Legion Head OK's Red Probe of Movies

Manchester, N. H. (NC) — The investigation of Communism in Hollywood by the House Committee on Un-American Activities was applauded strongly by James F. O'Neil, prominent Manchester Catholic layman and national commander of the American Legion, in a nation-wide radio address emanating from Station WasUR in this city.

CATHOLIC AIR TALKS LISTED

Washington — (NC) — Two December speakers on the three Maryknoll Father will be the December speakers on the three national radio programs produced by the National Council of Catholic Men—the Catholic Hour, the Hour of Faith and Faith in Our Time.

The Rev. Joseph Manton, C.SS.R., who has been speaking each week to audiences of 20,000 people and more at the famous Mission Church in Roxbury, Mass., will give four addresses on the Catholic Hour under the general title: "The Stable and the Star." On December 7, he will speak on "Mary", December 14, "Joseph"; December 21, "Jesus"; December 28, "The Animals." The Catholic Hour is heard Sunday from 6 to 6:30 p. m., EST, on the National Broadcasting Company network.

The Rev. James Keller, M.M., founder of the Christophers movement, will be heard on the Hour of Faith, carried by the American Broadcasting Company network Sunday from 11:30 a. m. to noon, EST. His general subject is: "Reaching the Hundred Million." On December 7, he will talk on "Millions Ready and Waiting;" December 14, "Influencing the World from the Home;" December 21, "A Challenge to Business Men;" December 28, "Students A Big Job Ahead."

Legion of Decency Listings

NOVEMBER 27, 1947

CLASS A-1—Unobjectionable for General Patronage

REVIEWED THIS WEEK

Chinese Ring, The — Dangerous Years — Last Round-Up, The
My Wife's Best Friend — Road to Rio

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED

Adventures of Don Coyote
Along the Oregon Trail
Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer
Black Gold
Black Hills
Blondie in the Dough
Boot Hill
Buckaroo from Powder River
Bulldog Drummond Strikes Back
Calendar Girl
Check Your Guns
Cheyenne Takes Over
Code of the Saddle
Cowboy Blues
Driftwood
Exile, The
Exposed
Fiesta
Fighting Vigilantes
Fugitive, The
Fun and Fancy Free
Gallant Legion
Gas House Kids Go West
Gay Blades
Gay Cavalier, The
Green Dolphin Street
Heartaches
Her Husband's Affairs
Hollywood Barn Dance
I'm Under Cover
If I'm Lucky
I Wonder Who Kissing Her Now
Kilroy Was Here
King of the Bandits
Law Comes to Gunsight
Louisiana
Make Mine Music
Marauders, The
Marshal of Cripple Creek
Mother Wore Tights
Nicholas Nickleby
North of the Border
On the Old Spanish Trail
Parent Adventure
Pioneer Justice
Prairie Express
Red Stallion
Return of the Lash
Riders of the Lone Star
Ridin' Down the Trail
Robin Hood of Texas
Robin Hood of Monterey
Romance of Rosy Ridge
Roosevelt Story, The
Rustlers of Devil's Canyon
Saddle Pals
Sarge Goes to College
Schoolgirl Diary
Shadow Valley
Secret Life of Walter Mitty
Seven Keys to Baldpate
Six Gun Law
Sleep, My Love
Serenade
Son of Rusty
Song of Love
Song of My Heart
South of Monterey
Spirit of West Point
Stage to Mesa
Stranger from Pecos City
Swing the Western Way
Beware of Pity
Tawny Pipit, The
Trailing Danger
Boomtown
True Glory, The
Two Fisted Stranger
Two Guys From Milwaukee
Unfinished Dance
Under the Tonto Rim
Variety Girl
Web of Danger
White Stallion
Wyoming
Wistful Widow of Wagon Gap
Yearling, The

CLASS A-2—Unobjectionable for Adults

REVIEWED THIS WEEK

Big Town After Dark — Bishop's Wife, The — Blonde Savage
Caravan — Murder in Reverse — So Well Remembered

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED

Adventure Island
Bedlam
Behind Green Lights
Beware of Pity
Big Town
Blackmail
Brute Force
Burning Cross
Cavalleria Rusticana
Case of the Baby Sitter
Chase Timberland
Centennial Summer
Christmas Eve
Crime Doctor's Gamble
Crimson Key, The
Dakota
Dark Corner, The
Dark Passage
Dead Reckoning
Deep Valley
Desert Fury
Devil's Mate
Desperate
Dick Tracy Meets Gruesome
Fabulous Texan, The
Fall Guy, The
Fear Strikes Out
Fence of Harrow, The
Flame of Death, A
Ghost Goes Wild, The
Great Dawn, The
Green For Danger
Hal Roach Comedy Carnival
Hat Box Mystery, The
Heaven Only Knows
Her Adventurous Night
Hoodlum Saint, The
Huckster, The
Hungry Hill
Hunted, The
I Love Trouble
Intrigue
Joe Palooka in the Knockout
Killer Dill
Killer McCoy
Kiss of Death
Key Witness
Lady Surrenders, A
Life With Father
Last Crooked Mile, The
Lone Wolf in London
Lost Moment, The
Love from a Stranger
Lured
Madonna of the Seven Moons
Magic Town
Man About Town
Mirror of the Monster
Millerson Case, The
Mysterious Mr. Valentine
Out of the Past
Phantom Thief, The
Pretender, The
Pursued
Railroaded
Ride the Pink Horse
Razor's Edge, The
Rendezvous with Annie
Roses Are Red
Second Chance
Shock
Shoe Shine
Short Cuts of Paris
Slave Girl
Smoky
Something in the Wind
Somewhere in the Night
Step By Step
So Dark the Night
Song of the Thin Man
Sorrowful Man
Stormy Waters
Stranger, The
Strange Triangle
Sub-Deb Cinderella
That Hagen Girl
Time Out of Mind
This Time for Keeps
Truth About Murder
Treasure, The
Unchangeable
Unsuspected, The
Waltz Time
When a Girl's Beautiful
Where There's Life
Whispering City
Young Widow

CLASS B—Objectionable in Part

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED

Adventure in Blackmail
Apology for Murder
Betrayed
Colonel Effingham's Raid
Cross My Heart
Cry Wolf
Devil's Engine
Down to Earth
Diary of a Chambermaid
Escape Me Never
Farewell My Beautiful Naples
Frontier Gal
Fun on a Weekend
Gangster, The
Gentlemen's Agreement
Gentleman Misbehaves
Golden Earrings
Hell's Angels
Intermezzo
It Had to Be You
Illegal Traffic
Keeper of the Bees
Kitty
Lady Luck
L'Atlante
Linda Be Good
Love on the Run
Man in Grey, The
Monsieur Verdoux
Murder in Harlem No. 21
Nightmare Alley
Pillow of Death
Postman Always Rings Twice, The
Open City
Queen of Burlesque
Repeat Performance
Saratoga Trunk
Searching Wind, The
Seventh Veil, The
Silk Razor
Stars Without Light
Mr. Ace
Never Say Goodbye
Notorious Gentlemen
Out of the Blue
Private Affairs of Bel Ami
That Night with You
They Were Sisters
Thrill of Brazil
Tonight and Every Night
Traffic in Crime
Two People and a Hedgehog
Unfaithful, The
Unstrung Class, The
Wheels, Step
Wild Harvest
Zero de Conduite

CLASS C—Condemned

PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED

Black Narcissus
Confession of a Vice Baron
Child Bride
Carnival in Flanders
Dust to Dust
Ecstasy
No Greater Sin
Outlaw, The
Passion Island
Pepe le Moko
Reefer Madness
Souls in Pawn
Stolen Paradise
Temptation—Spanish

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YOU'LL LIKE
WHO'S WHO?
Page 10

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On Radio

Rev. Joseph Manton, C.SS.R., (left) of the famed Mission Church, Roxbury, Mass., will speak on Sundays during the month of December on the Catholic Hour radio program, on the NBC network. Rev. James Keller, M.M., (right) founder of the Christopher Movement will be the Sunday speaker during December on the Hour of Faith program of the American Broadcasting Company stations. Both programs are produced by the National Council of Catholic Men. (NC Photos)

ON THE AIR

With Bill Smith

Just Like Pop

Being a father myself, I have long been interested in the various fathers portrayed on the radio. I can see now just what is the matter with us. According to the script writing fraternity we fathers are a bundle of nerves, we're cranky, stupid, kind, good-natured, ill-tempered, smart and dumb all at once.

Bill Smith

I get my ideas of the radio fathers from such shows as "The Life of Riley" (Saturdays, 8.00 p. m., EST, NBC), "The Great Gildersleeve" (Wednesdays, 8.30 p. m., EST, NBC); "The Aldrich Family" (Thursdays, 8:00 p. m., EST NBC); "Blondie" (Sundays, 7.30 p. m., EST, CBS).

The one that strikes me particularly, though, is Riley in the "Life" of the same name. Riley is portrayed as a dope, and his son knows it and has very scant respect for him. The boy treats his father as if he were a bumbling fool that has to be circumvented all the time if anybody is to get anything done.

WHENEVER RILEY does anything, he does it wrong. If his mouth is open, he promptly puts his foot in it. And every time it is the lad who trips him up. Mrs. Riley hasn't got much more on the ball than her husband, and sonny plays circles around the pair of them.

I will admit that there are a lot of laughs in the Riley show, but it seems to me that it is pretty poor propaganda for helping to make children respect their parents especially when everybody is saying that juvenile delinquency begins at home, and that the home should be strengthened and made important in the child's life if America is to be a strong, upstanding nation. Maybe I'm just one of those cranky ill-tempered, dumb fathers, but I wonder just how good an effect the average radio father has upon the young people of the listening audience.

Of course, an answer could be made that the radio script writers are "only kidding" when they get Riley into jams with his son. I have never heard, however, any children comment upon these radio fathers during a show, except when said radio father does something stupid or hot-headed. Then they always say, "Isn't that just like Pop!"

THREE MURDERS an hour That isn't a bad assault-and-battery average for a person with mayhem in his heart. But three an hour on the air is, to my mind, going a little too far and fast.

The three murders to which I refer took place in the space of sixty minutes on the Radio Theater (Mondays, CBS, 9:00 p. m., EST) in a show called "Dark Corner." The plot was quite complicted, with overtones of illegitimate love connected with the three murders; and, in the end, the wife of one of the murderers bumps him off because he had been responsible for her lover's death. So far as the story went, apparently she got off scot-free. It all added up to a nice 60 minutes of sordidness.

MONKS IN RADIO

Out in Wisconsin, there's a radio station affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System that has one of the first licences to operate a station that was ever issued—and it's run by Monks, members of the Norbertine Fathers, or under their other title, Premonstratensians.

St. Norbert's College, which these monks operate, asked for and obtained a radio license way back in 1925. The station opened with the call letters WHBY. Today the fathers also have Station WTAQ which operates on a power of 5,000 watts. Both stations are regular commercial stations and both are managed by the fathers with laymen as general managers.

The present managing director of both stations is Father M. J. Beemster who recently succeeded Father J. A. Wagner, founder of WHBY.

The fathers are very proud of the fact that High Mass from St. Joseph's Church in West De Pere, Wisconsin, has been broadcast every Sunday morning at 10 a. m. from 1925 to the present time, without ever missing a Sunday.

WTAQ, in Green Bay, carries the Sacred Heart program six times a week, as well as other outstanding public service programs. In addition it carries a very popular [illegible] hour every day in the week, which [illegible] understandable since WTAQ is the largest farm station in Wisconsin.

The stations themselves are of no mean size. WHBY at Appleton, Wis., has a staff of 15; WTAQ, a staff of 44.

Courier-Journal On WHAM Sunday at 12:10

Listen to the SUNDAY EDITION OF THE COURIER-JOURNAL, the weekly Catholic editorial point of view on current events, over Station WHAM at 12:10 each Sunday.

Hear the religious significance of news of the week discussed by Rev. Richard Tormey, associate editor of the Courier-Journal.

• • •

Also worth hearing each week:

Thursday at 10 p. m. on WSAY—THE FAMILY THEATER.

Saturday at 11:15 a. m. on WSAY—Sacred Heart Program.

Saturday at 1:15 p. m. on WRNY—The Beatitudes: written and produced by Mercy High students.

Sunday at 10:30 on WHEC—"Catholic News and Views."

Sunday at 11:30 a. m. on WARC—"The Catholic Hour of Faith."

Sunday at 6:30 p. m. on WSAY—St. Francis Hour.

HOLLYWOOD IN FOCUS

By W. H. Meering

A protest addressed last week to Eric Johnston, head of A protest addressed last week to Eric Johnston, head of general counsel of Allied States Association of Motion Picture Exhibitors, pointed out that the recent Catholic boycott in Philadelphia is not just an isolated incident and suggested that the situation of indecency in motion pictures has again been allowed to get out of hand.

W. H. Meering

The reply now offered to those theater owners through Joseph I. Breen, administrator of the Film Production Code is unsatisfactory and inconclusive.

Mr. Myers, on behalf of a number of movie theater owners, had asked whether it was too much to expect of the Hollywood film producers that they study the facts. He pointed out that of the millions of dollars made by the movie people, most of it had come from films that were clean and decent and he asked why they could not cut out salaciousness altogether. "Is it," he said, "worth risking so much for so little?" In short, is it worth risking the good name of the motion picture business for the sake of enriching a few film producers who do not recognize right from wrong and would not care even if they did?

MR. BREEN'S REPLY is that a study of the weekly reports of the National Legion of Decency for the year ended November 1st showed that 91% of the films approved by the Code Administration were rated by the Legion of Decency as family entertainment which was the highest percentage of films listed in this category in many years.

During the same period, Mr. Breen said, the Legion classified 53 percent of all the pictures submitted as "unobjectionable for adults," and [illegible] percent as "objectionable in part."

It is indeed a gratifying record to defend the operation of the Production Code and one would like, always, to be able to do so.

Unfortunately, National Legion of Decency statistics, even when officially issued — as they have not yet been for the year November 1946-47 — do not provide conclusive indications of the moral trend.

THE LEGION ALWAYS points out in its Annual Reports that: **"In appraising the moral status and trend of the motion picture, statistics alone do not provide adequate and final measurements."**

Statistics should be considered in conjunction with other factors such as the kind and amount of objectionable material in a film rated in any given objectionable or condemned category. The evaluation of the situation must be based on quality, as well as quantitative consideration."

This is one instance where figures do not count for as much as they usually do in Hollywood. It is amazing that Mr. Breen overlooked the fact.

DURING 1946-47 "The Outlaw," "Black Narcissus," "Mom and Dad" and "Forever Amber" were condemned in toto and if Mr. Breen were anxious to prove anything by cold statistics this would mean a four hundred per cent increase of condemned films alone, as compared to the previous year.

My records suggest that the percentage of films rated this year as "objectionable in part" will exceed 11% and may even exceed the all-time high of 13.3% recorded for the year November 1945-46. (The Legion of Decency has since officially reported 10 "objectionable in part" films for 1947 as compared to 60 during the previous year.)

More significantly, however, "the kind of objectionableness" in motion pictures has been growing markedly worse.

This year as never before since the Legion of Decency existed, its viewers have had to draw attention to repetitious film slights upon the sacred institution of marriage. The cumulative damage done to the home life of the nation by the influence of such films cannot be measured but surely must be considerable.

THEN, AGAIN, a lack of moral compensation in screenplays has been more frequently apparent. Wrongdoing is dealt with more and more realistically and less frequently is there any attempt on the part of screen writers to present such wrongdoing in a true light. The result is that false ideas are planted or at least emphasized in unsuspecting minds until honesty, truth and morality [illegible] on signs of human weakness rather than virtue.

It is not so often these days that the Legion records objections of a minor nature. Brutality is increasing in motion pictures, crime is either condoned outright or passed off as an inevitable and frequent consequence of life under modern conditions. The story device of a last minute pay-off has become so stereotypically unconvincing and ineffective a routine at which nearly all the Hollywood movie writers wink and laugh derisively. The Code Administration needs to tighten [illegible].

Anything at all that is said officially in answer to those theater owners who know the public temper in these matters, surely should be something constructively defensive. The only defense that would occur to this observer would be a frank admission that since the war, screenplays on the whole have deteriorated morally and culturally and that the Hollywood film producers are, before it is too late, going to make amends.

'Black Narcissus' Gets A-2 Rating

New York— (NC) —The motion-picture "Black Narcissus," produced by The Archers, presented by J. Arthur Rank, and released in the United States by Universal-International Pictures Company, has been removed from the C or condemned classification and placed in the category A2, unobjectionable for adults, it has been announced at headquarters of the Legion of Decency here, following revisions made in the film.

Movie Guide

RKO PALACE
Secret Life of Walter Mitty, A-1.
Blackmail, A-2.
TEMPLE
Spirit of West Point, A-1.
High Tide (Not classified).
CENTURY
Where There's Life, A-2.
REGENT
Unconquered, A-2.
CAPITOL
Dark Passage, A-2.
Sioux City Sue (Not classified).
LITTLE
Life With Father, A-2.
RIVIERA & STATE
Welcome Stranger, A-1.
News Hounds (Not classified).
MADISON & MONROE
Foxes of Larrow, A-2.
Winter Wonderland, A-2.
LIBERTY
Singapore, B.
Copacabana, A-2.
DIXIE
Tarzan and the Huntress, A-2.
Something in the Wind, A-2.
CAMEO & LAKE
Slave Girl, A-2.
Guilt of Janet Ames, A-2.
WEST END
Dear Ruth, A-2.
Bulldog Drummond Strikes Back, A-1.
RIALTO
Red Stallion, A-1.
I Cover Big Town, A-2.

Rochester's Favorite Theatres

CENTURY MAIN 7-0
Bob Hope Signe Hasso
"Where There's Life"
Plus
Soap Box Derby

REGENT MAIN 7147
Gary Cooper
Paulette Goddard
"UNCONQUERED"
Plus
March of Time
"End of An Empire"

CAPITOL MAIN 231
James Stewart, Jane Wyman
"Magic Town" Plus
"Last Frontier Uprising"
Monte Hale, Adrian Booth

PALACE
Now Playing
Danny Kaye and
Virginia Mayo in
"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
in Technicolor
Plus
"Blackmail"
with William Marshall
and Adele Mara

TEMPLE
Now Playing
"Spirit of West Point"
with Glen Davis and
Doc Blanchard
plus
"High Tide"
with Lee Tracy
and Julie Bishop

SCHINE THEATRES
All Theatres Open 6:45 P. M.
All Shows Starting 5 P. M.
SAT., SUN. and HOLIDAYS
RIVIERA STATE
Bing Crosby, E. Fitzgerald
"Welcome Stranger"
Leo Gorcey, Huntz Hall
"News Hounds"
MADISON MONROE
R. Harrison, M. O'Hara
"Foxes of Harrow"
Lynn Roberts, C. Drake
"Winter Wonderland"
LIBERTY
F. MacMurray, A. Gardner
"Singapore"
C. Miranda, C. Mars
"Copacabana"
CAMEO
George Brent, Y. DeCarlo
"Slave Girl"
R. Russell, Melvin Douglas
"Guilt of Janet Ames"
WEST END
J. Caffield, Wm. Holden
"Dear Ruth"
R. Randell, G. Henry
"Bulldog Drummond Strikes Back"
DIXIE
J. Weissmuller, B. Joyce
"Tarzan & the Huntress"
D. Duryea, D. O'Connor
"Something in the Wind"
LAKE
J. Weissmuller, B. Joyce
"Tarzan & the Huntress"
R. Russell, M. Douglas
"Guilt of Janet Ames"
RIALTO
T. Donlevy, R. Paige
"Red Stallion"
D. Duryea, D. O'Connor
"Something in the Wind"
TEMPLE
B. Crosby, E. Fitzgerald
"Welcome Stranger"
P. Reed, Hillary Brooke
"I Cover Big Town"

CBS Lists Address By Rural Life Aide

The importance of the Church to rural systems and the way that small communities may improve the standing of the church will be discussed on the CBS "Church of the Air," Sunday, Nov. 30, at 8:30 a. m. and WHEC, by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. L. G. Ligutti, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

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