



AT LAST THE IRON CURTAIN WHICH SHROUDS THE KREMLIN IS BEING PULLED ASIDE.

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On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

Sidney Hillman's CIO Political Action Committee is in the headlines once again, and in this writing the PAC promises to be one of the hottest issues in next fall's elections.

The PAC is a political party organized within CIO labor ranks by Mr. Hillman, who is also the able head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (CIO). Fully supporting the Hillman PAC, of course, is the influential Philip Murray, chief of the CIO Steel Workers and also national president of the CIO. And hand-in-glove with the Hillman-Murray forces are such self-styled liberal politicians as Harold L. Ickes, Henry A. Wallace and Senator Claude Pepper.

It was in the presidential race of 1944 that Mr. Hillman first brought his PAC to the forefront and it is commonly believed that it was very helpful in electing Mr. Roosevelt in the forthcoming elections. In the important governorships as well as senatorial and congressional posts are at stake. So once again, the PAC followers of Sidney Hillman are out in force. But in PAC strategy the next election is really a dress rehearsal for the 1948 presidential contest. If the Hillman-Murray forces are notably successful this fall they will have a good chance of gaining the next president.

Political action is a democratic right of the citizens of this country. Therefore, it is useless for opponents to complain against organized labor's new ambition in the field of American politics. Here any group can organize politically to protect its interests. If CIO workers under Mr. Hillman's aegis decide they want to make political action their only doing what Wall Street and machine politicians have reportedly done in the past. You may debate the feasibility or practicality of the CIO workers Political Action Committee but you can not deny them the right to engage in political action if they wish. At least, not in this country.

If there is any case against the PAC, it must be based on the principles and objectives which that organization promotes. The 1946 policy program of the PAC, as announced by Mr. Hillman, contains some progressive measures but it also contains the stern demand that Spain and Argentina be quarantined as centers of Fascist infection. The PAC has obviously borrowed its anti-Franco policy as well as the language used to express it from the Communist press. If PAC leaders are sincerely fearful of dictatorship why do they suffer blindness when they look at the world's most accomplished despot — Mr. Stalin? Mr. Hillman, Mr. Wallace, Senator Pepper, Mr. Ickes, and even Mr. Murray — all of them PAC spokesmen — are vigorously opposed to the policies of Franco and the Communist Democrats. To these PAC gentlemen, the poll tax and Franco Spain are Fascist. But these same gentlemen, by some strange inconsistency, are also the foremost advocates of American friendship with the Stalinites!

It is already clear that the PAC's Moscow-like hatred of Franco Spain is not just window-dressing. For example, two years ago Congressman Barry, a Queens Democrat, was supported in the election race by the New York American Labor Party, another Hillman-controlled organization and ally of the PAC. This year Congressman Barry is on the purge list of the ALP and the PAC. Why? Well, according to "Human Events," the secretary of Hillman's New York State American Labor Party and a national vice-president of Hillman's Amalgamated Clothing Workers (Mr. Hillman has his hand in many pies, doesn't he?) the planned purge of Congressman Barry is based primarily on his outspoken advocacy of the Franco regime in Spain. As we recall from the papers Congressman Barry was outspoken NOT in defense of Franco but in OPPOSITION to the Moscow Plot against Spain.

Our suspicion of the Communist influence in the CIO-PAC has formed an alliance (for the

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Church News
Two pages of news about the Church and its members.
See page 1.

POPE WARNS ITALY'S WOMEN ON VOTE DUTY

Vatican City—(NC)—The young people of Italy have it largely in their hands whether "the Banner of Christ, the sign of salvation" shall continue to animate their country. His Holiness Pope Pius XII told thousands of girls and young women who filled St. Peter's Basilica to pay honor and to give thanks to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the first anniversary of war's end in Italy.

The Holy Father asked his listeners to take a three-fold pledge to the Blessed Virgin to be always "believing, pure and actively Catholic." He particularly reminded them of their duty to use their right to vote in the forthcoming elections by giving support only to those candidates or parties who offer "not vague and ambiguous promises, but certain guarantees which will respect the rights of God and religion."

"Believing youth is a youth for whom the center of life is God, Jesus Christ and Eternity," the Pope said, adding that believing youth pray and strive at Mass and Communions not as spectators of formal, external, habitual Catholicity. It studies the inexhaustible riches of Catholic truth from its earliest years. It puts faith into practice and in life and, thus, attains Christian maturity.

Asks Purity Pledge
Taking up the pledge of purity, the Holy Father said: "The secret of the indestructible forces of your people was, until now, the mother, the Christian mother. For a long time, she has been the source of happiness for your people. In her the flower of uncorrupted young womanhood was opened up, and found its natural perfection. This unstilled purity was until recently the dominant rule in young Italian womanhood. Now, picture the changes due to the attack of the enemy who, wherever he tramples the flower of young womanhood, robs the majesty of wives and the tenderness of mothers. Evil voices exult in the triumph of divorce over indissoluble marriage, and of voluntary sterility over fruitful love."

"Pure young people, the Pontiff continued, must enroll themselves against public corruptors of innocence and the purity of the young. The State, the Holy Father said, should by wise laws combat immorality in press, movies, plays and radio; but youth must give soul and life to such laws by the dignity and purity of their own conduct. By Christian modesty in manner, dress, speech and conduct, and by respect for parents.

Courage of Convictions
The sudden change, the Pope remarked, has threatened to lower women from their highest dignity, to wrest her away from her maternal mission. It is useless to repine over the change, the Holy Father said, adding a warning of its dangers and outlining the following course of action for young women: Open profession of faith; charity toward others; and right use of political rights.

On the proper use of political rights the Holy Father had this to say: "These rights have corresponding duties — to the right to vote, the duty to vote, the duty of giving your vote only to those candidates or to those lists of candidates that offer not vague and ambiguous promises but certain guarantees which will respect the rights of God and of religion."

Spirit of Sermon on Mount Needed Now Truman Says in Fordham Talk



Top photo shows Bernard Cardinal Griffin of England and President Truman exchanging greetings at Fordham University Centennial rites where both received honorary degrees. Cardinal Spellman of New York is at the left and Bishop James E. Keener of Rochester is shown at the right. Lower photo shows Cardinal Griffin and Bishop Keener at Fordham's Charter Centennial dinner.

New York—(NC)—There is not a single world problem that could not be solved if approached in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount. President Harry S. Truman stated on receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Fordham University here.

He quoted from the new charter of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, stating that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed."

President Truman received the honorary degree, together with His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. The ceremonies marked the centennial of the granting of a New York State charter to Fordham University.

Speaking at the centenary dinner in the evening Cardinal Griffin pointed out that "if we are to secure peace in the world, all nations have to realize that the well-being and prosperity of each race or nation must be the concern of all." He warned against power politics and appeasement, stating that they would bring us to a "disaster worse than the one from which we have scarcely yet emerged."

President Truman flew to New York for the centennial celebrations and was met at La Guardia Field by the Very Rev. Robert J. Gannon, president of Fordham. At the Manor House on the University grounds the Chief Executive was met by Cardinal Griffin and His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, both of whom walked with the President to the administration building.

Over 10,000 persons, including ecclesiastical dignitaries and Federal, State and city officials, were present at the centennial celebration. Among those present in addition to Cardinals Spellman and Griffin and President Truman were: Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh of Newark; Senator James M. Mead of New York; Admiral William D. Leahy, the President's personal chief of staff; Postmaster General Robert Hannegan; Reconversion Director John W. Snyder; Capt. Clark Clifford, naval aide; Brig. Gen. Harry Vaughan, presidential military aide; Samuel I. Rosenman, former presidential lawyer; William O'Dwyer of New York, who is an alumnus of Fordham.

Cardinal Spellman welcomed the President as a leader who

PASTORAL SEEN INDICTMENT OF U. S. POLICY

By MAX JORDAN

Basel, Switzerland—(NC)—Even though it was not made public anywhere in Germany except in the British zone, the joint pastoral of the hierarchy of Western Germany dealing with present conditions under the regime of Allied occupation is being widely discussed not only in the other German zones but also in the secular press of France, England and several non-European countries.

Now that the full text is available observers point out that the pastoral constitutes the most severe indictment of Allied policies yet to emanate from responsible quarters within Germany.

While criticism expressed in previous pronouncements of the German hierarchy with regard to the recent population of the German population from Alsace, Poland and Czechoslovakia has found ample support throughout the world, and particularly from the Holy Father, this is the first time, observers say, that the German Bishops have raised specific charges with regard to the present situation in Germany.

Denationalization
Denationalization is probably the most debated of all the questions that agitate the German mind today. In the American zone alone at least 10,000 political prisoners are known to be confined to some 20 internment camps many of which were concentration camps of the Weimar Republic.

Blueprint patterns are applied perfunctorily to people who have produced spontaneous evidence of their consistent hostility to and active resistance against the Nazi regime. There are instances of Catholics and even members of religious orders who were interned months ago under American, British or French military orders without ever having been given a hearing and often without being granted the privilege of communicating with their families and friends.

Agencies such as the Army's Central Postal Directory, sometimes operating with methods that senior military government officers have termed casually as those of "junior G-men," frequently have perpetrated atrociously. Commanding officers have admitted to this correspondent that people often are hired as special agents, who lack experience and a sense of direction, and even people motivated by petty instincts of revenge and personal hatred who hardly had some through the most elementary training for so delicate and responsible a job.

Aping the Nazis
Sometimes, too, conditions in American and other Allied internment camps were reported not to have been in keeping with the standards that should prevail in the case of people not proven guilty. Some who never had the slightest connection with Nazi activities, according to reports, were herded into compounds together with the worst types of Hitler followers causing them physical and moral anguish besides physical suffering.

It is to such instances that the Bishops of Western Germany refer when they speak of "Gestapo" concentration camps and similar institutions that should no longer be maintained. The Bishops make it clear that they blame the victors for using the Nazis and even stooping to their methods, often by disregard of precepts of justice almost as flagrant as the Nazi regime.

It is no secret that prominent American, British and French officials have been seen at the

Two Prisons As Threat Of Terror Grow

London—(NC)—Many of the Communist-dominated Balkan regimes of the past few years have been replaced by puppet governments. The puppet governments have been set up in the name of the people, but in reality they are the tools of the Communists.

Diocese in Final Drive to Feed Hungry Children
The Rochester Diocese is in the final stages of a campaign to feed hungry children in the Diocese with all diocesan forces mobilized for the task.

Returns of food and money, no longer in the form of a monetary drive, are being sent to the St. John's Hospital, Rochester, N. Y.

St. John's Hospital
The St. John's Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., is the center of the diocesan drive to feed hungry children. The hospital is a large, modern building with a long history of service to the community.

Pope Grants Umberto's Request for Blessing
Vatican City—(Radio M.O.)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII has received in audience Marquis Umberto of Savoia, Italy, who brought the formal announcement of Crown Prince Umberto's accession to the throne of Italy, following the abdication of his father, King Victor Emmanuel III.

The new monarch, who will rule as King Umberto II, pending the result of the referendum on June 2, asked the Holy Father's blessing for himself and all Italy. The Pope expressing pleasure in the coronation, granted the request transmitted by the Italian Ambassador and having his blessing in "the language of all of the beloved Italian people."

Formal notification of the blessing was conveyed to the Holy Father on behalf of the King, Emperor by Count Adolfo Trossi di D'Erice, who was received in a special audience.

Card. Griffin Talks Food Crisis at White House

Washington—(INS)—His Eminence, Bernard Cardinal Griffin conferred with President Truman Tuesday on the world's food shortage problem.

The British Cardinal — first Cardinal from England ever to visit the United States — held an extended conversation with the President on the world food shortage, but did not go into details of the conversation when he discussed his call with reporters.

The President and Cardinal Griffin met Saturday at Fordham University when both received honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws. The Cardinal said today that the President on that occasion had graciously invited him to come to Washington "to see my house."

The Cardinal said he had never seen the White House before and

165 of 370 Priests Missing or Dead

Berlin—(NC)—of 370 clergy and Religious who belonged to the Diocese of Ermsia (East Prussia) before the war, 165 are now dead and 112 are missing, according to a survey in a Pastoral of Bishop Maximilian Keller, of Koenigsberg, who now has a temporary residence at Halle.

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