He that lays out for God lays out for himself.

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THE GREEN REVOLUTION

BY MICHAEL WILLIAMS, EDITOR THE COMMONWEAL

(Text of address given at banquet closing conventions of National Catholic Rural Life Conference and National Catechetical Congress, October 30 in Rochester)

(Continued from last week)

"This crisis-stricken world!"

Those words strike the key of what I chiefly desire to say. The net result of the most important part of my work as a journalist, which has been my study of the work of and my personal interviews with, the keenest and most penetrating minds of our age may be summed up in saying that they all have one major thing in common: they are all crisis-conscious men and women. No matter how they may differ in their diagnosis of the causes of the world's disease (and many differ radically), and no matter how they may disagree in their proposed remedies of the disease all of them do agree upon the main fact, namely, that one great epoch of human society is coming to its end, that a fundamental crisis is upon humanity, and, therefore, willy-nilly, like it or not, believe it or not, society is entering an epoch radically differing from that which is now dissolving all about us even if the stupid, or the superficial minds, so numerous among us today, cannot recognize the fact.

In this view this rock-like conviction, rather the Communist: Marx or Lenin, or Stalin the biological determinist, like Oswald Spengler the World State Socialist, like H. G. Wells, or Bernard Shaw the Fascist like Mussolini the Nazi, like Hitler and all the other preachers or leaders of atheism, and materialism, and social or national idolatry agree; and, moreover on this point but this point alone they agree with the greatest among the Christian thinkers of our age men like Jacques Maritain, and Nicholas Berdiaeff and Christopher Dawson, and G. K. Chesterton, and Hilaire Belloc. More important still they agree with the Heads of the Church, with the vicars of Jesus Christ with all the Popes since Leo XIII uttered his warning, forty years ago, that the crisis was coming which now, indeed, has so awfully and completely come

We're Not Exempt

Yes so far, there is agreement, conclusive and final agreement The crisis is upon us The revolutions which were, and are, its prelude and accompaniment, are fermenting or exploding everywhere Nor is our own country exempt That is impossible We do not live cloistered, still less hermetically sealed, away from the rest of the world as some narrow-minded Americans think that we do. For we are human, and what effects humanity for good or for evil must needs affect us, too In Russia, the Red Revolution came, and its proceeds and we are not immune from that contagion In Italy, the Black Shirt revolution came, and its proceeds, and its results affect us today and may more deeply affect us tomorrow In Japan, the Yellow racial revolution came, and it is working out its destiny, and we well may be involved in its results as time goes on In Germany the Brown-Shirt revolution burst in all its fury, and it too proceeds along a course by which inevitably we in America are influenced.

What, then, of America? Do I dare to tell Americans that, in my belief and the belief of better minds than mine violent revolution must also be their fate?

No not their fate. I am, first of all a Catholic Christian (no matter how poor a one), and Christians cannot, never have, and never can bow down and worship the idol of fate Men have free will. If that free will be willingly guided and directed by the will of God, men may and American men will, I believe exercise a free choice in the matter of their social systems and institutions in such a way as to escape from the choice of evils which far too many nations have accepted or, rather, which have been forced upon them.

Moral Revolt

Americans therefore can, I believe choose to adopt and to propagate, and to bring about the only revolution which is harmonious with the nature of man, and consonant to the will of God a moral revolution, a revolution of spiritual force, of which the outward sign and manifestation can be and should be what I have chosen to call the Green Revolution And by that I mean no mystification, or mere fanciful phrase I mean nothing less or other than an American revolution which will restore the original bases of American life which the first American Revolution laid down and which are still the most precious possessions of the nation's traditions, but which the Industrial Revolution overthrew not finally and fatally or completely, but partly and disastrously I mean that Americans can, if they will,- if they will it strongly and promptly enough restore and nourish and perpetuate the true American social system which can be built upon an agricultural foundation, and widely distributed private property real, tangible private property; not scraps of paper stocks and bonds not paper tokens of debt owned by other people not private property for an ever-dwindling minority and anonymous groups but private property first of all in farms, and homes, and shops, and tools, and machines, and real goods. And private property in their minds, and bodies, and souls And private—yes and communal cooperative property in the form of their own schools and their own organizations and in their own families, and in their own religions not the religion of state supremacy, or of National Imperialism, or of Racial Superiority, or of Mammon worship but the religion of their Fathers, and of the Fathers of all men living the religion of the Fatherhood of Almighty God, and of human brotherhood because there is a Father Who is God, the Creator of all.

This is the Green Revolution. Silently, steadily, like the grass of the wheat, or the vines of the field and the gardens, it is already rising up in power—even political as well as economic and social and religious power over great parts of Europe where since the war, unmarked for the most part by the press because it is too non-sensational to attract that sort of notice, the agricultural movement has been promoted by many governments, but still more by voluntary cooperation among the farmers themselves which is by far the best way In Poland, in Austria, in Italy (despite other features of Italian Fascism) in Chekoslovakia and Yugoslavia, and France and Belgium and Holland and the Scandinavian countries and notably in green Ireland, the Green Revolution is under way.

Balance Sought

It is under way in the United States Read that highly remarkable new book, Land of the Free, by Herbert Agar, for the confirmation of this statement Consider the new movements toward self-sufficient farming and toward cooperative farming organizations, and the Parish Credit Unions, and the splendid accomplishments of the priests of St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia which are having such influence on this side of the boundary Consider the new interest, and the expanding work toward this objective, on the part of our Protestant and Jewish fellow citizens Finally, consider the progress made by our own Catholic organizations, meeting now here in Rochester Time is lacking for treating the details of our own Catholic contribution to the Green Revolution, upon which, I declare my belief, the future liberty and prosperity and happiness of our nation so vitally depends. Moreover, I am not competent for such a task. But there is one fact which should be apparent to all of us, general observers as well as the experts in the movement and it is this

About eighty to ninety per cent of American Catholics are almost completely urbanized they live in, and they are dependent upon, the industrial towns and cities. Three to four generations of urban life kill out all families living under urban conditions High and strong legal walls and national hardships have definitely put an end to the increase, or even the keeping up, of our present Catholic population Only in the country can families maintain a reasonably high birth level But our Catholic families are for the most part in the cities dying out, and doomed to die out even more rapidly in the future, if they remain urbanized.

Can we restore a balance? Can we not only save our Church from a great, a potentially fatal waste and decline but also perform our part in a great work of redemption of the nation of which we are a part, by joining the Green Revolution--in fact, by becoming its moral and spiritual leaders? Does such a vision mean a mass movement of Catholics out of the towns back to a country already groaning under its own peculiar burdens? Of course not—that is quite impossible. But it is possible, if we will it so, to build up the existing country parishes, plant thousands of new ones, extend the religious education and the cultural activities already under way more and more vigorously. Cooperation is, it seems to me, almost the master word of this movement. Almost, but no; the master word is Faith. It could be done; it can be done—Oh, let us say, It will be done, because it is the will of Our Father in Heaven that it should be done!

Minister Flays Mexican Denial Of Persecution

New York (NC)- The assertions of Ramon Beteta, representative of the Mexican Revolutionary Party, at the recent Williamstown Institute of Human Relations, that "There is no religious question in Mexico" are scathingly refuted by the Rev. Dr. Charles C. Macfarland, general secretary-emeritus of the Federal Council of the Churchs of Christ in America, in an article in the Nov. 2 issue of America.

In his article, entitled "Williamstown and Mexico," Dr. Macfarland says. "The representative of the Mexican Government said, 'It couldn't be possible for any government to persecute the Catholics in Mexico and still exist.' The word persecution, according to the dictionary, means 'to pursue in a manner to injure or inflict, to harrow, to inflict cruel or oppressive treatment' Need we debate that the State is injuring, inflicting, harrowing and oppressing the Church?

"To claim there is no religious question when teachers are compelled to sign a declaration, 'I am an atheist,' seems to me to be the extreme of ineptitude."

Dr. Macfarland tells of having seen on the walls of the Cathedral in Mexico City "flaming posters of the State plastered on its walls, attacking it in violent terms as an institution' He told of having gone into churches and found them "filled with vile caricatures of religion itself, and asked "Is it not answered when the Government goes into the Cathedral, makes trash heaps of altars and crucifixes, and pastes seals on its paintings of the Madonna and in the church offices on the typewriters, certifying that they are the property of the Government?"

"A few months ago," Dr Macfarland said, "the Mexican Ambassador constantly affirmed that there was "no persecution in Mexico.' Now the formula has been changed and Mr. Beteta adapted himself to the new formulation: 'There is no religious question in Mexico.' This is obviously meant to imply that the people of Mexico are content with the present anti-religious policy of the Government The Government knows that the people of Mexico do not consent to the closing of the churches

"All told, the Williamstown session on Mexico served a very valuable purpose By changing the course of discussion originally intended, the situation was all the more vividly and dramatically revealed. Now we see there is serious religious persecution in Mexico' said the Protestant paper, The Churchman, in reporting Williamstown. 'And so long as the present laws exist the right of the religious people will inevitably be denied'"

Columbus Youth Drive Workers In Final Push to Go Over Top

Spurred by words of encouragement expressed by Archbishop Mooney, at the opening of the campaign Thursday of last week for 2,000 members in the Columbus Youth Association, 400 team workers are putting forth every effort to reach the goal set, by Monday evening, Nov. 18.

Illustrative of the fine community spirit existing in Rochester, Protestants, Jews and Catholics, many of whom have cooperated in earlier drives of the JYMA and YMCA, are working zealously to make the campaign more than a success by the closing night.

Workers were inspired by addresses given by Archbishop Mooney and Representative James P. B. Duffy on the opening night. Melvin H. Swartz, YMCA secretary; Harry B. Crowley, campaign chairman, and William T. Nolan, secretary, gave inspirational talks.

The campaign is being held to assure 2,000 memberships in the Columbus Youth Association offering the facilities of the Columbus Civic Center for health developing and character building among boys and girls of the city and surrounding territory who otherwise would be deprived of such advantages.

An intensive campaign is being carried on by the special committee led by Walter P. Cox. The men's division is being directed by Harry J. Murphy and the women's groups by Mrs. Robert C. Hartmann.

Monday night's report meeting was addressed by Grand Knight James E. Cuff of the Knights of Columbus who told the workers they were doing a fine job.

"I don't believe any CYA drive has ever had better campaigners," said Grand Knight Cuff. "We know you'll put the drive over the top by Monday night."

Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, acting director of the Center: Chairman Crowley and Special Committee Chairman Cox told of the service rendered by the association and of its beneficial effect in the community during the past years.

Headquarters of the campaign is in the lobby of Columbus Civic Center Building, 50 Chestnut Street. All desiring to donate or sign up a membership who are not reached by the solicitors may do so by visiting the campaign office.

St. Bridget's Fete Set Three Evenings Before Thanksgiving

Annual Thanksgiving Festival of St Bridget's Church will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, November 21, 22, and 23, in the School Hall on Hand Street.

The hall will be decorated for the occasion, and there will be several booths, at which turkeys, chickens, candy, pillows and other appropriate merchandise will be disposed of. Refreshments may be had, and ample parking sace will be rovided in the rear of the school.

The Rev J J Brosnihan, pastor, and chairman of the festival, is assisted by a large committee. They are headed by the following: Joseph Orland, Frank Abel, Harry McCurn, George Mann, James Mulamphy, Oliver C. Pasch, John Greene, William Levis. The Ladies Committee is headed by Mrs. P. O'Grady.

Holy Family Group Ready for Big Fete

Declared to surpass former festivals in innovations and variety, the Thanksgiving Festival of Holy Family Church will be held in the school auditorium on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, Nov. 23, 25, and 26. Preparations of the various committees are now complete, and novel methods of entertainment will prevail.

There will be no admission charge All attending are assured an enjoyable and social evening.

William Giblin, general chairman, will be assisted by several committees. Heading the committees, are Frank Voelkl, secretary; tickets, John Hannan; door, William LeRoy, variety booth, Martha Schuey; refreshments, Margaret Weidmann; bingo booth, Norbert Boss; baseball booth, Frank Beierschmitt; fish pond, Margaret Frank; bedding booth, Andrew Wuest; chicken booth, Henry May; stock room, Charles Schur; turkey booth, John Boss; publicity, Frank H Binsack.

Communistic Philosophy Opposes Church, Priest Tells University Group

The materialistic philosophy of Communism which denies the existence of God furnishes a strong reason for opposition of the Catholic Church to Communism, the Rev. George Vogt of St. Andrew's Seminary told members of the Newman Club of the University of Rochester at Cutler Union, on Thursday of last week.

About fifty men and women students of the University attended Father Vogt's lecture. The Newman Club was holding its monthly meeting The Rev. George J Schmitt, pastor of St. Anne's Church is chaplain of the men's division of the Newman Club and the Rev Robert J Keleher, assistant pastor of Corpus Christi Church is chaplain of the women's division

Holy Name To Conduct Coldwater Poultry Sale

The annual poultry sale under the auspices of the Holy Name Society will be held for the benefit of the Church of the Holy Ghost, Coldwater. Wednesday evening Nov 20, at 8 o'clock in the School Hall, Coldwater Road.

Live turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens will be available for the Thanksgiving table, the committee states. The public is invited by the Rev. P A. Erras, pastor

Young People Socials

St. John's Parish

The "Young Ladies Sodality of St. John, the Evangelist Church will hold a baloon social in the school hall on Wednesday evening Nov. 20. Miss Peggy Spies is general chairman

Holy Family Parish

Holy Family will have their fifth social of the season in the Jay Street auditorium Nov. 15. Ken Frederick and his Columbians will play from 9 until 12.

NAZARETH HALL SCHOOL ROLL OF HONOR

The monthly reports of Nazareth Hall School showed a marked improvement in scholarship for the mont hof October. The following boys won badges for honor during the month:

David Baker, Thomas Barry, Billy Bubel, Billy Burke, James Conolly, Brownlow Deavitt, James Feely, Ralph Forschler, Willard Galvin, Patrick Grady, George Guerinot, Joseph Guzzetta, William Halbleib, Arthur Harmer, Robert Hurley, Richard Keenan, Robert Kesselring, John LeRoux, Robert May, Edward Meagher, Joseph Mogenhan, Paul Mourant, oseph Myler, John Nelson, John Norton, Robert Norton, ack O'Grady, Frederick Pistorius, John Reider, John Roberts, Patrick Rooney, Bernard Schmitt, Stanley Smith, George Staud, Donald Still Mathew VanOrder, William Whitney, George Wickes, Boniface Wohlrab.

High School Students Hear Evolution Talk By Aquinas Professor

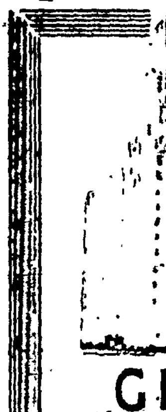
Before an audience of some 65 high school boys and girls attending the weekly meeting of a newly formed club in St. Anne's Church Hall, Brighton Parkway, Monday evening, the Rev. Joseph Wurzer, M.A., Vice Principal of Aquinas Institute discussed the subject of "Evolution."

Father Wurzer told the students they are permitted to believe any theory of evolution they want to believe, provided they accept these three points: 1. There is a God; 2 That God made the first form of life, 3 That God made the human soul.

Members of the St. Anne's Club for High School students attend high schools of the city in the vicinity of the parish. The club was formed by the Rev. George J. Schmitt, pastor of St. Anne's Church who presented Father Wurzer to the students.

OFFICIALS NAMED

New Orleans-(NC)-The Most Rev. John M. Laval, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, has been designated Vicar General of the Archdiocese, and the Rev. Michael A. Gashan, Chancellor, it has been announced by the Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans.



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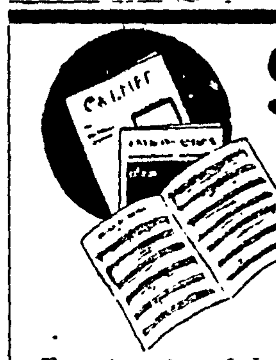

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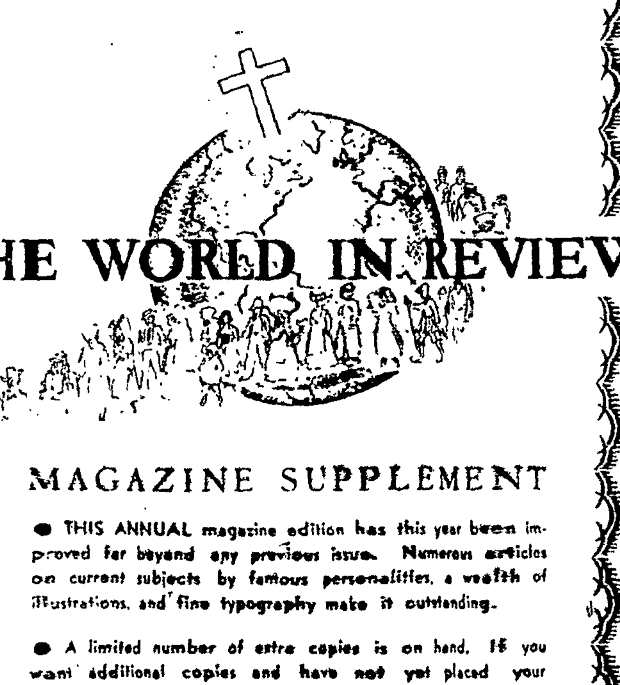

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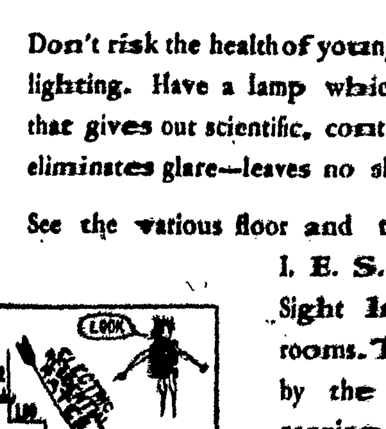

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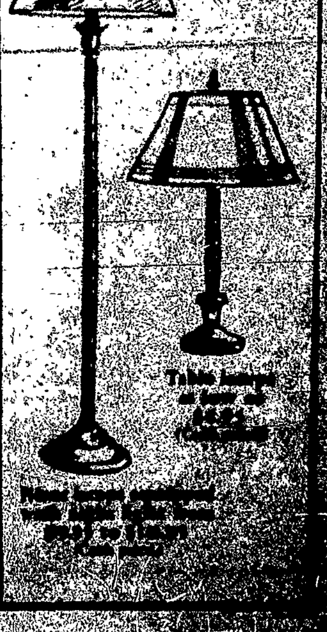

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