

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Letter To Gordon Liddy

To G. Gordon Liddy — c/o St. Martin Press, New York City:

Your appearance in July on the Dick Cavett Show was a treat. Cavett, whose fine mind and vast knowledge I admire so much, was stymied in following your deadly logic. Your declaration that you would have killed columnist Jack Anderson in good conscience for publishing the nation's secrets and thus causing the death of CIA agents abroad, left him puzzling. I guessed he was pondering about the possible validity of a thesis which at first seemed preposterous.

After the Cavett show, I got your autobiography, "Will — G. Gordon Liddy," and was surprised to find that "Will" had to do with will-power rather than a man named Will. No book has so gripped me since *Uris* "Trinity." The chapters on your life in the federal prisons were appalling. That scene where 40 prisoners lined up and each in turn raped one poor, indiscreet fellow was harrowing. But while reading these chapters I kept remembering your saying to Cavett: "Our prison system is an abomination. I have a lot

of ideas on how it could be reformed."

The hopelessness of our present penal system is shared by most people. No one seems to have any practical solutions. I think you do, thanks to your first-hand opportunity to study and experience the psychology of prisoners and administration. Your trek to the prison chapel for midnight Mass at the adamant behest of the Mafia chap was great humor. I am sure many readers have chuckled at the scene of G. Gordon Liddy standing in duo with the Mafia Dux, belting out "Silent Night" and "Adeste, Fideles," if not for the glory of God, at least as a matter of prudence.

I believe strongly in Divine Providence and have seen great and good things come from terrible events. It may be that from the things you experienced and suffered, Providence is offering our country an opportunity of a genuine reformation of our penal system. Such would benefit all society: guards and administration; prisoners and their families; tax-payers; and I would wager that your solutions would also include some redress for the victims of criminals. May I respectfully ask you to consider this penal reform as a special vocation for you? Many who have read "Will" would quite agree.

While your prison ex-



G. Gordon Liddy (Photo courtesy Gannett Rochester Newspapers)

periences held my greatest interest, the goodness of your wife and your devotion to her and your children held admiration. Prospera!

To a diocesan official:

I was surprised when you said you had not read "The Battle for the American Church" by Msgr. George Kelly. It's about the best documented book I've seen revealing the manipulations and trends toward anti-Rome and anti-Holy Father accomplished by powerful, well organized groups within the Church. I am still sizzling that the July edition of *Rayma* should have featured that anti-Catholic article, reprinted from the *National Catholic Reporter*, reciting: "Catholics today are finding their identity without Rome." This is certainly not the ecumenism envisioned by Pope John XXIII and Vatican Council II. I am sending you "The Battle for the American Church" and also a copy of "New Covenant," a Catholic charismatic monthly which is excellent in content and in devotion to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Churches Demonstrate TV Bears Watching

By Darrell Turner
Religious News Service

Christian educators and media specialists are teaming up these days to help viewers learn to watch television in a more thoughtful way.

They have accepted the fact that television has become a pervasive aspect of life for people of all ages, and that protests and boycotts of sponsors can only accomplish so much in removing certain objectionable programs from the airwaves.

Although the so-called "electronic church" has provided something of a counterweight (albeit controversial) to secular programming, and some main-line churches are planning major media efforts, prime-time network programming continues to be television's greatest drawing card.

In recognition of that fact, church groups have been exploring ways to help parents sharpen their own critical faculties in judging TV fare and even the most amoral programming to guide their children's awareness of religious values.

Numerous scientific studies have demonstrated that people are influenced by what they see on the screen, either positively or negatively. In addition to the obvious problems with excessive portrayals of violence or sex, research undertaken by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communications has found that television gives viewers unrealistic stereotypes of women, ethnic minorities, and the elderly.

For the past four years, Television Awareness Training (TAT) workshops have been held across the country through the sponsorship of the New York-based Media Action Research Center (MARC). The agency is a cooperative project of the United Methodist Communications, the American Lutheran Church, and the Church of the Brethren.

TAT workshops have prepared 472 leaders in 44 states, Protestants and Catholics alike, who are now passing their knowledge on to others. The project has proved so popular in the United States that TAT workshops are being developed for other countries with the cooperation of the World Association for Christian Communication.

An overview of the television medium is provided at the outset. This is followed by sessions dealing with such aspects of television as violence, stereotyping, advertising, and values, children, human sexuality, news and values, decisions, and strategies for change.

The 280-page Television Awareness Training Viewers Guide is now being made available to individuals through an edition published by United Methodist-related Abingdon Press. Several new chapters have been added recently, dealing with soap operas, game shows, minorities and theology.

MARC has also helped to develop a pioneering curriculum for use in church schools. Entitled, "Growing

with Television," it is a 12-week program offering courses in five age brackets. Materias were tested in four classroom sessions in 36 churches and two Catholic parochial schools.

"This is the first curriculum cutting across all age levels that attempts to look at TV from a Christian perspective," said Martha Jones, project director for the group which coordinated the series. She said many churches will be doing leadership training with the materials in the fall, with major classroom use to start in January.

Shirley Struchen, administrator for MARC, explained that "Through the sessions students will come to a better understanding of how TV teaches values. They will compare the implied lessons taught by electronic shows and commercials with the moral and spiritual principles found in the Scriptures. Each session has explicit biblical content."

The course is divided into four units: views of the world transmitted by television, the lifestyles portrayed in contrast to "real life" and the biblical experience, relationships between people, and self-images instilled by television.

Nelson Price, president of MARC, suggested that the courses would lead to intergenerational television viewing and evaluation. "With elementary students, high schoolers, and adults studying the same material at

the same time," he said, "we hope it will do something for family viewing."

Developers of these programs hope they will prompt parents to take more active roles in supervising their children's viewing fare. The television industry has often said the most effective censorship should take place in the home, and Christian educators have lately begun to agree.

This point was made last year by Bob Keeshan, who portrays "Captain Kangaroo" on television, as he addressed a television workshop in Nashville sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission. Keeshan, a Catholic, advised that the most effective way for Christian parents to cope with television is by being better parents.

Kevin Perrotta, managing editor of a monthly journal called *Pastoral Renewal*, has warned that "parents who, consciously or unconsciously, use television to withdraw from active child rearing will likely suffer the consequences."

In an article reprinted last spring by *Christianity Today* magazine, he warned that "television may be an effective narcotic for undisciplined children, but the temporary peace bought by television may have long-range side effects as children grow less compliant and parents less confident to deal with them."

NCCC Signs Housing Agreement with HUD

The National Conference of Catholic Charities, slated to convene in Rochester Sept. 18-23, has signed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development a cooperative agreement to develop rural housing and community development projects in as many as 12 rural communities across the country.

Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran, NCCC executive director, said the projects will be developed at the local level under the auspices of local Catholic Charities agencies, with the NCCC coordinating the national program and providing consultation services. The participating rural communities will be selected during the initial phase of the project.

NFP Adds Session

Natural Family Planning, because of an increase in the number of persons attending the monthly information sessions at St. Mary's Hospital, has added a second monthly session.

Charismatics

A charismatic retreat will be held at the Cenacle Renewal Center Sept. 12-14. Sister Rita Drinkwater, a teacher in Boston's charismatic community, will lead the retreat. Further information is available at the Cenacle Ministry Office, 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607; (716) 271-8755.

"This two year project represents a major commitment by the NCCC to rural areas," Msgr. Corcoran said. "In part, it is an implementation of NCCC's 1979 Rural Policy Statement which called for rural development and housing programs.

That statement was approved at last year's annual meeting of the NCCC held in Kansas City, Mo.

The national conference, Msgr. Corcoran said, has already been providing limited consultation to local agencies developing rural housing programs. The cooperative agreement with HUD, he said, will extend the NCCC's capacity to help those

continue on the first Monday of each month from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Bishop Kearney Education Building at the hospital.

Beginning Oct. 10, a second session will take place on the second Friday of each month, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Main Conference Room, ground floor, Rochester General Hospital. This schedule will be in effect except for November when the meeting will be Nov. 21.

The education sessions on fertility awareness and NFP are open to the public at no charge. Registration is not required but information is available at 464-8705.

agencies and, in turn, will increase the capabilities of the local agencies.

The program will train participants in the process of citizen involvement in housing and rural community development. The program also will provide technical information about major federal housing programs and the Community Development Block Grant Program of HUD.

Follow-up consultation will be provided to assist participating communities in preparing fund applications and in effectively managing rural housing projects.

Training will be provided on site by consultants and experts from the Catholic Charities network as well as by recognized authorities in rural housing and community development.

An important aspect of the program will be the encouragement of rural parishes to participate in rural social concerns.

Jerome Ernst, NCCC Parish Outreach director, said the national project is modeled after a program developed by Catholic Charities of Ogdensburg. There a citizen housing group, with the aid of the local Charities, rehabilitated more than 120 houses and involved more than 300 community residents in various states of the program, from planning through management.

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