

Harvard Savants Urge Public Schools Abol Religious Teaching

Public schools and colleges should encourage students to seek philosophical and religious teaching outside their own walls. This position was stated by Prof. Louis J. A. Mercier of Harvard University in an address before the Harvard County Massachusetts Teachers' Association. Professor Mercier's speech was published in the Congressional Record upon the recommendation of Senator David I. Walsh.

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

Funny Query
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 return Europe from that degradation, or even to save ourselves, if we ourselves are permeated by that same philosophy?" He then went on to say that "American educators" having capitulated to atheistic philosophy, must fight about face, unless they want to betray their country and the world.

In conclusion Professor Mercier said: "If President Roosevelt was right in saying that the maintenance of our democracy and religion is all the same fight, and if the general 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 subscription can be put into effect with the issue of March 22.

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. William M. Hart, Vicar General of the diocese, pointed to the real need for the COURIER, especially in those homes where there are young men and women and children. "The efforts 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 50,000 public school children, the New York Times discovered that more than 12,000 had never heard of the Ten Commandments."

From other sources which Monsignor Hart quoted it is estimated that of 49,000,000 youths in America less than 25 per cent have ever seen 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 in 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 30 years the paper has been strictly in the hands of male mem-

Catholic Hour Message

Mgr. Sheen Says Godless Education Invites Tyranny

NEW YORK (NC) — The safeguard of American democracy and freedom resides in "the extension of religious and moral training, and not in its suppression through excessive secularism." The Rt. Rev. Mgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, started Sunday night in a "Catholic Hour" radio address, in which he advocated the teaching of religion in public educational institutions.

The address was titled "The Christian Order and Education" and was the eighth in a series of 17 on the general theme, "The Crisis in Christendom." The broadcast originated at Station WJAF and was carried on a nation-wide hook-up of the National Broadcasting Company. "The Catholic Hour" is produced by the National Council of Catholic Men.

Decrying the lack of religious and moral training in American schools, Monsignor Sheen declared: "Give another generation of Godless education and we will have tyranny, given religion and morality in education and we will be the most potent government influence for peace 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, Monsignor Sheen said he intended to dwell upon three points: "First, it is a sound American 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 teaching 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 if "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 1923 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 democratic way of life and in the development of personal and social integrity."

Monsignor Sheen declared "about the only group modern education really caters to 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 30,000,000 children in the United States between the ages of 5 and 17, about 10,000,000 received no religious education whatsoever. This disclosure, he declared, prompted President Roosevelt to say:

"We are concerned 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 prejudices," in support of his second point, that democracy is not making provision in education for religion and morality, Monsignor 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

Mary the Sinner is the saving Refuge of Sinners. Among them lies her merciful mission."

By the way — BUY WAR BONDS

which accompanied each invocation of the President of the United States, would not be permitted in a tax-supported school."

Third in Man's Freedom

Declaring that America was founded on the principle of the separation of Church and State, Monsignor 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."

Monsignor Sheen said it is "more important now than at any other time to restore religion and morality to education" because "we are entering into a new era of history wherein the grave threat to man's freedom is from the Omnipotent State."

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

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