COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, April 14, 1961

Birch Society, **Good** Thing Gone Wrong

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Let's set the record right. Last week's Courier Journal comments on the currently controversial John Birch Society confused many readers.

We did not endorse the organization. We didn't condemn it either.

Catholics are free to have their own opinions about the organization. Many Catholics, as our article reported, are members of the vehemently anti-communist society.

Others, like Monsignor Francis Lally, editor of Boston's Catholic paper, The Pilot, think the Birch Society is "unbalanced, excited and definitely out of focus."

Cardinal Cushing, Boston's archbishop, who "unhesitatingly" endorsed the group in April of last year, this past week deplored "the exaggerations and excesses which discredit even a good-thing." The Cardinal said anyone who charges President Eisenhower was a Communist agent is "speaking absurdities."

Robert Welch, founder and president of the John Birch Society, has been widely quoted as saying President Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

And to clear up another point — in referring to this charge against Mr. Eisenhower in last week's article, we were understood by some to be quoting Dr. Francis X. Gannon, the Society's research chief. Dr. Gannon did not make any statement to us about Welch's opinion of the former president.

The quotation has been published in many other newspapers and magazines, a quote originally made in a confidential letter of Welch and one he has never denied nor repudiated.

In the Society's 1961 edition of its official "Blue Book," Welch accuses President Franklin D. Roosevelt with "plain unadulterated treason" for leading the United States into World War II. He accuses Richard Nixon with the "dirtiest deal in American political history" in winning the 1952 vice-presidential nomination.

New York's Governor Rockefeller "is definitely committed to trying to make the United States a part of a one-world socialist government" according to Welch who then spits out his contempt for "Jack Kennedy" calling him "Reuther's stooge." Welch affirms he has been unhappy with the nation's elected leaders "for twenty seven years."

The Birch Society's bulletin for April sets as its agenda for the month "concerted action . . . to impeach Earl Warren and remove him from the Court" a continuation of the organization's drive to oust the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court -- and "to increase showings of the film 'Operation Abolition""-a warped documentary film about Communist riots in San Francisco in 1960 which disrupted hearings -prief distributed to all memof the House UnAmerican Activities Committee.

Lawyers Defend Constitutionality of Student Aid

Washington — (RNS) — Enactment of a federal aid from our American traditions. This is what we domand as to education bill which does. Catholic parents from our not include a provision for government --- constitutional-ly permissible treatment which attempts to equatating blow" to the American lize our position with those parochial school system, a of our Non-Catholic neighgroup of prominent Catholic bors." lawyers said here. The attorneys denounced

the bill proposed by Presi-They urged rejection of dent Kennedy as "taking a separate legislation for a loan giant step in the direction" program to parochial schools, of forcing all students to atsuch as that proposed by tend public schools. While it Sens. Wayne Morse (D.-Ore.) does not do so directly-and and Joseph S. Clark (D.Pa.), would be unconstitutional if declaring that a bill whose it did — they asserted that aim is to help education gen-"by combining the taxing erally would probably be power of government with found constitutional, wherethe money spending power, as one aimed specifically at government can force public helping private and churcheducation upon all the citirelated schools probzenry just as surely as by specific command."

They called on Catholic "It is clear that parochial parents to turn down the schools have a right to excompromise being offered in they said. "It is also Congress and to work for declear that parochial schools feat of the entire federal aid cannot long exist if their stubill unless a provision is indents are pressured by the cluded for parochial school economic necessities of their parents into attending public schools.

The statement, entitled "Freedom of Choice in Edu-"Catholic parents have a cation," was prepared by the duty to provide their chil-Washington Archdiodren with a Catholic educacesan Catholic Lawyers' Comtion. This they are entitled mittee for Equal Educational to do in their free exercise Rights. Among the 21 promiof their religion. But the exnent members of the District ercise of this right must not of Columbia har who signed unjustly bear a price in the it was James P. McGranery, form of increased taxation former federal judge, and atwithout resulting benefit. torney general of the U.S.

"Otherwise, if this federal plan is enacted and the states obtain the funds sauggested, the states will be a ble to out bid the parochmial schools in their efforts to sobtain good teachers with resulting diminution of The quality of teaching available for use in the parochaial schools."

Citing the famous dictmum of Chief Justice John Marshall (1801-35) that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," the Catholic lawyers told Congress that "federal aid to public scho-ols alone will ultimately cruash the private school system as it exists today."

"The parent of the parochial school child is already at a tremendous disadvantes ge in his effort to give his child an education," they pointed out to the legislators. "Children attending the pub-lic schools are given free bus rides, free tuition, free to xtbooks, and in many cases free lunches. Many paroch_ial school students are in the low or marginal incomme groups. It is obvious that with their burdens increased by federal taxation for scheol purposes, they will not be able to keep their children in parochial schools and will certainly not be able to contribute adequately for the erection of parochial schemis to provide newly needEed facilities and t. replace those which are obsolescent.'

The Catholic lawyers maintained that justice requires that citizens at large contribute to the public support of Catholic education, just as Catholic citizens derive benefits to the general welfare accruing from public schools. The saving to taxpayers from the Catholic school system is at léast \$2,300,000,000 a year, they said, adding:

"Rather than asking Non-Catholics to pay for the education of their children as an added burden, Catholics suggest that it is only equitable for the general population to recognize the Catholic contribution to society as a whole and to bear a fair share of providing for the cost, at least of the secular portion thereof."

The Catholic lawyers suggested that it is "clearly constitutional" to provide in the pending federal aid bill that the funds to be allocated to each state "could as well go to the individual child, or better his parents, as to the Board of Education of each state.'

"If federal aid were allocated to all parents of children in primary and secondary schools, instead of the proposed method" they said, "Catholics who pay taxes equally with their Non-Catholic brethren would receive

equal treatment before the law."

"This is the very theory," they pointed out, "upon which the G.I. Bill of Rights aid and the Federal Scholarship Plan proceeds. The choice of the school is thus left to the individual."

A second "clearly constitutional" approach would be to allow parents of parochial students a tax credit, the lawyers suggested to Congress. They asked if "the promotion of intellectual excellence" is not truly a national purpose which would justify a liberal tax credit "for those parents who release the state from the financial burden of educating their children by their support of private

schools. "Our adversaries in this contest," they said, "seem to lose sight of the very purpose of the legislation. The

aid to parochial schools which we Catholics seek is aid to our children and not to our church.

"There are clearly means at hand or readily devisable by which Catholic children would receive the same general benefits from federal spending as their public school counterparts, if only a sense of justice prevails."

Rejecting the Clark-Morse proposals for separate legis-

lation, the Catholic lawyers said that, while Catholic children can participate in a general education bill without running afoul of the Constitution," the constitutional problem is "made very much more difficult if federal legislation passes without parochial school participation."

"Any attempt made thereafter to consider separate legislation aimed at benefitting directly those (religious) schools," the lawyers said, or any aftempt to amend the general legislation for that purpose could be considered a purposeful attempt by Congress to spend federal funds for a religious purpose.

"Such separate legislation might vitiate what would otherwise be clearly constitutional legislation, if done as part of a general acrossthe-board plan of aiding all educational facilities of this country.

"Catholics cannot accept what appears to be a reasonable suggestion to refrain from opposition to the School Assistance Act of 1961 upon a promise by Congress to consider subsequently legislation for their direct benefit.

"We do not wish to be treated apart. We ask only equal treatment and not to be dealt with as 'a lesser breed without the law.'"

Orthodox and the Roman.

Religious Leaders Seek Unity

agree.

Council.

(Religious News Service)

This is a second preliminary article by a special Religious News Service correspondent who will report from Rome on the Second Vatican Council from the viewpoint of Protestant leaders, as preparations advance for the historic event. In this article he discusses the attitude of the Eastern Orthodox Churches and of Jewish leaders toward the Council. His first article summarized the views of both Protestant and Catholic observers on the nature, purpose and possible results of

its to parents of parochial the Council, particularly in regard to Christian unity.

In my capsule survey of

American expectations and

desires as to what the Second

plish (RNS March 9, 1961)

By DR. CLAUD D. NELSON discipline, but each has its action of the Councils, abown Patriarch and independ ent administration.

> Having such an experience, some of these churches are members of the World Coumcil of Churches - and some of their American sectio-ns are in the National Council of Churches. While maintaining the integrity of their doctrine and insisting that they constitute the only trune Church, they join in the fellowship and cooperate in the



Some of these ancient distaining when they cannot visions are sharpened by re-

cent political struggles. This is obvious in the case of the In our conversations differ-Russian Orthodox. ing factors and resulting attitudes were pointed out, as It is recalled in a letter regards the Second Vatican from a Serbian Orthodox layman who blames Roman

Catholics in his native land Among laymen especially, for war-time massacres of many are influenced by long-Orthodox Serbs. Politics. standing, non-theological soseem to have a somewhat cial and political barriers bemore complicated role in tween the peoples of the two Greek attitudes. confessions, the Eastern

> Those Orthodox who base their reactions more on intellectual grounds are not uniform in their judgment. Some feel that Roman Catholic doctrine, long before the with the Old Testament. break, had eleventh century In practice it could mean departed from the true faith the elimination of anything and that the breach will not in Christian teaching or worbe remedied. ship that gives rise to anti-Others, tempering their in-Semitism or encourage it. No tellectual reactions with char-" less desirable is the encouragement of friendship, felity, see hopeful changes taking place, and consider it dislowship and cooperation of tincly worth while to develop Christians and Jews - as inecumenical dialogue, believdividuals, as congregations, ing that the Holy Spirit has in organizations - in reducnot abandoned His role ing tensions, working together for social justice and world This attitude is reinforced peace. by a desire for Christian unity in action, as well as in Courier Journal thought and feeling, in a world that was never more OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE in need of all the benefits ROCHESTER DIOCESE that an ecumenically cooperating Christianity could be-Friday, April 14, 1961 stow - as was pointed out in ... Vol. 72 No. 28 the course of these conversations, a world that may de-MOST REV. stroy itself if religious forces JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., waste themselves in institu-President tional conflict. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations and the Catholic Press Association. Subscriber to National Catholic Weifars Conference Catholic There are thus influential Eastern Orthodox leaders who, while aware of no cur-Welfare Conference News Service, Religious News Service, Published every Friday by the Rochastar Catholic Press Association. MAIN UFFICE-35 Scio-BAker 5-6210, Rochester 4, N, Y. rent negotiations with Rome, and fully conscious of the difficulties, are yet expecting ELMIRA OFFICE - \$17 Robinson Bidge. Lake St. RE. 2-3688 or RE. contributions to Christian unity from the Second Vall-2-3423 can Council, and are praying 2-3423 AUBURN OFFICE - 76 Capitol St., AL 2- 0882 Entered as second class matter in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y., as required under the Act of Con-gress of March 3, 1879 for it.

sions which I can/report are. I believe, as widely representative as they are obviously very significant.

As with expectations already reported from other groups, hopes center on the climate which the Council may help to foster (or might conceivably obstruct). Apart from strictly ecclesiastical matters, not of immediate Jewish concern, the desirable climate would be fostered by the recognition, direct or indirect, that a religious pluralism exists wider even than that represented by the various Christian confessions.

In theory and history, this could mean a renewed recognition of the common elements in the Judeo-Christian heritage, the close connection of the New Testament

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It is our opinion that an accurate record of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee is sufficient evidence to justify its existence without need for well intentioned deceit.

American Catholics have a long and enviable record of not falling for Communist propaganda or left-wing groups. We have not always been quite so immune, however, from right-wing, ultra-conservative, almost fascist leanings.

'The "high percentage" of Catholics in the Birch Society, as the Courier Journal was told in the telephone interview with Dr. Gannon, is evidence of this "leaning" to the right.

The number of Courier Journal readers who protested our criticism of the film "Operation Abolition" also indicated many Catholics are so opposed to Communism that they resort to quite unChristian invective in voicing their opinion.

Monsignor Lally in his Boston editorial commented. "In protecting ourselves against Communism, we should be careful that we do not fall into evils almost as bad. It is possible to escape the dogs only to perish in the swamp."

The Birch Society - and similar extreme, emotional right-wing groups which flay away at Communism — is "a good thing gone wrong," according to - Monsignor Lally.

The pity is that the virulent fervor of such pathological groups is so contagious at precisely the time when mature, balanced, effective efforts are so jurgently needed to build national and world unity.

We agree with the Boston monsignor in his concluding statement, "The excesses of Mr. Welch will have served us well, even if obliquely, if they remind us of our responsibilities in combating Communism intelligently and by the use of those means which do not betray the very principles we have set out to defend."

Be Kind To **Psychiatrists**

Buffalo - (RNS) - Catholic authors do not always treat psychiatrists with the courtesy they deserve, Dr. William M. Walton declared in the President's Address at the 35th annual meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association.

Dr. Walton, professor of philsophy at St. Joseph Collège West Hartford, Conn., spoke to more than 500 delegates on 'The Philosopher and the Psychiatrist." He said the psychiatrist Is viewing human behavior. from the concrete point, of view" because his interest is lecased on a human being in his Present existential situation.

The section is a model, section poly heresponde many for curing the merhe mid. "With these

Aid to parochial school children is constitutional, even though direct grants to the schools themselves might offend Church-State separation, the attorneys said in the bers of Congress.

school students.

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ably would not.

students.

under President Truman.

Attorneys Paul R. Connol-

ly, William T. Hannan, and

Al Philip Kane prepared the

15-page legal brief which re-

plied in trenchant terms to

a legal memorandum submit-

ted to Congress by Alanson

Wilcox, chief counsel of the

Department of Health, Edu-

cation, and Welfare, on be-

half of the Kennedy admin-

istration. This memorandum

told Congress that across-the-

board loans or grants to stu-

dents would violate Church-

State separation in the Con-

The Catholic lawyers made

no mention of long-term, low-

interest loans in their legal

brief but devoted their at-

tention to presenting the case

for grants to children, or

their parents, or alternative-

ly, the granting of tax cred-

stitution.

important role of the Eastern Orthodox Churches in the un-"The question is largely folding ecumenical Christian one of the means to be emdrama. played," they asserted. "Catholic lawyers, along with dis-Subsequent convertinguished Non-Catholic consations with authoritative stitutional scholars like Prof. representatives of Edward S. Corwin of Princethose churches, intended in ton and Prof. Arthur E. large measure for my orien-Sutherland of Harvard, feel tation as I go to continue that equitable treatment can my reporting task from Rome be afforded the parents of itself, throw considerable parochial school children light on their role, potential and actual, and on their attiwithout offending the Constitude toward the forthcoming

Council. "The First Amendment means simply that Congress In these conversations, refmay not actively and directly erences were made to the fact that the Eastern Orthosupport any religion," the Catholic lawyers stated. "Acdox family of autocephalous cordingly, any legislation that (independent) churches ---is intended to directly favor from Alexandria, Anticch and a particular religion is for-Jerusalem, through Greece bidden. The words of emphaand on to Russia and Serbia sis are 'actively' and 'direct-- have had an experience ly.' Legislation which has an for many centuries of unity incidental or secondary effect without union. It was called to my attention that their upon religious activity is not forbidden. Legislation which Ecumenical Patriarch has often commented on this fact accords religious persons the same benefits afforded the from his palace, the Phanar, public generally is not forin Istanbul.

These r tional or regional "These principles are clear churches are uniform in dogfrom the decided cases and ma, liturgy, tradition and

Vatican Council will accomthere were indications of the

Saints of Unity

ST. MOSES THE ETHIOPIAN ... was first a slave then a brigand in Egypt. He was converted, became a monk and a priest in the desert of Skete. In old age he was murdered by robbers against whom he refused to defend himself. He was one of the most remarkable figures among the Desert Fathers during the fourth century. His feastday is August 28.

Reapings at Random

Increased Knowledge of Papal Teachings Needed

society.

By GERARD E. SHERRY Editor, Central California Register

Calendar For several years your Reaper has seen fit to speak out on several social questions. Sunday, April 16 - Second Anti-communism, right to work laws, racial Sunday after Easter discrimination, international problems, and (white), Gloria, Creed, Eas- urban renewal have all been grist for our mill.

Monday, April 17 — St. Ani-At times my efforts have deeply ofcetus, martyr (red), Gloria, fended sincere people. I am sure that the 2nd prayer of Sunday. letters and calls which I get from the distressed represent only a fraction of my wounded readers. This has not deterred me from doing my duty as I see if, but I have not been insensitive to the pain which I have

> Moved, not by any outside pressure from anyone whomsoever, but solely by the desire to maintain the "bond of peace and love" I have undertaken an examination of this problem. In all honesty I must report that I can discover no malice in most of my readers, and

Thursday, April 20 - Mass in the same honesty I can discover no need to change my course of conduct.

I have arrived at the conclusion that the selm (white), Gloria, no heart of the matter lies in an area of ignorance of some Dasic principles.

> When I my Ignorance, I do not mean stupidity, which implies an inability to learn. Nor do I mean a malicious lack of knowledge. All that I mean is that some of my readers

The sources of the Catholic approach, the Papal Encyclicals and speeches, have mot been made available, in manageable ways, to this level of readership. This is the main reason who some editors have been at pains to publish Papal documents in their entiresy. The further task of breaking open these Papal packages remains to be done. We try to «do this in editorials and other articles.

The UN, the Supreme Court and racial discrimination represent areas where this failure to know basic principles has caused great deal of pain. Some of our readers become alarmed at my apparent willingness to further a dangerous trend to centralization or to Statism, when I insist that high-er echelons of society have a proper function to perform. They are frightened by an apparent threat to the individual, to our nation, or to Free Enterprise.

What they are unaware of is the fact that there is a basic principle which should govern Catholic thought in all these areas. We Catholics are not left to the unbridded demands of individualism, nationalism =or Laissez Fàire capitalism. We have a guidimig light which should illumine our judgments in these questions.

This is the principle of Subsidia=ry

New problems will crop up because social. patterns are never static. Society is always

Jewish friends, too, have been consulted as to their attitudes towards the Second Single copy 10c; 1 year subscription in U. S. \$4.50; Canada \$5.00 Foreign Countries \$6.35 Vatican Council. The impres-

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In an industrialized democratic society, the demand for formal schooling is great. So great indeed that the family just cannot provide it, so the higher levels, the State and the Church, must step in to help the family. The question in 1961 is how much help should the Federal Government give to education-and for whom?

well provide it.

simpler to the larger and more complex. but There is no golden age to which we can cling

The fundamental question involved in Nationalism vis a vis the United Nations is also highly illustrative. If only a great many more Catholics were as aware of the demands of Subsidiary Function as our Holy Father, perhaps they would not be so hurt when they read that he has encouraged the efforts towards - a real United Nations.

As an example, let us look at the schools.

In 1961 no one doubts the right nor the need

for the State and Church to provide for uni-

versal education. And yet a right of a lower

level, the family is involved. The family is

the initial depositor of the right and duty to

educate its children. In an agricultural, caste

dominated, monarchy, the need for formal

schooling was slight, and the family could

Knowledge of this principle rescues us from blind and sterile dilemmas such as Indīviduslism vs. Collectivism, Nationalism vs. Internationalism, Socialism vs. Capitalism Knowledge of this principle gives us the free-

1949 — Monsignor Adolph Gabbani. Tuesday, April 18 --- Mass as Sunday except no Creed. caused. 1939 — Monsignor John Brophy. 1950 - Rev. William Heisel.

Wednesday, April 19-Mass as yesterday. 1955 — Rev. Eugene Golding. as Tuesday. Friday, April 21 - St. An-

Daily Mass

ter Preface.

Creed. Saturday, April 22-St. Seter and St. Caius, martyrs (red), Gloria. 1954 — Mon-

signor Benedict Maselli

A mere list of the component parts will illustrate what we are talking about: the person, the family, free associations, the city, the province, the nation and the family of nations. What this principle demands is that the

ower levels to left alone as long as they can and will do their job. Any invasion of this freedom of the lower or smaller will be tyranny, as long as the lower level is functioning. Intervention by the higher echelons can be justified only to the extent that the lower levels fail to function. If they cannot or will not perform their jobs, the Common Good demands that the higher step in and assist, not annihilate, them. A failure to so assist the lower would be gross negligence on the part of the higher.

vital contribution to make to the whole

As you can see this principle of Subsidiary Function offers a control in a very important area of human living. There will always be tension between the individual and society, between a particular good and the common good. The principle provides the norms for the control of all aspects of the various

that each level has its right to life and its as to a norm."

problems.



Function,