## Nation's Hope in Moral Strength

(From N.C.W.-C. New Service )

Following is the full fext of the IHI statement of the U.S. Catholic bishops issued at their annual meeting in Washington. tion and its most sacred tradi-The statement is titled "Umchanging Duty in a Changing tions. World

The wrations of the world cara the end of the 19th decime are everywhere to be seen in the alarming increase in the interval. Alarement of violence and the communications in the disclosures of greed and dual the communications to human welfare, yet it has also inflicted on the modern world and injustice; in the multiplication in the injustice in the alarming increase in the disclosures of greed and injustice; in the multiplication in the injustice in the disclosure and in the injustice in the multiplication of the foundations of uncertained and political evils have been induced alarming increase in the disclosure and in the injustice; in the multiplication of the foundations of uncertained in the injustice; in the multiplication of the foundations in the alarmi

the beginning as a nation com- run, overcome\_" mitted to the principles of the moral law.

not without a sense of moral the mantle of science.

Those principles and the re-iduly that the United States be-

takes no direct part in the gov- based on moral principles.

ernment of society, but it must be regarded as the first of their political institutions. I do not

Moral Breakdown know whether all Americans

tion of the very notion of mor-they succeed in impressing have been a moral people, it ality are on the rise today and their dectrine on great numbers has been characteristic of threaten to undermine our na-of misled minds.

Cult of 'Image'

Romocracy nocessity. a constant!

Both apathy and amorality certainly run counter to the American tradition. Because we

Americans ultimately to be guided by moral considerations and, even in periods of laxity.

The evidences of our moral Toward the present moral to respond vigorously to moral

tion of Independence and the ise and ardor by which moral cation of divorce and in the Constitution with its first ten and political evils have been rapid disintegration of the fam-Amendments, marked us from held at bay and, in the long ily; in a harsh and pagan dis publicity from "image makers" make open profession of reregard of the sacredness of and "hidden persuaders" mod-ligious beliefs and moral con-In the pres t century it was human life concealed under ern man tends to become a vic-victions, to reaffirm morality as tim of the image. Whether a the foundation of our nation's

thing is true is less important past greatness and of its future This present moral deterior than the impression it creates. aspirations. We must indeed be ligious beliefs that underlie came an arsenal of defense ation cannot be interpreted as Man's moral focus is distorted. prepared to demonstrate the ligious beliefs that underlie cume an arsenal of defense them continued to guide our agaianst totalitarian aggression, people in their national de a storehouse to feed the hun-velopment. At a time when our gry and starving world, a country was emerging from in-Samaritan helping defeated infancy into vigorous youth, De Tocqueville, in his still widely themaselves in peace. The his-said: "Religion in America," gene rally infused with an ideal subcr do fur to subcr with an ideal takes and more guide. ation cannot be interpreted as a mere temporary relaxation of standards which will be follow-ed by the sort of moral reform the image that is projected on the minds of others. The rosy the corrosive effect of secular-tion selling more past gives neither precedent nor guide. nor guide. votes, in convincing more tax- tial place of religion and mor-Many men are questioning payers. ality in the formation of the human personality if we are to

and often denying the objective Popular éducation also bears survive as a moral people. distinction between good and a measure of responsibility for

The time has come to con- evil and the ability of human the decline and rejection of But over and above all this, have a sincere faith in their re fess, however, that our national reason to know with certainty moral principles. At first, there the temper of the times deligion . . . but I am certain ideal no longer rests upon a what is right and wrong. They was no intention of excluding mands that, by our words and

that they hold it to be indis-foundation of broad and solid are cutting themselves off com- either religion or morality from acts, we bear personal witness pensable to the maintenance of popular morality, Ignorance of pletely from moral traditions, the common tax-supported to the existence of moral prin- ing through reflection and But these differences will not fortunes, and our sacred home" moral principles and the rejec- For the first time in history school. But the di ersity of our ciples grounded on religious ing, through reflection and But these differences will not in helpat of the rist republican institutions."1 For the first time in history school. But the di ersity of our ciples grounded on religious pratern and the risbelief. In a world in which in-a moral law to break. The reasons for this moral revolution can be ascertained at least in part. Just as the inculcate in American youth God for all acts and attitudes.

## **Our Finest** Capacities

Disrespect for authority characterizes our era.

No one is immune. Citizens of all ranks and degrees in society make target for their abuse any civil official from the President down to the policman at the corner.

We think it is time for Catholics to review their catechisms on this subject.

Catholic doctrine teaches, in the words of St. Paul, "There exists no authority except from God . . . therefore he who resists the authority resists the ordinance of God." (Romans 13:1)

According to St. Paul, civil Officials "are the ministers of God.

The American Catholic bis hops in 1 866 stated, "For the children of the Church obedience to the ion to force which may power is not a submiss CIAT not be resisted; nor merely the compliance with a condition for peace and security; but a religious duty founded on obedience to God, by whose-authorityes civil magistrates exercise their power."

revolution can be sectrained at least in part. Just as the high morality for self. Just as the high morality of our early his the school could long transcendent responsibility to be explained but also a countability for self. This is especially true of moral infrance and our traditions to despair, all who bemorality finds its most basic cause in the denial of God in the statut at the school could long bereford.
The result is that our society devold of religious who that the soundmoral infrance and our conmoral infrance and some individuals of great in. ety has been the influence of importance of those he moves. Only in this way will induce out including and which men, imperfect though is secularism — the banishment ity and importance of those he moves. Only in this way will induce out including they be, will accept the reign is they have been projected into of God from public and private moral principles which govern each religious person become they have been projected into of God — a world in which the they have been projected into of God — a world in which the the uncharted seas of space. In principles of the natural law istence of God to be a scien-tifically established fact. The consequences of such an attitude are inescapable. If there is no God, then the old its great impetus from the valid. The whole of human find themselves without God and re-tigion, on a lonely eminence of their own making, left to cre-their own making, left to cre-their own making, left to cre-their own making, left to cre-tistence of God to be a scien-tifically established fact. The consequences of such an the enthronement of human nature in His place. The consequences of such an the "Enlightenment" attitude are inescapable. If there is no God, then the old its great impetus from the there is no God, then the old there is no foot is not valid. The whole of human find themselves without God and re-tigion, on a lonely eminence of their own making, left to cre-

their own making, left to cre-perhaps deny God; on formal state their own moral values, forced to determine for them-individual morality. We have national origins, there will un-individual morality to know these princi- doubtedly always be tensions which will cause more mature years, the newer individual moral origins, there will un-individual moral origins, there will un-the down origins origi



### Saints of Unity

ST. ONUPHRIUS ... according to a certain Abbot who met him, was a solitary in the Egyptian desert for seventy years. He dressed only in his own abundant hair and a loin-cloth of leaves. Feastday June 12.

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, November 24, 1961

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our shores; to make room for them in our schools and universities; even to send our own sons to their lands to assist. them. All these things we must do, not as mere counter-moves against Communism, but for their essential rightness, as expressions of our highest principles: love of God and love of neighbor.

Because we have so often faltered in our course, and because the Communist nations have profited by our mistakes to inspire false ideals and to awaken glittering but barren hopes, we must not be discouraged, imagining that our hour. of opportunity has passed. It has, not passed. The hour of greatest opportunity is striking now, as the forces of freedom and of tyranny gird for a decision.

America's strength, bestowed by Divine Providence, has been given for this hour - that freedom may not fail. The ex-ercise of our national strength, in order to achieve its true purpose, must be guided by those principles on which our strength was built. We must apply those principles in both national and international affairs. We shall be worthy of world leadership only if we are

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Critics will promptly counter with the claim that this is a free country, that officials are representatives of the people and the people have a right to express their opinions any way they want.

This simply is not true.

Freedom confers no right to anarchy; it primarily requires responsibility.

Current chaos in the Congo is a frightening picture of what happens when people think freedom removes all restraints.

Civil officials, of course, are far from infallible. They themselves welcome intelligent, substantiated criticism - President Kennedy has invited it. But personal attacks against competent civil officials violate the duty of patriotism.

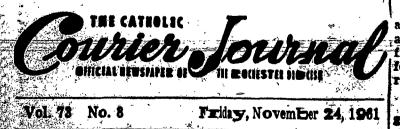
requires citizens to obey the laws and respect all civil officials.

The famous Roman orator Cicero stated. "Children are to be educated so that one day they may be able to be of service to the fatherland. They must be instructed accordingly in the customs of the state and the institutions of their ancestors. The fatherland has produced and brought us up that we may devote to its use the finest capacities of our mind, our talents and our understanding."

Christianity has added to this concept the vision that we are, even while on earth, citizens also of the Kingdom of God. This second citizenship does not excuse us from our first responsibility but teaches that we serve God by our loyalty to our country and by our respect for its officials.

And certainly better than criticism is the ancient Christian practice of sincere prayer for government officials. Following is the text of a prayer which has Vatican authorization for use at Mass as an added "collect" prior to the Epistle:

Almighty, everlasting G-od, all authority and all human rights rest in Thy hand; be pleased, then, to assist those who have authority over us so that at all times and in all places, under Thy powerful protection, true religion may always be kept free and the safety of our nation may be assured; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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

MALIA OFFICE III Balances Bile., Las St. R.R. 1-South or BR. 2-1411 AUDURE OTTO

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simply ignore His existence. In their newly proclaimed in They do not openly reject dependence, modern men have moral principles; they may tended to place their main re- even pay them lip-service. But liance on physical science they disregard them or reduce While the enemies of religion them to hazy generalities. In and morality have attempted to general, the only sanctions they make science the principal recognize are those supplied by weapon of their attack, actual-individual taste, public opinion ly science itself has no part and the power of the state.

in this warfare. "Science," says The result of these trends one of its most eminent scho has been, even among those lars, Dr. Vannevar Bush, "does who have not rejected moral not exclude faith . . . science principles, a widespread moral does not teach a harsh material-ly every group; citizens who ism. It does not teach anything are not concerned enough to beyond its boundaries, and exercise the right to vote those boundaries have been elected officials who are interseverely limited by science it. ested only in their "public self." But many who have image," their personal power; union members, labor leaders, and their cult do not share the their selfish interests above na-dures. In its time of need, a different will not only con-sider it a noble thing but actually a sacred duty to risk his life in its defense. This religious-inspired love for our country also authority, they teach a scien-tism that denies God and makes sport of the moral law. From

positions many of them occupy It is the American tradition in schools and universities, in to look at ourseives, to examine literature and journalism, with our conscience, to reappraise all the modern media of com- our moral position. In a dicta- and even the international patterns of citizen life," munication at their command, torship this is impossible. In a the Pontiff stated.

## Power of a Woman -Change the World

Canberra, Australia - (NC) - The spirit of Christian devotedness of Catholic women can change help. the face of the world, Pope John XXIII said in a letter to the national meeting of the Federal Council of dence of our understanding. Catholic Women.

The Pope voiced his approval of the meeting's theme - "The Catholic Woman, an Apostle at Home and Abroad - and stated:

"Such broad lines of discussion are opportune in these times, when the traditional patterns of family and social life are being questioned and imperiled, even in Christian countries. The firm persuasiveness of the words of Catholic women, the calm dignity of their attitudes, will give encouragement to their sis- large measure from religioustin America." Vinlage Books; ters, wherever these are situated.

"Although the role of women in opening the minds of their children to things divine is of primary importance, it is not their only duty. Their spirit of Christian devotedness should be unlimited in its scope, manifesting itself not only in their normal family life, but also within the social, the national,

freedom and hope. Now, in our more mature years, the newer nations and some of the older impoverished ones have looked to us for material help and for the most part they have receiv-ed from us a ready response. But they — particularly the emerging peoples—have needs that go deeper than the re-quirements for mere material help. barism. Like both, we must be

They want more positive evi-dauntless in proclaiming Christ.

In this way, we shall be true They seek a recognition of their to our Christian duty in preiney seek a recognition of their to our Christian duty in pre-dignity, both individual and na-tional. They erave the knowl-man's standard of action. Only edge and technical skill which in this way shall we preserve the religious and moral tradi-tions in which our country was which comes from faith, and born, and without which our the encouragement that comes born, and without which our from hope. They must have country cannot survive. leadership.

-Our own freedom sprang in De Tocqueville: "Democracy and moral sources. We must Vol. 1, p. 310.

inspire, even help these nations wherever possible to build on <sup>2</sup>James Bryce: "The American a religious and moral founda-Commonwealth," M a c m iltion if we are to contribute sig- lan Company, Third ed. Vol. II, nificantly to the achievement p. 599.

of their national aspirations. <sup>3</sup>Vannevar Bush: "Modern Arms Meanwhile, we must be will. and Free Men," p. 78.

ing to open our hearts and our ""Mater et Magistra," NCWC homes to those who come to edition #222 and 226.

### **Reapings at Random**

# Minutemen Cry Wolf Too Early

#### By GERARD E. SHERRY

Editor, Central California Register

Last week we were talking about the growing number of political pressure groups. Alas, we have now to face a new menace armed minutemen who wish to take the law into their own hands.

California is noted for its extremists, but this privately armed militia is the latest blow to our democratic society. Recently, some 40 miles from my home in Fresno, the organizers of this armed band, met in a Sierra Mountain hideout to map operations in case of an armed attack on this country.

The leaders have publicly stated that after the bombs have dropped, their groups are going to emerge from their shelters and fight back. They will also be available to form local governments, which will inspire resistance against the enemy.

These minutemen imagine themselves is guerrilla pande, which during a war, can be of immense help in saving this country. Esti-mates of their number range from 1,000. to: 25,000 Their self styled leaders are Californians, although it is claimed that small groups; exist in other parts of the country. It has been reported that arms caches are available in various strategic spots, to be used in emergalaras Anton

looking into the matter feel that there are many exaggerations in relation to the minutemen and their organization. Only one fact has substantiation - the groups exist and do have arms available.

What bothers me about all this is that these would be saviours of our country appear to have no faith in constitutional povern They sive the impression that both the State and Federal governments den't know how to cope with military attacks on these United States. They appear to have no faith in our Armed Ferres or Civil Defense. They want to favorably compare their civic ignorance with the competence of our duly constituted Commander-in-Chief and his military advisors.

One could write them off as a bunch of nuts and leave it at that. Unifortunately, nuts can be, dangerous. What it bolls down to, is that these mintemen are taking the law into their own hands, substituting anarchy for legal government. Of course, they deny this They claim the most patriotic of motives; but so did Hitler and Mussolini.

The leaders of the minutemen point to the success of guerrilla groups during World War II. Alas, some of the leaders of such groups turned out to be dictators . . . in Albanis, Yugoslavis; China and the like. A more recent example is Castro of Cuba. These leaders all became Communist dictators. What of our self-styled guerrillas in California?

ship in the John Birch Society, which, we presume, is not communistic. But what about others? How do we know there are not most opportunist Reds among them. After all, the founder of the Birch Society has claimed that communists are everywhere - in government, business, labor and the Churches. Why not also in the minutemen?

Another shotking point about the leader-ship of these armed bands is that two who claimed to be in the higher echelon have been convicted of obnoxious offenses. One of these two also has a record of other convictions. It would be unfair to blacken forever the character of persons who have made past mistakes. I don't think, though, that it is unfair to question their qualities of civic or community leadership.

The minuteman claim the highest of patrietic motives. But surely genuine patriotism demands that we recognize and every the prop-erly constituted government. If we have everyone taking the law into his own hands, we'll be ripe for the picking of any enemy that attacks us.

Panic and hysteria have no place in the sejution to the present dampurt this beaut us. We need a propie disciplined, calm and cour-agencie, burying of America & in good hands. We about het our goversiment de its job; without heing andered by potential handlity.

Many compotent people pegged that the

hysteria of the political extremists who are sounding the tocain, as if the Rüssians had already won the battle against the Free World. They spread panic and fear-even before the battlements have been scaled. The troaue with this tactic is that when the Russian wolf is really at the door, most of our people will be no tired of false alarms that they will be devoured through apathy.

There's another danger in this guerrilla band idea. When these minutemen have finished their training in the hills or in the cities, what are they going to do with it? Many itchy fingers will have been practicing in mock battles. Will some of them have the palience to wait for the dreadful day that we might be attacked?

I have one practical suggestion to make to the minutemen - wherever they are. If they want to help our government and our country, they could join up in the Armed Forces and get some training from the experis. They would get all the discipline they think they need to fight the enerny. More important, their military activities would be legal. Those of the minutemen who have been in the armed forces ought to know that very few amateur generals have ever won a battle. Let's leave the defense of the state and nation to those we've elected to do the job. The rest of us can help by being good Americans, working within the community to further the spiritual. and political ideals that have made us a great

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