

**ELECTION YEAR AGAIN
INSPIRES REFORM TALK**

**MANY STATES PLANNING
TO LOWER VOTING AGE**

By HENRY CATHCART

Central Press Washington Correspondent
WASHINGTON—Election reform, like many other topics in the sphere of politics, evokes a lot more talk than action. The problem of making government truly representative at all levels has been with the nation virtually since its founding, even before. Yet it is a subject that requires continuous examination, particularly as sociological and technological advances bring more perfect representation within the scope of achievement.

It is fitting that each quadrennial election year should stimulate discussion of the subject, and this year probably will be no exception. Public attention is better focused on the power, or lack of it, of the right to vote.

To begin with, most academicians agree that the Electoral College method of selecting a president is an anachronism, that should be replaced by a direct presidential ballot. Communications have erased the necessity of electors expressing the desires of the majority of their constituencies. Alleged disadvantages to smaller states have been largely disproved. What remains is only to end inertia, in order to give each man an equal vote in selecting who shall lead the nation.

Political primaries have proved, although imperfectly, to be superior to state convention procedures in the selection of candidates for public office. Primaries should be standardized among states and adopted by all of them as the uniform means by which the public selects candidates to oppose each other in general elections.

There is a movement among the states to lower the voting age to 18. This should be accelerated, for surely youths of 18 today are better informed to exercise the voting franchise than were their 21-year-old predecessors of 20, 50 or 100 years ago.

These and other election reforms would improve the level of government and the level of interested participation of its citizens.

SEE AMERICA FIRST—President Johnson's opposition to non-essential foreign travel, as a means of improving the balance of payments situation, had some immediate results.

For one thing, the FBI Recreation Association cancelled a charter plane ski-flight to Switzerland at the last minute, actually less than a week before scheduled departure. The decision was helped along a bit by the associate director of the FBI, Clyde A. Tolson.

Johnson's declaration did not have the force of law, but apparently Tolson's memos do.

**'What Next' Dept.
Florida Man Brings
Suit Against God**

Lake Worth, Fla. —(RNS) A local electrician, allegedly injured four years ago in an accident which a jury described as "an act of God," has filed suit here against a group of defendants designated as "God and Co."

Co-defendants with the deity are 32 local churches and synagogues. Copies of the allegations by plaintiff George Albrecht have been delivered to each of the religious bodies, but court officials have been unable to deliver a copy to the principal defendant.

Albrecht originally sued the city of Lake Worth (near West Palm Beach) and a construction firm, claiming that he was injured when a rain-soaked sidewalk collapsed under him in 1964. A jury ruled the claim was invalid, invoking the "act of God" rule.

One of the pastors now brought into the suit, the Rev. James Magnuson of the Evangelical Covenant church, said he believed the expression "act of God," used in such cases where no blame for accidents can be attributed to any human agency, is "a misnomer."

"people will be suing the churches every time a tree falls."

Another pastor, the Rev. E. W. Zilch of Bethel Pentecostal Temple, took the case more lightly. "If he brings the principal defendant into court," said Mr. Zilch, "I'll be glad to come and testify for Him."

**43 Papers Carry
Bishops' Pastoral**

Washington —(NC)—A survey of diocesan newspapers shows that 43 have published, or are publishing, the complete text of the U.S. bishops' pastoral, The Church in Our Day.

The total circulation represented by the 43 papers is 2,014,819.

Twenty-nine of the papers published the text in one issue of the paper, most through a pull-out tabloid supplement. Fourteen published it in installments, some in two, three, and some over a longer period of time.

The Courier-Journal is carrying the American bishops' pastoral in weekly installments. See page four for today's installment.

Sounds Sensible

Cologne, Germany —(NC)—The Catholic Central Institute for the Problems of Marriage and Responsible Parenthood here will be headed by laymen for the first time.

Dr. Guenter Struck will be the new head and his deputy will be Rudolf Rueberg.

The institute has been headed by Msgr. Paul Adenauer, son of the late German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Msgr. Adenauer will remain at the institute as head of its section on the family apostolate.

At Our House®

Armchair Gardener

By MARY TINLEY DALY



Favorite winter hang-up comes to our house when the snow is knee-high; wind whistles around doors, windows, down chimneys; furnace roars away, lapping up gallons and \$\$\$ of oil; front vestibule is loaded with dripping boots and we're loaded with sniffles, dead-ly sick and tired of all this Winter Wonderland.

Then, with timing as perfect as the most precise spaceshot, bursts arrival of those first colorful spring catalogues, promising garden goodies beyond our wildest dreams.

Surely some super-psychologist must be behind such well-calculated surprises the mail-man delivers.

When the Christmas catalogues come, we find it not hard to set them aside for the time being. No great hurry, Christmas is still a month away.

But when these books come, with spring still more than a month away, we find ourselves irresistibly impelled to sit by the fire and read them from cover to cover immediately.

Color Pictures, Prose Artists

That same super-psychologist who directed their arrival timing has undoubtedly guided a color layout that fascinates, typography to enchant, and soaring prose that leaves us spell-bound. Indeed, it seems as though the prose-artists who write copy for garden catalogues get as carried away with their alluring descriptions of flowers, trees, shrubs, fruits, berries, even nuts, as do we, the readers.

Experience has taught us that we, too, can easily be carried away. We have, in former years,

sent away for more "exotics," more "borders of enchantment," more "ground-covering-blanket of beauty" than our modest suburban lot could accommodate even if we planted the neighbors' lots on both sides of us! We've learned, too, that it's the follow-up that matters: ground preparation, fertilization, weeding, watering, bug-chasing, pruning—the downright nitty-gritty of practical and successful gardening.

One Tree, Five Kinds of Apple?

However, for this one hang-up winter night's tale, we estimate horticulturists go through a catalogue of children let loose in a toy store. We "o-o-o" and "a-ah!" over new varieties: the canna striped like a zebra, the orchid with its lush-crumpled tropical leaves, strawberries promising to fill our plates with fresh fruit, our basement shelves with preserves, the dwarf lemon tree providing way-white blooms and large juicy edible lemons, the new miniature apple tree that would have been Mother Eve's delight and further downfall with its five kinds of apples all growing on the same tree.

Then, in down-to-earth, back-to-reality mood, we estimate how much land we have free for some new garden goodies, the type of soil required, shade allowed, how much money we have to spend, and set up a real honest-to-goodness order.

Even then, we're sorely tempted to take advantage of the one-cent sales, the "discount before March 1" and expand the order.

For late winter doldrums, it's hard to beat a spring garden catalogue!

On the Right Side

A Happy Ending

By Father Paul J. Cuddy



Last November 16th, I came to Hornell to act as chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital, run by our own Sisters of Mercy. It took a month to get settled to the routine. Sister Rene is a gracious and competent Administrator.

She was principal of St. James School in Rochester for twelve years, where the meticulous Father Feeney presides as pastor. He remains greatly impressed by her thoroughness and good judgement. I suppose it was because of these qualities that the head of the Mercy Order, Mother Bride, assigned her to the special school for hospital administrators at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

One day she quietly mentioned "Shortly before you came, Father Connan began the custom of saying some brief morning prayers over the public address system. The patients seemed to like it."

"Why, that should be good, Sister. Let me think about it." So a few days later the daily prayer at St. James Hospital began at 7:40 each morning. Two things had to be considered: 1) What kind of prayers? About 60% to 65% of the patients and the majority of the nurses and employees are not Catholics. 2) How long should the prayers last? The patient must be cared for: breakfasts served, bed pans adjusted, medications administered, bed changed.

These two questions brought interesting conclusions. While prayer is excellent, the prayers must not interfere with the care of the patients. Ninety seconds seemed reasonable. So we began!

Mrs. Totten, the telephone switch board operator, adjusts the public address system. I sit on a chair, close my eyes against distractions, give a 10 second weather report, since people confined to hospitals become more alert by information regarding the world outside. Then, come the precious moments of prayer: adoration of God's majesty, prayers for His blessing on our doctors, the nurses and all who serve our sick. Finally the prayer moves on for the patients themselves, that they may be restored to health, have courage, and be ready to do God's Holy Will. We conclude: "Let us pray together Our Lord's own prayer."

It is consoling to know how many who ordinarily raise neither lips nor heart to God Our Creator, are praying in one great family unity: "Our Father . . . thy will be done . . . for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

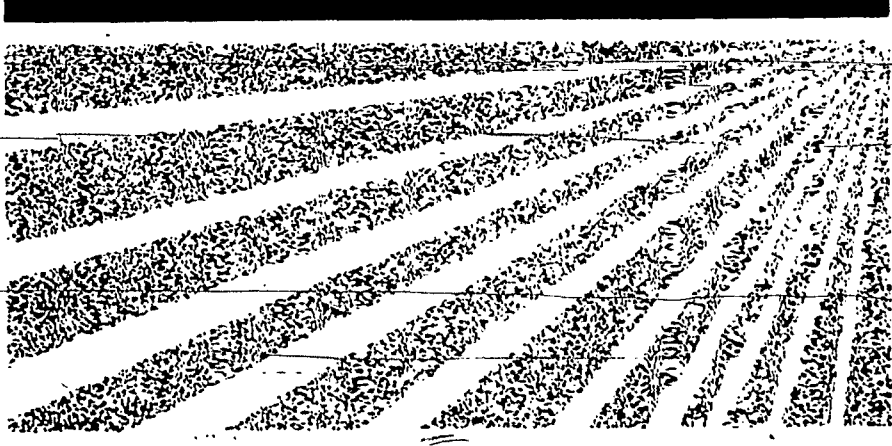
Some have asked: "Why do you give the Protestant ending to the Lord's prayer?" They ask out of curiosity rather than objection.

I give four reasons: 1) because it is the form most familiar to our separated brothers and they are the majority of our patients and workers; 2) because it is a beautiful and ancient doxology to praise God; 3) because it inspires my own soul; 4) because it helps Catholics to learn to pray with fellow Christians of other faiths.

The history of the English translation of the Lord's prayer is interesting. The English vernacular prayers were introduced into England under Henry VIII. The English translation of the Lord's Prayer, which Catholics recite, was printed in "The Manual of Prayers" at the order of Thomas Cromwell, the King's vice regent in ecclesiastical affairs.

The doxology (which means a hymn of praise) "for thine is the kingdom" was added in the reign of Charles II (1660-1685).

Years ago, many Catholic almost suspected that to use the addition "for thine is the kingdom" was close to a denial of the Faith. Of course this was ridiculous. And many Protestants thought that omitting the ending was short-changing the text of the Scriptures. Of course this was ridiculous. Now both Protestants and Catholics in ecumenical prayer, wind up the most perfect prayer in unison, in unity, and Our Father in heaven is glorified.



Spectrum Of Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Abortion Retort

Editor:
At the end of your first article in the series of articles concerning "Easy Abortion," you invited comments; so at last I may, can and will emphatically put forth to the best of my ability what has been "earing me up, ever since I heard of these sick laws legalizing the murder of unborn babies.

It would seem that the State of New York is on the verge of passing a law that would only further illustrate how confused our society really is.

Before discussing abortion, let me note that New York State has recently eliminated the penalty of capital punishment.

How is this for irony? In this State, a convicted murderer, even one as brutal as Richard Speck, would be spared the death penalty, and yet an unborn child, containing a spanking clean new soul from God, and whose only crime is that of being scheduled to be born, could be put in danger of meeting with the death penalty—i.e. ABORTION!

A baby conceived out of wedlock has just as much right to live as one conceived in wedlock. It should not lose its right to live just because its parents used poor judgement in their behavior.

Now, as far as rape is concerned, I sincerely believe that the unborn child resulting from this type of crime should not be made responsible for forfeiting its life. Instead, why aren't stronger measures taken to prevent situations wherein a crime of rape could take place, such as curfew laws, more concerned parents as to the whereabouts of their children—And why not the death penalty for the rapist, instead of the innocent child that may be conceived? Better to treat the cause and not the symptom, to insure the proper cure.

I've heard people say: "An unborn baby is not actually aware of its existence, so what's the difference . . ." My answer to that is: A new-born baby is also not actually aware of its existence, but who in his right mind could kill it?

A pregnant female, in any stage of her pregnancy, carries a life within her, and her role is that of a life-support system, until such time that the life within her can exist on its own. Mammals, including man, owe their present-day existence on this planet to this basic principle.

Heaven help us if easy abor-

tion laws are universally passed to upset this. The aspects of this would be even more devastating and terrifying than a nuclear war.

Mrs. Lillian S. DiNardo,
B.S., R.N.
Rochester, N.Y.

Finds Courier Bland

Editor:
What has happened to our diocesan newspaper? A few months ago we received an exciting publication unafraid to handle the controversial and important ideas and events of our times. There was even a hint of becoming an ecumenical newspaper.

Now we receive a bland offering, most of which is becoming increasingly trivial. Must we rely completely on the secular press for all religious news that somehow can be construed to be disturbing to the "traditionally" formed Catholic mind?

Is it the function of a Catholic diocesan newspaper solely to propagandize or should it present the issues squarely so that a well informed laity can discover the truth for itself? One of the most exciting confrontations of ideas ever to occur in the history of Christianity is going on before us, but our diocesan newspaper is choosing to ignore it with its increasingly conservative stance.

Perhaps Father Atwell is as difficult to replace in his own milieu as was Pope John. But I know that I am not alone in

mourning the decline of a once promising Catholic newspaper.

John C. Schotzmiller
—Penfield, N.Y.

'B' Movies on TV

Editor:
I believe it is a terrible injustice to the children and teenagers of Rochester and Monroe County to show movies listed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures as B movies (morally objectionable in part for all) in prime children's television time.

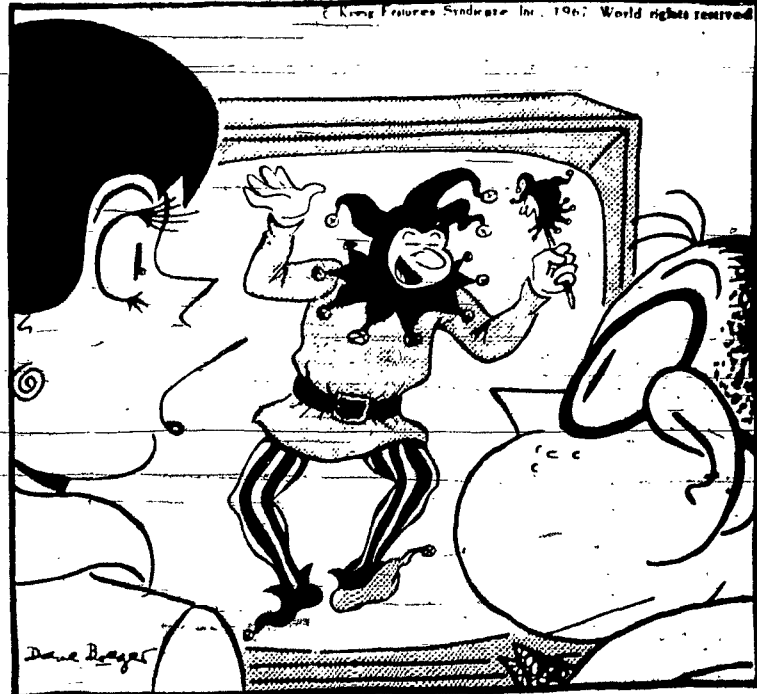
Last week station WROC-TV, (Channel 8) launched a new format of movies from 4 to 8 p.m. In their first week of showing, there were three movies which had been rated B by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, (formerly the Legion of Decency, for which each year we stood up in church during Mass, and made a pledge that we would not support these movies.)

Our moral decline is at its lowest ebb when it invades our homes. We cannot do much about the caliber of movies currently showing most of our picture houses, but we should be able to put a stop to it when it comes into our living rooms, other than disconnecting the set.

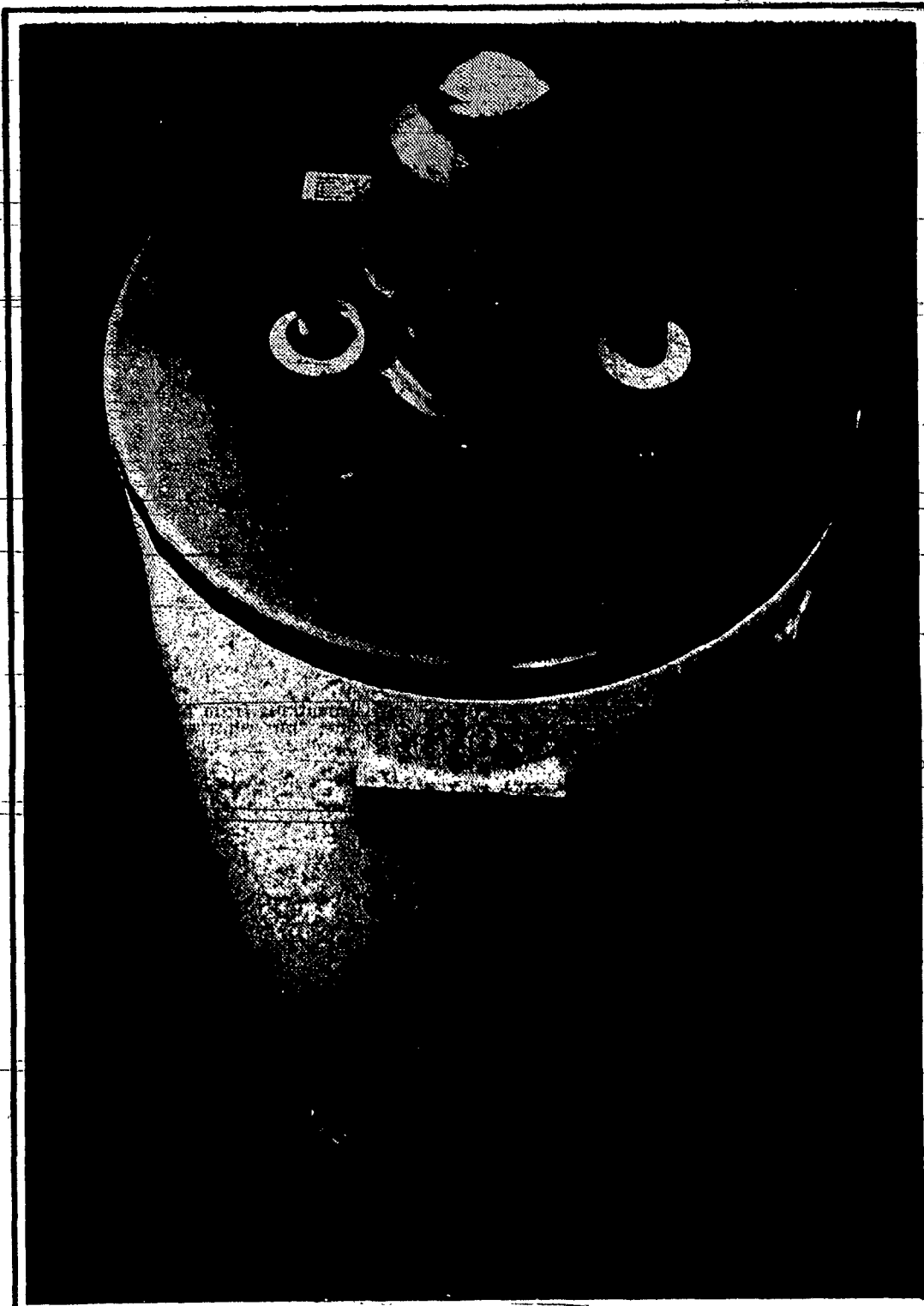
I would like to know how other parents feel about this station depriving our young people of the "Children's hour."

—Mrs. Marie L. Meagher,
Rochester, N.Y.

MISTER-BREGER



"I understand his comedy act's been handed down in the family for generations . . ."



The Water Heater for the Growing Family

Active growing families need lots of hot water. There's many, many, baths, many, many washings and much, much cleaning to be done. And, as the family grows, so grow the number of helpful appliances to make life easier. Soon an automatic dishwasher is added, then a newer and bigger washer—all to keep you, your family and your home as neat as a pin.

But many times, as you grow, your old water heater seems to shrink. You find you're running out of hot water right in the middle of a shower, or the water isn't hot enough for the second batch of clothes. If this is the case—now is the time to switch to the water heater that grows with your family—an A. O. Smith Permaglas gas water heater.

Because A. O. Smith is quality constructed throughout, it's able to keep up with your growing demands. The glass lining is built to take the numerous changes that occurs when converting cold water to hot. And the thick blanket of insulation keeps the hot water in the tank—where you want it!

So, if your old water heater can't keep up with your growing family—stop in and see us. We'll see that you get an A. O. Smith that grows with you.

10 Year Guarantee . . .
If within the 10-year period your tank leaks or you have rusty water due to a defect in the glass lining, you will receive a new water heater free. On any heater purchased after October 1, 1965 installation will also be free within 5 years of purchase.

A. O. Smith
Permaglas Gas Water Heater
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