

THE PROGRESS OF PEOPLES

Don't Be Panicked by Russians

By Barbara Ward

There are difficulties about writing a column, which, because of delivery times, has to be composed well in advance of publication.

This has happened to "Progress of Peoples" recently. Columns asked people to consider on what they would spend money saved through disarmament—on themselves through tax rebates—or on other less fortunate peoples, through foreign aid.

Has the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia scattered all such hopes to the four winds? Are those who have warned us about "the continuing aggressive ambitions of world communism" right? Far from seeking controlled disarmament, should we now set in motion a new drive of immensely expensive rearming which could eat up any margin for other international policies—such as economic assistance or new plans for expanding trade and liquidity?

If so, much of what Pope Paul has pleaded for in the shape of international justice, taxation, investment and development will simply be thrust aside by the deepening crisis of violence and fear.

But before we take this despairing

view, we have to decide the real nature of the Soviet action. Is it no different from Hitler's apparently similar takeover of Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1939?

The answer must surely be that the Czech tragedy of 1968 is quite different. The Czechs are not being "absorbed" in the Soviet system. They have been there for 20 years and more, ever since Hitler's frantic anti-communism opened up all Eastern Europe to Communist control.

The attack on Czechoslovakia is the action of panicky men in the Kremlin who believe that if the Czech experiment succeeds, it will spread not only to countries with miserably unpopular governments—as in Poland or East Germany—but to Russia itself.

This fact should determine the reaction of the Atlantic powers. They must, naturally, keep the alliance strong and not allow any idea to grow in Moscow that moves beyond the line of the Soviet sphere of influence—for instance, in Berlin. But would not be resisted by force. But they must at all costs refrain from

falling back themselves into panicky anti-communism and reverting to the idea that only military and forceful situations are worth working and paying for. On the contrary, they have to remember that it is the openness and nationality of Western society that attract Eastern Europe.

The belief that freedom can be combined with social justice—for racial minorities, for poverty-stricken peasants, for whole undeveloped societies—will be a more potent solvent of Russian power than any sabre-rattling or all-out rearmament. In this context, a new effort to see Atlantic wealth to work to enlarge the opportunities of poor peoples at home and developing peoples abroad, far from being irrelevant to the Czech crisis, is of the very essence of the conflict between Soviet and Atlantic power.

For Soviet power is being undermined from within by the forces of freedom. In 1888, Marx wrote that "a spectre is haunting Europe, the spectre of Communism." In 1968, the spectre haunting the Russian empire is the spectre of freedom. The more Western society shows that it is free, and with freedom it can solve the problems of social justice which communism claims to solve, the more irresistible will be the demand of Communist peoples, including the Russians, to make their own experiments in a more open world.

We cannot counter the challenge of the Czech crisis simply by producing a mirror-image of Russia's panic. We must return to our own deepest insights of justice and liberty.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

The Lord Goes to Them

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Each day at our St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the sick. It is a picturesque ritual. Two Sisters of Mercy act as acolytes. One leads with a red lantern, symbolizing Christ the light of the world and the love of Christ for us in His Sacred Heart.

The communicants vary in degree in their piety, religious understanding, preparation and thanksgiving. Usually those who have rosary beads have a better understanding and reverence. This applies to younger as well as older patients. Some have prayer books and are well prepared for Communion when the Lord comes.

Occasionally funny things happen. One day a woman who was a determined daily communicant, looked up in surprise as the Sisters and I appeared with the Blessed Sacrament. She had been deeply engrossed in an Alfred Hitchcock murder story, and did not notice the time or the warning tinkle of the bell. In some confusion she simultaneously replied to the formula: "The Body of Christ," with a resounding "Amen"; and adroitly covered the title of the Hitchcock blood curdler with piously folded hands.

Another day we came to the bed of a man in his late 60s. He had been a railroad worker all his adult life. The Hornell railroad men seem to have a deep reverence for the Sacrament and for priests and Sisters. As I raised the Host and said "The Body of Christ," he replied with an earnest "Thanks be to God!" It was a new response and I was touched by its beauty and its meaning in that man's life.

I don't suppose he knows very much about evolving theology, revolutionary liturgy or the crises in the Church. He does know his old catechism. He is not a man frozen in and by the catechetical formulas. He is not ossified by structures. Rather he is what the normal faithful Catholic is: devoted to the Church, warmly conscious of the needs, the rights and the potentials of his own family and friends first, then of the needs of others claiming his love.

For centuries both learned and simple Catholics have drawn special strength from the Blessed Sacrament

to go out into the marketplace and to live the Christlike life they have received sacramentally and have adored in this Unique Presence. There is no greater worship of God than the Sacrificial Banquet, but not all can attend Mass.

The point of Communion for the sick and infirm is clear in instruction on Eucharist Worship, from the Sacred Congregation of Rites: "It is fitting to provide the nourishment of the Eucharist for those who are prevented from attending its celebration in the community. They will thus 'FEEL THEMSELVES UNITED TO

THIS COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINED BY THE LOVE OF THEIR BROTHERS.'" (I.O.E.W. No. 20)

For years I brought Holy Communion to a crippled woman who was unable to get out of the house, or even about the house. One day as I was leaving the house she smiled: "First Friday is the brightest day of my month. It is the day Our Lord comes to me in the Blessed Sacrament. How I'd love to go to Mass, Father. But thanks be to God, you can bring the Lord to me." This memory is one of the great consolations of my priesthood.



Moral Theologians Called Reluctant on Current Ills

Notre Dame — (RNS) — Moral theologians appear reluctant and unprepared to discuss the many pressing social issues of the day, according to Father James Burchaell, C.S.C.

The Roman Catholic priest made his comments at the eighth National Conference on Christian Education at the University of Notre Dame. Some 2300 persons attended the meeting, sponsored by the United Church of Christ. It was the largest Protestant-sponsored gathering to be held at the Catholic University.

Father Burchaell, chairman of the theology department at Notre Dame, said that contemporary Christian ethics show "a remarkable ignorance of the rights and wrongs of social involvement."

Such matters as restraint of trade by labor unions, the unrestrained advertising through television, increasing monopoly of communications media, expanding inequities in international development, pollution of international resources, and inertia in criminological and agricultural reform were listed by Father Burchaell as subjects which should concern the moral theologian.

"Contemporary ethical concern is largely selfish," he declared. "Current comment on ethical matters has a way of fixing the focus of its attention on the twin areas of sex and violence."

"As these issues are now discussed," he said, "it is (the) individual aspect

that is stressed, while possible social implications are ignored. For instance, most pleading for divorce manages to regard children as little more than interested spectators in the struggle between their parents.

"Such literature as I have seen on conscientious objection to warfare speaks sensitively of the horror of men killing men," Father Burchaell noted. "What I miss is any suggestion that it might be an atrocity to recruit or to join a group which intensely suppresses among its members that which some think most human—the right to evaluate orders before obeying."

Columban Sisters Open Teaching Hospital

Mokpo, Korea — (NC) — The Missionary Sisters of St. Columban recently opened a new three-story, 145-bed hospital in this city in the extreme southwest of Korea. It is a teaching hospital to be used for training the student nurses.

Built with a donation from Misericordia, the German Catholic overseas relief organization, the modern hospital sits on a high hill dominating the center of the city. U.S. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) helped the Sisters plan the site and remove part of the hill with donations of relief food paid as wages to the local workers.

A LAYMAN'S VIEW

Jesuit Proposes New School Concept

By Joseph Breig

A new concept of Catholic schools in America has been placed before the U.S. bishops by a Jesuit educator.

Essentially, he is calling for decentralizing of Catholic schools, in the Department of Education, U.S. Catholic Conference, he has suggested that the bishops include the new ideal in a joint pastoral letter on Catholic education which is currently under consideration.

The present diocesan school systems, Father Petz says, are modeled on the government-operated, tax-supported public systems. Control is in the hands of diocesan school boards, and financing is a diocesan matter. Teachers are "employees or quasi-employees of the diocese."

Three great fundamental results would follow, in this educator's judgment:

- 1. Real control of schools would be in parents, thanks to the fact that they would choose the schools to which to send their youngsters.
2. Educational excellence would be stimulated by competition.
3. Excellence, however, would likewise be promoted by cooperation. Educators would come together in free associations for sharing of ideas, teachers and facilities, and for research and experimentation.

Proposing the changed approach is Father Jerome A. Petz, director of

education, Detroit Province, Society of Jesus.

Essentially, he is calling for decentralizing of Catholic schools, in the Department of Education, U.S. Catholic Conference, he has suggested that the bishops include the new ideal in a joint pastoral letter on Catholic education which is currently under consideration.

The present diocesan school systems, Father Petz says, are modeled on the government-operated, tax-supported public systems. Control is in the hands of diocesan school boards, and financing is a diocesan matter. Teachers are "employees or quasi-employees of the diocese."

In the Father Petz concept, schools instead should be independent institutions, established with the consent of the bishop. This is already the situation with Catholic high schools in many dioceses.

Father Petz notes that a committee financed by the Ford Foundation

recommended decentralizing of New York public schools. Milton Friedman, education expert at the University of Chicago, advocates decentralizing, plus controlling of financing through students and parents, rather than directly.

Citizens for Educational Freedom, Inc., has long advocated this approach.

Father Petz believes that the change not only would lead to dramatic advances in education, but also would sharply improve morale in religious teaching communities, and would stimulate religious vocations. Also, student-parent pride and interest in schools would be enhanced.

Finally, Father Petz is convinced that the independent schools he proposes would better serve "the dignity, freedom and uniqueness of each student," and would be "best suited to provide the environment so necessary for producing the Christian mind."



The Holy Father - Church Defends Man's Dignity

Castel Gandolfo — (NC) — The Church's defense and understanding of man is of "incomparable greatness," Pope Paul VI told a general audience here (Sept. 4).

Speaking on the theme of "What Is Man?" Pope Paul noted that it is a dominant question today both within and outside the Church. Particularly in the light of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, said the Pope, the Church's evaluation of man "is of incomparable greatness. No anthropology equals that of the Church on the human person, even considered as an individual, regarding his originality, his dignity..."

Singling out two particular aspects of the Church's teaching on man's dignity, Pope Paul stressed the concepts of conscience and liberty. "These are basic matters on which the (Second Vatican) Council insists in a particu-

lar and most authoritative way. They are extremely delicate matters because of the current mouthings and the superficiality which have come to be created by many on the subject of the formation of an exact concept both of conscience and of liberty, as well as on the correct use of both one and the other."

The Pope said that the Church's teachings merit careful study, but for the moment he confined himself to affirming: "It is a fact that the Church claims for man, in the highest sense and thus in the most exact sense, conscience and liberty and confers on him thus a stature equal to man as he is defined, a creature, yes, but man in the image of God the creator and one who has been elevated by ineffable love to the level of a son and who participates in the divine nature."

Texas Prelate Backs California Grape Boycott

San Antonio — (RNS) — Archbishop Robert E. Lucey has ordered all Roman Catholic institutions in the archdiocese to refrain from purchasing California table grapes.

In endorsing the efforts of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee in seeking union recognition, the Texas prelate has joined a nationwide boycott of the California product which has received the backing of a growing number of religious leaders throughout the country.

Archbishop Lucey, who also active-

ly supported the efforts of the UFWOC to unionize field hands in the Rio Grande valley, said that the boycott "will help hasten the day when all farm workers in our nation will enjoy employment benefits alongside the rest of their brother workers in industry."

The strike against several large grape growers in California is being led by Cesar Chavez, UFWOC national director. It was launched about three years ago and when no progress was in sight this year, Chavez initiated the boycott. The growers affected claim to produce about 90 per cent of the grapes in the U.S.

The Pope's Week

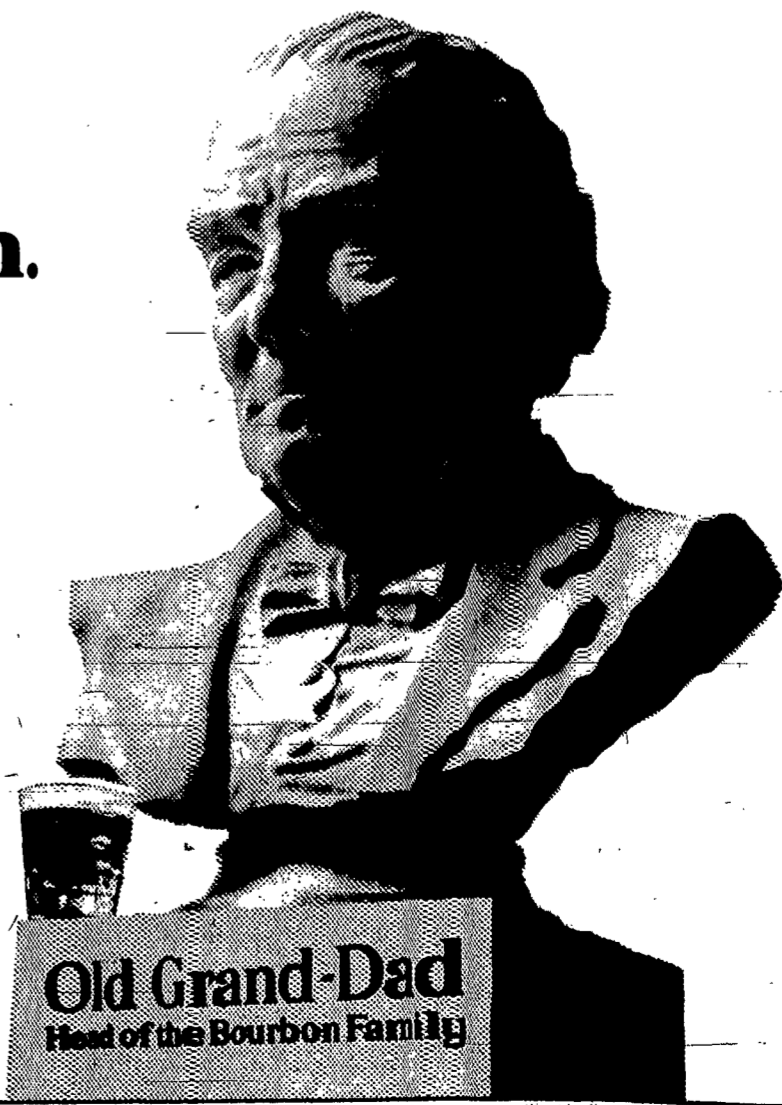
Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI greeted a group of Czechoslovakian pilgrims during a general audience at his summer residence here with exhortation to "remain steadfast in faith and in the love of Christ" during the "grave, sad and difficult period" their country is undergoing.

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul sent a message of condolences and a contribution for the aid of victims of the series of earthquakes in Iran. The message and funds were transmitted through Amleto Cardinal Clognani, Vatican Secretary of State.

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Recent developments have shown that the prospects for peace in Europe are more "precarious" than had been thought and that the need for European unity to preserve peace is urgent, Pope Paul VI said in an audience here. Addressing the members of the Political Commission of the Council of Europe, the Pope said that recently Europe had "seemed immune from the dramatic conflicts that other regions are enduring."

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has sent a message of congratulations to Bishop Otto Spelbeck of Meissen, East Germany, and to the clergy and faithful of the diocese which is observing its thousandth anniversary. The Pope urged Catholics of the see to "hold fast to the Faith," cultivating their "noble religious traditions" and remaining "loyal followers of the Church and the Pope, the vicar of Jesus Christ."

September is the 179th anniversary of the birth of Bourbon. Happy Birthday Mr. Harper, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Crow, Mr. Beam, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Dant and all the other Bourbon kin.



Old Grand-Dad Head of the Bourbon Family

KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKY. 85, 66 PROOF AND 100 PROOF BOTTLED IN BOND. OLD GRN D-DAD DISTILLERY CO., FRANKFORT, KY.

CYO Sched

Physical exercise for downtown laymen and nities to provide recreation, physical education for their needy boys and the attractive inducement this year's Catholic Youth Organization annual men campaign.

The drive, running from 16 through 30, is being led by Mrs. Donald (Judy) and Dr. David Spring. Spring is employed at and lives at 784 Oak Ridge Irondequoit. Mrs. Bard Rock Beach Rd., Irondequoit is active as chairman Irondequoit Harvest Quilting and as a member Federation of Women.

All 25 members of the of Directors of the CYO engaged in the promotion of the campaign and organization of the drive is headed by Paul Schmidt, E. Secretary of the Catholic Organization.

A special appeal is going to the exercise laymen of the exercise laymen of CYO's newly remodel town Men's and Women's Club. Among the additions the club are new jogging Businessmen's Lounge, multi-purpose room with ping and pool tables archery and golf range new are sauna baths, and exercise machines.

Special appeals have made to civic and fraternal organizations to sponsor children for through the sponsors grant, a donation of give one young opportunity to exper

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS advertisement featuring Bundy H. Hornet and other instruments.

THE HOLY FATHER'S N... advertisement with a portrait of a man.

TO SPONSORS IN MAINE advertisement listing names and amounts.

Dear Monsignor Nolan advertisement with a portrait of Monsignor Nolan.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS advertisement with a logo.