

Convention Dull But Educational

By PAT COSTA

All around the town the consensus seemed to be the same: The Republican convention was with very few exceptions dull, dull, dull.

At our house we agreed. But somewhere along the line during last week's events we came to the conclusion that in this particular case, dullness could be and was fascinating.

The reasons: When national figures of such magnitude get together, no matter how stuffy they may appear on the surface, under the camera's gimlet eye and the seldom deferential scrutiny of the roving reporter's questions, they produce interesting sights and sounds.

Examples: The manner in which former presidential candidate Thomas Dewey, brushed off a floor reporter as if he were no more than an annoying fly in the early stages of the convention; the haunting similarity between John Eisenhower and his

famous father as the former discussed the ailing former president.

Another prime reason for the fascination the convention held for us was the refusal of the Senior Senator from Illinois, Everett Dirksen, to fit the mold of the conventional convention speaker. With wit, warmth and passion he fired the delegates for at least the length of his speech.

Too bad that television requires a keynote who is youthful and handsome as well as vigorous. For what Dirksen lacks in beauty and youth, he more than makes up for with a vibrant ability to communicate.

Another reason is the sense of history which Richard Nixon himself referred to during his acceptance speech. Eight years ago on election night we had watched Pat Nixon weep silently before millions on television as her husband conceded the presidential race. It was difficult to erase that picture as she appeared smilingly before the cameras this time as Mr.

Nixon made what was probably the best speech he ever made. Whatever history texts make of those moments in years to come—we saw them as they happened.

Add to the above items the chance to add to one's knowledge and hence one's appreciation of the event taking place. Thank the anchorman Walter Cronkite, Chet Hurtley and David Brinkley, so well researched yet never willing to take the obvious for an answer.

At some time after midnight, on the night of the balloting, Cronkite and the viewers learned together what would happen if a delegate left the floor and did not return when the voting took place. The answer uncovered by a floor reporter was that the delegate's alternate would vote, but not necessarily as the delegate would have.

If sometimes abrasive in their methods of cornering interviews, sometimes ridiculous in their redundancy and sometimes opening fawning over relatives of the candidates, the floor reporters

were nonetheless pertinent in their coverage.

And finally, perhaps the best reason of all for any dedicated TV watcher to tune in the convention was the all too dismal alternative—the reruns of shows that should never have been first runs.

A series of 17 programs dealing with man and religion is slated by Channel 21 at 7 p.m. Mondays. The first show which will present background material for the series as a whole is Sept. 30.

Dr. Huston Smith, of Washington University, developed the series, "The Religions of Man" from his work in comparative religion courses which he has been teaching for more than 20 years.

The programs will include discussions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam with Dr. Smith covering the origin, founders and teachings of each.

Three of the programs are concerned with Christianity and the sacramental system.

Young Priest Killed In 'Climbing' Fall

Chamonix, France—(RNS)—Father Richard Baxendale, S.J., 24, of Campion Hall, Oxford, died of a skull fracture here after a fall of more than 600 feet in the French Alps.

Rescue officials said the young priest had been climbing at a height of more than a mile on the Dent de Requin in the Mont Blanc area when he slipped down an ice field and fell into a crevasse more than 60 feet deep.

Methodist Praises Pope

Philadelphia—(NC)—The retiring Methodist Bishop of Philadelphia congratulated (Aug. 1) Pope Paul VI for his "courage and dedication and... resistance to compromise" in the issuance of the papal encyclical on birth control.

Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, former president of the World Methodist Council and an official observer at the Second Vatican Council, told the Pope in a telegram that he was "reminding the world of its religious moral and doctrinal heritage." The text of Bishop Corson's telegram follows:

"We are grateful for your courage and dedication and your resistance to compromise for the sake of fashion between spirit and matter. You are reminding the world of its religious, moral and doctrinal heritage. Bishop Fred P. Corson, Resident in Philadelphia."

Colombia President Foresees Strikes

Bogota—(RNS)—President Carlos Lleras Restrepo of Colombia has warned of strikes and demonstrations next month to embarrass the Colombia government during the Eucharistic Congress.

(Bogota will be a center of international attention during the Congress, which Pope Paul VI plans to attend.)

Next best thing to telling it to the chaplain is telling it to Pat Ansers.

Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Office of Motion Pictures:

Paramount—"Where Were You When the Lights Went Out?" (Adults)

Regent—"Petulia" (Adults)

Cinema—"Rosemary's Baby" (Condemned)

Little—"What's So Bad About Feeling Good?" (Adults)

Monroe—"War and Peace" (Family)

Riviera—"Dr. Doolittle" (Family)

Studio 2—"The Graduate" (Adults, with reservations)

Loew's—"Prudence and the Pill" (Condemned)

Stoneridge—"The Thomas Crown Affair" (Objectable in part for all)

Panorama—"The Odd Couple" (Adults)

Towne—"Boom" (Objectable in part for all)

Waring—"Hammerhead" (Objectable in part for all)

Stations—"Never a Dull Moment" (Family)

Fine Arts—"The Detective" (Objectable in part for all)

Lyle—"King Kong Escapes" (Family)

Books

A New Jewish Theology in the Making—by Eugene B. Borowitz—(Westminster, \$6.50)

An illuminating book to members of the Jewish Community and to readers of other religious faiths, the author delves into questions about Jewish culture and theology, and ponders "what does it mean to live a modern Jewish life?"

Such thinkers as Leo Black, Teilhard de Chardin and Martin Buber are examined in detail. According to the author, a great constructive change has swept over American Jewry in recent years. After the disaster that fell upon European Jewry, the question whether there could ever again be 'normal' existence for the Jews arose.

Two developments pointed to a positive answer: (1) the founding of a Jewish state; and (2) the maturation of the American Jewish Community.

The Cosmic Christ—by George A. Maloney—(Sheed, \$6.95)—The "Cosmic Christ" of whom the author writes is not the abstracted, ethereal being of post-Tridentine theology, but the vital, all-pervasive Man who is capable of giving form and meaning to every human act, from offering one's life in a noble cause to sweeping the kitchen floor. This authentic Christ as conceived by the Evangelists and the Fathers, and resurrected in our own time by Teilhard, is the Christ offered by Father Maloney as the unconscious object of the

present-day's restless quest for "life."

Absolutely Null and Utterly Void—by John J. Hughes—(Corpus, \$7.95)—Aside from its intrinsic worth as a work of profound scholarship, this book is important as the first step toward a more realistic definition of the nature of the pastoral ministry, of the limits of the papal magisterium, and of the meaning of the term "Christian unity." An important one for both Protestant and Catholic theologians, it deals with one of the most interesting questions now confronting the ecumenical movement—the issue of whether or not the Catholic Church can recognize the validity of Protestant Orders. On that consideration, in fact, rests finally the sine qua non of any true union of the Churches: the recognition by Rome of the Protestant congregations as canonically valid Churches, and therefore as equal partners.

This book is the first modern work to give exhaustive historical consideration to a small but important part of that issue—the condemnation of the Anglican Orders pronounced by Leo XIII in 1896 as "absolutely null and utterly void." According to the author, the papal investigation preceding the condemnation was in sufficient

involvement of Christians, and specifically of Catholics, on the principle that "as men of our time, we celebrate the world, but in Christ's spirit." A Christian response at every level of life—social, economic, political as well as purely spiritual, is demanded. The "new Catholic" will find Andrews' brand of practical Christian humanism both stimulating and workable.

The Citizen Christian—by James F. Andrews—(Sheed, \$4.50)—This book is a popular plea for the real (i.e., the active, as opposed to the merely oral)

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TV Movie Ratings

Friday Aug. 16 thru Thursday Aug. 22d

Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; B: morally objectionable in part for all; C: condemned. No Rating: film has not been reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (formerly the Legion of Decency). N.B. Before A-3 classification was established, A-2 indicated morally unobjectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Lists TV programs for Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

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Wed. Matinee Orch., Boxes, Loge \$4.00; Balcony \$3.00, 2.00, 1.00, 7.00

Sat. Matinee Orch., Boxes, Loge \$7.00; Balcony \$6.00, 5.00, 4.00, 3.00

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