluences which are intended by plot

drawn up by the Executive Commit- and plan, not merely incidentally or bad business and has proved so at the tee of the Federal Council of the by accident, but by plot and plan, to Churches of Christ in America meet- ruin the faith of your children and ing in executive sesion here Sunday, even your own faith."

Denouncing the magnates who, he To assist Protestants in their sesays, have grown rich on the weaklection of proper motion pictures to nesses of human nature, His Emiwitness, the committee would create nence also speaks of actors and aca "national photoplay review sertresses, "with their complete disrevice" which would make available gard of every decent convention of criticism of every film production. life," and says that "too many of Declaring that the Federal Counour Catholic women have accepted cil of Churches "can see as yet little these people as models, foolishly and evidence of intention by the producslavishly aping their dress and man nerism.

moral quality of films," and that "I. speak mot from hearsay but a "we are deeply gratified at the agone will informed because I have Darkened footlights from one end gressive position recently taken by kept in very close touch, particularly during the last year or so, with the efforts that have been made to stop vaudeville, the priest added, declar- resolution adopted by the Central this riot of rotten, disgusting play Conference of American Rabbis at acting that is going on in the film industry," the Cardinal says, Speak ing of protests already made to mo

tion picture magnates he says that "First, that members of the Protestant churches, theeir families and "these despoilers of innocence and

State's Failure To

ple of the State, which is to say the great marticulate majority," declared

Censor Movie Films

citizens generally, cooperate with the objectives of the Legion of Decency (Continued on Page 10) able films. The binding pledge of Albany Priest Cites the Legion may or may not be signed.

according to the individual- conscience, but its purpose should be kept. "Second, that they do not patronize

motion picture theatres which persis-Albany, N. Y .- The Rev. James H tently show indecent or otherwise ob-Kelly, in a letter to the editor of The jectionable pictures or offensive vaus Evangelist of Albany, stated that "we deville features, or which use queshave in New York State a positive tionable forms of advertising." statute prohibiting the showing on the "Third, that the churches exert screen any picture which may b

continued pressure on the industry classified, or any part thereof, as oband at Washington to secure abolition scene, indecent, immoral, etc.' "Why not a legislative investigation of the State law of motion pictures?, Father Kelly asked. "The decent peo

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Films Debasing India's Idea of the West, Say

Father Kelly; "have a right to know who; amongst those whom they have Non-Christian Leaders Calcutta, India-(NCWC-Fides)ible for the disgraceful debasement of an otherwise pleasing and welcome The cooperation of the Catholic Press form of public entertainment. in eradicating vicious films from Indian cinema houses has been wel

Detroit-Paper Prints comed by Baijmath Bajoria, prominent non-Christian leader of the Mar-Auto Stickers For Drive

wari Association in Calcutta. He has suggested closer relations between non-Christians and Catholic associations to remedy moral evils which are repugnant to all communities, "There can be no question that In-

dians take not only their impressions of Western civilization from the dinoma," said Mr. Bajoria, "but many also take their impression of Christian morality from the cinema." Western films discredit Christianity

and it is a definite duty for Catholics to ally themselves with other public nal charge through some parish bodies which are working to cleanse cinema houses of this great evil.

If the box office is the industry's most vulnerable. point, we must strike in that spot and drive them up the ladder of morality to a decent level.

As members of the Legion of Decency, we pledgeourselves to stay away from salacious movies. It is not difficult to determine which productions fall into this class. This pledge imposes nothing to which we are not already bound in conscience as practical Catholics. Neither is it an attempt to restrict our nominal entertainment freedom.

Ultimate extinction has been the fate of every enterprise in America that has dared a violation of the moral code. The screen faces the same reckoningand rest assured that all the exhibitors and fair minded producers realize this.

This pledge will administer a stinging rebuke to the challenge that the movies have been giving us only what we want.

Enrollment in the ranks of the Legion of Decency certainly is Catholic Action in one of its highest formas.

Too long has our inactivity made us unconscious subscribers to an attempt to "Make America Safe For Hollywood." It's high time that we answer the call of the Legion of Decency and once more help to "Make Hollywood Safe For America."

delegated as their servants, is response Cinema Is Education Rival, Fr. Walsh Tells Graduates of Teachers' College

> Washington-(NCWC)-The objec-1 procurer live off the sale of human tionable movies are competitors of flesh. The place to apply the lash in true education, the Rev. Dr. Edmund at the box office. That is now the A. Waish, vice-president of George- only responsive nerve left vulnerable."

Detroit, Mich. - The Michigan town University and regent of the **Brooklyn Social Action**

Catholic, official newspaper of the university's School of Foreign Serv-Diocese of Detroit, is acting upon the suggestion that it print automobile stickers to be used in promoting the cause of the Lission of Detroiting the stickers in both public and pri-

cause of the Legion of Decency. The vate schools," he said, "are entrusted stickers, bearing the slogan, "We De- with the grave responsibility to command Clean Movies," are three by six with the grave re inches in dimensions, and are de-

Dr. Walsh asserted that the sala signed to be placed on automobile tions motion pictures tend "to dein the eyes of the people of India windshields. The proposal has been bassch the mind of youth and child made that they be sold for a nomi-houd."

> "The production of such movies, agency such as the St. Vincent de and their exhibition," he taid, "is for furtherance of this fine spontanions Paul Society, momey and profit, as the panderer and campaign for Christian desenty

upon the public mind and mounts and particularly upon the minds of youth a and children and recommends the appointment of a special committee to consider the program by which the Conference can most effetively as operate with other religious groups and civic bodies in effecting a sema-The last of the the Bishers's C a d which up di T. MeNi up of the movies. Action trainet wa-Ch nholesome movies is also expected to be taken at the annual converties of Roll of Pt. War Theological Seminary of America, Daring the set which meets at Tannersville No. Y, at the Collectie Mete Metles Plature, inthe beginning of next month. The rabbie of the Reformed Jevinh authorities of all f Temples of Chicago have sho passed a resolution favoring a classry of the paign of protest again movie industry, thus joining with nearly one million Methoding of Illintive moral influ DECEN ols who are being officially select by Bishop Ernest Lynn Waldorf to join SCHOOL BOOK or destroy the motion pills ness. But the will she the Catholic "Legion of Decency"

Union of Ministers.

against unwholesome movies. The entrance of Wisconsin Jawi into the

campaign is presaged by an editorial in the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle

The Chronicle attacks the plem made

by movie producers that they give the

public only what it wants. This plan

hold its electrocutions of murderers

in the largest stadiums in the land,

and surgeons would perform their delicate operations in the city audi-

torium before the full view of many

thousands. Killing a murderer in the

influences within same and ratomal lim-

itations of good tasts and decency.

giving support to the campaigne

Campaigns The Legion of Decency tions of many motion the low standards of has also been endorsed, by the Chicago pictures, harve forced () The Jews of Washington, D. C., will take direct and agent

safeguarding the m be represented by a committee which will attend a meeting to be held in the which their people. Those Perent antivities near future to decide what action should be taken by religious groups

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Legion of Decemen Pladae

(Sign and Give to Top) The second s is too thin for serious consideration," the Jewish organ declares. "If people got what they wanted the state would ligion. 1.0 electric chair would draw more box rapeline president in com-ing a set unitate in com-l'adail de all that's to papale of a set in the set of our papeline of the set office' than a hundred gammer and murder and smut pictures. Thome who are in control of government and of every other avenue of public sight and information have the responsibility of guiding their instruments of public.

If they cannot and will not exercise that responsibility, others must be chosen who can and will?" I maile with all tieplay of

Philadelphia Groups Supporting Cardinal Philadelphia, Pa. More thin 500-

000 copies of the pledge of the Longion of Decency have been distributed in the Archdiocese of Phildelphis, where pactors, school childre. Hay Name Societies, Enights of Columnia Councils, sodalities, alugadas and unni organizations and sus or Catholic groups have showing the second s

Brooklyn, New York-"As a group

port of the "splendid program" of the Legion of Decemey, and pledged their individual influence in the

Meet Joins Campaign

and as individual Catholics, mo Action Conference in Brooklyn re-

of the group," the Catholic Secial corded its full and enthusiastic sto-