

THE SLOT MAN

Carmen Viglucci

There is a newspaper axiom "when everybody is talking about one thing, don't write about something else." That is not an old axiom, I just made it up.

The thing that everybody is talking about is Richard M. Nixon, the 37th president of the United States. The man who has come closer to toppling the government than all our enemies abroad, past and present, and all our home-grown hippies, yuppies and dippies.

Never before in our history has one man done so much to so many.

Aside from debate on issues, criticism of the President of the United States does not come easy. Ruffles and flourishes, Hail to the Chief, "When the President calls, I answer" and all that.

But watching this President's recent performance is like learning that the Mets also lost the 1969 World Series, that the Pope took a Berlitz course in Latin, that Pat Boone uses vulgar

'Credibility' Is at Stake In Abortion

Vatican City [RNS] — A nation that fails to condemn the "crime" of abortion loses its credibility in advancing true humanity, the Vatican Secretary of State said in a letter to West Germany's bishops at their annual meeting.

Cardinal Jean Villot, writing in the name of Pope Paul, said "there is not a substantial difference between born and unborn life and there is also no difference between the ways chosen to eliminate it. In both cases, it is homicide."

Vatican Radio, which noted that the letter reiterated the "unchanging and unchangeable moral teachings" of the Church, said it was sent to the German bishops via Cardinal Julius Döpfner of Munich-Freising.

After stressing the special interest which these bishops' meetings have in today's world, "which finds man's hopes, and very survival threatened by technology and progress," Cardinal Villot's letter focused on the responsibility of civil authorities "who must defend and sustain human life when it is endangered."

With respect to abortion, the letter recalled that "Catholic bishops all over the world have raised their voices against laws and legislators, projects which would liberalize abortion."

"The problems of abortion should not be considered from the individualistic point of view and left to the mother or the family to decide," the letter continued, "but the decision should be made in a context which examines the common good of society and the good of the unborn child."

The letter said the Church is well aware of the potential difficulties and personal problems which may occur in certain "limited" cases. It said the Church "tries to meet these special problems with an adequate response."

"Nevertheless, the Church cannot concede that contraception or abortion are morally permissible," it added.

Finally, Cardinal Villot's letter went on to say, "a state that does not deal and does not condemn these two crimes (killing of the living and unborn) with the same legal norms loses its credibility in facilitating true humanism."

language, that Disney pioneered X-rated films, that Howard Cosell is humble, that Christopher Columbus wasn't even Italian.

We already know that some apple pies are made with crackers and that motherhood is no longer sacred but now things to have gone too far.

It's like "when the President calls tell him I'm not in."

In the midst of all the stunning television "special reports" and "bulletins" the most shocking personal development for me was provided by my six-year-old son. He was sitting, nursing a fever with a dish of chocolate ice cream, and, I thought, completely impervious to all the television chatter.

Suddenly he sat upright and exclaimed, "They can't say that about Nixon. He's the President of the United States." Then he wheeled to me and added, "Right, Dad?"

Well that's the attitude he's been taught, just as his father before him.

It wasn't easy to try to explain what has happened with the presidency. It was going to be difficult to explain that the President is, after all, just another citizen of the United States, subject to all the same laws, regulations and moral and ethical taboos "even as you and I."

"John," I began, "maybe this is going to be hard for you to understand after all you've been told, but . . ."

Pope Happy Over Truce

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul VI, expressing his "happiness and satisfaction" with the announced cease-fire in the Arab-Israeli war, said here that he was "anxious" about "the clouds that still hover" over the agreement.

Speaking at his customary weekly general audience (Oct. 24), the Pope said he was observing "this dramatic moment of history with fixed eye and beating heart."

(Israel announced early on

Oct. 24 that she and Egypt had agreed on a new cease-fire. The new cease-fire, the second since Oct. 22, was arranged through the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.)

Affirming that peace "must not normally be sought by violent revolution nor maintained by the weight of repression," the pontiff declared:

"Peace must not be a simple cease-fire, an equilibrium of opposing forces, a pure and

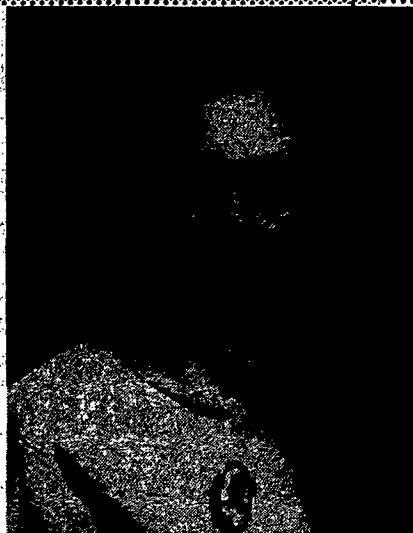
contingent combination of temporal and materialistic interests."

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