



# ON THE LINE Bob Considine

Dear Jesus:

I guess you saw that AP story out of Washington the other day, the one that began, "The traditional Nativity scene will probably not be included in the Christmas Pageant of Peace near the White House this year."

Went on to say, "Ruling on an interdenominational suit alleging that the Nativity's presence violated the Constitution's separation of church and state, the Court of Appeals said that either the government aspect or the infant Jesus portrayal must be eliminated from the 19-year-old pageant, which also included the national Christmas tree."

"Arthur J. Lamb, a National Capitol Parks official who is chairman of the week-long event, said later, 'Our solicitors are working on it. But the way I see it, in order to make sure that we have a Pageant of Peace, the Nativity scene will have to be removed.'"

"The three-judge court gave the Government the option of removing the manger scene or withdrawing its official sponsorship of the event . . ."

Well, J.C., it looks like you've had it.

You wouldn't want to do anything like infringing on our sacred Constitution, right? That's a pretty hallowed set of rules, around Washington especially. I guess you realize that if there wasn't a Constitution to live up to, well, Washington might be in chaos.

Terrible things might now be happening there. Like threats of impeachment against the President, a Vice President guilty of income tax evasion and out of office, break-ins and bugging, indictments and investigations, corruption, collusion, conspiracy and contempt for all the moral codes you preached about when you got older.

So, tell your mother and foster-father to start packing the old creche, and get ready to hit the road again. Send the word to Crosby to knock off buying "White Christmas." Warn the Washington department stores that they might get padlocked if they pipe in "Adeste Fideles," "Silent Night," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and other sales-stimulating chants. Suggest to them that they play it safe and stay with "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," right through the holidays. And go easy on the ersatz Stars of Bethlehem.

You must have figured it would come to this ever since the day the Supreme Court blackballed prayer in the public schools. You must also be surprised that the Congress still lets its chaplains ask for divine guidance in behalf of its benighted members. And that our coins and paper money continue to proclaim "In God We Trust," which, in the case of the paper money, doesn't seem to be enough of a guarantee for the countries whose scalps we saved during the big war, and after.

CWU

Wayland — Church women United will meet Friday, Nov. 2 at St. Joseph's Church for a luncheon in the school cafeteria at 12:45 p.m. Ladies are asked to bring a dish to pass and table service. The theme is "World Community Day" and each church is asked to bring a poster depicting "Who is Your Neighbor?" Members are also asked to donate non-perishable canned goods, articles of clothing or health aid items to be packed in Christmas boxes for area needy families. The items collected will be given to the "Community Service Center" to be distributed by them at Christmastime.

## St. John Knights Set Inspection

The annual Regimental Inspection of the Knights of St. John will be held at Bishop Kearney High School, in the gymnasium, on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m.

The regimental commander, Colonel Joseph L. Cimino, requests that all commanders notify their military members to be present for this most important occasion.

The inspection will be conducted by the regimental inspector, Capt. Edward L. Palumbos.

Brigadier General Al G. Miller, inspector general of the Knights of St. John will be the Reviewing Officer. The public is invited.

## Call for Renewal Changes Time

Beginning this Saturday evening, the diocesan phone-in show, Call for Renewal, is changing its airtime from 11:10 to 9:30 p.m. The time was changed because many listeners had written to Father William Graf, the program's host, and asked for an earlier time slot. The show is still carried by WROC-AM.

Assuming you get the heave-ho out of a town which retires fearfully behind triple-locked doors when the sun goes down, will it take very long for that interdenominational group to demand that we delete the Declaration of Independence line reading "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence . . . ? And what's to become of all those framed copies of the Pledge of Allegiance when the cops come around and order the owners to erase, or ink out, "One Nation under God . . . ?"

Too bad, Prince of Peace. First you couldn't get a room in the Inn. Now it looks like you'll be evicted from the Pageant of Peace. And, with terrible irony, by a man named Lamb, as in Lamb of God.

Your fan—BC

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