

LIGHT

A Bulletin of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

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The Atom and the Christian

The following extracts were taken from the message of Dr. Rufus H. Snyder who addressed the meeting of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention at Ridgecrest, August 28, 1948.

Dr. Snyder was engaged in the atomic energy development at Oak Ridge, Tennessee during the war. At the time of this address he had just resigned as the head of the Department of Physics at Mercer University to take a position on the faculty of North Carolina State College, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Seventy-five thousand workers at Oak Ridge were engaged in the separation of the fissionable material for use in the atom bombs. It required these 75,000 people working a full day to produce a maximum of eight pounds of this essential material. When Madam Curie came to this country some years ago she bought $\frac{1}{2}$ millionth of a pound and paid \$50,000 for it.

When the test bomb was exploded in New Mexico (July, 1945) a steel tower on which the bomb was placed was completely disintegrated—not a particle was left. It was estimated that the temperature of the explosion was equal to that at the center of the sun, approximately 10,000,000 degrees Centigrade.

The scientists as a group urged the military and the government not to use a weapon like that in actual warfare. For some reasons their petition was ignored and the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing between fifty and one hundred thousand people. It was one of the most ghastly destructions that mankind has ever known. And America, Christian America was the one that dropped those bombs.

The uranium ore, pitchblend and other essential materials from which the bombs are made are found pretty well over the surface of the whole earth. They are not rare and one of the biggest supplies is across the ural mountains in Russia.

There is about ten times more uranium in the earth than there is gold, 100 times more thorium than there is gold. There won't be any shortage of raw materials.

We have used the atom as a weapon

and I hope we are not going to use it again. If I have come here at all for any good it is to plead with you to help me and some of the other scientists to prevent another war. Dr. Urey has said the only defense against the atomic bomb is not to have another war. Improvements have made the bombs we

as inconspicuously as a box of clothes stacked on any of the innumerable carts on New York's Fifth Avenue.

A lot of our leaders in the military think that a large army, navy, and air force will be sufficient protection against atom bomb attacks, so we keep on spending our money for this "defense."

I do not agree with this idea, neither do many of the other scientists who worked on the bomb. The next war will not be the same type war as we fought in recent years.

The bombs will not be brought in by airplanes, they will be brought in by a spy system. Several will be planted in New York and also in cities throughout the country. They can be kept indefinitely; they can be capped with some fuse that can be ignited with radar controls. They don't have to lose a single man.

At some instant that is decided upon the bombs can be set off. In less than one minute, Dr. Urey has said, 50,000,000 people would be dead, no city would be left intact, no industrial plants would be left standing. Then how would America fight the defensive war they have always been known to fight? This is a picture of future war. Do you want it?

The peace-time uses of atom power can do things

for the world that we have never dreamed of before. One pound of uranium 235 has the equivalent energy of two and one half million pounds of coal.

The greatest hope at present is the use of the by products of nuclear fission

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A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD



Courtesy Institute for American Democracy, Inc.

are making today from ten to one hundred times as powerful as the first ones.

Let me give you some idea of what I think the next war is going to be like. I haven't seen an atomic bomb but it weighs between two and two hundred pounds. It could be put in a box and brought into this or any other country

Human Rights

A WORLD PROBLEM

The issue of Human Rights has become one of the most vital and significant problems of the post-war world. It is far from a local problem; it involves hundreds of millions of people around the world. The following are extracts from the Declaration on Human Rights which is being prepared for adoption by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights:

Article 1

All men are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed by nature with reason and conscience, and should act towards one another like brothers.

Article 2

1. Everyone is entitled to all rights set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race (which includes color), sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, property status, or national or social origin.

2. All are equal before the law regardless of office or status and entitled to equal protection of the law against any arbitrary discrimination or against any incitement to such discrimination in violation of this Declaration.

Article 12

Everyone has the right everywhere in the world to recognition as a person before the law, and to the enjoyment of fundamental civil rights.

Article 21

Everyone, without discrimination, has the right to take an effective part in the government of his country. The State shall conform to the will of the people as manifested by elections which shall be periodic, free, fair, and by secret ballot.

All laws in any State shall be in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations as embodied in the Charter, insofar as they deal with human rights.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Ever since that day in October last year that the President's Committee on Civil Rights made its report there has been much fire, steam and smoke generated by the discussions centering around it. Very few of those who have assailed it most bitterly have ever even read it; they simply presume to know "what it implies."

There are four essential rights that are set forth in the report as being essential to the well-being of the individual. They are as follows:

1. The Right to Safety and Security of Person.

2. The Right to Citizenship and its Privileges.
3. The Right to Freedom of Conscience and Expression.
4. The Right to Equality of Opportunity.

Six months before this report was made public, Southern Baptists, meeting in their annual Convention at St. Louis, Mo., unanimously adopted a "Charter of Principles" which they said are "imbedded in our Baptist faith and polity." It is to be noted that this significant pronouncement by Southern Baptists came at a time when the issue was "on the table" but before it came to have political considerations and implications as it has had since the President's committee made its report.

In one principle set forth in the Charter you will find three of the essential rights which the President's committee considered to be "essential to the well-being of the individual." It is as follows:

We shall be willing for the Negro to enjoy the rights granted to him under the Constitution of the United States, including the right to vote, to serve on juries, to receive justice in the courts, to be free from mob violence, to secure a just share of the benefits of educational and other funds, and to receive equal service for equal payment on public carriers and conveniences.

If you desire copies of this Charter of Principles on Race Relations which Southern Baptists again unanimously reaffirmed in Memphis this year you may order them from the office of the Social Service Commission (2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky.).

PONDER THIS

The atomic scientists under the leadership of Dr. Albert Einstein are trying to raise \$1,000,000 to educate the people of America and the world to comprehend the implications of atomic energy.

These six facts are accepted by all atomic scientists:

1. Atomic bombs can now be made cheaply and in large number. They will become more destructive.
2. There is no military defense against atomic bombs, and none is to be expected.
3. Other nations can rediscover our secret processes by themselves.
4. Preparedness against atomic war is futile and, if attempted, will ruin the structure of our social order.
5. If war breaks out, atomic bombs will be used, and they will surely destroy civilization.
6. There is no solution to this problem except international control of atomic energy and the elimination of war.

Contributions should be mailed to Dr. Albert Einstein, Chairman, Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, 118 Nassau Street, Princeton, N. J.

Big Business And Monopolies

The Federal Trade Commission recently released a report to the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate in which it warns:

"If nothing is done to check the growth in concentration, either the great corporations will ultimately take over the country or the Government will be impelled to step in and impose some form of direct regulation in the public interest."

"In either event, collectivism will have triumphed over free enterprise and the theory of competition will have been relegated to the limbo of well intentioned but ineffective ideas."

In support of the shocking charges, FTC cites the fact that since 1940, 2,450 individual business concerns have disappeared. These formerly independent concerns held assets amounting to \$5.2 billions, more than 5 per cent of the assets of all manufacturing concerns in the nation.

Business publicity specialists, speaking for their masters in the large industrial concerns, are filling the country with statements that ridicule the known fact of monopolistic growth in this country's business life. Such publicity endeavors to show, first, that all industry is owned by thousands of little stockholders, implying that these little stockholders actually share in the profits of such corporations; second, that there has been no monopolistic growth, only as all American business has grown.

But here are some facts that this current publicity does not even attempt to deny: (From the U. S. Senate Small Business report made some months ago after investigation of the growth of monopoly in American business.) While it is true that millions of Americans own small bits of stock in many corporations, about ten thousand out of all these millions own fully 50 per cent of all the corporation stock in the country.

Here are the facts on the growth of monopoly:

1. The 200 largest corporations owned about 55 per cent of all the assets of all the corporations in the country.
2. One-tenth of one per cent of all the corporations earned 52 percent of the total corporate assets.
3. One-tenth of one per cent of all the corporations earned 50 per cent of the total corporate net worth.
4. Less than four per cent of all the manufacturing corporations earned 84 percent of all the net profits of all manufacturing corporations.
5. Two-thirds of all industrial research workers were employed by only 140 companies. That means that these

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Beverage Alcohol

LIQUOR AND TAXES

Among the loudest voices of those extolling the "virtues" of demon rum are those of the publicity peddlers for the trade.

"Look at the taxes we pay. What would the schools do without our tax money?" The first answer is that the liquor industry doesn't pay the tax. The tax is passed on to and paid by the consumer.

The second answer is that, when all the figures are tabulated, the state shows a loss and not a gain from liquor revenue. In Massachusetts, Judge J. T. Zottoli of the Boston Municipal court was appointed by the governor as chairman of a Commission to investigate the problem of drunkenness. Among other things they computed the cost of alcoholic beverages to the state. Crime, accidents, jail, hospital facilities, etc. cost a total of \$107,474,953.00 for the year 1943-1944. The revenue receipts for the same period were \$13,139,266.79. In Massachusetts there was a total loss to the state of \$94,335,686.21. Quite a different tune when you get the facts!

BIG BUSINESS AND MONOPOLIES

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few large companies will control most of the new inventions, patents and technological advances.

Any study of these groups leads to a discovery of the enormous profits they are making and the great gains they have made since the war. According to reports of the National City Bank of N. Y., the 3000 leading corporations of America made a 37 per cent gain after taxes in one year—1947. During the same year, 1571 manufacturing corporations showed a 17 per cent profit after taxes, with net income up 54 per cent over 1946.

We are not inferring that there's anything wrong with business groups making these profits. But there is something wrong when men who make \$100,000 a year and over twist and deny these figures to keep a man who is trying to feed a family of five on \$45 a week from asking a raise to meet the high cost of living at least partially caused by such inflated profits.—Between The Lines.

CURTAILED PRODUCTION — HIGHER PRICES

It used to be said that the principle of supply and demand would regulate our economy and industrial production. There is considerable evidence now that a new technique is entering the picture. It is the practice of curtailing production before the demand is met to increase prices and hold profits at the highest level possible.

In recent hearings before the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia, Paul Hadlick, a representative of the Senate Small Business Committee said that the big oil companies are holding production down to keep profits at the highest level in history.

Prices of the staff of life and other related necessities are what the economists call "sticky." They resist decline. As Harold Wolff puts it in a recent issue of the New Republic (8/9). "The simple—but unpleasant—explanation of the matter is that we have reached the point at which business is finding it more profitable to curtail output than to lower prices. Every housewife has seen it work that way in her bread bill. Flour and other ingredients that go into bread have all dropped sharply in price. Bakers could have passed this on to consumers and cut prices. Instead they held the price line, and sold less bread. . . . So bread is perched at its postwar high and production is down." At the same time baking companies are making peak profits.

Similar strategy has been employed by the textile and shoe companies whose plants have been shut down as an answer to consumer price resistance.

Industrial Relations

We quote here from the section of the Report of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention that was adopted by the Convention at Memphis in May of this year.

In view of principles previously set forth by the Social Service Commission and adopted by this Convention, and in view of present conditions, we give emphasis to the following principles which should be basic in our modus operandi in this increasingly vital area of human relations:

1. Our attitudes, our spirit, and our actions must be thoroughly Christian. We cannot accept as our guide less than the Christian ethic and ideal.

2. Our dynamic as Christians is ever the same, it is love. This love, unlike the popular conception of love, is redemptive, unselfish, compassionate, understanding, tolerant, patient, and self-effacing.

3. Legislation in this area as elsewhere, should be designed to protect the basic human rights of all men, and never the selfish greedy interests of the few.

4. The road to an integrated Christian fellowship lies only in the direction of repentance and forgiveness. We call upon both management and labor to repent of all unworthy motives and objectives in order that they might more easily come to reconciliation.

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Crime And Delinquency

MAJOR CRIMES IN 1947

An estimated 1,665,110 major crimes were committed in the United States in 1947. With the passing of each hour on the average during 1947, 12 persons were raped, feloniously assaulted, or killed. During the same time, 49 others were held up and robbed or had their places burglarized and 21 others had their cars stolen. In addition to the foregoing, there were 108 other thefts committed each average hour. A serious crime was recorded every 18.9 seconds during the year.

For the second consecutive year age 21 predominated in the frequency of arrests. During the period 1939-41 age 19 led the other individual ages, while 18 was first in 1942 and 1943. Accentuating the juvenile trend evident in the early Forties, more persons aged 17 were arrested during the last two war years (1944-45) than were persons in any other single age group. However, the predominate age jumped to 21 in 1946 and continued in that group in 1947.

The following tabulation gives the number of arrests during 1947 for the leading age groups for males and females combined:

Age	No. of Arrests
21	33,776
22	33,465
23	31,074
20	29,433
24	28,636

The pattern noted above was identical for male arrests, except that age 19 was higher than 24. The highest number of female arrests occurred at age 22 followed by ages 23, 21, 24, and 18, in that order.

Arrests of boys under 21 increased 10.5 per cent in 1947 over the previous year, while female arrests in this group declined 6.6 per cent. However, there were still thirty per cent more girls arrested in 1947 than in 1941.

THE DIVORCE MILLS

Last year in the United States there were 1,992,354 marriages and 471,000 divorces. This is a ratio on the national scene of about one divorce for every four marriages. The reports from Florida show that from January to August of this year there have been 15,033 marriages and 12,422 divorces. Calhoun county, in that state, records showed six marriages and 43 divorces. Liberty county had no marriages and twelve divorces.

In Tennessee, for the same period there were 10,269 marriages and 5,646 divorces. The records from twenty-three of the counties in Tennessee indicated that there were one or more divorces for every marriage.

The Atom And The Christian

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In the field of medicine. There is the hope that cancer will be conquered by the developments of its medical usage.

Some have said to me, "You scientists have gone too far beyond what God intended for you to know." I don't think so. He meant for us to know all we can know. He does want us to use our knowledge for the good of mankind, not to kill mankind.

Do you think that America was justified on a moral basis for using the bomb on Japan? Can we ever again assume the moral leadership we once had with the nations of the world?

On an economic basis we probably can justify its use. The total cost of producing the bomb was two billion dollars. The war cost that much every ten days. If the bomb shortened the war by ten days, and it probably did, then its use from an economic point of view was perhaps justified. But there are other questions to be asked, other values to be considered.

If we do not control this nuclear material what is going to happen in the future? We are going to have people with the same motives as Hitler and Mussolini. Is there time enough left for us to get people to live together? Our problem of "control" is to know how to control the hearts of men. Can we be Christian enough so that we can prevent the wrong group from getting control of this nuclear energy? Somehow we will have to learn to live with people, we have to learn to be brothers,

if we are going to live, together we will have to be Christian brothers.

Nuclear energy is here to stay, but are we? We can use it to help mankind or destroy him. The 2,500 scientists in this country can't decide the question by themselves. You must help them decide it.

IS THIS THE MARSHALL PLAN?

The tobacco lobbyists in Washington are happy these days. Two billion dollars of the total appropriation for ERP (Marshall Plan) was to be used to purchase food. These representatives of the tobacco industry have been successful in getting the United States to force no less than \$911,100,000 worth of tobacco on Europe (almost half as much for tobacco as for food) because there is an unsaleable surplus of tobacco in this country.

We don't get the comments of the foreign press in this country on such activities as this but they are interpreting our action as an effort to keep a stranglehold on the world tobacco market as well as pass a big profit on to our tobacco interests.

We can't help but wonder with Charles Wells (Editor, Between the Lines) if the starving children of Greece are being taught to chew tobacco by American agencies to take the place of bread they won't get for this nearly one billion dollars!

According to *The Voice* (February, 1948) requests have been received from sixteen European countries for approximately 142,000,000 gallons of California wine as a part of ERP. This simply boils down to the fact that the taxpayers of America will give the wine growers of California a "terrific shot in the arm," to quote one of their own officials!

Industrial Relations

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5. The church can take only one side, and that is the side of justice, of honesty, and of fairness, for it is here that Christ himself stood and beyond Him, the prophets of Faith. It is not the business of the church to take sides either with management or with labor, but it is the business of the church to proclaim the ideals of Jesus Christ. The church is ideally fitted for the role of mediator to "break down the middle wall" of misunderstanding and of the two opposing groups to "create a new man in Christ Jesus."

6. We recognize the right of the leaders of management on the one hand to organize their capital, and the right of wage earners on the other hand to organize their labor. We maintain that such organization on the part of both groups should be for the mutual well-being of each and not for the advantage of the one over the other.

7. Recognizing that the right to legitimate profit is basic in our economic system, but that ruthless and unjust exploitation which ignores fundamental human rights and values in a violation of our democratic way of life and of our Christian ideals, we call upon all men of whatever station or rank to recognize a higher, more worthy motive than the motive of profit. This is difficult in a day when the dollar has been deified and enthroned as the "messiah of materialism." But human values far exceed material values, for, in the words of One who so believed and taught, "... what shall it profit a man if he shall gain all the material wealth of the world and lose his own life?"

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HUGH A. BRIMM, Editor

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