Catholic Veteran Students to Organize

Weston, Mass. — (RNS) — A National Commission on Veterans' Affairs to coordinate veterans' activities in Catholic colleges was planned here at the annual meeting of the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

The new group, which will have its headquarters on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., also will devise programs for training lay leaders among war veterans in Catholic colleges for secular veterans' organizations.

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Hollywood Economy Means More Decency

By WILLIAM H. MOORING

There is, I am told, scarcely any limit to the lies one can force from a set of statistics. There are, I believe, some figures that do not lie.

In the Year Book of Motion Pictures, published by "Film Daily," for instance, we find the estimated 1945 total cost of the movies made throughout last year.

W. H. Mooring

Three hundred and ninety feature films and 521 short films were approved by the Production Code Administration during the year and the amount of money that went into them was approximately $401,578,000.

In 1944, a slightly larger number of movies cost $308,800,000 and way back in 1933, when the total number of feature films was well over 400, only $125,000,000 was spent.

Close estimates of production costs in the intervening years prove that Hollywood has been spending more and more money and making fewer and fewer films. The average cost now is well over 100 per cent more than it was in the middle 20's just before the talkies came along.

Dizzy and Unrealistic

You may ask why I trouble to mention these figures at all; they are dizzy and to most of us entirely unrealistic.

We are mainly interested, are we not, in a fair supply of good movie entertainment? Unless we happen not to be interested in movies at all, when we shall doubtless stand utterly convinced that there is no such thing as a good movie anyway and that Hollywood wouldn't make it if there were!

If you've never encountered any of these Catholic-Hollywood-haters you should change places with me for a few weeks. They evidently believe that the best way to discourage bad movies is to deny the possibility that there could be any good ones.

If 24,000,000 American Catholics were to bury their heads in that particular pile of sand, the fact that would remain that 31,000 people are fully employed making Hollywood movies at a combined salary of around $230,000,000 and that 53,000,000 ticket buyers pass the American box office every week of the year.

Wholesale condemnation of Hollywood and its movies, in terms of Catholic action, is no substitute for a policy of sane evaluation.

Mediocre Movies

That is why I believe Catholics ought to give a thought now and then, not only to the films Hollywood makes, but to the methods and the money that go into the making of them.

Only in 1940, immediately after depression hit the U.S.A., did Hollywood drop back a notch in production outlay. In 1938 and 1939 the total cost of films had hovered around $163,000,000, but once retrenchment was indicated Hollywood made just as many films for 1940 release and spent only $150,000,000 doing it. The films were just as good, if not better. In 1945, for $401,500,000, the Hollywood producers turned out more mediocre movies than in 1940.

My point is that the more extravagant these Hollywood producers are permitted to become, the poorer, generally speaking, is the resultant entertainment. There have been some good films that cost vast fortunes. There have been even more good films that were made literally "on a shoe-string."

Already theater attendances are slightly on the decline. More ticket buyers are going for lower-priced seats. The big splurge is over and Hollywood producers who try to look a year or two ahead are planning against the day when they will have to make movies on half the money they spent throughout the war.

This may give a fresh lease of life to those who write original screen stories and sell them to Hollywood for a mere fraction of what such over-exploited writers as Kathleen Winsor have been getting for blue and amber novels.

It may also re-charge the money-lagged imagination of those Hollywood producers and writers who, during the war boom, worked on the principle that anything would pay

'Gilda' Violates Decency Pledge Prelate Says

New Orleans — (NC) — Addressing members of the clergy and through them the Catholics of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans has called attention to the Legion of Decency pledge and its applicability against such pictures as "The Outlaw," "Gilda," and "Kitty," now showing here.

Referring to "The Outlaw" as a picture which "glorifies crime, lets the criminal go unpunished, is immoral in action and indecent in costuming," and adding that "Gilda" and "Kitty" are reported to deserve virtually the same criticism, Archbishop Rummel wrote to the clergy: "These criticisms have been brought to the attention of the management and of the proper civil authorities but to no avail, simply because there seems to be no agreement as to what can be construed as subversive to public morals within the terms of the civil law."

Movie Guide

New Films Reviewed

Dangerous Business, A-1
Faithful in My Fashion, A-1
Man from Rainbow Valley, A-1
Smoky, A-1
One Exciting Week, A-2
The Runaround, A-2
Undercover Woman, B

At the Theatres

RKO Palace

Sentimental Journey, A-2
Follow That Woman, A-1

Century

Night in Paradise, B
She-Wolf of London, A-2

Regent

One More Tomorrow, B
Dressed to Kill, A-1

Temple

Don't Fence Me In, A-2
Passkey to Danger, A-2

Capitol

Badman's Territory, A-1
Miss Susie Slagle's, A-1

Little

Moonlight Sonata, A-2

(Elmira)

Keeney

Janie Gets Married, B

Regent

Bad Man's Territory, A-1
Strange Mr. Gregory, A-2
Whistle Stop, B
Ding Dong Williams, A-1

Strand

They Made Me A Killer, A-2
El Paso Kid, A-1
Hands Across the Border (not classified)
From This Day Forward, A-2
City for Conquest (not classified)
No Time for Comedy
She Went to the Races, B
Whispering Skull, A-1

Colonial

Night in Paradise, B

MAJOR BOWES DIES AT 72

Rumson, N. J. — (NC) — Major Edward Bowes, son of Irish-born parents who became internationally famous through his radio amateur program and other entertainment activities, died here after receiving the last Rites of the Church from His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York. He was 72 years old.

Major Bowes was the donor of a number of the trees that surround St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He also gave to St. Patrick's Cathedral the painting of "The Holy Family with St. John and Ste. Elizabeth" by Andrea del Sarto.

FILMS

Legion of Decency Ratings: A-1—Unobjectionable for Adults and Children. A-2—Unobjectionable for Adults. A-3—Morally Doubtful. B—Objectionable in Part. C—Condemned. Parenthesis—Previous rating. Asterisk—Recommended by Catholic Press.

CLASS A-1—Unobjectionable for Adults and Children

Annie and the King of Siam
Avalanche
Battle for Music
Blue Sierras**
Boy's Ranch
Border Bandits
Caravan Trail
Days of Buffalo Bill
Dark Alibi
Devotion***
Do You Love Me**
Dressed To Kill
El Paso Kid
Galloping Thunder
Gay Blades
Gay Cavalier, The
Gentleman from Texas, The
Gunfighters with Guns
Ghost of Hidden Valley
Green Years, The
Hunting for Vengeance
Hit the Hay
Haunted Mine, The
Home on the Range
Model Reserve
In Old Sacramento
It Shouldn't Happen To A Dog
Joe Palooka, Champ
Lottery in Her Heart
Miss Susie Slagle's**
Make Mine Music***
Most Over Montana
Northwest Trail
O. S. S.*
Out of the Depths
Our Hearts Were Growing Up**
Partners in Time
Red Dragon
Rendezvous 24
Riders of The Dawn
Romance of the West
So Goes My Love
Song of Arizona
Sunset Pass
Terror by Night
Texas Panhandle
Terrors on Horseback
That Texas Jamboree
Throw A Saddle on A Star
Thunder Town
True Glory, The***
Ut Gone Maine
Virginian, The
Walk in the Sun
When Johnny Comes Flying Home
Wife of Monte Cristo, The

CLASS A-2—Unobjectionable for Adults

Bedlam
Behind Green Lights
Behind the Mask
Blonde Alibi
Blue Dahlia, The*
Cat Creeps, The
Climax, The***
Captain of Paris, The
Crime of the Century
Dakota
Dark Corner, The
Deadline at Dawn
Devil's Mask, The
Don't Fence Me In
Dragonwyck***
Keys
French Key, The
From This Day Forward (Dialogue item can be interpreted as suggestive of so-called planned parenthood)
Game of Death, A
Genius At Work
Heartbeat
Henry the Fifth***
Healing Saint, The
House of Horrors
Inside Job
I Was A Criminal
Journey Together
Just Before Dawn
Kid from Brooklyn, The**
Little Mr. Jim
Little Giant, The**
Madonna of the Seven Moons
Madonna's Secret, The
Man Who Dared, The
Monsieur Beaucaire
Murder Is My Business
Mysterious Intruder
Night Editor
Night in Casablanca, A*
Notorious Lone Wolf
Passkey to Danger
Perilous Holiday
Phantom Thief, The
Renegades
Shock
Sun Will of Leader
Smooth as Silk
Somewhere in the Night
Spirit of the Boys
Spider Woman Strikes Back, The
Stolen Life*
Strange Conquest
Stranger, The**
Strange Impersonation
Swing Parade of 1946
Talk About A Lady
They Made Me A Killer
To Each His Own*
Tracks About Murder, That
Two Sisters from Boston
Two Smart People*
Valley of the Zombies
Walls Come Tumbling Down, The*
Walls Tell
Well-Groomed Bride, The
Without Reservations
Woman Who Came Back, The
Yank in London, A**
Young Widow*

CLASS B—Objectionable in Part

Adventure in Baltimore (Light treatment of marriage; suggestive sequences)
Abbott and Costello (Treats in comedy vein, but law into own hands)
Bride Wore Boots, The (Reflects the accepted ability of divorce)
Diary of a Chambermaid (Lustful things; sadistic cruelty)
Easy To Wed (Marriage lightly treated; divorce in plot solution)
Frontier Gal (Suggestive situations)
Gentleman Misbehaves, The (Light treatment of marriage)
Golden Earrings (Implication and allusion of song; suggestive costumes, dialogue and dances)
Class Ahead, The (Leads; dialogue suggestive remarks and costumes)
Janie Gets Married (Implication against permanency of marriage)
Journey (Reflects the acceptability of divorce)
Secret Command (Excessive gruesome scene)
Kitty* (Lack of moral compensation)
Love on the Dole (Treatment presents a sinful course of conduct as justifiable)
Man in Grey, The (Revengeful murders; marital transmissibility tends to convey evidence is irreverence)
Mask of Dilmore (The temptation of the church will for evil)
Night in Paradise, A (Suggestive costumes and situations)
Open City (Realistic synopsis; theatrically treated; excessive environment; suggestive costume and situations; use of narcotics)
Price of Death (Infinitely coarse sequence so constructed as to invite attention)
Portrait of a Woman (Suggestive dialogue and situations; critics in plot solution)
Postman Always Rings Twice, The* (Insufficient moral compensation)
Sanctuary Trunk (Lack of adequate moral compensation)
Sounds in Dark (Cynical attitude towards virtue and marriage; suggestive sequences, lack of moral compensation)
Sweeping Wind, That (Reflects acceptability of divorce)
Sweetie Pie, The (Lack of adequate moral compensation)
She Wrote the Book (Suggestive dialogue and situations)
Strange Love of Martha Ivers (Incidental moral compensation; gloomy atmosphere; plot solution lay subtle)
Suspense (Suggestive dialogue sequences)
Tangier (Subtle; in plot solution)
Text Let Me Live With You* (Marriage lightly treated; suggestive remarks)
Three Strangers (Reflects acceptability of divorce)
Tonight and Every Night*** (Suggestiveness)
Wistful Stop (Suggestive dialogue, suggestive and insufficient moral)

PICTURE PARADE

The following reviews give William H. Mooring's estimate of the entertainment value of new motion picture. **** indicates an OUTSTANDING picture. *** EXCELLENT. ** GOOD. * SATISFACTORY. x WEAK. Legion of Decency listing of the same picture is shown in parentheses.

"WHISTLE STOP" x (Obj. in part) United Artists. Philip Yordan, author of Anna Lucasta, contributes this screen treatment of a novel by Marlitta M. Wolff. It is typical George Raft stuff with an arrogant, self-centered "hero" who has only to snap his fingers to have two girls run after him. One (Ava Gardner) is a hometown girl who went off to the big city and returned with a mink, no money and few morals. The other is a cafe waitress in whom he took consolation while the other girl was away.

There is brawling and schemes for murder plus much knocking out of teeth and collecting of caresses. Finally, the hero having been spared from committing murder by the girl with the mink, the close-up brings us suggestions of impending matrimony.

Slowly developed and amateurishly produced, this is worth missing even apart from well-sustained objections to suggestiveness and lack of moral compensation.

"SHE WENT TO THE RACES" x (Adults) MGM. This lightweight story about a party of scientists (all men except one gorgeous young blondell) who pick winners at the races by scientific formulae hoping to win $20,000 needed for research, has its moments although not too often. One knows from the start that the blonde scientist will inevitably fall in love with a racehorse owner and that his horse will bring home the needed money.

Such amateurish writing barely justifies the casting of James Craig, Frances Gifford and Ava Gardner in the inevitable triangle.

Semi-amusing antics by Edmund Gwenn, Reginald Owen, Sig Ruman and J. M. Kerrigan—if one overlooks the generally shoddy quality of the romantic and humorous efforts — barely save it for feature billing although it may prove an acceptable second.

Prague Catholic Paper Gaining in Circulation

Prague, — The circulation of Katolik, Catholic journal published in Prague, has climbed from 4,000, when publication was resumed six months ago, to about 20,000. Published by the League of St. Wenceslaus, Czech Catholic men's association, under the editorship of the Rev. Adolf Kajpr, S.J., the journal has gained a reputation for its fearless defense of Catholic rights and its attacks on anti-Catholic measures, particularly in the field of education.

The paper, which now appears twice each month, will become a weekly in the near future. Father Kajpr was imprisoned by the Nazis during the war.

4 New Catholic Movies in Making

Los Angeles — First four of a series of sound and color pictures dealing with American Catholic backgrounds and illustrating the history of the Church are being produced by Fanchon Royer, President of the Catholic Film and Radio Guild, now in Mexico.

The first four pictures are being produced for the Rev. Louis Galea of "The Catholic Digest." The camera work will be finished, Miss Royer expects, by October, and the product will then be edited and have the sound tracks made.

Since making "Missions to America," the sound and color pictures of the Franciscan missionary conquest of California, as a result of which she became interested in the Catholic Church and was baptized, Miss Royer has completed three all-out Catholic pictures. These are "Obeying the Command," done for the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood; "Day in Guadalupe," a dramatization of the celebrated shrine of Tepeyac where the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego; and "Fiesta in Mexico," an original story based on an incident recorded in the archives of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Mexico City.

Cardinal Spellman Given Edison Foundation Medal

New York — (NC) — Awarded for outstanding contributions to the arts, sciences and general welfare of the nation, the 1946 Thomas A. Edison Foundation Gold Medal was presented here to His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, by Dr. Robert D. Hobday, Foundation president.

In making the presentation Dr. Hobday said that Cardinal Spellman was selected for the honor because of his achievements as a philosopher, spiritual leader, poet, author and champion of tolerance and world peace.

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