

Parallels Addresses Heard At U. of R. Latin America Meet

Participants in the Latin American Conference sponsored by the University of Rochester here this week, found a striking similarity in the speeches at this Conference to those of the Catholic Latin American Forum series sponsored by the Catholic Schools in preparation for this week's sessions.

The Rev. Albert Braun, C.S.S.R., of Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House, Geneva, gave the closing talk in the Catholic series on January 22. His paper on "Our Good Neighbor Policy" follows in part:

"We hear so much lately about this Good Neighbor Policy. Let us first of all take the meaning of Good Neighbor policy and we shall see that it's very idea presupposes a moral responsibility on our part, of really knowing our neighbors. From that angle then, let us view the economic importance of our relationship with South America, and how we can assist in promoting genuine good neighborliness.

A Good Neighbor

"When I first left for Brazil, I really was determined to enter in the very philosophy of life of those people. In order to be of real help to anyone, it is essential that we know him well and understand him. This mutual understanding must be the basis of our good neighbor policy. If we blindly just give these people food and clothing, expecting to be repaid with interest, then we are solely interested in the profit we can make. That is definitely not being a good neighbor.

"If on the contrary we send out men to study these countries and their needs impartially, with genuine sympathy, and without that constant eye on profits, and then show them how to improve their conditions, with technicians and engineers who are sympathetically interested then we are really doing something—then we are real neighbors.

"South America needs us just as well as we need South America. That has been brought to light by the present conflict.

"To the south of us there are 21 republics, different one from the other, each with its own interests and environment, each with its own historical background. We have won their admiration for our hard work, our productive capacity, our well organized cooperation in the defense of the hemisphere, and above all, they admire the four freedoms we proclaim.

"Above all, Latin America wants our sincere friendship. Oh yes! they love to hear us laud their charming landscapes, and lovely cities, and rich lands, and unearthly wealth. They cannot help seeing however that the interest we generally display is, towards these material resources, and not towards the 120 million Latin Americans who inhabit those lands. And

as large hearted and intelligent as we have shown ourselves, I fear that we still do not understand the Latin American.

Understanding Spirit

"It is not easy to understand their spirit. The first reason for this is the very nature of their race. We are apt to look upon them as a product of Iberian civilization exclusively. They take an entirely different view of their cultural ancestry.

"The majority of their ancestors were original dwellers on this continent, and some of them had attained a high degree of culture long before the Spanish conquest, as is attested by the Incas, and the Aztecs, and the Mayas. They preserved all that the natives had, Christianized it, mixed it with the best in Iberia's racial and cultural stock, and produced a new race.

"Another difficulty in this un-

derstanding springs from the language. We of the U. S. A. are little inclined to bridge this gap. Even a slight effort on our part would be of immense advantage. They are making many efforts to acquire a knowledge of English because they think that countries demands it; and they are often secretly hurt when so little effort is made in returning the compliment.

"To understand our Sister Republics it is furthermore necessary to know that these various republics have such a spirit quite their own. We are inclined to envision them as more or less one and the same thing. The historical background of each republic though is the main somewhat similar to that of the others, is yet, in its development totally different, and given to each one an independent selfhood.

"It is a common view amongst Latin Americans, and I think their view is justified, that we do not appreciate their cultural heritage. They cannot help but feel that condescending attitude assumed toward them. In order to evaluate their culture properly, we should bear in mind that there is, practically no common educational thread running through the various Americas. The mind of their business men, educators and workmen is cast in a mold different from that of their North American counterpart. Their cultural trend has been generally toward Europe and quite naturally, toward Spain and Portugal in particular.

Definite Culture

"The majority of the upper class families have been accustomed to send their children to the universities of Europe for their education. These bring back with them European ideals. These naturally influence both society and government. Their artists and scientists will naturally cooperate with those universities and find there a ready market for their productions. The long list of their literatures, artists, composers, statesmen and persons of unusual ability in other lines of endeavor proves that they have a definite Latin-American culture which unfortunately is but superficially appreciated here in the United States.

"Then too, their ideals are neither materialistic nor utilitarian. They are practical too, and sufficiently keen in business but these things do not mean everything with them. Their aims and ideals tend toward a higher plane.

"The spirit of the Latin American is a happy and appealing combination of the many characteristics of the Hispanic-Hidalgo grafted on the solid, sturdy, and deeply humble parent stem of the original stock. They possess an interior culture, a high refinement of the soul and they treasure that above all wealth and material advantage. There you find that delicate courtesy so characteristic of the cultured Latin American, and this is evident even among the poorer classes.

"Just as little as we fail to appreciate these characteristics, these ideals, just so little do we appreciate the deep significance of religion in their life. To the majority of them religion is something deeper than it is to the American of the North. To them, it is their very life. It has played a vital part in their government, in their history, it permeates and

Heads Historians



Richard F. Fettes, Assistant Chief of the Division of Cultural Relations, U. S. Department of State, and an authority on Latin American history, who was elected President of the American Catholic Historical Association at the organization's 23rd annual meeting held in Washington, (N.C.W.C.)

Protests Poem In 'Good Housekeeping'

SOUTH ORANGE, N. J.—A letter of strong protest has been sent to the editors of Good Housekeeping magazine by Miss Mary C. Duffy, Supreme Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America, over publication of a poem, "The Neighbors" by Sara Henderson Hay, in the December issue of the magazine.

"Some would claim the poem a smart piece of poetry, others would subscribe to its being a subtle bit of verse; however, neither its smartness nor its subtlety veils the intent of the author, to deny the divinity of Jesus Christ," Miss Duffy's letter stated. She deplored the fact the poem was published in the Christmas issue of the magazine, at a time when the world was celebrating "a two thousand year old Christian truth, the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem.

County Orator Wins

College Point, L. I.—Raymond J. Behan, a seventh-term student in St. Agnes Academic School here, won the Queens County American Legion Oratorical Contest, open to students of Catholic and public schools in the county.

Honors 22 Living Authors

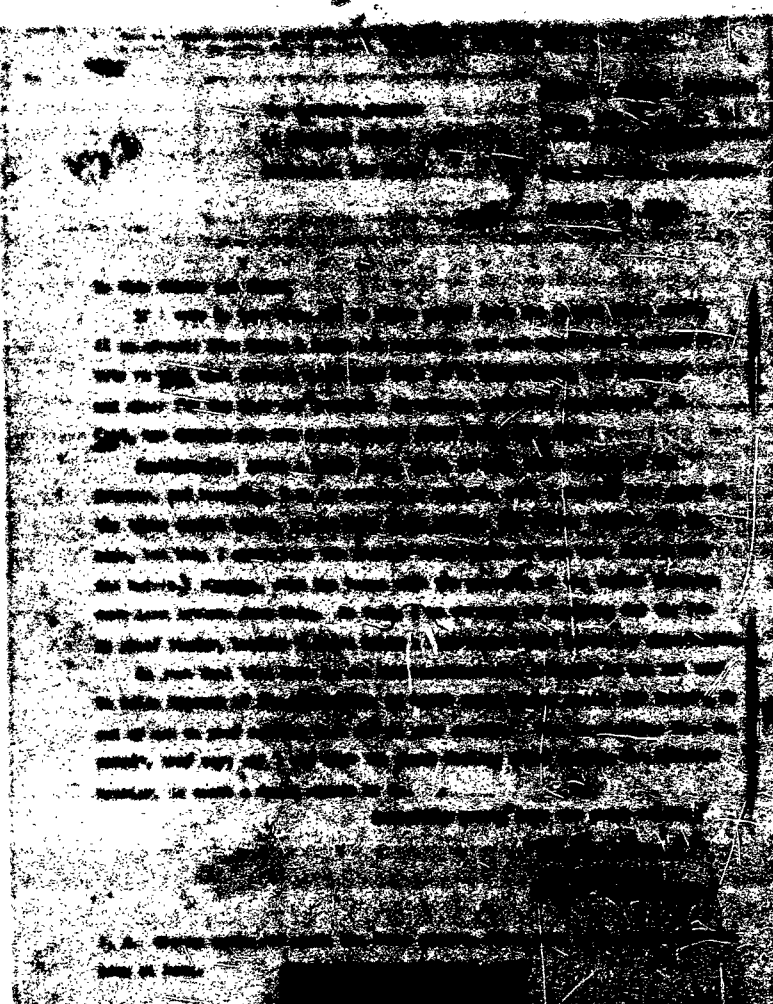
NEW YORK.—Twenty-two persons who have won distinction in the world of letters have been elected to the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors by the Board of Governors.

Selected from nearly 200 who were proposed for memberships, the new members include authors from Canada, France, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, and the United States. They are:

Simon A. Balda, Managing Editor of Extension Magazine, Chicago; the Rev. John Louis Bony S.J., Boston College; the Rev. Robert Edward Brennan, O.F.M., Providence College; the Rev. Agelico Canaves, O.F.M., Press Bldg., N. M.; Herbert Ellsworth Cory, University of Washington; August Durlak, Bank City, Wis.; Edward Delorty, Chicago; the Rev. Gerald Fitzgerald, C.S.C., Holy Cross Seminary, North Kan-

ton, Mass.; Mececius Halman, custodian of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America Archives and Museum, Chicago; Helen Iwolsky, daughter of the late Alexander Iwolsky, former Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Rev. Andrea Krasinski, Patrick Lawlor, Wellington, N. E.; the Rev. John W. Lynch, Syracuse, N. Y.; the Rev. David McArdock, E.J., Riverside, Calif.; Helene Margaret, College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minn.; the Rev. Dr. Lester A. Magner, Procurator of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.; the Rev. Sidney O'Brien, O.F.M., St. Bonaventure's College, N. Y.; Yves Imson, University of Notre Dame; the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Stigmund Unland, Jersey City, N. J.; Mother Margaret Williams, R.C.S.J., and Thomas Woodlock, Associate Editor of the Wall Street Journal.

Chaplain Heindl Hails Courier In Pacific Post



(Formerly Assistant Pastor at St. Andrew's Parish, the Rev. Elmer W. Heindl, now a U. S. Army Chaplain, sent the V-Mail letter above, from his station in the South Sea Islands. His address is Chaplain Elmer W. Heindl, 200th Dep. C. A. B.N., (H.D.), A.P.O. No. 913 care of Postmaster, San Francisco, California. Here is a copy of the letter.)

Ye Olde Editor and Staff:

If I were to take time off to shake myself from the torpor which comes, (I am afraid) from being a south sea islander, and ask myself for a standing vote on with what paper I would most like to be shipwrecked, I'd stand up and cheer for the dear old "Courier." It makes a wonderful sun-bonnet. In fact, the Courier can run a new slogan: "News White It's Hot."

Periodically, about a month late, there arrives three copies of the Courier, and honestly, I am so anxious to read it, that I usually read each of the three copies before I pass them on to others. (Of course they're all the same, but then I appreciate the Courier three times as much now, than I ever did before). Strange, even the boxes with the pictures of the Parish Churches seem like letters from home. In fact, I am thinking of applying for the job as proof reader, because I don't believe even a word misses my observation.

So just feel that here is one correspondent who, although he has not much to write because of the censorship, at least wants to say thanks for keeping me and my men on your mailing list and in your prayers. "Pen is mightier than the sword," they say; and I say that the grand feeling after reading the Catholic Courier, is worth a dozen swords to us.

Gratefully yours, "Keep the press rolling."
FATHER HEINDL
(One of the Chaplains)

P. S.—Thanks again and again for those papers, which keep us in touch with the news at home.

Work Among Soldiers Described For Bishop By Chaplain O'Brien

Chaplain William J. O'Brien has written a letter to Bishop Kearney acknowledging his Christmas message and the Bishop's visit with him just before he sailed from America.

Speaking of the happiness he has in his work with the soldiers, Father O'Brien made special mention of the Midnight Mass which he celebrated for them.

"Christmas was a little hard on all of us this year. No matter what steps might have been taken to insure our comfort and cheer on this day of all days, it would not have taken away a great loneliness. Midnight Mass with a very carefully blacked-out chapel, was the only thing that was familiar, the only thing that was home.

"We used to say in the Seminary that Professor Andrew Byrne, who always said the Midnight Mass, could see the Bethlehem Angels ascending and descending as he intoned the Gloria. It was an admission on our part, which I believe every Catholic shares, that there is something very special

about Midnight Mass. And we hid it here too—that hush and sort of deep excitement that precedes the prayers at the beginning. I'll tell you it was good to have that anyway.

"Our thoughts were miles away back across the waters. I was at Corpus Christi, and the soldiers were in spirit in their own churches from Mississippi to Brooklyn, and from Boston to Iowa. And it was good to know they were thinking of us far back home. The day was not so bleak being away from home, but in the realization that we had accepted the happiness of yesterday with so much carelessness. And in one who had known St. Francis and Corpus Christi especially at Christ-

(Continued on Page 2)

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BY REV. MSGR. W. M. HART, V.C.,
Editor-in-Chief
REV. JOHN S. RANDALL, Managing Editor
HOWARD W. KLIPPERT, Manager
THOMAS R. O'CONNOR, News Editor

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