'If Our Hearts Are Poisoned'

Race Discrimination Breaks God's Laws

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

(Following is the full text of the statement entitled "Discrimination and the Christian Conscience," issued by the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the coordinating agency of the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of the United States, Collawing their annual general meeting in Washington last week.)

Fifteen years ago, when this nation was devoting its energies to a World War designed to maintain human freedom, the Catholic Bishops of the United States issued a prayerful warning to their fellow citizens.

We called for the extension of full freedom within the confines of our beloved country.

Specifically, we noted the problems faced by Negroes in obtaining the rights that are theirs as Americans.

The statement of 1943 said in parti

as the first two laws of life In the Providence of God The love of God and the love there are among us millions of fellow citizens of the Negro of fellow man. "By this shall race. We owe to these fellow_fill men know that you are my citizens, who have contributed Eisciples, that you have love, so largely to the development one for the other." (John 13, of our country, and for whose, SE He offered His life in sac welfare history imposes on us rafee for all marking His a special abligation of justice. A arting mandate to His followto see that they have in fact ever was to "leach all nations the rights which are given . Mat. 28. 19) them in our Constitution

"This means not only pollithcal equality, but also fair eeomome and educational orian runities, a just share in I ub-He welfare projects, good hous at roughout the world visiting ing without exploitation and a full chance for the social advancement of their race."

n= mitne Tribes of the Amer In the intervening years, icas. considerable progress was made in achieving these goals. The Kygro race, brought to this muntry in slaver, con-tinued its quiet but determined march toward the goal of equal rights and equal opportunity. During and after the Second World War great and even spectacular advances were made in the obtaining of voting rights, good education, all." (May 27, 1946) better-paying jobs, and adeemate housing. cept our Christian tradition

Through the efforts of men of good will, of every race and creed and from all parts of the nation, the barriers of prejudice and discrimination were slowly but inevitably erodea.

Because this method-of quiet impect for the sacred dignity of much human being and the conclliation produced such ex-



view of our fellow man? In our judgment it cannot, and this for two fundamental rea-

1) Legal segregation or any Our Christian faith is of its form of compulsory segregarighture universal. It knows not tion, in itself and by its very the distinctions of race color, Cramo incloses estimated in er nation frow. The missionarn-s of the Athurch have spread fermity upon the semigrated rasaple

> Even if the new physicies Court doctrine of "separate but equal had been carried over to the fullest extent so that all public and semipublic facilit

ties were in fact equal there. is countrilloss the indement The love of Christ, and the that as entire race by the sole low of the Christian know # no bounds in the woulds of Pope fact of roce and regulitless ; Pitas XII, addressed to Amerindividual quality ... is not fit lean Negro publishers furive years ago. "All men are to associate on equil forms, with members of arother race. We cannot recorde/such a judgment with the thir stan browhered in Jesus Christ: for He, though God, became a'so main, became a member of the view of mans nature and hurman farmily, a brother of rights.

Here again it is appropriate to cite the impunce of Pope Pius XII:

"God did not create a human family made up of segregated, dissociated, mutually independ ent members. No: He would have them all united by the

JOSEPH

BREIG

-mber 5. 1958)

defeated by

management relations and the

welfare of employers and work-

THIS BEING SO, Ohio's six-

bishops made a careful study

of the proposed amendment.

and concluded that the matter

Unanimously, they urged de-

amendment as inept and mis-

chievous. They said that much

progress had been made in

labor · management relations,

and it would be socially unde-

slrable to precipitate -"new

AT THIS POINT, let us

pause to make certain that we

understand what an RTW law

causes of strife and ill will." :

feat of the RTW proposal.

portance.

have clied are being used as distinguish among remedies excuses to continue the very conditions that so strongly fos-. tered such evils, . Today we are told that Ne-

groes, Indians, and also some Spanish - speaking Americans differ too much in culture and schlevements to be assimilated In our schools, factories, and neighborhoods.

Some decades back the same charge was made against the immigrant, Irlsh, Jewish, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, German. Russlan. In both instances differences

for discrimination and even for bigoted ill-treatment. The immigrant, fortunately, has achieved his rightful status in the American community. Economic opportunity was wide open and educational equality vas not denied to him.

Negro citizens seek these same opportunities. They wish an education that does not carry with it any stigma of inferiority. They wish economic advancement based on merit and skill They wish their civil

rights ps American citizens. Findy wish acceptance based upon proved ability and No one who truly loves

God's children will deny them

To work for this principle arnid passions and misunderstandings will not be easy. It will take courage. But quiet and persevering courage has always been the mark of a true follower of Christ.

We urge that poncrete plans in this field be pased on prudence. Printence may be called a virtue that inclines us to view problems in their proper perspective." It aids us to use the proper means to secure our aim

achievement.

this opportunity.

The problems we inherit today are rooted in decades. even conjuries, of custom and cultural patterns. Changes in deep-reoled attitudes are not made overnight. When we are confronted with complex and One of the tragedies of racial far-reaching evils, it is not a

reforms. Some changes are more necessary than others. Some are relatively easy to achieve, Others seem impossible at this time. What may succeed in one area may fail in. another.

It is a sign of wisdom, rath er than weakness, to study carefully the problems we face, to prepare for advances, and to by-pass the non-essenthat if it interferes with essential progress.

COURIERJOURNAL

Friday, November 21, 1958

We may well deplore were-used by-some as a basis _a gradualism that is merely a cloak for inaction. But we equally deplore rash impetuosity that would sacrifice the achievements of decades in Illtimed and ill-considered ventures.

In concrete matters we distinguish between prudence and inaction by asking the question: Are we sincerely and earnestly acting to solve these problems?

We distinguish between prudence and rashness by seeking. the prayerful and considered judgment of experienced counselors who have achieved success in meeting similar prob-

For this reason we hepe and earnestly pray that responsible

and sober-minded Americans of all religious faith, in all areas of our land. will seize the mantle of leadership from the agitator and the racist. It is vital that we act now and act developely. All must act quietly, courageously, and praverfully before it hytop late.

For the welfare of pur na-tion we call upon all to root out from their hears putter-ness and haired. The lasks we face are indeed difficult. But hearts inspired by Christian love will surmount these difficulties

Clearly, then, these problems are vital and urgent. May tiod give this nation the grace to meet the challenge it faces. For the sake of generations offuture Americans, and Indeed of all humanity, we cannot fail.

Make Your Thanksgiving Happier

My dear People:

45

For nine years now I have asked you at Thanksgiving time to share your own donations of usable clothing with the needy of the world And for nine years you have responded most generously to the plens of Our Lord's needy. Since the

first Thanksgiving Clothing Collection in 1949, you have given 884 tons of usable Talling and shoes.

This has been an excellent record ofyour charily, and I am deeply grateful to you. The urgent need, however, continues and C'hrist in His poor still looks to us for help.

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May I ask you, then, once again this year to take your gift of usable clothing to your own parish collection center at the time and place designated by your pastor. Your gift will make your Thanksgiving Day that much happler, and your Thanksgiving prayers will



Rotherml in Christ bond of zotal love of Him and consequent self - dedication - to assisting each other to maintain that- bond intact." (Septem-

ber 7, 1956). 2) It is a matter of historical fast that segregation in our-

comparently bas led to oppressive conditions and the denial of trish human rights for the Negro. This is evident in the fundamental fields of education. Job sopportunity, and housing.

Fhaing from these areas of neglect and discrimination are problems of health and the soulid train of evils so often associated with the consequent 's'um conditions.

Surely Pope Plus XII must ave had those conditions in mind when he said just two months ago: "It is only too well known, alas, to what excesses price of race and racial hate can lead. The Church has always been energetically opposed to attempts of genocide or practices arising from what called the 'color bar." "Sep-

oppression is that the evils we sign of weakness or timidity to

cellent results, we have preferred the path of actions to that of exhortation. Unfortumately, however, it appears that In recent years the Issues have, become confused and the march toward justice and equality has been slowed if not halted in some areas. The transcendent moral issues involved have become obscured, and possibly forgotten.

Our nation now stands diwided by the problem of compulsory segregation of the races and the opposing demand for racial justice. No region of our land is immune from strife and division resulting from this problem.

In one area, the key issue may concern the schools. -In another it may be conflicts over housing. Joh discrimina. tion may be the focal poirt in still other sectors. But all triese Issues-have one main-poirst-In common. They reflect the de termination of our Negro people, and we hope the overwhelming majority of our while citizens, to see that our colored citizens obtain their full rights as given to thern by God, the Creator of all. and guaranteed by the democratic traditions of our nations

There are many facets to the problems raised by the quest for racial justice. There are issues of law, of history, of economics, and of sociology, There are questions of procedure and technique. There are conflicts in cultures. Volumes have been written on each of these phases. Their importance we do not deny.

But the time has come, in our considered and prayerful. judgment, to ent through the maze of secondary or less essential issues and to come-to

the heart of the problem.

This heart of the race question is moral and religious. It concerns the rights of man and our attitude toward our fellowman. If our attitude is governed by the great Christian law of love of neighbor and respect for his rights, then we can work out harmoniously the techniques for making legal, educational, economic, and so. cial adjustments.

But if our hearts are posson ed by hatred, or even by Indlf. ference toward the welfare and rights of our fellow men, then our nation faces a grave intermal crisis.

No one who bears the name be made a cause of discriminaof Christian can deny the unltion and a basis for unequalversal love of God for all man. treatment in our mutual relakind. tions,

When Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "took on the Can enforced segregation be form of man" (Rhil. 2, 7) and recondled with the Christian

frandamential rights of man. Ewory mass has an equal right to life, to justice before the law, to marry and rear a famunder human conditions, and to an equitable opportunity to use the goods of this earth for Ials needs and those of his family,

with equal impartiality nations

stren as Crima and India, whose

arrelent cultures antedate the

corrning of the Savior, and the

Even those who do not ac-

should at least acknowledge

that God has implanted in the

souls of all men some knowl-

edge of the natural moral law

and a respect for its teachings.

Tohers through the ages re-

Reason alone taught philoso-

From these solemn truths, with an atthere follow certain conclusions tempt to pass vital for a proper approach to a so culled the problems that trouble us "right to today. • work ' RTWI

law in the First, we must repeat the form of an principle - embodicd in our a mendment Declaration of Independence-'to the state that all men are equal in the constitution. sight of God. By equal we The amendmean that they are created by ment was Joseph Brieg God and redeemed by His Dioverwhelmingly Vine Son. that they are bound the votors, by His Law, and that God desires them as His friends in the Industrially. Ohio is the sec. evenily of Heaven. This fact ond state in the unior. Anyconfers upon all men human thing concerned-with labor.

dignity and human rights. Men are linequal in talent ; ers, therefore, is of prime imand achievement. They differ in culture and personal chara cteristics.

Some are saintly, some seem to be evil, most are men of good will, though beset with Fruman frally. On the basis of personal differences we may distinguish among our fellow IIIen, remiembering always the admonition: "Let him who is without sin . . . cast the first stone . . " (Jn., 8, 7).

But discrimination based on the accidental fact of race orcolor, and as such injurious to fruman rights regardless of personal qualities or achievemients, cannot be reconciled with the truth that God has created all men with equal rights and equal dignity:

When a labor union is elect-Secondly, we are bound to. ed by a majority of workers to Love our fellow man. The Chrisrepresent the employes, the tian love we bespeak is not a union does not defend the matter of emotional likes or rights merely of its members. dislikes. It is a firm purpose-If the union obtains an into do good to all men, to the crease in wages or an improveextent that ability and opporment_in_working conditions, tunity permit. everybody shares in the gains,

Among all races and na. Because of this fact, unions tional groups, class distinctions hold that all who benefit are inevitably made on the should bear their share of the basis of likemindedness or a cost of representation.

community of interests. Such Unions therefore request distinctions are normal and management to agree to what constitute a universal social is called the union shop arphenomerion. They are accirangement. dental, however, and are sub-

Under this plan, manageiect to change as conditions' cTrange. It is unreasonable and ment is free to hire anybody it irijurious to the rights of pleases. The person hired is reothers that a factor such as. quired to pay union dues. race, by and of itself, should An REW law forbids this ar-

rangement. It outlaws union shop. THE BISHOPS of Ohio. in

their joint statement, gave care-The question then arises: ful guidance to their people. They explained that although

The Case In Ohio

Catholics everywhere. I think, man has a right and duty to will be interested in what hapwork for his levelihood, it does not follow that a man has the cened in Chin in connection unconditional right to work in any and every industry or business at will.

> "For reasons of social jus-"tice." they "saled." it may be desurable and often advantageous to the common good that man's right he restricted by certain specified conditions. One of these imposed conditions may require that he . . . share responsibility with his fellow workmen in support of the union."

The histops further said that gover nment intervention in such matters is unwise "if riot unjust."

THERF: ARE ABUSES that creep into the labor movement, the six bishops said, but "right to work laws are not the proper means to correct them."

The bishops then outlined the was so vital that they ought to take a public stand on it. duties of labor and management, remarked that there have been some evils on both sides, and urged honest exam-The bishops characterized the ination of consciences all around

> The bishops concluded with warning that an RTW law would not solve our problems, but might lead to a more in tensified struggle for domination and thus postpone an era of peaceful cooperation."

Thus the bishops made clear the seriousness with which they viewed RTW as a danger to the common good.

MILLIONS WERE spent in Ohio in the effort to pass RTW. Voters were confused by floods of paid propaganda.

What specially concerns us as Catholics, however, is the fact that RTW forces did not hesitate. to resort to public derogation of the bishops.

They issued propaganda de signed to persuade Catholics that the bishops did not know what they were talking about, and furthermore did not understand Catholic theology, philosophy and social doctrine.

Thus Ohlo Catholics saw the spectacle of RTW propagandists lecturing slx bishops about Catholic social doctrine, It-would be difficult to imagine a worse instance of impudence and atroclously bad mainters, -I suggest that Catholles remember this in case some similar situation should confront them in future.

SERMONETTE

Charity Rejoiceth Not In Imputy | Cor. 15, 6

By THE REV. RICHARD MADDEN, O.D.C.

I suppose I laughed the loudest when old Maggie Malone, in her shiny copper casket, slud out the back door of the hearse on the way to the cemetery. Maggie, you see, wax the town witch. She had no friends. Donly enemies. And I-laughed

pretty loud, too, when old man Kennedy took a header down the church steps and broke his leg. He never liked kids any way.

Laughing at the misfortune of others had been going on since the day Satan doubled up in explosive mirth at the sight of Adam and Eve walking forlornly through the golden gate marked "Exit." And what a shame it all is.

Rejoicing in the afflictions of others is the exclusive property of the child; it is certainly not the mark of a man. To he happy when others suffer, smacks strong.

ly of the moron. Or like the little boy tying a tin can to the cat's tail, it is the quintessence of immaturity,

Actually, if we had any guts at all; if we were really striving to put on Christ, to perpetuate Him in our own life land not in word but in very fact and deed), then we should take the suffering world into our arms as He did . . . friend and energy alike. Like Him we should live with every man his pain and share with every broken heart the break of it. For in the Mystical Body, what hurts one, hurts all,

Besides, there is always poetic justice. I remember laughing with the rest of the gang when we slapped the nickname of "Skinney" on the poor, undernourished kid, in our class. It was really funny. That is, until I suddenly sprouted like an anaemic weed and the kids started calling me "Spareribs."

Life gives back to us what we give to life. In other words, we get what we give. So the next time you rejoice when your best energy gets run over with a truck, enjoy it while you can. Because that same truck will get you next.

Next Time Use Envelope!

Seattle,-(NC)-An unidentified parishioner dropped a dollar bill into the Sunday collection at St. Francis of Assisi Church in suburban Seahurst

It turned out that the dollar bill was the "lucky buck" in a newspaper contest. Father Willlam G. Quick, pastor, lost no time in trading it in for the



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-and unwittingly made a

MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President

Entered as second class aatter in the I nat Office at Rochester N. T As required under the Art of Congress of March 3 1875.

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The Birth Of Loneliness By MISGR. LRVING A. DeBLANC

(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

There is certainly no one answer to the question of how loneliness starts One answer suggested by David Riesman in his exciting book, The Lonely Crowd, indicated



may have no companion of his own age with whom to play. Many wormen foday are too busy to take a child out unless It is to go shopping. The child then virtually gets no play with other children.

so spaced in age that a child

In large cities, where fami-Hes live on a high floor, little children are not allowed out by themselves for fear that mother could riot get down quickly enough his case of need. Un healthy isolation may begin.

As youth gets older excessive readymade entertainment may mean his failure to develop latent carrabilities and to acquire social initiative. Others speak to him because he has not spokers first to them. Somehow this type has never learn-

ed to be sufficiently other centered.

A HAPPY childhood with warm and secure family relationships is an excellent basis for the development of mental stability. There are those who have exaggerated the importance of early relationships, but many specialists agree that a deep hiological loneliness can be inflicted even when one begins to separate the new-born child from his mother.

Most doctors are now trying. to remedy this; they have observed the family practice of primitive people, they have studied baby animal life, they have noticed how closely the baby remains to his mother after the shock of parturition.

Surely when an individual or a family rises in the social scale success can develop into major. Ioneliness producing. factor, not only because of other centeredness in the Reisman sense, but also because people lose contact with their original groups and are unable to adjust to the new.

This deep seated inability to be balanced in human relationships is one of the greatest lactors in earthly lonell. ness known to man and it could have started at a very early age. It calls for the aid of a hrained specialist and An only child is often a lone equally as much for the loving understancing and good will of all around u

Our Lord must enter. NO DOUBT by the time a child is seven years old his power to fit into the social life around is already determined for good or for ill. That is one. reason why a small child is naturally more interested in other children than in grown-



ly child. Where three are two or three children they may be

ups.



