

A Look at Labor Serfs, or Free Unions?

By A. C. Tuohy

The Atomic Energy Commission is now fighting in the courts to protect the country from a Communist-dominated union. The union involved is the United Electrical Workers—C.I.O.

Some time ago the Commission refused to allow the UE to be bargaining agent for atomic workers. The union has challenged that order in the Federal District Court of Washington.

There are approximately 70,000 workers in atomic energy plants, of whom 64,000 are employed by private corporations, such as General Electric, doing atomic work. The UE has organized most of General Electric's plants, including those engaged in secret government work.

THE GOVERNMENT took the position that a Communist controlled union could not be allowed access to atomic plants for two reasons:

(1) Fear of Communist inspired strikes against the Marshall Plan, Atlantic Pact, war, etc., such as those which were pulled in 1941;

(2) The belief that Communist labor officials would have access to secret data by virtue of their position, data which would be transferred to Russia.

The position of the Atomic Energy Commission in this matter seems eminently reasonable. The function of government is the protection of the common good. Certainly, the presence of a Communist dominated union in an atomic plant endangers the common good.

Philip Murray has proposed a way out of the dilemma — the right of workers to organize versus the right of the government to protect the common good. He has advocated the nationalization of the whole atomic energy program. He is unwilling to accept restrictions on labor's right to organize private corporations such as GE. If he were dealing with the government alone, he would play the game according to government rules.

NATIONALIZATION of the atom energy program is the most question. There are those who are in favor of government ownership and operation of the atomic plants. Others want to preserve private enterprise even in this field.

If the atomic energy program is nationalized, it should be nationalized only on the principle of Ryukyuan Administration.

The Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith has issued a decree nominating the Rev. Felix Ley, O.F.M. Cap., an American priest, as Administrator Apostolic of the Ryukyu Islands, a chain of islands southwest of Japan, which were joined to the Vicariate Apostolic of Guam after the war.

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Religion Under Nine Judges

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

The United States Supreme Court, by substituting its own private philosophies for the clear language of the Constitution, has surrendered the First Amendment instead of defending it.

The American citizen should know then that he is "no longer living under the controllable provisions of constitutional government, but under the uncontrollable opinions of men." His civil liberties are tottering.

These are the views of Dr. James M. O'Neill of Brooklyn College in a new book, "Religion and Education Under the Constitution."

PROFESSOR O'NEILL explains in his preface that he has just completed 12 years as a member and four years as chairman of the Committee on Academic Freedom of the American Civil Liberties Union. The book, he declares, is a direct outgrowth of his experience on that committee.

It is found to be one of the most discussed commentaries on the religious liberty question in recent years.

Although he centers his attack on the Supreme Court's rulings in the 1947 Everson school case and the 1948 McCollum "released-time" religious education case, the author disclaims any intent to debate the merits of bus transportation or other tax aid for parochial school pupils or religion classes in public schools.

The issue, for Dr. O'Neill, is whether the Constitution means what it says or whether it means what nine judges feel is better for the country today.

REFERRING TO THE so-called principle of "complete separation of Church and State," he says that if there is such a principle it must have been set down by some group or groups authorized to speak for America. The Supreme Court is not such a group, he maintains.

"The Supreme Court has never been authorized to promulgate new doctrines or policies for the American people," writes Professor O'Neill. "The Court may interpret; they have no right to eliminate or amend any Constitutional provision by the American people. Our Supreme Court is not yet in the position of the Russian Politburo . . ."

"If the American people have ever adopted the principle of complete separation of Church and State, we should find the evidence of it in the Federal Constitution, in the acts of Congress, or in the Constitutions or laws of the

several States. There is no such evidence in existence.

"In its absence, the mere opinion of private individuals or groups that there should be absolute separation of Church and State does not create a 'great American principle.'"

IN A NOTEWORTHY passage, Professor O'Neill throws light on the methods of the organization known as "Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State." These separatists, the author says, "explicitly decline to work for their objectives by the democratic process prescribed by the Constitution for its amendment."

"They may have learned that throughout our history the American people have refused to allow any amendment embodying the core of their doctrine to be put into the Constitution," he continues. "If our history is good evidence, the people of the country will have none of it. The plan is, therefore, to get it by Supreme Court edict without consulting the will of the people."

Professor O'Neill has blistering words for the minority decision by Justice Rutledge in the Everson school bus case and for the Court's decision in the McCollum case. He says that Justice Rutledge, posing as a friend of the American people, sought to put into the Constitution "a doctrine which the responsible representatives of the people have officially, publicly, definitely refused many times to allow in the Constitution."

From now on, Dr. O'Neill fears, "the Supreme Court will doubtless decide each case as it sees fit, on the sole basis of the justices' 'real' and 'prepossessions' as measurements of what is wise and good for the people of any State in matters of religion and education."

WHAT SHOULD BE done about this situation? Professor O'Neill makes several recommendations — "antidotes for chaos." He stresses most an appeal that public criticism and protest be directed against the court. He believes that "there seems to be ground for hope that exposure and protest will be sufficient to move the Supreme Court to put the First Amendment back into the Constitution." If it is not, then Professor O'Neill suggests that Congress use its authority to curb the Court and thus resolve the controversy stirred up by the Everson and McCollum rulings in a manner favoring "the Constitution, the democratic process, and American history and tradition."

'America' Plans Jubilee Issue

New York — (NC) — The largest single issue of America, widely known national Catholic weekly, is planned for April 16 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the publication. The issue will contain 76 pages.

AMERICA, founded in 1909, is under the editorship of the Rev. Robert C. Hartnett, S.J., formerly chairman of the political science group at the University of Detroit. Father Hartnett's plans call for a continued expansion of the magazine both editorially and in advertising.

THE WEEKLY is published by the America Press, which also publishes the Catholic Mind, a monthly magazine, and an extensive list of pamphlets and books, including the Newman series. The America Press is the founder of the Catholic Children's Book Club and recently has acquired the Catholic Book Club.

Archbishop Opens New Youth Center

New Orleans — (NC) — Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans blessed and dedicated the \$200,000 St. Mary's Recreation Center, a project of St. Mary's Italian Church. The center will be open to the youth of the French Quarter, regardless of faith.

"Through wholesome and clean living," Archbishop Rummel said, "which will come to the youths who use this center, we hope and pray to see them become good servants of their city and country."

Monsieur de Lesseps S. Morrison of New Orleans said: "It was a wise and generous decision to open St. Mary's Center to children of all faiths. It was a real act of good citizenship. Dollar for dollar, St. Mary's Center is the best investment made in the French Quarter in years in point of view of returns to the community. I want to congratulate all who contributed in any way to St. Mary's. I pledge my partnership with the Catholic Youth Organization the city of New Orleans will move forward to improve youth."

JUDGE CPA SHORT STORIES



Judging the entries in the Catholic Press Association's short story contest are these three midwest short story experts, left to right: L. V. Jacks, classical scholar of Creighton University; Wilbur Schramm, of the University of Illinois, former O. Henry prize-winner and Richard T. Sullivan, of Notre Dame University faculty, author of "The World of Idella May." The contest, which closes on March 31, 1949, offers prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. (NC Photos)

Japanese Catholic Artist Takes Job Washing Dishes

Tokyo, Japan — (Special) — Japan's leading Catholic artist, Teresa Koseki, whose Madonna paintings have brought her world fame, has been forced to take a job washing dishes in order to support herself, reports Rev. William Kaachmitter in a report to Maryknoll headquarters.

Miss Koseki, a convert from northern Japan is a graduate of the Imperial Art School and her paintings have been exhibited nationally and in the Museum of Art in Tokyo. Since her conversion she has confined her work to religious subjects particularly the Blessed Virgin. She is regarded as the first artist to ever paint the Blessed Virgin wearing a kimono.

New Rota Judge



Magr. William J. Bohney, C.S.C., (above) formerly of Notre Dame University, Ind., and newly appointed judge of the Sacred Roman Rota, was received by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. A new Rota judge pays a formal visit not only to the Pope but to all the Cardinals and dignitaries of the Roman Curia, totaling nearly 50 visits. (NC Photos)

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Holy Year Booklet Out

The Holy Year of Jubilee — 1950, a 36-page two-color illustrated booklet, containing pertinent facts concerning the coming Holy Year, has been prepared by American Express-Catholic Travel League for free distribution. It was announced today. Copies of this authoritative booklet may be obtained from national headquarters of American Express-Catholic Travel League, 1541 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

The booklet contains the principal intentions for the Holy Year 1950; the special prayer for the Holy Year composed by Pope Pius XII, and data about the origin, history and significance of the Holy Year. More than six months of research was entailed in the compilation of the booklet which covers the Holy Year from its inception in the year 1300, to the present day.

Among the many institutions are those of the four major basilicas — St. Peter's, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran and St. Mary's Major — which must be visited by pilgrims to Rome during the Holy Year, as proclaimed by the Holy Father.

The booklet also outlines the prescribed prayers and conditions to be met by pilgrims wishing to gain the Golden or Jubilee Indulgence established 650 years ago by the special edict of Pope Boniface VIII.

Million Reported in Slave Labor Camps

Munich — (CP) — About one million men, women, and children from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are being kept in slave labor camps in the Soviet Union, a Conference of Refugees from the Baltic countries, just held at Stuttgart, American Zone of Germany, was told. This is approximately 15% of the total population.

The conference decided to send a message of protest to the International Red Cross and a number of other organizations, pointing out that the Soviet Union has been attempting systematically to destroy the basic character of the Baltic populations by terror and oppression.

Church of England Asks Freedom from State Rule

By JOHN A. GREAVES

London — (NC) — The Church of England, Britain's national Protestant Church, which is under official Government control and protection is seeking greater freedom from its ties to the State in order to tackle the present cynical and spiritually chaotic attitude of the general faithless masses as regards religion.

The church, at the spring session of its national assembly here, approved a motion that the assembly, "while valuing the establishment of the Church of England as an expression of the nation's recognition of religion, nevertheless is of the opinion that the present form of it impedes the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the church as a spiritual society."

IT THEREFORE instructed its standing committee to appoint a commission to draw up resolutions on changes desirable in the relationship between church and state and to present them to the assembly for consideration at an early date.

Archbishop Cyril F. Garbett of York, deputy leader of the national church, agreed with those who opposed church disestablishment completely. That should come from the state and only as a last resort should the church ask for it, he said. He feared it would be regarded as a national repudiation of religion at the very time when many churches in Europe were fighting for their lives.

HOWEVER, HE believed it essential that the bishops do their best to make some change in the present Church-state relationship.

The church must first decide what reforms it wants and then may go to the state as a friend in court and ask for them. The state, which granted legal power

to the assembly, then might permit such reforms as were felt to be essential.

The Church of England has not the full control that a spiritual body should have, Archbishop Garbett added. For years entanglements have paralyzed its actions.

THE MAJORITY of members of the British House of Commons are not members of the church, the prelate said. Nor could the nation be claimed as a whole to be Christian, he went on.

The leader of the Church of England, Archbishop Geoffrey F. Fisher of Canterbury, gave his approval to the statement by Dr. Garbett. He pointed out that certain present questions of canon law could not be acted upon without discussion with the state and in many cases without state action.

KING GEORGE VI, whose official title (carried on British coins) includes that of "Defender of the Faith" — originally bestowed by the Pope on young Catholic King Henry VIII — is actual head of the Church of archbishops and bishops, deans and canons.

The church, described officially as Protestant Episcopal, has two provinces, Canterbury and York, 41 bishops and 40 suffragan bishops. Scotland has a separate established church, the Presbyterian. Wales has no established church.

The English church, set up in the sixteenth century after the Reformation, has been governed by various acts of parliament ever since. Every measure passed by the church's assembly must be submitted to an ecclesiastical committee of 15 members of the House of Lords and of 15 members of the House of Commons.

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