

Censorship

Cardinal Spellman had hardly ended his Sunday sermon attacking "Baby Doll" when the movie's producer Elia Kazan charged the Cardinal with trying to "dictate" to the entire movie industry.

Kazan claimed there was "nothing immoral" in the picture despite the fact that it tells the story of how a degenerate attempts to seduce the wife of another man.

The New York Cardinal was simply fulfilling his duty as "shepherd of souls" in warning his people to avoid the picture "under pain of sin." Prelates have a responsibility before God to guide Catholics in serving God, saving their souls, and avoiding the occasions of sin.

Cardinal Spellman did not make it a sin to see the corrupt film — its producers made it that, and he simply stated the fact clearly and categorically from St. Patrick's Cathedral pulpit.

Kazan cries that his freedom is in danger — and wants the Cardinal, the Legion of Decency, and every other moral-minded American silenced so his "Baby Doll" can seduce in freedom the theater-goers of our country. He wants for himself what he refuses for others.

Kazan alleged that the Cardinal did not see the film as if that disqualified him from talking about it.

You certainly don't have to be a garbage collector to know that the stuff stinks!

American court decisions have stated that doctors can legally inoculate people against their will to protect the health of a community. It is high-time we recognized that moral health is more important than physical health and when producers don't have sense enough to regulate their own movies, then the public has a right to take over.

But even that is not the question now under debate.

Hollywood doesn't even want Catholics to have freedom to be told what is morally right and wrong. If Kazan and his crowd have their way, confessionals will become obsolete and pulpits will become useless — for we then will have to learn our morality in theaters rather than in churches.

Catholics will probably be faced with questions on this "censorship" charge in the next few weeks. Those with an ounce of common sense will equip themselves with a clear and convincing answer — see Father Sheerin's article at the bottom of this page — and state it kindly and convincingly to inquirers.

Censorship will tend to draw a lot of people to see the film so there is no point in stirring up free publicity for it. But sincere Catholics and other decent living Americans will effectively deter as many from it as possible for their own spiritual protection and as a box-office proof that we want decent movies in our theaters.

Illusions And Solutions

As the smoke clears away from Cairo and Budapest, commentators quip that the United Nations stopped a skirmish in Egypt but lost a war to the Soviet Union.

And in the midst of both crises, the world watched Washington — and was disappointed.

Hungarians during their fight for freedom pleaded for American aid which never came, and the Arab nations are generally puzzled by our now aiding Britain and France, after branding these two nations as "aggressors."

Now that Soviet troops are in control in Hungary, and British-French troops are in exodus in Egypt, the press and parliaments of the world are debating America's foreign policy.

A London newspaper editorialized, "The Eisenhower administration, while having a policy towards the world, has consistently lacked policies for particular parts of it."

The Washington "Catholic Standard" diocesan paper states that America's present foreign policy is "woven from the fabric of older errors."

First our nation had the principle of absolute "isolation," the wise and safest solution in days when nations could live alone and like it. Then in more recent times, ever since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, American diplomacy has been based on the theory that as long as you keep talking to other nations, you won't have to worry about war.

The Japanese perceived this illusion and kept their diplomats smiling in Washington even as their navy unleashed its weapons on that "day of infamy" at Pearl Harbor.

The Russians also are well aware of our "talk diplomacy" so they too have kept talking to us while at the same time they consistently disregard everything they agreed to or promise.

Our hodge-podge ideal of isolation and pipe dream of friendship-from-platitudes has already resulted in the bitter war with Japan and surrendering to Russia the freedom of nations we pledged to support as friends.

A previous generation of leaders refused to collaborate with the injustices of Clemenceau and Lloyd George — and it was at that time that American influence in foreign affairs reached a high level of effectiveness. The more recent policy of "business is business" and "whatever pays off is best" is simply to adopt the Old World standard of international immorality.

No one can honestly question the high purpose and sincere determination of either Roosevelt or Eisenhower in their attempts to achieve peace and justice.

It is incomprehensible, however, why the most powerful nation in the world, the nation which can give or withhold the most precious political, military, and economic advantages should be consistently so outflanked by our opponents. No matter what our ideals may be, there is no denying the fact that our power for peace has been paralyzed. We have repeatedly been forced to sit idly back while whole nations are enslaved, exiled, destroyed. We have struggled through a war on two continents, police action in Korea, and a tax burden to maintain the far flung military forces as a defense against a possible and imminent aggression from most any direction, and we are no nearer to peace today than two decades ago.

Perhaps there is no solution possible in the present circumstances, but it seems to be a tragic state of affairs to see our nation's reputation flounder because no one is capable of coordinating the strength of our nation to guide the world to an enduring peace.

Christmas Is For Everybody

Suffering World Still Searches For Its Savior

WE HEAR it said so often, "Christmas is for the children." For them it is a dream world where all is bright and full of surprises and peopled with the perennial jolly Santa Claus and the helpless infant Jesus.

A Most of us can recall those wide-eyed moments of our childhood when we awoke on Christmas morn to revel in a myriad of toys and gifts, and then our quiet awe as we knelt at the crib in church and were told, "See the Baby Jesus."

Can our Christmas now ever be the same again? Are we expected as adults to return to these childish ways — or is it true after all that adults aren't meant to enjoy Christmas?

If we listen to the words of Gabriel as he speaks to the Virgin Mary, if we listen to the angels as they greet the shepherds, then we can begin to know the answer.

THE INFANT of Mary's womb is both God and man. We know this fact of faith but do not realize its overwhelming impact in our lives. Jesus was not just God disguised as a man mingling with the crowd and tricking them into agreement by the power of His divine intelligence. Neither was Christ a mere man docile to divinity but still separated from Godhood by the infinite chasm of being a creature.

Jesus, seemingly a helpless child, looms up in the midst of history, linking heaven and earth with a bridge over which every man — old or young, crippled or carefree — must travel his course to his destiny.

The searching world, the suffering world still calls out for a savior, even as the world did for centuries before that first silent, holy night.

The pity is that the world's savior has come and there are still so many individuals who do not realize it even yet. If self as God and man to His apostle Christ had not revealed Himself, had He not swept away all their doubts and fears by the convincing proof of His miracles, then perhaps we could be excused for wondering, "How long, O Lord, oh how long until we are redeemed?"

But ever since Jesus pronounced His teachings where in millions have discovered the secrets of life and death, ever since He was nailed to the cross as the price of our sins, we can never allege that we are abandoned. Christ has pulled us out of solitude forever and all the loneliness and sadness of this life is swallowed up in the mystery that we are companions of Christ.

This requires deep faith —



The Virgin's Son Is The World's Savior

to see Christ still living in the world today — living in the Church to be our redeemer, our friend, our savior.

It is a good thing then for adults to keep Christmas too. They need to kneel at the crib because Bethlehem is the break in the shadows through which the light of faith can penetrate to our minds. There at the crib we realize the full significance of this feast — that God came on earth, not just as if for a

passing visit, but to abide with us through all these many centuries. December 25th is not just a date in the year of 1956, it is not just the great feast of an ancient and a continuing mystery — that the Lord who has come, will come back again.

On that last Christmas, on the last day, Jesus will loom up in all the light of His glory to give that decision which shall determine our eternity — and it will depend in great measure on just how well we have kept Christmas in our hearts.

At the other extremity of history, at the end of time, the Child in the manger will become the Judge on His throne. It announces another day, another mystery — that the Lord who has come, will come back again.

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The self-satisfied, the small minded, the selfish will dread that day of judgment. But those who have survived the struggle, those who preferred the companionship of Christ to the fancies of Satan, those who served Christ in their needy fellowman, these are the ones who will stand again as children in joy and in awe gazing on Jesus, their Savior and their loving Lord.

I suspect that mankind — especially Christian mankind — has been given an enormous Christmas present this year, and doesn't know it yet. The titanic gift is nothing less than the beginning of the end of soviet enslavement of millions of Europeans. But the package is so big and unexpected that we have been afraid to open it. We have been unable to credit our good fortune.



Nevertheless, a good long look at events in Poland will give even the most cautious — not to say timid — observer some notion of the immensity of the earthquake that has opened huge cracks all through the soviet communist empire.

The Gomulka government in Poland is a government of communists — but with shattering differences, according to dispatches from that country. The Polish government radio network has been denouncing the soviet oppression of Hungary as a crime.

IN BROADCAST after broadcast the Polish network asserted that the Russians have no business in Hungary, and that their presence in that land is "a crime against the Hungarians and a crime against the idea of socialism."

A Polish government commentator emphasized that "the Hungarian people, the whole nation, took up arms in its just struggle. Its hands, and its hands alone, raised over the barricades the banner of the Hungarian revolution."

This is nothing less than hurling the lie in the teeth of Moscow. The Kremlin's radio networks and publications have been trying ludicrously to blame the Hungarian people's revolution on "fascists," "provocateurs," agents of western powers, and so on.

Imagine, then, the effect of the Polish broadcasts — the Polish communist broadcasts — upon the peoples of Eastern Europe and even of Russia itself. Imagine the effect upon socialists throughout Europe and England, and upon the so-called "uncommitted" peoples, who are committed at least to one thing: national independence.

THE POLISH broadcasts denounced the Kadar government in Hungary as a captive of soviet bayonets. It attacked the betrayal and abduction of former Hungarian Premier Imre Nagy and 40 of his associates. It "expressed the joy of the people" over the release from prison of Stephen Cardinal Wyszynski, primate of Poland.

Most astounding of all, the Polish network in announcing that Poland has broken completely from Stalinist communism, made the statement that "the people desire a socialism whose chief object of concern will be human beings."

We are accustomed to discount what communists say because communists have filled the world to overflowing with lies. But the things that the Polish government radio network is saying are entirely too startling to be ignored.

POLISH DISPATCHES tell of the abolition of concentration camps in which more than 1,000 nuns had been held prisoner for years. The Sisters returned to their convents.

Without interference from the government, Cardinal Wyszynski removed government-installed priests who had taken charge of various dioceses, and replaced them with bishops of his own selection.

Gomulka promised publicly that all problems between Church and government will be amicably settled.

Events so extraordinary cannot be dismissed out of hand. What we are witnessing, I think, is one of the great turnings in the tide of the world's affairs — and it is a turning in the right direction. Radio Vatican apparently feels this also, if we may judge by this comment on what has been happening in Poland:

"The scales of the Supreme Judge are tipping over. The justice of the Eternal One is being weighed upon for so many years in entering the regained territories."

Making Marriage Click

Arsenic For My Husband, Please!

By MRS. IRVING A. DEBLAND

One of the first rights of every child is to be sure that his or her parents love each other. This, of course, would not be the case of the lady who rushed to the drug store

and asked the druggist for a jumbo package of arsenic. "Where is your prescription, Lady?" the druggist asked. "I don't have a prescription, Mister," the customer curtly answered. "But I do have his picture!"

Parents are first of all husbands and wives and that should be the first and more important emphasis. If parents spent more time being a good husband and wife, they would not have to spend so much time being a good father and mother. Children naturally imitate the virtues they see.

Unfortunately many men have a very poor idea of what a good husband and father should be. They are just as divorced.

As we begin a series of articles on parenthood, we would like to hear as hard as possible on that idea of the priority of husband-wife affection.

Conjugal love is not a bolt from the blue. It is not a thing. Conjugal love is a constant attempt to make one exclusive person happy. "How can I serve you?" is the one question that that type of love always asks and never wants an answer.

MARRIED MEN say there are three dates they must always remember and in this

vicious type of egotism and the worst possible example of self service.

Recent reports indicate that most of the new homes being sold now in a large city are four bedroom houses. The growth of the size of families is one of the great proofs that there is also an increase in the love between husband and wife.

Where there is true conjugal love there must be a process of growth and a unique relationship which does not depend on minor details. This relationship is more important than actions as such. St. Augustine said it eloquently: "Love and then do what you want." To love is to conquer.

Husbands and wives should be so busy making love they have no time to be on a psychiatrist's couch talking about love.

This whole emphasis on love between husband and wife is to balance the misconception that some have that couples marry only for the purpose of having children. Even when we add that couples also marry to educate children, we imply that they cannot educate children unless there is a great mutual love between husband and wife.

BEING A FATHER then is not an inferior job. It is time for some man on a radio or TV quiz to say proudly when asked "What is your profession?" "I am a husband and a father."

Couples who deliberately refuse to have children generally develop an obnoxious type of selfishness. It is obnoxious because it is so selfish. Enclose a plant or a cell or a couple — and there will be death. Deliberately to refuse children can be a

FATHER SHEERIN

Drama of Degeneracy

"Baby Doll," The Unwanted Christmas Present

We don't light firecrackers on Thanksgiving or hold Halloween parties on Memorial Day. Likewise at Christmas there are certain things that are out of keeping with the spirit of the time. In "Hamlet", Marcellus mentions a few things that are improper in the Christmas season.

"So hallow and so gracious is the time."

Warner Brothers released "Baby Doll" on December 18th. There are 52 weeks in the year. If they had to release this sordid film, why so near to Christmas? The timing was in very bad taste. They presented the picture with a great hullabaloo and fanfare. Marilyn Monroe was on hand to head the ticket committee for the premiere.

Whereas Radio City Music Hall gives New York each December a reverent and Christ-mas-y Christmas Show, Warner Brothers offered the city a vulgar Christmas present in the form of a drama of degeneracy.

Even the Hollywood "Daily Variety" criticized the Code authority for its decision. It said that so-called "sexy" pictures of the past are child's play compared to this shocker.

THE MOVIE industry has been getting bolder of late. The U.S. Supreme Court booted the producers when it invalidated the ban on "Lust in the Streets" and "M. They were especially heartened by the words of Justice Douglas in the case: "In this nation,

every writer, actor or producer, no matter what medium of expression he may use, should be freed from the censor." Strange language for a Justice of the Supreme Court! Like Douglas, many of the producers want to substitute for the traditional qualified right of free expression a dogma of absolute, unrestricted freedom.

The meaning of this for Catholics is that parents now must watch the Legion ratings closer than ever. With state boards of censorship paralyzed and the Production Code in tatters, the Legion is the last hope of parents who want to protect their children.

There will be a furor over the Legion's condemnation of "Baby Doll." We will hear the Legion attacked as "a pressure group."

THE LEGION is primarily intended as a service to Catholics. The average Catholic is not content with listening to fervorous about living the good life. He is practical enough to want to know what are the proximate occasions of sin for him and his children right here and now. The Legion tells him what films constitute a proximate occasion for the ordinary Catholic.

A hard-headed old Yankee convert to the Church was asked why he became a Catholic. His crisp reply was: "The other religions tell you to be good. The Catholic religion tells you how to be good."

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