

A Look at Labor

Aliens and 'Agency Shop'

By A. C. Tuohy

Labor economists have their own jargon. More and more frequently we are hearing of "closed shop," "union shop," "maintenance of membership shop," or "preferential shop." These "shops" were invented by labor unions to give themselves a certain amount of security. In varying degrees they mean that a man must remain in good standing in his union to hold on to his job.

Something new has recently been added to this jargon. Labor experts are beginning to speak of the "agency shop." This arrangement does not force a worker to remain in or join a union, in order to work, but it does require all workers on the job, whether union or not, to pay their fair share of the cost of negotiating, administering and managing the union contract.

THE "AGENCY SHOP" is a device which aims at satisfying two objections: (1) The objections of union men that "free riders," who reap benefits from the union for which they have paid nothing; (2) the objections of employers who do not want to force a man into a union against his will.

The foremost advocate of this new type of union security is William Leiserson, formerly chairman of the National Labor Relations Board. He patterned this idea after the manner in which the government handles the problems of aliens.

The government of the United States does not force aliens to accept citizenship, but because they receive benefits from residence in the American Community, they are required to pay taxes.

The argument in favor of the "agency shop" is this: What works so well in the political arena, should be suited to the field of labor relations. A great many people who

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Fiction is a Delicate Art

By WILLIAM J. KERRIGAN

Most failures in Catholic fiction writing, amateur or professional, stem ultimately from a lack of patience and humility. According to the perennially accepted notion of Aristotle cited with approval by St. Thomas Aquinas — the work of fiction is "an imitation, humble before the facts and the nature of life, patient of things as they are and as man experiences them."

The brush artist, or writer, seeks to use his art, not as an imitation, but as a control of nature. He fails because he departs from the fundamentally patient and humble nature of real fiction. Real fiction in its nature may range from microscopic realism to outright fantasy in the material that it uses. But in its theme, in "what it means," it must give its readers no more and no less than a fresh experience of some fact about human life that most nature human beings have already come to a knowledge of by living.

ONE TYPE OF failure which Catholic writers share with communist ones — is the story that boils down to a statement about life that is not general but particular. It is likely to be a statement about Catholics, about Negroes, about the working man, about priests or Sisters — not, notice about human beings in general.

Such a story similarly fails because it seeks to propagate a truth (or falsehood, even) which the writer knows his readers cannot learn by living but of which they must be brought to belief.

AKIN TO THE propaganda story is the editing story, the story with a moral. Most of us, for instance, realize the moral truth of the commandment, "You must not steal." Yet if a story boils down to that statement, or to any moral we get a statement not about what life is, in our experience, but what life ought to be.

A writer can save such a story by making it give readers an experience of what happens to any man who tries to buck the established will of any society, something we can experience.

RELATED ALSO to the propaganda story is a third type of failure, an out-and-out confusion of knowledge with belief. This type seeks to make supernatural objects of our

faith (grace, redemption, the Mystical Body, the character imparted by Holy Orders, and so forth) an object of our experience. Since by our definition fiction deals ultimately with experience, any such attempt fails miserably as a story.

It is interesting, in considering the supernatural in fiction, to see what Franz Werfel in the successful "Song of Bernadette" did with the supernatural events at Lourdes. He made them, not the point of the story, but the problem, and then went on to show Bernadette's experience, what she learned of life and what we all learn of life because we are all faced with kindred problems.

A FOURTH TYPE of failure arises from a confusion of religion and magic. Here the author, in effect, boldly asserts that far from being a part of mundane nature into which God has put them, man can divorce themselves from its conditions and control it in its very foundations — nay, control the Creator Himself.

In that fourth type, the Blessed Virgin comes riding like the United States cavalry to give a story what it was not able to produce from itself; human beings appear as magically producing miracles at will by saying prayers; and experience is utterly outraged.

In a familiar variation of the type, somebody "comes to realize" something and has his whole life changed by a chance visit to some dim and quiet Catholic church. Or the cutthroat and kidnapper becomes, through a rosary said by a priest, overnight a man of virtue and character.

CATHOLIC FICTION writers, when they fail, fall often of course for the reason that many others fail: they have not mastered their craft; they have not got meaning out of experience. But the shortcomings just listed, result from their wish to make fiction do a job of which by its nature it is incapable.

Fiction, (not unlike philosophy) though it cannot rise to the high plane of specific dogma and moral, is a thing pleasant, useful, God-given, filling its place in God's world and contributing nothing directly to religion except by perversion — which is usually, into the bargain, falsification of the true religion.

Mr. Kerrigan is a veteran member of the screening panel of the Catholic Press Association's national subscription contest and writes with authority on the common errors many manuscripts contain.

Bing Crosby Endows His College Library



A check for \$50,000 from Bing Crosby was the first contribution to a trust fund set up for the building of a new library at Gonzaga University, Bing's alma mater in Spokane, Washington. The building will be called the Crosby Memorial Library and will contain a collection of awards, honors, photos and keepsakes outlining the career of the school's noted son.

Cardinal's Trial In Comic-Book Format

St. Paul — (NC) — "The Truth Behind the Trial of Cardinal Mindszenty," a comic-style booklet published here by the Catechetical Guild, sold out its first printing of 600,000 copies before its formal publication date, and a second print order had to be placed immediately to fill requests for it, according to the Rev. Louis A. Gales, president of the publishing house.

New Hiroshima Church To Commemorate Atom Deaths

New York — (NC) — A Catholic church, now under construction in Hiroshima, Japan, will be the first unit in a planned memorial to the thousands who were killed in the 1945 atom bombing of that city, according to the monthly "Jesuit Missions" here.

That the Hiroshima memorial should be a Catholic church highlights an interesting situation. Hiroshima has always been a strong pagan center. Before the war the Catholic missionaries there received only scant attention from the populace.

The Rev. Hugo Lassalle, S.J., superior of the Jesuit mission, was in the center of the city when the atom bomb fell and was himself severely wounded. He decided that since the atom bomb ended the war and ushered in a new era for Christianity in Japan the most fitting memorial to those who died would be a Catholic church.

IT WAS NOT, however, until an American benefactor heard of the project through Jesuit Missions that Father Lassalle's vision became a reality. "Americans dropped the bomb, so Americans should help build the memorial," said the benefactor when he gave \$50,000 to erect the church. Work on the structure was begun last year. It is expected to be ready for services August 6, 1950 — the fifth anniversary of the atom bomb. Elaborate services are being planned for the dedication, which will be attended by high civil and church dignitaries from all over Japan.

Crime Charged To Segregation Policy

Washington — (NC) — Segregation retards the educational development of Negroes and hinders their progress, which often leads to crime, Dr. E. B. Henderson, director of athletic activities in the colored schools of this city, declared in an address before the St. Peter's Civic Center here.

Dr. Henderson, author of "The Negro in Sports," spoke of advances that have been made by members of the Negro race in boxing, baseball, football and other sports.

Librarians' Meeting Has Christopher Aim

Detroit — (NC) — The theme, "Librarians as Christophers," has been adopted by the Catholic Library Association for its annual conference here April 18 through April 22. Approximately 500 professional Catholic librarians and teachers are expected to attend the conference.

French Clergy Learn Trades To Get Food

Paris (CIP) — Some Catholic priests in France are being forced to take up farming, carpentry, beekeeping, and book binding to provide themselves with food and clothing. Their plight is being brought to the attention of Catholics throughout the country in an appeal for assistance launched by Emmanuel Cardinal Suhard, Arch Bishop of Paris, and several Bishops in other parts of France.

Catholic List of Approved Comic Books Offers Parents Constructive Guidance

Mothers and fathers looking for a guiding list of acceptable comic books for their children's reading will be wise to keep handy the following list of juvenile magazines rated "suitable" for youngsters. The standards used in judging the current comic crop are printed after the list.

Comics for Children

- Alice in Wonderland, All American Western, Andy Panda, Animal Antics, All Sports, The Barker, Barnyard Comics, Blonde Blue Bolt, Hier Rabbit, Brick Bradford Bugs Bunny, Comic Cavalade, Coo Coo Comics, Dale Evans, Daredevil, Date With Judy, Dick Cole, Donald Duck, Dotty Drizzle, Famous Funnies, Felix the Cat, Flash Gordon, 4 Most, Frisky, Funny Folks, Funny Stuff, Gabby Hayes, Gene Autry, Giggle Comics, Goofy Comics, Ha Ha Comics, Happy Comics, Heckle and Jeer, Henry, Heron Comics, Hopalong Cassidy, Humphrey Comics, Jungle Jim, Jack Armstrong, Jingle Jangle, Joe Palooka, Johnny Hazard, Katzenjammer Kids, Ken Stuart, Kewpie, King Comics, King of the Royal Mounted, Leading Comics, Little Audrey, Little Bit, Little Lulu, Looney Tunes, Monkey Mouse, Mighty Mouse, Monte Hale, Mutt and Jeff, Nancy, New Funnies, The Pixies, Polly Pixtalls, Popeye, Rascal, Andy and Andy, Real Fact Comics, Red Lile, Real Screen Comics, Western Hero, Billy, Super Boy, Rogers, Scribbly, Spunky, Sparkle, Sparkler, Supermouse, Target, The Terry Toons, Tex Grange, Tex Taylor, Tim Holt, Tim Toppo, Tommy of the Big Top, Topix, Treasure Comics, The Sport, Walt Disney's Comics, Warmbl, Western Fighters, Woody Woodpecker.

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The list will change from month to month, the publishers promise, if any magazine fails to measure up to these objective standards regularly.

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Comics of Greater Interest for Teen-Agers

- Archie, Binky, Candy, Dixie Duggan, Eita Kell, Freckles and His Friends, Harold Teen, Juke Box, Laugh, Mopsy, Penny, Starlet, O'Hara in Hollywood, Suzie, Teen, Tillie the Toiler, Willie. Following are the standards used by the Catechetical Guild in selecting comic books for

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