

Race Prejudice Termed Destructive of Unity

PHILADELPHIA — "The fostering of race prejudice and all the practices based thereon" were condemned "as destructive of national unity" in a pronouncement issued by the Philadelphia Catholic Interracial Council following its joint meeting here with representatives of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York.

The meeting was conducted in the form of a court trial in which the "witnesses" were the Rev. John LaFarge, S. J., Associate Editor of

American, presenting the teachings of the Papal Encyclicals, and Harold A. Stevens, New York attorney, presenting the problems of the Colored. George K. Hunton, Editor of Interracial Review, cross-examined both witnesses.

Youth Course

ST. LOUIS (NC) — A youth leadership training course for priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be held at St. Louis University here January 14-16. The staff of instructors in the course will be headed by the Rev. Paul Tappner, Assistant Director of the Youth Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

The Courier Covers

THE NEW MOVIES

By John Springner

(Editor's Note: Listed as Class B, objectionable in part, by the National Legion of Decency, this week, are: "Art of Love"—Objection: "Questionable ethics, suggestive scenes." "Beharua Passage"—Objection: "Dirree in plot selection.")

The Ten Best Pictures of 1941

The season is on! Everyone who picks is picking his list of ten best

pictures of the year. This department has already given you its list of ten worst pictures of the year and the best performances of the year. So here, without further ado, is this department's best ten—listed in order of excellence:

"Citizen Kane" Orson Welles' tour de force. Striking, original, exciting.

"The Little Foxes" A fine screen adaptation of a great play, superbly acted and directed.

"Here Comes Mr. Jordan"—A delightful fantasy, produced and acted with wit and intelligence.

"The Stars Look Down"—A realistic and moving story of Welsh miners, produced without artificial concessions to the box-office.

"Sergeant York"—A sincere, restrained and entirely notable screen biography.

"Major Barbara"—An excellent screen transcription of George Bernard Shaw's play, although objections to Shaw's expressed ideas on religion and marriage must be borne in mind.

"Tom, Dick and Harry"—A thoroughly engaging comedy, with bright moments of fantasy.

"Suspicion"—A constantly gripping, suspense-filled picture, despite an inconclusive ending.

"The Lady Eve"—A polished and sophisticated comedy.

"The Maltese Falcon"—the best picture of its type since "Crime Without Passion" and the first "Thin Man."

I choose the following fifteen films, in order of excellence, as runners-up to fill out the list of 1941's 25 best: "Ladies in Retirement," "Man Hunt," "Kitty Foyle," "Out of the Fog," "So Ends Our Night," "The Sea Wolf," "The Devil and Miss Jones," "Love Crazy," "Unfinished Business," "The Thief of Bagdad," "A Yank in the R.A.F.," "A Woman's Face," "Texas," "Girl in the News," "Hold Back the Dawn" and "Blossoms in the Dust."

There are a good—twenty-five more that should be singled out for special mention if there were space. I do not mention Walt Disney's thrilling "Fantasia," although it was covered in this space, because it did not play in Rochester during the year, but more because I consider it—as well as the delightful "Dumbo"—as films that should be separately classified. If you pin me down to it, I must admit that each of them would go into the list of ten best pictures of the year—and in a position well towards the top.

And—speaking of "Dumbo"—let's leave our contemplation of the pictures of the year and go back to the movies of the week.

"Dumbo"—A-1

Walt Disney has gone back to the simplicity that characterized the best sequences of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and most of his successful short-cartoons. That "Dumbo," his Disney feature, is in the master's very best vein is really important news for the Disney cult.

For "Dumbo" brings us our favorite Disney—the imaginative genius... the Disney who knows human interest and the comedy that arises from it as no other man in Hollywood knows it. "Dumbo" has everything you love in Disney.

There is the Disney humor—ranging from gentle mirth to uproarious slapstick. There is the Disney pathos—always an understated, but present, feature of the best Disney pictures. There is music that fits and there is the usual skillful Disney technique in drawing and color, particularly in the fantastic "pink elephant" sequences.

There is a set of characters that rank with Disney's most ingratiating pen-and-ink people. There are the tough, little Brooklynese mouse; the gossipy female elephants; the five black crows; Casey, Jr. the train with a personality; Mrs. Jumbo, the fiercely protective mother elephant; the weary Western Union stork who delivers Dumbo. And there is Dumbo himself—Disney's most appealing character since Dopey and the Ugly Duckling.

Don't get the idea that "Dumbo" is a children's picture. It is, of course, a perfect picture for children—but I can conceive of few adults failing to be enchanted by it. "Enchanting" is an overworked adjective but it's time to drag it out of the mothballs again. For "Dumbo" is completely, entirely enchanting—Disney at his best—and the perfect Christmas present for anyone who goes to the movies.

"They Died With Their Boots On"—A-1

Described by one critic as a "Custer story, full of action, Indians and anachronisms," "They Died With Their Boots On" is nevertheless just the stuff that Errol Flynn fans eat up. The picture covers the career of General Custer from the time that he arrives at West Point as a plebe through the historic last stand.

According to those who know their history better than I the producers have taken flagrant liberties with historical fact. It is doubtful whether or not that will particularly bother the Flynn devotees. For the story is according to formula and the average fan won't care whether the hero's character name is General Custer or Deadwood Dick.

The expensive cast includes Mr. Flynn himself, with the palpitating Olivia de Havilland; and such expert actors as Sydney Greenstreet, Stankey Ridges, Arthur Kennedy, Gene Lockhart and others making as much as possible out of their roles.

The publicity men, who have repeatedly hammered the fact that the massacre scene is patterned exactly after the famous bar-room print, are responsible for that losing most of its effectiveness. One thinks instead of Director Raoul Walsh carefully posing everyone, with the picture at his elbow as a check, and of trained extras falling off their horses at just the right minute.

There are two types of Westerns—those, like "Texas," which have the saving grace of humor, and the super-special epics. As "They Died With Their Boots On" is a super-special epic, it is twice as long as a mere epic, and takes itself very seriously indeed. A person must always be very impressed by a "s-s-e," but sometimes they grow a little wearying.

Other Pictures of the Week

"New Wine," A-1.—The music of Franz Schubert beautifully presented in a picture that weaves glorious music into a thread of plot. The story is rather stuffy romanticism of the operetta school, with Albert Basserman's brief moments as Beethoven and an exaggerated but amusing performance

(Continued on Page 17)

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EDWARDS—Third Floor

Movie Guide

NEW FILMS REVIEWED	REGENT
Lone Rider and the Bandit, A-1	Dumbo, A-1
Riders of the Bushlands, A-1	Rise and Shine, A-2
West of Cimarron, A-1	
You're in the Army Now, A-1	LITTLE
All Through the Night, A-2	New Wine (Not classified)
Hellzapoppin', A-2	RIVIERA
Playmaker, A-1	Shadow of the Thin Man, A-2
Art of Love, B	Three Girls About Town, B
Beharua Passage, B	DIXIE
AT THE THEATRES	I Wake Up Screaming, A-2
FALACE	Great Guns, A-1
Louisiana Purchase, B	STATE and LIBERTY
Week End for Three, A-2	It Started With Eve, A-1
LOWE'S ROCHESTER	The Pittsburgh Kid, A-1
Babes on Broadway, A-1	MADISON
Mr. and Mrs. North (Not classified)	Chocolate Soldier, A-2
CENTURY	Small Town Bob, A-1
One Foot in Heaven, A-1	MONROE
Code of the West, A-1	Chocolate Soldier, A-2
TEMPLE	Three Girls About Town, B
The Order Case (Not classified)	