



### As We See It

By DAN PATRICK

A rather frightening book which should shock the people into a full realization of the destructive power of atomic energy has just been published. We highly recommend it as excellent Lenten reading.

You might wonder how atomic energy fits in with the penitential season but a careful reading of this small volume (179 pages) leads to the inevitable conclusion that the only defense against the atomic bomb is a world morality which will insure peace and make the use of this deadly weapon unnecessary.

The book entitled "One World Or None" contains eighteen articles, the majority by scientists who took a leading part in the production and use of the atomic bomb. Among the authors are Dr. Niels Bohr, the Danish physicist, who pioneered the problem of electron orbits; Dr. Philip Morrison, a nuclear physicist; Dr. Louis N. Ridenour, a radar specialist; Dr. Irving Langmuir, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry; Professor Albert Einstein and Dr. Harlow Shapley, a famous Astrophysicist.

In addition to the comments of these scientists, there are articles by General Harry H. Arnold, retired commander of the Army Air Forces and Walter Lippman, the political commentator.

The book cannot be considered complete because it lacks an all-important article on the morality of the use of atomic energy for destructive purposes. However, most of the articles — unconsciously perhaps — point to this aspect of the problem as the only way out of our devilish dilemma.

The scientific Frankenstein who brought the atomic bomb into being conclude in this book that the bomb can achieve world peace because it is too terrible to use.

This would be fine if it paralyzed the military mind. Unfortunately it doesn't as evidenced by the conclusions of General Arnold, the only military leader represented in the book. He hails the bomb as the cheapest means of waging war.

There has been some muddled thinking on the defense against the atomic bomb. Most of it apparently has been just wishful thinking.

Dr. Bohr, writes: "Against the new destructive powers no defense may be possible." Asks Dr. Morrison: "The bombs can come by plane or rocket in thousands and all at once. What defense can there be?"

From J. R. Oppenheimer: "It may be said here that the present situation hardly warrants the belief that techniques of interception will greatly alter the course of atomic destruction." General Arnold: "Our defense can only be a counter-offensive."

A most interesting phase of the book is the time estimate by the various scientists as to how long it will take other nations — meaning Russia, primarily — to match our atomic bombs.

Against a twenty to sixty year estimate made by General Groves to the Senate's Atomic Energy Commission, most scientists and technical men place the time at between five and ten years. One of the writers, Dr. Urey, says Russia may be able to produce these bombs in three years if an armament race develops.

In his article General Arnold offers the hope that possibly nations will refrain from using the bomb as they did gas in World War II for fear of a counter-attack. That hope isn't too bright. We recall a lecture in the Aquinas Institute culture series by W. L. Laurence, the New York Times reporter who covered the atomic bomb experiments for the War Department.

He said that gas was not used in World War II because it is not a decisive weapon — it cannot settle an issue. On the other hand, he reasoned, the atomic bomb is a decisive weapon and could decide an issue before a counter-offense became possible.

Dr. Morrison, who inspected the atomic ruins in Japan, tells the following story by transplanting to New York City what actually happened in Hiroshima. We submit it as the best evidence of the necessity of war prevention:

"Radial towers outside Greater New York recorded the approach of the atomic bomb which detonated half a mile in the air above the corner of Third Avenue and East Twentieth Street near Ganeray Park. The signals ceased at 12:07 noon. About 300,000 persons between the East River and Seventh Avenue and Union Square and the middle Thirties also ceased. Another 300,000 were seriously injured. About 20,000 'lucky' individuals seemingly unharmed or slightly hurt, died of the effects of radiation. Heavy buildings outside this area were badly damaged. Some collapsed and people died in the ruins."

This story is both terrifying and chilling. That will never happen again.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



**FRANZ JOSEF HAYDN**  
THE PRINCE COMPOSER, HUMBLY  
INScribed HIS MUSICAL PARTS TO HIS  
"LAUS DEO" ACKNOWLEDGING THE GIFT  
OF HIS GIFTS.

The cross above the UPPER LAKE,  
GLENDOLOCH, IRELAND, 49' wide,  
79' long, 34' ft high, was the retreat  
of St. Kieran (died 688) Confessor father  
St. LAWRENCE O'DOLE also used it

The 4<sup>th</sup> Century  
community of nuns  
in the Church of the  
Holy Spirit,  
Jennings, in the  
Chapel of the  
Children was the  
CRIB OF MESSIAS

The SMALL BELL  
from the bottle of Mary  
brought in England by  
desires from a sainted  
Queen, which showed  
that a ruler had visited  
ST THOMAS-A-BECKY'S  
SHRINE. Gift of King  
ALFRED THE GREAT  
who married THOME

### Washington

## Armed Force Reduction Said 'Horrible Mistake'

By Tom Rogers

Washington — There's more alarm down here in high quarters than there is news. For the past several weeks Washington has seen a series of setbacks on forecasts and trends that could scarcely be more complete.

First — and so far the most serious — some people are hinting that General Marshall's hurried trip back to the States was caused by the threat of Chiang Kai Shek's resignation. This latter fact would be cause of a civil war — to say the least.

A month ago Truman was told that a secret poll indicated the British loan would be defeated in the Senate by three votes. Today there is every reason to believe that the loan will be cleared by a comfortable margin. Britain is so intent on getting the loan that she threatens to leave the World Bank and Monetary Fund if she fails to get it.

A month ago the War and Navy Departments were being bombarded on all sides to bring the boys home and the boys themselves were demonstrating to get home. Today there is present a feeling that we have made a horrible mistake, that our present has sunk throughout the world as a result, that it has lost Army and Navy is needed to back up our foreign policy — and we no longer have them.

A month ago the Compulsory Military Training Bill was hopelessly bogged down on Capitol Hill and its most enthusiastic supporters had given up hope. Today there is a high-placed move on to revive the legislation and the odds are shortening daily against its passage.

A month ago competent observers would have voted James P. Byrnes as the one Cabinet Member with the largest public following. Today, in high places there is firm talk that Byrnes must go and either Gen. George C. Marshall or Navy Secretary Forrestal may succeed him.

And you can add all these shifts and reversals up and get one total — Russia.

From time to time news items come along and buried in the center of the story is the key to that story and a great deal more besides. Recently some of the major news items carried a plot to help Jews get to the Siberian provinces of Biro-Bidjan located to the west of Khabarovsk. This was to be a self-governing colony for the settlement of Russian Jews. Yet this "offer" from Moscow is merely a sop to the weary and persecuted Jews while the Russians continue to play ball with the Moslems . . . a group too many western people forget is sworn against both the Christian and the Jew.

Also placed in the line of the once-planned Jap aggression — the state would be the first area to be attacked in event of a shooting war. The reaction on world Jewry would be enormous — and the Soviet would profit!

On the home front President Truman's legislative program generally and the Price Control Extension Bill in particular, has hit for tough sailing as a result of the formal coalition of House Republicans and Southern Democrats. Many think, however, that the Republicans will be the losers in the end.

The move will brand the GOP as the active opponent of price control and that tag may be just what the Truman administration is looking for to control Congress after the fall elections. These elections, incidentally, are regarded as nearly as important as a Presidential one. Announcement that no formal coalition exists plus the appointment of a committee to work for price legislative aims hardly will react against the Democrats' demand since they are all from their.

What the coalition means is that the GOP and the price control program are now in a state of open warfare. It is a state of affairs which will be a great deal more than a mere political maneuver.

## Attending Rites For Non-Catholics

I hold an office in a city government, and the Mayor sometimes asks me to represent him at public religious ceremonies in Protestant Churches and Jewish Synagogues. I have great hesitations I feel it my duty, but I have begun to doubt me lately.

According to Canon Law, passive or bodily presence at religious ceremonies in Protestant Churches and Jewish Synagogues can be tolerated when civil office demands it, as long as there is no danger of loss of faith on the part of those attending, or of scandal being given to other Catholics. Therefore, you can passively assist at such ceremonies. My passive assistance is meant bodily presence only. You must take no part whatsoever in the religious ceremonies or prayers although this does not mean you cannot, out of politeness, do such things as to remove your hat on entry of a Protestant Church, or leave it on in a Synagogue, etc. and sit when the people do, etc. Since you are a public official, you can presume that everyone knows you are attending such ceremonies in your official capacity. Therefore,

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the element of scandal can be ruled out, if you give evidence by your bearing that your attendance is merely formal. The last important point lies in this: you cannot in any way place your own faith in danger. If by attendance at such ceremonies your own faith is weakened you cannot attend, but must beg off from such a duty.

To sum up: you can attend in your official capacity as long as no scandal is given, and your own faith is safeguarded.

I have been surprised to find that many of my young friends who are Catholics have never heard of being "blessed" after their babies are born. I have always done it, and thought it was obligatory.

The Church has no law which requires the "churching" of women, and, therefore, it is not obligatory. It is but a "pious and praiseworthy custom," the Roman Ritual calls it, probably suggested by the Jewish purification of a woman after childbirth (Leviticus XII), that has for many centuries been recognized by the Church.

This venerable practice is simply the blessing of a priest given to a Catholic woman after childbirth, together with the expression of gratitude to God, the Giver and Author of the life of nature and grace, for her safe delivery.

It consists of the recitation of Psalm XXIII, while the mother kneels in the vestibule of the church and holds a burning candle; a special blessing with the sprinkling of holy water, which symbolizes the priest offers his side to the woman and leads her towards the altar; and, finally, the beautiful prayer of thanksgiving, while the mother kneels on the altar step. For practical purposes, however, in his country the whole ceremony usually takes place at the altar-call.

The prayer is as follows: "O Almighty and Eternal God, who through the bringing forth of the Blessed Virgin Mary hast turned the pain of the faithful at childbirth unto joy, graciously look upon this Thy handmaid, who comes with gladness into Thy holy Temple to give thanks to Thee; and grant that after this life, through the merits and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she may, together with her child, merit to attain to the joys of eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Why does the Protestant form of the Our Father differ from the Catholic?

According to the newest Protestant versions, there no longer is any difference between the Protestant and Catholic form of the "Our Father." Before the Protestant Revised Edition was made, the Protestant King James Version added to the "Our Father" the words, "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever." (Matt. VI:13.) It omits these words in Luke XI:4.

This addition to the "Our Father" in Matt. VI:13 of the King James Version is evidently the result of what was once a marginal note in the text of the Gospel itself by accident or through error. Since it was the custom of the ancient Church to conclude her prayers with a short verse in praise of God, and since this verse was usually written on the margin of the Bible, a not too careful copyist might mistake it as part of Holy Scripture and put it into the text. Protestant translators later took it out.

The words "Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever," are not in the original text.