

Courier Journal

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HONORABLE JAMES EDWARD KEARNEY, D.D., President

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Fr. Higgins Says:

Industry Council, a Radical Plan

For the past few weeks the editor of this column has been carrying on a controversy with George Morris, labor editor of the Communist Daily Worker, about the Industry Council program. It all started with Mr. Morris' criticism of Archbishop Howard's address to the CIO convention in Portland Oregon. We answered the criticism two weeks ago. Since then Mr. Morris has written two more columns in his own defence, to the first of which we have already partially replied in a statement released by the NCWC News Service on December 11. The present column will even the score at 3 to 3.

Peace On Earth

Our Christmas dawn on a world still far from the ideal of peace on earth. It is not that the Christ has not granted the graces necessary for men to secure peace with one another, for nations to abide in mutual love and respect for one another. Christ came to grant peace to men, to make His peace available to all who would make it their own. To men of good will. Men who follow their Master in loving their neighbor would soon bring lasting peace to a world in turmoil.

Monsignor Edmund A. Rawlinson

Again the Angel of Death has visited the ranks of the clergy of the diocese. God has called to Himself a faithful priest, a zealous servant, Monsignor Edmund A. Rawlinson, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church of Corning. Our Christmas rejoicing is to some extent tempered by this visitation. There can be no real mourning of the joy the true Christmas brings in Christmas, even in the face of the death of a loved one. Rather our sorrow has only an external sign of mourning: internally it can add to our joy at the coming of the Saviour in the intense realization it gives us of the power of salvation that came to every soul with the birth of Jesus. Our beloved comforter will understand the mystery of the Redemption accomplished by the coming of the promised Redeemer more vividly, more intimately, on this approaching anniversary of His birth, because the Infant Saviour has called him to Himself.

Calendar of Saints

Sunday, December 28 - St. Stephen, the first Martyr. He was a disciple chosen by the Apostles as the first of seven deacons. Shortly after the Ascension, he was stoned to death after he boldly upbraided the chief priests for their stubborn resistance to the Holy Ghost and the murder of the "Just One". Monday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle-Evangelist. The son of Zebedee, he was the youngest of the Apostles and was called to follow Christ during the first year of His preaching in Galilee. He became the beloved disciple and was privileged to be present at the Transfiguration, the Agony in the Garden and was the only one of the Twelve who did not forsake the Saviour during His Crucifixion, but stood at the foot of the cross with the Blessed Mother. Besides his Gospel he also wrote three Epistles and the Book of the Apocalypse. He died at Ephesus in the year 100.

Christmas in Heaven



By DANIEL E. DORAN

SOME people think, at Christmastide Within the halls of Heaven, The Maid whose soul was magnified (Whose stars outnumber seven) Asks certain persons up above To come to see a play Because the Child - her only Love - Was born on Christmas Day.

St. Joseph too, of course, is there A grave look in his eyes; For his was such a life of care That now, in Paradise, This just man bears the marks of earth More than most saints can show. The fears he felt at Jesus' birth In those sad eyes still glow.

Hark! Now the other hosts are still As herald angels, winging Around the Midler's throne, now thrill The heavens with their singing They sing that selfsame hymn again They sang on Judah's plain, "Glory to God and peace to men," In rapturous refrain.

SHEPHERD'S horn is heard to peal And shepherd lads come trooping, Around the throne of blue they kneel To form a joyous group, Then ancient shepherds come in sight, Fresh wonder in their eyes - As when, upon that holy night, They visioned Paradise.

Since Christ sits on His throne above In everlasting glory, Some child must play the Child of Love For this thus ends our story) They choose some favored Jewish babe, Snatched from his mother's fright, Who gave his life the Christ to save From Herod's cruel might.

And so, some think, at Christmastide Within the halls of Heaven, The Maid whose soul was magnified (Whose stars outnumber seven) Asks certain persons up above To come to see a play Because the Child - her only Love - Was born on Christmas Day.

Vulnerability 81st Congress Expected To Tighten Spy Laws

By J. J. GILBERT

Revision of espionage laws, with provisions calculated to plug some of the loopholes brought to light by the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities, is expected in the next Congress. There will be at least a move in this direction, and recent developments have raised hope that something will be accomplished.

This will be important, not alone because it will strengthen our military defenses at a time when they need specially to be strong, but also because it will represent, in a sense, another triumph for public opinion.

The House Committee on Un-American Activities has been the object of prolonged and bitter attack. Witnesses called before it have defied the Committee's subpoenas to appear, and radio commentators have disparaged its work, and President Truman himself has twice said that its recent investigative efforts were only a "red herring" drawn across the path of the 80th Congress.

Speaking to reporters after a White House talk with the President, Representative Emanuel Celler of New York said he planned to ask the House of Representatives to abolish the Un-American Committee and to replace it with a Special Committee on Civil Rights which would investigate the Ku Klux Klan, Fascists, Communists and other groups.

Meanwhile the Committee itself was bringing out things that seemed almost unbelievable. Perhaps because they did seem so fantastic, people wondered whether the charges against the Committee were true.

At the same time, people realized that if only part of what was being disclosed were true, somebody ought to start looking out for the security of the United States. It could be that another committee is needed, that the present body has been high-handed on occasion; that its membership needs to be shaken up, but in disputably there is need for some group of this sort.

The people heard highly paid persons in the entertainment world accuse the Committee of "cossack methods" and listened to others saying that an instrument of a Republican Congress was being used to embarrass a Democratic administration. But what the people pondered was:

Why should we have compulsory military service in peace time, sustain high prices and taxes at home in order to send help abroad, both in an effort to hold up the hands of our diplomats in world affairs, if it is possible for employes of the State Department to copy documents and make them available to foreigners? Why all this sacrifice if communists, unimpeded, can penetrate our schools, our churches, our military establishments, our defense plants?

Whether charges made against individuals before the House Un-American Committee are substantiated or not the hearings have shown that it is entirely possible, and relatively simple and safe, for foreign agents to penetrate our public and official life. There is a need for the country to be protected on this front, or all the other sacrifices of the people will go for naught.

It has been thought for some time that Republican members of the House Un-American Activities Committee would seek stronger espionage laws in the next Congress. It is now generally believed here that President Truman himself will take the lead and ask Congress to close up some of the openings through which foreign operatives could have access to secret American documents.

Attorney General Tom Clark said following a Cabinet meeting at the White House a few days ago that the Administration will ask for a tightening of the nation's espionage laws. He said the Department of Justice would have some recommendations to make soon after Congress convenes.

It is expected that the legislation just what these amendments to existing laws, rather than wholly new legislation just what these amendments will be is still unknown, of course but it is thought that they will tend to simplify prosecution of such cases.

At present, for example, "intent" is a very difficult point to prove in connection with the removal or possession of secret papers. An amendment might be sought to make the proof of "intent" unnecessary if a person can be shown without authority to possess secret papers.

It is interesting that the National Military Establishment is setting up new regulations covering the accreditation and dissemination of war correspondents with any of the armed forces, plans to pull down as the three reasons for which a reporter or broadcaster may "in general" be discredited the following: Personal misconduct of a criminal or moral nature; violation of security regulations; and membership in "or close relationship with" subversive organizations.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. I. MURRAY

Santa Claus or St. Nicholas dressed in episcopal robes rides on horseback into Amsterdam, Holland, at Christmas to be greeted by the populace and the Royal Family.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A CENTURY AN ARAB BOON IN PALESTINE - MGR. VINCENT GELAT, APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PORT OF JERUSALEM, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem last Christmas Eve.

IT IS TRADITIONAL IN VALETTA, MALTA, to choose a schoolboy as "LITTLE ABBOT" at CHRISTMASTIDE. Last year JOHN THEUMA, age 12, gave a half hour sermon at MIDNIGHT MASS.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PLACED A REAL BOON IN HIS CRIB AT GREECE - THE BOSS GREU UP TO BE ST. BONAVENTURE.

Fr. Gillis Says:

The World Steals Our Christmas

No doubt the general impression among Catholics is that we should be delighted to see the world won over to the celebration of a festival that used to be exclusively ours. We made much of Christmas a thousand years before the sects broke away from us. When they parted company with the Mother Church they rejected her devotions along with her doctrines.

In particular the Protestants held the Mass in abhorrence, and of course with the Mass, Christmas. To celebrate Christmas was held to be papistical. But now all that has changed. Catholics are no longer left alone in making merry on our Lord's birthday. The non-Catholics vie with us, and in fact they celebrate more elaborately than we ever did or could.

We don't suffer any illusions about the cause of the change. Commercialism, sales pressure, big money is to a great degree responsible. The merchants, the restaurateurs, the purveyors of professional amusement, florists, book and picture publishers have been quick to see and make the most of their big chance.

FARMERS OF THE "gentlemen" or of the "dirt" type, who have acres of fir trees or patches of holly, have rushed their product to the market and sold it (sometimes at a cut price) as a means of augmenting their profits from potatoes, apples and grain, beef, pork. Yes, we have to confess that the smudge of commercialism has somewhat befouled our beautiful feast.

There is even a danger that the world may not only take Christmas over but spoil it. It's a way the world has. In Catholic countries of old and until the revolution broke its boundaries in Russia and flooded over central Europe, the Church was recognized as sponsor of the people's recreations. A "Holiday" meant a Holy Day. The feast of the saints, of Our Lady and of Our Saviour were red letter, that is, subrical days. Corpus Christi was the gayest event of the year. But the treatment of that subject, the religious origin of popular celebrations, would require a long treatise or a full sized book.

When Protestantism and to speak more precisely Puritanism, alienated half of Europe from the Church, in many places the celebration of a religious festival with general jollification became tabu as if it were something wicked. The old Catholic custom died slowly but the aim of those who think religion a kill-joy was finally achieved, at least as far as they themselves were concerned. Fun - what there was of it - was one thing; religion something altogether different.

Catholics of course held on to the idea that saints are not necessarily dyspeptic, and that Christians can be happy and holy at the same time. Merrie England which of course was Catholic England, never really had the merriest knocked out of it in spite of Oliver Cromwell. His followers in New England had more success. But always travelers going from Protestant lands to Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Ireland, commented upon the fact that Catholics take their religion joyfully. We managed to keep Christmas alive as a day of worship and of merry making.

BUT NOW WHAT is happening? Those who could not see and still cannot see that piety and gaiety go best in combination are threatening to take over the gaiety of our feasts and throw away the piety. We must not let them do it. We welcome them to the celebration of our festival day but we mustn't let them ruin it.

It would be a strange thing if both Christ and the Mass were left out of Christmas. We must make these newcomers understand that religion and joy are not only compatible but inseparable. Joy without God goes sour. A day that is not a holy day is no true holiday.

When well intentioned but misguided persons having secularized all their own entertainments, make a raid upon our feast days, take them over, destroy their meaning and yet continue after our fashion to celebrate with trees and wreaths and candles and carols but with only a perfunctory glance in the general direction of religion and with only a remote reference if any to Jesus Christ, we might well wonder if it wouldn't have been better if they had left Christmas to the Catholics. Why didn't they inaugurate some winter festival of their own and leave us in possession of ours?

But here and there some of them may stop in the midst of their wassail and ask themselves, who was Christ and how is it that they find themselves celebrating His "Mass"? If they hold to their questions until they get the correct answer, they may have a holy Christmas after all. In parting to some children who have been taught after something about Jesus may become curious to know all about Him. In that case it will not be the first time that God has turned the devices of the world to His own advantage.

Do You Remember?

10 Years Ago - Dec. 22, 1938

"Better times await the coming of better men and women, we dare not sit idly by and allow people to deteriorate." His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, declared in a City Club address on "The Parochial School, Is It Necessary?" at Powers Hotel.

5 Years Ago - Dec. 23, 1943

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick F. Welch of Webster, parents of the Rev. Leo W. Welch, S.J., received a letter from interned in the Japanese Santo Tomas, Internment Camp, Manila, Philippine Islands stating that he was well and carrying on his priestly duties as far as permitted.

Questionnaire

Dear Mary, did you sing to Him in those evenings long ago. As you rocked His cradle bed Swinging gently to and fro

And when you tucked Him snugly in Did you shed tears of joy As you watched Him, peacefully there, Thankful He was your small boy?

Sor how I like to feel you sang Songs like I sing to mine tonight - Lullabies that soothe and bring, Sleep and rest to eyes so bright.

ESTELLE FINNEGAN

The Presentation

The Sunday following Christmas gives us the Gospel narrative of the presentation of Christ in the Temple. Christmas morning gave us the Angels and the Shepherds as witnesses of Christ's birth. Angels welcomed Him with heavenly harmonies, with songs of "Gloria to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will". The Shepherds welcomed Him by hastening over to Bethlehem to see the word that had come to pass, announced to them by the Angel. Mary and Joseph were in wonder at all the things narrated by the Shepherds. Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Other witnesses now come upon the scene to welcome the Christ. Some are not mentioned by name, - the officials of the Temple who welcomed Mary and Joseph and officiated at the ceremony of presentation prescribed for every Jewish boy born into the world, the usual number of worshippers in the Temple. They saw the parent of Christ's Presentation, they remained obscure and unnamed, but surely they received from the Holy Infant some special gift of grace because they witnessed this holy event.

But Simeon and Anna are named by Holy Scripture as participants in it. They were proclaimed witnesses of this great mystery. Simeon saw, fulfilled in the little infant the promises made to him that he should not die till he had seen the salvation of God. He prophesied that the Child was destined for the fall and the resurrection of many in Israel. He prophesied the sorrow of Mary, that a sword would pierce her motherly heart. Anna, grown old in the service of God in the Temple, spoke of the Infant to all who looked for the elevation of Israel. May the Presentation be to us a continuation of the joy of the Christmas morning. May it help us to welcome Christ ever as did Simeon and Anna.