

The Commercial Appeal

Published by the Commercial Appeal Co. Inc. 100 Exchange Bldg. Rochester, N. Y. Telephone 4-1111. Second-class postage paid at Rochester, N. Y. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Commercial Appeal, 100 Exchange Bldg., Rochester, N. Y.

Father Gillis Says:

When the Pope speaks to a subject again and again, a priest, I suppose, may feel justified in doing the same. However, to tell the truth, I am not sure that readers and hearers will become impatient with our repetition. We can almost hear them say, "Put on a new record!" But there are subjects so important as to demand incessant repetition. Take, for example, the question of "The Priest in Politics." I have treated it so often in this column and elsewhere that I might be supposed to introduce it again today if the Pope had not once more brought it up.

The latest instance was on March 16th. The Holy Father in his annual instruction to preachers of Lenten courses, urged them to remind the people of their right and duty to participate in public life. "There are many duties," he said, "arising from the right of the citizen and of the Church herself to take part in political life. It is under the protest of fighting political Catholicism," said the Pope, "that National Socialism aimed at the destruction of the Church." "But," he continued, "the Catholic Church will never permit herself to be shut within the walls of the temple. The separation of religion from the rest of the Church from the world is contrary to the Christian and Catholic idea."

Perhaps I may be excused if I say that I experienced a particular personal delight in that papal utterance. When I have spoken on moral and religious matters which had a bearing upon national or international politics, especially when I have attempted to apply the principles of the Gospel and the theology of the Church to affairs not exclusively ecclesiastical, I have been accused of "taking politics" "out of the Gospel," say the critics. "The place for the priest is in the altar, the sacristy, the pulpit. He should refrain from appearing in public forums and on secular platforms. When he speaks, he must speak a sermon: when he responds to a doctrine he is to be the doctrine of the Catholicism."

It may not be too much to say that none except those who have had a thorough training in philosophy and even in theology are equipped to deal properly with political problems. Men who have neither philosophy nor theology are likely to do these things in the light of expediency, or the mood of the moment, or at best upon the prevalent public opinion of the day. They may even say that there is any such thing as a philosophically correct political position.

The priest on the other hand, and the well-instructed Catholic layman look upon politics in the light of unchanging principles and of the "eternal verities." Clergy and laymen who know their philosophy are not driven this way and that by partisan interests, or swayed by the results of a particular election, which may be as sickle as a weather vane in a March wind.

These things we have often said in reply to critics who recklessly accuse us of being "political priests." It is refreshing to hear no less an authority than the Holy Father remind us that the Nazis (and may we not add other enemies of the Church?) used that pretext to do her harm. Also it is encouraging to have the Pope's challenge: "The Catholic Church will never permit herself to be shut within the four walls of the temple!"

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Pope's Definition of 'Politics' Hailed

The Pope's definition of "politics" is hailed by many Catholics. It is seen as a clear-cut break with the pro-Communist minority within its ranks. Walter Reuther, the new President of the United Automobile Workers-CIO, will probably be glad to assist with all his resources in carrying out the purge.

Or, at least, that's what the professional "doctors" are predicting in their post-Pope's definition of politics. Reuther wasn't elected on a specifically anti-Communist ticket, but he's known to be aggressively opposed to the Communist, and he's rewarded accordingly by the editors of the Daily Worker.

The break is bound to come sooner or later, with or without the investigation or the assistance of Reuther. In the meantime, let's look at the so-called Communist problem in perspective.

There have been a lot of solid reasons for the CIO's reluctance to declare an open season on the comrades during recent years—reasons which some of us on the outside haven't always understood sufficiently well. The public has a perfect right to expect the CIO to take every reasonable step towards eliminating, or at least towards neutralizing, the disruptive influence of the unscrupulous and unscrupulous little clique.

And so far as the CIO has failed to do so, these measures—to the extent that it has needlessly permitted the Communist group to consolidate its position—it's open to legitimate criticism. (Some of the liberals will charge, of course, that this is "red-baiting"; but, then, some of the liberals aren't to be taken very seriously any more. They're really to be pitied.)

The public can reasonably expect this much of the CIO, but it hardly fails to ask its own questions to the CIO. It isn't fair in other words to expect them to quarrel with the Communists in a vacuum. They've got to meet them

The Yardstick

By Rev. Gen. A. Higgins

It is, and when the national CIO decides to make and during the war, for reasons which ought to be obvious even to the unsophisticated, there weren't very many trade union issues big enough to fight about. Yes, some of the Stalinists occasionally veered away from official CIO policy on this or that trade-union problem, but it was always difficult to catch them at it. By and large, they found it advantageous to behave themselves for the sake of all-out production for the Soviet Union.

But the war is over now, and so is the honeymoon. Browder has been liquidated for his policy of "appeasement," and orthodox and militant Marxists have been officially declared to be the order of the day. Communist strategy, which is now being formulated by the rugged, battle-hardened Stalin, will probably be much bolder and much more militant in the months ahead. Sooner or later this strategy is going to run headlong into CIO policy on an important trade-union issue. The fight will then be on in earnest.

The Research Institute of America, which services about 30,000 business firms with authoritative information and advice on labor relations, takes notice of this change in the Communist line in a recent bulletin entitled "The Communist in Labor Relations Today."

The Institute's analysis is mainly expostory and descriptive, but it takes occasion to sound a warning which is timely and important—a warning against "red-baiting." "The Communist Party," it says, "has been able to exploit the Party's former activities in the strike areas. The frequently incorrect Dies reports and the high-mindedness of the committee cast the Communists in the role of martyrs, and helped the CP associate itself with non-Communist liberals who also were singled out by the Dies Committee."

A word to the wise... Communism in the trade union movement is a nuisance and if you will, a scandal, even to the elect. But it can't be eliminated by rhetoric or emotion. Paradoxical as it may seem, some of the groups which have made the most noise about Communism have unwittingly done the Communists a favor.

Rhetoric and Communism

Our Lady of Good Hope Society, Rochester, another shipment of pieces.

Rev. Albert Shanahan, Moderator, N.C.W.C. John Callahan, Secretary, N.C.W.C. Organizations in the Diocese of the Deacon being held Tuesday, 8:15 p.m. in Parish, Columbus Club.

Every person interested in the Deacon is invited to this important meeting. H. Keogh, as Rochester President, will preside.

CDA Meeting Calls General

Attention was called to the forthcoming State of New York from June 1. Mrs. J. P. grand regent will, and Mrs. Harry H. grand regent, will be in attendance. After the meeting, Covan, chairman of the Lenten, third party, is committing to complete the event.

Calendar of Feast Days

Sunday, April 14 — St. Basil, Bishop of Caesarea, was inspired by God to build a bridge over the Rhine at Arnhem at a place where many had been drowned. He died in 1188. His body was placed in a chapel built upon the bridge.

Monday, April 15 — St. Paternus was born near Fontenay about the year 482. He went to Wales where he founded a monastery. He converted many from the Druid religion and he died in France about 550.

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Wednesday, April 17 — St. Anicetus, Pope and Martyr, was remarkable for his extraordinary virtue and religious fervor. He reigned from 103 to 113.

Thursday, April 18 — St. Apollonius, a Roman Senator, was beheaded after he had refused to renounce the Faith when publicly accused of Christianity by one of his own slaves.

Friday, April 19 — St. Elizabeth, Archdeacon, was born in 924. He was captured by the Danes, who expected to collect a large ransom for his release. When he refused to permit a ransom upon the people of the diocese for the ransom, he was killed on Easter Sunday, 1022.

Saturday, April 20 — St. Marcellinus, Bishop, was born in Africa. He went over into Gaul and preached the Gospel with great success. Many miracles are mentioned as having occurred at his tomb.

AS WE SEE IT

Paging Mr. Murray

By DAN PATRICK

As President of the CIO, Philip Murray has had the support of labor's left wing in various ways. He is a Communist. Mr. Murray is a Catholic and quite conversant with the papal encyclicals on labor. He quotes them frequently. Mr. Murray is not a Communist. In his dealings with industry and in his public utterances he has veered toward the conservative labor leadership.

All of which makes Mr. Murray's behavior at the recent national convention of the United Auto Workers downright peculiar. At the convention, Walter Reuther successfully challenged the incumbent president, R. J. Thomas.

Now the Reuther-Thomas contest has become a political issue. It represents a struggle between the left and right wings of the CIO.

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"Get a priest—any priest!" By Rev. Richard Glaser

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY

Women's Post War World

By REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

The role assigned to women is "one of the most revolutionary and yet unthought in the post-war world."

Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, said in his Pastoral Sunday address on Sunday.

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Communist on U.S. Payroll

By TOM ROGERS

Washington — Recently a number of Catholic weeklies carried a report from Washington to the effect that Gen. Duane, special assistant to Secretary of State Spuller Braden had served as an officer in the Loyalist Army in the Spanish Civil War; that he was known as a Communist and an agent of the Russian secret police, the NKVD; and that he was the "directing genius" behind the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee.

Mr. Braden charged that the Russian part of the change and admitted that he had fought with the Loyalists, holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Now he is on the payroll of the Department of State.

Let Catholic editors check the following facts, however. We feel we're a little ahead of them in this business of ferreting out sympathizers of the militant atheist State on American government payrolls.

The most recent and most flagrant appointment has not yet been revealed. We refer to the hiring of David Zaglodovsky, who has faithfully followed the Communist Party line for 18 years since he came to this country.

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Cardinal Tien's Visit

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Chaplain Ends 48 Month Tour Of Pacific Duty

After 48 months of continuous active duty as a chaplain in the Pacific, the Rev. Anthony Carroll, J. M. S. priest and professor of Christianity at Boston College, is homebound and scheduled for immediate release from the Armed Forces.

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Pope Names First Czech Bishop Since War

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Dr. Skoupny was the first bishop appointed in Czechoslovakia since the beginning of the war.

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Present Urged

Geneva—Call for work for the east peace based on...

Third NCCV Shipment

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