

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Cardinal Spellman on The Taylor Mission



MYRON C. TAYLOR
President's Envoy

In an historical commencement address at Fordham University, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman set forth the Catholic viewpoint in answer to recent Protestant protests to the White House on the presence of Myron C. Taylor at the Vatican as the President's personal representative. So important do we consider the Cardinal's remarks on this vital subject that we are presenting his complete text:

"It is with the greatest satisfaction and deepest affection that I address the graduates of this honored institution, for Fordham is my own cherished Alma Mater. And today I am going to depart from the usual custom of commencement speakers, and instead of talking to you about what you should do, as you begin your life's chosen work, I shall talk about what you, as true Americans should do.

"From the earliest days of my priestly life, I have preached, prayed and labored to live as a true American and to live God's plan as a true Catholic, striving in charity to do all things to all men. I make no claim that anything I do or say represents the thought of 25,000,000 Americans of Catholic Faith, or of more millions of Americans who are not of my faith, but I do believe that in fighting bigotry, untruth



CARDINAL SPELLMAN

and dissension, I am a representative of the spirit of Freedom, Justice, Tolerance and Charity in which is grounded the life, the spirit and the hope of the United States of America. I believe in and practice tolerance, for my religion teaches me to oppose even hatred with charity. But, when recourses of large groups of religious leaders, with the pretext of representing thirty or forty million Americans, sow seeds of dissension and dissension, I feel it my duty as an American and a Catholic to help defend

leave that only ignorance is the reason for this illogical and harmful statement made by men who claim representation of forty million American people. But men of God, regardless of their sect, have a sacred duty to have knowledge of a subject before they speak for others of their faith. However, bigots lay foundations of falsehood that have the appearance of truth, and thus they incite domestic strife, and sabotage the general welfare of our country. Surely these ministers of God know that even with the signing of peace treaties peace will be difficult to attain, yet they wish withdrawal from his mission a man who, by the statements of two Presidents, helped bring some measure of peace to this war-torn world!

Pressure Upon President
"What reason then have these men of religion to make such demands of the President of the United States? Is it the anti-Catholicism of uneducated Klansmen sowing seeds of dissension within our treasured nation? I do not know what reply President Truman made to their importunities, but I wish to say that I know some of the actions these men have taken to promote and to provoke pressure upon the President. I know that many representative telegrams and letters have been sent to him and to Senators and Congressmen. I know these men attempted to splinter their intolerant attitude and acts by attempting, and in some cases succeeding, in inducing others to join them. But I know, too, from the lips of real and great Protestant and Jewish leaders, of their indignant reticence and their utterances of such un-American tactics.

"I also know that in addition to President Roosevelt's and President Truman's conviction that the United States mission to the Vatican is important to America, two men who have been candidates for the Presidency and two others who have held the high office of Secretary of State have concurred that there is no issue of separation of Church and State involved in the accreditation of an Ambassador to the Holy See which, according to the defenders of America, is the chief objection to the appointment of Mr. Taylor." (June 6, 1944, A. P. World Telegram).

"A glance at the history of the diplomatic relations between this government and the Vatican will show how baseless is the charge that they are 'unauthorized' or 'unconstitutional.'
Friendly Relations Since 1877
"Friendly relations between the United States and the Papal State date from June, 1877, with the appointment of a consul and diplomatic relations were formally opened in April, 1878, President Polk's recommendation of this step was upheld by a vote of 137 to 15 in the House of Representatives and of 38 to 7 in the Senate. The diplomatic relations thus established continued for twenty years with no interruption in the friendly feelings existing between the two governments. In 1897 the American mission to Rome came to an official end when Congress failed to continue the appropriation for the mission. An American consul, however, remained in the Papal State long after the official mission ceased to exist.

"There is precedent, therefore, for establishing diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican in the official representation this country had with the Papal government during the last century. The authorization and constitutionality of the mission at that time were beyond dispute, since the minister was appointed by the President and approved by both houses of Congress, Representa-

New Screen Comedy Cheapens Marriage

By WILLIAM H. MOORING

[An open letter to Mr. Jack L. Warner, in charge of production for Warner Brothers.]

Dear Mr. Warner: When a Gold Trophy awarded by Hollywood correspondents in recognition of your company's documentary film "If I Were a Rich Man" spoke in defense of the freedom of the screen, you pointed out how in a totalitarian country, the dictators bar Hollywood's comedies and musicals. They even refused to permit their people to see Hollywood's comedies and musicals because, as you said, "Humorous entertainment can be a sturdy vehicle for conveying the fundamental thinking of free people and their zest for the privileges of democracy."

"The screen," you told, "must fight evil with truth by revealing how decent people behave."

"That speech came rushing back to my mind when, this week, I saw your company's screen comedy 'Janie Gets Married,' a story of a ten-year-old, irresponsible and dishonest teenager sometimes ate, sat morally equipped by the advances of a good family upbringing.

Janie, the typical American girl, could not have been raised in such a family without having been taught right from wrong. For a welfare chance, she is told she is going to be properly married in a church, yet within an hour of leaving her father's home to take solemn vows before the altar, your screen writer, Agnes Christine Johnson, has this young bride confronting her husband-to-be with a document she has drawn up, it is in complete violation of the marriage vows.

"She calls it an 'option.' No matter what they vow before Almighty God, they young people are going to consider themselves free periodically to 'take up or drop' their marriage as may suit them.

Seriously, Mr. Warner, is this an indication of how 'decent people behave'?

I cannot help wondering what you expect such a story line to convey to people abroad who do not know how decent Americans do behave. May it not serve to confirm an impression, already deeply implanted by numerous Hollywood films, that easy divorce has turned American marriage into a legal mockery of the sacred institution—any of which came through the blessings of family, the strength and glory of a civilization based on principles of Christian democracy?

Your producer, Alex Gottlieb, tells me that the whole purpose behind the filming of 'Janie Gets Married' was to emphasize the dangers of youthful loyalty towards marriage. If the story in the end fails to convey a warning against hasty marriage, then he says, simple misfortune, rather than folly, is responsible. It does fail. Nowhere in the story is there adequate disposal of marriage by option. Ever though the bridegroom describes his bride's 'system' as awful, he goes through with it like a putty man.

The film, in fact, is full of putty people. The only character with any real strength is a girl of ten or twelve, sister of the bride, who twists the rest of the family around her little finger, snoots up their secrets and then blackmails them with a grin on her face! The fact that she is characterized as a rather lovable brat throws unjustifiable sympathy upon her complete lack of moral scruples and presents a pretty dreadful example of con-

Movie Guide

- At the Theatre: **REO Palaces**—The Bride Wore Black, A Madwoman of the Seven Seas, A-1
- Century: Her Kind of Man, B Social Reserve, A-1
- Regent: Sentimental Journey, A-3 Follow That Woman, A-1
- Temple: Murder Is My Business, A-2 The Cat Creeps, A-3
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- Little: Spotlight on Me, A-1
- (Kinema): Colonial
- Cherry: Cherry, A-2
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- Legion of Decency: List on Page 7

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