

Cardinal Urges Home Ownership

London — (RNS) — Home ownership as one means of protecting the sanctity and security of the family was urged by Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster in an Address to the House of Commons last night. He said that the war had shown that the family is the basis of the nation and that the state has a duty to protect it. He urged that the government should encourage home ownership as a means of achieving this end.

Cardinal Griffin declared that parents owe their children a home, because the family is the basis of the nation. He said that the state has a duty to protect the family and that the government should encourage home ownership as a means of achieving this end. He said that the war had shown that the family is the basis of the nation and that the state has a duty to protect it.

Catholic Trade Unionists Seen Foe of Labor's Left

New York — (NC) — In the spring of 1937, a group of Catholic trade unionists in New York, carrying signs which read: "Babe gave \$11,000 to Charity. But the union is not to receive an iota of it."

Why Mysteries?

By Rev. Richard G. O'Connell

Well, the answer certainly is not flattery. A mystery, of course, is something we can't fathom; it's a problem we can't solve. Take a murder. We stumble over the corpse of a man who has just been shot. There's our corpse. Beside it lies a revolver. No one can argue about that. But we can't figure out who did the shooting or why. Our minds are limited in their powers. Could we by some second sight, know what went on at the time of the shooting, or could we read the minds of those around us, or see into the future, we could solve the problem quite easily. But being just normal human beings, we're "stumped." Oh, it's probable that a detective could solve the crime — but he has lots of experience and specialized training — and then even he might not be able to find the criminal.

Certainly, though, we're not going to help matters by asserting either that this violent death never occurred, or that there was no revolver mixed up in the case.

When we turn our eyes toward eternity, then, and try to study out some of the problems involved in God's dealings with us, our minds run up against the same difficulty. Only here the mysteries are much deeper and far more puzzling. Just think of the differences. "God knows" everything past, present, and future, while we know very little. He can do everything, we are weak. There never was a time when God did not exist. He is absolutely holy and just. He is everywhere at once. We compare with Him as a cupful with the ocean. We can see so little of Him with one glance, and so much escapes us that — well, is it any wonder that religion, our dealing with God, is fraught with mystery?

The Trinity, for instance: The Father is God, Jesus is God, and the Holy Ghost is God, yet Jesus Himself ascribes to that there is but one God. It is a mystery. We aren't going to solve that mystery, either, by simply ignoring one or another of the terms. We could solve it, perhaps, by saying there are just three gods, and that Jesus and the Holy Ghost are not God, or that there is no God. But that would be contrary to the truth. So the mystery remains and, as with all the mysteries of religion, we can only bow our heads and say "I believe, Lord, help Thou my unbelief."

Almost any simple description of A.C.T.U. would be not only inadequate but misleading. The monthly magazine, "The Catholic Worker," is a New York, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Gary, Cleveland, San Francisco, and Oakland — with a total of 18,000 Catholic members — who hold cards in most large U. S. trade unions would not satisfy either A.C.T.U.'s supporters or its opponents.

Not would the additional facts that A.C.T.U. publishes two newspapers, runs houses of labor schools where priests instruct Catholic workers in labor ethics, parliamentary procedure, and the like, and maintains a free legal service for unions be more than incidental.

The real significance of the organization lies in its aims. It is declared these aims being based on Pope Pius XI's Encyclical Quadragesimo Anno, which states: "The very fact that it is impossible for Catholics to form Catholic unions — they (Catholics) seem to have no choice but to enroll themselves in neutral trade unions. Side by side with these trade unions, there must always be associations which aim at giving their members a thorough religious and moral training that these in turn may impart to the labor unions to which they belong the upright spirit which should direct their entire conduct."

A.C.T.U. has translated Pope Pius' dictum on imparting "thorough religious and moral training" into a specific code for Catholic workers, the article continues. Its members are told that their rights include job security, decent working conditions, collective bargaining, peaceful strikes for just causes, and a share in profits after reasonable wages and return to capital have been paid.

Their obligations, on the other hand, impel them to respect private property — and reject the Marxist principle of the class struggle — to strike only when all other means have failed to bring about justice, to cooperate with employers in achieving peace through establishment of worker-management associations.

Fortune credits the Detroit chapter of A.C.T.U., composed principally of United Automobile Workers members — with being a major factor in the election of Walter Reuther as UAW president over his more radical opponents, and states that the New York branch "works indefatigably to curb union leadership that is left of center," opposing Michael Quill of the Transport Workers and the leadership of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers union in particular.

Czech Catholics Act To Save Holydays

Prague — (NC) — Members of the Catholic Women's Union in Moravia are ascertaining the will of the people in the matter of abolishing Catholic holidays of obligation as legal holidays, as planned by the Czechoslovak Government. The Union's members have been collecting signatures for petitions addressed to the government demanding that the existing Catholic holidays retain their legal status. This petition which started in Moravia a month ago has spread to Bohemia, and in every parish Catholics are being asked for signatures.

AT TOKYO CHURCH RUINS

James A. Farley, of New York, former Postmaster General of the United States, is shown as he looked after the destruction of the Catholic Cathedral in Tokyo during his recent visit there. Farley with him is HUGH H. HARRIS, Secretary of the National Council of Catholic Bishops of the United States.

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French Underground Hero Now U. S. College Student

Amherst, Mass. — (NC) — He's a quiet sort of fellow, not much given to talking about his experiences. He's just emerged from one of those dangerous every-turn-with-death-or-all-sides-existence, and it's hard to imagine him fitting into the peaceful surroundings of St. Bonaventure's College here, struggling to master the English language and pursue a course in the liberal arts. His is a story of courage and determination.

His name is Philippe Babin and he came from Paris, France. He was a student at the French National University of Agriculture, preparing for a government service in the French Colonies, when the Nazis overran the homeland. He had just enlisted in the French Air Corps, but would complete his training. He destroyed his uniform, records of his enlistment and escaped being taken as a prisoner of war.

The year 1941 found him working as a bartender in Rouleux, France. He was a quiet sort of fellow, not much given to talking about his experiences. He's just emerged from one of those dangerous every-turn-with-death-or-all-sides-existence, and it's hard to imagine him fitting into the peaceful surroundings of St. Bonaventure's College here, struggling to master the English language and pursue a course in the liberal arts.

Refutes Charges Against Salazar

London — (RNS) — Charges that the Salazar regime in Portugal is "fascist" or "dominated by fascist and clerical elements," Cardinal Cerejeira asserted the government was "created by responsible men and rejects the designation 'fascist'."

On the contrary, Cardinal Cerejeira said, the Church in Portugal "has not been granted fully the privileged position demanded by historic tradition in a country whose population is 93 per cent Catholic."

Al Smith True Public Servant Says Forrestal

Princeton, N. J. — (NC) — A striking tribute to the late Alfred E. Smith as a man "almost universal in his genius" was paid by Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal in an address delivered here in connection with the bi-centennial anniversary of the University of Princeton.

Speaking on the tasks of American universities in preparing young men for public service, Mr. Forrestal reminded that "complete reliance cannot be placed upon technical skills and that common sense and other basic virtues must remain the essence of democratic governmental practice." As an example of a personality meeting these requirements, Mr. Forrestal recalled "the distinguished Governor of New York, the late Alfred E. Smith, who combined in himself so much of the practical in both politics and economics, who was not a scholar but was aware of the uses of scholarship."

NCWC Plans Wheat Shipment to Romania

New York — (RNS) — War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference plans to ship 250,000 pounds of wheat to Romania. It was announced here by Mgr. Edward E. Swannstrom, assistant executive director. The shipment will be in addition to 60,000 pounds of clothing and food previously sent to that country.

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Appeal for Aid Depicts
Slovakia Persecution

Schenectady — (NC) — A shocking picture of the persecution suffered by students in Slovakia, where "only half" is the fact that they are Catholics," is given in an appeal for help which has reached the Rev. Florian C. Billy, O.F.M., Conv. here, secretary of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Service Mothers List
Rummage Sale on Dec. 11

The Service Mothers of St. Salome's parish will hold a rummage sale at 121 Joseph Ave. Wednesday, Dec. 11. Anyone wishing to donate articles for the sale is urged to call Culver 1424 or Culver 1042-R.

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