

Journal

Published by the Journal Publishing Co., 125 West 45th St., New York 36, N.Y.
 Telephone: MU 2-1100
 Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices.
 Postmaster: Please send address changes to Common Journal, 125 West 45th St., New York 36, N.Y.

Father Gillis Says:

The particular message against indecency and obscenity in books of fiction, spoken of in this column a week ago, continues. Last week we saw that one of our bishops, John F. Neill, of Port Wayne, had contributed an encouraging article to the newspaper which is conducting the crusade. Since then Archbishop McIntyre of New York and Father McGee of the Catholic Transcript, Hartford, have expressed approval through the same medium.

As my second little contribution to this latest effort to clean up popular literature, I offer a partial answer to the usual excuse alleged by writers who deal in moral filth. They say "life is like that." Sin and vice exist, and there is no point in ignoring their existence. The business of the writer is to report the facts of human life as they are, not to pretend to be blind to them, or to glamorize them. We may wish that men and women were saints, though if they were we "realists" might be out of a job. But since they are not saints, but sinners, why shall we not describe them as they are?

All of which sounds reasonable and laudable. But the reasoning is fallacious. There are many things in human life which do not make sense to the average person. There are cruelties in every big city, but it would be foolish to report on them. There are vices in the streets, but it would be foolish to report on them. There are horrors in the world, but it would be foolish to report on them. The writer's job is not to report on the facts of human life as they are, but to report on the facts of human life as they should be.

Now the idea which writers of the "realistic" school insist upon expounding (incidentally for such are diseases — moral diseases — and

Those Who Flout Decency Are Savage

They are careful not to be really realistic. They are realistic only for so long as it suits their curiosity — generally the sexual curiosity — of their readers. They are realistic just so far as to make sure that they are not accused of being "realistic" who pursued realism to such an extent that his books wouldn't sell. If he were honestly bent upon telling the truth about human life, he would tell it, whether people liked it or not, and whether it made his book a best seller or a flop.

These "realists" don't fool us. There is nothing in their realism. They are realistic only for so long as it suits their curiosity — generally the sexual curiosity — of their readers. They are realistic just so far as to make sure that they are not accused of being "realistic" who pursued realism to such an extent that his books wouldn't sell. If he were honestly bent upon telling the truth about human life, he would tell it, whether people liked it or not, and whether it made his book a best seller or a flop.

Doctors, on the other hand, especially psychiatrists and pathologists who really know more about the sordid side — and the filthy side — of life don't write it down and go about hawked their wares. Priests, who know still more of the hidden vices of human beings would reject with horror the suggestion that they should tell all they know. After all there is such a thing as a sense of decency in civilized society. Those who flout it are either savage or venal.

The Yardstick By Rev. Geo. Higgins

It's tough to be a labor leader. You're damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Take the case of Mr. William Green's Labor Day address at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, gave a fairly lengthy speech — of which was devoted to a rather pointed criticism of Communism at home and abroad. That part of his address was headlined by the majority of the daily papers, conservative and radical alike. Naturally enough, he was praised by the former and condemned by the latter. But neither group was objective in its coverage — to use a polite adjective to describe what Mr. Green himself would have a right to call misleading and dishonest reporting.

With only one exception, the metropolitan dailies of the city of New York conveniently forgot to publish the text of Mr. Green's equally vituperous criticism of what he referred to as "the forces of Fascism in America." Mr. Green is sick and tired of the tactics of the Communists but he's just as thoroughly disgusted with the policy of the "enemies of labor." You can judge for yourself from the following excerpt: "The forces of Fascism in America have determined to make a last-ditch effort to smash trade unions. They have unleashed a bitter propaganda campaign against labor and they are financing an expensive legislative drive to deprive workers of their fundamental rights, both in Congress and in the state legislatures. Let me serve notice here and now that organized labor does not propose to sit idly by and accept the demolition of all of the gains won by labor over the past quarter of a century." The more conservative newspapers simply ignored this part of President Green's address. That was bad enough. But it remained for the Daily Worker to be downright vicious about it. The Worker was so incensed by his reference

The Communist And Mr. Green

to Communism (which reference may or may not have contributed anything to the issue of international peace) that it decided to publish the complete text of Mr. Green's address. Or perhaps he sincerely thinks that anyone who dares to criticize the Communists is necessarily a "Charley McCarthy" in the labor movement for the most reactionary interests in America.

Mr. Green was not the only one who was misrepresented by sections of the press in recent weeks. This year the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference issued a Labor Day Statement for the first time. The press was more than generous in its coverage, but in a number of instances the Statement was completely distorted and was headlined almost as an anti-labor document. A letter in this morning's mail from an extremely reliable correspondent reports that in his city the "local secular press gave it considerable attention but could not resist the temptation to emphasize the portions that the editor regarded most favorable to management and less favorable to labor." The Statement fared even worse at the hands of certain other editors.

And finally there was the celebrated case of Bishop Sheil versus Upton Close, the ultra-conservative radio commentator. A few weeks ago in his regular Wednesday evening broadcast, Mr. Close misinterpreted one of the Bishop's recent speeches in such a way as to leave the impression with his listeners that the Bishop had advocated Communism and the overthrow of the American form of government. Mr. Close knew better than to say a thing like that. If not he certainly knows better now. For the Bishop answered him on the following Wednesday evening and taught him how to read. In the future, Mr. Close will probably try to be more accurate.

John Keefe

John Keefe has called to himself one of the younger priests of the Diocese of New York. He is a young man of about 30 years of age, and is a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He is a very active and energetic man, and is very popular among his fellow priests and laymen. He is a very good speaker, and is very well liked by all who know him. He is a very good example of a young priest who is doing his best to serve his flock.

AS WE SEE IT: Fair Exchange!

By DAN PATRICK

While there is some question as to whether the United States will deny that it ranks high in world opinion as an administrator of relief supplies.

What he says on this subject has a ring of authority which even the most ardent Democrat will concede. All of which brings us to Mr. Hoover's statement in Chicago last Saturday relative to food for Yugoslavia.

Mr. Hoover talks for an immediate halt to the shipment of food supplies to Yugoslavia because "directly or indirectly they are being used to feed the Red Army." The former President recently concluded a world survey of famine-stricken areas and his observations generally have led to the rather obvious conclusion that in shipping food to Yugoslavia we are directly and indirectly helping the anti-Christian Red Army.

Well, in the first place, food supplies intended for hungry civilians can and probably do find their way into the hands of the Red Army. Any check on the method of food distribution in countries behind Russia's iron curtain is, at best, a very difficult — if not impossible.

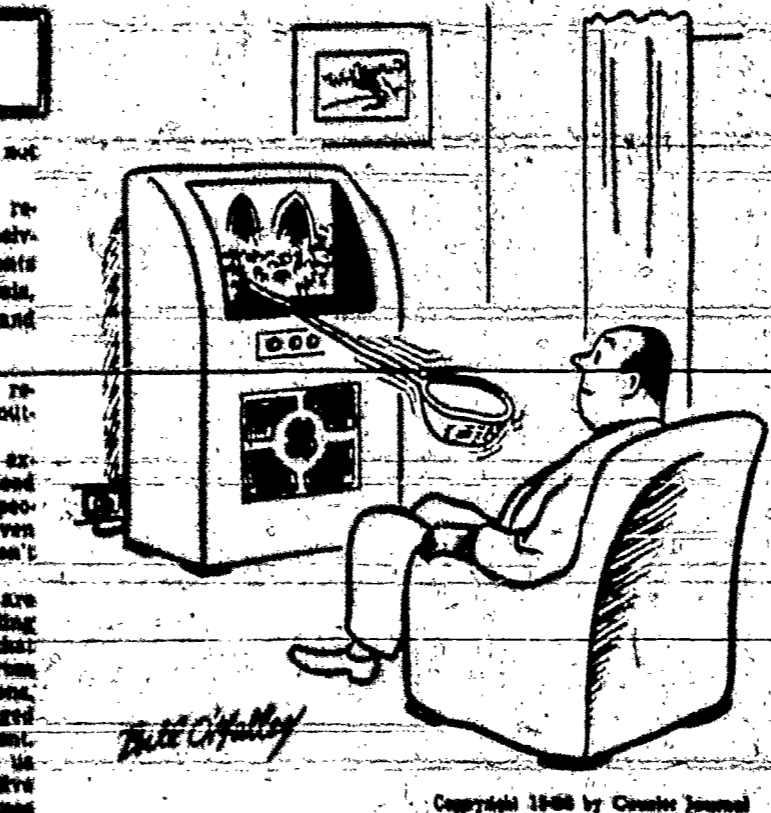
We are aiding Tito's Army indirectly through the shipment of food because he can keep able-bodied men, under arms, wherever, if such shipments were stopped they would be forced to desert, at least some of the men and escape their efforts into farming where they properly belong.

It is interesting to note the vast amount of food and other supplies shipped to Yugoslavia and other nations in the Russian orbit through UNRRA.

While UNRRA is an agency of the United Nations, the United States has contributed 75 percent of the overall program.

It is well to bear that fact in mind in analyzing the following table of UNRRA deliveries to Yugoslavia through last June 30:

Wheat	786,637 (tons)
Meat	18,849 (tons)
Wool	18,815 (tons)
Dairy products	17,623 (tons)
Fats, oils, soap	25,234 (tons)
Sugar	58,253 (tons)
Vegetables	413 (tons)
Beverages	1,144 (tons)
Other food	78,272 (tons)
Textiles	748,000 (yards)
Shoes	1,245,000 (pairs)
Cotton textiles	2,839,000 (yards)
Woolen textiles	3,844,000 (yards)
Trucks	10,320
Trains	527
Locomotives	76
20-ton flat cars	76
20-ton box cars	222
20-ton gondolas	222



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Why Not Vote?

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — Those members of Congress who are up for re-election this year — all the members of the House of Representatives and one third of the Senators — are facing a phenomenon with which they are not immediately ready to cope.

It is, they report, a general apathy on the part of the people toward the coming contest. Voting in the state primary elections is reported to have been unusually light in many instances. It is feared that, for the most part, people will stay away from the voting booths in large numbers in the election next November.

Many explanations are put forward for this situation. One is that the people as a whole are too preoccupied with their personal readjustment to post-war conditions. Whatever the explanation, it is hardly an excuse, particularly at this time when the people of the world, and this country especially, need more than ever to interest themselves in political affairs. This interest serves a two-fold purpose: to advise their leaders as to their wishes and to check those leaders who are tempted to pursue unwelcome courses of action.

President Truman has said emphatically that he sees no reason for calling an extraordinary session of Congress. Many have said he would. Some of those expressing this belief contended that the special session would be necessary to cope with inflationary tendencies growing out of the changed price-control policy. Others have thought the international situation might make such a session necessary. The President obviously believes both the domestic and foreign situations will take care of themselves without calling Congress into session again this year.

Whether or not an extraordinary session of Congress becomes necessary, legislation for such a step should be considered in connection with the apathetic attitude of the people toward the elections. The two together might add up to a disposition on the part of the people to dump all their troubles in the lap of Congress and go home.

Actually, this is a very important time to be on the alert.

Threat to China

By TOM ROCKE

Washington — The recent statement by Douglas MacArthur to the effect that Communism was a threat to Japan holds even more weight when you apply it to China. Within the next few months the Chinese Communist Party will make its grand bid for the domination and control of the world's most populated country.

The homegrown party pinkies with their yellow-striping are fronting for Moscow in this. All anti-Chiang Kai-Shek attacks originate in New York — not Moscow.

But Moscow's Communists, plausibly dismissed in 1945 as opportunists in China, make another name!

The other day this reporter was fortunate enough to obtain a translation of a notice issued by the "CENTRAL POLITICAL BUREAU of the Chinese Communist Party. Bear in mind that this notice was issued to Chinese Communists while their bland leaders sat down with General Marshall and talked of 'peace'!

The text follows: NOTICE OF THE CENTRAL POLITICAL BUREAU NO. 18 "The Central Executive Committee, on the basis of the report of Comrade Yeh Chien-ting of our delegation to the Executive Headquarters, as well as of the conversation between Chairman Mao Tse-Tung and General Marshall, and with the concurrence of the Far East Bureau on 12 March, passed the following great resolution in order to guarantee the victory of the revolution by the proletariat of China:

4. The strength of the New Fourth Army of our revolutionary Eighth Route Army is not yet strong enough to attack the strength of the enemy. To secure military victory we can only launch offensives. The territory most favorable for such local offensives is the Northeastern Provinces (Manchuria), which are adjacent to our great Soviet Ally, and are a problem of securing supplies will arise. In the Northeastern Provinces we can secure large numbers of Japanese, Korean, and puppet Manchurian troops. We can recognize large numbers of armed forces among the people. It should be easy for the New Fourth Army of our Eighth Route Army to enter there, but it should not be easy for the enemy to reinforce themselves from afar. Our correct military strategy is to secure local victory first and then to struggle for a general victory.

5. The reactionary forces of Chiang Kai-shek Kuomintang have already become fascistic. All Chinese people and people of no party and no faction are, under the leadership of our party, opposed to the Kuomintang. Therefore, we should determinately carry out the resolution of the seventh meeting of the Central Political Bureau: (1) use the appeal for democracy to unite people of all parties and all factions and of no party and no faction in order to solidify and to strengthen the anti-Kuomintang front; (2) con-

There is one of the most damning documents of our day. What this means to Americans, to missionaries, to the world is not hard to foresee. Next week we shall quote a letter from a missionary who said letter arriving here by hand!

Runner's Prayer Surprises Czech

Prague — (NC) — When James Rafferty, American runner, came to Prague as a member of an American track and field team, he asked a Czech newspaperman to be taken to the nearest Catholic church. That alone was a surprise because, as the Czech sports-writer said in his story, "no foreign sportsman we have seen has made his first visit on foreign soil to a church, as Jim Rafferty has done." But if the Czech writer thought that Jim was merely interested in church architecture he soon learned better. "To our great surprise, the American, 2,000-meter runner, came down in a shower and prayed fervently for a while," the Prague Journalist told the readers of SYNOUSINE GLOVE. "And when the vestryman passed by with the collection box, the sound of two heavy American coins falling into the box could be heard."

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