

Editorial

Captive Nations

To so many war-weary people across the world, detente means hope. It is understandable but this hope must be accompanied by wariness. The Russian bear, as we must have learned by now, is unpredictable.

The exiled author Alexander Solzhenitsyn in a visit to these shores very recently warned that Soviet leaders are not trustworthy and declared that the Cold War is still on.

The novelist said all of this against the backdrop of the joint United States-Soviet space venture. And of course such remarks must be considered in conjunction with the ongoing disarmament talks.

Somewhat we must balance the facts that Solzhenitsyn's warnings are valid and that we also must proceed with disarmament talks and ventures such as the space shot with the hope that to reach peace we must continually take steps in that direction.

In the meantime, so that we do not become euphoric in our friendship with Moscow we have only to ponder on the plight of such proud nations as Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, all of whom have become little more than Russian states. We must remember the treachery that brought these peoples into the long night of despotism.

Add to this the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union and the necessity for being alert becomes even clearer.

Somewhere along the line we must insist that Moscow show its good faith by granting freedom to choose not only to the peoples of the captive nations but to its own citizens as well.

Saintly Cool

A constant and correct piece of advice for those of us engaged in issues which have religious overtones is to remember that we live in a pluralistic society and that although we may easily perceive errors being condoned or even espoused by others we must realize that they perhaps are not ready to accept our views. In short, don't blow our cool.

Needless to say, this role is an extremely difficult one to accept. It becomes almost impossible when presumably responsible people on the other side of the river use vitriolic language to spurn our beliefs.

Witness this exchange as described by Religious News Service at the International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City. About 1,000 feminists shout support for a demand to have abortions readily available to single as well as married women.

Editor's Note. They're wrong. Let's try to live with it. We should try to persuade them to change always making sure our views are presented forcibly albeit calmly. We should not give vent to emotions. Etc., etc.

Back to Mexico City. A Mexican woman objects to pushing abortion so hard, saying that "abortion is a thing that greatly affects the moral and natural equilibrium of women."

Editor's note: Fine rejoinder. Factual, cool, thoughtful.

But alas. This woman is jeered by other delegates and ruled out of order by Dr. Victoria Mojekwu of Nigeria, a moderator, who declares: "Religion is the disease of the world. Religion was made by men, interpreted and misinterpreted by men and worshipped by women."

Excuse our distorted allusions but if one can keep one's head amid such diatribe then one is more than a man, one is even more than a woman. One is probably a living saint.

Opinion

Alliance Waffles On Abortion

Editor:

St. Joan's Alliance is accused of being affiliated with NOW, a major proponent of abortion on demand. Ms. Nothnagle, in her letter (Courier-Journal 6-18-75) is not very convincing in her defense of the Alliance. She appears to be setting a double standard for herself and the organization — a tactic too many politicians and, unfortunately, Christian clergymen use, when confronted with the abortion issue.

She states that "as for the abortion issue, St. Joan's takes no official stand." Claiming to be a "devout Christian" and personally against abortion (which is also what many waffling politicians declare and then vote pro-abortion) she seems to feel no qualms or moral indignation about belonging to an organization that takes "no" official stand.

Three unborn children are murdered every minute by abortion. How can St. Joan's, acclaimedly "Christian" take no official stand? Personally, I cannot comprehend this. "To sin by silence when they should protest, makes cowards of men." (A. Lincoln.)

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Holy Father And Charismatics

Editor:

In all fairness to our Holy Father, Pope Paul, and to all your readers, we are writing to clarify the Pope's role in the Charismatic Conference in Rome on May 16. Yes, he did bless the Charismatics and was pleased that they wanted him to speak to them. However, he did not offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as it was incorrectly stated in the Courier, June 11. Cardinal Suenens concelebrated Mass with numerous priests.

Secondly, in his address to the Charismatics, the Holy Father cautioned them to follow the three directives that the Holy Spirit inspired St. Paul to write in order to aid in discernment of "spiritual Gifts." Thus would the Church truly benefit from this movement.

The first principle, Pope Paul said, is faithfulness to the authentic doctrine of the faith, i.e. the Magisterium and Scripture as interpreted by the Magisterium. "Anything contradicting it cannot come from the Holy Spirit," he stated.

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
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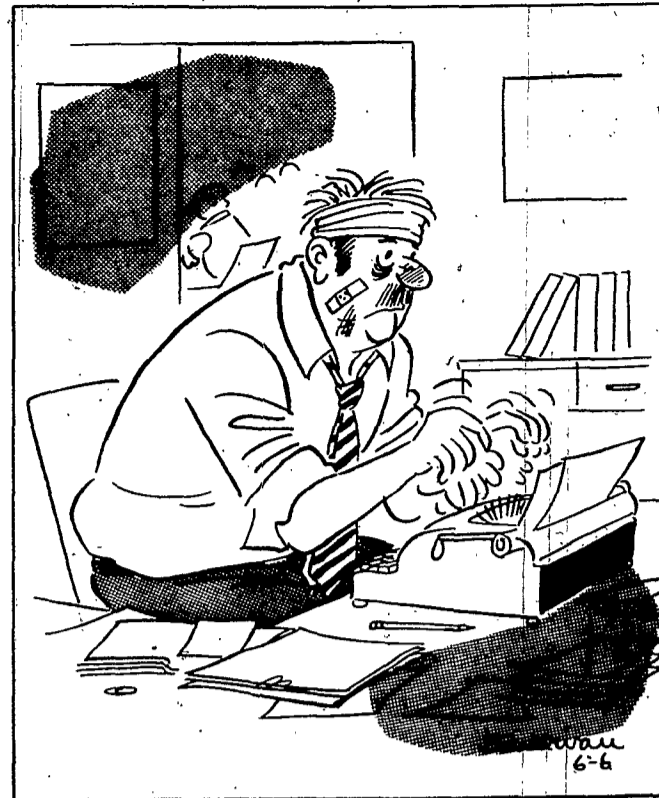
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"HAVING SAID RATHER STRONGLY IN MY LAST COLUMN THAT WOMEN SHOULD NOT BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD, I FULLY INTENDED TO WRITE NO MORE ABOUT IT! HOWEVER, MY WIFE HAS GIVEN ME SEVERAL STRIKING NEW INSIGHTS..."

The second principle is that all spiritual gifts are to be received gratefully and "for the common good." (1 Cor. 12:7)

The third principle, and most important, is the presence of love which communicates "the very life of the Trinity" and which can and must be communicated in love to others "in deed and in truth."

He also advised "celebrating frequently, and in a dignified way the Eucharist" and frequent use of the "Sacrament of Reconciliation. These sacraments tell us that grace comes to us from God, through the necessary mediation of the Church."

In conclusion, our Holy Father told the Charismatics that they would make their contribution to the renewal of the Church without making a mistake only "with the help of the Lord, fortified by the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and in communion of Faith, charity, and apostolate with your pastors."

All events at which the Holy Father is present and all his addresses should be reported objectively and accurately, especially during these times when there is so much confusion in souls. The words of Christ's Vicar should be heeded in a spirit of filial obedience, reverence, and love.

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Reader Lloyd's letter was signed by nine other persons.

Editor's Note: The Holy Father did indeed celebrate Mass at the charismatic renewal meeting in Rome as reported in the Courier-Journal first-hand report of the meeting. Pope Paul VI celebrated Mass on Pentecost Sunday at which time he told charismatics that joy should be a mark of the Christian because Jesus lives. Reader Lloyd's confusion arises from the fact that the following day, Monday, May 19, Cardinal Leo Josef Suenens, primate of Belgium, was principal celebrant of a Mass closing the four-day meeting. The Holy Father used the occasion to address the charismatics. We agree that all events at which the Holy Father is present should be reported objectively and accurately.

Answers Letter On Hospital

Editor:

In response to a letter in the Courier-Journal by Richard Reinhardt of Rochester:

I am a graduate of St. James Mercy Hospital and have spent

many happy years there as a member of the staff. Yes, St. James has served this area, not only with outstanding medical care but a spiritual care which in my memory has never been quite the same in any other institution where I have worked: However, I feel that this spiritual care which in my way of thinking is as important as excellent medical care to patients of all faiths, has been seriously threatened by individuals who apparently feel that they must sacrifice the religious affiliation of this hospital for some type of a lucrative business arrangement.

I wonder what would happen if all Catholic hospitals were to follow this example.

I was trained under the very strict but loving hands of a number of nuns, some of whom have already been called back to God. I shudder to think how "they" after all their years of hard work and sacrifice would feel about the legacy they have left in the hands of the few now present.

I hope and pray that I never see St. James stripped of its religious affiliation and left as a money-making institution where the spiritual values of life and death have been left to die.

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Keep Religion On Airwaves

Editor:

Yes! Madalyn Murray O'Hair has once again raised her head to strike! This time she is actively campaigning against expression of religion through public media which would ultimately involve press, radio, television.

She has already caused public prayer to be banned in our public schools. Our youth need the reassurance of faith and hope these days rather than a life of fear and confusion.

Happy to say, our media programming, literary publications, etc., are achieving an all-time high in the direction of religion these days. Let us hang in there!

If Madalyn can wage a campaign why can't we? We have been forewarned. Let us rise up and counterattack!

As individuals, through our various groups and organizations let us voice our protest through senators and congressmen! Don't sit back and "let George do it."

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