

U.S. Prosperity Apathy Perils

Johnstown, Pa.—(NC)—If the U.S. ignores the needs of a Latin America, "we do so at our own peril," a Catholic educator said here.

Dr. Joseph F. Menez, chairman of the political science department at Loyola University, Chicago, said economic and social deprivation makes Latin America ripe for unrest and disorder today.

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Nuns Honored By Mothers Club

FACULTY MEMBERS of St. Francis Church, Auburn, were honored at a dinner in the school hall given by the Mothers Club recently. Left to right (seated): Mother Mary Bernard, Mother St. Vincent, school principal; Mother Mary Alfred; (standing) Mrs. Sam J. DeRosa, club president; other Mary of the Eucharist; Mother Mary Virginia; Mother Mary of Perpetual Help; Mother Mary of Llesse, Mother St. Claudia, and Mrs. Pat J. Netti, dinner chairman.

McGuffey Reader Stirs Debate

Twin Lakes, Wis.—(RNS)—An 82-year-old textbook, long regarded as a curio and a remembrance of things past—McGuffey's Reader—has been made mandatory reading in schools here, spurring a controversy that has political, social and religious overtones.

It has become a matter of modern education versus oldtime educational methods, liberal or middle-of-the-road political views versus conservatism in varying extremes, and a subject of debate among church figures.

A Catholic priest of the community has opposed use of the so-called basic reader as "outdated" and "sectarian," a view shared by the state's superintendent of schools who first ordered the book removed from the schools, but later permitted its use as a "supplemental" reader.

A Congregational minister, on the other hand, supported use of the McGuffey Reader from his pulpit, stating that it contained good moral lessons as part of its subject matter.

Although the McGuffey Reader has been described by some observers as being strong "in Protestant morality and 19th century patriotism," some of the minister's congregation reportedly stayed away from church following his endorsement.

The school board, which ordered use of the old text, has suspended the school principal, Raymond J. Oestreich, for "incompatibility"—he had opposed use of the McGuffey Reader in favor of more modern volumes.

Mr. Oestreich said the roots of the controversy seem to go much deeper than the merits or demerits of a reading text.

Harry A. Lovely, a citizen who has instituted court action to oust four members of the five-man school board, said "what they are doing is similar to what I have read of the John Birch Society."

Independence Hall of Chicago, described as an educational and patriotic organization, has promised to underwrite any financial loss suffered by the school—it could lose \$10,000 in funds for defying the state—and the board members.

(Independence Hall is an ex-

school books containing sectarian religious passages, thus risking withdrawal of state financial aid and imposing their own political beliefs on the school.

The four board members, in defending their position on McGuffey's Reader and a fourth, coming "Americanism Program" for the Twin Lakes elementary school, points out that the reader has been used by the District Superintendent.

The report is published in Dallas by Mr. Smooth, a one-time member of the FBI. Opponents of the school board have charged here that Mr. Smooth is a member of the John Birch Society, right-wing organization.

In their "Americanism program," the four board members ordered a new-type course in American history for seventh and eighth graders that "will try to focus the kids' minds on their basic heritage," according to community.

BOOK SHELF

Book for a Retreat

The Call from Beyond: Thoughts for a Retreat, by John Walchters, S.J. N. Central Publishing Co., 177 pp. \$3.50. Available at Rochester's Catholic bookstores.

Out of a full experience, a with the ghost of Nietzsche, full culture, and a full heart these one is not likely to for- comes this book of meditations get; this sort of writing we can- by a well-known Cenacle re- not steadily demand even of treat-master, Father Walchters, short-story writer and novel- S.J. A personal narrative out- lists. And Chapter XI, "Is Christ ic night of Nazi Germany or pure wisdom out of roily wa- Communist China, stands in ters, treats with gentle justice, heightened language and italic the lives and teachings of the print before each meditation, noble Socrates and Buddha and the mind hungers to have it dis- Confucius and lifts the mind to cussed, to have an answer to the world's suffering.

THE QUESTIONS, the prob- This is a triumphant book. Setting it down madly and ver- lems, are as old as the hills— I come back to find an enthu- man's usual questions. What am- astic audience of two who could I, and what am I for, and why do I live, and what is the mean- ing of this and that part and every part of my life, and what really is sin, and what is death, and trial and temptation, and who, who above all is this Christ?

THE ANSWERS are up to date, comprehensive, many-sided as the human beings to whom they are directed, running from fifteen to twenty pages of delicately persuasive argument that only in retrospect reveals its logical strength.

En route, the imagination is busy, the mind is continually spurred by this man's range of thought. He is of the modern world, he has taught modern philosophy, he knows that men have lingered in the half-light of Dewey and Heidegger and Nietzsche when the truth lay within the blinding brightness of God's Church. He studies the modern hero who finds a course of despair when he might learn from Newman and Augustine and Paul.

He shows what wonders of Christ-kindness are spurned by those who play God, and what satanic cruelties devised. He takes up one by one the pagan philosophies that Western men toy with, the religions that side-step death, and shows in relief Christian death, "a single perforance which has to be practiced and pondered."

Chapter VIII on the Martyrs of Chukicho, Chapter IX on Prayer, Chapter XII on a tremendously significant meeting by community.

hardly be persuaded to give it back to me. May the incident serve—because quoting is wrong for it; the cumulative effects can't be so conveyed.

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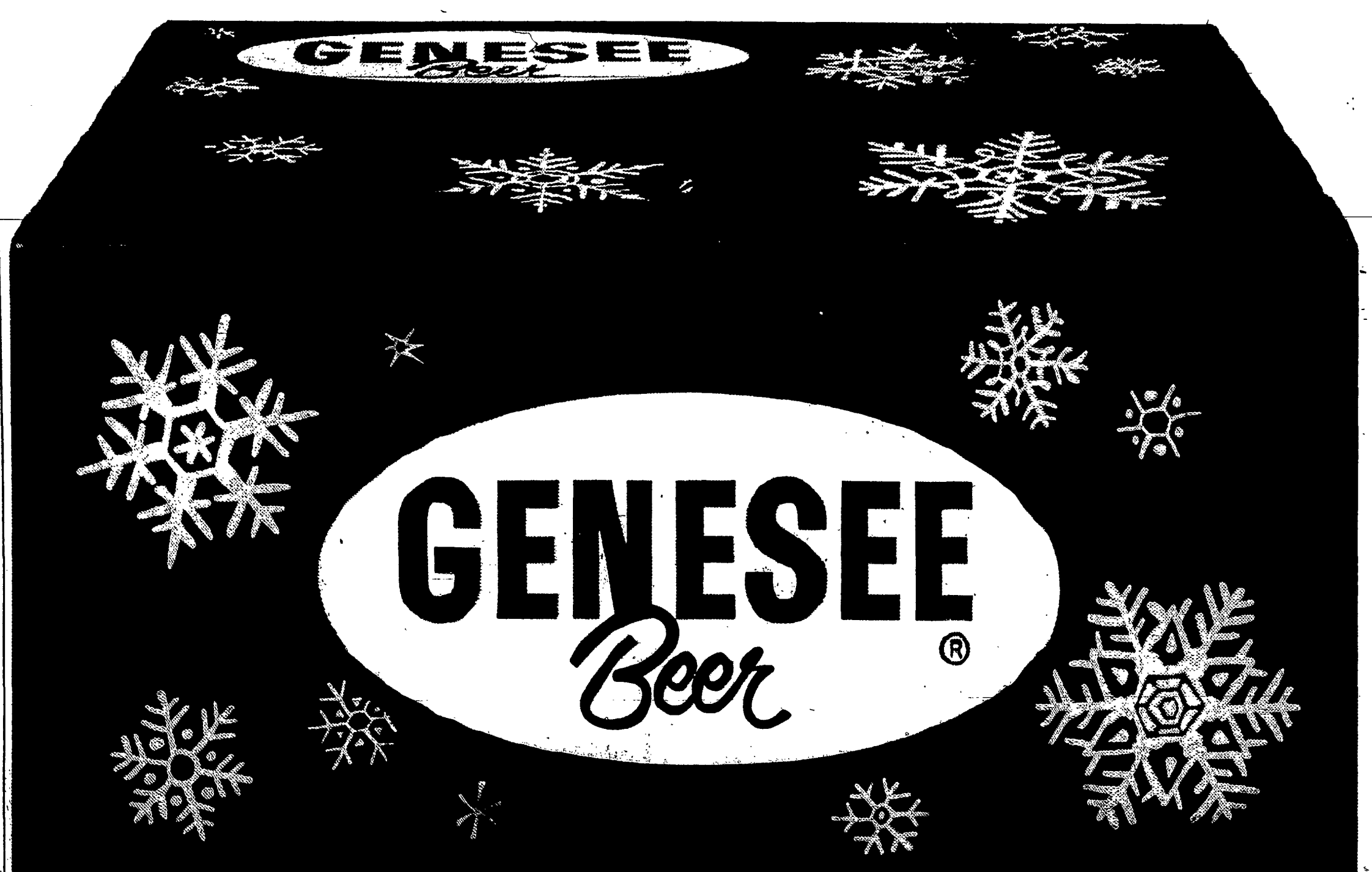
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