The Literary Cavalcade

Battle for Babel

By John O'Connor

In the name of all our traditions and our principles, what is happening to the United States of America? Has security become so sweet, peace so invaluable and responsibility so lacking that we must continue to look to the omnipotent state to do our thinking for us? Must truth be subjugated and error propagated in this once-free land? Are many of our leaders, sincere or otherwise, leading us into intellectual jails rather than the increased freedom and maturity that should develop and once did develop from this system of ours as we knew it?

For weeks this corner has been hammering at the nonsensical idea of millions subscribing for books they know nothing of, selected for them by people they do not know and whose philosophy of life and philosophy of literature are unknown to them. No one tells the average American how to order a meal or furnish a home. Yet millions pant for someone to select an intellectual morsel or furnish an intellectual pantry, the library.

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Here is another slant on the trend towards control of thought, however indirect. I am specifically referring to the so-called "White Bill" (S. 1333). It intends to amend the Communication Act of 1934.

Let me take you back a few months. Last summer one Robert Harrold Scott of California demanded that several smaller radio stations permit him to buy time to attack religion and boost atheism. The stations demurred to a man. Scott carried his case to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission). The latter Arbitrary body reversed the decisions of the local stations' managers and ruled that they must sell time to Scott that he might continue his attacks on Christianity. Despite the united protests of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish church leaders, the decision reached in the Scott case still stands. And now Senator White would make this policy official.

In other words: Every time the Holy Father would be heard over the air in this country, an atheist or a Communist would be able to buy time immediately in order to refute all statements made by the Holy Father. Monsignor Sheen would suffer a like fate. The left-wing exploitation artists would use this beautifully. It is entirely possible that a number of small groups or party line boys would form their own units and demand time!

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Censorship by the immature by those who see only their side of things, censorship by bigots all these have been dangers. But when a governmental agency is in danger of receiving even more arbitrary power, then it is time to ask ourselves just how far are we going to permit people to play with our principles and tamper with our traditions as though they were just so much lumber.

The opponents of the White Bill have failed to mention another potential danger. In a few years it is confidently expected that a few major newspapers will be sending their contents to you by radio facsimile . . . right into your own dining room at breakfast time! Will this technical improvement in the distribution of the printed word put the newspapers' radio edition under the wing of an arbitrary FCC? Would a bureaucrat have the power of life and death over the foreign news of The New York Times? Will the many Pulitzer Prize winners on that paper be subject to the whims and the prejudices of the appointed civil servant who finds himself in the position of a whip-wielding master?

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The point that Americans seem to miss is not one as shallow as censorship or political power. It is a philosophic point of tremendous importance. Neither the politicians nor the publicans seem to take cognizance of it.

It is the fact, the awful, terrifying **fact**, that words are being torn from their meanings, ideas are being exploited and kicked around to suit the purpose of each individual, and certain sacred concepts of freedom are being debased to serve the cause of corporations at times, but usually of politicians. Truth itself is merely an object for shading and use as witness the deliberate and deliberate smear nonsense that is spewed forth on the American air each Sunday night. Imagine a score of similar intellectual molehills!

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If we continue to take all this placidly, supporting the bureaucracy that has fastened itself upon the body politic and permitting the smear masters and the left-wing lovers to regiment American ideas or control American authors in the manner of the notorious Cain plan in Hollywood, then the future is a fearful one.

Some day the threads of all this nonsense may be woven into a pattern, and not a very pretty pattern. On the other hand perhaps we are only seeing the threads now. Perhaps the pattern has been woven and each of us has already been allotted his place on the tapestry of totalitarianism.

That may be. I'll see you in Moorea first!

Canadian Eucharistic Congress Antigonish, Nova Scotia — (NC) — For the three-fold purpose of increasing devotion to the Holy Eucharist imploring relief for suffering humanity and praying for the conversion of Russia, a Eucharistic Congress for the Diocese of Antigonish has been scheduled for August 13 by Archbishop James Morrison Bishop of Antigonish.

A LOOK AT LABOR

By A. C. Tuohy

The ailing are already being prepared to explain away some of the obvious failures of the Taft-Hartley law. The Southern Democrats are apologizing now that the law is not perfect. One would not be unreasonable were he to ask why these congressmen did not eliminate these imperfections, if they understood them so clearly.

The Republicans are going to try to shift some of the blame from their shoulders by claiming that everything depends on how President Truman administers the law. If the law fails to bring industrial peace, it is argued that Truman will have to bear the brunt of the blame because his administrators scuttled important provisions of the bill.

In spite of their claims, however, the Republicans appear to be a little conscience stricken. We are being told at this late date that Senator Ives is ready to introduce in the next session of Congress amendments to the bill which will eliminate some of its more unworkable sections. Again we might query: why were the unworkable sections not eliminated before the bill became law?

One of the sections of the law that is almost sure to cause trouble is that provision which makes the general counsel completely independent of the National Labor Relations Board. Under the present law, the general counsel has complete authority over all the policies and officials of the regional offices. It is he, not the board, who can determine which cases shall be accepted by the board and which cases the board must prosecute in the courts.

Senator Taft would like to have his friend and advisor, Gerard Reilly appointed as general counsel. The counsel to the present NLRB has resigned because he considered the law unworkable. Reilly is a former member of the National Labor Relations Board. He is a Catholic. But he is no friend of labor. Both A. F. L. and C. I. O. hold him in low esteem. Particularly is he anathema to the C. I. O.

Suppose, for example, that a man like Reilly disagreed with the NLRB on such a policy as what is the appropriate bargaining unit in some industry. The general counsel might hold out for a craft unit while the board might favor a more industrial unit for the purposes of an election. While the counsel and the board pull away from each other an explosive labor situation is liable to injure the union which is sincerely desirous of getting itself legally recognized. If it can't get the board to take the case the only alternative is to strike and to force the matter on its own initiative. This is hardly conducive to the industrial peace which the new law was supposed to encourage.

One of the sections of the law which is most likely unconstitutional is that provision which prohibits the union from discussing or attacking the voting records of congressmen. Consider the gall of these politicians who consider themselves so sacred that an insignificant union newspaper is not allowed to publish how these have voted on bills that affect the welfare of workingmen. There has not been a more glaring attempt in recent years to strangle the free speech of workingmen as this new law does.

Or consider what will happen to the no-strike pledges that are written into many union contracts. Already the A. F. L. has announced that it will not agree to no-strike provisions in its contracts. These provisions were generally conceded to an employer who gave the union a closed shop. In return for this security, the union gave the employer the assurance that there would be work stoppage. Since unions are now denied the security of the closed shop, and since the unions are also denied the right to discipline wildcat strikers the employers who have enjoyed industrial peace will be faced with all sorts of annoyances.

The Pope's Time and Yours

Below is the Holy Father's schedule of daily work—18 waking hours, 6 of sleep. How does your schedule compare with his?

The Pope		You
6:30 a.m.	Rises—Tasks set into the world and offers a prayer; then for 15 minutes does physical exercises.	
6:45 a.m.	Draws his own bath of cold water, shaves himself with electric razor.	
7:10 a.m.	Enters Chapel. Prays for 20 minutes. Says Mass. Then prays for 20 minutes in thanksgiving.	
8:30 a.m.	Breakfasts alone on coffee, milk and bread—gave up butter when war broke out. Reads the morning papers.	
9:00 a.m.	Commences audiences. The first for Cardinals and Vatican officials.	
11:15 a.m.	The Second Private Audience for Diplomats, etc.	
12:15 p.m.	The Third Special Audience for other people.	
12:45 p.m.	Public Audiences for Pilgrims and others.	
1:30 p.m.	Lunch—alone. Rests for one hour then returns to work until	
4:00 p.m.	Walks in Vatican Gardens reading a book or going through papers.	
5:00 p.m.	Chapel — says Rosary and reads Breviary.	
6:00 p.m.	Resumes work—Examines ecclesiastical and political issues raised in Audiences.	
8:00 p.m.	Dines—alone.	
8:40 p.m.	Chapel for 20 minutes prayer	
9:00 p.m.	More work—writes speeches using a typewriter himself. Continues until	
1:30 a.m.	Returns to Chapel where he finishes reading Breviary and then to bed—a large black iron bedstead with brass knobs. Sleeps for five hours then commences the following day as before	

The Pope's age is 71

SUMMARY

The Pope		You	
Work	11½ hrs.	Work	.....
Prayer	3 hrs.	Prayer	.....
Recreation and leisure	3 hrs.	Recreation and leisure	.....
Meals	1½ hrs.	Meals	.....
Sleep	5 hrs.	Sleep	.....

Vatican Blames Paris Parley Collapse on Soviet Union

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refusal to join in a collective effort for European recovery was, in the words of an American reporter in Paris, that "the splitting of Europe into two separate blocs headed in different directions became conclusive and virtually official."

In flatly rejecting the British-French proposals for joint action by all European countries in drawing up an economic program which could be the basis for American aid to Europe in accordance with the Marshall plan, Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov alleged that the plan entailed dangers to the independence of smaller European countries.

Travesty of Facts

The Soviet objection was rejected by Ernest Bevin, British foreign minister, as "a complete travesty of the facts." In answer to Molotov's threat that "no good" would result from the British-French proposals, Bevin said: "My country has faced grave consequences and threats before. It is not the sort of prospect which will deter us from doing what we consider our duty."

Despite the Soviet decision, Great Britain and France took immediate steps to go forward with their plan to draw up a European program of self help as the first step toward justifying United States aid. They issued invitations to all European countries, "with the provisional exception of Spain," to join in drawing up a reply to the proposals made by Secretary of State George Marshall in his Harvard speech.

How Russia and her satellites will react to this step, is not yet known, but there have been suggestions that some of the eastern countries, particularly Poland and Czechoslovakia, may at least try to retain a semblance of independence by accepting the invitation, and thus ensure for themselves any benefits accruing from the Marshall plan.

Secretary Marshall himself has declined so far to comment on the outcome of the Paris Conference. He took, however, the occasion to denounce the propaganda directed against the United States. Those who heard Mr. Marshall had no doubt whom the Secretary of State had in mind when he spoke of "purposeful misrepresentation" of the degree and purpose of American economic aid to other countries.

A Grave Disservice

Pointing to the rapid demobilization of American forces after the end of the war, and obviously referring to Soviet methods in Eastern Europe, Mr. Marshall continued: "No political parties subservient to United States interests have been left behind in European countries to attempt conquest of government from within.

"No American agents have sought to dominate the police establishments of European countries, no 'joint American-European companies' have been forced upon reluctant governments."

He warned that those responsible for the misrepresentation of American motives "are doing a grave disservice to the suffering peoples whose future depends directly on the success of international cooperation in the economic fields."

Examples of the methods of ideological penetration that were castigated by Mr. Marshall were furnished during the past week in several European countries, to the East as well as to the West of the "Iron Curtain."

In Italy, fierce rioting broke out in Venice when Communists attempted to break up a meeting addressed by Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi. The Communist secretary general of Italy's 6,000,000 member Labor Confederation proposed confiscation of all factories which do not accept regulation of prices in accordance with a plan drafted by the confederation.

In Greece, a Communist plot to seize control of the northern parts of the country and set up a "free" government was temporarily foiled by the arrest of the leaders of an underground organization.

Red Indoctrination

In Germany, Communist-dominated youth organizations in the Russian zone of occupation are reported busy as beavers in organizing youth, beginning at the age of six, and indoctrinating them in what is termed "the struggle against imperialism."

In Hungary, a spokesman of the regime is reported to have announced that both foreign and domestic newspapermen in the future can be sentenced to death for reports considered "harmful" to the regime.

In this country, Secretary Marshall revealed that ten State Department employees, recently dismissed as "bad security risks," had indirect associations with representatives of foreign powers. While emphasizing that the department is not engaged in a "witch-hunt" and that he will not permit "unfounded charges based on prejudice to force our hand," the secretary made it clear that department employees would be dismissed whenever evidence creates concrete suspicion against them.

Ottawa Gets Rome Nuncio

Ottawa — (NC) — The appointment made in Rome for the Canadian Congress by Giuseppe del Vecchio, noted Italian goldsmith, at the request of Archbishop Alexander Vachon of Ottawa, is adorned with emblems especially appropriate to Canada.

The monstrance, carried in the solemn procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament, was first used by Pope Pius XII in connection with the beatification of Maria Goretti.

The base bears the coat of arms of Archbishop Vachon and of Pope Pius XII, and the decorative scheme contains maple leaves and sheaves of wheat. The cross is made of a carved reproduction of Murillo's "Assumption."

Around the handle are four enthroned archbishops: Of St. Joseph, patron saint of Canada; St. Patrick, patron saint of the Irish; St. John the Baptist, patron saint of the French, and St. Peter.

The monstrance and three silver and gold chalices, wrought by the same Italian artist, will remain in possession of the Archdiocese of Ottawa. The chalices were first used by the reigning Pontiff.

London Pilgrims Pray At Jailed Friar's Tomb

London (NC) — Two hundred pilgrims from London went to Winchester to make reparation for a sin committed by their fellow citizen over 200 years ago —"London's rejection of Paul Atkinson," a Franciscan priest who died in 1729 after serving 30 years under a life sentence for having been ordained abroad.

The pilgrims walked to Father Atkinson's grave in Winchester's cemetery where the Rev. Conrad Walmsley, O.F.M., told how a woman apostate, tempted by a £100 ($400) reward, betrayed Father Atkinson who was thrown into notorious Newgate Prison.

Library Service

The Christophers

By Rev. Brendan Manning

At one point of his The Lamp television show, where the home of Mexican priest paints a moving picture of [illegible] Lady [illegible] Guadalupe, Clare Boothe Luce [illegible] Cross remarked:

"If you said —this fury to silence, because, of course, you could never endure enough. If God had been like a man, you could have slit the globe of terror, but when God was like yourself, it was no good being content with stone figures—you had to kill yourself among the graves."

This century is supposed to be witnessing the triumph of materialism. Whether as Communist materialism or as capitalist materialism, it is godless. In the first case, professedly and militantly godless. In the other, practically and casually godless. It really looks as if there is no more room for God in this new world.

But God always has the last word. The trumps are always in His hands. Not for nothing has He made man with His image and likeness. Not for nothing does He give them a share in His life. You can't root out God without rooting out man. As long as there lives one man in a patently godless world, there lives a possible traitor to it. For of a sudden, as with Saul on the Damascus road, he may be stricken blind with a heavenly light and in that blindness find His God.

All men are, in the mighty phrase of one of the great old writers, capax Dei, capable of God, with a tendency for God. Like revolvers, they are meant for one thing. They are meant to be charged with God, loaded with God. A man is dangerous to have around in a godless world because one can never tell when God will enter into him and make of him a fifth columnist.

Something of the mystery and adventure of this strategy of God working today in our godless world may be found in the activity of the Christophers. The idea of the Christophers is due to a very dynamic Maryknoll priest, Father James Keller. A Christopher is a Christbringer. That is what we are by baptism. We are a Christbringer. That is what we are by confirmation. That means we are potential dynamite in a godless world. The idea of the Christophers is to put the dyna-

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[illegible] to work. To enlist [illegible] dynamite.

[illegible] & and [illegible] Christophers [illegible] for [illegible] 1. A man [illegible] prayer [illegible] 2. A [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 3. A [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]