

Editor Charges Red Plot Against Truth

Columbus, O. — (NC) — Noting that for 30 years there has been an "international conspiracy to block the free flow of information throughout the world and to replace the truth with a distorted and false propaganda," Neil MacNeil, assistant managing editor of The New York Times, in an address at the closing dinner of the 14th World Catholic Press Convention here, outlined three ways in which American journalists can work to make the truth available.

The conspiracy against truth, Mr. MacNeil said, was started by Lenin and Trotsky when they took control of the minds of the Russian peoples as well as their bodies.

Between the two world wars, the killing of the press was taken up by Hitler and Goebbels to burn the minds of the German people," Mr. MacNeil continued, and today Stalin and Molotov, learning from Hitler and Goebbels and adding all new techniques, "are directing a similar campaign of misrepresentation and falsehood that threatens to undermine Western civilization."

GETTING AN example of the manner in which Russia "is determined to keep the truth from its own people and to block the flow of the truth out of Russia," he said.

First, "they can continue their efforts to get the news everywhere, and especially in Russia and the satellite states, and they can block the truth when they get it."

Secondly, Mr. MacNeil referred to the proposal of Arthur Hays Sulzberger, publisher of The New York Times, "that if the Soviet Union and its satellites insist on maintaining the Iron Curtain we accept the fact and go on our side of the curtain with the people who want to be free."

"This would mean," Mr. MacNeil said, "that we would not exchange ideas beyond that curtain, nor exchange goods, nor do business with them of any kind. This would be a certain upshot of the Communist scheme for world domination. In time it might bring the Soviet Union and its satellites to terms."

Outlining the third point, Mr. MacNeil referred to the proposal of the U. S. State Department that a treaty be signed by the various governments designed to "cover the earth with the truth" by guaranteeing the free flow of news among all peoples. A draft of this proposed treaty has been prepared by Richard E. Finnegan of the Chicago Times, Mr. MacNeil said, and has wide spread support.

Student Action



Philip Ben Marala of Minneapolis, who has been named chairman of the newly-formed Joint Committee for Student Action, which represents the Newman Club Federation and the National Federation of Catholic College Students. A graduate of the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn., Mr. Marala has been active in Catholic Youth work. He served 18 months in the army. Chamberlain photo. (NO Photos)

IN TIME, however many unions arrive. They are accepted by the employer and the community. There is very little effort to undermine them. They are strong and their strength is respected. In these circumstances, minority groups and insurgents rank as rebels are not divisive. Rather are the "rebels" the natural outgrowth of democratic procedure. It is inevitable that there be disagreement over the amount of increase the union should demand, over the calling of a strike, over the spending of union money. There is no more unanimity of opinion among workers on these issues than could be expected in any group of free citizens. Unions, therefore, must expect disagreement and discontent among union members. Union officials must understand that they do not possess all the wisdom.

THE TENDENCY among many union officials, once the union has become established, is to identify the union with themselves. The union becomes their personal property, rather than the property of the workers. Opposition to the leaders is considered opposition to the union. Disagreement with the officials is labeled heresy and treason. Consequently, dissenters within the ranks of trade unions find the going rough. They may be discriminated against in their job, they may be fined, suspended, and even fired. It is not uncommon to find other instances where union leaders have ejected from the union workers whose only sin was opposition to a leader or to a particular union policy.

SUCH PROCEDURE is evil and what is more, destructive of sound trade unionism. It is found not only in Communist-dominated unions, but also among unions which glory in their anti-Communism. Frequently, many A. F. of L. unions have purged themselves of workers on the grounds that they were Communists. As a matter of fact, the real reason for the purge was not Communism at all, but the fear that the insurgents would take the leadership of the union away from those who had already held it for several decades. When one reads of certain leaders holding office for twenty, thirty, and forty years, one can believe that they have retained office only by virtue of a ruthless exercise of power. We must, therefore, condemn in the name of democracy any dictatorship, whether practiced by the Communists or their opponents.

THE SOLUTION of this problem of trade union democracy is not easy. But a few suggestions for consideration may be in order. In the first place, the barest minimum of democracy would be to permit the "opposition group" of any union to have an uncensored page in the union newspaper. The union can only afford one newspaper, and the opposition has just as much right to publish their views as the officeholders themselves. This freedom of expression for the opposition would act as a brake on many of the excesses of those already in power.

FURTHERMORE, unions ought to give some consideration to the establishment of some sort of a "two-party system." There ought to be two sets of candidates for office. The workers ought to have the right to choose among several candidates, with varying platforms and policies. It would be a good thing for the union to have members of opposing groups on the executive board. There are dangers in this procedure, but there are dangers in democracy itself. The opposition would act as watch-dogs, waiting to capitalize on the vices and errors of the entrenched party. The officials would be less inclined to be arbitrary and wasteful, and less capable of that dictatorship

A LOOK AT LABOR

By A. C. Tuckey

WHEN THE COMMUNISTS in the U. S. C. I. O. (electrical workers) threatened at their convention to purge the union of anti-Communists, the light was focused on the whole question of trade union democracy.

IN EVERY COUNTRY unions have had a harvesting growth. In order to present united front against an employer, labor organizations have had to exercise at times severe disciplinary power over insurgent members. A divided union frequently was no match for a powerful employer in the early stages of organization, therefore, when the union was weak, one could understand that union officials would consider unkindly any action by a minority group which was divisive. Furthermore, the unions always have had to be wary of employer spies or partisans, placed within their organizations to help employers rather than workers.

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which has disgusted so many of the rank and file. Unions constitutions should be rewritten to permit such democracy. Union leaders should study the possibilities of this proposal in the interest of the well-being of all workers and the union movement itself.

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