

Pornography Flood Decried As Leading to Animalism

Unless the current flood of pornography and obscenity is halted, the American people will be reduced to animalism and the nation will crumble.

This was the contention of Charles H. Keating Jr., one of the dissenting members of the Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, principal speaker at the second annual dinner of the Citizens for a Decent Community of Rochester, held at the Pary House in Chili.

Keating, a Cincinnati attorney who founded the national Citizens for Decent Literature 15 years ago, was presented by Bishop Hogan, who termed the presidential commission report "a tragedy."

The report, which recommends that "federal, state and local legislation prohibiting the sale, exhibition or distribution of sexual materials to consenting adults should be repealed," was denounced by many Senators last week as they voted 60 to 5 to reject all its major findings.

In their findings, 12 of the 18-member commission said there was no evidence that exposure to pornography is a significant cause of crime or leads to immoral or unnatural sex acts.

Bishop Hogan said the report would disprove one of the methods being taught and widely accepted today—the effectiveness of audio-visual aids.

Keating asserted that the immediate results of the commission report will increase the rising tide of obscene books, magazines and movies. Declaring that "my tongue twists in revulsion," he charged that "pornographers are bullies who proliferate obscenity, using the courts as a weapon and a tool," and added that "this is making jackasses of the public, who find 'art' in these books and films."

Pornographers, he said, deliberately "excite the lust in people," asking them to "look at the message" in these offerings, and saying to themselves "Give me your dollar; I'd like to become rich off your stupidity."

Displaying magazines with pictures of men and women performing sex acts, including such acts with animals, Keating warned that this will bring "destruction of the family and rampant animalism."



Bishop Hogan presents a speaker at the annual dinner of Citizens for a Decent Community of Rochester on Oct. 20. From the left are Charles Keating Jr., Cincinnati, the principal speaker; Michael J. Macaluso Jr., Rochester, the CDC president; Bishop Hogan; and Raymond Gauer, Los Angeles.

Hardcore pornography is being screened and shown in hundreds of places throughout the country, he declared, and live shows are being conducted in which nudity and sexual acts are being staged with invitations to audiences to participate.

Keating made a particularly impassioned appeal to women, who he said are being "victimized" by growing obscenity. "You must insist," he stressed, "you must demand that decency, respect and purity be restored as virtues to be desired."

"Take a stand—now," he pleaded, "before it is too late... For your sake, for your family's sake, for the country's sake, for God's sake, take a stand—speak—be heard!"

Another speaker, Raymond P. Gauer of Los Angeles, national director for Citizens for Decent Literature, called for a Congressional investigation of the pres-

idential commission, which he contended was oriented toward American Civil Liberties Union thinking, and for an independent group to review the commission report and the whole subject of obscenity.

Congressman Frank Horton, one of numerous politicians at the dinner, in brief remarks said Congress has been concerned for several years with the problem of pornography, and asked that his name be added to the list of honorary committee members of CDL.

Nearly 300 persons attended the dinner, for which Michael Macaluso Jr., CDC president, was toastmaster. Vice presidents are Clarence E. Carman, Nicholas Hober and Anthony Annunziata. Anne Blankfield is secretary, and Mary Ann Smith treasurer. On the advisory committee are Father Anthony Calimeri, pastor of St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester, W. P. T. Grady and Fred Pompeii.

with and in Christ to non-Jews.

Cornelius, however, deserved some special consideration from Jews. He was already a "half-convert" to Judaism. He had apparently chosen to live according to the Jewish religion as one who "feared God." Apparently, therefore, he attended Sabbath services and observed such laws as those of Sabbath rest and the dietary prescriptions.

Luke's account says something even more important about Cornelius, from the Jewish point of view, namely, that he gave generously to the poor and "was constantly praying to God." In other words, Cornelius was really living to the full the old Testament teaching that one should love God with all his heart and soul, and also love man his neighbor.

It has been rightly said that Luke shows here a soul that is led by God's initiative from fullness of Jewish belief to the Christian faith which confesses one Lord for all mankind and salvation equally for all men.

Early Conversion: Cornelius

By Fr. Walter M. Abbott, S.J.

Up to the end of Chapter 9 in the Acts of the Apostles Luke has given us the impression that the apostles stayed in Jerusalem apparently spending most of their time in prayer. After he has told us about the spreading of Christ's message beyond Jerusalem as a result of the "cruel persecution" there following the death of Stephen, suddenly Luke tells us, "Peter traveled everywhere" (9:32).

It is obvious, however, from the construction of the whole book of Acts that Luke regarded Peter's experience in the house of Cornelius in Caesarea as something pivotal in the early history of the Church. This whole episode, which takes up all of Chapter 10 and half of Chapter 11 in the Acts, is rightly regarded as the main turning-point in the story of the Acts.

The point is that by baptizing the Gentile Cornelius, Peter took the decisive step which marked the transition from

what has been called "Jewish" Christianity to universal Christianity.

Up to that event it seems that the Apostles, all devout Jews, continued to observe Jewish laws and practices as they contemplated what Christ had taught. They made converts to the "way of Christ" among the Jewish people around them, and those converts were encouraged to do just what the Apostles were doing: to frequent the Temple, honor the Sabbath, and observe all other Jewish prescriptions, including circumcision and dietary laws.

Notice the roundabout method the Apostles use when they finally have Peter under inquiry. They begin by complaining that he went into the home of an uncircumcised Gentile and ate with him. You might say that they reveal their authentic Jewishness in that complaint. You might say, too, that they show their authentic Semitic background by only gradually leading up to what is really bothering them, that Peter has opened the new life of and

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