

## We Love Catholics, But...

By Rev. Robert Glaser

What would you think of a group of people who kept getting out magazines and dodgers running along this line: Americans all, we love you. But we hate your government. We hate your President. We think you should dissolve your Supreme Court. Your Senate and Congress are an abomination and your courts are a nuisance. Americans, we love you. But get rid of all this governmental claptrap. Just run yourselves without any government. Keep the principles of the Founding Fathers before your eyes, live in justice and peace with your neighbor, and you won't need all this supervision. Americans, we love you, but we hate your government.

What would you think of an outfit like that? You'd think they had some sort of "bee in their bonnet," wouldn't you? And you wouldn't trust them as far as you could throw the Washington

Monument, would you?

Well, we Catholics have a parallel case to deal with. We have to contend with little knots of people who are forever circulating just such magazines and leaflets among non-Catholics. (They know better than to give them to us.) This is often their line of argument: "We love Catholics. We don't like the Pope and the Vatican. Their bishops are nuisances, and the priests are meddlers. We love Catholics, but we think they should get rid of all this claptrap. Let them keep the principles of Jesus before their eyes, and they won't need any organization. We love Catholics, but we hate the Catholic Church."

We just want to put you on guard against such phony logic. You can't separate a Catholic from his Church. We mean you can't talk about "Catholics" and "the Catholic Church" as though they were two different things. They're not. They're identical. And to hate the Pope is to hate Catholics, for we Catholics are behind our Holy Father to a man, just as we are behind our bishops and priests.

## Nation's Health Hope Seen in War-Time Women's Experiences

BY KATHARINE MCKIEVER

Washington — (NC) — "Despite past progress in preventing sickness and prolonging life, the United States has not yet achieved for all its peoples — and in particular for those in the working ages — the level of security of life which has been attained in some other nations with much smaller economic resources."

This statement by Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, only woman member of the Social Security Board, was made in answer to a query from the N.C.W.C. News Service. The query, in turn, was prompted by the "apprehension of an uncertain future" in the minds of thousands of American women now resuming the somewhat glibly described "normal peacetime pursuits."

A good proportion of the women now undergoing "reconversion" are Catholics. What they are thinking as they return to their homes, and what they are going to find when they get there, merits special discussion. But because the overall question begs a lot of little questions, this article is restricted to two main groups — women in the armed forces and women in war industries — and a wartime-acquired consciousness that is common to both: An appreciation of good health and what it means to the individual and to the family.

"DURING THE WAR we witnessed spectacular advances in medical science, together with an awakened public interest in all matters pertaining to health," Mrs. Woodward said. "Complete medical and hospital care for all the men and women of the armed services and the development of facilities and services for industrial workers and, in some instances, their families, represent advantages that cannot be forgotten in peacetime."

"We are more aware today than ever before of the maldistribution of hospital facilities and the inadequacy of hospital care for the nation as a whole. At least 40 per cent of the counties in the United States are without recognized hospitals, and a great many others have inadequate hospital facilities."

"Physicians tend to congregate in areas having more hospital facilities and offering better economic opportunities. In counties without hospitals, according to the Surgeon General Dr. Thomas Parrar, there are only 67 physicians per 100,000 population, while there are two-and-a-half times that number in the counties having hospitals."

"ALTOGETHER APART from the human suffering involved, sickness is one of the greatest sources of economic loss. When the family head is sick, not only do his expenses pile up in medical bills, but his weekly income is often cut or stopped entirely. It is estimated that every year some 200,000 men, women and children are lost because of illness or accident. On an average day, at least 1,000,000 persons — workers, children, students, housewives, old people and others — are so disabled by sickness or injury that they cannot go about

their ordinary business.

"No one has yet proved whether sickness causes poverty or poverty causes sickness. But it is a fact that they go together: sickness comes oftener and lasts longer in the homes of the poor than of the well-to-do."

While Mrs. Woodward's statement presents a general picture of the health status of the nation, there are certain facts of public record which are of special interest and concern to the woman who wants to preserve or improve the health of herself, her family or the community.

Let us recall that 40 per cent of the 22,000,000 men of military age in this country were found unfit for general military duty; also, that within one year 33 per cent of the applicants for enlist-

ment in the Woman's Army Corps were rejected for the same reason.

IN 1943, ONLY one-half of the births in rural areas occurred in hospitals. Nearly 800,000 rural mothers were delivered in their homes and 160,000 of them without a doctor in attendance.

Of every 1,000 babies living when born, 40 die during their first year. Infant mortality is almost twice as high among the colored as among the white population, and maternal mortality more than two-and-a-half times greater.

And of the children who survive that treacherous first year, 40 per cent suffer from some physical defect. More than 100,000 are orthopedically crippled. About 1,500,000 persons under 18 suffer from rheumatic fever, which, incidentally, has caused the deaths of more children between the ages of five and fifteen than any other one disease; about 1,250,000 suffer from asthma, 35,000 from diabetes, and 200,000 from epilepsy. Probably 1,000,000 children have hearing defects, 10,000,000 refractive defects in vision, and at least three-fourths of all school children are in need of dental care.

When there is illness in the family, the person most affected — aside from the patient — is the wife and mother. Definitely, improvement of the health of the nation would seem to be one field within "woman's sphere" which, as the Holy Father said, "is clearly outlined by qualities, temperament and gifts peculiar to her sex." "Every woman is made to be a mother," His Holiness emphasized. "In the physical meaning of the word or in the more spiritual and exalted, but no less real sense."

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