Movie Morals Argued

(Continued from Page 3)

audience. There has not been, however, a change in the moral standards under which the subject matter is treated . . ."

The code administration, whose the Bishops accused of being ineffective, has "met effectively the increased problems resulting from the change in subject matter," the announcement continued.

It added that "the spirit" of the code continues to be maintained.

The association expressed interest in the report's annual report, commenting that "the ratings of such organizations are useful to the industry and the public."

"And we are most gratified," it continued, "that even the stringent standards of the code, which include religious precepts as well as moral considerations, find that three of every four Hollywood films made in 1959 were rated acceptable, that hundreds of the acceptable films were considered suitable for young people and that not one American film was condemned."

(However, 1959 Legion listings show that the American made film "Private Property" was condemned by the Legion. It also did not receive a seal of approval from the Hollywood code.

On addition, another American film, "The Private Lives of Adam and Eve," was condemned last year by the Legion. However, it was withdrawn from general release by its producers and merely released. The Legion gave it a "B" rating.)

In June, 1960, a commission of the (Protestant) National Council of Churches of Christ charged that Hollywood frequently presents an image of man "often poles apart from the Christian understanding of man and his purpose."

Films are listed by the Legion of Decency as Class A — morally unobjectionable; Class B — objectionable in part; Class C — condemned.

Class A films are also divided in Class A-I, approved for general patronage including children; Class A-II, limited for adults and adolescents; Class A-III, adults only.

The Legion also gives special listings to some films which are considered morally satisfactory but conflict with Catholic attitudes on historical topics. Exceptionally good films are also given a special endorsement.

Legion spokesmen have repeatedly stated Hollywood reacts to "boycotts" response and have urged Catholics to bolster the Legion's listings by supporting good films and avoiding B or C films.

The monthly Legion listings are published in the Courier Journal and each week a "Theatre Guide" for downtown Rochester movies is also published.

The five member committee which guides the national Legion of Decency and which worked off the present debate on movie morals is comprised of Bishop James McNulty of Paterson, Bishop John Monos of Steubenville, Bishop Alden Bell of Los Angeles, Bishop Lawrence Shehan of Bridgeport and Bishop James Casey of Lincoln.

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Theatre News

Period of Adjustment

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

To look at life through the corner window requires maturity. Mr. Tennessee Williams, who has certainly acquired tragedy, has now written his first comedy. Not only that but, as a quotation on the program and in some lines in the play is an appreciation of tenderness while one curtain falls on a lonely little wife admiring a scrap of the infant of Prague whose statue is in her heart's keeping.

The comedy is set in a rather elegant ranch house in the suburb of a mid-South city where Ralph, who has in-law trouble, is forcing a lonely Christmas on his wife has recalled to her parents' home with their little boy.

His father-in-law resented Ralph giving up his job in the family firm. Then George, Ralph's Korean days buddy darkens Ralph's door. She hasn't spoken to George since she discovered during the first hour of their honeymoon that he gave up his job on their wedding day.

That George has the "shakes" and chose a library matchbook for their bleak first night has brought mastery to a crisis. Ralph tries to calm them down and supply eleemosynary truths as their "period of adjustment" all marriages must weather.

IN CHOOSING four fairly ordinary young people to prove his point, Mr. Williams has added to his own problem for no one of the four is intrinsically very interesting but, as practiced in Mr. Williams' magic into character that, with the connivance of the elder cast, George and Ralph's marital difficulties become meaningfully important. Only the interludes of the "in-laws" strikes a false note.

Ralph's rich wife, who is plain and older, is constantly mentioned but not seen till the last twenty minutes of the play when Rosemary Murphy gives her so much emotional heartache with a flock of potions that she ranks with the others in importance. Barbara Baxley is inimitable as the spoiled child and student nurse who married her patient with the "shakes."

Her long distance call to her father is a triumph of high comedy. John Daly is sympathetic as Ralph and Robert Webber is the "shaky" George. One touch of Williamsian symbolism is that the house is built over a cavern as where it is gradually sinking. The moals are very sound but some lines will challenge good taste. As the Helen Hayes.

ADVISE AND CONSENT — The beautiful leveraty of the drama is apparent in the dramatization by Loring Mandel of Allen Drury's Pulitzer Prize novel. All the essentials of the story are retained and the characters emerge from the hundreds of pages of print into the personalities created by a distinguished cast. That that play progresses from scene to scene without a pause is due to the close cooperation between the director, Franklin Schaffner, and the designer, Ter Arutunian.

The 29 short scenes are divided by the dimming of lights — there are 88 light cues — and the lowering and lifting of black and white screens and shifting of chairs mark the change from the Senator's chambers to the White House, which has the Great Seal, to their homes and the floor of the Senate.

Like the book, it is a sobering picture of political machinery in action after the President selects for Secretary of State a man who is not only unknown to continentals but to his country from the sharp tongued Senator from South Carolina who somewhat under rather wispy testimony to prove the President's candidate had a red streak in the past.

That the candidate presents himself before the Senate Committee is, however, more serious than a former diplomatic and the Committee Chairman, the young Senator from Utah, determined to defy the White House.

But, as the President is also determined to have his own way for the "good of the country," a dirty scandal is threatened and the young man from Utah takes his own life rather than compromise his honor. That weighs the scale for justice.

ED BEGLEY, who plays the younger man's mentor and who stands for unalterated integrity, sacrifices a Convention pledge for his own nomination, and when a tie is reached, the Vice President casts the decisive negative vote. In the book the incriminating letter and snapshot are dropped out of some sad papers by the young Senator; in the play, for sets convincingly, they are pulled from a desk drawer by the appealing, disappointed Senator.

ADVISE AND CONSENT, the first production for some years, offers a cast that includes Richard Kiley as the young man from Utah, Chester Morris as Majority Leader, Judson Laire as the President, Stanley Ojda work as the unsuccessful candidate, Kevin McCarthy as the villain, and Henry Jones stealing the show with the sardonic dry humor of the aging Senator from South Carolina. At the Cort.

ROSEMARY and THE ALLIGATORS — The sign is misleading—Rosemary never meets the Alligators because they are two separate plays. They are written by Molly Kahan, who also directs, Ken Kahan, who has left the direction to Gerald Freedman, very successfully last summer with THE TAMING OF THE SHREW in Central Park.

ROSEMARY, very charmingly staged by Fred Voelpel, is set on a beach in New Jersey in 1919 when skirts were long and underwear could still provide a frisson for a dance team. Ted and Flo have just achieved their first baby, Rosemary, and Ted is inclined to be a bit jealous and wants Rosemary left with their landlady when they dance in Pittsburgh bar. Flo, very maternal in her ruffled peek dress, picture hat and parasol, Ted refuses.

But when they change into their Little Boy and Little Girl costumes for their pictures, Flo relents. She stands on her head, helps oust a stuffy German couple and romps off with Ted, who consents to take Rosemary with them. This is Peter Lawrence's play along with Will Dan Daniel.

NEXT COME THE ALLIGATORS with Jo Van Fleet as the lonely widow of a former Mr. Out gangster whom she married when mature. Owner now of a hotel in Florida, she is being interviewed by a Hard-Hedden Avenue producer who wants to memoize him of gangsterdom and, who, before he knows it, is wangled into a nasty thousand dollar deal with the widow — plus sex.

But it's not only the money she wants but to get revenge on that reckless young man who it really means to be a gangster's mole, the ugly, remorseless predecessor that still haunts her life. Miss Van Fleet has captured the disillusioned, faintly ranging South Italian voice and even in her mauve clothes and Lucrezia swing young she can bring back the old days when her young brother-in-law was shot down, for not walking the crooks line.

When her and body guard brings warning of a message from someone in the lobby, the young producer, not his market decide finally to leave. Then comes the comic ending. Miss Van Fleet's performance makes it a play to remember. Paul E. Richards is good both as the German and the Mahone Avenue man, but as in Miss Van Fleet's play—

Pupils Give $1500

Charles McDonald gives $1500 check from Holy Family school pupils, Rochester, to Monsignor George Schmitt for high schools' fund drive. Children raised the amount in special projects. Rev. William Graf, curate, looks on.

Guiana To Take Over Missionary Schools

Georgetown — (NYS) — Religious leaders of this British colony were reported here to be mapping strong protests against government plans to take over all schools which were built with public funds and are now under Protestant, Catholic or other religious control.

The government's decision was announced by Minister of Education Bishop Singh Ra at a meeting here with representatives of the schools. Mr. R. has consistently urged the state takeover, despite opposition raised by the Christian Social Council, a Protestant organization and Catholic Bishop Richard L. Feely, S.J., of Georgetown.

Mr Ra said the government's decision would apply regardless of whether the schools were operated as church-owned, church-leased or government-owned.

HE SAID that control would be handed over to Director of Education C.H.R. Clough as soon as the necessary legislation has been passed.

He stressed that neither the pupils nor the teachers in the schools affected would be dismissed, and religious education would continue under teachers of the same religious belief as their pupils.

Mr. Ra added that teachers would be appointed by the schools, only after consultation with the denominational bodies concerned.

Aid Given Flood Victims

Malaya — (NYS) — Charitable organizations and individuals have given relief to the victims of flood ravaged Malaya.

More than 10,000 persons were made homeless in a week-long flood that left 100 dead, damaged thousands of homes and crops.

Ambassador Raja Mahmud of Malaya said Malaya was grateful for the help and food to the emergency relief efforts.

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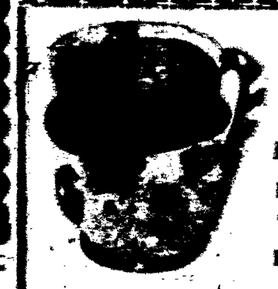

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