

THE CHURCH 1974

Father Andrew Greeley

This is hypocrisy season. If you don't believe it look at the cases of Patty Hearst and John McLaughlin.

The FBI and the California police were not able to find Patty Hearst for four months. The only way they could think of to regain face was to try to persuade the world that a nineteen-year-old kidnap victim is a dangerous criminal. The mad shoot-out in Los Angeles had just one purpose — to kill Patty the hardened revolutionary. The cops must have been terribly disappointed that they didn't get her.

And the various prosecuting attorneys who are bringing charges, seeking indictments, offering to send her to jail for only ten years — they have done their best to send a confused and now probably almost insane young woman to the death that the SLA in its own weird way foresaw.

Pouring thousands of rounds of ammunition, and tear gas canisters into a wooden house in which a handful of young people (who clearly didn't know what to do with automatic weapons) were trapped could only have had one purpose: to kill them and Patty too. The Los Angeles cops may have been trigger-happy, as all too many cops are; but the FBI are cool professionals. If they shot to kill it was because the SLA had humiliated them and they wanted vengeance.

Don't surround the house and starve them out, as the New York police did a few weeks ago with

some local kooks. Shoot them down — after all, they're "revolutionaries." It was a disgusting and disgraceful episode in American history and it will give other kooks a whole new set of folk heroes.

Is there a jury in the country so confident of the behavior of its own children under the strain of four months of imprisonment while the great FBI dithered about what it could charge them with?

The SLA were quite mad. Still, the gun-happy police almost make the SLA look correct in their analysis of American society.

John McLaughlin isn't going to get shot at. He is just being summoned to spend a week of prayer with his provincial. I thought that kind of baloney went out with the Spanish Inquisition. Richard Cleary (McLaughlin's provincial) is guilty of the kind of phony hypocrisy that would make a person of even moderate good taste want to vomit.

I hold no brief for either McLaughlin or his boss not do I approve of priests in politics — be they Berrigans or Drinans or McLaughlins. But if you are going to let Drinan sit in the Judiciary Committee and attack the President, I fail to see how you can summon McLaughlin for a week of prayer because he sits in the White House and defends him. Drinan is being loyal to his liberal constituency, doing what the voters who elected him want him to do. McLaughlin is being loyal to his boss, doing what the man who gave him his job wants him to do.

On this issue I think Drinan is right and McLaughlin wrong, but I don't doubt the sincerity of either. They are both politicians playing the political game according to its rules. To interfere with one because his cause is currently unpopular and leave the other alone is Jesuitical in the extreme — to use that word in its pejorative sense.

Father Cleary says he's worried about Father McLaughlin's elaborate living quarters (in the Watergate, ironically enough). Strange that he did not worry about it until McLaughlin began to appear on TV to defend his boss (for using language which I daresay is not altogether absent from Jesuit recreation rooms). Strange, too, that no one called Dan Berrigan to make a week's retreat when he launched his vicious attack on Israel.

And how many Jesuits are living in apartments around the country which, if they are not as elaborate as Watergate, are scarcely monastic? Who is Father Cleary trying to kid?

Freedom is indivisible. If McLaughlin isn't free to defend the President, then is any priest free to take any stand on a public issue? And if the FBI can try to gun down Patty Hearst for the crime of being a kidnap victim, is anyone's teenage daughter safe?

It has been a rotten spring.

The Jubilee activities will consist of a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 1 p.m. followed by a reception until 4:30 p.m.

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COURIER-CALENDAR

St. Joseph's, Rush. — Rosary Altar Society, 7:45 p.m. Thursday, June 27.

National Marriage Encounter of Rochester. — Renewal rally at McQuaid Jesuit High School, 8 p.m. Friday, June 21; also, an information night for those interested in the movement.

Padre Pio Holy Hour. — St. Philip Neri Church, 8 tonight, June 19.

Alhambra Ladies. — Annual garden party, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, at home of Mrs. Donald E. Woerner, 3725 East Ave.

Opera Under the Stars. — Verdi's Aida, 8:45 p.m. tomorrow, June 20, and June 22, Highland Park Bowl.

Bristol Valley Playhouse. — The Arcadia Consort, Saturday evening, June 22; grounds open for picnicking. Box office: 315/374-6318.

Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

COURIER WANT ADS

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HELP WANTED

LIGHT Housekeeping in exchange for board and room. Could have other job. Write box 14 in care of this paper.

NEED 3 people to help me with my business. Men or Women, Sales. 385-3170.

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R.N. — F.T. 7:30 p.m. L.P.N. — F.T. 11:15 a.m. N.A. Housekeepers, F.T., P.T., all shifts. Will attempt to work around family and husband needs. Noronian Nursing Home, 1335 Portland Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14621.

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1 1/2 years old. Male poodle, apricot, AKC, has all shots, \$50. 643-8527.

GARAGE Sale. Antique china, glass, furniture, other items. June 21, 10-4 p.m. continuing. 184 Village Lane.

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