

Harvard Savants Urge Public Schools Abolish Religious Teaching

Public schools and colleges should encourage students to seek philosophical and religious ideas outside their own walls. This contention was voiced by Prof. Louis J. A. Mercurio of Harvard University, in an address before the Hampton County High School Teachers' Association. Professor Mercurio's speech was published in the Congressional Record upon the recommendation of Senator David L. Walsh.

Professor Mercurio, a Catholic and a widely known educator, declared that the pursuit of ethical philosophy led to Hitlerism. He added: "Insofar as we have not defended Christianity, or at least deism, in England, France and the United States, insofar as we have become atheists, we have all contributed to the production of Hitler."

He then posed this question: "If the atheistic philosophy of total change has brought Europe to its downfall and its unprecedented moral degradation, how can we hope to rescue Europe from that degradation or even to save ourselves, if we ourselves are permeated by that atheistic philosophy?" He then went on to say that "American educators" having capitulated to atheistic philosophy, must right about face, unless they want to betray their country and the world.

In conclusion Professor Mercurio said: "If President Roosevelt was right in saying that the maintenance of our democracy and religion is all the same fight, and if the neutral public school and college cannot teach religion, then again, evidently, American education must be readjusted. A way must be found to make school and church complement each other, which means that far from weaning our children from religion, the school and the college will encourage them to seek philosophical religious teaching outside of their own walls."

Pastors Appeal To All To Subscribe Sunday

(Continued from Page 1)

It is hoped that this new plan of complete mail subscriptions can be put into effect with the issue of March 25.

The Rt. Rev. Magr. William M. Hart, Vicar General of the diocese, pointed to the real need for the COURIER, especially in those places where there are young men and women and children. "The effects of the modern world upon our Catholic youth are dangerous. We are living in an irreligious world and we cannot think to trust our Catholic education as a sure guard against these dangers. After surveying 10,000 public school children, the New York Times discovered that more than 15,000 had never heard of the Ten Commandments."

From other sources which Magr. Hart quoted it is estimated that of 12,000,000 youths in America less than 15 per cent have ever been the inside of a church, Catholic or otherwise. "Because Catholics for social and business reasons will be thrown into irreligious associations they must be strengthened in their Catholic thinking. Catholic literature, preferably the weekly diocesan paper, is the proper medium of instruction after the Catholic school."

The management of the CATHOLIC COURIER has revealed that drastic changes for editorial improvement are under consideration. Many of these contemplated changes will depend upon the response in the present circulation effort.

To make the CATHOLIC COURIER a powerful force throughout the entire diocese, every family should read the slogan of Bishop Kearney: "A Catholic Courier is Every Home."

Feminine Writers Finally Admitted To Staff of Catholic U. Newspaper

WASHINGTON. Latest institution to feel the feminine touch is The Tower, the campus newspaper of Catholic University of America. For 20 years the paper has been strictly in the hands of male mem-

Catholic Hour Message

Magr. Sheen Says Godless Education Invites Tyranny

NEW YORK (CIC) — The safeguard of American democracy and freedom resides in "the education of religious and moral training, and not in its absence." This was the message of Magr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, at a "Catholic Hour" radio address, in which he advocated the teaching of religion in public educational institutions.

The address was titled "The Christian Crisis and Education" and was the eighth in a series of 17 on the general theme, "The Crisis in Civilization." The broadcast was made at the National Broadcasting Company, "The Catholic Hour" is produced by the National Council of Catholic Men.

Denying the lack of religious and moral training in American schools, Magr. Sheen declared:

"Given another generation of Catholic education and we will have a more, given religion and morality in education and we will be the most potent government force for the good in the world. Then shall America be great. And we will love it not because it is great; it will be great because we will love it in the name of God, and that makes anything great."

To Preserve Democracy

At the outset of his address, Magr. Sheen said he intended to dwell upon three points: "First, it is a sound religious principle that democracy cannot function without religion and morality. Secondly, American democracy is not making provision for religion and morality. Hence, thirdly, the necessity of restoring religious education in order to preserve democracy."

He pointed out that the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence declared our inalienable rights come from God and contended that "we preserve our dependence on God, we will preserve our independence from tyranny."

He reminded that George Washington counseled that "of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports" that Calvin Coolidge in 1925 warned that "unless our people are thoroughly instructed in the great truths of religion, they are not fitted to understand our institutions; or to provide them with adequate support," and that President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1940, stated that "practical steps should be taken to make more available to children and youth through education the resources of religion as an important factor in the development of personal and social morality."

Magr. Sheen declared "about the only group modern education really ignores is the group that neither practices nor believes in any religion." At the White House conference of 1940, he said, it was developed that of the 25,000,000 children in the United States between the ages of 5 and 17, about 15,000,000 received no religious education whatsoever. This disaster, he declared, prompted President Roosevelt to say:

"We are haunted" about the children who are outside the reach of religious influences and are denied help in attaining faith in an ordered universe, and in the Fatherhood of God."

Quoting only Protestants and Jews to avoid "provoking any prejudice," in support of his second point, that democracy is not making provision in education for religion and morality, Magr. Sheen said Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University, contending the pagan element alone in our population is given the benefit of tax money, had observed:

"Even the formal prayer that opens each session of the United States Senate and each session of the House of Representatives, and

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which commences each legislative session of the President of the United States, would not be justified in a two-partisan world.

Threat to Man's Freedom

Declaring that America was founded on the principle of the separation of Church and State, Magr. Sheen declared: "We have no desire to change this principle," but added the nation was not "founded on the separation of religion and the State."

Magr. Sheen said it is "urgent" that we must not allow ourselves to be entering into a new era of history wherein the power "must be man's freedom is from the Omnipotent State."

Indications that religious schools are not American schools, Magr. Sheen said, are evident. He contended that there are some authorities who insist that schools prepare a student for better citizenship than public institutions and the religious groups do this at their own expense.

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