

Editorials

Merry Christmas From Us to You

Merry Christmas.

And days the fanciest and the schmanciest
From our receptionist, Hayes the Nancy-est.
"Jambo," greets Jim Michaelsen in Swahili.
And Barbara Schiesser joins in, but genteelly.

Terry Brennan wishes ya the top o' the year.
And Ginny Paris sends loads of good cheer.
Baltassar, Caspar and Melchior still carry on
In our three wise Mikes, Groden, Donahue, and
Robischon.

Heard we don't love you? It's just not so.
You can take it from Barb Nicolazzo.
And anyone needing further proof,
Can ask Carm Viglucci, he's not aloof.

Rugger Scott Schuman says have a kick,
But Father Lou advises relaxing's the trick.
Stay young at heart, orders Joan Smith,
Agreeing's Joe LoGiudice (what's that rhyme with?).

Gary Ayers Productions plans a happy story,
Where wishes come true, notes Bonnie Migliore.
Pete Fraver's displaying a smile not dreary
And adding to the warmth is our Betty Creary.

Jon Forward has designs on an old-fashioned bash,
Which wouldn't be complete without dashing John Dash.
A wave of the hand and a hearty hello
From our publisher and GM, Tony Costello.

And collectively from all of us here,
A most holy Christmas and a Good News year.



17.

and Opinions

Letter Criticized

Editor:

Pope Paul VI once said, "If you want peace, work for justice." As Christians, it is our special privilege to work for justice on behalf of others. It is because of this that I was bothered by William Marceau's recent letter to the editor (CJ 12/9/81) which treated Christian involvement in the J.P. Stevens strike and the Nestle boycott as a "waste of time and money."

My initial uneasiness with Mr. Marceau's letter stemmed from the generalizations he makes concerning the "vicious methods" of American unions and the "intellectual vanity" of lay and clerical strike allies. Though I'm sure this may characterize some of the people involved in the worker movements, I don't believe it is fair to say that the involvement by the majority of the well-intentioned participants is against "Christian ethics."

What bothered me more

than this, though, was Mr. Marceau's implicit statement that the Nestles' boycott (along with the J.P. Stevens strike) in no way speaks to the issue of personal morality. I applaud Mr. Marceau for his concern for morality and character-building though I feel that he fails to recognize them in the aforementioned movements. Personal morality has to do with the way an individual acts in accordance with his or her sense of duty or right conduct. Though some may involve themselves in a boycott for selfish reasons, I believe that most do so out of a desire to do what is right or "ethical."

The question to be asked, then, concerns the corporate motivation behind a body of individual boycotters. In this regard, I would like to note that it is the expressed aim of INFAC (Infant Formula Action Coalition, the Nestles' boycott group) to seek ways to halt the indiscriminate advertising and promotion of infant formula where numerous abuses of this product annually lead to infant malnutrition and even death. Does not action with

such an end in mind convey any semblance of personal morality? Of Christian responsibility?

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Editor:

Concerning the letter of William M. Marceau, "Church Wasted Time on Strike" (CJ 12/9/81), I think reader Marceau is uninformed, and I know the Church did not waste its time supporting the issues of the J.P. Stevens organizing efforts or the Nestles' boycott.

Both issues are the classic example of the abuse of trust that some big businesses use for profits, at the expense of the employees.

The issue of the J.P. Stevens was that the textile giant completely ignored federal laws dealing with union management relations.

J.P. Stevens was found guilty of violating more than 100 charges under the National Labor Relations Act. This company, with the approval of the executives, even when found guilty, continued to violate the laws of the country.

The question was not the union being forced down the workers' throats, the question is now, and was: Are the employees of J.P. Stevens entitled to a free choice of union representation with no threats, intimations, no fears of losing their jobs, of being black-balled by the small mill town community where J.P. Stevens was the town, where the local sheriff's and police agents and the mayor and

the politicians were completely controlled by J.P. Stevens? The Norma Rae Story.

J.P. Stevens is commonly known as the number one labor law violator in America.

If the Church objects to that principle, then the money, effort and time was, and still should be used.

To say that the workers were not enthusiastic about the strike is a statement with no thought. No one is enthusiastic about a strike; a strike is a last effort.

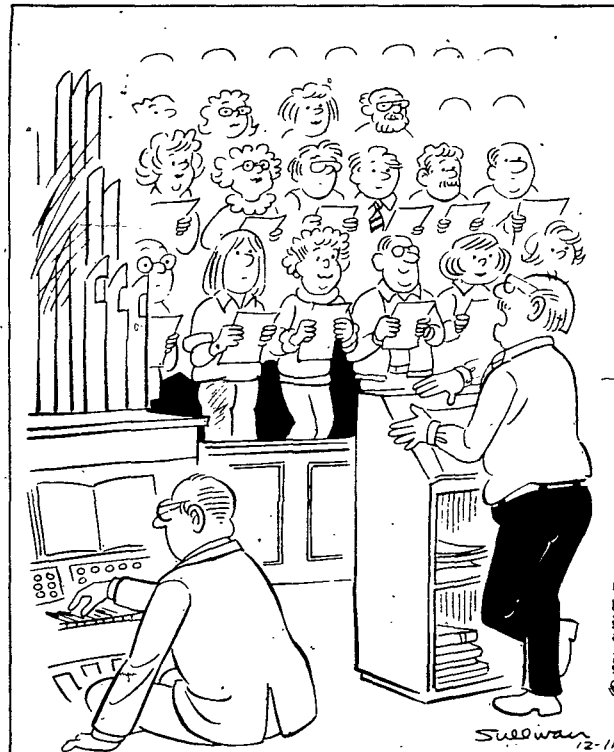
I agree that the Pope's position on unions. He cautions against union abuses, and yes, some unions have abused their authority, but what about management like J.P. Stevens, who put themselves above the laws of our country? I think the Holy Father's thoughts were: if the employees want a union, let them have freedom of choice, with no interference from the employer, and yes, unions do help workers.

The Church's involvement was not built on sand, in either the J.P. Stevens or the Nestle boycott, and was not a waste of time.

It sounds really nice that the solution, as reader Marceau spells it out, is that the Church should spend its time teaching personal morality and character to individuals who make up all institutions.

How can the Church teach the devil personal morality and character?

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"OKAY, LET'S GO BACK TO 'HARK THE HERALD ANGELS,' AND BELT IT OUT AS IF EACH OF YOU JUST RECEIVED A BIG FAT REFUND FROM THE IRS."

Directories Needed

Editor:

The diocesan archives would welcome the gift of the P.J. Kenedy Official Catholic Directory for 1980 and 1981. Please contact me at 4536 St. Paul Blvd., 14617; personal telephone 338-1602.

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Applauds Letter

Editor:

Three cheers for Anthony Liccione for his letter in the

Courier (11/25/81). And three more for Richard V. Hussar in the same issue. They are both "right on." Bless them.

One can't sit by and let evil prevail. Fire must be fought with fire when necessary. And necessary is long overdue. We've sat by and watched a bunch of gangsters take over a good part of the world.

I hate war and love peace, but submission isn't peace, not in my book.

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More Letters on Page 30