

TYRANNY TAKES A HAND



Look At Labor

By A. C. Tuohy

Change the Conditions Which Spawn Communism

The Communists have done it again. The American Communications Association recently won a union shop election in New York among some 4,800 employees of Western Union.

This action was taken by the rank and file in spite of the fact that the ACA was publicly repudiated by the CIO, in spite of the fact that the leaders of the union are known servants of the Party Line, and in spite of the fact that many, if not the majority, of the workers were Catholics.

Here is a startling fact: If not an alarming fact. Many decent American workers prefer a Communist union to no union at all and a strong union under Communist control to a weak union with non-Communist but ineffective leadership.

It does little good to dislike the methods by which the Communists gain power in trade unions, to feel anger at their intrigues, their lies and their sneaky tactics. When the last word of criticism has been spoken, the worker in the shop and on the assembly line still recognizes their seal in defiling hypocrisy, in the cause of the workers.

Communist shop stewards frequently have the reputation among inexperienced union members of giving more money to their job than their usual share. These Red leaders are known to have a keen sense of the value of a worker's grievance with a corporation and an efficiency that makes non-Communist labor leaders look inferior. These shop stewards are taught to identify themselves with their rank and file in every way and that identity pays off at election time.

Communist victory in the ACA, as any other union is a reflection on the leadership of non-Communists who have overwhelming majorities at their disposal and do not know how to bring their majorities into action. The explanation of this failure

Guest Editorials

Congratulations

The news came to us recently that Father Maynard A. Connell of Saint Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, has been appointed Rector of Saint Andrew's Preparatory Seminary to succeed the late Most Reverend M. Lyons.

Imitation

Lay retreats have increased so remarkably of late that many people who hear of them think that the movement is of very recent origin. As a matter of fact spiritual retreats are as old as the Church itself.

At present the movement has become more systematized. It is drawing imitators from other religious bodies. With great interest we read of the inauguration of a "Quiet Day" at St. Peter Episcopal Church in Auburn, N. Y.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Mayhap these meditations will lead those meditating to the one true Church. —Cleveland Universe-Bulletin.

'Life' Was Wrong

Periodically The Messenger receives an advance press release from the publishers of Life Magazine. The purpose of course of these releases is to call our attention to some specific article or spread of pictures concerning the Vatican, the Church in general, some ceremony or Catholic figure in a coming issue.

We were particularly disgusted recently with Life Magazine's when our attention was called to an article on the holdings of the Catholic Church in a certain Italian district. Life published "statistical" and in the article declared that in the district of Calabria of the 70 per cent of arable land, 20 per cent was owned by "powerful barons," another 20 per cent owned by the Church, and only 10 per cent left for the people.

To be polite we say that Life Magazine made a mistake. Actually the Church land holdings in Calabria amount to two per cent — NOT 20 PER CENT! The two per cent figure was reported by Magr. Luigi G. Ligutti, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. Magr. Ligutti in turn learned of that figure through a report of recent studies made by Giuseppe Medici, Italian economist.

Furthermore, Monsignor Ligutti pointed out the following very interesting fact. In Italy as a whole the Church land holdings amount to only 1.67 per cent, and this generally is small parcels well cared for and scattered throughout parishes of the country. There are no concentrated holdings of the Church. Life made a mistake. Life was wrong. And many people today are still laboring under a false notion of the size of Church-owned land in Italy. —East St. Louis Messenger.

Sage Advice

The Religious Bulletin of the University of Notre Dame deals out this sage advice to the young men on the campus: "It's better to seek counsel before marriage than to retain counsel after marriage."

The soul takes nothing with her to the other world but her education and culture; and these, as we know, are of the greatest value. One of the greatest injuries to the dead man, at the very beginning of his journey thither, is to be ignorant.

Editorials By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wm. M. Hart, P. A., U. G.

Expulsion of Bishop O'Hara

Rumania has added to its black record the new crime of falsely accusing a renowned churchman of espionage, and ordering him to leave the country at once. Just what the purpose of making such outrageous charges, with all the earmarks of falsity so patently upon them, is difficult for sane men to understand.

Do the Communies expect anyone to believe that Bishop O'Hara is a spy, an undercover agent, a criminal? Do they expect anyone to believe that the representative of Pope Pius XII, undertaking a diplomatic and a religious mission for the Vatican, would spend his time in criminal activities of so low a nature as espionage?

Just what is going on in Rumanian Communist circles that must be kept entirely secret? Just what are the oppressors of religion and civic liberty doing that is not known to all the world? Does anyone suspect that there is any attempt to preserve liberty and justice for the down-trodden people of that unhappy country?

Supposing one did discover that the despoilers of just government are persecuting Bishops and priests and religious, oppressing all lovers of freedom, imprisoning true patriots, exiling those whom they do not imprison? In every country under heaven such a discovery could not be called news; into all the world has gone the current list of infamies of the Rumanian Communists. There is no need of espionage to discover the shame of these enemies of the Rumanian people.

Bishop O'Hara has done a good work during his career as a diplomat in this oppressed country. He comes back as a hero, acclaimed by all true lovers of liberty, honored for the near martyrdom he has undergone in obedience to his duty as a representative of the Holy Father and the Vatican. His enemies add just one more note to an unwholesome record of lying injustice in this latest act of Communist tyranny. God bless Bishop O'Hara!

The Authoritative Church

Unthinking enemies of the Church accuse her of being authoritative. They are unthinking, or they would realize that the Church of God cannot be otherwise than authoritative. The Church is Christ's society for teaching His doctrine, teaching it with authority, with Christ's authority. It is not like outside organizations which attempt to teach, but cannot teach with authority because they have no authority divine or human on which to rely.

Many teachers in Christ's time placed their doctrines before the people. They did not speak as Christ did; they made little impression on the people. Christ taught the people as one having authority. His authority was from the Father Who sent Him to earth to teach, govern, sanctify, save all men. He spoke as one having authority. His Church speaks with authority. Every hearer of Christ's word can place unlimited faith in it; every man who hears Christ's Church can have undying confidence in its teachings.

Thank God for the authority with which His Church speaks. Thank God for your faith expressed so well by St. Thomas Aquinas: "Credo quia dixit Dei Filius." ("I believe whatever the Son of God has said.") The authority of the Church is the authority of Christ.

Averting War

All America unites as one with President Truman in opposing now the criminal aggression of the North Korean Communists against their South Korean neighbors. The President's action is taken to ward off the world war that will surely come if these criminals are permitted to have their way.

The history of aggression in Asia and Europe shows only too well what the Followers of Stalin have in mind. One unjust and unprincipled conquest at a time; then a concerted attack on our country and on all the freedom-loving world. Now is the time to resist, to oppose, to stop the program of organized-murder, of oppression, of undeclared war.

May God bless our efforts, united to those of the other members of the United Nations, to drive war and warlike aggression from the face of the earth! Men are and of right ought to be free and independent. Freedom and independence are God's gifts to men. The enemies of God cannot be permitted to take from their fellows the enjoyment of these gifts.

Averting war! President Truman calls on America to take its place at the head of all who are willing to fight the enemy of freedom now, that the world in the years ahead may be delivered from the scourge of a new world war.

May the patriotic services of our men-in-arms lay the foundation for a lasting peace over all the world. May the enemies of peace see the warning of what will happen if they continue their piecemeal assaults on individual countries. A united world will rise up against them to control their warlike aims. That united world has now asserted itself.

The Will of My Father

The will of God. This is the test. The test for our own soul, the test for all who would strive to direct our soul. Is my own soul-obedient to the will of God? Is it true to God's will as expressed in the ten commandments? Is it eager to follow every direction of grace as coming from the will of God? To enter into the Kingdom of God, my soul must do more than merely say, "Lord, Lord." Its one and only means of attaining salvation is to do the will of God the Father.

The will of God! This is the test for all who would guide and direct my soul, individuals and groups of individuals, unorganized persons and those united in religious groups, must measure up to the rule given by Christ—are they in accord with the will of God? The will of a human preacher, of any religious leader, can have no validity as a means of salvation. The will of God alone must prevail.

The world has its prophets, true and false. The true ones are those who act in accordance with the will of God. The false ones are those who do not act or teach in accordance with God's will. By their fruits you shall know them! The true child of God will at once reject any teacher who acts or speaks against the will of God. One Church, one Faith, one Baptism, all in keeping with the power of God's will which established them. He who acts or speaks against the Church and Faith and Baptism given us by the will of God is truly a false prophet. Beware of them, says Christ! Follow the will of God as the only means of entering into the Kingdom of Heaven!

False prophets are deceivers! They are out to fool you. They dress in sheep's clothing; inwardly they are ravening wolves. They can bring you no good, only harm. Beware of them! Seek ye the Kingdom of God, and His Justice—and the one way to seek God's Kingdom is by following always the will of God.

Centennial Archdiocese Of New York 100 Years Old

By RICHARD REID Editor, N. Y. Catholic News

The centennial of the Archdiocese of New York, which will be observed with a Pontifical Mass offered by His Eminence Cardinal Spellman at Old St. Patrick's Cathedral Wednesday, July 19, is an indication of the antiquity of the Church here. It means that the Church in the New York area had made such progress a century ago that the Diocese of New York merited archdiocesan dignity.

The diocese was erected in 1808, when there was but one archdiocese and four dioceses in the country, all created that year. The Archdiocese was Baltimore, formerly the Diocese of Baltimore, including the United States as it was then constituted. It was established in 1790. The dioceses erected in 1808 with New York were Boston, Philadelphia and Bardonia, Ky. Cincinnati and New Orleans were made archdioceses at the same time as New York.

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One hundred years ago, at the time that the Diocese of New York became an archdiocese, the hierarchy was established in England and Wales. Previous to the Revolution, the Vicar Apostolic of London had jurisdiction over the Catholics in the 13 original American colonies.

Before 1850 the Church in England and Wales was directed by Vicars Apostolic, one in 1685, four in 1688, and eight in 1840. The Catholic population was estimated at 160,000 in 1814, about 400,000 in 1837, and 800,000 in 1851. Cardinal Wiseman was the first Archbishop of Westminster, there was then one Province with 12 suffragan sees.

There are now four Provinces with 14 suffragan sees. The Catholic population is 2,754,149, with 2,868 churches and chapels and 6,643 priests. London 50 years ago had less than 50 churches and 200,000 Catholics. There are now three dioceses in the London area, Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, with 350 churches and 633,665 Catholics.

There has been substantial growth of the Church in England and Wales, but not the astonishing growth we have had in the United States. But England has not had our gigantic flood of immigration.

In 1850 the Diocese of New York, which included the area now embraced in the Archdioceses of New York and Newark and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Paterson, had a Catholic population estimated at 200,000; today's Trenton and all of Camden were then in the Diocese of Philadelphia. These 200,000 Catholics were served by 99 priests and 67 churches. Now there are in this territory 3,698, 685 Catholics, 4,592 priests and 984 parishes.

There are more than a million more Catholics within an hour's drive of St. Patrick's Cathedral (including lower Connecticut) than in all England and Wales.

The Issue

There is no other choice for our Government officials now than to recognize the enemy that seeks to invade our nation from without and to weaken it from within.

We no longer can afford white-washing and excusing the enemy within. The office holder, the politician, the radio speaker, the school or college teacher, the member of labor or of management who teaches or upholds Communism is just as much an enemy of our nation as the paid Soviet agents who take over, try to take over, free men everywhere. This is the time for true, unequivocal, consistent patriotic leadership and unless this is offered the American people will not have the confidence, unity and determination to save their country and preserve civilization.

One ray of hope pierces the black cloud of war in Korea; the exposure of the hopeless inadequacy of human leadership to cope with atheistic Communism may compel more Americans to turn to the promises made by Our Lady of Fatima and seek peace, through prayer and repentance, directly from the Prince of Peace, Christ the King. —Brooklyn Tablet.

TAKE HIM ALONG



Top Of My Mind By Gretta Palmer

Our United States Is Still a Mission Country

Rome. Ours is a socialistic Church, and the socialistic is of course, nowhere so evident as here in this Jubilee Year. Every Catholic visitor, even if he has travelled alone is a part of a single, vast pilgrimage converging on the same spot of holy ground, drawn by the same motivation and murmuring the same prayers. It makes one pity poor old Christ, the solitary wanderer of John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" who had to go it on his own; and one pities, too, all the men of good will and kindly hearts outside the Faith who lack this supernatural band of friends.

For all Catholics of all countries and all centuries, are friends. They have a deep bond binding them which does not exist between a Catholic and even his dearest friends outside the Church. That fact is made immensely obvious here this year. Balkan peasant girls wearing costumes from the days of Charlemagne, walk through the Holy Door a foot ahead of brown-skinned, bearded pilgrims from India who lead pilgrim women dressed in saris shawl with gold. The visitors speak varied languages, cross themselves in a dozen different ways.

But any boy, plucked from any of these national groups, will make the same response if he serves at Mass, and in the same Latin words his ancestors used a thousand years ago. The differences that exist between Catholics of all ages are accidents, are trivial matters of the temporal order. The bond that binds them all is the substance.

THAT IS WHY, in an American Catholic, a visit to an American Catholic country is an immensely relaxing experience. You do not realize how frequently you have to stop and explain yourself at home. You are not aware of how much of our American energies are spent in combatting errors that simply do not exist among a population brought up in the Faith.

No conversation with an Italian is ever halted while you pause to explain that there are some quite respectable intellectual arguments for the existence of God. No Spaniard or Irishman wastes his companion's time by asking, "Why does your church disapprove of birth control?" In a Catholic land there are no defenders of euthanasia, or mixed-up moderns maintaining that our moral standards should be revised to fit the findings of the Kinsey reports.

SEEN FROM a distance, the predicament of the American Catholic thinker is a sad one: he is in the position of a learned man, forced to drop his doctoral

In Catholic countries, there is a single well-marked enemy, the communist, who hates the Church. In secular America the Church has also to defend her truths from kindly well-meaning critics who do not hate her at all, but who would harm her by their bungling confusion about her unless set right.

America is still a mission country, but of a very curious kind, where the prospective converts "know all about" the Church, and know it all wrong. The vast, good-hearted ignorance of what the Catholic believes is an invisible pale that sets all American Catholics apart; and it can be destroyed in only one way: by the conversion of America.

In a Catholic country, such as Italy there is no pale, no barrier to an understanding of fundamental things. It matters very little in what language the street signs are written, if every street leads to a church, and every church is Catholic. It does not matter what any other pilgrim wears or whether he can read or write, whether he is clean or dirty, black or white, travelling on foot or in an Italian limousine, if his steps, like yours, turn towards St. Peter's dome. He shares your joyful premises. He is your friend. He is another Catholic.

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