

Stenographer: "Is water works all one word, or do you spell it with a hyphen in the middle?" Nothing is more useful to man than those arts which have no utility.—OVID.

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NCCM Executive



William C. Smith, recently appointed Assistant Executive Secretary of the National Council of Catholic Men, and who will continue as Washington Director of the National Organization for Decent Literature. Bachrach photo. (N.C.W.C.)

Unless a man be at liberty from all things created he cannot attend to things divine.—Irenaeus.

Caution Against Enthusiasm Over Comintern's Folding

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ly, the dissolution of the Comintern does not affect the Communist Party in the United States. "Our Communist Party," he added, "withdrew in 1940 so that its members would not have to register as agents of a foreign government. But that technical withdrawal made no visible difference in the behavior of the Communist Party. It advocated whatever Moscow advocated, although on an occasion or two its information as to changes in the line seemed to be a bit tardy.

Whether or Not

"If the Communist Party in the United States has acted for three years just as it would have been expected to act if it had been a legal member of the Communist International, one may wonder whether the dissolution of the Communist International itself will make any difference. Presumably the Communist parties outside Russia will still act as if they were the appointed, whether they are or not."

Howard Kwiarski, in the New York Journal American, asserted that "despite the dissolution of the Communist International by Moscow, Earl Browder and his Amer-

ican efforts will continue to center on the tail of the Kremlin kite."

The Daily Worker, national organ of the Communist Party in the United States, said editorially, following the announcement from Moscow, that "revolutionary socialists will not die," despite the dissolution of the Comintern.

Counseling Americans "to temper their enthusiasms" until the full impact of the announced dissolution of the Comintern becomes known, an editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer says "certainly the Comintern, body and spirit of world revolution, has caused distrust of the Moscow Government in many countries, including our own, and in considerable measure has prevented the United Nations from getting closed together."

Victory Possible

The Washington Daily News suggested editorially that "maybe victory" will revive the extreme form of Communism in Russia from which Stalin has departed, and produce a more potent Comintern. "If this happens, it believes democracy can hold its own." Maybe, too, it says. "The result will be the opposite, with Stalin cooperating even more closely and completely with his wartime allies to preserve a peaceful world."

Mark Sullivan, nationally-known Capital observer, said the action of Moscow about the Comintern, "is like its action about religion a year and a half ago." Recalling the assertions in September, 1941, that the Russian government would grant "freedom of worship" to Poles under Russian rule, would set up a Catholic church and a Jewish synagogue in Moscow for them," Mr. Sullivan said "the whole incident, including the American President's patness with an article of the Russian constitution, had a faint suggestion of planned intention to make America feel kindly toward Russia."

"It is not necessary to be too completely skeptical about Moscow's attitude, either as to religion, or as to last week's step backward from International Communism," Mr. Sullivan added. "It is possible the Russian leaders may have learned two things: the validity of religion and the invalidity of Communism. They may have found that religion conforms to the nature of man, and that Communism runs counter to it."

Several commentators asserted daily that the Comintern had outlived its usefulness, and that its dissolution was no sacrifice, and no more than should have been expected. One observer even said the Comintern had proved embarrassing to Stalin, and for an unsuspected reason--it was not only promoting world revolution abroad, but it was interfering with the domestic politics of Soviet Russia. That, it was said, was too much.

"Stalin's burial of the Communist International," said the New York World Telegram, "is billed as a world-shaking event. Actually, he has merely erased a puppet organization which had long since become a liability. If a world Communist outfit—a burden when Russian survival depends on a close capitalist alliance—appears to serve Russia's interest in the post-war period, there is no reason to suppose that he will not revive this one or create another."

The whole situation appears, in one aspect, to be the case of "chickens coming home to roost." No matter what the underlying motive, there is no doubt Moscow wants the world to believe it sincere in this gesture. That, it would seem, is the one great gain that could come to Moscow from its action. And, just when the credence of the world is so necessary, Soviet Russia's reputation for shall we say evasion, rises up to plague it. Nobody knows what to believe.

(K. C. W. C. News Service)



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THIRD FLOOR

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CHICAGO — Funeral services were held for Miss Barbara Fortman, 90, who had lived in the same house, and the same parish since it was organized. Miss Fortman was buried from St. Henry's Church. Her parents came to the locality in 1822 from Trier, Germany.

God's charity does not save sinners, nor investigate the family.