

**Editorial**

**Let's Be Great!**

Only someone with the ability to look into a muddy stream and see dry land would say that these are good times. Unless that someone lives in an ivory tower or has the desire and facility to copy the ostrich.

For we all know that these are hard times. A people reared on the virtue of work is faced with unemployment. A people proud of its productivity must cut back. The bread basket of the world is finding the cost by the loaf prohibitive. A nation used to running on oil is running out of oil.

In the meantime, the Four Horsemen and their lieutenants are riding high. War is seen in the contestations between nations; strife in our disregard for our fellow man; pestilence in the disease of abortion and euthanasia; and famine, gaining throughout the world.

The nation and the world enter the Year of Our Lord 1975 a bit tattered around the materialistic seams as well as in the spiritual fabric. Indeed lesser men may join in with Ecclesiastes' observance: "I have seen all things that are done under the sun, and behold all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

But within the problem lies the solution and it is not cynicism. Rather it is the realization that such times were not made for lesser people but for great people. As we make the abstract transition from Dec. 31 to Jan. 1 we should be aware of the opportunity to make this mere chronological mechanism an opportunity to look at our world from a fresh viewpoint. We should add to Ecclesiastes' many "A time to change."

We cannot simply look to others to accomplish the transformation of the present ills. Nationally, no political silver knight will come riding over the horizon with the solution to inflation, with balm for our racial sores, with answers to the vicious cycle of poverty, with shelter for the lonely and cast-off, with comfort for the aged.

On the world scene, no Solomon will arise to disentangle enemy nations, to break down the barriers between rich lands and destitute, to end the remnants of colonial injustices.

If, as intended, we are all to share in the fruits of His bounty than the effort must begin within each one of us. We must look inward to find the light, the resources, the fortitude and the reason to conquer the anomalies of the world.

For until each of us wills an end to injustice, people will be unjust.

Until each of us wills an end to war, people will fight.

Until each of us wills an end to famine, people will starve.

Until each of us wills an end to scientific death, people will die at the hands of their protectors.

For each of us is the people. Thus the people will not change until we do. Each of us may think of himself or herself as pitifully small and meaningless but that is wrong.

If we are to see Christ's rule of love effected in this world then we must begin within ourselves to understand it, work at it, and bear witness to it.

A small beginning. Perfect for Jan. 1, 1975.

**Nay, Nay, Nay**

Big deal.

The Klu Klux Klan which previously limited membership to white, native-born Protestants, has agreed to admit Roman Catholics and immigrants into its northern organizations.

Do Catholics and immigrants need any sharper slap in the face to see how we are regarded? When a hate group such as the KKK sees a chance to proselytize among us, it is time to assess the image we are presenting the world.

Obviously anyone joining such an organization, which still bans blacks and non-Christians, would be taking a giant step — backward.

**Opinion**

**Let Us Help The Starving**

Editor:

Let's help take care of our brother.

Recently, as I attended Mass, I listened to my pastor, Father James Marvin tell the congregation of the tremendous amount of suffering from hunger going on in all parts of the world. I couldn't help but feel a little guilty, since the night before I had taken my family out to dinner at a nearby restaurant and had paid a fair price.

I thought I could have used that money as an act of charity to help relieve the starving condition of some poor family.

We Americans have become one of the largest meat consumers in the world. If it takes five pounds of grain to produce one pound of meat, what a tremendous amount of grain this must add up to in one year. We have all been asked to cut down on our demand for meat, so more grain can be distributed to the nations in need of food.

What better time to begin this practice of mortification than now, the season of Advent. (It's a terrific way to lose weight and it won't cost you anything but effort.)

At one time we Catholics were leaders in this nation in abstaining from meat for periods of time. Most of us didn't like it because it was a Church law and we didn't like being told what to do. It didn't hurt us then and I'm sure it won't hurt us now.

I would like to see the Catholics of this great country voluntarily start this practice again on a large scale, and demonstrate the Christian concern that we should have one for another, especially for our starving brothers.

Also this Christmas let us all make a sincere Christian effort to donate some of our Christmas present money to the starving through the organizations that take care of this. I can't think of a better gift to give to the Child Jesus.

Frank Compertore  
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**New Year Challenges**

Editor:

As we approach the New Year, each of us should take stock of our blessings, as well as of the challenges that lie ahead.

Among my most treasured blessings is the confidence that the people of the 34th Congressional District have shown in me by returning me to Washington to face the challenges of the last half of this decade. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked for my re-election and all those who voted for me.

I am deeply grateful to the Courier-Journal and its readers for the help and support they have given me over the past year.

The New Year promises to be the most challenging America has faced in 30 years. To avoid worsening the economic emergency we face will require forthright leadership from Washington, and the cooperation of all of us. To accomplish this, confidence in both the economy and the government will have to be rebuilt.

Hand in hand with these challenges are recent developments in the mid-east, in the U.N. and in the energy pricing field which threaten our ability to rebound from the current recession.

I believe that the new Congress, working in concert with the Administration can face up to and solve some of these problems to forge the kind of cooperation that will be needed.

As we look to the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead, I extend to each of you warmest wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Frank Horton  
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**Give Children A Future**

Editor:

What are you giving your child as a New Year's gift? How about a future?

You can give him or her

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direction. You can set a good example with an awareness of an energy shortage as you stay home with them and drive less.

The women of the world instead of burning bras can fight for clean air and water so their children can breathe and grow. You can gather an army to save our planet, as Mars is now armed with the atom, ready for the destruction of all.

Most of all, our government, our churches, our schools and our parents can awaken from complacency and show our children they care, and promise a future — not material, but one of beauty.

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**Fr. Atwell On Target**

Editor:

Hopefully no Courier readers missed Father Atwell's appraisal (C-J, Dec. 18) of the incriminating paradox of extreme affluence and dire need, side by side in the Christian world. Let's all read it again — this time slowly — and ponder it well! St. Paul never said it any better (cf 2 Cor. 13:5).

Edward A. Veith  
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