

The Catholic Courier Journal

Father Gillis Says:

Nobody Wants to be A Hero in Georgia

The Yardstick

Yesterday And Today

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Father Gillis Says:
 Today I must speak of a vicious, cowardly, altogether damnable action which has produced in this writing, on a compensating good, I refer to the recent lynching of four Negroes, two men and two women, in Walton County, Georgia. This particular instance of mob murder is the average code of the most ignominious exponents of "white supremacy."
 One of the four victims had violated any law whatever. The other three were wholly innocent. The guilty one had committed robbery or rape or murder. He had used a knife in a quarrel with a white man. What the quarrel was about; whether the Negro had acted in self-defense, how great injury, if any, he had inflicted—these things were not reported. However, even by the police magistrate his offense could not have been considered grave, because his bill had been paid at \$100 and he had been released on the note of a farmer seeking laborers. On their way to the farm, the prisoner and three others who had joined the party were taken off the road, and then the business and all were murdered.

Nobody Wants to be A Hero in Georgia
 It is reported that the governor of the state offered a money reward for any bearer of such information, and that the total sum of such rewards, public and private, amounted to \$30,000 at the time these lines were written, two weeks after the crime. But it would seem that such offers were merely perfunctory. There was no expectation that they would be claimed. If anyone does come forth to claim them, he will perhaps have to leave the locality for good. If the murderers are brought to trial in the county where the crime was committed, the odds are all to nothing that they will not be convicted, or if convicted, adequately punished. No one in the vicinity admits knowing them. The white man who was confronted by the mob (a small group apparently) says that they were all "strangers." So the matter stands, and so it will probably end. No one wants to be a martyr, or a hero, or even a defender of the law. The entire episode gives evidence not only of the savagery of those white men, but of the moral cowardice of probably every white man and woman in the county, since by this time they probably all know who the murderers were.

The Yardstick
 Organized labor in the United States has come a long way since Labor Day was first suggested by the New York City Central Labor Union in the month of May, 1882. At that time, only 25 years ago, the American Federation of Labor had just been organized (actually it was not organized in its present form until 1905), and the cards were stacked against it.
 The fight of the workingman to organize was deemed in theory and was rendered almost meaningless in practice. Even the laws of the government and the interpretation of these laws by a conservative judiciary were constantly weighted in favor of the employer. The wonder is that Samuel Gompers and his handful of self-sacrificing associates had the courage to see the thing through.

Yesterday And Today
 The workingman, but for the advancement of the general economic welfare.
 Which brings us to the second of labor's principal responsibilities. Or call it an opportunity, if you will, instead of a responsibility. Somehow or other, with the help of God, labor's function in American economic life must be extended beyond the limits of old-line collective bargaining over wages, hours, and working conditions. Collective bargaining was a good beginning in the right direction, but the time has come to break new ground. We may hope and pray, in the words which Bishop Haas of Grand Rapids addressed to a recent labor convention, that the day is not far off when labor "will be represented in national economic councils, in which with the assistance of Government it will participate in full equality with management, to work out with management and government a free and democratic economy."

A New St. Andrew's Soon
 The sponsors of St. Andrew's, the new building will be ready for occupancy in the fall of 1946. The actual building of the new church will be completed in the fall of 1946. The new church will be a masterpiece of modern architecture, and will be a credit to the city. The new church will be a masterpiece of modern architecture, and will be a credit to the city. The new church will be a masterpiece of modern architecture, and will be a credit to the city.

World on the Move
 Sheep or Goats?
 By E. A. Conway, N.J.
 questions was there any reference to the tyranny and persecution charged against the Jews. Nowhere was the abominable question asked: "How in the face of the charges presented to us, can you pretend that you will be the savior of the world?"

Prisoners Thank St. Anne
 By M. Massiani
 Fifty prisoners of war and soldiers reported from Italy met at the Sanctuary of St. Anne, DePauro, and fulfilled a promise which they had made to themselves during the five years of their captivity. Their chaplain had exhorted them to live in the hope of freedom some day at the foot of the altar of the Holy Patroness of Italy. It is this hope the survivors now realize.

Marriage Can Be Happy
 New York — (NC) — The road to matrimonial happiness is through faithfulness to the divinely constituted purpose of marriage, the Rev. Hugh Callins, of the Servite Fathers, said Sunday on the Hour of Faith radio program.
 Success in marriage, happily shared through the years, is through honesty and faithfulness. But if we have to surrender a democratic principle in order to vindicate law and order and justice and right, we must do so.

Washington
That FCC Report
 By TOM ROGERS
 Washington — We had the FCC report when it was issued a few weeks ago and upon careful checking we find that many of our more learned colleagues omit a vital and highly significant fact in their just alarm.
 As we know, the recent "opinion and order" handed down by the Federal Communications Commission ordered three radio stations in California to make time available to a resident who desired time to broadcast on atheism.

Labor in Convention
 The labor movement has been held during the past week to State Labor Conventions. In convention gathered to discuss the needs of industry, thinking men welcome the intelligent and constructive criticism of our workingmen in reaching the best means to which workers and employers may cooperate for the good of all. Right hours, right wages, right working conditions, right protection of the worker and make him more and more efficient in production. Right hours, right wages, right working conditions, promote the prosperity and success of the country.

The Outward Sign
 The power of God is not dependent on material things. Countless thousands of divine acts are performed every day which give no external evidence of their presence and purpose. In the body of every individual there is the constant influence of God to keep it in being, in health, in functioning. In the soul of every individual there is the overmastering and overshadowing influence of Almighty God to keep it in life, in full exercise of mind and will. In the supernatural order how consistently and compellingly God moulds souls toward perfection by giving grace and a myriad of actual graces. Much of this is the external sign of God's presence.

Too Many Conversions!
 Too many conversions! Strange words, and yet they came from the lips of a missionary Bishop who, on hearing from newly arrived White Sisters that numerous prayers were promised for the conversion of the Negroes, interrupted: "Conversions! Why there are too many conversions. It is impossible to instruct all those who come to us. I have just come back from visiting the Vicariate. Thousands upon thousands of men, women and children want to become Catholics. They surround me, begging me not to leave them. They are promising to send their fathers and mothers. What can I answer to all these poor people who have a right to receive religious instruction? Oh, fathers, brothers, sisters, above all pay God to send an army of apostolic laborers."

Washington
That FCC Report
 being the source of atheism. Once politically dominant, of course, Communism will give all the aid it can to atheism, just as a prosperous son helps his less wealthy parents. After all, they gave him his start.
 Continuing along the line of the danger of atheism and its success abroad one wonders if the Commission and Mr. Scott, who so far as I know is not a member of the Communist party, knows whom they are paralleling. We dug into some other records and if you support the Scott decision — which someday may be known as the "great Scott decision" — you'll find that you may soon hear such statements as the following. After all, we've let 'em in:
 "The criticism of religion is the beginning of all criticism." (Karl Marx, 1844)
 "The fight against religion, the opinion of the people, occupies an important position among the tasks of the cultural revolution. This fight must be carried on persistently and systematically." (Communist Party, Sixth World Congress, 1928).
 "Religion is a kind of spiritual intoxicant, in which the slaves of capital drown their humanity, and which therefore is a sure for a decent human existence." (Lenin, Novaya Zhina, No. 23, December 16, 1906).
 From the same issue by the same author: "Our Communist program includes the propaganda of atheism."
 So much for their own sources — these organized atheists of Russia! They have not succeeded in driving religion from the heart of the people. They have warped many minds it is true; they have denied millions the solace and the sustenance of the Sacraments. But with all their marvelous organization they have failed.

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 Why give air space to someone against the political, moral, intellectual and religious traditions of the American people? It is true that a man has a right to his opinion. A man has a right to believe in the murder of the aged as some tribes in the South Seas once did. A man has a right to believe in a plurality of wives as the Mormons did—until the Federal government called a halt to it.
 Then today we suddenly are greeted with a Commission that is apparently organizing a drive against the major networks and also seems intent on letting atheism receive air space. And atheism has only one political and moral home today. That home is Moscow. I wonder where our organs wandered from?

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