

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

COURIER JOURNAL, THURSDAY, March 7, 1946

SOVIET STRENGTH

Philadelphia — (UPI) — John Foster Dulles, Foreign Affairs expert, said the Soviet leaders have strong convictions of their own and those include a strong conviction against compromise.

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Why Not Rabbi Crosby?
By Alfred Segal

In view of the recent discussion of the Catholic theme in motion pictures, the following article is reprinted from the March 1 issue of the Jewish Ledger.

Some of the Protestants have been complaining about the exclusive break the Catholic religion has been getting in the movies. "Going My Way," "Bells of St. Mary," "Bernadette."

They don't begrudge the Catholic religion these lovely stories but they inspire, isn't there at least one more story in the Protestant, one in the Jews?

Recently "Time" quoted a Protestant leader. He was hoping that the movies would get around to the brave story of Protestantism to the nobility of historic Judaism.

I had been thinking in the same direction after sentimental sessions with Father Bing Crosby in "Going My Way" and with Father Bing in "Bells of St.

Mary."

Why, I muse; don't they make a movie about Rabbi Crosby? Gentle Rabbi Crosby worrying about the kids in his neighborhood? Jesus: Rabbi Crosby taking time out to trouble himself about the strangers, a man and his wife, who had separated and should be getting together on account of their child. Good Rabbi Crosby who makes much of the small troubles among the people in his congregation.

Yes, a movie of Rabbi Crosby.

Yet, after I had snapped out of the sweet influences of "Going My Way" and of "Bells of St.

Mary" I fell down to the earth with a painful thud. It hurts horribly to be let down that way by the facts. After all, in Rabbi Crosby performing the simple pastoral duties that make a movie about a Catholic priest a refreshing experience?

Rabbi Crosby is away somewhere in the universe and doesn't know much of what's going on next door. He is playing statesman and is concerned with setting the whole world right. Next Sabbath he is giving a sermon on foreign relations.

He feels it is up to him to set the United Nations Organization going right on its way. Rabbi Crosby's eyes are far away from his neighborhood and, after next Sabbath's sermon, his congregation should feel convinced that in him they are privileged to have a rabbi who should be sitting in the State Department.

As a man on whose shoulders rest the destinies of nations, he has little time for the amateur affairs of the people of his congregation circle. They are having plenty of trouble.

If, in their distress, these amateur affairs bring Rabbi Crosby they dismiss the idea. How could they presume to bother him? Rabbi Crosby is carrying the word on his shoulders. He has this big problem and that to settle, more important than their small pains. Only last week the newspapers reported that he was deep in the matter of China. He said in a sermon that China was to be the test of the good will of the nations. He challenged the statesmen to meet the test of China.

His disengaged members may go on to the State Department with their private problems.

Rabbi Crosby is so deep. The way he knows all the books! Every once in a while he gives a sermon on the latest book. They are afraid to get close lest they fall into his profundity. Father Cronin worries about people like Pat. Not that Father Cronin is incapable to the bigger world around him. He would like to see a good international world established, in accordance with the sermon on the Mount and its Beatitudes. But he knows that he himself don't do much about that and, in the meanwhile, there's so much to do in his own parish. Responsibility, he leaves the world to the responsible international agencies.

I am not comparing Rabbi Crosby with Father Cronin vindictively. Rabbi Crosby is a high-minded gentleman who honestly, if mistakenly, feels he has statesmanlike functions. I can understand Father Crosby. Perhaps this notion of his functions has to do with the melancholy complex that is in many of us and which is all to our credit. We want a better world because we know that when the world gets better it will be good for Jews, too.

But Rabbi Crosby's vision is all out of perspective and the mission, seeing his faults, has which has to do with little people, who out of the Army, etc., are having a hard time getting through, spread all over the world, with God's blessing. His desire is to put together again the chain of his family life, with God's blessing, which

of one thing or another.

No, it seems there isn't enough for a movie director to bite into in the career of Rabbi Crosby. A movie director dogs like ours

nationally to make a picture of the career of a statesman like Wilson, but, then, in statesmanship, Rabbi Crosby can't be compared with Wilson.



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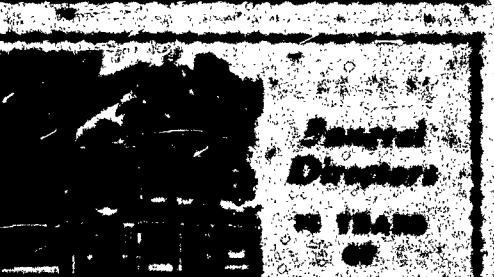
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