

Vatican Editor Tells Consistory Meaning

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 lity and universality of the church which Pius XII stressed in his Christmas allocution. It has been mistakenly described in some quarters as an innovation and a reform dictated by contingent and probably political motives. This is not so. The present consistorial appointments are but

a logical development of the unique and unalterable character of the Catholic Church. The purple spreads over the four corners of the globe not because of any subtle scheming or covert design, but because it is in the natural order of things that this should be so. The policy initiated eight centuries ago has now come to fruition and the guiding principle is always the same: to carry out the mission of the church and implement the universality of Rome.

On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

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 But those who have watched and listened to Mrs. Luce should not have been too surprised at her happy decision to enter the Church. Ever the honest liberal, the foe of sham and hypocrisy, and the indefatigable defender of human rights, Mrs. Luce has given definite indications of "being on the way in" for some time and admitted as much in a statement following the reception ceremony at St. Patrick's.

Like Brown too, Mrs. Luce is a person of "intellectual integrity." Not always, perhaps, has she been right in her convictions, but always she has been sincere and honest. Intellectual honesty, more than her reputed glamour, wealth, or social prestige, is Mrs. Luce's true badge of honor and the thing which marks her always as "the good liberal."

"I've wanted for a very long time to enter the Catholic Faith and to that end I've received instructions for five months from Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen," she announced. It is a tribute to the Faith that one so naturally gifted and so nobly dedicated to high purposes, as she is, now finds her true destiny in the Catholic Church.

Very early she saw the menace of Fascism and Nazism, but being an honest liberal she also recognized the evils of Soviet Communism. During the war when the false liberals were vociferous against Nazi tyranny but silent against Soviet tyranny, Clare Booth Luce bravely told the whole truth and opposed the Red Fascism of Moscow with the same vigor as she opposed the Brown Fascism of Berlin.

Immediately one wonders what influence Mrs. Luce's conversion may have on the ranks of American liberals, particularly honest liberals like herself. Certainly nothing so sensational has occurred in liberal circles since the day that the same Monsignor Sheen received into the Church that erstwhile crown-prince of American journalists, the late Heywood Brown.

Never will Mrs. Luce have to do penance for that most cowardly of sins—the sin of silence! Twice in her life Mrs. Luce refused to meet "great men." In 1937 in Germany, she refused to meet Adolph Hitler. "I was deathly afraid," she explained, "being a woman, I might just as well smile on him. And all the human curiosity in the world would not justify that small but fatal hypocrisy."

Incidentally, Mrs. Luce seems to have been an intellectual admirer of the fabulous Brown whose premature death, shortly after his conversion, robbed the Church in America of a most promising champion. Though Brown was publicly severe on Clare's plays, even the successful ones, she seemed to respect and welcome his criticisms above all others. "Mr. Brown does not like my plays at all," she wrote, "and when Mr. Brown does not like something he writes very brilliantly." Again when Brown expressed violent dislike of one of her more successful plays, she replied kindly, "He is, notably and tolerantly, a man of intellectual integrity."

Pope Pius XII was the other "great man" that she at first declined to meet but for a very different reason. It was in the Spring of 1940 when she dared the shadow of the Blitzkrieg to make her first visit to Rome. Explaining afterwards her fear—a reverential fear—of meeting the Pontiff, she wrote: "... like all human beings who are not utterly lost to grace, I was humble and respectful and awed and ashamed, too, before very good men who do God's work greatly. A Catholic friend in the Vatican had offered to arrange the audience, but partly because I am not a Catholic and partly because, as I say, the look in the face of a man of great good will is so likely to upset one for days and make one think too many painful and searching things about oneself and the whole world (which is, I suppose, why saints in their time were people to be avoided as much as possible), I was timid about going, and at first said I wouldn't. But vanity and curiosity prevailed, so I went."

In describing Brown who preceded her into the Faith (and possibly may have first shown tually and accurately sketching her the way), Mrs. Luce was acerbic. She too, when she does not like something, "writes very brilliantly." She has a natural talent for satire and if anyone has inherited Heywood Brown's famed journalistic side—which exploded so many times, the shams and deceptions of snug soci-

ety—it is the able Congressmen from Connecticut. Speaking with others in the Pope's presence, she found her hands wet and her body trembling. "As he went down the line, leaning over the upturned faces, the faces broke into such good and happy and purified smiles that I could hardly wait to see his face," she relates. "And then when he came to the nun kneeling beside me, I saw it. It was so intelligent and so beneficent... I started to smile too, before he quite reached me. And when he did, he asked me in very good English, if I were the American lady, and I said: 'Yes.'"

"Ah!" he said, "I loved your country when I was there, and I knew he meant he loved it. And then he smiled a thin sweet smile at my smile and made the sign of the cross and said: 'God bless America!'" Mrs. Luce left the Pontiff feeling, as she expressed it, "so much better in my heart."

All this happened five years ago, and now the Pope's blessing on "the American lady" has borne fruit in her soul. Clare Booth Luce now shares the secret of that strength which she once saw in the eyes and face of Pope Pius XII. We can hope that the Pope's blessing on our little liberal has not yet spent its force. We can pray that her conversion will herald the march of more American liberals towards the Church where truth makes all men free!

Family Wage Need Stressed By Abp. Cushing

(N. C. W. C. NEWS SERVICE)
 Boston — (NC) — An appeal for "an absolute family wage" for all workers by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston and a declaration by a labor representative that America's industrial economy must be planned equally by management and labor were among the highlights of the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems held here before overflow audiences.

Speakers drawn from the clergy, government agencies, private enterprise and the national labor organizations were included on the agenda of the two-day conference.

An assertion by an industrial leader that current wage increases simply mean that the cost of living is going to rise, and a government official's statement that government must create the economic conditions for high employment but private business must provide the jobs, were significant contributions made by two groups.

Archbishop Cushing in the closing address defined an "absolute family living wage" as not merely a subsistence wage, but "what would suffice for the reasonably decent maintenance of a worker, his wife and his children."

A Saving Wage — "And a reasonably decent maintenance," he said, "allows for a truly human way of life for every member of the family: the care of body and soul, the provision for ordinary contingent sickness, old age, and the education of children; a living wage means a 'saving wage'; affording to the frugal worker the opportunity to acquire a modest fortune and the avoidance of a hand-to-mouth existence."

The maintenance of full employment was declared to be the most important economic problem of the coming decade by Everett E. Hogan, Chief of the Fiscal Policy Division of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconstruction.

Cost of Living Rise — Edward F. Connelly, an official of the Crompton-Knowles Loom Works, Worcester, Mass., representing management, related the current appeals for wage increases directly to the cost of living. He declared that while some companies could grant a 15 per cent increase in wage without a rise in prices others could not, and predicted that the cost of living would have to rise if all wage demands were met.

Speaking for labor, John Brophy, director of the Department of Industrial Union Councils, CIO, said that the planning of industrial operations should not be done on a corporation level, but on a national level, so that the 60 million jobs necessary to insure prosperity can be arranged through adjustment of wages, hours and other factors.

Labor must have an equal voice with management in planning policies, wages, working hours, and prices if the economic and political liberty of the country is to be protected, the CIO leader asserted.

Mgr. John O'Grady, Executive Director of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, pointed out the great need today for low priced homes for the low-income families, the building of which he said had been neglected for many years.

Mgr. O'Grady estimated that the United States needs a million new houses a year for the next ten years and recommended that the building industry study new production methods in order to speed up housing production.



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