

Franco and Peron Views on Spain, Argentina

BY DR. RICHARD PATTKE (Writes for N.Y. News Service)

In a recent article, Harry Elmer Barnes, who certainly cannot be suspected as a devotee of Franco, expresses concern at the amount of heat that has been turned on the head of the Spanish State and opines that in all probability this concerted effort to do something about Franco has resulted in strengthening his regime.

This, incidentally, is one of the few sensible opinions that have been advanced in recent months, surmised as we are with a deluge of "outraged" Franco propaganda.

It would seem that in the case of Spain, as in that of Argentina, we are confronting two things. There is one school of thought that labels everyone it does not like a fascist. The instance is based on the alleged aid given to the now defunct Axis by certain other States.

The error of this position consists of the fact that whatever the objective may be, there is nothing to be gained by a policy of branding and harassing, which in the long run simply contributes to making the regime under attack stronger. It has nothing to do with the intrinsic merits of the regime.

Outside Pressure

General Franco's government may be as bad as it is depicted. On it may be admirable—as the salvation of Spain. The basic question for the United States is whether an effort from outside to bring about its fall can do anything but make it stronger and more resistant to pressure. The slightest knowledge of the temper of the Spanish people should teach us that they will most certainly not receive with enthusiasm the efforts abroad to shelve the regime. One Spaniard recently commented that if the United States, France and England keep on with the policy now followed, Franco conceivably might become so strong that nothing could hurt him.

And that is what has actually happened in Argentina. For months we laid it on thick; condemning, denouncing and pointing with alarm. The Argentine people were urged to rebel. We brought down upon their heads the most vigorous condemnations of fascism, fanaticism, totalitarianism and general indecency.

The Argentine people were presented with the famous Blue Book to demonstrate that their country was a nest of Nazism, incipient and actual. In elections admittedly free and honest, in which the defeated candidate has conceded his defeat with no complaints, the Argentine people did exactly what anyone would have expected them to do—elect Colonel Peron.

An Error of Procedure

Our government had been tilting with Peron for months. He had come to serve the same general purpose of a Hitler or a Mussolini. We learned to speak of him as the last refuge of a fascist mentality in America. Peron is the new president of Argentina, duly elected by a democratic process. The Argentine people voted for him in all probability because they were profoundly weary of being pushed around, denounced and insulted.

Peron may or may not be a great statesman. He may be a proponent of the first water. The fact is, we have erred mightily in method and procedure. We stated a policy and in carrying it out discovered that it had backfired woefully. Again I insist that it is not a matter of the virtue or defect of the regime itself, either in the case of Peron or Franco.

Even if we grant that both Peron and Franco ought to be ousted and replaced by somebody else, every step we have taken has almost guaranteed that these two leaders will become further entrenched.

This, in perhaps, the major fallacy in the reasoning regarding Argentina and Spain. There is a second consideration that ought to be clear. We are disturbed fundamentally about two things: the threat of a new aggression and the denial of basic human rights that may have the "new" totalitarianism. How do Spain and Argentina measure up in terms of these two points?

Menace to World Peace?

Is Spain's invasion of the peace of the world today? Again I repeat that Franco may be either good or bad internally. What matters is this: Can we answer in the affirmative the question whether General Franco now, under the present circumstances, threatens anyone? The answer in all honesty must be no.

Spain threatens no one. It is certainly not going to attack France or Portugal or spread over into the former Italian colonies. It will not reconquer Cuba and Puerto Rico. The danger of the use of force does not come from Franco-Spain or Argentina, but from other sources that we know too well.

Press Freedom Compared

How can we reasonably demand the quarantine of Spain as an Axis sympathizer and, at the same time, ignore the explosion of aggression in fact and in potential elsewhere? How can we fail to see that whatever the Soviet Union

ITHACA SCHOOL IN RUINS

The blast which swept through Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca, left the ruins in these ruins. Shown above is a section of the school corridor. Destruction is of such extent as to prevent opening this part of the school after Easter.

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may call itself aggression is actually coming from that sector and yet must be defended as a staunch supporter of democracy and decency?

Is it not high time that we drop this fascist doctrine of vision of people and the assumption that what is called fascism means aggression and that what is called democracy, no matter how falsely, means non-aggression—even when aggression is actually taking place by one of those who have been acclaimed a democracy?

When we get into the realm of fundamental human rights the picture is much the same. Can anyone honestly say that at this moment there is less freedom of speech of the press and of assembly in Buenos Aires than in Belgrade, in Warsaw, in Moscow, and in Budapest? With Frida Kirchway of The Nation writing freely from Argentina itself, can even the most vehement Soviet sympathizer claim that that is not greater freedom than is extended to any journalist in the lands behind the iron curtain?

Argentina may not be as democratic as Massachusetts; although it may be more so than some less favored areas of our nation. One would have to stretch the imagination a great deal to conclude that liberty has given its dying gasp in Buenos Aires while it flourishes along the Danube where the Red Army has liberated millions from the tyranny of the landowners and the petty bourgeoisie.

Nor is Argentina likely to start out on a rampage of conquest. In this day and age, 14,000,000 do not wage war under modern conditions very successfully. What would Argentina want to conquer? Perhaps Brazil, heavily aided by U. S. lend lease? Perhaps Bolivia or Chile? Let it be remembered that historically Argentina has a long and brilliant record of peaceful international relationships and the submission of disputes to arbitration.

We need a good dose of realism in this whole business and ought to drop this eternal pointing of the finger of disapproval at nations and peoples. We are getting out on a very long limb through a new interventionism. It is time that we call a halt and learn to respect the integrity of other States and the sovereign right of their peoples to make mistakes if they so choose.

Story of Cardinal Tien How Tung Lai Became A Prince of Church

By C. P. THOMAS

The career of Thomas Cardinal Tien, first Chinese prince of the Church is colorful to the point of incredulity.

Born 35 years ago in Changtalu, in the province of Yenchow, and given the name of Tung Lai, he was the son of Christian parents.

His father, a teacher in the Pooty seminary, died when the boy was not yet nine, and young Tung Lai was an orphan at the height of the Boxer Rebellion in 1898, which gave over 500 bishops and clergy, as well as thousands of Christian laymen, as martyrs to the Church.

But the youngest, though he was as yet only a catechumen, was already imbued with an unchangeable love of Christ. Fearing neither torture nor sudden death, he continued his studies, and at eleven received the Sacrament of Baptism, taking the name of Thomas to add to his father's surname of Tien.

Three years later young Thomas entered the seminary of Yenchow to begin his long climb towards the priesthood. His road was not easy.

His mother, Mary Tien, followed the example of her husband in willingness to give her only son to Almighty God, but other relatives bitterly opposed the decision, offering the young seminarian future wealth and honors if he would assume his position at head of the family.

Fort health offered a more serious obstacle. In 1905 he developed tuberculosis and was sent home from the seminary. His confessor, a former rector of the institution, and his bishop all wished to urge him to return and persevere in his efforts. He refused to do so.

In 1912, when he was twenty-seven, he was ordained priest by Bishop Augustine Henricus, S. V. D., and took up his work as a secular missionary. In 1922, after his mother's death, he took over the mission at Fushien.

Five years later a new Boxer Rebellion broke out, and Father Tien, by his personal intercession with the war lord General So Chuan Fung, saved the lives of the town's pagan magistrate and the magistrate's nephew. In gratitude, the two suppressed all further opposition to Father Tien's missionary labors, and the

number of conversions began annually to multiply.

In 1926 Father Tien entered the novitiate of the Society of the Divine Word at Tientsin; was, and five years later took his final vows as a religious. Priests of the Society, which assumes as a special duty the training of native clergy in those countries in which it works, had guided him through the years from his baptism to his ordination and he had worked hard for them in the mission field; it was natural that he should wish to join them under the discipline of their Congregation.

Consecrated By Pope

Sixteen years after his ordination Father Tien became Prefect Apostolic of Yangtzu, in Shanghai Province. In 1939 this province became a Vicariate, with Bishop Tien as its ordinary. In October of that year, on the feast of Christ the King, Pius XII himself consecrated him Bishop. In November of 1941 the Bishop, now 49 years old, succeeded the late Bishop Weig at Tientsin and was enthroned in the magnificent Cathedral of that city. Bishop Weig, incidentally, had been rector of the Yenchow seminary, and in that capacity had told young Thomas Tien: "Your illness means to me that you have no vocation. You must go home."

Two years later, when the vicariate was occupied by the Japanese, who seized his palace and sent many of his priests and nuns to concentration camps. It was not until October, 1944, that the Sixth Marine Division liberated Tientsin.

Again the feast of Christ the King, Bishop Tien, on the occasion of his consecration, was an occasion of joy to the Bishop; before thousands of his priests and nuns, and assisted by two American chaplains, he sang a Pontifical Mass of thanksgiving in his own Cathedral.

Was He A Martyr?

First notification of the Pope's conferring of the supreme ecclesiastical honor upon this humble Chinese missionary came to Tientsin on December 24, 1945, in the form of a congratulatory cable from Francis Cardinal Augustine Beaumont. It must be a mistake! Bishop Tien protested; even the congratulatory cable from the Vatican itself, which arrived a few hours later, positively outlined in detail his death.

But it was a fact, and soon the Bishop was on his way to Rome, there to receive the red hat, badge of his high office,

from the hands of the Supreme Pontiff.

Cardinal Tien has now become leading prelate of all China, comprising twenty ecclesiastical provinces, some 120 prefectures and vicariates apostolic, over 4,000,000 native Catholics, including 25 Chinese Bishops, eight native Prefects, 2,300 Chinese priests, 4,000 Sisters, 730 Brothers. In the Cardinal's own vicariate are 27 prefectures of the S. V. D., eight native secular priests, more than a hundred religious, some 24,000 Catholics and 4,000 students in a total population of about 3,000,000.

It can be seen that much must still be accomplished in Tientsin. No doubt Rochester Catho-

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Bishop Scores Rider To Minimum Wage Bill

Washington, D.C. - (RNS) - Bishop Bernard J. Shell of Chicago, chairman of the National Committee for a Fair Minimum Wage, was critical of the U. S. Senate's action in attaching the so-called "farm labor rider" to the 65-cent Minimum Wage Bill which passed the body by a decisive vote.

"Senate action in passing a 65-cent Minimum Wage Bill has with one hand recognized the pressing needs of millions of underpaid workers for a decent living wage and with the other hand placed over their heads the threat of an increase in the family food bill of 15 per cent," Bishop Shell said in a statement issued here.

"We shall push forward in our campaign to improve the living standards of workers now struggling to exist on substandard wages. We have confidence that the House of Representatives and a conference between the House and Senate will see fit to remove this impossible inconsistency in the bill passed by the Senate and really help these poor people."

"The Russell amendment to the 65-cent Minimum Wage Bill does not help farm workers since there is no provision for the increased farm income from the pocketbooks of the large farm operators to the hired farm hands. For that reason, in addition to the drastic harm which it will do to all consumers, we hope the amendment will be eliminated before final passage of the bill."

SAYS CONGRESS PRAYER

Washington - (NC) - The Rev. Edward A. McDonough, chief of the personnel division of the Chaplain's Section in the Veterans' Administration, offered the opening prayer at the House of Representatives last Tuesday. Father McDonough is a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston.

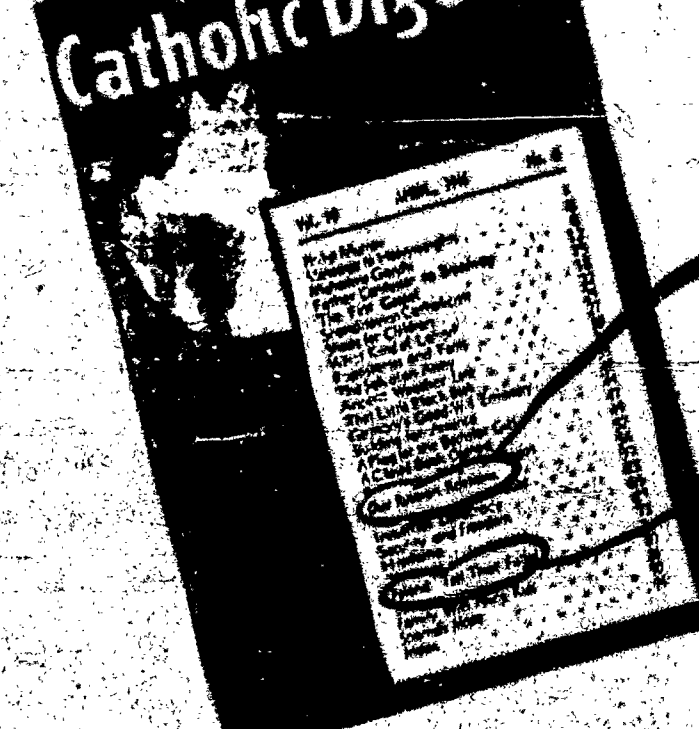
KNOW IT!

(Questions on Page 5)

1. The pest of bulls and organ, being an expression of joy, would be out of tune with the sorrow of the Church at the death of the Saviour.
2. St. John rests his head on the bosom of Jesus; Judas holds a money bag in his hand.
3. Los Angeles, St. Paul, St. Louis, Santa Barbara.
4. Philip, Andrew, Paul, Thomas, Thaddeus, James.
5. "Saviour's birth" (Act I, sc. 2). The passage refers to the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany.

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