

Editorials

Unsettling

Bob Greene, a syndicated columnist, recently reported a very unsettling and discouraging happening. Watching, "half-asleep," the Tonight show he heard Richard Pryor, the black actor-comedian, say something to the effect that angry black Americans should go to South Africa and kill some white people.

Green did not take notes because he felt the remark would cause an avalanche of reaction. It produced not an iota.

Confused, he checked with the network (NBC) and was told that not one call had been made on the

comment. Now wondering if he had mis-heard Pryor, he continued to check it out. After several runarounds at the hand of NBC folks, he eventually learned that he was indeed correct, that Pryor had said, "If you want to do anything, if you're black and still here in America, get a gun and go to South Africa and kill some white people, and then you'll probably go in jail again, but you will be doing something besides robbing old ladies."

Greene then checked with the network censors to find out why the remark was not deleted from the tape, as was an obscenity Pryor had used on the show. Again it took a while before anyone would talk but Greene was finally to find out that if Pryor had said something "coarse or vulgar" it would have been edited out but Pryor's call for black Americans to kill white South Africans was considered "his personal opinion ... for us to edit that would be out-and-out censorship."

Thus a major network sees obscenities as more "vulgar" than racial killing.

As Greene pointed out in his column, Pryor's remark was tantamount to someone yelling fire in a crowded theater. It hardly seems reasonable that anyone could stretch free speech to cover such an incendiary remark.

And probably the most uncomfortable facet is that not one viewer, and there were millions tuned in, was even upset to the point of making a mild complaint. There should have been an outpouring of outrage.

Often recently we have heard that America is in the midst of a spiritual crisis, that we are in a state of a kind of moral numbness, that we no longer can tell right from wrong or just don't care.

This television incident would tend to support such unhappy conjecture.

and Opinions

Teachings Irrational

Editor:

If medical teachers were to suggest that inherited physical deformities are better defined as contagious deforming diseases such as leprosy (based upon their exegesis of medical scriptures), there would be no hesitation in objectively identifying their thinking as "irrational". The contagious irrational thinking which exists among priests and religious educators who assert loyalty to Catholic faith and simultaneously reject Church Teachings should also be objectively identified without hesitation.

For example, both Msgr. Wm. Shannon and Father Louis Hohman (C-J 10-78, 5-16-79, respectively) have propagated an anthropologically rooted exegesis which contradicts (rejects) the Church Doctrine on Original Sin. Neither priest presented Church Teachings which were later provided in reader-response letters (Pope Paul VI's "Credo ... which affirms the Council of Trent Church Teachings).

The irrationality of professing faith in Catholic doctrine which teaches that each person inherits the consequences of the Original Sin of Adam and Eve while simultaneously propagating the belief in contagious polygenesis original sins corresponds to saying, "yes is no," "truth is untruth," "contagious deformities are inherited deformities."

Can irrational thinking be defended? Among his efforts to defend the contentions of Father L. J. Hohman (C.J., 6-13-79), Father Wm. J. O'Malley, S. J. erroneously adorns theologians with the "sure gift of Truth" which the Holy Spirit of Truth gives to Bishops but which theologians do not receive (Vat. II. Divine Rev. 8).

Religious assent to authentic teachings which are not clearly infallible and to discipline is required of all Catholics (U. S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter; "The Church in Our Day" and Vat. I). Religious assent is required of all Catholics including the Holy Father because OUR confidence is placed not in men but in Christ who constantly guards the Church. Our

Lord deserves, advises and demands to have bishops, priests, religious and laity who witness the obedience of religious assent to Him and child-like confidence in Him as He speaks through His magisterium. The laity have the right to expect and receive unadulterated witness of religious assent from priests and nuns who profess the Catholic Faith.

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Comparing Countries

Editor:

Howard Easing, in his letter of July 11, presented life in the Soviet Union as a utopian dream fulfilled. Social totalitarianism was his solution for America's problems. Venting his wrath for not having had everything in life handed to him on a silver platter, Comrade Easing chose to depart from a mere refutation of Mr. Bart's statement on military spending, and instead extrapolated his attacks to undermine the fabric from which this country is made.

It is rather dismaying to find a man who "after more than 35 years of comparing US and USSR statements" has "found the USSR far more accurate than Washington." Mr. Easing defines "accuracy" as hearing what he wants to hear. We must not forget that the Russian media are censored by their government, and manipulated to further its interests. An article such as Mr. Easing's would not even be published in the Soviet Union if he were a Russian citizen attacking his government. How nice it is to have freedoms simply to degrade the country which guarantees them.

An absence of an armaments industry in America would serve to expose the Soviet threat. We in good will could pull back our defenses and observe the Soviets building up theirs. The implementation of such a course of action could lead to our destruction, however. A rather large gamble to take for the sake of selfish welfarism.

Mr Easing presents only

a rosy picture of Soviet life. He forgets that their government preaches atheism and persecutes those who openly practice their religions, countless numbers of whom are Catholics. Education may be free, but only those people selected by the government to fill a limited number of openings in college can reap the fruits of this benefit. After graduation, the government also tells them where to work. Russia has a 25 billion dollar drinking problem among its citizens, far worse than that of the United States. People have to wait in line for hours to buy products which an American simply has to go to a supermarket to purchase. Rationing and black marketeering permeate their society. Political succession is determined by coup rather than free choice. The constitution is ignored, with the Supreme Soviet and election process used only as a means of strengthening the Politburo's actions.

Mr. Easing totally ignores the fact that the people of Russia exist for the government. Their hatred of war does not include that which promotes Communist domination, since expansion of their Godless ideology is a basic tenet of Marxism. Mr. Easing sounds as if he would be more comfortable in permanent residence in the Soviet Union, since he blatantly rejects the blessing which God has bestowed upon us as a nation, and for which millions have sacrificed their lives.

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Landing Was Not Luck

Editor:

SKYLAB ----- "LUCK"
----- or The Lord?

"Glory be to him whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." Eph. 3:20

Now that our prayers have been answered, we can thank God with love, and realize how deep our trust in Him should continue to be. These of us who prayed, full of hope, that Skylab would return as it did, can now continue to trust that the scientific intelligence man has been able to develop will be seen in its true light - God directed!

The "luck" attributed to the "happy landing" should be realized as further evidence of man's becoming

more truly man: "hominisation" (The term used by Teilhard de Chardin) is progressing!

The apparent ease that permitted man to take the course of this spacecraft into his hands shows how his powers of thought are advancing - as the Creator of man intended. The energy of man's intellectual growth surges ever closer to its culmination in God!

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Letter Defended

Editor:

Howard Easing criticized my letters of March 14 and May 23.

In his letter of July 11, Mr. Easing was critical of my statement "The Soviet Union outspends us by 40%." Mr. Easing then stated that the U. S. military budget was 24% of the national budget while the Soviet Union reportedly spent only 7% of their national budget on defense.

While the U. S. does spend about 25% of the national budget on defense, the Soviet Union spends much more than 7% of their national budget on defense according to our intelligence sources.

Former defense Secretary Melvin Laird reported in a 1977 Readers Digest article that the Russians spent 17% of their gross national product on defense while the U. S. spent only 6%. Even though our GNP is roughly twice that of the Russians that would still put them way ahead in the area of defense spending.

Another area where Mr. Easing was clearly wrong was his statement that the U. S. has twice as many nuclear missiles as the Soviet Union.

The Coalition for Peace through Strength, a multi-organization educational campaign coordinated by the American Security Council, reported that in 1978 the U. S. had 1710 nuclear missiles while the USSR had 3286 nuclear missiles.

In addition, the Soviet ICBM's which comprise more than half of their nuclear missiles carry six times the explosive force of our ICBM's.

Evidently, Mr. Easing was given the red line on his visit to Russia and

swallowed the bait, hook, line and sinker.

Dr. Igor S. Glagolev who defected to the U. S. from Russia and was a member of the Soviets SALT I negotiating team warned our government that the Soviets are working for military superiority and will get it if SALT II is ratified by the U. S. Senate.

If the Soviet Union were really interested in peace they would:

1. Allow on site inspection of their military weapons.
2. Stop killing people in their "Wars of Liberation" throughout the world.

3. Reduce drastically their military spending so their people could have a decent standard of living.

4. Return the basic freedoms to the Russian people.

As long as the U. S. continues to appease the Soviet Union the threat of war will increase. We must therefore be militarily prepared and also morally prepared by following the instructions of Our Blessed Mother for the conversion of Russia.

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"THEY'RE WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SUN."

Guidelines

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

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter a month from the same individual.

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