

The Catholic Courier Journal

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Dr. Gillis Says: A Nation's Conscience

The say corporations have no soul. If that were true it might also be said that nations have no conscience. As a matter of fact it has been said. Years ago a prominent professor in the "great" universities said that no nation has an ethical ideal. More recently another equally influential educator in an even more important center of learning has written in a highly praised book that it is hypocritical to say that the United States is or should try to be the moral leader of the world. It would be his for the world, he says, if any nation were to be its moral leader. These professors do not say such things merely to appear clever. They mean it. I don't understand their mental processes, and I dare say you do not either, dear reader.

We are old fashioned enough to think it would be a blessing to the world if some big nation — preferably our own — should publish a moral program and live up to it. The Atlantic Charter was indeed an idealistic pronouncement. But we checked it overboard. It is literally at the bottom of the sea. Perhaps it is in an even worse place. St. Teresa, and others before and after her, have said that hell is paved with good intentions. Perhaps that's where the Charter is.

But are we going to admit with the two cynical professors that the United States of America has no moral standard of conduct, or that if it has, we don't propose to act upon it? Take for example our silence in the matter of Poland. Is Poland done for as far as we are concerned? Do we fool ourselves with the idea that the "liberation" of Poland has been achieved? It was to liberate Poland that we went to war. At least that was the first of the reasons alleged to break down our isolationism. The interventionists cried, "Is America so cowardly as to do nothing while Poland is crucified?" When that rhetoric reached our conscience we acted. We declared before high heaven that we would liberate Poland as well as liberate Belgium in the first World War. But did we liberate Poland? And shall we add hypocrisy to cowardice by pretending to believe that enslavement is liberation?

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Obviously the matter of going into Europe, Asia and all the rest of the world with the professed intention of doing good is serious. It brings obligations. These obligations can not all be fulfilled by our armed forces. After we win a military victory, there remains the moral victory. If we are not prepared to "follow through" we never should have commenced. We are in honor bound before the world to prove that we have a conscience, and that we intend to live up to it.

Leading Communist Tells Of Stand on God, Flag

All Americans should be interested in reading the report of the debate which took place between Congressman Clare Boothe Luce and William Z. Foster, Chairman of the Communist Party, U. S. A., and which was aired over WIZ. The report appears in the *Congressional Record* at page 4515, pages AS15 to AS18.

In the debate Mrs. Luce asked the statements: "The average American believes in God and is loyal to his country, but Mr. Foster believes that a belief in God and loyalty to the American flag are wholly opposed to Communism."

Then Mrs. Luce read the sworn testimony of Foster which he appeared before a Committee of Congress which is as follows:

"I am a member of the Communist Party. I consider religion to be the opiate of the people. And we carry on propaganda for the liquidation of these prejudices among the workers."

Chairman: "Can members of the Communist Party be married in the church and maintain religious beliefs?"

Foster: "My opinion is that a member of the party of the Soviet Union who would be married in the church would be of any value to the Communist Party."

Chairman: "Would it not be the same in this country (United States)?"

Foster: "As I mentioned before, anyone who would be so imbued with religious superstition that they would be married in a church would be of no value to the Communist Party. Regarding loyalty to the American flag, Foster said:

"The workers of this country and of every country have only one flag and that's the Red flag."

"This One Speaks Latin" PETS



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As We See It By Dan Patrick

Just 170 years ago today, the world heard a determined band of men declare their independence from the rule of the British Empire in a "clarion" call to freedom which echoed around a world whose people were thrashed by the dark forces of oppression.

The Revolutionary War which followed paved the way for the establishment of the United States as an independent nation. But more important, perhaps, it gave to the world a concept which inspired a bill of rights guaranteeing freedom of speech, assembly, religion and the press.

The fact that some or all of these freedoms are not as yet recognized in a large part of the world indicates their comparatively "radical" nature 170 years ago.

In that space of time, America and Americans have come to accept the provisions of the Bill of Rights as part of their heritage. How strange it seemed to most of us for instance when some of these freedoms were appropriated in behalf of national defense during the war. It was something akin to cutting out an integral part of our lives.

To our way of thinking, the great danger to the continued tenure of these freedoms is not their use but rather their abuse. And in recent months we have had numerous examples of such abuse, especially as applied to the press and radio.

Abusing Our Heritages

The sins of radio are just as grievous in letting some oily-jointed parasite who couldn't make the musical grade disparage his alleged talent reading the dispatches like some ham actor doing Shakespeare. And we have those specimens right in our midst.

It's high time these abuses of our precious heritages were corrected. These heritages were purchased at too high a price in blood, sweat, tears and tears to be frittered away by the voice and pen of inexperience.

Washington Russia Inside Story Out

Washington — Last week men of Moscow pulled one of the slickest pieces of news leaking in their history. And it succeeded in duping most of the American newspapers. The New York Times alone managed to weigh the relative value of each of the many stories that night — and came through as the frugalist didn't intend they should.

Not long before press time a sensational story — a tragic, sickening story — came out of Moscow. Two small nations had been liquidated for aiding the German Army when it was in the Caucasus. Two small nations? The American press, too alert to sensational news, immediately jumped on the story. Maps were drawn, editorials deploring this inhumanity to man were assigned for the next day, morgues and files were combed for details on these small nations that had decided to act with an ally — ANY ALLY — to overthrow the Red yoke.

At the same time a number of papers were in receipt of a bulletin that a number of Soviet officials had been found guilty of graft and sabotage. This item, which had rumors for grandparents last July, was finally released and the terror of the news that two small nations had been liquidated.

The Red press agents had a simple plan. Play up the liquidation of a nation to impress the readers people at home as a lesson. Release it over the other story for foreign consumption and the sensational editors would play it up.

The real story was the second one. Stalin is again having trouble with his highest officials. The domestic scene is again being purged as Khrushchev described in *I Chose Freedom*. It would be wishful thinking to state that additional cracks are beginning to show in the Soviet wall, but the fact that high officials — away from the awful penalties for treason — are working against the aging Stalin is one of great significance. Nor is it entirely without significance that the Moscow-controlled Russian papers have not covered a single word about the atomic experiment at Bikini.

If there is a passive or violent type of revolutionary activity within Russia in the next few years it will be of such a scope that it will probably be the greatest story of our time.

Meanwhile — let the ladies note the following and note it carefully:

For some time we have been doing material for the purpose of selling certain bits of propaganda to the bare doc-

Two Worlds Exist

Joseph P. Kennedy, former ambassador to Great Britain, "It is idle to talk about one world as long as there prevail the two distinctive and fundamentally different ideals — Communism and Democracy."

Yardstick Classless Society!

By Rev. Geo. Higgins

Mrs. Anne O'Hare McCormack is not an economist nor a sociologist, but she gave the harried members of both the John Hancock and the Daily Worker something to think about in a recent public address in New York City. (Students of semantics may likewise want to analyze her speech.) "The American goal," she said, "is a truly classless society."

Mrs. McCormack writes for the New York Times, not for the DAILY WORKER. She could probably be described, more accurately, as a progressive-conservative. She is not a Communist. Nor a socialist. Not even a social democrat. Yet she believes in a "classless society!"

Well, so does the Catholic Church, of which she happens to be a loyal and devoted member. It's a pity that the Catholics and we Christians in general have permitted the Communists to appropriate the phrase as their own exclusive property and to pervert it to their own inhuman purposes?

Mrs. McCormack, in the context of her speech, was pleading for national unity in the solution of the labor problem — which will be America's principal problem, she said, for the next 25 years. She was urging her audience to help formulate a labor policy which, while encouraging union organization and collective bargaining and while defending the right to strike, would forestall the repetition of catastrophes like the recent railroad strike.

This sort of labor policy, she implied, cannot and will not be formulated so long as we continue to think in terms of competing and conflicting economic classes. "Class conflict," she said, "is an anachronism in the society of workers that we are." She might have added that class conflict is something worse than an anachronism. It never did and never will make sense, for it is basically a denial of man's social nature and a denial of the essence of the human race. And for Catholics, of course, it's something even more tragic — a violation of the unity of Christ's Mystical Body.

Mrs. McCormack is moderately optimistic. She believes that we are on our way to attaining the American goal of a classless society "if we don't defeat ourselves." If we don't defeat ourselves by taking vengeance on (Fidel and John L. Lewis and Mr. Whitney (of more recent notoriety) at the expense of the labor movement. We can defeat ourselves by discouraging the current efforts of the AFL and the CIO to organize the workers of the South or by denying to foremen the right to organize. We can defeat ourselves by maintaining that a "classless" society means an unorganized society.

Class conflict cannot be eliminated by weakening the labor movement or by enacting protective labor legislation (which is "human" legislation and not "class" legislation). Class conflict can be eliminated only by encouraging a strong and healthy labor movement to cooperate in an organized manner with the other functional economic groups in society and with the government in the interests of the general welfare.

Sokolosky Tells Graduates Of U. S. Greatness

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — Founded on the liberal principles of the Judeo-Christian civilization, with its roots in the Bible, the United States owes its greatness to the fact that its Constitution, as no other similar document in history, recognizes the dignity and authority of the individual man. George E. Sokolosky, newspaper columnist, declared in his address at the 101st commencement of the University of Notre Dame here.

Mr. Sokolosky told the graduates that since 1917 when the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia, "the whole of mankind has witnessed an unending war of civilizations, a clash between two unendingly promising and uncompromising ways of life. Between the rule of God and the rule of despotic man, between liberty and slavery."

Recalling clashes between East and West down through history, Mr. Sokolosky declared that in recent years, the Eastern impact presents a "modern t. at not new facade."

"The same forces," he said, "attack and seek to overwhelm us. Despotism, autocracy reappear. The clothes worn by the satrap are European, but he is nonetheless Oriental in the sense that man under him is reduced to nothingness."

He declared that it is the State "that is being erected as the prison for the spirit of man" and as an instrument of coercion, persecution, torture and enslavement, while in the West the State has evolved as the protector of the rights of the individual. He asserted that "for each of us in this generation, this war will be continuous throughout our lives and we shall have to take sides hereafter, as we have been forced to take sides during the last two decades on all the issues and implications that arise from it."

\$50,000 to Smith Fund

New York — (NC) — The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Hospital Fund received a check for \$50,000 here as a gift of the Empire State. The owner of the Empire State Building John J. F. Smith, vice-president and friend of Governor Smith, presented the check to His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, honorary chairman of the appeal.

Let Good Sense Rule

Surely the government represented at Paris have chosen smart men to do their work for them. Men of trained minds, of mature experience, they have at hand all the facts. They have the ability to be guided by these facts. There can be no reason for delay in laying down the fundamentals for the impending peace treaty. But events indicate an delay.

Secretary Byrd is entirely right in insisting that the time for delay has passed. Peace is what we want, what we want right now. To let Russia's representative continue to interfere in our affairs toward peace, is to throw common sense out the window. In longer delays, men would soon call for action, for an end of meddling, for an end of death. Why not in this most important conference?

But are we going to admit with the two cynical professors that the United States of America has no moral standard of conduct, or that if it has, we don't propose to act upon it? Take for example our silence in the matter of Poland. Is Poland done for as far as we are concerned? Do we fool ourselves with the idea that the "liberation" of Poland has been achieved? It was to liberate Poland that we went to war. At least that was the first of the reasons alleged to break down our isolationism. The interventionists cried, "Is America so cowardly as to do nothing while Poland is crucified?" When that rhetoric reached our conscience we acted. We declared before high heaven that we would liberate Poland as well as liberate Belgium in the first World War. But did we liberate Poland? And shall we add hypocrisy to cowardice by pretending to believe that enslavement is liberation?

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Heavenly Fourth

It is a day of glory, a day of patriotic rejoicing. It was something new in the world back in 1776. It is not so now today. A republic, a nation in which the government of the people was to be by the people, a nation founded on the truth that all men are born equal. Could it last? Could it really succeed in unbroken continuity July 4, 1776 was a great day for the world, it is a great day for the world!

God's blessing, a heavenly land filled with resources of a natural type, a land welcoming the best of all the nations of the world to its shores, a land of opportunity, has given America a position of the best of all nations in prosperity. In happiness, in peace, we are to be found over writers of all that America is, of all that America means!

Thank God for America! Thank God for the Heavenly Fourth of July! Thank God that there is in the world today a country that has a glowing example to all people of freedom, justice and triumph in a nation dedicated under religious principles to the support and maintenance of the great truths that have made and preserved us a nation.

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