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What The Freethought Movement Needs - A Transfusion

By Andy Vena

What ails the freethought movement in America today is a chronic anemia of members and money. The few stalwart workers who envision beautiful dreams of a rationalist group with impact on the American scene cannot realize their ideals for want of unity of the potential freethinkers and rationalists at large in the country, and lack of financial backing to implement their ambitions. An abundance of either could make the other realizable. But how get either? As an observer of the Friendship Liberal League and a "Liberal" reader, here's how the picture—present and projected—looks to me in and from Philadelphia.

The "Liberal" readership is commendable and increasing gratifyingly but a needed factor to this family is a large Philadelphia following of League members, including a "stockpile" of young, competent, enthusiastic rationalists from among whom replacement management and leadership can be recruited; people to whom the old timers can pass the torch of truth as they eventually must. It's pathetic, I say, that so many of us should owe so much to so few who for so long have borne the brunt of the work (and thinking) of keeping freethought alive. Whereas it should be a larger and well-co-ordinated co-operative enterprise or activity. The movement as such, barely stays afloat with their invaluable help. Without it, it would sink tomorrow... and would remain

"submerged" or dormant a long time no doubt before revived again. Let's face it, friends, there's a dearth of young blood in the movement ready, able, and willing to carry on, but much of it outside... "at large"... If only it were properly reached and attracted away from competing (and often frivolous) distractions—movies, radio, TV, sports, etc.

Can the League somehow tap this inexhaustible reservoir of potential rationalists and freethinkers? I think an emphatic "yes!" It hasn't done so heretofore true, on any impressive scale at least, for sheer lack of "wherewithal"—money. Thus difficulty in finding a decent hall, exorbitant rent for those available, rising printing and mailing cost, difficulty in booking good speakers "for free", etc., has forced the F.L.L. to suspend—temporarily, I hope—its weekly forum. Oh, yes, a number of members and readers have contributed, some regularly and some occasionally, and a few rather handsomely at times. This trickle of petty sums has been the shot-in-the-arm stimulant that has kept the patient breathing at all—just barely alive but weak—for which an undying gratitude is due all such helping hands from all of us. But what's needed to really invigorate our prostrate giant to self-sufficiency, growth, sturdy preservation and wholesome self-propagation is a generous "transfusion" of funds to insure full recovery and then, locomotion

under its own steam. Such an "injection" only some very wealthy freethinker—with the survival of the freethought movement in America at heart—can give. In my mind this noble, humanitarian gesture shapes up like this:

If the F.L.L. had enough funds, it would buy a plot of ground and build its own much-needed lecture hall, a Thomas Paine Memorial Center. It would be located right here in Paine's own Philadelphia, structurally architected specifically for the League's needs and purposes. We badly need our own lecture hall—large, neat, clean, accessible, warm in winter and delightfully air conditioned in summer to afford members and the general public a comfortable, interesting, desirable place to come to the year around. This implies good acoustics, comfortable seats with generous walking space between rows, a public address system, a stage or platform with podium for speaker(s) and honored guests, a screen for slides and film showings to illustrate talks, a blackboard, a book and periodical library, a records and magnetic tape recordings library together with playback equipment, a book display counter, a guests' wardrobe room, kitchen facilities for making dinners and banquets or celebrations possible, an office for the League and necessary office equipment, a caretaker's living quarters, a dormitory upstairs for out-of-town freethinkers visiting the city and Center and staying overnight as League guests free, or at cost, a small but adequate staff on a full time basis to do the League's paper work and book speakers, compile and edit the "Liberal", etc. Speakers should be the best money can hire, their topic always of social significance but on some phase of freethought, rationalism, or secularism. Such a well-equipped, well-designed desirable hall could also be rented out to other organizations, for union meetings, dances, conventions, etc. and thus bring revenue to the Center. An advertising budget would pay local newspaper or radio spot announcements

of lectures or debates. Until a large local mailing list were built up, such local ads might have to be worded innocuously to be acceptable to the press or radio and their censors. But once a large local following were established, outright freethought and rationalist announcements could be mailed direct to bypass newspaper and radio objections to freethought promotional propaganda. That, plus word-of-mouth friend-to-friend recommendations, would insure large attendance. And from the "corps" of young regular Center frequenters the cream would rise to the top, a "cadre" would be formed of future freethought leaders.

If the Center's grounds were spacious enough to provide parking facilities for all-comers, all the better. In any case the architect would bear in mind the desirability of subsequent expansion, both vertically and horizontally to meet the needs of the imaginable future. The location might well be in the North-East part of Philadelphia... some place along the Roosevelt Blvd... which is the growing, better class section of the city away from slums and congestion. Busses could shuffle groups between mid-city and our Center when a famous speaker is expected to draw a large audience.

A parallel project to the revival program described—and practically a "must"—is a rationalist press in America, similar to the rationalist press in England. We need badly our own printing and publishing facilities, not only for issuing (and enlarging) the **Liberal** at minimum cost, but to put all League and Center's publications, tracts, circulars, stationary, books, etc. plus the printing for all American freethought societies and organizations, and individual free lance authors of Rationalist writings. Other orthodox business from outside our own field could be solicited also to keep our press busy and profitable. This means a separate building for the printing plant, a stock of paper and place to store it, presses and other machinery and equipment. If this too were lo-

cated at one end of the Center's grounds, or perhaps in the Center's basement, fine and dandy. Yes, it would "cost a fortune", but I intend these remarks for men or women who **HAVE** a fortune to spend usefully and see it bear fruit in the field where it's needed most—the battle against ignorance and religious superstition.

After the Center is functioning successfully, the League could send forth "missionaries" to unite **Liberal** readers into local societies or branches in other cities. With the Philadelphia headquarters and its Thomas Paine Center as model or parent organization and source of help, "replicas" elsewhere would be easy to establish. Just imagine the potential power-for-good of a Friendship Liberal League with affiliates and thousands of members across the country! What a splendid guardian of our secular rights, liberties, and institutions it could be!

Then, as freethought gained momentum and popularity, the maintenance of a regular freethought or rationalist radio—or TV—weekly program might be considered. That media of communication would then really reach the nation's potential freethinkers, skeptics, secularists, liberals, atheists, —rationalists one and all—at large and attract them to our cause. We know that millions of them do exist, it's only a matter of reaching them with our message and doctrine of Reason vs. Revelation. They will come our way once we tell them where we're headed for; and where, when, and how they can join us and why they should.

I've mentioned horizontal expansion. This means expanded floor space and Center activities. (Vertical expansion means adding more floors to a building) One such expansion might well be in the direction of forming a freethinkers "Sunday school" for members' children, where a rationalist, scientific, secular viewpoint of human and world events and interpretation of nature would be

promulgated and inculcated to all and sundry. Every rationalist want his children brought up on truth and facts, not fiction and dogma. The Center's Sunday school would impart facts and fight fiction.

Another thing the League envisages is a retreat or home where aged and retired freethinkers would find asylum and hospitality in intellectually compatible company for the "December" of their lives at minimum cost and be assured of a secular exit from life when the end comes. Such a Freethinkers' Home might take the form of a farm which the residents could own collectively with the League and operate cooperatively. Truck gardening and animal husbandry—perhaps even the sale of surplus livestock and eggs or milk—would supply a good portion of the food for the Home. Members' pensions, legacies, donations, endowments, interest from investments, etc. would cover operating expenses.

This whole chain of beneficial social functions by the F.L.L., as I visualize them, could be realized in a few short years and could be made possible NOW only by heavy subsidy. I don't believe in winged angels flying around in a god's heaven, but I do believe there are wealthy human "angels" walking around right here among us who hold a rationalist view of religion and life and who can find enough humanitarianism in their heart to fully finance and underwrite a comprehensive program to rescue freethought in America and see it prosper in their own remaining lifetime. I can't imagine a more practical "monument" or memorial to a rich man who would like to be remembered for a useful contribution to his fellow men, both present and future. You can't take it with you, but through it you can find a favored place in men's minds and hearts. Where are you, good Samaritan? Only you can give freethought the kind of "transfusion" needed immediately. Blood type \$\$\$...



THE LIBERAL

**Bulletin of Friendship Liberal League,
Inc.**

**Presenting a Liberal and Rationalist
viewpoint. Published Monthly at 5526
Westford Road, Phila. 20, Pa., for the
information of its members.**

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**All matter accepted for publication be-
comes the property of the League, with
the right to edit or condense. Unaccept-
ed articles, if requested, will be re-
turned. Signed articles do not necessari-
ly represent the views of the League.**

**Associate membership in F.L.L. is open
to all who are in accord with the
League's purpose. All associates will re-
ceive THE LIBERAL and other litera-
ture issued by the League. Beyond a
minimum of \$2.00 per year, every assoc-
iate may fix his own contribution in ac-
cordance with his means and interest in
the cause.**



FRIENDSHIP LIBERAL LEAGUE, Inc.

5526 Westford Road, Phila. 20, Penna.

DEAR SIRs:

I desire to become an Associate of the Friendship Liberal League, Inc. I am en-
closing \$..... as a contribution, \$1.00 of which is for a year's subscription to THE
LIBERAL.

Signed Address

City Zone State

EDITORIAL . . .

The Grim Reaper hit the Freethought movement hard during the past month, removing from our midst four of those who had carried the torch of enlightenment for many years. And, sad to relate, these losses will continue as the passing years take their toll. Each of us must inevitably "join the innumerable caravan, . . ." and who shall go and when no man knoweth. There is nothing that can be done to stop this processoon, all must go back to Mother Nature whence they came.

But there is something which should be done. We are an army, fighting for a better world, and should, unless we are to become decimated, provide replacements for our casualties. Unfortunately we are not doing this. Purely by coincidence there is in this issue of the **Liberal** a fine article by Andy Vena, which covers this matter thoroughly. We must have a training center to develop younger men and women, who, when older fighters falter, can seize the torch from their weakening hands and carry it on to victory.

From the 1880's to 1910 or thereabout there was a vigorous Freethought movement in the U.S. With the passing of Ingersoll there began a series of deaths of the intellectual giants who were his contemporaries and practically all were gone after the first decade of the new century. There were no replacements. If we are to lay a solid foundation for the future, there must be, as Andy says, new blood, and it must be type \$ \$ \$.

The Indian

Here in this place we call our home
Not many generations gone,
Free from the gloss and dross of art
Fair nature ruled alone.

Flowers nodding in the wind
The grass grew tall and rank
Unafraid the spotted deer
Roamed by the river bank.

Here underneath the same bright moon
There lived another race;
Warmed by the glowing of the sun
As we in this same place.

Here for the weak and tender old,
Wigwam fires were gleaming.
And lover wooed his dusky mate
Within the shadows dreaming.

They fished along the sandy shore
Or bathed in stream and lake,
And paddled in a light canoe
Where trout were sure to take.

On Sachem brave and wily Chief
Their council fires were flaring.
While songs and tales of prowess rare
Came from the wise and daring.

They had no laws writ on a stone
But said that Manatou,
Was seen in nature everywhere;
His kindly power they knew.

No chain could bend their spirit high
To chattel grind or wage.
In paleface mine or factory
Their children did not slave.

The mingled seeds of life and death
Came on a pilgrim bark.
Was ours the fate to choose the light,
And theirs, perchance, the dark?

Let us not scorn their simple life
For when we get our pay,
We scrimp and save for FIFTY weeks
To live TWO in their way.

WHY DO THEY DO IT?

By L. L. Richardson

It is strange how Christians misquote their Bible. As a writer on newspapers I would get fired if the facts were not accurate. (In fact, I have been fired on some papers because of a minor flaw here and there in reporting).

A few weeks ago a Kansas City organ ran a letter by a reader praising an article. He commented it was so clear that he was reminded of the passage in the Bible which says, "Even a fool when he reads it should understand."

There is no such verse in the Bible. It is this, St. Matthew 24:15, "Whoso readeth, let him understand."

There is a devout wealthy Christian man who wrote me for years from Rhode Island. He said that the Bible says, "The Lord helps them who help themselves." I argued it wasn't in the Bible. He persisted that it was. Finally he woke up. It was uttered by agnostic Benjamin Franklin in 1757, after observing so many lazy Christians he penned, "God helps them that help themselves."

We wonder why the absolutonist prohibitionists overlook such vice as this in the Bible, Ecclesiastes 9:7, "Drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works." . . . Can you imagine a Baptist, Methodist or Pentecostal preaching a sermon on that mount?

Best distortion of all. Many years ago a Fredericktown, Mo., priest decided to have a stone mason cut the words from St. Matthew 21:13 to put over the church door, to read "My house shall be called the house of prayer." Period. The mason read the full verse and it came out, "My house shall be called the house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves," in the finished stone. The priest puttied out the unwanted words. But as the years wore on, the putty fell out!

THOMAS PAINE SEALS

—Edward J. Trainor

100 Seals _____ 50 cents

CHRISTIANITY'S DEBT TO ZOROASTER

By Howard McConnell

Just east of the fertile Mesopotamian valley there now lies the arid remains of a once fruitful and rich Empire. For this is the site of Ancient Persia which in its lavish oriental magnificence rivalled the most luxurious states of ancient times. Like most ancient nations it was a country of marked contrasts; through the streets of its cities hordes of ravenous beggars brushed elbows with fantastically rich merchants and aristocrats; an efflorescence of great art and architecture pointed up the lamentable lack of philosophy and literature. It is strangely pitiable to ponder today, after thousands of years, at how little culturally, modern Iran has changed from its ancient fatherland. Having been crushed and exploited throughout its long history by tyrants domestic and foreign it is only now partially throwing off its chains.

And yet the impress on the civilization of the west of the distinctive Persian religion—Zoroastrianism, will undoubtedly greatly outlive that speedily dying religion itself. There are few people today who realize the great obligation of the three basically semitic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Mohammedanism to this unique ancient faith the influence of which has been incalculable on our culture. When Milton enriched English Literature with his great epic *Paradise Lost* and his Italian predecessor penned the immortal lines of the *Divine Comedy* they were both making use of the Zoroastrian conception of Hell bequeathed to Christianity by its parent religion Judaism at the beginning of the present era.

The ancient Hebrews, that imaginative and poetic race of wandering tribesmen, had a very gloomy view of the after-life when such an after-life, indeed, they postulated at all! This is readily apparent when we find in the book of Ecclesiastes such sentiments as the fol-

lowing: "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth; so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. ALL go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. (Ecclesiastes iii 19-20).

The Hebrew word Sheol, "the place of departed spirits", was like the Greek Hades the common destination of those who had been in life virtuous, vicious and indifferent. The early Jews had no Heaven or Hell, properly speaking, but only this dismal, sombre and uninviting common receptacle of eternal gloom. Why then, it may justly be asked, were they such a fiercely ethical people? What was the point of their rigid adherence to the Ten Commandments and the Law if it was not to gain salvation? The answer is simply that they associated their EARTHLY well-being with their conduct; Jahweh would be propitiated by sacrifices and the obedience of his precepts while disobedience would incur divine wrath and earthly punishment. Thus Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden for eating the forbidden fruit and for disobedience of Moses the Children of Israel were made to wander about for forty years in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. It was only after the Babylonian Captivity that Hebrew eschatology (that branch of theology dealing with the after-life) adopted the more sophisticated guise in which it is seen in modern Christianity.

The life and works of the great prophet Zoroaster are shrouded in the mists of remote antiquity; he lived in Persia sometime between 1000 and 600 B.C. and elaborated a peculiar form of dualistic monotheism when the Hebrews were still sacrificing to Baal and a host of other eastern divinities, (See The E-

volution of the Idea of God by Grant Allen and The Religion of the Semites by Prof. Robertson Smith). The lofty, spiritual conception of God was made manifest in Zoroastrianism in the person of Ahura Mazda, the Lord of Light while his infernal rival, the ancestor of Satan, was Angra Mainyu the Prince of Darkness. Man, according to Zoroaster, was gifted with free will, and this earth was a testing ground for eternity. Man by leading a life of ascetic morality could aid the forces of good (Ahura Mazda) to triumph over those of evil (Angra Mainyu), or if he was wicked he might throw in his lot with the devil.

At any rate after death there would be a last judgment at which the evil and good deeds of everyone would be weighed and according to which outbalanced the other the fate of the person was decided. In one case he received excruciating torment in Hell; in the other the inexpressible happiness in Heaven. This exactly duplicates the teaching of Christianity and it is most peculiar to note that even in the minor detail of the individual possessing a guardian angel the parallelism continues.

This all may be so but is there any reason to suppose that the Jews actually did receive their doctrine on the after-life from these ancient Persians? The circumstantial evidence amounts almost to a certainty!

Before 586 B.C. when King Nebuchadnezzar defeated Israel in war and carried off the Flower of Jewry to Babylon the belief in "Sheol" described above was universally accepted. The Jews, furthermore, regarded Jahweh more or less as merely the supreme deity of a pantheon of oriental divinities which included, amongst others, Baal and Ashtaroth. High authorities such as the Encyclopedia Biblica and even many pseudo-orthodox modernist clergymen unreservedly admit this. These latter contend that the ancient belief was merely a seed which has now bloomed into a flower. As if time alone could transmute the false into the true! From the

primitive religious mentality that they carried into Babylon, a seething pot of diverse nations and religions, we detect a profound change when compared with what they brought out a century later on their release from the Captivity.

For they brought back to Palestine all those Zoroastrian ideas—Heaven and Hell, the last judgment, guardian angels and a pure and elevated monotheism—which they came in contact with in Babylon. Instead of sending missionaries to convert the small remnant of this once huge religious group, we should send a delegation to thank them for their inestimably important contribution to our Holy Religion!

THE SCHOOLS IN BOLIVIA.

Bolivia, a land where for centuries the native populace has been held in subjection by a combination of Church and State, controlled by a relatively small group of Spanish Mestizos, has undergone a revolution and the immensely valuable tin mines belonging to a few families have been taken over by the new government. Many improvements have been made in the wretched condition of the tin workers and among other reforms planned is a nation-wide school system. This has alarmed the Hierarchy for if these schools are not under their control all kinds of evil things will be taught, even heresies such as that all men are equal and that there should be an end to the special privileges of the Church. Heretofore the Hierarchy made no effort to educate the masses, but now that others intend to do so they want to control what is taught, fearing that otherwise what is taught may control them.

A Thinker is never a Believer

and a Believer is never a Thinker.

DEATH TAKES ITS TOLL

HUGH F. MUNRO, SR.

Hugh F. Munro, Sr., oldest member, both in years and membership, of Friendship Liberal League died Saturday, Feb. 14, at the age of 86. He had been inactive for a number of years having suffered a stroke that prevented moving about. However, until a few months before his death his mind was clear and memory good. Mr. Munro joined F.L.L. in the early 1900's and was its president for years. He was born in Scotland and came to the U.S. when a boy. He was a splendid speaker and his fine clear Scotch accent was a delight to hear. He engaged in many lectures and debates in the League's forum and was well liked by even those who disagreed with him.

WOOLSEY TELLER

Woolsey Teller, associate editor of the TRUTH SEEKER, and director of the Ingersoll Forum, New York City, died on March 11th in Bellevue Hospital in that city. He was 64. His death was the result of a stroke. Teller was active for many years in Freethought circles and lectured a number of times in the F.L.L. Forum in Philadelphia. His passing is a severe blow to Freethought. His pungent writings in the TRUTH SEEKER, will be missed by many who enjoyed his no-holds barred style.

MAX ISENBERG

We regret to inform our readers of the passing of Dr. Max Isenberg of New York City, suddenly on Feb. 22nd. His funeral was devoid of any religious services. Part of the services which were conducted by Mr. Scheinman were from the very booklet Dr. Isenberg wrote for that purpose.

C. JOSEPH BAUER

As we go to press we learn of the death of another of the older members of F.L.L., C. Joseph Bauer, of nearby Woodbury, N. J. He had been associated with the League for more years than we can remember accurately. Mr. Bauer was 81 years of age, and until a couple years ago was an active participant in the activities of the League. His health began to fail and he could no longer make the frequent trips to Philadelphia as previously. He had lived in Woodbury for many years, and was mayor of the town for several years.

These veterans will be missed by all their friends and associates. Their lives and deaths were typical of men whose minds were free from childish superstitions. They were men who worked for a better life for all mankind, here and now, on this terrestrial globe and not in the unknown future in some unmapped celestial region. They lived and died as Bryant counseled:

"So live, that when thy summons comes
to join
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each
shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at
night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained
and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy
grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his
couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant
dreams."

Important Religious News

By Frank C. Hughes

Nowhere in the Bible does it say: "Thou shalt not pass bum checks". Two clergymen recently took advantage of this situation. A minister at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, who had been a child evangelist before he became a full-fledged man of god, drew a 3-year sentence (on probation) for passing 11 bum checks for \$180. He was just a piker. Take a look at Rev. A. G. Patterson, 57, of Cincinnati, a former Baptist preacher in Idaho and also a former Congregational minister at Portland, Oregon, who was arrested February 16 at Wheaton, Ill., on a check charge. He admitted passing \$80,000 in bum checks. Patterson had had a perfect background for his "religious" work, as he had served a prison term before becoming a preacher.

The Knights of Columbus boast a portfolio of investments totaling over \$55,500,000 in bonds, real estate, mortgages, etc. I wonder if this religious organization pays any taxes?

A tornado in the Bible Belt flattened 21 structures at Sumbrall, Mississippi. The Rev. E.C. Farr said the Sunday attendance increased from about 100 to 150 members and it made his flock "increasingly aware of the power of God".

Operating under the name of "Christian Brothers", the Catholic Church has a wine manufacturing establishment at Napa, California. As this outfit belongs to the personal representative of god, should it be tax-exempt?

The Rev. Leonard W. Holmberg, a Lutheran preacher operating one church in Massachusetts and another in Rhode Island, has been charged by his wife with keeping a mistress. When questioned about adultery charges, the Reverend gentleman refused to answer on the grounds that his answer might tend to incriminate him. Senator McCarthy would probably classify this fellow as a 5th Amendment preacher.

The current issue of an Insurance magazine has this to say: "Religion is

promoted by the heads of the church organizations, but it takes thousands of resident ministers, priests and rabbis to keep the religion sold". When one becomes an Atheist he stays "sold" and no amount of brain-washing by the clergy can restore his belief in talking snakes and conversational she-asses.

Lt. Col. J. W. Kilburn, Chaplain U.N. Prisoner Command, states that 21,882 Communist prisoners of war were converted to Christianity during their internment in U.N. custody. He doesn't tell how many of these "rice Christians" stayed with Jesus after they got their freedom. You are paying taxes to support about 5,000 parasite preachers who are unlawfully on the U.S. payroll. Their heavy work is to promote the Christian religion for a nation founded upon Separation of Church and State.

Lee Parker, 20, a Chicago Christian, after murdering a young woman, went home and prayed most of the night. After his visit to the electric chair he will, no doubt, be fitted with wings and spend eternity in that place not made by hands, eternal in the heavens.

Late in February, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution calling on the churches and synagogues of America to set aside part of their Easter Sunday and Passover services for special prayers for people behind the Iron Curtain. This action is in direct conflict with the Constitution of the United States—in addition, it is most disgusting. It beats all what cheap politicians will do to get a few moronic votes. This comment applies equally well to the next paragraph.

The President and the Chief Justice recently attended a prayer breakfast in Washington. The President said that our strength lies in faith—that is our greatest resource. If that be true, why do we need any H-bombs and a military establishment? Mr. Eisenhower is evidently trying to out-billy Billy Graham as an evangelist. Was the President afflicted with religion before he became a politician? When an office-seeker takes up religion, it usually lasts until after

the next election.

Pope Pius doesn't seem to be getting well very fast, regardless of the millions of prayers for his immediate recovery—Wonder why these prayers do not click.

On February 20th Rev. Claude Williams was defrocked by the Presbyterian church because of his alleged pro-red leanings. This preacher had better be careful because this same outfit (President Eisenhower's church) a little less than four hundred years ago burned Michael Cervetus at the stake because he didn't believe in the "trinity" and infant baptism. The Catholic church is not the only cult which practiced burning thinkers at the stake. Of all fanatics in the world, the religious ones are the most terrible.

The Lutherans are having hell trouble even in Norway. A year ago Professor Ole Christian Hallesby, lay leader and pietistic theologian, made a radio address in which he warned that any unbeliever who died would go straight to hell. Although this is 100% pure Christian doctrine, some of the more civilized Lutherans didn't like it. Since then Ole Hallesby has been convicted of tax frauds over a period of at least 10 years. If he doesn't get those sins forgiven by prayer, a lot of us will have the pleasure of meeting Ole in the not too distant future.

Catholic Bishop Floyd L. Begin of Cleveland is raising Cain owing to the fact that the Knights of Columbus have refused a charter to a group because Negroes were to be included. The Bishop says: "Anyone who denies this is a pussyfooting liar".

ATTENTION SEATTLE READERS

Esther Caswell, 506 Fairview North, Seattle 9, Wash., requests all **Liberal** readers living in the Seattle area to contact her in order to get an organized group of Rationalists and Freethinkers together. We urge all to do so for it is only when we get such groups in every

locality that we will be able to really make our views known effectively.

CENSORSHIP

The campaign to censor books and magazines sold on newstands isn't going over as big as its instigators would like. At first, the idea of cleaning out a lot of obscene and indecent pictorial magazines appeals to every decent minded person but fuller consideration shows that there is grave danger that such censorship may lead to banning other writings, not in themselves objectionable, but only objectionable to some particularism or ology of the self-appointed censors. In one locality, when some group of do-gooders proposed that a law be passed banning "immoral, salacious and perverse" literature an objector said, "there are some who consider the works of Bacon to be immoral, the findings of Kinsey to be salacious, and the works of Rousseau to be perverse." It might be added that there are some who would find that any criticism of the Pope or the Church equally impermissible and there's no telling where it would stop. We have laws now that enable the police to bring any publisher into court if a district attorney can get a grand jury to indict. That's the American way.

Another pillar of the Church was recently caught with his hand in the till in a small town near Philadelphia. He was vice-president and cashier of the Telford National Bank, and has agreed to show the bank examiners how he managed to juggle accounts for thirty years right under their noses. Although his church affiliations are not mentioned he undoubtedly was a prominent churchman; no freethinker or atheist could be trusted to an extent that would allow him to appropriate \$146,000. They have no morals to restrain them.

OUR READERS SAY—

Editor: As a satisfied reader of the **Liberal** I am sending three dollars for a renewal to your magazine, and that's a bargain at that in my opinion.

—Mrs. G. Brage, N.J.

Comment: The staff of the **Liberal** being just human like to know that their efforts are appreciated and letters like the above make them feel their work is worth while.

Dear F.L.L. —I have been trying to decide which of the three magazines **Liberal**, **Humanist** or **Progressive World** I should continue for 1954. My husband is on retirement list now and our income is less. Enclosed is renewal for **Liberal** and may be able to forward more later.

—Mrs. Marie Pottsmith

Editor: I was very much pleased with the article on Page 1 of the February **Liberal**. I have said for some time that Communism is not the greatest threat to our government, although of course we have to guard against it. Our greatest menace is the growing power of the Catholic Church.... I am enclosing my check for three dollars for contribution and subscription for another year.

—Mrs. Flora C. Torrance

Comment: If the Communist Hierarchy in America had as many millions of followers as the R.C. Hierarchy has they would be as big a menace. The pressing danger is Clerico-Fascism, and happily many people are beginning to awaken to that fact.

Cigarettes and Cancer

An official British medical committee has reported that there is a definite relationship, not yet clearly understood,

"between smoking and cancer of the lung." Similar findings have been found in this country, clinical observation and statistics showing that almost all victims of lung cancer are cigarette smokers. But the tobacco companies have been able to keep publicity at a minimum, while at the same time spending millions of advertising dollars extolling the pleasures to be derived from their dope sticks.

WAR IS A COSTLY GAME.

The following verse, written on a crumpled piece of paper was received by a New York newspaper, which did not print it. It was signed P. F. McCarthy, 4th bench, City Hall Park, N.Y. City. Whatever its merits as poetry there is no denying its truthfulness.

THE NINE INCH GUN

Whether your shell hits the spot
Your cost is five hundred dollars a shot.
You thing of noise, of flame and power,
We feed you a hundred barrels of flour.

Each time you roar, your flame is fed
With twenty thousand loaves of bread.
Silence! A million hungry men,
Seek bread to fill their mouths again.

Thomas Jefferson Suspected

The U.S. Information Agency says that it has banned from its overseas libraries a book entitled *Selected Works of Thomas Jefferson*. They say the removal is "pending further study." Well, Jefferson did say a lot of things that the R. C. Hierarchy does not want its followers in Europe to know, but this is not given as the reason. No, the cause of the banning of Jefferson is that the man who compiled the selection is a college professor who refused to tell Senator McCarthy whether he was a Communist. Just how that has anything to do with the writings of Jefferson is not detailed.

THE ZIG-ZAGGING SUN

By Dr. E. L. Dwight Turner

In World War II, Hitler, backed by the might of a Nazified Europe, attacked Soviet Russia. Catholics were then urged to renew their devotions to Our Lady of Fatima. The Vatican felt sure that Russia would be defeated, and the Catholic world hoped so. We all know that Russia was victorious, marched into Berlin, followed by the downfall and death of Hitler.

Fatima, a desolate locality in Portugal, became a shrine when, in 1917, the Virgin Mary was said to have appeared repeatedly, with a momentous message, to three illiterate children. "After a few moments of brilliant sunshine, the sun became pale, three times it turned speedily on itself like a Catherine-wheel, sending forth rays of the fairest colors of the rainbow. At the end of these convulsive revolutions it seemed to jump out of its orbit and come towards the people in a zigzag course, stopped, and returned again to its normal position." This, it was said, was seen by a large group near the children, and "lasted 12 minutes."

It was reported that the Virgin Mary was very specific about what had motivated her to appear and then to make the sun "jump out of its orbit." She had done it (so it is stated) to induce the Pope to bring about "the consecration of the world" to the "immaculate heart"—to be followed by "the consecration of Russia." In the end, the Virgin promised, the Catholic Church will triumph, and "the Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me."

Now, anyone with any brains, who uses them, knows that this, on the face of it, is an outright fake.

Yet, I have seen a photograph of Fulton Sheen "venerating" (with his hands in the position of prayer) a replica of a statue of "Our Lady of Fatima," which replica was taken on a tour of these United States of America.

Following is an official statement of

the Catholic Church. On the afternoon of October 30, 1950, at 4 p.m., "the Holy Father turned his gaze from the Vatican gardens to the sun, and there was renewed for his eyes the prodigy of the Valley of Fatima." "... He was able to witness the life of the sun under the hand of Mary. The sun agitated, all convulsed, transformed into a picture of life; in a spectacle of celestial movements; in transmission of mute but eloquent messages to the Vicar of Christ." This occurred on three successive days, October 30, 31, and November 1, 1950.

The news of this miracle, with its "eloquent messages to the Vicar of Christ" direct from heaven, was solemnly announced on October 13, 1951, at a gathering of one million people convened at Fatima, Portugal, by a cardinal sent there by Pius XII.

But, neither in 1917, nor in 1950, nor at any other time did the more than two billions of the earth's inhabitants see anything of the kind. The astronomers were all strangely mute.

Yet, masses of Catholics, the world over, profess to believe this downright nonsense!

A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

Having a philosophy of Life serves the purpose of counteracting the tensions of living, by guiding the thought and helping to solve our urgent problems. It gives comfort in times of stress and softens the blows of disillusionment.

It is a mental force that will clarify one's thinking and direct the thought into constructive channels. It helps adjust one's attitude toward the complexities of everyday living in this age of transition. A static mentality that does not welcome change is a curse and hindrance to progress.

My philosophy is:—Meet all challenges as they occur for they are the "Open Sesame" to whatever happens to one.

—Louise S. Baldwin

MORE RELIGION NEEDED

In Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Florence Dalton, 34, killed her two children and tried suicide because she and her husband argued about the religious education of the youngsters. Police say she used a bat, two butcher knives and a razor blade. Can one really imagine the mental state of a woman so zealous about religion that she would do such a horrible thing? Killings similar to this are reported almost daily yet the claim is still made that religion is an influence that brings mankind up from the brute. The sad fact is that the most vicious and savage living creatures are religious zealots. All history is replete with the record of the torture and killing of members of one sect by another. Preachers and priests know this, yet they have the unmitigated gall to accuse Rationalists of lacking human compassion. What compassion was shown by Calvin, Luther, Torquemada and the Scottish and English divines when they consigned their victims to the flames after they had been racked and otherwise tortured?

President Eisenhower's religiosity is being played up big nowadays. He attends various churches and makes talks about "Back to God" and "spirituality" etc. During the administration of the late F.D.R., it was said that every politician was trying to ride into office on F.D.R.'s coattails. Looks like that now the mode of transportation for the future will be the coattails of Jehovah.

Now comes another bill in Congress to amend the U.S. flag code to include the words, "under God" making it say, "... one nation, under God, indivisible, etc." Pending are bills to put God on the postage stamps and into the Constitution. Strange these things have not been done long ago, or is the U.S. getting more religious?

Italian authorities seem determined to hinder the work of Protestant sects

in Italy and are continually obstructing their progress. A special to the N.Y. Times, dated Feby. 14th, says that the police in Leghorn arrested a native Protestant preacher who was preaching in the Church of Christ, which belongs to a U.S. missionary group. They ordered him to leave Leghorn and gave him a "compulsory railroad pass" which procedure is often used to get rid of any person whose presence is not wanted, usually "persons of ill fame" and criminals who have served time in the penitentiary. These are evil days when heretics dare raise their heads and shout their heresies practically under the Vatican walls and nothing can be done about it more than to run them away. Alas, the rack and thumbscrews, the faggot and the gallows are all laid away in mothballs, with little indication that can be recommissioned in the near future. It is indeed, a time of trial and tribulation and persecution which was unequalled in the pagan days of yore.

SACRILEGE

Christmas midnight mass is supposed to be particularly edifying and elevating but a cog must have slipped somewhere at St. Anthony's, Queens, N.Y. Francis Handy, 16, who attended the services there last Christmas returned at 2 A.M. and appropriated the contents of the poor box, \$14.65. He said he needed it to buy his mother a Christmas present. Now, if Francis had been a Protestant and a product of the godless public schools, it could be easily understood that he had no moral restraints, but, and this is what is so mystifying, he had had proper instruction in the faith, had had the advantage of Catholic training, and by all their claims should be a model youth. And worst of all is this: his theft was no ordinary theft, which could be excused up to the sum of \$40. No, he committed the mortal sin of "sacrilege" which the dictionary says is "the stealing of anything consecrated to the service of God."

INCONSISTENCIES

By K. R.

The fact that there are many inconsistencies throughout the Bible can be shown especially clearly by the briefest comparative study of the four Gospels as they recount their varied versions of the alleged death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is hard to find any point on which all writers agree and there are several instances in which no one agrees with any of the others in certain particulars. Some of the discrepancies are, of course, minor ones; these are surprisingly numerous for a Book which claims infallibility.

There is one case of the occurrence of the most extraordinary phenomenon which is mentioned most casually and briefly as if it were an everyday event. Matt. 27:52&53 tells us, "And the graves were opened, and many of the bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of their graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

The other Gospels mention incidents which supposedly happened at about the same time but only Matthew thought this sufficiently important to note.

The most casual Sunday School student can tell you that Christ was crucified, that is, nailed to a cross. This belief is widely supported in the Gospels. John 20:25 tells of "doubting" Thomas who refused to believe it was Christ he saw after the resurrection unless he could place his finger in the print of the nails. Luke 24:39&40 has Christ telling the disciples to touch his hands and feet to identify him as the crucified one.

There are at least three verses in Acts (5:30, 10:39, & 13:29) which give a rather different account of his death. In these he is said to have been slain and hanged on a tree. (In that order).

In most of the essential details of

Christ's death we have a remarkably wide choice as to what we wish to believe. He may have been crucified (or was it hanged?) in a place called Calvary (Luke 23:33) or the site may have been Golgotha as is stated in three places, Matt. 27:33, Mark 15:22, and John 19:17.

He may have borne his cross to one of these locations as he does in John 19:17 or Simon of Cyrene may have carried it as he does in Mark 15:21 and Matt. 27:32. (If he was hanged to a tree, as in Acts, we'll just have to ignore this incident.)

The two thieves who were executed with him may have both joined the mob in reviling Christ as they do in Matt. 27:44 and Mark 15:32. Or, one of them may have refused to do this as is found in Luke 23: verses 39 to 43.

Perhaps the idea of these discrepancies is that if one account doesn't appeal to us we may like another version better.

It isn't usually considered but quite likely Christ was led to Golgotha (or Calvary) in complete darkness. In John 19:14 to 16 he was still before Pilate at the sixth hour though in three accounts it was dark from the sixth to the ninth hour. Matt. 27:45, Mark 15:33, and Luke 23:44. Mark confuses us even more, if possible, by having him crucified at the third hour. (Mark 15:25.)

There is less disagreement about the resurrection only because somewhat less detail is given than concerns the crucifixion.

The major happening is mentioned by all four writers, and as can be expected, complete confusion reigns as to just what occurred. We do know that either one, two, three, or five or more women went to visit the sepulchre on resurrection morning. John 20:1 has Mary Magdalene going there alone. She saw two angels sitting there. In Matt. 28:1 & 2 Mary was there also but was accompanied by "the other Mary". They found one angel sitting there, though at an en-

tirely different place than the two John mentions. Mark informs us that Mary Magdalene was at the sepulchre with Mary the mother of James and Salome. They found a young man sitting there. Luke goes all out on this part of the story by having at least five, and likely more, women at the sepulchre. In Luke 24:10 three are named directly and mention is made of there being "other women" with them. Upon their arrival they did find two men standing around. (verse 4).

Not only can't we be sure as to how many women there were, or who or what they found, we don't know too clearly when they got there. Mark 16:2 states the time as being "at the rising of the sun." In John 20:1 we find Mary already at the tomb "when it was yet dark."

To wind up this strange tale we should try to dispose of Judas, whose betrayal it was that started the whole train of events. Again, we have our choice of two stories. In Acts 1:18 Judas bought a field with his money. He later fell "headlong" in this field and was killed. Matt. 27:5 tells us a different story. Judas, after repenting of his deed, tried to return the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests. They refused it, whereupon Judas threw the money to the floor, went out and hanged himself. Later the priests used this money to buy a potter's field in which to bury strangers. Thus we at least can believe that a field was bought, if nothing else.

It is not to be implied that this brief study lists all of the discrepancies about the subject. It does little more than begin what, if completed, would be a formidable task indeed.

It is my belief that if the persons who wrote the Gospels themselves did not know just what had occurred, or how, then we, nearly two thousand years and many translations later, can certainly find no secure grounds on which to believe.

The U.S. Supreme Court has again ruled against censorship of motion pictures in the case of two disputed pictures, making four in all so far. The court has avoided making a general denial of the right to censor or prohibit the showing of pictures that are clearly indecent or obscene, ruling in each case that the particular picture under discussion was O.K. In each case there was some particular group that objected that the picture was objectionable. In the case of the **MIRACLE**, the R.C. Hierarchy said it was sacrilegious; **PINKY** was objected to by the authorities in Marshall, Texas, because it took the part of a Negro girl, (who incidentally was more than half white) against the police. "**M**" was objected to because it was a crime picture and **LA ROND** was too close to the French attitude toward sex to suit puritanism. We heartily approve of these decisions. That does not mean that we favor showing indecent pictures or printing indecent sexy magazines. It means that we disapprove of self-appointed censors arrogating unto themselves the right to determine what the rest of us may see and hear. We have courts to decide such issues.

New York **Times** reports that in the town of Nazareth, where Christianity has one of its biggest shows, including such items as Joseph's carpenter shop and Mary's well, things are not good. It is crowded with houseless Arab refugees largely unemployed.

A reader tells us that in her city the nearby R.C. Church congregation is holding their annual spaghetti dinner in, of all places, the basement of the Masonic Temple. Meanwhile Masons in Spain, are eating their dinners in Franco's dungeons. Liberty means a different thing in America than in Catholic countries.

With A Stake Thru His Heart?

Police Sgt. Wilkie, Camden, N.J., now confesses that his story that he killed his 17 year old son by accidental shooting was a falsehood designed to hide the fact that his son committed suicide, which would prevent his being buried in consecrated ground. Sgt. Wilkie is now on bail, charged with manslaughter. We wonder what the true story is, and whether, if the suicide story sticks, will the body be dug up and reburied in un-holy ground?

Alexander George Patterson was pastor of the Gooding, (Ills.) First Baptist church from 1949 to 1952. F.B.I. Agent, Guy Banister, Chicago, says that Patterson's police record begins in 1916, and that he has served 13 years on 10 convictions since. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister and also pastor of a Congregationalist Church in Portland, Ore., before he got dunked into the Baptist faith. He is accused of passing about \$75,000 in worthless checks in the past 20 years. What we need is more religion, only a great spiritual uplift will save America.

Witches Declared Not Guilty

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has approved a bill to reverse the conviction of six women accused of witchcraft in 1692, and hanged. Now, isn't that nice of them? But when they were hanged Cotton Mather the leading Preacher of Massachusetts, and president of Harvard, the great religious college, said that they deserved to be hanged as it had been proved beyond dispute that they were actually witches and guilty of bewitching people.

At Buck Hill Falls, Pa., Dr. Elliot L. Fisher, executive secretary of the Methodist home-mission section, told trustees recently that the reason there are 60,000,

000 Americans who belong to no church is because they move too often. We certainly do not agree with the conclusion. Our conclusion is they don't attend church or belong because they feel no need for it. And there would be many millions more who wouldn't go to church if they were not afraid to stay away because of hell-fire. The people you see scurrying to church on cold winter mornings are not going there to earn a ticket to heaven. All they want is to avoid going to the other place. Fear of hell not hope of heaven is what keeps religion alive. No wonder the pope recently insisted that hell was real.

TERESA BEATS THE H.C.L.

Teresa Neumann, the German peasant of Connersreuth, is still a subject of controversy. She claims that she has not eaten any food other than the holy wafer of the mass in decades and that she never drinks water. Thousands of tourists, pilgrims, sight seekers and others have visited the small town and left their coin there, much to the profit of the local burgers and the parish priest.

The "Church" has never officially pronounced a decision on the validity of her claims, probably waiting till she is dead or safely in a convent before risking a decision in her favor, which might later be found to be wrong. Meantime, however, no prohibition has been placed on her and the gullible still flock there.

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**HERE IS THE HIGHEST MENTAL  
 ADVENTURE, MAKE  
 SELF-RESPECT YOUR  
 RELIGION**

### THE FORTEAN SOCIETY

Grand Central Annex

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Supreme Intelligence?

By James Hervey Johnson

When preachers talk of the "Supreme Intelligence," I am reminded of Polio which cripples innocent little children; of Syphilis and Cancer which eat and burn the flesh of men, women and children; of Tuberculosis and Leprosy; of Blindness, and of helpless Spastic children; of Idiots, slobbering and ape-like, unable to control their natural functions; of Wars and Murders and Crimes and Poverty and Cruelty to animals by man and by other animals.

In my mind's eye are deaths, injuries and destruction caused by Earthquakes, Floods, Disastrous Fires, Blizzards, Tornadoes, Volcanic Eruptions and Tidal Waves. What useful purpose could they serve a Supreme Intelligence?

There are very few men who would not stop the terrible pains of Cancer and of Syphilis if they could. Hundreds of millions of men and women would like to prevent Blindness and Insanity in their fellow men and women! The kindly, charitable people of America raise tens of millions of dollars a year to feed the starving, helpless people of religious and god-ridden lands, and to try to prevent Polio, Tuberculosis, Cancer, Heart Disease and Cerebral Palsy. What does the Supreme Intelligence do? Nothing!

Great suns explode and burn. Planets are torn to pieces and their debris circulates in space for eons of time. Meteors strike the earth and burn to cinders and lumps of stone. Comets speed through space at terrific speed, burning themselves up as they rush. Sometimes the Planets collide. Some Planets are so far away from the sun that they are probably as cold as absolute zero, while others are so close that their temperature is forever too hot for any life; I ask myself, "What Intelligence is there in this?"

A fish spawns a million eggs, and one or two live; a useless weed produces a million seeds and a few live. Thorns and rattlesnakes and sharks and tsetse flies

are spread over the world. Little animals are eaten by larger ones, and the process is endlessly repeated. Parasites kill men and die in their own poisons.

The priests, like parrots, prattle of their "Supreme Intelligence," of which there are no signs. If there was any such power the proper name for it would be, "The Supreme Stupidity."

THE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

Once in a while a reader will call our attention to a typographical error, such as a misspelled word, or wrong font letter etc. These are bad enough, but particularly distressing is the misplacing of slugs so that the lines are not in proper order. Every copy of the **Liberal** is carefully proofread and is well up to the average in typography, yet, errors do get by somehow. The poem below, clipped from another paper shows other publications have their troubles too.

The typographical error is

A slippery thing and shy;
You can hunt it 'til you're dizzy
But somehow it will get by.

'Til the forms are off the presses,
It is strange how still it keeps;
It shrinks down in a corner
And it never stirs or peeps.

That typographical error,
Too small for human eyes
'Til the ink is on the paper,
When it grows to MOUNTAIN size.

The remainder of the issue
May be clean as clean can be,
But the typographical error
Is the only thing you see!

—Fleet Flashes

Jackson, Mich. reports that during services on Sunday Jan. 17, fifteen purses were stolen from women in two churches which seems rather unkind to say the least.

A Nonpartisan Appraisal of the U. S. Senate

To all United States Senators who were in the Senate Chamber on February 19th, 1954, when Senate Concurrent Resolution 63, introduced by Saltonstall and Kennedy of Massachusetts and Smith of New Jersey, was adopted without opposition:

The resolution above referred to expresses the sense of the Congress (but the Congress doesn't display any sense) that on April 18th, 1954, which is both Easter Sunday and the first day of Passover, churches and synagogues throughout our land should set aside a portion of their services for prayers for the deliverance of all those behind the Iron Curtain who are denied freedom to worship in their own fashion.

The United States Supreme Court said (33 U.S. 203): "Neither a state nor the Federal Government can, openly or secretly, participate in the affairs of any religious organizations or groups and vice versa. . . Or, as we have said in the *Everson* case, the First Amendment has erected a wall between Church and State which must be kept high and impregnable".

By your action you have injected the United States into the affairs of religious organizations and thus violated your oaths of office. Those who did not vote against this cheap political trick are as guilty as those voting for it. You are all guilty of malfeasance, misfeasance or non-feasance—not a statesman in the bunch—just cheap politicians who are willing to overthrow the Constitution for a few votes.

Probably not a Senator, except possibly from the Bible Belt, believes in silly prayers; but if you had been on the square, you would have included freedom of worship for those in Spain and Italy, behind the Purple Curtain, where freedom of worship is non-existent.

Alger Hiss is behind bars for the

crime of perjury. A high government official who takes an oath to protect and defend the Constitution and then betrays that oath, is far worse than an ordinary perjurer.

To follow the dictates of any foreign dictator, be he Italian or Russian, is thoroughly un-American. If you wish to retain a semblance of the confidence and respect of the American people, you will immediately reconsider and kill Concurrent Resolution No. 63.

You do a lot of talking about reducing unnecessary expenses with resulting decrease in taxes. At the same time, for political reasons and in total disregard of our Constitution, your oaths of office and the welfare of the taxpayers, you keep about 5,000 preachers on the government payroll at an annual cost of from fifty to one hundred million dollars.

Instead of a government by law, we are governed by lawless men. In one respect, at least, we are suffering the same fate as the people behind the Iron Curtain. If political prayers are effective, why not get the clergy to pray that Senators be given enough strength of character to observe their oaths of office?

—Frank C. Hughes

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THE DOUBLE CROSS

Fascist Dictator Franco, of Spain, was so pleased with the work of U. S. Senator Pat McCarran, one of the pope's men, who arranged and put over a big deal for him, that he has awarded him the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabel La Catholica, Spain's highest award. The American people should award McCarran the medal of the Grand Order of the Double Cross.

WHO WERE CHRISTIANS?

Jan. 25, 1954

Des Moines Register & Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa.

Gentlemen:

Your article, "Were the Founding Fathers Christians?" (10/4/53) has come to my attention. Of course, any historian knows that most of the founders of this nation were not at all orthodox, very many of them being outspoken infidels.

It is not generally known, however, that from Washington to Garfield, a period of 102 years and 19 presidents, the people of the United States did not elect to the presidency a communicant of any orthodox church.

It is only since the beginning of the present century that clerico-political influence has been attempting to establish in America the European plan of union of church and state, which has almost invariably meant that the church rules, while state officials lick clerical boots.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Ira D. Cardiff

Most readers of the **Liberal** have heard a lot about Father Devine, but how many know anything about Daddy Grace. Well Daddy is no small time operator. He is reputed to have recently bought the huge Eldorado apartments in New York City, and to own real estate worth twenty five million dollars. He is said to have millions of followers who say, that if Daddy isn't God himself, he's mighty close to him. And there is another top notcher who is self-labeled "Messiah Jones," who sports a white mink coat. What a sweet racket, with no need to pay-off or dodge the cops. In fact the whole thing is strictly legal and even tax exempt. What a sweet racket, indeed!

The Enigmatic Christian Poet

T.S. Eliot is an Anglo-Catholic, a classicist in literature and a Tory in politics although he voted for Labor in the last election. His message in *The Cocktail Party* was obscure and ambiguous and now in his current play, *The Confidential Clerk*, his plot is a strange one. There are two illegitimate children in it, and the ending, the critics opine, conveys a moral—namely, that we should humbly accept the roles and places which God sees fit to assign us. Ambition, in other words, is a sin!

Has not Eliot himself sinned in this sense? He has achieved fame as well as financial success. His plays are always popular. The audiences do not feel that they were written in verse; they seem prosaic, and Eliot doesn't mind this in the least. Surely, a peculiar attitude and an enigmatic one. He pleases himself. He has that privilege. But what has Christianity to do with it?

—Victor S. Yarros

Great difficulty is being encountered by the Hierarchy in France who, by order of the Vatican is stopping the activities of the so-called "worker priests." These priests who have been living among the workers, as workers, were supposed to convert the workers from Communism to the Church. However they found that the grievances of the workers were so real that they became ardent leaders in the struggle for better wages and conditions. In short, the Pope became alarmed that he would lose his priests not gain workers. In a protest memorandum they say, "the working classes do not need people to sympathize with their distress but men to share their struggles and hopes." Or it might be put, "the working classes do not want pie in the sky when they die, they want it right here on this earth, while they are alive." It is an open question whether some of these priests may not defy their ecclesiastical superiors.

In a recent book, after speaking of a man who at 17 years of age won a divinity prize and then later murdered nine persons to get drinks of their blood, Dr. Podolsky continues: "On a less homicidal level, we have the Thanatomania, who has an obsession for attending funerals, and the Pseudolalia Fantastica, self-accusation of a crime which the individual did not commit. Another beauty is the Uranomaniac who's deluded into the conviction that he's of divine or heavenly origin. . . ." Oh, yes religious beliefs are very beneficial.

"I think God's hand may have touched me on the shoulder," said Albert John Markle, when asked why he did not kill Father Fred Lamb, Jr., after he had just killed a woman and wounded two other persons. It looks more like something has touched him in the head.

Murderer awaiting execution by hanging in Cornwall, Ontario, collapses and dies an hour before the time scheduled for going to the gallows. It is said he died of fright shortly after having been given the last rites of the Church.

The Catholic people are generally led to believe that their priests live in poverty or at least very plainly. However once in a while one leaves a tidy estate. Father John L. Belford, left \$265,919, according to the Brooklyn N.Y. Surrogates Court, and that ain't hay.

A Chicago midwife is accused of failing to pay \$43,170 in income tax for a single year. It is alleged that she reported for 1947 only \$3,398 while earning \$74,601. We thought that midwifery had ceased in the U. S. Wonder how many cases she attended for such big dough.

NOT CRICKET

It certainly was unfair to penalize the Notre Dame football team for delaying the game with Penn recently. Coach Leahy says that they were not in a huddle for a pep talk, they were merely saying their customary pre-game prayer. However, whoever it was they prayed to was on the job and they won the game, 28-20.

Lutherans are all steamed up because the authorities of the Province of Quebec has decided that it would not be proper to let their people see the film "Martin Luther." This is not to be wondered at, since the film is a highly dramatic presentation of Luther's controversy with the Church and the establishing of Protestantism. What gripes the Catholic Hierarchy most is that while it is a historical fact that Luther was exactly the same type of brutal, ignorant bigot as the rest of his contemporaries, Protestants or Catholic, and treated his opponents just as rough, the film presents him as a creature of sweetness and light, little less than the Christ himself. Of course they don't want their people in Quebec to see the film, and are only taking the action they would gladly have taken in the United States if they had the power.

Money, Banks and Taxes is the name of an eight page sheet which comes regularly to the desk for our information. It gives quite a clear cut idea of just how our country is run by the bankers and those who control the means of production. It contains many items of interest to the serious minded reader and we feel sure that the editors will send a sample copy upon request. Write them at Liberty Free Press, 1948 48 Av., Oakland 1, California.

SUPERNATURALISM AND SECULARISM

By John Todd

These two, Supernaturalism and Secularism, claim the attention of humanity, as each claims to possess the true philosophy of life.

The one bases human behavior on the existence of a deity and a system of post-mortem rewards and punishments. It alleges that unless one believes in its system, he cannot be ethical. According to this philosophy, one will misbehave unless he believes he is watched by the all-seeing eye of a god. With the "knowledge" that he is observed by an omnipotent being, he is alleged to be instinctively ethical. According to this, we might be led to believe that all who affirm thus are ethical and never commit offenses against society.

The facts do not bear out the religious contention. Those most steeped in supernaturalism are often the most steeped in crime. They are taught that by the blood of a "redeeming savior" they are pardoned of all offenses and automatically enter into "grace" or "salvation", while those who reject the "redeeming blood" are condemned and lost. Thus, supernaturalism is based not on works, but on faith. Its rewards are offered not for ethical behavior, but for an affirmation to a ritual, creed, or belief. It is not intended to reward virtue, but merely belief.

Since those who are given religious training "know" they will be forgiven any offense, is it any wonder that the overwhelming majority of the prison population are church members? As McCabe has shown, Catholics (those most steeped in supernaturalism) furnish several times as many prison inmates as their percentage of the total population of any country.

Doubtless, religious training is a direct inducement to crime. The proposed extension of it in the schools can have only one result: an increased crime wave.

A system whose first duty is to a god

and not to the society in which it exists, is a dangerous one. Its existence is a perpetual incitement to anti-social behavior. It is an incitement to continued spoliation of the population by priests claiming to have the One and Only Truth sewn up in their vest-pockets.

It is a pernicious, unethical, anti-social, medieval philosophy which places belief before truth, faith before fact, ignorance before knowledge, night before day, crime before innocence, and god before man. It is conducive to the most degraded behavior and subversive actions. Examination of its claims show them to be worthless, without meaning and truth. Examination of its "meaning" shows it to be meaningless. Examination of its "Truth" shows it to be a LIE.

The philosophy of Secularism is that each owes duty to his fellow man and to the society in which he lives. It teaches that the improvement of earth comes first and not the propitiation of heaven. It teaches that all are responsible not to an imagined god, but to society. It teaches that there is no redeeming blood to wash away the guilt of crime, but a social organization which requires certain ethical standards to be lived up to, or the offender to be expelled from the social body. It teaches that not by faith in a statement or adherence to a creed, but by works is man saved. It teaches that the only salvation lies in the salvation of all, not just a chosen few. It teaches that man, not god, is Lord; that the earth, not heaven, is of primary importance; that it is better to refrain from murder because one shrinks from the thought of it, than to refrain because one hopes to inherit a mansion in paradise.

The concept of Secularism says that there are no tyrants, whether on earth or in heaven before whom humanity need bow; that there are no men or books possessing infallible truth, but only a system of natural laws governed by

a multitude of truths.

Secularists constitute less than ten percent of the prison population, although they number from a third to half of the general population. This is but one of the many evidences to support the statement that Secularism, not Supernaturalism, is conducive to ethical behavior and conduct. Against a mounting deluge of facts the Supernaturalist can only oppose wild statements, fallacious arguments, and false contentions to support his alleged beliefs. Indeed, since he indulges in emotion, not logic, this is but natural to him. In the realm of Supernaturalistic belief, two and two can make five or three make one or whatever the believer wishes. Despising a course in logic and common sense, a priest expects no one else to have taken it either. Reason is not only anathema, but declared to be subordinate to what is termed as faith.

Secularism holds forth the way to a new and better life for all and when its truths are widespread, the present smog of war will be lifted from the face of the earth. It requires no belief in unproven statements and dogmatic assertions. It only demands that humanity think and reason, that they awaken from the lulling dream of kingdoms in the sky, discard their priest-fitted spectacles, and set forth with the knowledge that their's is the power to build a new earth.

"F.T.C. Attacks H.C.D"

A price-fixing conspiracy among 160 manufacturers of burial caskets is charged in a Federal Trade Commission complaint.

The complaint names the industry's trade association, Casket Manufacturers Association of America, of Cincinnati, and its members, who manufacture and sell more than half the burial caskets made and sold in the United States. It specifically names thirteen of the member manufacturers as representative of the entire group.

Among other things, the complaint

says, the manufacturers agree to expand the production and sale of higher-priced caskets and curtail the production and sale of lower-priced caskets. It also alleges that the combination fired and maintained "uniform, artificial and non-competitive suggested retail prices."

In addition, the complaint charges the combination with enhancing, stabilizing, fixing and maintaining prices of burial caskets and with controlling and limiting the unit production and unit sales of caskets.

The complaint states that the "uniform, artificial and non-competitive retail prices" were displayed on caskets in the showrooms of association members. These showrooms, it says, are used by funeral directors in selling caskets to the public. The suggested retail prices "had the indicia of being actual retail prices," according to the complaint, and were in many instances the prices paid by the public to funeral directors.

In carrying out their "restricting, restraining and unfair policies and practices," the complaint says, the combination used these methods:

1. Member manufacturers transmitted to the association, descriptions of their selling areas;
2. They gathered, compiled, disseminated and used statistical information;
3. They held territorial meetings, club meeting and mass conference meetings;
4. They adopted and used a policy and practice by which they controlled and limited production and sales;
5. They adopted and used a policy and practice to induce association members and other manufacturers and distributors of burial caskets "to refrain from engaging in price competition," as well as to refrain from expanding unit production and unit sales of burial caskets and to curtail the production and sale of lower-priced burial caskets while expanding the production and sale of higher-priced burial caskets.

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