

FR. HENRY ATWELL
**Toward
Tomorrow**



Most Americans have the illusion that if we really wanted to do it we could get along without the rest of the world.

We are, we think, quite nice guys who endure the rest of the world and would like to help it along and that's why we can't understand why those foreigners don't seem to like us.

One of these days "those foreigners" are going to devise a new bumper sticker which will say "America, love it and stay there" — a variation of the old "Yankee, go home."

It is true, of course, we probably could survive alone with a high fence around our country from shore to shore. Survival that way would be a big come-down from the way we live today.

But our present greed, cruelty and deceit may soon force us into this cage.

Much was made recently of Chile's take-over of American copper mining industries in that thin land of Latin America.

Exploiting natural resources is not limited just to Americans. The Inca Indians did it in Chile long before there were "Americans."

But in 1904 an American mining engineer, William Braden, recognized the mineral wealth in a mine that had long been called "El Teniente." He launched the Braden Copper Co., now a subsidiary of the Kennecott Corporation, with an initial investment of one and a quarter million dollars.

Both Mr. Braden and his company have made out quite well from that original investment. Ten years ago

profits were running up to \$12 million a year, and during the past few years, up to \$26 million annually.

Add the Anaconda Co., with its even larger open mine at Chuquibambilla and the even larger profits there and you begin to see why the people of Chile decided to take over these lucrative operations for their own enrichment. There's no doubt that American skill and marketing ability made these industries possible, but it's the massive drain that irks "those foreigners" who feel they should benefit most from what, after all, is theirs.

Or take our government's repeated insistence that we are not bombing the dikes in North Vietnam.

Recently a group of foreign journalists — respected as competent and honest in their craft — were inspecting dike damage near Hanoi. Almost as if staged for their benefit, U.S. fighter-bombers appeared on the horizon, dropped their bombs on the dikes, and then returned to spray the journalists — probably mistaken for farmers — with machine gun fire. Fortunately the U.S. gunmen weren't too accurate and the journalists survived to report the story.

Both the Chile and Vietnam episodes were described in a recent issue of the Manchester Guardian, one of England's most respected journals.

No matter how we may try to explain such actions to ourselves, the rest of the world sees us simply as greedy, cruel and deceitful. And that taints everything else we do — all the funds and materials we do indeed ship in mountainous proportions to the destitute of the world.

Perhaps we've concentrated too much on technical skills and knowledge and neglected too much our need to grow in wisdom and sensitivity.



FR. PAUL J. CUDDY
**On The
Right Side**

A sad mid-July letter came, written by a disturbed priest who enjoys the hide-and-seek game called: "Anonymous." He wrote:

"I have often wanted to write you concerning material I read in your column. I have, however, always hesitated to write because I do not want to offer you one more opportunity to vilify the Church. This letter, therefore, is a personal one and because I do not trust you, my name will not be attached to it.

"I am concerned that the pessimism and sterility of your viewpoint which is often reflected publicly in your column is doing much to tear down the work of the Holy Spirit as well as bringing considerable insult to individuals. People like yourself, and there are many of you in the Church today, are bringing much more harm to bear on the life of the Church than the most reckless of 'liberals' could possibly do. You act like an insecure adolescent who has not quite grown up.

"The banalities which you accuse others of with your puerile pen you are most often guilty of yourself. Perhaps you should consider giving up the pen! You are doing considerable harm. I resent being forced into this position whereby I need to write to you in anger and not identify myself. I hope you will consider my words carefully. There is a woeful need for renewal among too many of our priests. Lest the Church begin to die, we better begin to grow up and learn to be comfortable with the now moment. And I suggest that renewal with you could begin by bringing an end to your personally gratifying and often vindictive column.

"The unfortunate reality is this: that there are so many like you who are acting so immature (sic) today. Lord knows when they will grow up. I am sorry I have said these things so strongly but I think the time has come to put

an end to this ecclesiastical nonsense. And in order for that to happen perhaps many strong and stinging words need to be spoken. Listen to them. They are meant for you."

COMMENT: The writer of the letter is not a priest of Rochester Diocese. And he does write as he thinks. In a related thought, L'Osservatore Romano (English Edition, July 27) has a good review of Cardinal Wright's latest book, The Church: Hope of the World.

The reviewer is Maryknoll Father Vincent T. Mallon, who writes: "The author talks with verve. The mood varies from the hilarity of a private audience with Pope John to the convincing, footnoted piece on the 'Mature Priest' . . . For those who clamour for Vatican III before having digested Vatican II, or, in not a few instances, even Trent, this work will have little appeal. But those who do not have itching ears and who are eager to deepen their sensus Ecclesiae will rejoice in the provocative exposition of current themes.

"The prose is arresting but not sensational; that is, it manages to be provocative without descending to the dishonest eclecticism of the man who tries to prove his point at all costs. When he speaks of justice or racism he does not so exaggerate the importance of his theme that he leads the reader to forget other virtues called charity, patience, longsuffering.

"The topical index at the end of the volume is as unusual as it is useful in a book of this kind, because it makes it easy to go back and find memorable phrases for one's own later on."

Priests, Sisters, laymen who look for an authentic voice of the Church will find it in Cardinal Wright's The Church: Hope of the World. Give a copy to a friend and you will do a great good to him/her, to yourself and to the Church.

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