

War or Peace, World's Dilemma

By MRS. ROBERT F. TAYLOR

Following is a report on a three-day conference on the moral implications of nuclear warfare. Mrs. Taylor, a member of the League of Women Voters, is active in local peace work. She attended the conference held this past weekend at West Baden College, and wrote this report for the Courier Journal.

Nestled in the quiet valley of the West Baden Springs Hotel, the conference on the moral implications of nuclear warfare was held from Nov. 10 to 12. The conference was held at West Baden College, and was the first of its kind in the world.

Amidst a group of people, a model of an intercontinental ballistic missile, the moral implications of nuclear warfare were discussed. The conference was held at West Baden College, and was the first of its kind in the world.

Students of ethics and moral theology spent the weekend dipping their hands into the moral implications of nuclear warfare. The conference was held at West Baden College, and was the first of its kind in the world.

More than 60 Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish educators from throughout the world met at West Baden College, Indiana, Nov. 10-12, for a Nuclear War Institute to hear representatives of the U.S.A., Great Britain, and the U.S.S.R. speak on nuclear warfare and moral questions.

The key-note address of the three-day series was delivered by Herman Kahn, director of the Hudson Institute of Harmon on Hudson, N.Y., a non-profit research organization concerned with problems of national security and international order. Kahn, a mathematician by trade, and author of "On Thermonuclear War" and "Thinking About the Unthinkable," set the stage by giving plentiful data for the moralists' pursuit and consideration. In his address on the ethical aspects of nuclear warfare, Kahn used the slides, charts, and other material which form an integral part of the seminar presentations he currently offers to top governmental, industrial, and military personnel at Hudson Institute.

Filled with Kahn's important data, the seminar and moralists did little philosophizing in a vacuum. In the ivory tower that seminarists can sometimes become, and so, traditional Catholic ethics, traced through St. Augustine (354-430) and St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) and St. Albert the Great (1200-1280) who conceived defensive war from being different in type from hostile armed response to all other kinds of (injurious action) came alive.

High point in the second day's talk was the controversy over John XXIII's meaning of paragraph 17 in "Pacem in Terris" which Paul Ramsey of Princeton University's religion department called "an ambiguously translated Latin (or perhaps Italian) version."

Dr. Ramsey, sometimes called the "Protestant-Fellow," gave a brilliant exposition of the Church's role in ethics, and was answered by Rev. John R. Conery, leading moral theologian and Jesuit Provencol. Father Conery went right to the Latin: "Quare secum hanc nostra, que vi hominum glorior, aliam est ratione, bellum lam aplura esse videt lura scienda."

The dispute, however, was not settled until now. Edward A. Conway of the Center for Peace Research at Creighton University, Omaha, stood up and from the floor dramatically supported "The Pope Speaks" translation of "Pacem in Terris" over the America Press and the National Catholic Welfare Conference renditions as being more authentic. He translated the Latin thus: "In this age, which boasts of its atomic power, it



Mrs. Robert F. Taylor of West Baden College, Indiana, talks with Soviet First Secretary Victor P. Karpov of Washington and Jesuit scholar, the Rev. Donald Brezina at Institute on morality of nuclear war held at Indiana's West Baden College.

no longer makes sense to maintain that war is a fit instrument with which to repair the violation of justice."

And so it was, in the spirit of Vatican II, that Jesuit priests and scholars, nuns, laymen and women, Protestants and Jews saw the Church come to life in her concern over modern man.

Amidst the Corinthian pillars and Greek statues of the once famous West Baden Springs Hotel of the roaring twenties, black-clothed men listened to the main speakers Alain Enthoven, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense; Victor Karpov, U.S.S.R. first secretary of the Soviet Washington Embassy; Christopher Hollis, British former member of Parliament; Paul Ramsey, head of Princeton University's religion department; and Clifford Kocse, dean of Mount St. Michael College philosophy department.

Following Christopher Hollis' lucid speech on man's duty to obey the commands of God and then trust in His Providence, Rabbi Alvin Reines of Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, made a poignant plea for someone to help him make a "significant ethical judgment."

His reflective tone was almost defiant as he posed his question to the moralists. He seemed to be skeptical that he could ever possess sufficient information to make an existential judgment with any degree of certainty. Jerome Spingarn of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency tried to convince him that all human knowledge is fallible in spite of wide experience in these matters and asserted the necessity of acting with conviction on the basis of information available. Nevertheless, the Rabbi remained in doubt.

Not much help was obtained from Dr. Enthoven who stated the status quo U.S. position on nuclear ethics, nor from Mr. Karpov who took a position of pure relativism, as expected.

Gordon Zahn ably presented and defended the pacifist viewpoint. Dr. Zahn is a professor of sociology at Loyola University, Chicago, and enjoys a wide reputation as editor, author, and teacher. His recent and most controversial book is "German Catholics and Hitler's War." Dr. Zahn stated that our national policy must always be set by the key positions of Christian morality and suggested that serious consideration be given to non-violent resistance as an alternative to war.

In addition to the formal addresses, the institute included question-and-answer sessions, round-table discussions, and individual workshops, and really gave everyone present from the lowest ranking Air Force Academy cadet to the wisest Jesuit an opportunity to come into personal contact with the illustrious speakers. Especially appealing to the

audience, both warriors and pacifists, was Rev. Hubert Schiffer, former missionary to Japan who was wounded at Hiroshima during the World War II atomic bombing. Father Schiffer is currently economics professor at Loyola University of the South, New Orleans.

He praised the heavy-duty souls striving for the ideal life of Christian charity in their pacifist stand; yet, he also emphasized the necessity that impels men to face the hard facts of evil and war in order to defend values they hold dearer than life. His atom-bombed complexion spoke a loud sermon.

All attending the Institute were convinced that this international, inter-faith symposium conducted by authorities in science, history, religion, industry, sociology, and government was unique.

Whereas the moralist usually feels unqualified as a moralist to pass judgment on the adequacy of our present nuclear weapons to deal with the modern unjust aggressor, here he felt he could speak with competence. He could begin to set up a moral framework for the licit use of such weapons, with the experts in these weapons right on hand to begin to guide him.

The minds of the scientists and the military experts met the moralists and together they attempted to evaluate the morality of the use of nuclear weapons in any foreseeable aggression. But more than solving all their problems, the strategists and moralists opened up the questions that must be answered; they opened them up so for countless tourists.

Priest Reprimanded for Birch Society Activity

Bridgeport — (NC) — The Vicar General of the Bridgeport diocese has reprimanded a diocesan priest for his activities in an effort to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States.

In a statement issued (Nov. 8) from the chancery, Msgr. William F. Kearney, vicar general, stated: "Recently certain statements and activities on the part of the Rev. Francis E. Fenton especially a petition approved by him with reference to the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the United States were widely publicized in the press."

Msgr. Kearney said Father Fenton "acted in open contradiction to directions previously given to him by his ecclesiastical superiors to refrain from indulging in political statements and activities and to confine himself to the spiritual work for which he was ordained."

The Monsignor stated "the incident is highly regrettable from every angle especially the embarrassment and distrust caused to so many of our good Catholic people."

Father Fenton, pastor of Blessed Sacrament parish in Bridgeport's East End, had urged parishioners to sign a petition calling for the impeachment of Chief Justice Warren. Members of the John Birch Society, of which Father Fenton is a member, collected more than 600 signatures as parishioners left Mass.

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Attitude To Church Improves

Chicago — (NC) — Father Thurston N. Davis, S.J., editor in chief of America magazine, said here that there has been a dramatic — and favorable — change in the attitude of Non-Catholics toward Catholics.

"Two Johns" — President Kennedy and the late Pope John XXIII — "have changed the public face of Catholicism in the contemporary world," Father Davis told the 35th annual meeting of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (Nov. 10).

While Pope John and the ecumenical Council have been bringing about an updating of the Church, he said, Mr. Kennedy's actions as President have "sparked the old Protestant worry that a Catholic in the White House would bring the pope in by underground from Rome."

Turning to Catholic-Jewish relations, Father Davis expressed the belief that "Catholics have some way yet to go in their effort to comprehend and more deeply sympathize with the Jewish community."

He said it is "most unfair" to blame all Jews for "the crusading efforts of a few individuals and organizations that have been so prominent in the fight against prayer and Bible reading in the public schools."

FATHER DAVIS referred also to the controversial play "The Deputy," by German author Rolf Hochhuth, scheduled for Broadway production early next year. It sharply criticizes Pope Pius XII for allegedly failing to speak out against Nazi persecution of Jews.

Father Davis called the play a "calumnious attack" on Pope Pius and said American Catholics could make their own comment of Archbishop John C. Heenan of Westminster when he play was about to open in London. Archbishop Heenan said:

"My Jewish friends will say all that is necessary. They know the record of Pope Pius XII and I am quite happy to let them say whether or not he was their friend."

Buddhists Cable Thanks to Pope

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR
Society of St. Columban

Saigon — (NC) — The Buddhist Enterset Committee here has cabled Pope Paul VI thanking him for intervening in behalf of Vietnamese Buddhists. The committee claims to represent 14 of the 16 Buddhist sects in South Vietnam.

The cablegram alleged that Buddhism had been suffering from "oppression without precedent" in Vietnam's annals.

THE COMMITTEE also cabled thanks to U.S. President John F. Kennedy and U.S. Secretary General U Thant. The cablegram to the Pope was the longest of the three. Sent (Nov. 8) in French to "His Holiness the Pope, Vatican," the message ran:

"Vietnamese Buddhism, freed by the revolution from an oppression without precedent in the national history, asks you to accept its gratitude for your high intervention in favor of its struggle. We wish that your noble gesture may be understood by our Catholic brothers here whom we assure of our religious sympathy."

To President Kennedy, the committee cabled in English: "Vietnamese Buddhism, released from chains by the revolution, begs you to accept deep gratitude for the high interest you extended its cause."

The cablegram to U Thant includes thanks to the U.N.

Rector Dies
Collegeville — (NC) — Msgr. William A. Renner, 70, first rector of the St. Cloud diocese's seminary, died suddenly Nov. 6.

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