

More Opinions

Columnist 'Two-Faced'

Editor:

Will the real Father Andrew Greeley identify himself? It is incredible to believe that the same man can change his views so often.

Father Greeley states in the Courier-Journal (Aug. 25, 1976) that Catholics should be scared out of their wits because of the Jimmy Carter-Walter Mondale ticket. He claims that if that duo should take over, the Catholic church and the Catholic people would be in for a difficult time in this country.

Here are some of the main arguments that he has against the election of Mr. Carter:

1. "There are (at this writing) no Catholics on his staff." My response: Who cares? John F. Kennedy was surrounded by the so-called Irish Mafia. Did Father Greeley make an issue out of that? Did he probe into how many Protestants were on JFK's staff?

2. Father Greeley further states, "His (Carter's) resolute refusal to say a single good word about Catholic schools, for example — again, in the face of strong pressure from various advisers — has about it the smell of hard-backed bigotry."

My response: Hogwash! Why should Father Greeley expect a Protestant candidate seeking the highest office in the land to get involved in such an issue. Let's be honest. It's difficult to find very many parish priests or bishops who strongly support Catholic schools. It seems that when registration time comes around, the priests (not all but most of them) take a vow of silence. Catholic parents who shun sending their children to Catholic schools have helped reduce the number of students attending such schools. Why should Jimmy Carter be expected to work for the Catholics?

3. Father Greeley scolds Mr. Carter because the Presidential nominee "couldn't pronounce the word 'Italian' correctly" and states that Mr. Carter will regret it.

That statement is so immature that one wonders how low a person has to stoop to needle another. In Elmira I have heard the word "Italian" pronounced different ways, and I doubt if many people of Italian descent would be upset with Mr. Carter's way of pronouncing it.

4. Father Greeley sets his sights on the abortion issue in the same column by stating that Catholics find abortion abhorrent. However, in the following week's column in the Courier-Journal (Sept. 1, 1976) Father Greeley states, "The Church leadership has become politically impotent because it lost credibility on sexual matters with Humanae Vitae, and has invested what little clout it has left in the abortion issue, which does not deeply concern most Catholics."

You would think that since the Republican platform includes an anti-abortion plank that Father Greeley would vote for Gerald Ford. But the columnist states, "I have been a Democrat all my life and would not vote for a Republican for president." Maybe Father Greeley feels those platform planks don't always hold or that politicians have short memories.

But no matter how you look at the column, Jimmy Carter comes off as the bad guy. No mention is made of Mrs. Ford's pro-abortion feeling or daughter Susan's approval of pre-marital sex, with the support of mother, naturally.

I like Father Greeley. In fact, I like both Father Greeleys depending on which column I read. Actually, he is rather comical. And

the more seriously he writes, the more humorous he becomes. Looking back I would have to rate him somewhere between Erma Bombeck and Peanuts (pardon the expression). My apologies to Erma and Peanuts.

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More 'Roman' Than 'American'?

Editor:

I always enjoy Father Greeley's column, and I agree with much of what he says. But I was puzzled by his [Carter's] resolute refusal to say a single good word about Catholic schools — has about it the smell of hard-backed [sic] bigotry. I can't recall Carter's saying a good word about Baptist schools either — or about Seventh Day Adventist schools or Jewish schools or Black Muslim schools. Wherein lies the bigotry?

I can recall saying myself a good word on behalf of a number of Catholic schools about whose ability to teach the 3 R's I can cheerfully testify. But I resent any attempt to tax me to maintain Catholic schools or Seventh Day Adventist schools or Jewish schools or Black Muslim schools — or any schools but the public schools.

Is this bigotry? Could the bigots not be those who seek to force me to subsidize schools which inculcate beliefs on birth control and abortion, for example, which I abhor?

Father Greeley may be admirable in a way for his determination never to vote for a Republican President. Though a registered Democrat, I am an independent voter and in 1960 I voted for Nixon because I feared Kennedy would use his power to breach the wall separating Church and State. I was wrong, and I bitterly regret my error. What the country needs today even more than it needs a 5-cent cigar is a President — Catholic or non-Catholic — like JFK. Jimmy Carter, if he holds firm on Church-State separation, might well be the one. Since parochialism has been repeatedly pronounced unconstitutional, American Catholics who deny him or any other candidate their vote because they think he opposes parochialism may be more Roman than American.

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Vote Party; Defend Life

Editor:

Although President Ford holds a similar position to Jimmy Carter on abortion, more Republicans than Democrats are in favor of an anti-abortion amendment to the Constitution. It is in the Republicans' platform. Not so the Democrats.

Regarding our survival, the strength of the armed forces, Jimmy Carter proposes a cut in our defense budget of between five and seven billion dollars. This despite an unprecedented buildup in the military strength of the Soviet Union which spends one-sixth of its gross national product on defense.

Secretary of the Air Force, Thomas C. Reed, recently stated that in the last three years the Soviet Union has produced "almost six times as many tanks, three times as many armored personnel carriers, and nine times as many artillery pieces as the U.S. They have added 70 per cent more

tactical aircraft than we to their air forces."

Therefore, cries of "arms race" are unfounded. The Soviet Union is going it alone while the United States for the most part is standing still.

History tells us that military inferiority invites war. A nuclear war would involve a great loss of life. Yet we find the same unconcern for human life that led to abortion in the fanatical anti-military lobbyists in Washington who would cripple our nation's defenses.

I hope in November that the majority of voters will vote for the party which offers the most protection for the unborn as well as for the general population.

Only by an overall concern for human life can we remain a free nation.

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Spread Truth About KGB

Editor:

Since we are airing the dirty laundry of the CIA and the FBI before the American people, we also ought to do the same for the KGB.

Since then there has been a tragedy in Philadelphia. It has cost many lives and great harm. I refer to the deaths and illnesses due to

"unknown causes" among the American Legionnaires.

I do not pretend to know the cause of that illness, but I wonder, and I am wondering out loud: did the KGB have a hand in it?

The medical authorities say we may never know. Well perhaps that is true about this single incident. The point I am making is that the KGB is a disease that we know about. So again I wonder: How many things does the KGB have its hands in?


When little children have been playing in the mud, it is the commonsense parent that says "Take a bath before you come to the table." Well, I say all the people behind the Iron Curtain are welcome at the "Table of Freedom," but only after they have been cleansed by the truth. The "table" is located in the Citadel of Freedom, the USA, and I say that children with mud or blood on their hands are not welcome here.

The truth frees. The truth heals and soothes. Give the American people the truth and they shall use it well. Do not be afraid that the American people will overreact. They are not needs to be shaken in the wind.

You who hold the reins of power in this land, must always respect where that power comes from. It comes from the God given right of the people to rule themselves. The wise ruler latches onto the Truth with all of his might. Jesus says: "A strong man fully armed keepeth his house." I say to you, do not be found guilty of hiding the truth from the American people, for

surely then you will be the object of their just wrath even as you will be the object of their praise for being truthful.

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