

BOB CONSIDINE

## On the Line



Readers set me straight, for which I'm reluctantly grateful.

Harold W. Thatcher, Yale Law '08, writes from the remarkable city of Forty Fort, Pa., as follows:

"In your column in the Times-Leader, Wilkes-Barre Record, you wrote . . . in the 1950's, at the time the country (Vietnam) was being broken into two bitter segments by essentially stupid statesmen at a Geneva Summit. I regret to have to say that this statement is entirely contrary to fact.

"The fact is that the members of the Geneva Conference went out of their way to make it clear they had not created two separate and independent states in Vietnam. In their Final Declaration they stated: 'the military demarcation line (17th parallel) is provisional and should not in any way be interpreted as a political or territorial boundary.'

"Language could scarcely be clearer than that as to the intentions of the conference. In addition, the Final Declaration, looking toward a unified Vietnam, also provided for an internationally supervised national election (in all of Vietnam) in July, 1956. Not only did the Geneva agreement not establish two nations in Vietnam, but the whole tenor of the Agreement, in addition to the prescribed election, envisaged a united Vietnam.

"It was we, our country, who provided the 'essentially stupid statesmen' who, steeped in the paranoiac anti-Communism so characteristic of American Foreign policy at that stage of the Cold War, blocked the admirable solution agreed upon at Geneva by backing Diem's refusal to hold the prescribed election and pretending, despite the clear evidence cited above, that the Geneva Conference had created two separate and independent states in Vietnam, only one of which we recognized because the other was governed by Communists.

"This entirely false premise became and has remained the cornerstone of our policy in Vietnam, and our government, to its eternal dishonor, brainwashed (in such documents as 'Aggression from the North') practically the whole population of the United States, including journalists like yourself and many of my fellow historians (whose training should certainly have protected them against it) into believing this falsehood and supporting the longest and most discreditable war in our history.

"No really satisfactory settlement can be made until we muster the courage to admit our mistake and substitute truth for fic-

tion in our propaganda. Journalists whose words reach such vast numbers of people should, instead of continuing to support our government's obviously false premise, be in the forefront of the movement to put America back on the right track again."

"You suggested that General MacArthur would have been hammering at the President and Chiefs of Staff for permission to attack North Vietnam in a manner similar to his brilliant Inchon invasion in Korea," writes Roland A. Fiore, Medina, Wash., who reads the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. "The only problem with this statement is that MacArthur was strongly opposed to American involvement in Vietnam.

"In a 1963 meeting at the White House with President Kennedy, at a time when we had only 16,000 military advisers in Vietnam, he advised the President that getting involved in a war in Vietnam was not worth American lives and that the money could be better spent at home. John Kennedy was pleased with the advice, but responded by withdrawing only 1,000 men. MacArthur's vision would have lifted us out of the Vietnamese quagmire before it became a major disaster for this country. So, I had to wince when you inserted him amidst the current stupidity of American policy and amongst the small men of no vision (even after the fact) who insist on superimposing America's honor on that civil war as if Pearl Harbor had been attacked."

In a letter to the editor of the Boston Herald Traveler and Record American, James Drummey Jr. of Norwood, Mass., writes, "Shame on Considine for dredging up the hoary canard that the late Martin Dies branded Shirley Temple a Communist when she was seven years old. The truth is that a witness before the Dies Committee, J.B. Matthews, after noting that many prominent individuals, including Shirley Temple, had carelessly allowed their names to be used for Communist propaganda purposes, specifically stated 'No one, I hope, is going to claim that any one of these persons in particular is a Communist.'

"But the Communists and their fellow travelers, in seeking to discredit the Dies Committee, accused the committee of doing exactly that. My source of information? 'The Red Plot Against America,' a book written in 1949 by Robert Stripling, an investigator for the Dies Committee, and — Bob Considine."

Enough of this mortification of the flesh!

Secret Service agents protect Prime Minister John Lynch of Ireland (center, in dark suit) from eggs hurled by demonstrators as he leaves American Broadcasting Company studios in New York after appearing on an interview program. (RNS)

## Egg Throwing Marks Visit

New York (RNS) — Some 250 demonstrators, including several nuns and mothers with children staged a noisy "booming" demonstration here against Prime Minister John Lynch of the Republic of Ireland.

Lynch was booed lustily when he arrived at the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) television studios recently to appear on the program, "Issues and Answers." Several eggs splattered against his car as he departed.

The Irish Prime Minister was

visiting the United States to encourage American business investment in his country.

Sources here said that Lynch, whose government has been cracking down on the outlawed Irish Republic Army (IRA), would also make a major effort to discourage Irish-Americans from sending money that IRA terrorists use to buy arms.

The protesters, representing nine Irish groups in the New York area, included Frank McManus, a member of the British Parliament from Northern Ire-

land. McManus, who came here to dog the steps of Lynch, has said he would urge Irish-Americans to continue contributing money to meet an "escalating need" for financial aid in Northern Ireland.

As the protesters marched back and forth on the sidewalk opposite the ABC television studios, Mr. Lynch said on the program that "both sides" would have to "yield somewhat" to achieve the reunification of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic.

Referring to suggestions and demands that Britain withdraw its troops from Ulster, Mr. Lynch declared: "To remove British troops at this time would leave the way open for further conflict." He added that he believed "there is a necessity for British troops for some time."

One of the signs carried by the protesters read: "Only a rat like Lynch would sell out his country to England."

The soft-spoken Prime Minister said he saw a sign of progress in the results of a referendum last month that ended the "special position" of the Roman Catholic Church in Eire. He also said he felt that the Republic's ban on divorce was not a major obstacle to reunification with predominantly Protestant Ulster, since "Irish people as a whole would be loath to accept divorce."

## Jesuits Consolidate Theological Schools

Washington (RNS) — The 10 Roman Catholic Jesuit provinces in the U.S. will consolidate the theological training of future Jesuit priests into three nationally-sponsored seminaries, located in Berkeley, Calif., Chicago, and Cambridge, Mass., it was announced here.

The decision by the 10 provincials, approved by Father Pedro Arrupe, S.J., superior general of the Society of Jesus in Rome, was announced by Father Robert A. Mitchell, president of the Jesuit conference of provincials in Washington.

The Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley; Bellarmine School of

Theology, Chicago; and the Weston College of Theology, Cambridge, were designated as the three centers of future Jesuit formation. Two other theology schools were excluded from national sponsorship — Woodstock College, New York City, and St. Louis University Divinity School.

While the St. Louis school will continue to train non-Jesuit candidates for the priesthood, the future of Woodstock was described as "uncertain" by Father Christopher Mooney, S.J., Woodstock's president, who said "it will take a couple of weeks to determine what the college will do."

## Archbishop at Scene of Sniper Fire

New Orleans — Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans was having lunch when he heard of the sniper shooting that racked this Louisiana city last week. He immediately drove to the state-operated Charity Hospital, only two blocks from the gun battle, where the dead and wounded were being taken.

During the attack, Archbishop Hannan visited the homes of Mrs. Louis Sirgo and Mrs. Paul Persiga, who had been widowed by the sniper fire.

He also broke the news of her son's killing to the mother of Phil Coleman, the third slain policeman.

At one point, when there was a rumor that the snipers were holding hostages, Archbishop

Hannan offered to act as an intermediary in obtaining their release, even to the point of offering himself as a hostage.

Mayor Moon Landrieu and Police Superintendent Clarence Giarusso expressed appreciation to the archbishop but vetoed his suggestion.

Father Peter Rogers, OMI, expressed the feelings of most residents of this city following the two days of violence in which seven persons were killed. "It was just amazing . . . a day I hope never to see again in New Orleans," he said.

As chaplain of the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments, he had been on the streets adjacent to the Downtown Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge as

police exchanged fire with snipers on the motel roof.

At one point, the priest saw a woman walking around "unconcerned about anything," apparently in a state of shock. Observing that she was in the line of fire, he yelled at her to get down, but he later recalled, "she looked at me like I was crazy."

Father Rogers said the woman later disappeared from the scene, and he theorized that she had decided to take his advice after all.

Seeing a man fall on another occasion, the priest dashed out from behind a police car where he had been crouching with a policeman. Seconds later, the police officer was pinned to the ground by sniper fire.

Wednesday, January 17, 1973

Father Rogers concelebrated a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe church in memory of the three policemen who were killed, including Deputy Police Superintendent Louis Sirgo.

He later remarked on the courage of the wives of the policemen who were on the scene: "It takes a lot of strength to be married to a policeman. These wives are very proud of their husbands. So am I."

Archbishop Hannan offered a special prayer on the city's three commercial television networks on Sunday evening, while the shooting was at its height.

He prayed: "As on this day in 1815, when an outside enemy threatened our city (a reference

to the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812), every member of this community united in the face of a common tragedy, may we stand as a single family of every race, every culture, every religion; may we stand as brothers united under the fatherhood of God, dedicated to fulfilling His will."

Archbishop Hannan left for Lafayette, La., shortly after taping the prayer to participate in the installation of Bishop Gerard Frey there.

He was flown back to New Orleans by helicopter to save time, and immediately began making visits to the families of the dead and wounded. On Monday evening, he again offered a prayer on television stations.

Page 21