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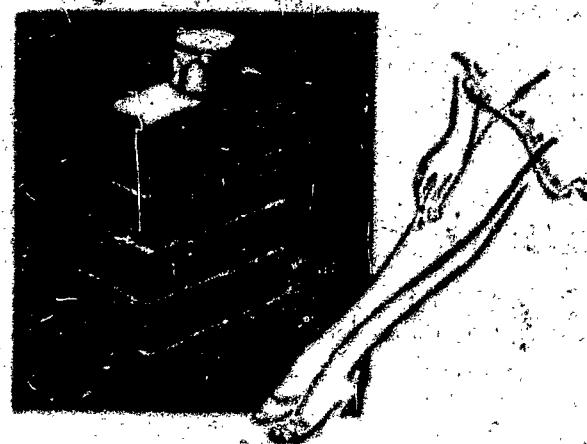
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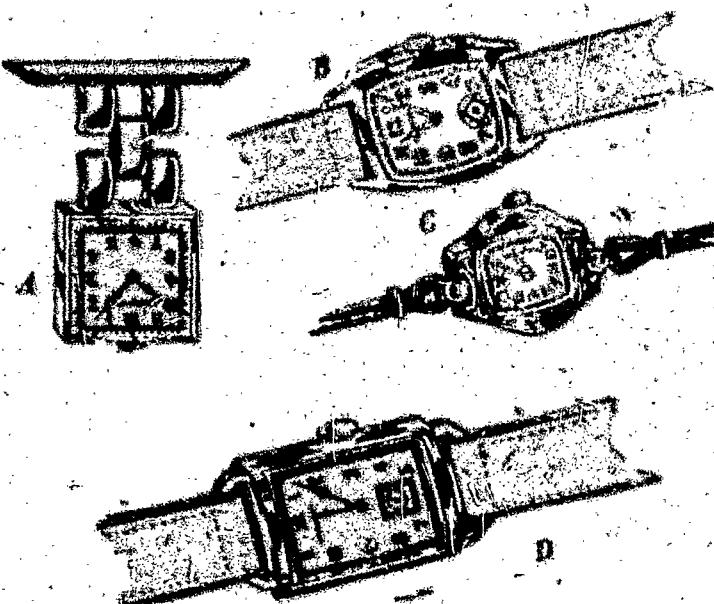
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WATCHES, FRONT AISLES A TO C, MAIN FLOOR

**On Guard!**

Continued from Page 37

last Sunday 20,000 factory workers, in a moment of grave national crisis, travelled to Moscow to listen to the Holy Father. This remarkable tribute to the Supreme Pontiff strongly suggests that a confused nation is turning once again, as it has done so many times in the past, to the Pope in a desperate plea for Christian leadership.

The most lavish praise of the United States ever published in Soviet Russia marked last week the first anniversary of the American-Soviet agreement of June 11, 1941. According to very substantial press reports, the Soviets emphasized "collaboration," "cooperation," and "understanding" between themselves and the United States, but they were eloquently silent about any reference to the Four Freedoms, especially the Freedom of Religion.

Soviet Russia is now claiming to be a protagonist of liberty. An elaborately printed and fully illustrated volume is being distributed to important visitors to establish the delusion that religion in Russia once more enjoys freedom. All Soviet pretensions to the contrary, the cold hard fact is that Russia still maintains the false article of religious liberty in its constitution. The declared constitutional right of religion in Russia, as found in the notorious Article 134, which the Stalin government refuses to change, grants "liberty of confession and worship," but expressly omits freedom of propaganda—such freedom being still reserved for the champions of atheism and antireligious convictions. This means that in Russia you can worship as you wish (if you can find a church open) but you can not preach or teach or write about religion. Even today propaganda is the constitutional privilege of the League of the Godless!

When Wendell Willkie was in Moscow, Mr. Stalin said to him: "Mr. Willkie, we are a democratic country." To this and all other hypocritical gestures of Stalin in the name of liberty and democracy, we repeat the rowdy rejoinder of Ex-Governor Al Smith: "Slice it anyway you like but it's still bacon!"

The WAACs are under the fire of verbal criticism. A week ago religious leaders, including the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Michael J. Ready, head of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, after visiting the training centers of the Woman's Army Auxiliary Training Corps at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, issued a joint statement reassuring parents concerned about the moral and spiritual welfare of their daughters.

On the heels of this reassurance came a bombshell. The same day that Mrs. Roosevelt in her White House press conference flatly denied all reports of sexual promiscuity among the WAACs serving in North Africa, John O'Donnell, Washington correspondent for the Daily News of New York, made this shocking report:

"Contraceptives and prophylactic equipment will be furnished to members of the WAACs according to a paper secret agreement reached by the War Department and the WAAC chieftain, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby."

The War Department followed O'Donnell's allegations with a vigorous denial and branded the charges as Nazi propaganda. Let us hope, at least, that this is not another case of "where there is smoke there is fire."

The CATHOLIC NEWS of New York promptly reacted to the alleged super secret agreement in these words:

"It is impossible for us to believe that responsible officials of this nation which maintains that it is fighting for Christian civilization could countenance such low minded or base, any such orders. It and its implications would be an insult to the Women's Auxiliary Training Corps and the Service from which they come, an insult which their parents and families would resent deeply and bitterly."

**Grace of Matrimony**

"In order that the grace of this sacrament may produce its full fruit, there is need . . . of the cooperation of the married parties which consists in their striving to fulfill their duties to the best of their ability and with unswerving effort." Encyclical on Christian Marriage. (N.C.W.C., Washington, D. C.)

**U. S. AID FOR AFRICAN ORPHANS**

More than a thousand dollars was collected by American soldiers and sailors in a large town in North Africa recently to aid the orphans who were bombed out of their convent home, pictured in the background. Corporal Sherman W. Cooke, of Forest Hills, N. Y., and Sailor John T. Wogdon, of Brooklyn, are shown presenting the money to two of the orphans and their chaplain, a Father Cassano, U. S. Army Signal Corps photo. (N.C.W.C.)

**Commons Told Britain  
Has Made No Promise  
Not To Bomb Rome**

LONDON (NC)—Britain has made no promise not to bomb Rome, it was stated in the House of Commons by Under Secretary for Air Capt. Balfour when he was questioned on this much debated point which came to life again with the acceleration of the air attack on continental Europe.

Captain Balfour said: "No assurance or agreement exists of any kind whatever that Rome shall not be bombed. On the contrary, as stated to the House on previous occasions we shall not hesitate to bomb Rome if the course of the war should render such action convenient or helpful."

It is recalled here that after Italy had entered the war the Holy See made known the Holy Father's wishes that Rome might be spared from bombing because of its sacred character. France gave a promise not to bomb the Eternal City, but Great Britain could not go further than to promise that Vatican City itself would not be attacked. It was added that no promise could be made about Rome because Britain's action would have to depend upon Italy's conduct.

**Oppose Parrot Cry**  
Catholic feeling here concerning the bombing of Rome has been moulded and solidified largely by the fact that anti-Catholics have made a party point of the parrot cry "Bomb Rome!" Long before there appeared to be any special need to attack the Italian capital with bombs, the "Bomb Rome!" cry arose with such insistence in so many quarters that had previously showed unanimity on political matters that a common inspiration seemed evident.

The Catholic Press here has never opposed the idea of bombing Rome if it should be clear that such an action was a military necessity; but quite naturally it has opposed the "Bomb Rome!" cry when it appears evident that what is really meant is "Bomb the Pope!"

Most thoughtful people here see that the bombing of Rome would be fraught with the very great danger that a bomb might, by inadvertence, fall on Vatican City's neutral territory, and it is realized that in such an unfortunate case the sympathy of Catholics in many parts of the world would be lost to Britain.

Some months ago it was suggested that the Italian propaganda machine would "plant" a bomb over Vatican City border if British planes should drop bombs in the vicinity.

**Statesmen Wanted**

What the world needs today are men of noble principle, far-reaching vision, and indomitable courage—men with a humane and universal mind.