

Editorial Perspective

The unpredictable mayor of Utica last week made some very predictable remarks.

He coupled his frustration at the economic woes of his city with a bitter denunciation of those who advocate helping the destitute in other parts of the world.

When a politician begins to appeal to the lowest emotions of the people you can bet on one thing — he is aiming for a more important elective post.

Sure, the recession, or depression, as the Utica mayor calls it, is not to be taken lightly. Annoying for some, it is heartbreaking for others. But linking it to helping those in other lands is ridiculous. This government does not do enough in either case — despite the high taxes we all pay.

When one reflects on the billions we spend on arms, however, the imbalance comes into perspective. Complain about the economy, yes; blame it on starving people elsewhere, no. And those who will point out the necessity of our arms budget should most of all be honest about its drain on our resources, individually and governmentally.

We would hope that the iconoclastic and irrepressible mayor of Utica would point out the true culprit of this piece — the Pentagon budget.

Father Drinan

And speaking of politicians, Father Robert Drinan, congressman from Massachusetts, has taken a position eminently qualifying him for the role.

Asked by the Worcester Priests Senate to take a stand in favor of additional congressional hearings on the proposed anti-abortion amendments to the Constitution, Rep. Father Drinan said no thanks and instead criticized the motives of pro-lifers.

In effect, according to Religious News Service, he told the priests that Catholics seeking protection for fetal life should go back through the courts, not to the Congress, to reverse the January 1973 Supreme Court decision liberalizing abortion. He also said that anti-abortionists lack perspective on other life issues.

So Rep. Father Drinan, instead of facing the issue squarely, would rather let another branch handle it.

We cannot demean Father Drinan's contributions in many spheres. He brings his point of view, which we like to believe is indeed the result of moral and Christian training, into such areas as world hunger, war and peace, capital punishment, prison reform.

But again the perplexing question is raised: Why is it that so many elected Catholics who are unafraid to trust their moral knowledge and instinct on so many issues, suddenly resort to the most tortuous of reasoning when it comes to their public stance on abortion?

Food Aid

The Interreligious Task Force on U.S. Food Policy has called for legislation guaranteeing a minimum 7 million tons of U.S. food aid annually for the next five years to needy countries.

This, of course, is not surprising. Religious people should worry about their brothers and sisters and they also should have the perspective to realize that we all live in one world, a rather small one at that.

But while making this expectable proposal, the ecumenical group made an acute point. It said food aid "should serve the human needs of the hungriest people in the developing countries, not the military, strategic, or political objectives of the United States." This point is necessary because in the past the bulk of U.S. food aid has gone not to the neediest or even the friendliest but to those nations we were wooing for political reasons. For instance, nearly half of all of such aid went to just two nations — South Vietnam and Cambodia.

The group also made another cogent observation when it said that the aid should "effectively serve the development objectives of the developing countries themselves." When we help others to help themselves the possibility grows stronger that someday they will not need our help, which of course is the optimum for all concerned.

Opinion

National ME Host to Meeting

Editor:

The weekend of May 30 National Marriage Encounter of Rochester was host to a leadership training weekend. The purpose was to prepare couples and religious to conduct marriage encounter weekends. Participants came from seven areas of the state and a team of 11 persons shared their insights and experiences with the group.

The team consisted of Father Cronan Maxwell, OFM, of St. Bonaventure, Paul and Mary Lee Danahy of the Buffalo area, Joe and Patti Federowicz of Apalachin, and Frank and Jane Bodnar, Bill and Diane Wellstead and Dan and Marty Reagan, all of Rochester.

Although the National Marriage Encounter was the original expression in the United States, it is still relatively new to the Western New York area. National Marriage Encounter of Rochester began May 8, 1974, with two couples and one priest and has experienced rapid growth. Now nearly 300 couples, priests and religious receive the monthly newsletter.

National Marriage Encounter is an ecumenical expression. Couples of all faiths are invited to participate at every level of the organization. The current elected governing board in Rochester happens to be made up of three Catholic couples, two Jewish couples and a Protestant couple. The common denominator is a deep interest in making good marriages better.

The primary goal of National Marriage Encounter is "to discover God's plan in marriage through the enrichment of the marital relationship and growth of the partners as individuals and as a unified couple."

As a couple who has participated in more than a dozen marriage encounter weekends, we have been enriched by the opportunities we have had to work closely with couples of many faith communities. We have grown in our appreciation of other people's beliefs and liturgies. To us, National's approach to marriage encounter is one way in which we as a Catholic couple can heed the mandate of Vatican II on ecumenism. More information on National Marriage Encounter can be obtained by writing to Frank and Jane Bodnar, 40 Lakeshore Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14617.

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COURIER-JOURNAL

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President

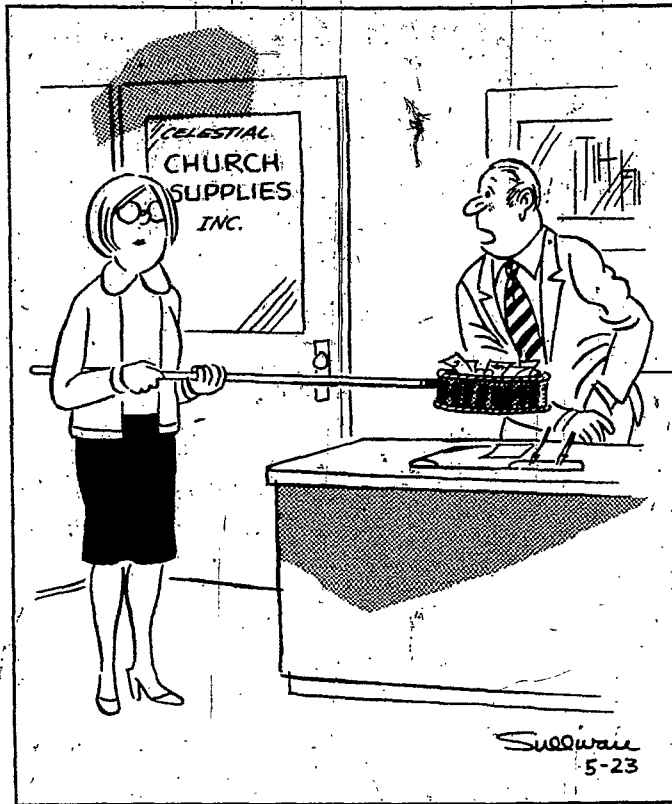
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Courier-Journal



"WHO'S GETTING MARRIED THIS TIME?"

Another View Of Dispute

Editor:

After suffering through Bishop Hogan's series of articles on farm workers, I think it is time for another point of view. I would like to quote from the national news-magazine "Review of the News" of May 14.

"The Communist-supported activist Cesar Chavez is in trouble. Membership in the United Farm Workers union is down from 65,000 to a mere 5,000. Evidence of his waning backing among the In Crowd was noted over a year ago by Dartmouth professor Jeffery Hart, who noted in his syndicated column:

"What a relief. You can eat lettuce again. Five years ago at the height of the Cesar Chavez fad, good liberals would as soon put ground glass in their sandwiches as a leaf of iceberg lettuce; but today Chavez seems to have fallen on evil days. He is entangled in a boring jurisdictional struggle with the Teamsters, who — shocking as it may seem — appear to have the greater appeal to the laborers — his latest appeal for a nationwide boycott has had next to no effect."

"So Chavez's current campaign against E.&J. Gallo Winery in Modesto California, is being manned by only the hardcore radicals, who run the risk of becoming known as the Grape Nut Flakes. In Chicago, one UFW lackey claims that wine and lettuce sales are down 10 percent nationally, a figure disputed by a Gallo spokesman who declares Gallo sales, despite the boycott, are up 4 to 5 percent over last year. Gallo has a contract with the Teamsters Union, which was chosen by the Gallo workers to represent them: Chavez wants Gallo to violate that contract unilaterally so he can control the workers. Despite the U.F.W. self-serving propaganda about the plight of the workers, Ernest and Julio Gallo call their employees 'the highest paid farm workers in the continental United States with the best package of fringe benefits.'

"Gallo's current contract pays its farm workers a minimum of \$3.10 per hour, but during the harvest season many of them earn up to \$9 per hour plus fringe benefits of paid holidays, vacations, life insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance and overtime pay. It's time Chavez realized that most of his own people don't want him or his United Farm Workers."

We derive our entire income from agriculture and are well aware that the dollar return on our investment is not much better, if as good, as these people are doing.

Mrs. Thomas Hempel
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Used Mags Needed

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to the Foreign Missions.

If those who wish to do so will please send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of Missionary Priests and Nuns who need Catholic literature.

Write to me at the address below.

Mary Conway,
14, Castle Street,
Cork, Ireland.

Chavez, UFW Taken to Task

Editor:

I found Bishop Hogan's recent support of Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers rather curious. Chavez and the UFW currently are urging a boycott of Gallo Wines. Permit me to quote from the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner for April 1, 1975.

"Gallo's current contract pays its farm workers a minimum of \$3.10 per hour but during the harvest season many of them earn up to \$9 per hour. To this is added one of the best packages of company-paid fringe benefits of any farm workers — paid holidays, vacation, life insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance, and overtime pay.

"Yet Chavez continued to agitate for Gallo to repudiate its binding contract with the Teamsters — ignoring the illegality of this action and the lawsuits, boycotts or strikes it might bring about. Demonstrations, boycotts, false charges and marches against Gallo are unwarranted. It's time Chavez realized that most of his own farm-working people don't want either him or his United Farm Workers."

Also I would like to remind Bishop Hogan that membership in the UFW is down from 65,000 to a mere 5,000. And Gallo sales, despite the boycott, are up over 4 per cent from last year.

Nicholas Hober
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Editor's Note: Hober's figures are based on a report in the magazine "The Review of the News."

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.