

Warns Birth Controllers Using War Emergency To Spread Propaganda

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(Written for N. C. W. C. News Service)

The birth-controllers are at it again. The press is filled with the statistics they have marshalled and with their smooth statements about health and planning—and, God forbid, even about democracy by means of which they are working to foist upon the American public legalized and public-funded-supported birth control. The immediate occasion is the meeting of the Birth Control Federation of America in New York. The destructive organization plays its cards well. Plenty of notoriety.

They have even had the temerity to seek arguments in the "over-crowding" of countries abroad, contending that overpopulation in Japan and other Axis countries is an obstacle to permanent future peace, and asserting that "birth control therefore becomes an indispensable instrument in the pacific international adjustments of the future."

Population Decline Ignored
These things are cleverly presented, and tend to divert attention from the real threat of population decline here in the United States. Little attention is given, in these propaganda outpourings, to the following facts:

There are approximately 2,000,000 fewer children in the schools of the United States today than a decade ago, according to the National Education Association.

The U. S. Bureau of the Census pointed out the past year that "if

the present birth and death rates continue, the population of the United States will fail to maintain its numbers by about 4 per cent per generation. Just recently, pointing to a slight upturn in births, it again concludes with a gloomy note: "Unless factors change, growth will stop and a slow recession probably set in."

This is corroborated by three authors of a recent volume on population—Lorimer, Winston and Kiser—who state: "All the indices of population trends show that a decline in the total population is due in the near future."

Decline in Large Cities
Oliver E. Baker of the U. S. Department of Agriculture paints the following picture: "Our large cities are replacing themselves by only two-thirds, and if their present birth rates continue their population will drop to one-third their present size in three generations or about one hundred years." And still we should have more birth control—now also in the rural districts where there are still a few children.

Man may violate nature, and nature, unmoved, lets him have his way. But punishment is certain to come.

The plea of a war measure, of preventing waste, is also brought into play. Comforting words they must be to the fathers and mothers who did not "plan" their family, but who reared a family of sons who now go forth to fight in the ports of the world. A. S. 10 of them as our President put it. Perhaps they were fools. It would have been so much easier to have planned, and thereby also saved

themselves from their present anguish.

The usual "big" names are listed in the program of the New York meeting. True, there are a few names that seem in strange company. It must cause a most painful feeling of regret to Americans who respect and love their country to see in the news stories the name of the First Lady of the land. An American will find it very difficult to believe that she is incapable of distinguishing between social activities in the field of health and such foul artifices as are implied in the term birth control.

Ignorance of Church Stated

One of the speakers stated that the Catholic Church was divided on the question of birth control and suggested that the birth controllers' strategy should be to widen this breach. The statement is first class evidence of the gentleman's ignorance of the Catholic Church. If he did not wish to go through the scholarly exertions of ascertaining what the Church has taught down the centuries, he might at least have read the encyclical written by Pope Pius XI in 1928.

"Any use whatsoever of matrimony," says Pius XI, "exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offense against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of a grave sin."

There is no equivocation there, no room for division over such words.

There is nothing particularly new or worth quoting from the various effusions of the meeting. Perhaps the fact most worth noting is the usual old-time trickery in the use of words. Consistently the practice of birth controllers is linked with activity for the welfare of children, with movements for the improvement of health and alleviation of suffering, and with the highly respected word "democracy." All of which is, of course, doubly unpardonable when it is suggested that our government foster the practice, and even to use public funds for the purpose.

Evil Effects Cited

Physical health of a people is a very desirable thing. But it need not, and should not, be attained through the sacrifice of spiritual health. A program of artificial birth control does precisely that. It implies an eventual decadent nation, a selfish and undisciplined people. It results in a debilitating moral cancer that slowly drains away the vital powers of a people. It implies moral laxity, stamps in the spirit of sterile pleasure and self-indulgence. It rejects the hardy virtues and encourages a softness and deterioration that must prove suicidal to a nation and its citizens.

To violate the law of nature is unethical.

To violate the divine law is morally wrong.

To separate, artificially, physical love from the end of marriage is intrinsically immoral. It is to place the animal in man over his human reason. It is to substitute uncontrol for self-control. Birth control does all these things—and more. Yet at least one of the speakers at the Birth Control Federation meeting referred to it as a "democratic ideal."

bigotry and all its ramifications are excuses rather than reasons for disharmony. He thought that the dross of misunderstanding could very easily be changed into the gold of understanding.

When the question was asked as to why the doctrines of all churches are not included in the teachings of all churches, Father Ahern was called upon to make a reply. He pointed out that the difficulty was primarily a physical one. To instruct people in all the 225 religions in the United States would take about 5 years. At the end of that period Catholics would then know all about everything—except Catholicism.

Third speaker on the program was Rabbi Milton Steinberg of Park Ave. Synagogue, New York. He built his talk around the question of what do the interfaith members hold in common. He pointed out that all aspire as to unity of destiny and unity of interest. All three likewise have a basic morality.

He contended that the interfaith movement was actually loyalty to the principles that our country symbolizes. These values which the three faiths affirm together are the core of democracy.

Rabbi Steinberg expressed the view that our problem during the war and after it is over is to prove that men can be free without infringing on the rights of others. By accomplishing this we prove the beauty of a harmonious life.

The Interfaith Good Will Committee celebration was sponsored by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, Vicar General of the Rochester Diocese; Rev. Justin Wroe Nixon of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, and Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein of Tzfat B'ritz Kodah.

Pamphlet On Explorer

CHICAGO.—The Rev. Thomas A. Meehan, Assistant Editor of The New World, official organ of the Archdiocese of Chicago, has just had published the story of Henri de Tonti, Catholic explorer. The pamphlet is "Man with the Iron Hand" and is published by Our Sunday Visitor Press, Huntington, Ind.

True humility consists in being content with all that God is pleased to ordain for us believing ourselves unworthy to be called His servants.



My dear People:

The month of February is Catholic Press month. It is a month definitely set aside by our Church for a revival each year of our interest in Catholic publications and for the development of a wider circle of readers for the ever-increasing output of the Catholic Press.

The Catholic Press chronicles the achievements of the various Catholic groups engaged in spreading the principles of Christianity; it is the instrument through which Catholic thought is made operative and effective.

In this diocese the CATHOLIC COURIER marks the tenth anniversary of the reorganization and looks back upon these years as a period of consistent development and progress.

Our diocesan paper now ranks with the worth-while weekly diocesan publications in the country. It is very important—in fact imperative at the present crisis that a source of official Catholic information be in every home. The enemies of the Church have shown an inclination to falsify, misinterpret and distort the Catholic position on many important matters of current news value. The public mentality upset by the conditions of the times is an easy prey to falsehood. There must be in every home a reliable source of information.

For this reason it becomes more important that the CATHOLIC COURIER be in every home in the diocese and that all observances connected with Catholic Press Month this year be given your heartiest cooperation.

With a blessing, I am

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

John E. Kearney
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Three Clergymen Address Interfaith Gathering

Representatives of three faiths gathered at the Rochester Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday noon to celebrate National Brotherhood Week.

Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews was the first speaker. He set forth the aims for which the Interfaith Group should strive. He discussed basic problems and cited statistical data on nationalities in the United States and the proportion of difference in religion. He believed that the activities of the Interfaith Group might solve the problems which arise from the variety of religions.

Rev. Michael J. Ahern, S.J., of Weston College, Mass., was the second speaker. He felt that Rochester had made great progress in organizing its community drive and was of the opinion that if a community can get together on civil problems it certainly could work together on other problems. Father Ahern pointed out that

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Order Alien Identification

All natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of any foreign nation or government with which war has been declared, who are 14 years of age and older, and who are within the United States and who have not fully acquired United States citizenship, are required to apply at specified post offices for a Certificate of Identification.

The announcement made by Francis Biddle, Attorney General states that such Certificates are to contain the alien's photograph and must thereafter be carried by the person to whom issued.

Those who do not comply with these requirements are subject to severe penalties.

Applications will be received at the Main Post Office, Cumberland Street and Hyde Park, Rochester, between 8:30 a. m. and 5:00 p. m. on all week days, Feb. 5 to 28, 1942 inclusive. It is announced by Donald A. Dalley, Postmaster.

Two Service Flags Mark Parish Youth In Armed Forces

A Service Flag with twelve stars now flies below the Stars and Stripes on the flag pole at St. Columba's Church, Caledonia. These stars represent one young woman and eleven young men of the Parish now in the Armed Services.

Another flag with seven stars is displayed at St. Patrick's Church, Mumford.

The Rev. John M. Sellinger, a veteran chaplain of the First World War, is pastor of both parishes.

Archbishop Spellman Sets Charity Appeal

NEW YORK.—The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, has designated the week of April 12 for the twenty-third Annual Appeal of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. It was announced today by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Robert F. Keegan, Monsignor Keegan is Executive Director of New York Catholic Charities and Secretary for Charities to the Archbishop.

The week of April 12 will be devoted to the house-to-house solicitation of Catholics in the 278 parishes in the archdiocese. Monsignor Keegan said, and will be preceded by a general canvass without respect to creed by the Special Gifts Committee of the Archbishop's Committee of the Laity. Archbishop Spellman will serve as Chairman of the 1942 Appeal.

Sodality Elects In Mt. Morris

At a recent meeting of the Young Ladies' Sodality of the Church of the Assumption, Mt. Morris, the following officers were elected: Dr. rectress, Frances Sappalana; president, Lena Genio; vice-presi- dent, Mary Cipolla; secretary, Carmella Cipolla, and treasurer, Frances Macaluso.

SAIL FOR AFRICA

Rome.—Twenty-one newly-or- dained priests of the Society for the African Missions, Irish Pro- vince, have left Dublin for mis- sions in Liberia and in Nigeria.



CATHOLIC COURIER Staff Photo
NATIONAL INTER-FAITH LEADERS—addressed the large audi-
ence marking Brotherhood Week at the Chamber of Commerce Wednes-
day. They are: (from left) Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, Rabbi Milton Steinberg
and Rev. Michael J. Ahern, S.J.