

ON GUARD

Police on Comics
Drugstore Literature
Incentives to Sin

By REV. P. J. FLINN

Graphic portrayal of human conduct, whether good or bad, inspires imitation. Anybody who knows anything about human psychology knows the powerful influence of suggestion, particularly pictorial suggestion.

This is why police officials are on good ground when they complain against the incentives to crime in many of the so-called comic books.

THE POLICE argument against the comics is only part of the Catholic argument against the general quality of today's popular literature. Criminologists are right when they say that drugstore comics are incentives to crime. Catholic moralists are also right when they insist that sex delinquencies and other moral violations are traceable to drugstore magazines and pocket novels.

Human nature with its passions is acutely sensitive to incitement. It is disgusting and deplorable to enter a drugstore and see youngsters and teenagers browsing with unhealthy curiosity in the literary muck of magazines and novels which can have only one purpose—putting money into the pockets of irresponsible publishers.

The old-fashioned saloons, denounced so violently by certain social reformers, were at least decent enough not to sell liquor to minors, but modern publishers, assisted by morose writers and greedy merchants, brazenly exploit the weak virtue of the young.

A youngster cannot walk into a drugstore and buy morphine or into a tavern and order a drink but he can walk up to any news stand and purchase a salacious pocket novel without anybody saying a word.

And if you do speak a word of protest against the sale of immoral literature the self-proclaimed liberals will accuse you of trying to establish censorship against the freedom of speech.

THE CASE AGAINST immoral literature has nothing to do with freedom of speech. The exercise of freedom of speech and freedom of the press should not jeopardize the public welfare. Literature whose only obvious purpose is sex incitement betrays a tragic lack of social responsibility on the part of publisher, author and seller.

It is rank hypocrisy to prate about the importance of youth and at the same time to ignore the fact that a lurid book can poison the mind just as easily as fatted youth can poison the body.

Not only youth but also mature adults run a grave risk of mental and spiritual degeneration if they preoccupy themselves with sensual reading. Moral stamina is dissipated when the mind feeds on the sex-conscious reading matter which is so current today.

In his book on "Sex Instincts" Dr. James J. Walsh deplores the danger of sex incitement in modern literature and gives this warning:

"We are very much inclined to boast of our progress particularly in the knowledge of humanity and the mind of man, but the current exaggerated interest in sex represents distinct deterioration. We are allowing the purely animal side of us to invade even our intellectual life. We are devoting mental energies that might be used for the uplift of mankind to pull men and women down to the level where their bodies interest them much more than their minds and hearts and souls. There is nothing like preoccupation with sex to make people forgetful of others and their feelings—nothing that makes people so selfish and untruthful as the best that is in them as the cultivation of sex emotions. People who permit themselves to be carried away by this preoccupation become sensually self-centered."

THE POLICE are right when they say that lurid murder and gangster stories are an incentive to crime. Of course they are. But the police are only discovering what the Catholic Church has always known—that stories which glamorize sin are an incentive to sin.

There is a little humor in the fact that the policeman now sees eye to eye with the priest on the danger of modern literature as an incentive to wrongdoing.

The police complaint against the comics states both an important admission and a timely moral.

The admission is this: The Catholic Church is right when she condemns some books on the score that they lead to sin. And the moral is this: People who refuse to listen to the priest may be forced to listen to the policeman.

It will pay you to see Bill Thorne for an accurate watch or a beautiful diamond. Elgin, Walworth, Longines and Bulova. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 East Main St., opposite East Ave.

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SA Exempts
Clergy And
Seminarians

Washington (NC) — Duly ordained and regular ministers of religion and young men pursuing full-time courses of study looking to ordination are exempted from military training and service, but not from registration, under the terms of the Selective Service Act of 1948, which has just become law.

It is one of the specific provisions of the law that "regular or duly ordained ministers of religion" and "students preparing for the ministry under the direction of recognized churches or religious organizations, who are satisfactorily pursuing full-time courses of instruction leading to their entrance into recognized theological or divinity schools in which they have been present" shall register under the terms of the act, but shall be exempt from induction for training and service.

A PURPOSE of this provision of the law is to avoid interference with the preparation of a constant supply of ministers qualified to serve the spiritual needs of the people of the United States and of the Armed Services.

It is recognized that the blanket induction of all men in the age group of 19 to 25 years, covered by the draft act, might seriously interrupt this systematic training of clergymen which has been built up in this country over a long period of years.

In the same way, Congress has shown an unwillingness to interfere with the training of professional and scientific men for future service to the people of the country.

To this end, the act provides that the President is authorized to provide for deferments from training and service for some categories of occupations, and those "whose activity in study, research, or medical, scientific, or other endeavors is found to be necessary to the maintenance of the national health, safety or interest."

Just what deferments will be granted in this respect, or how they will be applied, must await the issuance of directives from President Truman which are expected soon.

Berlin Dedicated
To Sacred Heart

Berlin (NC) — Momentarily obliterated by the atmosphere of crisis hanging over the former German capital, Berlin's Catholics held a mammoth public demonstration of faith and dedicated themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

His Eminence Conrad Cardinal von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, officiated at a Pontifical Mass highlighting the ceremonies held in the Sylvan stadium near the Olympic stadium in the British sector of the city.

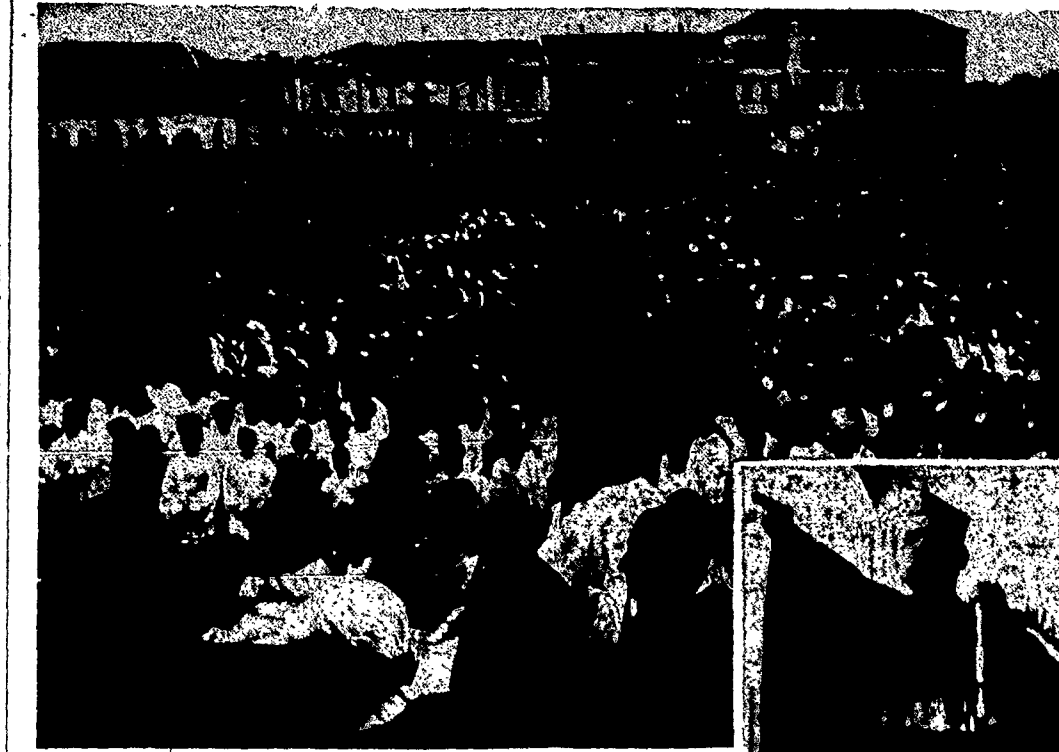
Principal purpose of the observance was to stress to Catholic parents the duty of providing a Christian education for their children. This theme has particular significance in view of the recent enactment of a law excluding religious instruction from the public schools—a measure opposed to the expressed will of the majority of Berlin's people.

IN A DETERMINATION to go ahead with the rebuilding of the Church's institutions despite the feeling of uncertainty paralyzing initiative here, Cardinal von Preysing has appealed to the faithful to dedicate a portion of their leisure time to the rebuilding of the Berlin cathedral which was severely damaged during the war. Arrangements are being made to provide voluntary workers with one hot meal a day wherever possible.

Restoration of the building located in the heart of the former German capital has already begun, but it will take some time before the rubble filling the nave of the church has been cleared away.

At the present time Cardinal von Preysing has no cathedral church. He usually offers Mass in his private chapel in Zehlendorf in the American sector, but sometimes pontificates in the Rosary Church of Sieglitz, a Berlin suburb.

'If Only . . . No Weak Catholics'



"If only there were no weak, no wavering, no aspen-leaf and reed-Catholics between us," declared Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, as he addressed some 115,000 Catholics assembled for Maria Day celebrations in the city of Baja. Participating also were: The Bishops of Free Canada, Summerville, Gaynor and the Abbot of the Cistercian Order there.

Attempts to Muzzle Cardinal in Hungary
Coincide with Arrests of More Priests

Berne, Switzerland (NC) — Further arrests of priests and Catholic teachers on charges of "inciting" the people against "democracy," cancellation of religious meetings and governmental attempts to "muzzle" His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, mark the situation in Hungary following the nationalization of all Church-operated schools.

But all reports reaching here from Hungary make it clear that the Church and the great majority of Hungarians are unshaken in their determination to resist all communist efforts to destroy the Christian traditions of the nation, and that—now more than ever before—Cardinal Mindszenty is looked upon by the people as their true leader.

JUDGING BY reports in the government-controlled Hungarian press, the number of schools brought under state control is 5,437, a figure considerably higher than that previously given. The great majority of these schools was operated by the Catholic Church, the rest by Protestant bodies.

Julius Ortutay, Minister of Education, who, although insisting that he is a Catholic, took a leading part in the agitation for nationalization of schools, has issued a decree which orders signs to be displayed on all schools taken over, showing that they are now state schools. He also decreed that all teachers in formerly non-public schools are now under the jurisdiction of the state, which will pay their salaries and protect their pension rights.

TEACHERS WHO do not accept transfer to state employment prior to August 15, will lose all legal rights regarding their employment. Ortutay decreed declaring that "the unity of the education of Hungary's youth" has been definitely settled, and its high standard insured.

The future status of teachers in the nationalized Catholic schools is said to have been studied at a recent general meeting of the Hungarian Hierarchy, the eighteenth in the current year. (Continued on Page 11)

Sewing Circle Unionized
LeRoy Pastor and Hickey-Freeman Clothing Firm
Set Up Factory for Jobless Women in Church Hall

LE ROY, N. Y. (Special) — Ladies of St. Joseph's Parish Sewing Circle are now holding members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Forty-five women, forced out of their jobs here while families depend on their wages, are grateful to the Rev. J. Stanley Ormsby, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, for aiding them to "start a factory" in the church hall.

Mainly through the efforts of Father Ormsby, widely known for his advocacy of the Papal encyclicals on labor-management relations, the women now are employed by the Hickey-Freeman Company, Rochester Clothing Concern, which was persuaded by the priest to open a branch factory here. The Rochester firm is headed by Jeremiah G. Hickey, who was made a Knight of Malta in 1931

on recommendation of Cardinal Hayes.

Slim Vote Outlaws Nun Garb
In N. Dakota Public Schools

Protestant Clergy
Led Attack on Nuns

Bismarck, N. Dak. (NC) — Passage of the North Dakota anti-garb legislation, by which 76 nuns teaching in 19 rural public schools would be eliminated, has created "in-

soluble problems" for many districts in a State that is "suffering from a dearth of teachers." Bishop Vincent J. Ryan of Bismarck asserted in a statement issued here.

The Bishop said that while the outcome of the vote was a disappointment, "it is a moral victory for the Catholic group." He declared the measure was sponsored by a group known as The Committee For Separation of Church and State, which was composed of 29 ministers, the State secretary of the Masonic lodge and a school superintendent.

"ONE OF THE significant lessons from the vote," the Bishop said, "is that those who hate religions and among them are the communists, supplied the additional votes necessary to pass the measure. We can safely guess that there is a sufficient number in this classification in the State of North Dakota to have supplied the passage of the anti-garb measure. We are not wrong in assuming that they cast their vote in favor of it."

"The opposition to Sisters teaching did not come from the sections where the Sisters are teaching in public schools. Not one of the sponsors lived in a district where the Sisters are teaching. The voting in the districts where Sisters have been teaching indicates that the people in these districts are satisfied with the Sisters."

"The passage of the bill," the Bishop continued, "will create insoluble problems for many of these districts. In some of them there is not a single public school building. In these places there are church owned buildings, including in some places high schools."

WHERE THE DISTRICT owns the school building the problem of securing qualified teachers will be an insoluble one. North Dakota is suffering from a dearth of teachers. Many schools are closed because there are not enough teachers to go

with the Sisters.

When a person accepts a position as a teacher, the brief contends that when duty requires one course of action and privilege permits another, a person must make a choice and if he violates his duty he has no constitutional or vested right to continue in public employment.

When a person accepts a position as a teacher, the brief contends, he assumes the obligation of actively supporting the government, upholding national institutions, ideals and culture, and teaching patriotism and love of country. "Even passive membership in the Communist Party is inconsistent with that obligation," the brief adds.

The Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education, the brief says are charged with the duty of administering the school system for the benefit of the children and the people. The brief continues: "The proscription of Communist Party membership on the part of teachers is a reasonable and logical exercise of the administrative duty."

Women's Retreat Congress Webster Groves, Mo., NC. The seventh biennial congress of the National Laywomen's Retreat Movement will be held at Webster College here from Sept. 4 to 6 inclusive.

Eleven young women received the habit of the Sisters of Mercy at a ceremony Sunday, July 4, in the Mercy Motherhouse Chapel, Blossom Road.

THE VERY REV. MAGR. ORLAND C. LAMBERT, pastor of St. Monica's Church, presided at the reception. "They have sacrificed legitimate joys and pleasures, that the world might have offered them," he said, "but in making this sacrifice, they have gained tremendously because in sacrificing temporal goods they have gained eternal ones."

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was imparted following the ceremony with the Sisters' choir providing the music.

Those received, their parishes, and religious names are: Eileen O'Brien, St. Patrick's, Elmira; Sister Mary Denise; Janet Caulfield, St. Monica's, Sister Mary Janet; Jean Lawson, Sacred Heart, Pro-Cathedral, Sister Mary Elena; Dolores D'Amico, St. John the Evangelist, Sister Mary Annette; Joan Marie Plickel, St. Andrew's, Sister Mary Gerard; Violet Boyle, St. Casimir's, Elmira; Sister Mary Celeste; Anne Lennon, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sister Mary Stanislaus; Jean DeVolder, St. John the Evangelist, Sister Mary Terrance; Mary Graney, St. Aloysius, Auburn, Sister Mary Norrene; Mary Anne Ringwood, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sister Mary Noel, and Edith Francione, St. Michael's, Sister Mary Caritas.

Answering the charge that salaries paid to nuns was tax money paid to the Catholic Church, opponents of the measure argued that no such accusation was made with regard to the many ministers unselfishly teaching in public schools and that the average salary, amounting to some \$800 a year, was scarcely sufficient to clothe, feed and shelter the Sisters, who, if they saved anything, gave the money to charitable institutions for people of all races and beliefs.

Opponents of the measure, on the other hand, pointed out that the increase in the number of nuns was small indeed and less proportionately than that of Protestant ministers teaching in public schools; that it was due solely to the teacher shortage; that only 75 of the 6,529 teachers in the state were nuns; that boards of education, in some instances having a majority of Protestant members, and parents, Catholic and Protestant, were unanimous in wishing to employ the sisters in the absence of other competent teachers.

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