

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Music they say is Man's response to life, accurately portraying the era which spawns it — and defining those who listen as well as those who create. But what of Man's silences? Will it be our silences and not our music which sets this generation of American Christians apart? As we wait at the edge of an ocean of evil, containing and releasing the foamy shallow sand of social distractions and diversions, are we ignoring the deeper horrors of a world gone mad? Are we ignoring human life and human liberty — do we betray the human spirit — in a pursuit of personal fulfillment and social redemption? And will we thereby risk being swamped by a tide of atheism?

Gen. Hugo Bethlem, former ambassador to the United States from Brazil, said: "Brazil almost became another Red China because we, the elite (leadership), did not wish to pay the price of true leadership. We refused to take that responsibility which was supposed to be ours."

"In our establishments we demanded honesty of our employees but we ourselves were not honest; we demanded that our wives be pure when we were not. We demanded of our children standards which we ourselves were not willing to fulfill. We had a society built on lies. The new generation did not believe in us; nobody believed in anything. The nation of Brazil had completely lost its aims because as I am so is my country. We had no purpose, no commitment in life. No ideology. Men with the wrong ideology almost took the nation over. For the wrong ideology will win out over no ideology. Over apathy. Men who fight for the wrong ideology with passion, sacrifice and intelligence will always win out over men who do not fight at all."

Settlement Arranged In Hope Village Suit

An out of court settlement has been reached in the suit brought by Hope Village, Inc. against the Town of Huron, Wayne County. The suit, alleging racial discrimination by the town in its failure to approve zoning variances, was settled by a consent order agreement Saturday, July 10, and approved by Judge Harold P. Burke July 12.

A consent order is not an admission of guilt by the defendants, but contains terms for settlement acceptable to both parties.

Hope Village proposed a development of 25 low cost homes in the Town of Huron in 1974. Their request for a zoning variance was denied by the Town Planning

Gen. Bethlem's statements ring true. They are not limited to Brazil. With unchecked humanism flowing through many of America's universities... with abortion and sterilization and euthanasia being justified as progressive solutions to social problems (necessities for personal fulfillment); with our birth rate at record lows and divorce rates soaring; with the removal of a divine God from our vocabulary; with the cry to decriminalize marijuana; and pornography rampant in the media and literature — who can deny the gains of atheistic humanism? With one nation after another experiencing the "new" communism who can deny the very real danger to the Christian churches in the United States?

Labor and housing problems, women's rights, equality and fulfillment, laicized liturgies and social action are vital and worthy issues. It is exciting and encouraging to witness the growing number of religious involvement in these areas. But have we Catholic writers become obsessed with these issues to the exclusion of other pressing realities — the forces and tactics of communism? (The strength of Catholicism, after all, has never been in our public silence but in our Christian values.) In the United States we have an unobstructed opportunity to research and publish any information which we feel will serve to loosen the bonds of human injustice; we have the right to teach and uphold the documents of the Vatican; we can guide and encourage Christian morality. We can help lift the Catholic mind. But we have largely ignored the Church in captivity the millions who cannot even attend Mass — the millions put to death for their faith — we have responded to their enforced silence with little more than a yearly whimper.

As a Catholic writer I accept a share of the blame. I could have written of this before. Other writers have encouraged me, have sent me long documentation and reports. I am finally responding. It's been a long wait. I hope not a deadly one. When I think of all those who suffer the loss of freedoms I have silently taken for granted I shudder.

I am not proud of my silence. I prefer music.

NEXT WEEK: The Captive Nations

Board. Officials at the time cited problems with water supply and sewage disposal for homes close together. Hope Village brought suit in December 1974, seeking to prove that the decision was racial discrimination because many of the Hope villagers were black people.

"The people of Hope Village are happy that the litigation has been amicably settled and that the terms of the agreement make feasible the building of houses in the near future," Maudie H. Weeks, Hope Village coordinator said. "We are grateful for the excellent assistance provided by those working in its behalf."

"We will do all that is possible to make Hope Village a place in which all of Huron can take pride."

Credit Seen Family Aid

By MARY ELLEN WISNIEWSKI

Aileen Paul was in Rochester lately in her newest role, that of promoter of "family credit."

The woman who has been a president of the Consumer Cooperative Alliance, the vice-president of two supermarket co-ops, the highly praised author of six children's books, and award winning broadcaster, wants more families to use credit together.

"Credit can be a management tool to the family," she says. "More family quarrels are about money than anything else. Money decisions are something that husbands, wives and older children should make together."

Ms. Paul is the Consumer Affairs Representative for the New York State Banking Association (NYSBA).

The NYSBA represents more than 250 of the state's full-service commercial banks in promoting banking services. Ms. Paul is visiting communities throughout the state offering information on credit, banking services and family financial planning.

Ms. Paul joined the NYSBA four years ago, "to explain credit to women," she notes, "and to tell women that they are entitled to credit." Ms. Paul is finding that individuals, but especially women, do not understand credit or what the state and federal Equal Credit Opportunity amendments mean to them.

"I like to call credit 'accumulated confidence' but I define it as being

able to have business transactions using someone's money, paying for it, and having it given to you through a credit rating," she says.

She recommends that individuals earn a credit rating by opening a checking and savings account, making a small installment purchase to establish a credit rating, and then getting department store and bank credit cards.

The Equal Credit Opportunity amendments prohibit credit discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status, encouraging women to get a credit rating in their own name if they are married, or a joint credit rating under both names if they want it.

"We don't know how widespread discrimination is, but bank officers will tell you that more loans are being made to women than ever before," said Ms. Paul.

"If you are not accepted for credit, legally you are entitled to know why," said Ms. Paul, explaining that banks consider your salary, your length of residence and your spending characteristics when assigning a credit rating.

"Banks examine your habits at the local drugstore or supermarket when they evaluate your credit. They also consider your character as important," she added.

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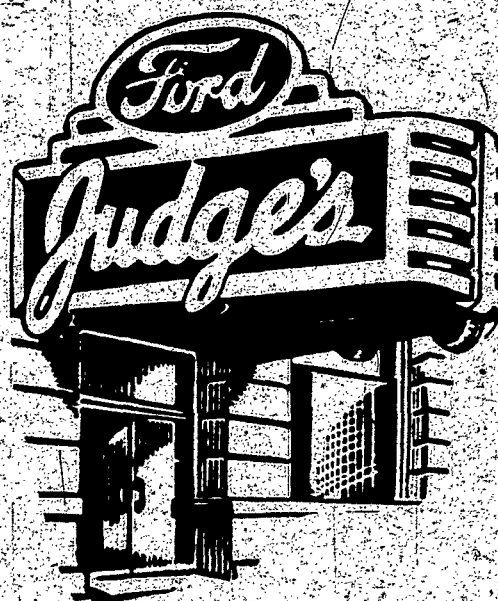
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