

Once Again, Defense

By REV. JAMES M. GILLIS, C.S.P., Editor, The Catholic World

It often happens in this column that when I am coming to the end of my space, I feel that I am only leaving to do with the subject in hand. Perhaps my readers think too. The frigid and more indulgent ones could perhaps endure a longer disquisition each week. The less friendly or more critical would probably say that I take a topic and have it rammed down their throats over and over when I stop. But what can you do with 700 or 800 words?

Take the matter introduced and briefly considered last week—Belgium, an entire all Belgium—George Washington, that the best guarantee of peace is to be prepared for war. Or with Polesian: "Beware of entrance into a quarrel, but, being in, fight that the opposed may beware of thee."

Also we agreed that if those who administer the affairs of the United States, and those who manage its industries work assiduously together, we can beat the world at preparation. We have the resources—thanks to Divine Providence we have the materials, we have the science, we have the talent—any nation a genius—for invention. Mass production is "right down our alley."

Well then, where is the catch? The catch is in that little phrase which you may have read hurriedly, or perhaps did not notice at all, as you slipped through the third paragraph above: "We have the talent—any nation a genius—for invention. Mass production is 'right down our alley.'"

Library Signpost. I think that the Catholic who reads Walter Lippman or Dorothy Thompson religiously and who passes up the commentators in America or the Commonwealth is going to get quite a jolt on the day of his Particular Judgment.

Just Deadly Unoriginal. The University teeth was at breakfast in the dining car. Nice looking, clean, smart-crowd of fellows, who ate their breakfast as I ate my lunch (they'd taken advantage of the late arrival for a few minutes to sleep), and were gentlemanly. Their talk was low pitched, their manners were excellent; they were a credit to their school.

Five Years Ago. From May 21, 1936, Edition. It became thoroughly conversant with the principles of social justice as set forth in the Encyclicals of Pope Leo XIII and Pope Pius XI and then applied them in every day walks of life, trades, professions, business and business associations was wrong upon more than 1000 persons at a mass meeting marking the Encyclical anniversary in Columbia City Centre auditorium.

It is not that we are ill-prepared for an immediate emergency, but that we are ill-prepared for a long one. He declares specifically that not a single army unit is ready at this moment to take the field, and that even by autumn of this year our ability to defend ourselves (North America and South America) is not better. We have no force that could be shuttled quickly back and forth along the Atlantic or the Pacific Coast or, if need be, to Panama or Brazil or the Argentine.

At a time when military men seriously doubt Britain's ability to hold out in the face of increased bombing and air attacks, the merits of horse-drawn artillery are still being debated in our training camps, the relative values of square and triangular divisions are still being threshed out and the plugging, rifle-carrying infantryman is still deemed to be a better fighting force in the army.

I am, of course, no expert. But I have a "hunch" that if England in September, 1939, had five airplanes for Germany's one, or even two for one, there might have been no war. So that as it may, there is no reason why with nearly two years of warning and of chance to prepare we should not have such quantities of mechanized armor and such a large number of skilled operators that mechanized that no one in his senses—not Adolf Hitler or out of his senses—would so much as think of attacking us. But remember that sentence: If we set our mind to it we must set our mind to defense. And soon. Bay rather than not now.

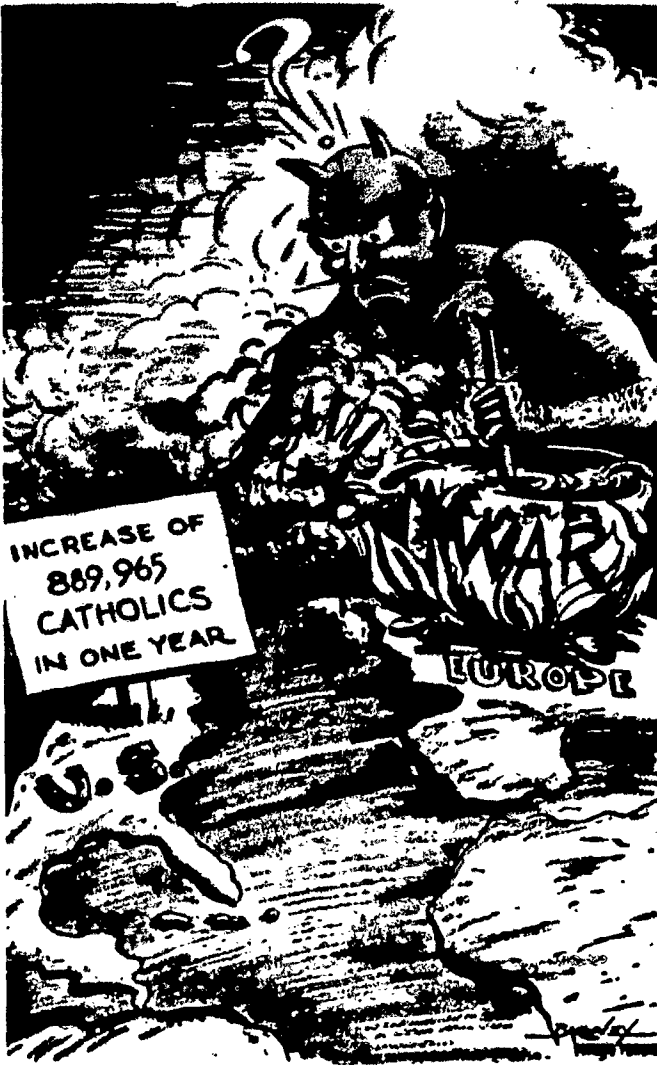
Cues and Clues. The New Testament Witness to Our Blessed Lady. by Vincent McNabb. The Husbands of the Old Testament, by P. L. Perroy. The Women of the Old Testament, by Cardinal Faulhaber.

Diocesan Recordings. Congratulations to the Holy Redeemer Athletic Association for having completed 25 years in keeping young Catholic men together in an organization providing ample recreation under proper supervision. The most important thing that has kept this group together has been its spirit.

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Not Doing As Well As He Thought



PAGE MY PASTOR

Right Rev. Hugh Peter M.H. Wynhoven, Editor-in-Chief, Catholic Action of the South

"Hi, Cedic. Been waiting long?" "No, only a minute, Fran. Jump in. It's a grand day for a drive."

"It's not you, Fran. I've just come from the rectory. I was ordering a Mass, and there was the most gorgeous woman in the place ahead of me."

"How do you mean, gorgeous?" "Funny. She'd have made a swell monologist in fact, counting the number of words the pastor was able to get in edgewise. He'd chatter amounted to a monologue."

"What was it all about, Cedic?" "I wish I could do a good imitation of her for you, Fran. She said, 'I plainly told you I wanted a Mass for my husband who is dead and instead of giving me a sad Mass in black you make it joyful in white. What'll people say? What will my dear husband say? Maria, she don't grieve over me no more, she is so joyful that she ain't bothered with me any more.'"

"Golly. What did the pastor say to that trade?" "The poor man tried to explain, but she wouldn't give him a chance. She jumped on him and said, 'You can't explain me nothing. You just go ahead and say any Mass you like, as long as you make the dollar. My cousin from the old country studied up on that priest once and he told me that all you care about is the dollar. My cousin had about enough of you all. He quit going to church years ago.'"

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Reception Days. Today's Feast of the Ascension was preceded by the usual three Reception Days. These are days of special prayer with a program for the fields and blessing of the soil.

That Ye Be Not Scandalized. It was no rosy program of life that Our Lord set before His Apostles. It was a program so filled with persecution and suffering that He insisted on their knowing it beforehand.

Over The Top! The Rochester Community Chest has scored a signal victory in the splendid result of the Campaign that closed Monday night.

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