

FR. HENRY ATWELL

## Toward Tomorrow



When Senator Thomas Eagleton was recently dumped as the Democrat's vice presidential candidate, few Americans seemed to remember that President Richard Nixon faced a similar fate just 20 years ago.

And just as it was a newspaper columnist who killed Eagleton's chances, so it was a newspaper columnist, Peter Edson of Washington, who nearly cooked Nixon's political goose back in 1952.

No sooner had General Eisenhower picked the then junior Senator from California for his running mate than rumors began to circulate that Nixon was being "kept" by a group of millionaires who paid him a secret salary.

The issue grew to such proportions that Nixon finally faced the nation in a dramatic television talk ever since known as his "Checkers" speech — the name of his pet dog that appeared with him on the telecast.

Only minutes before telecast time, New York's Thomas Dewey phoned Nixon and told him that top Republicans advised him, "At the conclusion of the broadcast tonight you should submit your resignation to Eisenhower." Nixon instead, as he later admitted, "exploded" for a moment but promptly regained his cool. He then made his masterful speech where he not only answered his critics — the fund was actually only a bit over \$18,000 spent for campaign expenses and not for him personally — but in typical Nixonian style, he challenged Mr. Stevenson to "make a complete financial statement" also — Stevenson who had inherited a fortune from his father.

Nixon had measured the mood of the nation with precision. A flood of telegrams, letters, phone calls poured in upon Eisenhower's campaign offices, more than 300,000 to Ike's Washington office alone, an almost unanimous: "Keep Nixon on the ticket."

This was only one of several moments when Richard Nixon changed

political disaster into triumph, paving the way to the White House.

President Nixon, according to the recently published book "The Nixon Theology" by Princeton's Charles Henderson, believes his survival and success, despite so many grim political obstacles, is due to the direct intervention of a benevolent God, that his own political achievements are in line with the will of God.

He has, says the author, a conviction of vocation as strong as any medieval pope, priest or nun could have.

This conviction is rooted in the unshakable Quaker faith of his mother and the evangelistic fervor of his long-time friend Billy Graham.

As an example of the affinity in faith between Nixon and Graham, Henderson in his book describes how Vice President Nixon attended Graham's New York Crusade in 1957. More than 100,000 people jammed Yankee Stadium. As the Vice President and the evangelist walked to the platform at second base, Nixon said, "Billy, you are to be congratulated on this tremendous audience."

Graham shot back, "I didn't fill this place. God did it."

Crusades centuries ago were waged with the battle cry, "Deus vult — God wills it!"

Were the crusaders correct in their assessment of what God really wanted?

Americans today will have to ask themselves a similar question as they assess not just the faith of Mr. Nixon but another test given by the Lord himself, "By their fruits shall you know them." And that assessment will determine whether Mr. Nixon goes either to defeat or to victory in November.

FR. PAUL J. CUDDY

## On The Right Side



Q. What do you think of all the travel that's going on?

A. It's great! Forty years ago, Dr. Zwerlein, our history and Christian art professor at St. Bernard's used to say: "When you are young, get abroad. That's the time to see the world and appreciate history and art and people." However, his counsel wasn't followed. Those were the days of the Depression. None of us had money to travel. And even if we had, I think the climate of interest among priests then was geared pretty much toward their parish work. We though it great to be able to go to a Sodality Convention in Buffalo or New York, and to hear Father Dan Lord, and the catechist Father Heeg, and Fathers LeBuffe and Dowling et al. As a matter of fact I think that nothing since then really has inspired priests and laity and Sisters as these Sodality Conventions did. The participants returned to their parishes with happy and loyal hearts; and they really edified the Church.

Q. When did travel become common?

A. It really began in 1941-1942. The U.S. involvement in WW II broke out in 1941. Millions of young men and some women, became part of a tremendous society, now called the military complex. The result was that men from Flatbush and Paducah, from Selma and populous Long Beach, Cal., all became a family in basic training barracks. And millions started their treks to Europe and Africa, Asia, the Far and Near East and Alaska. The treks were hardly like the tourist travel advertized in the Times or the Courier, but they did open the world to millions who probably would have become parochialized in Cato or Boston or Wolcott or Ovid or Muncie.

Q. But what about travel as we know it today?

A. That developed after WW II. When Pius XII proclaimed the Holy Year in 1950, millions took boats and planes, not just to the Holy City, but to Fatima, Lourdes, and to less pious places like the Montmartre in Paris,

the Munich beer halls; and to athletic events. From 1950 on, planes developed in speed and size and comfort. The tourist trade was developed and systematized. So now, travel is convenient and relatively inexpensive for those who wish economy. Most ordinary tourists are not Gettys or Rockefeller or Kennedys.

Q. Is it really that much cheaper?

A. A friend of mine flew from Florida to Rochester to visit his hospitalized father and to help his mother. He told me: "When I enquired from the airline they first told me the fare is \$164 from Tampa to Rochester. Then they told me there is a special weekend rate, Friday through Monday for \$94, including tax." When a company is guaranteed a full plane it can gear the price to a full load. If a hotel can be guaranteed full occupancy instead of 65%, it can cut costs greatly. That's why the group tours are such a saving. Planes, hotels, dining rooms, busses, guides: all are guaranteed a set number of people; so the costs can be greatly reduced.

Q. What is the Courier-Journal tour?

A. The Portugal-Spain tour which I am leading looks relaxing and stimulating. I expect an interesting, congenial group, who will enjoy one another, and the new countries with different customs. I visited Portugal and Fatima in 1950 with Father Kress and Father Del Olmo-Ibanez, whom I had known in England in 1944. Father K. and I took Father D-O to a bull fight. He was enthralled, and with true Spanish contempt for the unheroic, kept shaking his fist during one fight, and exclaiming indignantly: "Zee buull! Shee eez a coward! She eez a coward!" To me, little incidents like this make for the joy of a trip. Fr. D-O writes that he will meet us in Madrid. He should add spice to the party.

Dr. Zwerlein said: "Get abroad when you are young." Well, that's fine for people who could. But there are many who could not; and who are going when they are older, enjoying it immensely, even as I do!

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