



* TELL THE ORGANIST I'D LIKE A WORD WITH HER. *

Editorial

Write It Down

Back in World War II one of the popular slogans was "don't forget to write" to our servicemen.

Some years later, President John F. Kennedy left a speaking engagement early during an election campaign to keep up with a busy schedule. Many reporters covering the trip couldn't make the departing train. As they stood breathless watching it leave, Kennedy stood at the back and shouted:

"So long, fellas. Don't forget to write."

Now, Father Gerald T. Connor, diocesan director of vocations, has the same request. Last Sunday homilists throughout the diocese called on all to write special notes of support for those studying for the religious life. The letters will be distributed to the young men and women as a source of inspiration through their long years of study.

Father Connor has pointed out that though special prayer or sacrifice is always edifying and praiseworthy it is important to put the pledge in written form to sustain the students directly. Something like a letter from home.

So, don't forget to write. Please. And return your pledges to Masses this weekend.

Lottery Questioned

This newspaper has criticized the state's lottery laws as unfair. Without even entering into the moral question of gambling, lottery promotion, advertising, and publication and announcing of results in large newspapers and on radio and television are questionable.

We have pointed out that the Courier-Journal is forbidden by postal regulation from helping a parish or a social organization to promote Bingo. Yet we have all seen lottery results published in other newspapers, who obviously have more pull with the Post Office.

Now U.S. Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe has warned that a court order may be obtained to shut down lotteries in 13 states, including New York.

He says such lotteries may violate federal laws in three areas — the prohibition of shipment in interstate commerce of lottery tickets or gambling equipment, the prohibition of the mailing of lottery tickets or announcement of results on radio or television, and the barring of banks having federal charters from handling lottery tickets or the proceeds of their sales.

We doubt that gambling can be justified morally. We are sure that it is a grossly unfair situation when the whole state apparatus can be used to promote this gambling enterprise, when large newspapers are allowed to flout federal laws, and when this newspaper cannot carry a simple news blurb or ad that St. Matthew's, for instance, has scheduled a Bingo game at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Opinion

Must Punish Deserters

Editor:

The punishment for desertion during time of war has always been either death or 20 years to life in prison. Desertion during peace time has meant a long prison term.

From 1965 to 1972 this country was actually engaged in a war in Asia. Of course, the deserters the draft dodgers and the pinkos are quick to point out that technically we were at peace at the time. However, returnees from the combat zone say that the bullets were very real.

Morally we have no choice but to punish those individuals who deserted their country when called to serve. How do you square it with the millions of men past and present, who answered the call whether they wanted to or not? What do you say to the Korean War veteran who almost froze to death on Pork Chop Hill or the Vietnam veteran who almost died of the heat at Pleiku?

Practically speaking, we must punish deserters or we might as well dissolve the Armed Forces.

James W. Kane
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FBI Rebuts Fr. Greeley

Editor:

I have carefully read the article entitled "It Has Been A Rotten Spring" by Reverend Andrew M. Greeley that appeared in the June 23 issue of "The Western Catholic." (Editor's note: The column ran June 19 in the Courier-Journal.)

The author states that the "mad shoot-out in Los Angeles had just one purpose — to kill Patty (Hearst)." The hardened revolutionary Reverend Greeley also wrote that FBI Agents are cool professionals and, "If they shot to kill it was because the SLA had humiliated them and they wanted vengeance."

I FEEL COMPELLED to respond, in behalf of the men and women of the FBI to Rev. Greeley's assessment of our motives and objectives in the Hearst case.

As a government agency serving the people of this nation, our performance is properly subject to evaluation and criticism by those whom we serve. We do not think our performance in the Hearst case deserves criticism, but regardless of that, Rev. Greeley's allegations

go beyond criticism of our performance. He attacks our ethics and morality when he declares that we kill for vengeance.

The violent deaths of those six young people in Los Angeles was a tragedy. While we deplore the loss of human life and sympathize with the families of those deceased SLA members, we do not assume culpability for their deaths. The choice was theirs. They chose to shoot it out.

This bureau had information that members of the SLA were in a particular house, which was surrounded by special agents of the FBI and members of the Los Angeles Police Department. For approximately ten minutes, an officer using a bullhorn repeatedly urged the suspects to surrender. When those inside failed to respond, a tear gas canister was thrown through a window. The suspects then began firing various types of automatic weapons at the police officers. This firing continued for a considerable period of time and was returned by law enforcement officers.

The house occupied by the suspects was completely destroyed by fire. The Los Angeles Fire Department could do nothing until the shooting stopped and it did not cease until the house was completely in flames. It is possible that the fire was started by a tear gas canister, but it also has been alleged that the suspects had Molotov cocktails and it is conceivable a bullet struck one of these, igniting the blaze.

When the suspects opened fire indiscriminately with automatic weapons, it became a hazardous situation menacing not only the law enforcement personnel, but the crowd of curious people and innocent neighbors.

In my 33 years of law enforcement endeavor, I have never met a lawman who desired to engage in a gun battle. The use of weapons is a last resort, a defensive tactic to save the lawman's life and the lives of innocent bystanders.

But Rev. Greeley has accused us of premeditated murder, with vengeance as our motive. We in the FBI feel affronted by this grave charge. We feel we have demonstrated through the years that we are genuinely dedicated to trying to protect the law-abiding people in this nation from those who would do them harm, and that in this endeavor we have striven to adhere meticulously to the highest professional ethics.

Law enforcement people who are on the front lines in the campaign against violent crime need public confidence and support for continued effectiveness.

Distortion of our motives heightens the crime problem and further endangers the welfare of the nation's law-abiding citizens.

Clarence M. Kelley
Director of the FBI

Courage, Hope, Money Needed

Editor:

I have contemplated writing this letter for a long time, and now that the third anniversary of the Attica tragedy is upon us (Sept. 9-13), I feel compelled to write since the Courier-Journal over these years has given very thoughtful coverage to criminal justice efforts.

This letter is a simple direct plea for money, jobs and housing for former prisoners; and for money for the continued work of the Judicial Process Commission of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

First, the needs of former prisoners: Those of us who have frequent contact with prisoners and the newly released are constantly aware of the grave difficulties that accompany re-entry into the community, and of the great courage and hope it takes to walk out of jail or prison with no job, no money, or very little, and no place to live. Small financial loans or gifts are absolutely necessary at this time. Also necessary are employers who are willing to give a chance to former prisoners, and landlords who are willing to offer low-rent housing, in good neighborhoods, without large security deposits. The first month of a former prisoner's re-entry into society is the crucial time which will decide whether or not he can survive in the community.

The other great financial need is for funding of the GEM Judicial Process Commission. The commission is engaged in education, research and reform efforts with respect to all aspects of the criminal justice system: county jails, selection of judges and juries, state prison legislation, Attica defense, rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration, among others. The commission is more than \$1,000 short of its current necessary expenses, even though it has worked very hard to raise its 1974 budget.

A Democrat & Chronicle editorial (8/6/74) stated: "As one of the city's most constructive citizen efforts, the Judicial Process commission deserves full fiscal support." The commission knows, however, that in many ways this will depend on the small contributions of religious persons who are struggling to be faithful to the biblical claim that we are our brother's neighbor, and who believe that the religious community must be present to the courts, the jails, the prisons and to the formulation of criminal and penal law.

If you readers can help either of these efforts, please correspond with me and I will faithfully transfer all gifts in your names. Thank you deeply.

Sister Mary Sullivan
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Reader Irked By Request

Editor:

Perhaps this letter sounds uncharitable, and I will admit it is written in anger — righteous anger, I hope.

This morning I called our parish CCD office to inquire about special religion classes for our little boy who is retarded. After Sister had given me this information, she begged me, almost in desperation, if I could teach in our parish CCD program. Why should Sister have to ask someone like me — who has three children in a Catholic University, three children in our local Catholic high schools and three children in our parish school — to volunteer for the CCD program? Where are the parents of the hundreds of children who request this instruction? And why should I feel so disappointed — even guilty — that I was not able to say YES to Sister?

Mrs. Donald Hurley
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Pittsford, N.Y.

Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richmond Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

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