

Good-bye, Mr. Chips!

On February second, the boys of Fordham will wave good-bye to the priest who has for twelve years been the father of the flock on Rome Hill. Our temptation to say that the going of Father Gannon is "the end of an era" would be in exaggeration which he would resent. To say that it is a "golden age" is only a fair appraisal of the character that this educator has written into the history of great universities.

Our President Speaks

Well may America be proud of the pronouncement of our President at the inauguration rites last Thursday. For sound and truth and measured thought, it will stand as a landmark denunciation of the world's present-day ailment, Communism. In words that allow of no misinterpretation, the President painted this pagan political and philosophical doctrine as the ruthless enemy of all that America stands for: as the antithesis of every principle of freedom and justice based on man's dignity as the creature of God.

The Book is Yellow

Those who persecute the Hungarian people today in the attack on their personal liberty, on their liberty to worship, in the denial of any semblance of justice, about all in their vicious and violent attack of Cardinal Mindszenty, have issued a book to tell the world of their exploits. They call it "THE YELLOW BOOK." How happy a choice they have made is the color, may not be known to these Hungarian Communists. Yellow is so properly the color of a book filled with yellow deeds, and yellow doctrines, and yellow qualities of mind and heart.

Savagery and Patience

Hungarian Communists follow the century-old line in seeking to destroy Christ by victimizing His leaders. St. Augustine fifteen hundred years ago contrasted the savagery of pagan murderers with the importunate patience of their martyrs. What name for our present-day assaults on religious and patriotic heroes? Hardened savagery! Hardened in the atmosphere of the devil's own hatred of God and all that are of God, hardened in the practiced abolition of all sense of humanity, of all regard for the dignity of man as God's creature. Such hardened savagery assails the world today.

The Men Marveled

The men who were present in the boat that was threatened by the storm were actual witnesses of the power of Christ. They saw Him command the sea and the waves. They saw the mountainous waves subside, they noted the going down of the winds, they noted the cessation of the lightning and thunder and rain. They were witnesses to the great calm that ensued. Naturally they marvelled at what had happened before them. They were men, they had the minds of men and the experience of men; they knew that storms were not subject to ordinary human control, they knew the wind gave no obedience to ordinary human commands. Their experience over many years as fishermen told them storms often came upon suddenly, but took their own time to subside.

Why the Communists Know the Thesis so Brilliantly Presented in Newman's "Idea of a University"

"Theology is a branch of knowledge." Yes and more. Theology is a branch, not a branch of education or of civilization. George Washington was well aware of that fact and so was Madison. And most of the writers in the Federalist. And Gladstone. And Arthur Balfour. And Edmund Burke. And Grotius. And Cicero. And Aristotle. It is why our politicians, upstarts, graduates most of them, from the school of what passes for politics in our states and cities — it is only they who ignore the fact that politics is based on philosophy, and even on theology.

Why the Communists Know the Thesis so Brilliantly Presented in Newman's "Idea of a University"

If the Communists succeed, and in what measure they succeed, it will be because they attacked the foundations of our political system, while we were knocking off a few gingerbread adornments of theirs. So that's what it means when the Soviet satellites Yugoslavia and Hungary arrest, imprison and murder our hierarchy.

Fr. Gillis Says:

Behind the Cardinal's Arrest How long will it take the heads of non-Communist governments to grasp the meaning of such events as the imprisonment of Archbishop Stepinac and Cardinal Mindszenty?



Our leaders think they understand what is going on. But do they? Off hand they would say, "Those two prominent churchmen fell foul of the Reds because they lacked the discretion to be silent. It would have been better—diplomatically speaking—if they had been less militantly anti-Communist. They could have dissembled and waited. To dismantle and to wait are the first two points in diplomatic negotiation. When one has to deal with a ruthless and conscienceless opponent it is futile to rebel. It may be brave to speak out, but to be brave is not always to be wise."

Soviets one attempt of the do-nothing governments to justify their acquiescence in a violation of essential human rights. A second attitude—or shall we call it an alibi—assumes, or affects to assume, that these conflicts between Soviet satellite governments and members of the hierarchy pertain to theology rather than to international politics, and that a purely political organization like ours cannot take a stand on a theological question. The United States might at most lodge a perfunctory complaint and thereupon subside. It could not go further without involving itself in the problem of the divine authority of the Church. A government may or may not be non-religious, but it certainly must be non-theological.

WHAT THE COMMUNISTS are aiming at in the United States of America as well as in the Balkans and in all the world is not merely the liquidation of the Catholic Church. It is not even the destruction of religion. Their plan is to get rid of God. Ambitious? Yes. Inane? Yes. Impossible? Of course. But when a madman runs wild with an impossible scheme, he can do a lot of damage if he isn't promptly stopped.

Hitler's ambition to Germanize the world was crazy. So was Mussolini's aim to reestablish the Roman Empire. So was Japan's scheme to dominate China and the entire Orient. The Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis was a mad project. But it made a sorry mess of the world. So, though it be mad as a mule, make war on God. It is dangerous madness; and in that danger all governments are involved. It is not merely the Church in Hungary that is concerned in the Cardinal's arrest. It is belief in God.

BELIEF IN GOD may be called a theological matter by short-sighted persons but any genuine statesman knows that all governments rest on God, and that to remove God is to destroy Government. "Unless the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it." Attack upon God is an attack upon the United States of America.

Compared with Nazi-Fascist lunacy, Communism today is a thousand times more radical. The sights in the big guns of Communism are set not on Britain, or the U.S.A., or on any other earthly power, not even on the ecclesiastical power, but on God. When we speak the word "God" we are aware that we forfeit the attention of politicians, even of those six dozen members of the profession who like to hear themselves referred to as "statesmen." They seem to say that if we Catholics bring God into the discussion we must from that point continue alone. Our nation's concern they say is with economic man, sociological man, political man. Homo theologus, homo religiosus comes under the domain of the Church.

The Communists are no fools. They have a philosophy, and they do not shy away from theology. Of course their theology is not in the same category as ours. Ours is theirs; theirs is atheism. But they are just as determined to foist their atheism upon the world as we are to defend our theism. When we mention the word "God" the Communists don't run out on us. They stand and fight it out.

AS FOR MAN, the Communists insist that he is not merely homo economicus, they insist as much as we, that he is homo philosophicus. Indeed, one of them, Proudhon, said a hundred years ago, "at the root of all politics is a theology." Soviet strategy is based upon that fact. It attacks our economic system, our political system. But it goes further. It digs deeper. It attacks, to use an illustration, not the mooring mast on the top of the Empire State Building; not the 300-foot chromium needle that brings the Chrysler tower to its apex. It doesn't shoot at the balconies, the architectural adornments, the Gothic spires for example on the Woolworth Building.

What interests Communism is foundations. Bedrock anchorage. Make no mistake about it. Communism is not merely a course of action. It has its roots in a philosophy. Having a philosophy, it makes no such silly statement as that of certain American politicians, journalists, professors, who say with an incredible manifestation of ignorance, "God doesn't come into the scope of our discussions."

COMMUNISTS KNOW THE thesis so brilliantly presented in Newman's "Idea of a University." Theology is a branch of knowledge." Yes and more. Theology is a branch, not a branch of education or of civilization. George Washington was well aware of that fact and so was Madison. And most of the writers in the Federalist. And Gladstone. And Arthur Balfour. And Edmund Burke. And Grotius. And Cicero. And Aristotle. It is why our politicians, upstarts, graduates most of them, from the school of what passes for politics in our states and cities — it is only they who ignore the fact that politics is based on philosophy, and even on theology.

If the Communists succeed, and in what measure they succeed, it will be because they attacked the foundations of our political system, while we were knocking off a few gingerbread adornments of theirs. So that's what it means when the Soviet satellites Yugoslavia and Hungary arrest, imprison and murder our hierarchy.

The pretates represent not the Church, but God, who is the ultimate aim of our enemy. If the heads of our states don't come to see — and pretty soon — what atheistic Communism (the only BONA FIDE brand) is aiming at, it will be just too bad.

Recognize Worth, Lend Support To Catholic Press, Bishop Asks

Open Your Door to the Catholic Press

By MOST REV. ST. J. READY Chairman N.C.W.C. Press Department The Catholic Press supports us in living Catholic lives. It is perhaps the most pernicious aspect of secularism that it escapes detection. Our "failure to center life in God" has become so much a part of the American scene that many do not recognize it as anything unusual. It obscures religious perceptions, blunts moral sensibilities, dulls the warning cries of conscience. Secularism is the real opiate of the people.

IT IS A danger that cannot be ignored, an evil that cannot be shrugged off. It affects us as a nation and as individuals, collectively and personally. It hangs like a stagnant and dreadful miasma over the whole land.

We must not only rouse ourselves, but our neighbors and our nation. For, just as we can sink into the sleep of death from its effects, our country can slip into an oblivion which comes of an abandonment of God and which leads to dependence on the omnipotent states.

We must fight off this temptation to sleep away morally and spiritually. We must be alert and active. We must think and act in union with God's Church.

We can do this only when we are informed Catholics. The training received in school must be projected into adult life. The instructors of the pulpit must be augmented by the printed word. This is the end, the purpose and the value of the Catholic Press.

AS WE COME to the annual observance of February 20th



Catholic Press Month, my word of greeting is this: Appreciate the Catholic Press. Let it support you in living a loyal, zealous, courageous Catholic life.

It is true that your practical encouragement of your Catholic publications is most welcome to them. It is true that your increasing patronage enables them constantly to improve. But it is also true that the Catholic Press performs increasingly a service to you that is beyond value in these times of spiritual confusion and ignorance.

To the extent that one appreciates that the Catholic Press offers an antidote to the poison that is taking the spiritual lives of so many of our fellow citizens, to that degree will he cherish this aid and keep it potent. The more one appreciates the Catholic Press, the better he will support it.

History Mystery Argument On Books Fuzzles Austria

New York (NC) — Consider the plight of the Austrian school child.

During "Anschluss" Hitler burned his history and geography books. Since the benevolent occupation by the victorious Allies none has yet agreed on a primer which will tell a little Austrian where or what Austria is, or what the boundaries of this nation are.

Tens of thousands of Austrian school children are still without adequate history and geography textbooks because of a continuing and stubborn dispute between Allied authorities and the Austrian education officials, who are also trying to have an untrammeled textbook, as school children in some other nations have.

FOR INSTANCE, the Russians insist that any such textbook should picture the Hapsburgs, who ruled Austria-Hungary until 1918, as having collaborated with the Roman-

off Russia's rulers until 1917 in acts of suppression against the peoples of Europe.

The French educational authorities in Vienna, on the other hand, insist that any Austrian textbook should lay great stress on the exploits and pageantry of Napoleon Bonaparte, but equally insist that no mention be made of the suppression of the peoples of Europe by the Napoleonic armies.

THERE IS A great deal of room here for conjecture. If an Austrian child could get an adequate textbook to conjecture with. The news bulletin also says: "United States officials voice regret that the Austrians and the Germans speak the same language and suggest that there is no need for laboring this unhappy point."

The American officials do not mention that both Bavarians and the "echter Waerner"

The Bishop's Appointments

FEBRUARY

- 2 Wednesday—St. Patrick's, Candelmas Day Ceremonies, The St. Monica Society — 9:00 A. M.
3 Thursday—St. Mary's Hospital—Low Mass — Blessing of Throats of Patients — 8:30 A. M.
5 Saturday—Cenacle Convent, First Saturday Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae—8:00 A. M.
7 Monday—Knights of St. John Club House—Annual Banquet of the St. Andrew's Lay Fraternity—7:00 P. M.
11 Friday—Cenacle Convent—Opening of First Retreat, Benediction—8:00 P. M.
12 Saturday—Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Banquet—8:30 P. M.
13 Sunday—Hotel Commodore, New York—Address at Province Convention of Newman Club.

Italian Catholic Actionists Vital

The author of this article is a former diplomat and has written extensively on international affairs.

By ANTHONY B. ATAR

Rome (NC) — The latest abortive attempt of communists to disrupt the Italian industrial system by a prolonged slow-down has brought to the fore a vital new power in that country's labor field — the Free General Confederation of Labor (L.C.G.L.).

While some observers said that a sudden change in Moscow policy forced Italian communists to call off the slow-down after it had spread to 63 large factories, it was noted that the L.C.G.L., a federation of Christian workers, rebelled against Red orders. In Palermo two-thirds of the city's transit workers defied communist orders and kept transportation rolling. On many sides, non-communist labor leaders called on their followers to stand by their jobs.

JUST WHAT IS L.C.G.L.? It is the handwork of Italian Catholic Action, which is now engaged in a mammoth drive to enlist 10,000,000 Italian workers in this Christian labor federation in opposition to the communist-dominated federation — C.G.I.L.

Called to the forefront in this campaign is the vast organization of Civic Committees, which were set up especially for last April's election and helped bring about the decisive Christian victory over the communists at the polls.

The Civic Committees comprise a much larger membership than Catholic Action itself. They embrace practically all anti-communists in Italy, and its 20,000 local groups cooperate with clergy and laymen alike. The leadership, however, is in the hands of Catholic Action men.

THE GUIDING hand and president of the organization of Civic Committees is Prof. Luigi Gedda, who is also head of Italian Men of Catholic Action and a leader in all spheres of Catholic life.

Should the goal of 10,000,000 members be reached, it would constitute a labor group more than equal to American standards and an overwhelming opposition to the communist C.G.I.L.'s 3,000,000 members.

One vital problem is the contacting of the great number of "absenteeists," Italians who have become totally indifferent to unionization. Demoralized by the old fascist system, under which labor unions became state institutions, and by postwar political inflation, Italian labor is increasingly deserting unions.

Until recently, out of 18,000,000 industrial and agrarian workers, only between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 belonged to the C.G.I.L., and these have dwindled to 3,000,000.

Professor Gedda denies any intent by Catholic Action to control the Christian federation. "WE ARE merely placing our great network of Civic Committees at the federation's disposal, and will help it conduct membership and educational campaigns," he declared. "Once this is completed, we will turn everything over to labor leaders."

One vital problem is the contracting of 2,000,000 unemployed workers who represent 15,000,000 destitute people, said Professor Gedda. If the Civic Committees could distribute coal and knitting wool to these people during the campaign, it would be not only a Christian charity but an effective weapon against communist penetration among the unemployed, since the communists always thrive on human misery, he added.

Since the Marshall Plan does not cover this field, Italians look hopefully for the aid of American Catholics, it was said.

Quotable Quotes

We would willingly have others perfect and yet we amend not our own faults. St. Thomas a Kempis

You would not be alive today if half the things you had worried about had come true. To make a habit of worry is to disbelieve in God's Providence.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY Copyright, 1948, N.C.W.C. News Service

Advertisement for 'Dulong's Formula' featuring a family illustration and text: 'GRANDDAUGHTER OF LORD RANKEILLIOW, FAMOUS ENGLISH CATHOLIC PEER HAS THREE DAUGHTERS with the SAME BIRTH DATE - in different years! CAROLINE, DEC 3, 1942. ELIZABETH, DEC 3, 1944. JANE, DEC 3, 1948. DULONG'S FORMULA BY WHICH THE HEAT VALUE OF A FUEL IS DETERMINED FROM ITS CHEMICAL COMPOSITION IS CALLED FOR ITS AUTHOR Pierre Dulong, A FRENCH CATHOLIC (BORN 1875)'. Includes text about the feast of the Holy Family and 'The Feast of the Holy Family was first instituted in Canada by MGR. de Laval in the 17th century. POPE LEO INSTITUTED THE FEAST FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH 200 YEARS LATER. Because of danger to the cathedral & aircraft the airfield at Chartres, France is to be closed.'

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