

Editorials

The Arms Race And Its Waste

In our recent editorial in opposition to the production of the neutron bomb, we stated that the international situation and its attendant problems defied simple solutions; that it is not wise to jump to facile conclusions. We said that in facing the obviously intransigent belligerence of the Soviet Union that is understandable that some will grasp at any weapon that may seem protective.

But we pointed out the immorality of nuclear warfare itself. We worried over the madness of a bomb that is designed to kill people while preserving things. To provide guidance to Roman Catholics we quoted from three modern popes (every pontiff in recent history with the exception of the short-lived John Paul I), who clearly condemned the arms race in general and nuclear weapons in particular.

We since have heard from Pax Christi USA, the American branch of the official international Catholic peace movement, which "strongly condemns the Reagan administration's announced intention to manufacture... the neutron bomb."

To support its premise, Pax Christi quotes from "Human Life in Our Day," the 1968 pastoral letter from the U.S. bishops which said, "It would be perverse indeed if the Christian conscience were to be unconcerned or mute in the face of the moral aspects of these awesome prospects."

The peace organization quotes John Paul II: "To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit ourselves to peace."

But such arguments are seen by the worldly as idealistic, even by many Catholics who profess allegiance to the magisterium. Strong and frequent admonitions against warfare by such great men of the 20th Century as John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II tend to be disregarded as remote from the facts of life, even by those who see themselves as devout Catholics.

To these persuasive arguments we will add some financial considerations. All should consider some facts from a 1981 report by the Council of State Planning Agencies, an organization of the planning and policy staffs of the nation's governors. We excerpt from an article by Seymour Melman, professor of industrial engineering at Columbia University and national co-chairman of SANE, which appeared in the Sunday New York Times of July 26.

"The concentration of capital on the military portends sharply diminished opportunity for a productive livelihood for most Americans. Clearly a choice must be made as to where these resources will be used," he wrote.

To make his point more graphically, Melman provides a list of tradeoffs, the amount of money spent or wasted on specific military expenditures and what that sum might have provided in non-military purchases.

Here are some of Melman's comparisons:

Seven percent of the military outlays from fiscal 1981 to 1986, \$100 billion — the cost of rehabilitating the United States steel industry so that it is again the most efficient in the world.

The cost overrun, to 1981, on the Navy's Aegis-cruiser program, \$8.4 billion — the comprehensive research-and-development needed to produce 80- to 100-mile-a-gallon cars.

The overrun, to 1981, on the Navy's current submarine, frigate and destroyer programs, \$42 billion — for California, a 10-year investment to spur solar energy for space, water and industrial process heating, leading to 376,000 new jobs and vast fuel savings.

Sixty-three percent of the cost overruns, to 1981, on 50 current major weapons systems, \$110 billion — the 20-year cost of solar devices and energy conservation equipment in commercial buildings, saving 3.7 million barrels of oil per day.

Two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, \$5.8 billion — the cost of converting 77 oil-using power plants to coal, saving 350,000 barrels of oil per day.

Melman has 26 such examples and never once mentions any so-called "do-good" programs, such as public assistance. He sticks to strictly industrial, transit and energy projects — all of which it may be assumed would wipe out the causes of our present social caste system by putting the nation back to work, making it more fiscally and politically independent of oil-producing nations and conserving the vast energy preserves entrusted to us.

But, apparently, we will choose the other road, putting our hope in neutron bombs, while the Soviet Union emulates us in the vicious cycle to which we are somehow addicted.

True, it may seem difficult to accept the teachings of peace-loving leaders in a world inured to war. Therein, however, lies our hope, not in rushing to embrace every weapon of destruction devised by our military-industrial complex.

Tax Credits

And along the same lines, it will be interesting to see what the Reagan administration does about its promise to provide tuition tax credits for nonpublic schools.

The tax cut package did not include the tax credits much less mention of them. Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, head of the U.S. Catholic Conference, according to press reports, is not worried. He feels that the administration has already committed itself so publicly to the tuition credit that it cannot possibly renege. We hope so.

But some politicians do not agree. For instance, Jim Moors, an aide to Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan who has been pushing for the tuition tax credit bill, feels otherwise. "The legislation appears doomed for the 97th Congress and perhaps even beyond, unless the administration decides to press Congress to enact it," Moors said.

We hope Bishop Kelly's assessment is correct, but we are worried. The measure if fully implemented by 1986 reportedly would cost up to \$8 billion annually. What with the price of neutron bombs, that kind of help will be difficult to provide.

and Opinions

ACLU Objects To Editorial

Editor:

With respect to your editorial of Aug. 5, the ACLU is not "confused as to whose liberties it is protecting. We have a record to be proud of. The ACLU has defended the constitutional rights of thousands of people, from James Joyce to George Wallace, John Scopes to Henry Ford, labor organizers, Nazis, priests, Communists, police, draft resisters. Our position has been clear and consistent: we believe that if the rights of one are denied, the rights of all are endangered. Therefore, we don't pick and choose whose rights we'll defend, based on popularity, politics or religion.

Your objection to being lumped together with such groups as the Moral Majority is understandable and no doubt justified. However, the groups Mr. Dorsen lumped together as the Extreme Right have one thing in common, i.e., that they would have government intervene, to an unprecedented degree, in our lives, particularly family life.

Daily, we hear people who identify themselves as "pro-family" who seek, by legislation, to impose their beliefs on everyone. For example, the proposed legislation called the Family Protection Act contains some 36 provisions which would attempt to impose upon us all a life style consistent with the sponsors' opinions as to the

family life we should have. Many ACLU members also consider themselves pro-family but view such issues as abortion as a matter of personal choice.

The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of the people to practice the religion of their choice, or no religion at all, without government interference. Some organized religions believe that abortion is morally wrong, others do not agree. The ACLU believes that such moral issues must be decided by each individual, acting privately and guided by his or her own conscience. Since it has not been established what precisely is a human being, we view any attempt by the government to deny a woman the right to choose abortion as a violation of the First Amendment.

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Thanks Due Diocesans

Editor:

On behalf of many clients, relatives and staff of Monroe Developmental Center, we would like to thank the Courier-Journal for its coverage of the MDC Summerfest. Your article several weeks ago and those

this week were greatly appreciated.

More important, though, we would like to ask you to help us thank the many Catholic parishes and organizations that played such a crucial role in making the Summerfest such a great success. More parishes were represented than we know of but people helped as escorts from Good Shepherd, St. Thomas More, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Boniface, St. Monica's, St. Theodore's, Blessed Sacrament and others.

The Folk Group from Pius X provided music for the Interfaith Service and other groups such as the Knights of Columbus and the Special People's Ecumenical Volunteer Association provided invaluable help. Bishop Clark spoke to many people through his words and through his presence in spite of surgery two days before. The Human Life Commission and Office of Human Development helped recruit. Several parishes, such as St. Andrew's and St. Anne's, provided donations. The entire diocese should be aware of this significant effort and the role played by the Catholic community in Monroe County.

We thank you and them for helping to make the Summerfest a dream that came true in more ways than were ever expected.

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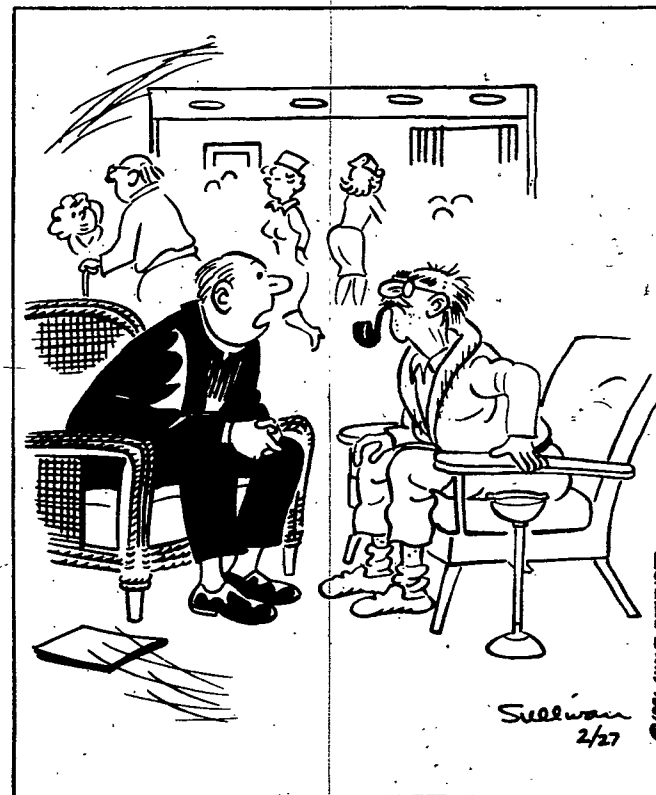
Support For DeSales

Editor:

I am writing in regards to the recent loan the diocese has granted to DeSales. First of all, to thank Bishop Clark and those involved in making this decision, secondly to tell the public a little bit about DeSales. I feel this loan is a vote of confidence in DeSales, since the money was given as a loan which needs to be paid back, rather than a grant which would have been a gift, free, gratis. We are grateful for the opportunity to keep parochial education a reality for the students in rural areas.

DeSales is highly rated for its academic program as well as giving parents a support system that is impossible to receive from public education. They have a well-rounded sports program — football, soccer, basketball, softball, golf, weight-lifting, etc. They have ranked high in all sports they offer to the students and also have the opportunity to teach that Christ is the center of our life completely — in recreation as well as academic and home life.

A fine music program is also offered — for the last two years our musical ensemble has had the privilege of being guests at radio station CCFL for taping sessions. Last year, their taping session was broadcast over local radio stations as a promotion for DeSales. They also presented an excellent version of the musical, The Wiz, to the extent that they had many



"WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE IN THE TV ROOM! THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO LIKE DONNY AND MARIE."

requests to put on an extra performance.

Our children travel a long distance for the privilege of attending DeSales, and they feel that they would not want to attend any other school. The concern the teachers and administrators show for their students far outweighs the inconvenience of the long ride to attend this school. I mention this for one reason only — at a recent meeting, Mr. Tracey stated that he was not worried about the money; God would provide that. But the question is why aren't

Catholic parents sending their kids to the parochial schools?

Many times we don't appreciate what we have until we lose it. Let's not let this be the case with DeSales. We need to give them our support and our kids — they treat them as part of their family!

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