

PARALLEL FATES AWAIT ROMNEY AND MCCARTHY

BOTH CANDIDATES APPEAR TO BE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS

By HENRY CATHCART

Central Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—We suspect that both Gov. George Romney of Michigan and Sen. Eugene McCarthy would take umbrage at any suggestion that they have anything in common, yet they undoubtedly appear to be suffering a parallel fate. Their joint and separate plights stem from the fact that each, in his own political party, has presented himself as a target open to sniping. And all those kids with the bb-guns can't resist using them.



Senator McCarthy

Expect defeat

Thus, nearly every statement they utter, or every political maneuver they essay, becomes fair game for other factions in their own party. And likewise, spokesmen for the opposition party take delight in trying to place their utterances in the context of the rival party's official position, particularly when some expression takes on maladroitness.

We do not mean to suggest that Romney and McCarthy are political parallels. They are not, and some of the differences are sharply defined. For example, Romney's public position is that he is in the GOP presidential race to stay and win, while McCarthy recognizes the inevitability of defeat and hopes at the best to generate some pressure that will moderate what he considers had in Johnson administration policies.

There are other differences. Romney is the standard bearer for a much larger percentage of Republicans than is McCarthy for the Democrats. Romney represents a much clearer defined faction than does McCarthy. And Romney, of course, is a much better known personality than is McCarthy.

A similarity that should not be overlooked, however, is the fact that each man may turn out to have been the stalking-horse for another political personality—N.Y. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and N.Y. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

● **THE IMPORTANCE OF LITTLE THINGS**—Arthur M. Okun, President Johnson's appointee as chairman of the Council on Economic Advisers, has learned to watch the little things. As an economist, he has a naturally high regard for the proper placement of a decimal point, but it took an embarrassing incident to make him equally aware of the significance of a misplaced comma.

When Okun was appointed to the Council in 1964, the biographical press release reported: "Okun lives with his wife, his high school sweetheart, and his three children."

● **FORCEFUL REMINDER**—Receipt in Washington of Fidel Castro's latest gasoline rationing plan served as a forceful reminder of the fact that Cuba has been cut off from American-made products, including U.S. automobiles, for more than nine years.

Under the new rationing, Castro announced, Packards and Edsels will be allowed 25 gallons a month and owners of DeSotos, Kaisers, Frazers—Henry J's and Hudsons, will receive only 20 gallons a month.

Think how happy Cuban owners of late-model Stanley Steamers must be!

How About Stanley Steamer?

**At Our House®**  
**Tell-Tale Expressions**

By MARY TINLEY DAILY

Few of us who are, shall we say, "getting along" want to look our age; we hope we act it, but to reveal it? Uh-huh, with exceptions: our physician, the Social Security Administration, the Department of Vehicles and Traffic, all impersonal.

Our children, of course, learned this vital statistic, date of our birth, when they were curious and would employ all sorts of ingenious ruses to unearth the would-be secret. Once the secret was out, curiosity vanished and they took us for what we are, of the older generation. Perhaps that's why they are so tolerant with our follies, our tale of "the olden days," even pre-dating World War II, and of our peculiar way of talking.

Like it or not, we all give away age in the most casual conversations, our expressions as true an indication as the rattles on a snake, the rings on a tree trunk, the teeth in a horse.

Ice-Box

For example, though we have kept our food in an electric refrigerator for more than a quarter-century, I still find myself referring to the big white hulk as "the ice box," the kitchen closet as "the pantry," and Johnny's high-speed foreign-made camera as his "Kodak."

Throwback somewhat to the powdered-wig, quill-pen, snuff box era and our own semi-rural childhood environments, both the Head of the House and I sometimes speak of "the barn," though our garage has never housed a horse nor doistered a cow and is still too small to accommodate a modern American car.

We speak of "tuning in on stations" of the television when we mean switching channels and often go so far as "looking at the news on the radio."

The grandchildren have grown accustomed to our quirks and

go along. When we say "Now, let's wash and wipe the dishes," they put them into the dish-washer; when we suggest "hanging the clothes out to dry," they insert "damp clothes into the automatic dryer." When we care to hear music on the "vic-trola," they turn on the stereo. Understanding and interpretative grandchildren.

We still "go to the grocery store," meet our daughters who are "shopping the supermarket" and land at the same check-out stand. Same act, different lingo.

A funny at our house recently was when one of the grand-children began rumping, "Ee-ee, baby, don't do that," we said, "You'll have grandma's dress up to her knees!"

"But your dress is already up to your knees, Grandma," another said, quite truthfully, skirt exuberant fashion edict, not exuberant baby.

Patois

Speaking our ancient patois, when touring we still instinctively refer to roads by the numbers we have known, not by number. The numbers are probably more efficient, but how in the world can one remember such impersonal designations?

Moreover, try as we will to become one with the sophisticated avant garde, we find ourselves a bit hesitant in speaking of His Holiness as "Paul." Same thing when it comes to calling the bishop by his first name, even when we're praying for him in church, though this is no doubt the way he is listed in the celestial roster.

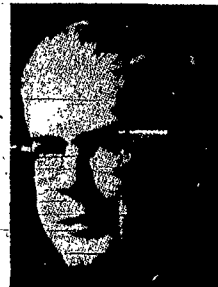
When it comes to grace before meals, seems as though every Catholic we know has slipped naturally into "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." With us, it is still the carry-over of pre-Vatican II as we bow our heads and say, "and of the Holy Ghost." This may cause a slight smile, a nudge-in-the-ribs of youngsters at the table, but it's "just the way they pray at Grandpa's house."

So we live in an atmosphere of anachronisms? Crediting of a person or thing to a time other, especially earlier, than the actual period?

Right? Right!

**Is Penance Out?**

By Father Paul J. Cuddy



Father John Tressy used to comment: "If you preach at Mass on frequent Communion, nothing happens the following Sunday. In fact there seems to be a decline of communicants. But two or three weeks later, the message begins to bring results."

This seems true of many appeals and suggestions: whether for holiness, cash or blood for the Blood Bank. As athletes need a warming up of their muscles before entering the game, most of us need a warming up of our minds, habits and emotions before we will move into action.

I was thinking about this when "Ash Wednesday—February 28" stared out from the calendar on the desk. Lent will begin but Lent, like so many other things, is deteriorating into a spiritual nothing in many places.

Once I was lamenting the results of the dropping of the discipline regarding meat on Friday. "Sure, when the Holy Father dropped the laws on abstinence for Fridays he also said we should substitute some other penance. Among the suggestions offered were refraining from cigarettes, cigars, the delicious sweets and alcohol, or anything that might delight the senses."

As I waxed indignant at the effeminacy of modern asceticism I realized that I myself had been doing nothing special on

Fridays, to commemorate the Passion and Death of the Lord. Father John Guy used to comment: "The clergy are like sign posts, pointing the way, but remaining."

The concepts of the holiness of the secular, the divinization of the world, and incarnationalism seem to be interpreted by some as an invitation to hedonism. Hebrew and Christian traditions have placed great value on asceticism. It would be a pity if Lent becomes just another section of the calendar instead of a season of penance.

I recently came across a mid-Lenten letter I'd sent to the people of Clyde and Savannah. The thoughts and references are local, but the ideas back of them are not.

"Two weeks after Lent began I talked with four teenagers in Auburn. We discussed Lent. I was dismayed to find that only one of the four was doing ANYTHING for Lent; and the fourth was doing nothing heroic.

"I thought: 'Could this also be true of our youngsters?' So I queried several high schoolers and was edified that so many were observing the traditional self-denial and increased devout exercises: Mass, rosary, acts of charity, Stations of the Cross, Scripture reading, visits to the Blessed Sacrament."

"The younger children melted my heart at their inventiveness. Many not only are follow-

ing the traditional self-denial in sweets, pop, gum, desserts, etc. but added: 'I've given up my favorite TV programs.' 'What are your favorites?' It seems that 'Spaceman,' 'Batman,' and 'Trek' are extra special. Knowing this, last Sunday I asked a new altar boy, John DerCola: 'John, are you giving up some TV too?' 'No Father, I'm giving up some 'stuff' to eat,' he answered.

"Our Lord said: 'If any man will be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.' (Matt. 18) The Christian spiritual tradition emphasizes self-denial. We read the lives of the great ascetics: St. John of the Cross, St. Simon Stylites (such a strange saint, yet one whose weird spiritual life was effective for his time and place); St. Theresa, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, St. John Vianney, and we cry out: 'O Lord, give us the zeal to develop self-denial so we won't be slaves to self indulgence! . . . If you think that self control is simple, study your interior reaction when you are in the middle of a fascinating TV program—and some unexpected company pops in.

"We won't have car stealing, shop lifting, Mass missing, family feuding, drunkenness, juvenile delinquency, families breaking up, upset children, where the whole family practices the demand of Christ: 'If any man will be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.'"

**Joseph A. Breig**

**'Dark Night of Soul' For Many Today**

In a profoundly wise passage in the 12th chapter of "The Experience of Marriage" (a book of essays written by husbands and wives and edited by Michael Novak) the current birth control dilemma is described as "a dark night of the soul" for the Catholic Church.

The chapter, titled "Embracing the Absurd," is the work of a professional man, father of five children, using the pen name "L." "The best advice I ever got on rhythm," writes "L," "came to me from a cloistered monk who knew nothing about it and refused to presume to advise me. He talked instead about the life of a Christian."

Referring to such authors as St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila, the monk remarked that it is a mistake to suppose that only people in monasteries or convents ever experience the spiritual emptiness and dryness—the absence of God—which mystical writers describe as "the dark night of the soul" or "the dark night of the senses."

At one time or another, the monk said, something of the sort "is going to hit any Christian, layman or cleric, if he is striving for God . . . There is no reaching after God except in the dark."

The monk then made this penetrating observation: "What is more, I think the whole Church probably goes through 'dark nights' all the time when she appears ridiculous times following some scientific breakthrough, perhaps, when this or that dogma, or book of Scripture, appears absurd, and it is not yet given to the Church to know how to answer."

"Then we cling in the dark to our faith. It's all we can do for a while, although we pray for light and work for light. Light always comes."

"As if to reward the Church for faith, Christ sends Light. The absurdity disappears as if by magic. The answer is so simple we wonder how it was not immediately evident in the previous century. But we can be sure that further dark nights lie ahead."

At this point, "L" adds his own observation:

"I take rhythm to be the 'dark night' of this half of the 20th century. I have given up attempts to make my position intelligible to Protestants and Jews who question me on the matter."

"I tell them that it is a matter of conscience with me, and

I do not presume to judge their conscience . . . I am content to appear a bit ridiculous. They do not break off their friendship; all humans are ridiculous in one way or another. This is my way. I have also given up trying to understand the ethics of rhythm myself. The Church has spoken. It is enough."

"There are more scientists now alive than all the scientists of days gone by put together. It is practically a foregone conclusion that in the next 10 to 20 years there will be some important biochemical breakthrough on the problem of fertility prediction—some simple skin test, perhaps, by which the exact day of fertility is revealed."

"It is highly unlikely that children today will ever have to suffer this particular tension in their marital lives. I think God that my children will be spared this particular purgatory."

"At the same time I am quite certain that some other problem, some other absurdity, some other dark night lies ahead to confront them."

I am grateful to "L" for saying so well something that I have tried, not so successfully, to say in this column from time to time.

**Letters to the Editor**

**New Picture Emerges**

Editor: I am very glad to see the Church in Latin America being reported in some depth.

The picture you give is very changed from that I envisaged ten years ago.

Latin American students and returned Catholic missionaries told of an institution whose primary significance was perpetuation of the social and economic status quo.

Your articles are saying that Christ has risen in the Catholic Church of Latin America.

I hope you are right.  
—Leo J. Vetter Jr., North Rose, N.Y.

world dangers are so great that billions upon billions must be spent for weapons of defense, we must be sure that behind these defenses is a nation united in determination to maintain its free way of life.

For the Feb. 8 meeting of the organization's Monroe County Committee, Mrs. Arthur Hillis, Americanism chairman, has prepared a special program. Mrs. Frank Steurve will give the history of our flag. Arthur Hillis, Legion county commander, and Erwin Swingle, Legion Americanism chairman, will speak.

We urge everyone to display the American flag on Feb. 12 and 22, and give wide recognition to the significance of these days in the life of a free America.

(signed) Grace Marasco, Communications Chairman

How is it possible for one to obtain an education? Education cannot be bought, begged or borrowed. We cannot win it, steal or swap for it. It cannot be gotten by saving stamps or received as a present. It cannot be left to you in a will. The only way that one can obtain an education is through individual sacrifice of time plus interest. Education is truly a gift to mankind from God, provided we are willing to take the time and show the interest.

Members of the St. Ambrose Home and School Association are willing to take the time to help in any way, big or small, by working within the framework of God's plan in order to help provide the best education for all children. Don't take education for granted, take it with real interest and join-in, now.

Yours truly,  
Jean and  
(signed) Frank J. Giambrome, Co-vicepresidents, St. Ambrose Home and School Assoc.

**Adventists Aid Quake Victims**  
Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—The Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Service voted here to send \$21,000 in disaster relief to earthquake victims in Sicily.

Although the stricken area is primarily Roman Catholic, there are Adventist congregations in the region.

**Support Our Nation**

Editor: February, which is the birthday month of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, is "American Month" in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Through patriotic observances centering around these birth-days, Auxiliary units in Monroe County will endeavor to emphasize interest and pride in "being an American," and reaffirm devotion to American ideals and principles.

We feel strongly that patriotism must be kept a strong and vibrant force in our land. When

**Backs Home-School Ass'n**

The people of St. Ambrose parish have recently organized the St. Ambrose Home and School Association. All members in the parish have the unique opportunity to belong to this association. Because St. Ambrose School has been functioning very well for many years, it would not be considered unfair or surprising that some parishioners might well wonder or doubt if this new association is really necessary. We all know exactly what education is—or do we?

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