

Courier Journal

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Fr. Gillis Says:

Does the Pope Enter 'Politics'?

Last week in this space appeared a little discussion on the difference between "politics" and political philosophy. The gist of the argument was that priests, prelates, popes cannot sell their heads with the sticky thing called "politics," but that they have a right and a duty to convey to the people what is taught in universities as well as what is learned in life about the fundamental philosophical and ethical principles upon which politics is based.

The Holy Father made the point that a political structure cannot be built on any other basis but God. To some people that will sound theological rather than philosophical. But in truth it is philosophical, theological, ethical, social, historical. It is common sense and it is experience. He states, the political society, no civilization can stand unless its foundations go down to bed rock. And bed rock, any one who knows anything is quick to see, is not made of stone. It is made of granite. You don't have to be religious, still less "pious" to recognize that truth. It is, of course, found in the Bible. "Unless the Lord build it, the house they labor in vain that build it," said King David. But people who had no Bible, and people who didn't believe in the Bible, came to the same conclusion. Plato, the pagan, who never heard of King David said the same words: "If God presides not over the establishment of a state; if it has only a human foundation, it cannot escape calamity."

It is not only a human foundation, it cannot escape calamity. The conclusion behind this congressional action is obvious. The senators and representatives have been hearing their home and appearing in the streets of the Case bill numbers. At the end of the day, the House is extremely vulnerable to letters from home, especially in even numbered years. Politically speaking, the Truman veto simply neutralized the congressional action and can be interpreted as an effort to placate labor for the time being.

Now, what does the Case bill provide? In the oratory which purpled the debate on the measure, the public lost all sight of its six primary objectives — objectives which we do not consider anti-labor. Here are the six proposals outlined in the Case bill: (1) A Federal Mediation Board to intervene in labor disputes; (2) A sixty-day cooling-off period before the calling of a strike and its execution; (3) Penalties for workers who violate the cooling-off period by striking; (4) Union liability for damages resulting from strikes; (5) Authority for injunctions to bar certain activities by strikers and (6) A ban on "boycotts and welfare funds" administered solely by unions.

Hoover Calls for Change in Communist Party Line

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, called for a change in the Communist Party line in a speech before the House of Representatives. He said that the party's current line is "unrealistic" and "unworkable." He called for a more moderate and pragmatic approach to the party's goals and objectives.

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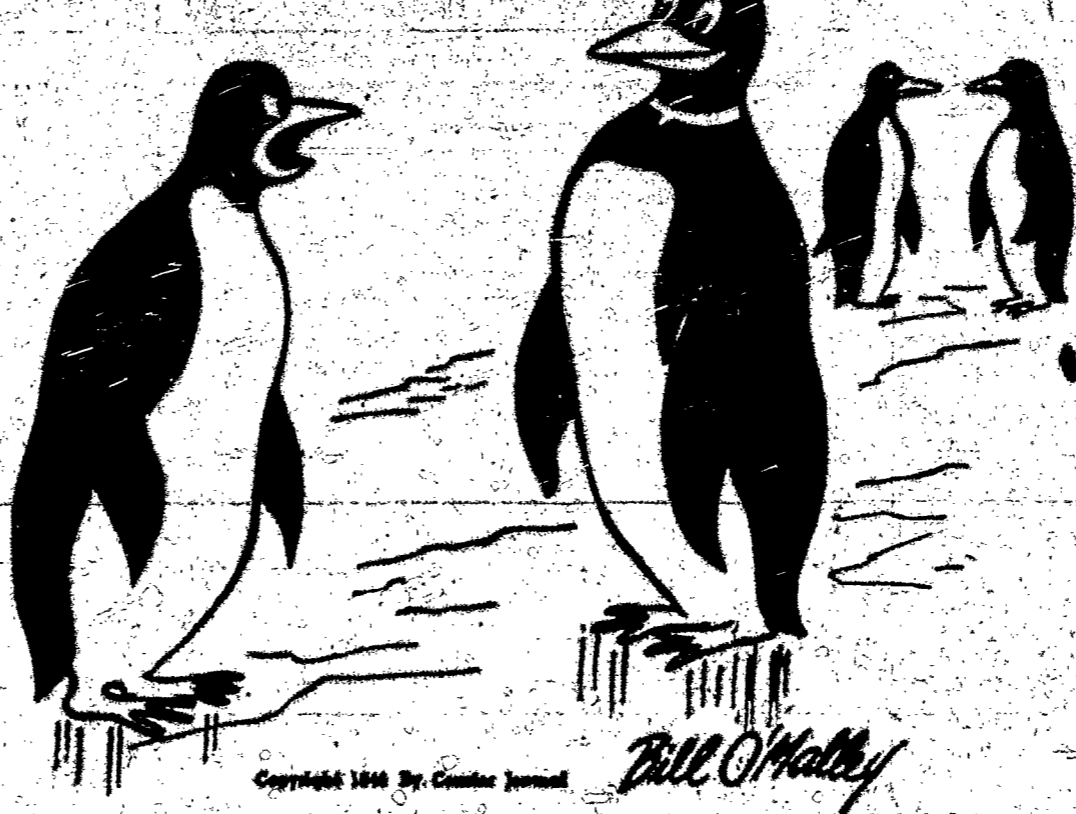
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"For the Last Time, No, You Don't Look Like King!"



As We See It — Case Bill Veto

The Truman veto of the Case bill has given labor a ray of hope and an opportunity which may never come its way again. The congressional elections are six months off and it is entirely out of the question that any labor legislation will be considered until after the returns are in. Despite the objections which are voiced in his veto message — and some of them were valid — the President's veto was dictated primarily by political expediency.

To date it has not. And the Case bill is the result. Unless labor seizes the initiative in the remaining months of 1948, there will be other Case bills and they will reach the White House at a time when political consideration is not of the essence.

Action Committee do not coincide with the general objectives he loves to quote. The PAC fight now is the most fertile ground in the entire American labor movement for the seeds of Communism and unfortunately some of them already have been sown.

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Now we do not contend that our national labor leaders are Communists. Mr. Murray definitely is not. And Mr. John L. Lewis has been called everything but a Communist. Nor do we consider Mr. Sidney Hillman a Communist.

What labor needs then is this: a leader who will check against the movement a leader who will acknowledge labor's responsibilities and purge its ranks of the disciples of foreign "isms." Just six months remain in which to find such a man.

Church in Politics

"The Church in meddling in politics," the Pope, the Bishops, the clergy are meddling in politics. You hear the accusation every day. The general idea of the accusers is that religion should not mix with politics, perhaps indeed that religion should not mix with anything, and in short, religion just shouldn't be.

It usually begins with the wisecrack, "No politics in the pulpit," which is unadvised and foolish. You just don't hear politics discussed from the pulpit, and most of the wisecracks don't know what a pulpit looks like. They've never been in a church. Nonetheless, they continue "Let priests keep to prayers, and leave laymen to affairs."

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Yardstick Big Unions Big Business

By Rev. Geo. A. Higgins

There was a time when you didn't read LIFE magazine. You merely looked through it and looked at the pictures. Increasingly in recent months, however, LIFE has turned to editorializing, and let it be said at the outset that its editorials are usually very well written and frequently enough are required reading for the bewildered citizen who is searching for the answers to current problems.

From time to time LIFE magazine turns its editors loose on the question of industrial relations, and while they haven't as yet emerged with the answer to this most crucial of all domestic problems, they do come up occasionally with some rather challenging and thought-provoking observations. The editorial in the issue of June 10 is a case in point.

In more specific terms, what the editors of LIFE are saying is simply this: that labor leaders and large have never clearly defined the kind of economic system they want for the United States. "Instead of either supporting or opposing the free-market system," the editors conclude, "they just sit there while it turns into a kind of inchoate feudalism."

Typical of our industrial uncertainty is the series of tentative conclusions which the editors of LIFE throw out for general discussion. They seem to feel that industrial psychology may eventually yield the solution to the problem. What we need, they argue, and what industrial psychology can develop, is a "whole new science of social relations, whose emphasis would be not on economic motives but on man's desire to be continuously associated in work with his fellows."

Big unions are here to stay, and so is big business. Our problem — yours and mine, Mr. Luce, and not merely Philip Murray's — is to establish an economic system in which big business and big labor can cooperate in an organized manner for their own welfare and for the general welfare of the community. This system will necessarily and by definition be something essentially different from the free-market system of the past.

From Washington, the famed columnist Cholly Knickerbocker plays this inside report: During a bridge game a few evenings ago, ex-Yugoslav Ambassador Constantin Fotich learned he was being tried in absentia by a Communist-dominated court in Belgrade on charges of treason, and that he probably would be condemned to death. Fotich's "treason" consisted, according to Marshal Tito's boys, of being suspected of having conducted propaganda in the U. S. for Gen. Draza Mihailovich.

St. Joseph's Hospital

It would be difficult to compare the great things done for the children of the Church in this decade by the Sisters of St. Joseph. In common school and high school and colleges in homes for orphaned children, in homes for the aged, in special schools for the blind, deaf, and crippled, in hospitals where they have done the work of God for the sick and suffering, they have done great things for the children of the Church. They have done great things for the children of the Church.

Mayor J. Dwyer, U.S.C.

A court case has been closely connected with the well-being of the city of New York. The case involves the Mayor, J. Dwyer, and the U.S. Court. The case is a significant one for the city and its residents.

Head of Prayer

The head of prayer is a person who leads the congregation in prayer. It is a position of great responsibility and honor. The head of prayer is responsible for the spiritual well-being of the congregation.

Prayer

Prayer is a vital part of a person's life. It is a way of communicating with God and seeking His help and guidance. Prayer is a powerful tool for personal growth and spiritual development.

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