

More Opinions

Questions In Gallo Boycott

Editor:

A consumer boycott of non-UFWU (United Farm Workers Union) lettuce, grapes and California wines, especially Gallo, has been called in the name of farmworkers some 3,000 miles away. This boycott, however, demands thoughtful, responsible decision by each of us here because we are all involved. If we buy any iceberg lettuce from California that is not labelled UFWU or grapes or Gallo wines, we are actively supporting the Teamsters Union and the Growers. Also for myself, in pondering the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, I find constant the call to live justly and to seek liberation for all people but particularly for our poor and oppressed brothers and sisters.

This is the fasting that I wish, releasing those bound unjustly, setting free the oppressed, breaking any yoke, sharing your bread with the hungry.

Isaiah 58: 6-7

"Whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers (and sisters), you do to me"

Matthew 25: 40

On Thursday, Sept. 19, a debate between George Frank, vice president of Gallo and Dolores Huerta, vice president of UFWU, illustrated again that "facts" are simply a part of truth — there also is interpretation, context, and priority. The question I've had for some time regarding the Gallo boycott is:

Why did Gallo after two previous contracts with UFWU sign with the Teamsters in 1973? (This is very irregular and almost unheard of for either a union or an employer to do while negotiating with another union.)

Mr. Frank answered largely on the basis that the Teamsters came to them (Gallo) in 1973 with cards signed by the workers and saying that they wanted to be represented by the Teamsters. The issue is not yet clear cut, however. The UFWU also presented signatures of workers. Mr. Frank said the signatures presented by the Teamsters were verified to be workers' signatures. In several previous situations, such "cards" presented by the Teamsters have been ruled invalid; the signatures can be checked, but often times the workers thought they were signing attendance sheets or it was discovered later that the workers signed out of fear. In light of so much ambiguity, it seems to me Gallo's responsibility to determine truly who the workers want to represent them by calling for free and secret elections to be set up and conducted by reliable persons from outside — perhaps state and Church/Synagogue leaders working together. Gallo's refusal to agree to this type of election, forces me to believe that Gallo is working in collusion with the Teamsters Union against the UFWU and against the farmworkers.

Thus as I urge Gallo to agree now to elections, I urge each of you as a consumer to insist that Gallo make this agreement and I also urge each of you to boycott all Gallo wines until such elections are held.

Sister Mary Ann Weiland
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Compassion Needed

Editor:

I would like to respond to Mr. Stvza's letter (Courier-Journal,

10/2/74) which was re Father Cuddy.

It called to my mind the Bible story of Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13). Do you recall that Abraham and Lot disagreed and parted company. Lot then settled in Sodom. Now I can't find anywhere in that story where Abraham said anything like "The chaff has been separated from the wheat" or "the mixed up people got out" or "this is new decade and I don't weep, I rejoice" (just to name a few phrases).

On the contrary, in the next chapter (Genesis 14) when Lot was captured during a war Abraham not only went on a very long journey to rescue him, but paid quite a handsome ransom besides. I, for one, am glad that Abraham didn't consider Lot "dead wood."

What happened to Christian compassion? What about correcting a fellow Christian or forgiving him? Please read Gal. 5: 14 and 15 and Col. 3: 12 to 17.

[Mrs.] Marian Gardner
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Veith Article Commended

Editor:

I can't express thanks adequately for your printing an article the likes of "Inflation a Moral Problem" by Edward Veith. Perhaps there is still hope that newspapers with wide readership — the Catholic Press — can enlighten the public to the truth of this matter and show it for what it is — a disgrace that may end tragically.

The press in general — by ignorance or design — rarely zeroes in on the problem the way this man has. The few people who may read this article will probably not even half appreciate what he is saying. The truth about the nature of inflation has been so obscured by the charges and countercharges, lies and counter-lies of the whitewash called economic theory — specifically that of Keynes — that the general public has been scared off from wanting to know the real story. Economics looks so complicated, even the "experts" don't know what to do.

Thomas Jefferson, with his brilliant vision, saw the danger posed by the unscrupulous banker family dynasties of Europe. His concerns are almost reality. The fantastically simple economics of the founding fathers have been thoroughly perverted by this clique of super wealthy men. America's economy has been sold down the river, a river of worthless theories and smokecreens.

But only a few people who have studied conservative economic theory, the principles of the constitution, know how desperate is the situation we are now in. It is pervasive.

The Church stands to be hurt because the consciousness behind the immorality of deficit spending is the same consciousness which will levy the boom in the form of taxes on places of worship. That cat isn't in the bag yet. Its claws can be sharpened for self-defense. But it's going to require a lot more articles like the one you've just printed. But will they be credible? With inflation bordering on runaway, perhaps they will be believable.

The public is in need of more that will open their eyes. I hope the light of truth is not blinding.

Sincerely yours,
Gregory J. Lynch
146 Whitman Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

Let's Keep The Big "C"

Editor:

The Courier-Journal brings home to the military priest away from home, and I enjoy reading it very much. It is heartening to read Nancy Murphy's column on the pro-life issue, and to be reassured that such strong, informed, articulate Catholics exist and continue to address killing, an issue that is both Catholic and catholic.

Father Hohman's column always piques my interest. In one of his recent instructions, he answered a question about the proper use of the word, "Catholic." The question concerned an ecumenical, prayer group whose leadership consisted of Catholics and non-Catholics. Yet, the group called itself "Catholic" and "Ecumenical". Was that honest?

Father answered the question cannily, and I thought, with some ambiguity. Although the Roman Catholic Church does not employ trade marks such as Coca Cola and Xerox, to fend off pretenders (nobody fools with the Coca Cola name here in Germany), the Roman Catholic Church does seem to be recognized by the big "C" on the front end of that word (Catholic, not Coca Cola).

These days, as we know, there are some Catholics who prefer the title, "Christian." They are of that group which may disagree with Cardinal Danielou's dictum that ecumenism was never intended to build the superchurch of the future based upon minimum values.

My Protestant deputy (Lutheran) and my other deputy (Jewish) here in the Nuernberg military community get on together quite well. We conduct joint prayer services whenever feasible and possible. I am Catholic with a capital "C". We is a Lutheran with a capital "L". Sam, our rabbi, is Jewish with a capital "J".

How could I live with a dedicated Lutheran pastor, an equally dedicated Jewish rabbi, and get any sort of respect out of them, if I wandered about with a tiny "C"?

Frederick W. Straub
Chaplain (LTC), USA
Nuernberg Community Chaplain

More Facts On Chile

Editor:

Mr. R. Bart in his letter (Courier-Journal 9/25/74) did give us another angle on Chile by quoting a personal letter and also from a magazine article. His response to my stand was that facts do not lie and that I ought to recognize this. I agree, and on the basis of the following facts, I would like to join him in saying we can't fight facts.

Fact one is that Allende opposition did publish in the paper the negative, condemning words against him. Does not the fact that such publishing is permitted indicate that Allende did not censor the papers? If he was out to "eliminate his opposition," the paper would not publish such false reports.

Fact two is that Chile is now in a "state of siege" since the junta has suspended all political parties, all civil courts and Congress. Also, complete censorship guarantees that the voice of the resistance will not appear in the media.

Fact three is that around the world anti-junta demonstrations continue. Can thousands of peoples from varying nations all be wrong in their awareness and response?

Fact four is that our Senate recently based their move to cut

off military aid to Chile on the fact that there is widespread and continuing use of torture there.

I wish to offer a fifth fact, which touches our own Christian commitment. Is it not to life, justice, liberation, unity, and free choice that Jesus' Gospel calls us? And in the light of this understanding of His call, how do our actions, of repression, interference, undermining or manipulation fit into it?

I suggest also that we are afraid of change. We are fearful of any effort to move in a direction which is different from the "great (North) American way of life." And so far it seems that as a nation we will try to stamp out such attempts to alternatives to Capitalism. If the Holy Year theme of reconciliation is to be meaningful in our lives, I believe we must first be willing to listen, to dialogue with different views and methods. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

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St. Thomas Council Day

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Council will man displays and answer parishioners' questions following the Masses on Sunday, Oct. 20. The day has been designated Parish Council Day.

The event will begin with recognition of old council members and installation of new members at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, and will close with a parish pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Cathedral at 2:15 p.m.

During the day, the two-year-old council will demonstrate the programs of its various committees and solicit parishioner help and support.

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