

The Literary Cavalcade

Red Ring Round World

By John O'Connor

Within the next week or so a number of Catholic weeklies in this country will carry a "round-up" story on world Communism. It contains the personnel and party program of the Communists in every country in the world.

(Begin on Page 1, this issue)

It was the most exacting and the longest assignment ever undertaken by this reporter. It meant trips to the most remote and inaccessible parts of the world. It meant missing deadlines in some cases. It meant interminable conversations with former Communists from all parts of the world. It meant, too, telling the story as it has never been told before. And now, as the installments are finally polished and sent out, the incredible mass of paper, letters and photographs and scribbled notes and translations can all go into a readily accessible file.

The picture is not a happy one. Omitting some of the French philosophers for the moment, one would like to know where the picture is bright. In all sincerity a fifty-four nation survey of the world does not leave one in a bright mood. Recently one of the greatest living news editors told me that in thirty years of handling the news at the world's most informed news desk he has never seen the world in the state it is in now.

All around the world the forces of materialism usually in the guise of the Communist Party are seeking to grasp the methods of social control in Europe. It is with guide one way or the other. In South America and Central America it is through the forces of labor. In the Orient it is a case of partition in India and pyres in China.

We are witnessing the great imperialist drive in history and this in an age of superlatives. No nation has ever commanded the techniques and methods that distinguish the members of the Politburo in Moscow. And no force ever confronted so many so disgruntled as our society today. It is not the Apocalypse around the corner. It is merely the

adding machine of the recording angel that you hear. Communications have been prostituted by this monstrous force. The arts and letters have been made instruments of propaganda. Novels and plays and poems serve as seeds for Satan. And the garden is well tended. All over the world artists and writers are lending aid and comfort to the greatest enemy that man has yet faced. Millions are lured about in peace. Millions die facelessly in war. And the Marston-reared monster looms large over the world.

For the past several years the chief concern of this column has been letters. During the past score of months we have noticed a tremendous drive to control thought and to channel ideas. On the other side of the picture as seen from this country, there is the fact that in nearly every section of the world today the Communist group has its own daily newspaper. Blatant, lying—and yet sometimes awfully courageous—the Communist press guides the world while the rest of us like the Roman soldiers at Calvary sit and watch. The statistics on Latin America are enough cause for any Amer can to reflect and act.

Under all this multitude of facts and comment of gloom is there can there be hope? I answer YES. It is a thin hope and one that may shrink to the depth of a shadow before long. Yet there is stirring in France and a few other countries such as that of Christian Democrats started by Don Luigi Sturzo. Many men of intellectual integrity are rebelling against modern forces. Others seek to build, not to destroy. The successors to the Sturzos and the Martinis and the Gibsons will multiply. It is the personal opinion of the writer that the last great effort of the Communist regime is about to be witnessed. Our lines will hold despite our losses. "Nothing built on violence long endures" stated Plus XI. And long before that we of The City knew that old maxim. STAB ET STABIT. MANE ET MANEBIT SPECTATOR ORBIS.

A LOOK AT LABOR

By A. C. Tuckey

It is difficult at times to understand how legislators can make laws when they do not know whether these laws conform to our standards of right and wrong. Two frequently, the laws which they pass are matters of political expediency. These men believe that the state has given its people certain rights, and since these rights are pure gifts of the state, they can be taken away at any time. They have no precise knowledge of what our Founding Fathers meant when they said that "all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights."

For example, it is generally conceded today that all workers are entitled to a wage that is sufficient to enable a family to live decently. This right to a living wage is not something conceded by the state. It is part of the nature of things. God made man and He made the earth and all of its resources. God did not make man to be used by other creatures. It is the other way around. It is the right of every man to enjoy the fruits of the good things of life so that he might thereby be able to enjoy his manhood. No man made government can change that.

The New York Times recently reported that at least one representative at least did not favor such an idea. Representative Max Schwab, Republican of Missouri, went on record as opposing an increase in the minimum wage from 40 cents an hour to 60 cents. As a matter of fact he opposed even the very idea of the government setting a minimum wage at all.

Representative Schwab argued that the Wage and Hour Act was contrary to the American way and was more like the Communist Party policy. He said that if a man went to a public sale and bought an article cheaply it was his right, and "if he hires a worker cheap, that's the American way of doing it."

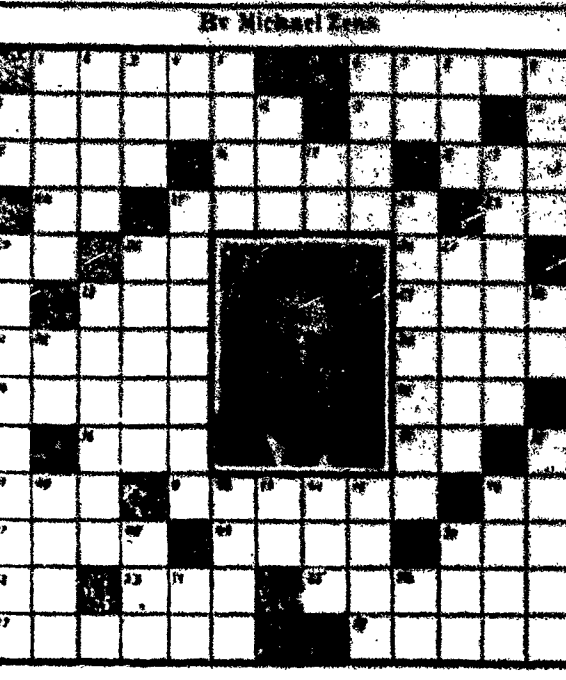
Another Congressman then put a pointed question to his colleague. "Does freedom mean the right to pay starvation wages?" Schwab finally said, "If you want to put it that way, yes." This certainly was a bold position. At least Schwab was consistent.

Freedom to many people means the power to do anything you want. It knows no limitations. If you can get away with something, you are perfectly entitled to do so. If your actions injure another person, that is his misfortune. The other person simply was not strong enough to prevent you from getting away with it. The capitalist system was built upon this idea of freedom. The capitalist idea of rights is that they result from individual genius, power or ability. Only those that have such genius, power or ability have rights at all. Consequently a capitalist is entitled to get as much profit as he pleases, even if the men who work for him must be starved in the attempt. Since they don't know any better and since they are incompetent to be capitalists themselves, they deserve being exploited.

Most business men today shy away from this ruthless philosophy. They understand that such a concept of freedom and of rights would make them little better than pirates who prey upon the weak. But in spite of their protests, however, there is an abundance of evidence that the system itself is still geared to operate according to these principles. It is the ruthlessness of capitalism that has brought poverty, unemployment, and oppression in the wake of great fortune, war and achievement. It is capitalism that has brought the demands from the poor that the state put an end to this inequality. Communism is motivated by Capitalism.

Who's Who? Follow the Clue

By Michael Zinn



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