



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 ties in with the penitential season but a careful reading of this small volume (79 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 "Our World Or None" contains eighteen articles, the majority by scientists who look 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 paralleled the military mind. Unfortunately it doesn't as evidenced by the conclusions of General Arnold, the only military leader represented in the book. He calls the bomb as the cheapest means of waging war.

There has been some muddy 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. H. 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. Orey, 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. Lawrence, 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:

"Radar 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 Cameray Park. The signals ceased at 12:07 noon. About 300,000 persons between the East River and Seventh Avenue and Union Square and the golfers' links also ceased. Another 300,000 were seriously injured. About 20,000 'lucky' individuals seemingly unharmed or slightly hurt, died of the effects of radiation. Many buildings outside this area were badly damaged. Some collapsed and people died in the ruins."

This story is entirely accurate except for one detail. It omits only one atomic bomb which will never happen again. It and other atomic bombs are used they will come by this

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

FRANZ JOSEF JOSEPH
THE HUNGARIAN COMPOSER, MARRIED BY MARRIAGE TO AN AUSTRIAN PRINCESS, "LADY LIPS" ACCNOWLEDGED AS AUTHOR OF HIS GIFT

THE SMALL BELL
From the battle of Marston, 1141, a bell was captured from a monk which was given to St. Thomas. Cast in head of SHARPE. Cast in head of SHARPE. Cast in head of SHARPE.

This date about the UPPER LAKE, GLENALOE, IRELAND, 4 1/2 miles long, 3/4 high, was the retreat of St. Kevin (and his) Cuckoo's Nest. St. Lawrence O'Toole also used it.

The 4th Century, country of the LIGHTNING OF THUNDER in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Jerusalem, to the Chapel of the Child, was the ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

Washington

Armed Force Reduction Said 'Horrible Mistake'

By Tom Rogers

Washington — There is a storm blowing here in high quarters than there is now. For the past several weeks Washington has seen a series of setbacks, forecasts and trends that could scarcely be more complete.

First and foremost is the question of the atomic bomb. Some people are saying 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 Cape Horn and the Navy themselves very demonstratively to get home. Today there is present a feeling that we have made a horrible mistake, that our prestige has not suffered through the world as a result, that a first class 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 in Capital 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 F. 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 newspapers carried a plan to help Jews get to the Siberian province of Biro-Bidjan located to the west of Khabarovsk. This was to be a self-governing territory for the settlement of Russian Jews. Yet this "offer" from Moscow is merely a trap to the weary and persecuted Jews while the Russians continue to play ball with the Moslems — a group the 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 arm 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, are in the hands of the Senate. 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 as formal coalition exists — the appointment of a committee to work for joint legislative action hardly will react against the Democrats involved since they are all from Dixie.

What the coalition overlooked is that the CPA and the price control program are currently being the most of a... should talk on the subject... voluntarily in spirit of... the result...

Attending Rites For Non-Catholics

I held 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 gone because I felt it my duty, but it has begun to disturb 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 the one attending, or of scandal being given to other Catholics. Therefore, you can passively assist at such ceremonies. By 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 entering a Protestant Church, or leave it on in a Synagogue, rise and all when the people do, etc. Since you are a public official we 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 "circumcised" after their babies are born. I have always done it, and thought it was obligatory.

The Church has no law which requires the "circumcising" 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 gift of nature and grace, for her safe delivery.

It consists of the recitation of Psalm XXXII, while the mother kneels in the sanctuary of the church and holds a burning candle, a candle blessed with the sprinkling of Holy Water, in her right hand. The priest offers his hands to the mother 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 this country the whole ceremony usually takes place at the altar-rail.

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 labors of childbirth into joy, graciously look upon this thy handmaid, who comes with gladness into Thy holy temple to give thanks to Thee; and grant, that like the life, through the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, thy child may be born in a state of perfect happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

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

According to the newest Protestant version, there no longer is any difference between the Protestant and Catholic forms 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" is the VI:13 of the King James Version. It is the result of what was done a hundred years in the ancient hand-written copies. It is the text of the Gospel itself by accident through error. Since it was the custom of the ancient Church to conclude the prayer with a short verse in praise of God and His Son — usually written on the margin of the Bible, and not the sacred text itself — it is as part of Holy Scripture and not a Protestant tradition.