GULLIVER UP-TO-DATE

Editorials

The Soul Is More Important than the Body

Let Sincere Collective Bargaining Prevail

See the Catholic World through the Courier

By Msgr. William M. Hart

Come, Follow Me

God uses man in providing for the material and spiritual needs of the world. Every man is God's instrument for planning and carrying out God's will for the world and for the men who live in it.

In art and industry and on the farm, individual men give the best that is in them to furnish the world new facets of the law and order and beauty God wants the world to have. Sculptors, painters, writers and musicians do God's work in producing ever new works to appeal to the soul of man. Architects and builders erect new structures for the use of men Merchants, producers and transportation experts do God's work in manufacturing and distributing the various goods of which man has need.

God blesses the world by raising up men who act in His name, under His grace, in filling their God-given place in the world Did you ever think what the world would have lost had George Washington refused God's call to be the Father of his Country, or had Abraham Lincoln neglected God's call to save the Union for freedom?

As the soul is more important than the body, so is the spiritual side of the world more important than the material. The call of God goes out every day to individuals whom God would have serve Him as priests or religious in the home field and in the missionary field. He made the Apostles to be fishers of men. He called the holy women to be close to Christ. He has in all ages raised up Popes and Bishops and Teachers, and through them has granted His graces to all mankind.

He calls today young men, young women to leave home and kindred to follow Him. On the response those so called make will depend the spiritual welfare of countless thousands of each new generation of Christians.

Is God Calling You?

Your own soul will first suggest it. Your parents, your priest and confessor, your teacher will advise you and encourage you to accept the call of God. Bishop Kearney over the air last Sunday urged Catholic parents to be especially cooperative in helping their children answer the voice of God calling them to be priests or Sisters.

God needs you, the Church needs you, souls are waiting for you! Will you give to God and the Church and to souls the life of service God asks of you? Pray that the blessings of vocation may be yours, that you may know the bliss of a life dedicated to the things that count, the salvation of souls.

Coal For America

The strike is over, owners and workers rejoice! All America shares in their joy. Coal will soon be ready for all who use it. Nine months of strife, nine months of futile fighting, nine months of avoidance of all that true collective bargaining should mean, have gone by. Agreement on a contract has been reached in a few days of sincere trying. There shall soon be plenty of coal for America.

Why was our country brought to the edge of disaster before the agreement was finally reached? Why could not the terms agreed on Sunday have been accepted nine months ago? May we hope that sincere collective bargaining between operators and miners shall govern future coal production. May we hope that sincerity and honesty and a zeal for the welfare of America may make unnecessary for the future the labor of fact-finding boards to discover the pertinent facts in every labor dispute!

Lord, That I May See!

The blind man is shut off from the world. He misses much of what goes on in the world. He is not blessed with that intimacy with his fellows and their activities that belongs to one who can see Hence his prayer to Christ: "Lord, that I may see!"

Your Courier-Journal is for you a spiritual eye. Through it you are able to view the Catholic world in its relation to the secular world. Pope and Cardinals and Bishops and priests are no strangers to the readers of our Catholic newspaper. The Church in Rome and in every country of the world is no dead entity to our subscribers: it is the greatest force on earth doing things worth while for mankind, and eager to let all men see what it is doing.

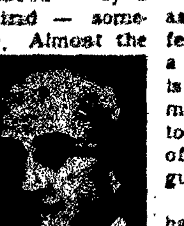
Be sure to provide for the days ahead that you may be among those who see. Subscribe for your Courier-Journal. See the world through it, teach your sons and daughters to have a vision of what the Church is doing in the world!

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

The Lady's Reckless Disdain for Logic

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

"Logic" is considered — by a certain type of mind — something reprehensible. Almost the only people nowadays who respect logic, cultivate it for their own use and demand it of others, are the Catholics. Indeed not all Catholics have a proper regard for logic. Among us there are not a few who have taken on the mental coloration of the majority among whom we live.


Fr. Gillis

In newspapers, magazines and even in presumably well-written books, can be detected such outrages against logic as would make St. Thomas Aquinas or Aristotle squirm and writhe.

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IN THE MENTAL world as in the moral world there are persons who think we should chuck all rules of thinking, make a blind choice of opinions, jump at conclusions and look upon as "reactionary" or "mediaeval," anyone who insists that thinking is an art which must be learned and practised

Perhaps the most reckless disdain for the rules of reason among our contemporaries is that of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. I look at her column only semi-occasionally, (or semi - demi - occasionally) but everytime I become careless in the custody of my eyes and let them fall upon one of her daily effusions, I seem to happen upon a logical howler.

One recent instance is not from her column but from a speech she gave at Iowa State College at about the time the verdict in the Hiss case had been reached.

MRS. ROOSEVELT is reported as saying: "A man who has professed innocence is involved by a man who by his own admission is a perjurer and a former Communist. It seems rather horrible to condemn someone on the word of someone else who admits to guilt."

Note the antithesis: one man has professed innocence, the other is, by his own admission a perjurer So it is "horrible" (at least "rather horrible," what ever that may be) to condemn the professed innocent on the word of the confessed perjurer' The point of course is that the man who protested his innocence was just as much a liar and a perjurer as the man who admitted that he was a liar and a perjurer. Professing innocence didn't make Hiss innocent.

The quick and careless reader, deceived by Mrs. Roosevelt's legerdemain, might jump to the conclusion — as she does — that an innocent man was condemned on the word of a guilty man. It's a trick.

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IN MY FIRST year of logic when, by way of diversion, we used to play with some false syllogisms, we had one that went thus "Epimenides (quoted by St Paul) said that all the Cretans were liars. But Epimenides himself was a Cretan Therefore if he was telling the truth, he was a liar."

Any fairly bright child in a grade school could pick the flaw in that syllogism. I can see the hands raised in class and hear a chorus of piping voices say, "Teacher, a liar may sometimes tell the truth." Mrs. Roosevelt doesn't seem to realize that Chambers who was sometimes a liar could and did on occasion tell the truth.

Take the second part of her statement, "it seems rather horrible to condemn someone on the word of someone else who admits to guilt." The fact, of course, is that Hiss was not condemned on the word of Chambers. Three juries sat on the case; the Grand Jury which handed down the indictment, and the federal juries, one of which voted 8 to 4 and the other 12 to Zero that Hiss was guilty. They declared him guilty not on the word of Chambers but on the evidence in court.

Let's have another example of careless thinking reported in that same speech or it may have been in an interview before or after the speech at Iowa State College. The lady went on to say "If you had been disloyal and your conscience troubled you the only way you could go scot free would be to accuse someone else of the things you were accused of."

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BUT, DEAR LADY, there is more than one way of going scot free You may go scot free in your own conscience or you may go scot free before the law You go scot free in conscience by repenting confessing and making amends Such is the way ordained by God

The other way of going scot free is to confess to the civil authorities and turn state's evidence. Chambers did the latter. Perhaps he did the former also. We don't know. Only God knows. At any rate Chambers finally told the truth and stuck to it Hiss kept on lying to the end. As between the two which was the more pardonable the man who lied, repented and atoned or the man who lied and lied and lied?

Mrs. Roosevelt's pity goes out to the unrepentant In that she disagrees both with the State and with God. And all because she has no concern for straight thinking — that is, for logic.

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

Let the Atoms Fall Where They May

By Marie Weidman

The seers of other centuries thought they could foretell the future from the measurements of the Great Pyramid of Giza. They were quite wrong. We know today that our futures may well be capsuled in a secret equation from which physicists, thru scientific wizardry, can make the H-bomb. Out of a kind of witches' brew of amazing human brain power and higher mathematics has come the shocking weapon that could wipe out our human race.

Marie Weidman

So now, at last, all the abstractions of Einstein and the other mental giants, which, up to this time have seemed pretty stratospheric to us on the street, have crystalized clear but deadly, into a benumbing picture of annihilation.

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NOW ALL THIS is hardly conducive to present day peace of mind, to say nothing of the wear and tear it is causing on the soul of modern man. In every era there have been coteries of Calamity Janes who hold anything contemporary in sheer contempt. This "when-I-was-a-boy" school and the "things-are-not-the-same" people really have a point of argument now. Things ARE bad today.

When you were a boy perhaps the only danger may have been from a fifteen mile per hour Stanley Steamer — maybe there was peril in being trod underfoot while dancing the Turkey Trot. Up to this time the dangers that Americans, at least, have had to face were definable and often remediable by legislation, laughing it off or by voting out of power the political power then currently at the public trough.

America was young and rich. We were strong. America would go on forever. We are about to realize that we have to outlaw permanently rose colored glasses as instruments of divination.

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IT IS HARDLY ever necessary to expound the symptoms of vertigo to a trapeze artist; by the same token it may profit little to meditate on the latest destruction devices. The Almighty happens to have placed us here at this particular pin dot of time, with certain sets of facts at our disposal, the rest is up to weak, often totally inadequate us. And as this overwhelming fact strikes the consciousness of more and more ordinary folk, the hue and cry over our tenuous future becomes constantly louder

From all quarters echoes of despair are now heard Heretofore blase observors and even the slick purveyors of sophisticated prose of every variety are taking time to gasp at what science and alleged expediency have wrought.

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AMID THIS uncertainty some are again resorting to Nostradamus, 16th century French scholar whose rhymed quatrains supposedly foretold much of what actually took place in later centuries. From a free and easy interpretation given the old man's verses, the latter part of our century will not be exactly a May Polo dance

The ghoulish pleasure derived from considering coming cataclysms doesn't get you anywhere, though We need more assurance than what an old soothsayer can give or what we now receive from the world's council tables.

These grimmer musings are bound to come to the top as the Lenten spirit makes itself felt. A Lent well-observed by the individual Catholic could offer more security in the face of unrest than we would ever get from certain observers declaring that we can cooperate with Russia and there needn't be another war

The power of the lay Apostolate, which is us, comes from the amount of self-discipline its members possess. Too many of our members have been subscribing to the easy self-indulgent materialist philosophy rampant in America today Men do not so much deny Christ today they simply ignore Him

If each one of us were to give testimony by our daily lives that there is joy and peace to be had in "mounting the cross," as Paul Claudel expresses it, we could face the future with equanimity. We have been selected to give testimony that a genuine return to religion is the only solution for the modern confusion, let the atoms fall where they may.

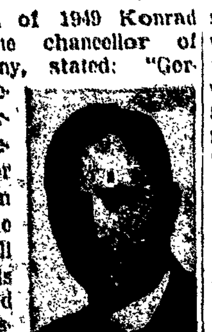
TOWARD INDUSTRIAL PEACE

A Vital Challenge To Today's Christians

By Richard M. McKeon, S. J.

Director, Le Moyne College School of Industrial Relations

In the fall of 1949 Konrad Adenauer, the chancellor of West Germany, stated: "Germany must declare herself wholeheartedly for the Christian world of the West and all that it stands for." Accepted in its true historical sense Americans should pray that this should come to pass. Once Western Europe stood for Christendom. What did Christendom mean? It meant a philosophy of life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.


Fr. McKeon

And so we discover in the days before the sad breaking-up of her people into religious sects and into factions which sowed the seeds of nationalism, that Christianity was truly a culture, an atmosphere, a habit of looking at life from the Christian viewpoint. It was not perfect but it was the furthest approach to a sound international order which the world has known.

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BUT WHAT has this to do with modern industry? A great deal, if today we are living in an era lacking unity and peace and in many instances showing a hostile attitude toward the Christian way of life, the principles of the Christian we must always remember that social order are as true and valid now as they were at any time in the past.

We must face the challenge of our present civilisation departmentalized by the liberalism of the nineteenth century and now fiercely attacked by totalitarianism which would despiritualize man and make him a mere slave of the state. Here the state becomes an end in itself and all human endeavors would tend toward the same. And so the state takes over all the private enterprise of industry.

Reviewing the colossal disasters of individualistic liberalism — sometimes called rugged individualism — and the current threat of communism, a constant growing number of thinking people are convinced that a return to an international order like that of Christendom in the Middle Ages is imperative for the common welfare of mankind.

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SOME BELIEVE that the United Nations Organization is a step in that direction. Speaking of the United Nations, Mr. de Valera, the keen Irish statesman, claims:

"There are few who have any real confidence in UNO. There is no fundamental agreement loyally accepted by all its members. Some of its members are clearly antagonistic to others and the idea of using force, one group against another, has not been abandoned. There is no respect for mutual rights, and there appears no hope that the points of difference can be settled by arbitration or by judicial determination."

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This indictment seems severe in view of the grandiose Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. But in the declaration we find no mention of God and His only Son, Jesus Christ. Whence come these rights? Among them are social and economic rights. If there is no true source, then these rights can be taken away and scorned at by those in power.

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ONLY IN Christian philosophy will man find his true place, purpose, and his greatest dignity. Mere nature is not enough. Man's pride in material achievement must be humbled so that through a spiritual order there will be a proper balance between power and freedom.

No Neutrality

No man can be neutral with Christ. Either he is for Christ, or he is against Him! So it is today, so it was when Christ dwelt on earth.

Those who were against Christ saw Him bring a great blessing to a man possessed by the devil, saw Him drive the devil out. They could not deny the fact; their eyes would make impossible such a denial. But they could attempt explanations, they could allege false sources of Christ's power. They could let their imaginations run riot in attempted substitutions of diabolical intervention for the deliverance that came from the power of God. They could easily refuse the evidence of divine power that spoke so clearly of the close presence of the Kingdom of God. But the influence of the devil was more telling on them than the power of God. They were not honest; they were not for Christ; they were against Him!

Why should Catholics look for fairness and consideration and honesty from those who wilfully refuse to be for Christ? Men against Christ will ever be ready to impute motives, to malign the Church, to make the most lying and outrageous charges. Why? Because they have turned away from Christ. They can not be neutral. Not loving the Master, not loving His ways, not seeking His help, they are under the influence of the devil. They hate Christ, they hate His followers, they hate His Church.

Churches raised to honor God, to be spiritual homes for devout Americans, to be abodes of prayer, are besmirched with the bigoted allegation that they are temples of dirty politics, that they were erected to increase the power of Rome!

The devil works in today's world! Christ continues to drive him out to lesson his power by the ministrations of His Church. Some still remain under the devil's influence, against Christ, against His Church. They neither hear the word of God, nor keep it. Opposition of such men is ever to be expected by all who are members of Christ's Church. Blessings still await all who keep away from the devil, keep close to Christ, are eager to hear His word and zealous to keep it.

THE TOP OF MY MIND

Is Today's Youth 'Soft'?

By Gretta Palmer

An unexpected influx of sixty-five young men, clamoring to attend a three-day retreat, almost swamped the hospitality of the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani in Kentucky a few weeks ago Another Trappist community in Rhode Island is according to well-informed sources forced to seek more land in order that the postulants begging for admission to the Order may be accomodated in a new community

Gretta Palmer

The cloistered Benedictine nuns of Regina Laudis in Connecticut have had four times as many inquiries from would-be novices as they can accomodate for years The very austere program of Opus Dei which asks lifelong vows of poverty, chastity and obedience from its lay members who continue to work at secular tasks in the world ... has now a unit operating in Chicago, and similar groups are fast being organized throughout the country.

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THERE IS A pattern here ... something that does not jibe with the usual picture we are given of a soft and self indulgent culture in America

Young men and women who make pleasure their goal do not, ordinarily, seek out the most austere orders in the Church. Hedonists are not customarily found breaking into their sleep at two in the morning of a winter's night in order to sing Psalms in their bare feet. The spoiled brats of civilization which has cast discipline aside do not usually bind themselves to accept, as their authority, the word of a superior.

What is going on among American youth today, anyway, that we should get two such odd and contradicting versions of its state of soul?

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WHAT IS going on, in the order of grace, is something that we cannot fully understand. The mathematics of vocations is God's affair, not ours.

But on the natural level, something of the same sort as this search for the difficult began to operate during the war and among men who would have scoffed at any suggestion that they were devout Austerity had its admirers on every front where the Americans fought There was a curious snobbery of hardship among our soldiers of every rank, there was a curious and gallant vogue for all the tough assignments of the war

These soldiers . . . and the monks-to-be today . . . may be the forerunners of a great national reaction: the flight from softness. They may be the first clear-sighted generation in some time to see through the fallacy of materialistic comfort as a goal.

There is a hunger in the human heart for discipline and sacrifice: it is a hunger which our progressive schools have most conspicuously failed to take into account.

The only difficulty seemed to be that none of them could offer any very specific vision, and you can't become an ardent visionary over the mere necessity of having a vision

Plenty of politicians have yearned to be able to pull their listeners up out of their seats with a plea for blood, sweat, and tears for a good peace time reason. But what reason, exactly? There they were at sea.

The young American of today has diagnosed his own malady, and diagnosed it [illegible] If he sets himself to [illegible] even [illegible] super-natural [illegible] [illegible]

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THE YOUNG MEN [illegible] out Trappist monastery [illegible] retreat have probably [illegible] high and supernatural [illegible] in going there But even if they had no such thing [illegible] ever they lacked the Faith [illegible] would have [illegible] remedy youth needs [illegible] today to [illegible] moral training [illegible] society has got

Our national leaders have not yet done very much to help a confused, post war generation out of the morass of doubt and foolish thinking which prevails among most men in our age But some of the young men do not need to wait for their elders to discover what was wrong with them.

No political leader in America has dared ask youth for blood or sweat or tears. But maybe they have dared to ask it of a large and growing number of themselves Maybe the one who has asked it of them is God.

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