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World-Wide Legion of Decency Setup Advocated

HOLLYWOOD IN FOCUS

Brussels, Belgium—The world-wide interest in Hollywood movies which those of us who serve the film business discuss in detached terms almost every day, suddenly becomes associated with living realities as the lovely capital of Belgium, explained with film posters and fluttering banners celebrating the Annual International Film Festival.

Almost every country in the civilized world is represented. Films are being shown before an international jury by America, Argentina, Great Britain, France and Italy. Soviet Russia is not participating this year, although when the festival was held in Cannes last year, Russian films were awarded many of the choice prizes. It seems that last year the Russians had been able to pull some political strings. This year they knew precautions had been taken to preserve the impartiality of the jury so they decided not to send any of their new films to Brussels. The thing had been fixed they suggested, meaning that they had not been fixed in favor of Russia.

The paper sent over by Monsignor John J. McCafferty, executive secretary of the National Legion of Decency, and read by Mr. Edmund Cummings, draws a big crowd. So too, does our own talk in which we try to give a constructive critical outline of Hollywood's policies and processes. We know why they are there. It is not (as you tribute to the man who goes to know what goes on in Hollywood. The word is a magical one; the man, just another being who to many of the delegates simply babbles and gesticulates. They thank the good interpreters whom Father Felix Morlion, O.P., head of the Catholic Information Center serving Europe, has arranged to translate the talks into other tongues. Next week I will tell you what some of the delegates said after hearing the speakers. They were not all Catholics, but most of them agree with the Catholic view point on movies. Yet from the various countries come different, if not at times, bewilderingly conflicting demands. They typify the hazards and problems of the Hollywood producers who must try to turn out movies with universal appeal. Even among the followers of the universal faith, there are differences, not in principle, but at least in practice.

It is Hollywood's task to try to please all of the people all of the time. It is worth a try too, but in fairness let us admit the assignment is a tough one!

Nowhere, save at the "Quartier Congress International Catholique Du Cinema," does one hear a single note of spirituality sounded. There are nine nations represented. Delegates are present from the United States, Great Britain, France, Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru, Canada, Germany, the Belgian Congo and, of course, Belgium itself, which is heavily represented.

Priests and laymen all participate keen students of the "cinema," attend almost every session of the Congress, listening through long hours to speeches about movies and the children movies.

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3—Cartoons—3
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Capitol
Humphrey Bogart,
Barbara Stanwyck
THE TWO MEN OF VERMILION
Plus a new picture in
color

Action Urged By Delegates At Brussels

Brussels, Belgium—(N.C.)—Two recommendations made during the international Catholic film congress which has ended here aroused special interest among the delegates.

It has been proposed that film appreciation committees, modeled along the lines of the Legion of Decency in the United States, be set up in all countries. These committees, it was further proposed, would send reviews of the motion pictures produced in their respective countries to the International Catholic Office on the Cinema, here, which in turn would forward these reviews to the national committees of other countries.

Meeting in conjunction with the World Festival of Films and Fine Arts, delegates from 19 countries, including the United States, participated in the Catholic film congress.

The National Legion of Decency in the U.S. was represented by Edmund E. Cummings, executive secretary of the War Relocation Authority, National Catholic Welfare Conference in the Belgian zone of Germany. Another U.S. representative was William H. Moorring, motion picture writer for the Catholic press.

Mr. Cummings read a report entitled "The Influence of the Cinema on the Public and by the Public," submitted to the congress by Monsignor John J. McCafferty as executive secretary of the Legion of Decency. The report stated that the success of the Legion of Decency has been due to its determined efforts to steer clear of all other aspects of the motion picture industry and concentrate exclusively on evaluating "feature length motion pictures according to Christian standards of morality and decency."

Public Confidence Needed
To effectively accomplish this ends the work of the Legion of Decency must enjoy the confidence of the public, the report continued. "It must earn this confidence of the public by intelligent, objective and disinterested criticism of films."

"Hence, the Legion, although welcoming the cooperation of the industry and of other groups interested in the same purpose, must remain independent financially and every other way of the industry and its allied concerns. Past experience has shown that where there has been any financial support of a group evaluating films there has been a corresponding loss of prestige and influence."

"In the judgment of the legion moral criticism of motion pictures cannot be combined with production, distribution, or exhibition. Therefore, despite the many attractions a different policy might offer the bishops of the United States have ever insisted that the legion be free and independent. They have insisted that cooperation with the industry, but not dependence on the industry, be the cornerstone of legion activity."

NEW RETREAT HOUSE
Bethlehem, Pa. (N.C.)—Monks of the Society of the Sacred Mission, 118 acres of farm, woodland, orchards and gardens with a 20-room Georgian mansion, has been purchased by the School Sisters of St. Francis for use as a retreat house.

PUZZLE ON PAGE 10

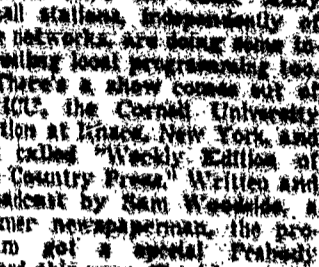
PALACE
NOW PLAYING
"Great Expectations"
with John Mills and Valerie Hobson
—Plus—
"Jewels of Brandenburg"
with Richard Travis and Michelle Chiril

TEMPLE
NOW PLAYING
"The Woman on the Beach"
with Joan Bennett, Robert Ryan and Gene Lockhart
—Plus—
"The Vigilantes Return"
with Jon Hall and Margaret Lindsay

ON THE AIR

CALLING WHO? ANYWAY
The way some people talk, you think that all radio comes from New York—or Hollywood.

There are some people who talk like that. They are the ones who are always saying "the radio" as if it were a single entity. It isn't. It's a collection of many different things. It's a collection of many different people. It's a collection of many different ideas. It's a collection of many different voices. It's a collection of many different stories. It's a collection of many different lives. It's a collection of many different dreams. It's a collection of many different hopes. It's a collection of many different fears. It's a collection of many different loves. It's a collection of many different hates. It's a collection of many different joys. It's a collection of many different sorrows. It's a collection of many different tears. It's a collection of many different smiles. It's a collection of many different hearts. It's a collection of many different souls. It's a collection of many different spirits. It's a collection of many different angels. It's a collection of many different devils. It's a collection of many different demons. It's a collection of many different gods. It's a collection of many different goddesses. It's a collection of many different saints. It's a collection of many different sinners. It's a collection of many different heroes. It's a collection of many different villains. It's a collection of many different kings. It's a collection of many different queens. It's a collection of many different princes. It's a collection of many different princesses. It's a collection of many different lords. It's a collection of many different ladies. It's a collection of many different gentlemen. It's a collection of many different ladies. It's a collection of many different children. It's a collection of many different adults. It's a collection of many different young people. It's a collection of many different old people. It's a collection of many different men. It's a collection of many different women. It's a collection of many different boys. It's a collection of many different girls. It's a collection of many different infants. It's a collection of many different toddlers. It's a collection of many different teenagers. It's a collection of many different adults. It's a collection of many different seniors. It's a collection of many different centenarians. It's a collection of many different immortals. It's a collection of many different mortals. It's a collection of many different angels. It's a collection of many different devils. It's a collection of many different demons. It's a collection of many different gods. It's a collection of many different goddesses. It's a collection of many different saints. It's a collection of many different sinners. It's a collection of many different heroes. It's a collection of many different villains. It's a collection of many different kings. It's a collection of many different queens. It's a collection of many different princes. It's a collection of many different princesses. It's a collection of many different lords. It's a collection of many different ladies. It's a collection of many different gentlemen. It's a collection of many different ladies. It's a collection of many different children. It's a collection of many different adults. It's a collection of many different young people. It's a collection of many different old people. It's a collection of many different men. It's a collection of many different women. It's a collection of many different boys. It's a collection of many different girls. It's a collection of many different infants. It's a collection of many different toddlers. It's a collection of many different teenagers. It's a collection of many different adults. It's a collection of many different seniors. It's a collection of many different centenarians. It's a collection of many different immortals. It's a collection of many different mortals.



Such isn't the case. Many small stations, independently of the networks, are doing some interesting local programming. There's a show coming out of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., called "The Country House," written and broadcast by Sam Woodhouse, a former newspaperman. The program got a special Peabody award this year. The idea of the show is to keep all the communities of the area informed about what other little towns in the neighborhood are doing. One town, for example, solves a tough community problem; so Sam picks up the story and puts it on the air Sunday, and some town 50 or 75 miles away adapts the idea to its own local problem. It's really hitting the jackpot.

And, incidentally, Sam Woodhouse is a Catholic.

Just to add another oil of interest, I heard about Sam from Father James Caldwell, who was ordained this year at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore. Father Caldwell was in radio before he entered the seminary.

Nice King, a recent issue of Collier's Magazine carried an editorial about how the Episcopal Church in the United States is starting a national advertising campaign to reach the 60,000,000 persons in this country who have no church affiliation. Of course, they will use radio.

The Collier's editorial goes on to say: "And we can't see why this Episcopal advertising campaign should not be enthusiastically successful, if wisely conducted. The well-known and widely respected Catholic Hour on the radio, produced and broadcast by Father James Caldwell, is a worthy example of quiet dignity and forceful religious discussion."

All I can say to Collier's is, "Thanks for the plug."

Just for your information, the Catholic Hour is broadcast every Sunday at 6:00 P. M. Eastern Daylight Time, over the stations of the National Broadcasting Company.

Some of my best friends are Catholics. I have been north of the border once in my life, and then only for two days. I don't need to tell you I didn't get to know many Catholics that way. But this week I really got to know some.

They were in Washington for the meeting of the Catholic Theological Conference and were vitally interested in the radio section of

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P. O'Connell, P. O'Connell
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SEA OF GRASS
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J. Withers, J. Lydon

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S. Granville, Don Castle

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Carnival in Costa Rica
Dick Hyman, V. Allen
FILL BE YOURS
Dennis Pugh, Tom Deak

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Angel and The Madman
John Wayne, Gail Russell
Fabulous Suzanne
S. Griffin, Rudy Valle

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