



DECEMBER, 1948

PEACE IN OUR TIME

A Christmas Meditation

By J. M. Dawson

Looking out from the high office of the Joint Conference Committee on Public Relations situated on the fourth floor of the Baptist Building which is located on The Street of the White House, also called The Street of the Churches, one might well reflect on the relations of Church and State.

Amid the pressing issues which constantly clamor for consideration, one is apt to dwell upon the most poignant of all the problems - peace in our time.

Glancing backward, one thinks on how it has been that since the angels sang of peace for the world on that first Christmas morn, the Church has been heralding the message. Here is reason for pause: for three hundred years after the advent of our Lord, so deep was the passion for peace among Christians, not one of them would consent to bear arms! Next one is compelled to mourn: under Constantine came union of the Christian Church with an imperialistic State. Followed the rationalization of war, with invocation of the Church's sanction upon it. Bloody Crusades, the torturing Inquisition, were innumerable succeeded, with the Church always a chief combatant.

But there is occasion for rejoicing: more recently the Church has reconsidered its sanctions of war; it has become a major influence in peace movements. Praise be, one of our greatest Presidents, who in an unusual manner grasped the implications of Christianity, proposed the League of Nations. True, the League went down, but through no fault of the Church: that tragedy was due to the behest of Nationalism. Now comes the United Nations with more of reliance upon force of the states, but not less dependence upon goodwill and justice generated by the churches.

Meantime, alas, those Christians most forthright in passion for peace are stigmatized as pacifists, conscientious objectors are imprisoned, and most Christians continue to champion coercion by military force in preference to persuasion through negotiation and the use of moral means. Yet, gratitude mounts as we contemplate the fact that the protest of the Church against militarism at the present remains potent, a power in the world that makes for sanity and the supremacy of the spiritual.

It is to be lamented that vast numbers of Christians, although properly recognizing the fact that the State, operating on man-made laws empowered by police force, is ordained of God, nevertheless forget that the Church operates according to Divine law implemented by truth, reason and love alone. They presume to alter God's plan by

substituting the means and methods of the State for the spiritual resources of the Church, not understanding that we as citizens can support the legitimate measures of the State, but as Christians cannot rely solely upon them, nor abandon work and prayer for the time to arrive when all realms of this world shall become the realms of Christ, and God's will shall be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

So, all in all, we give thanks for this moment. The Church, though still divided in doctrine, organization and worship, is more united for peace than at any period since the first three hundred years of the Christian era. Even that most highly integrated section of Christian believers, which is charged with preaching a holy war against the stubborn Soviets, is unable to mobilize the forces of the State for its purposes - there is no more than "a cold war". Trying as that type of war can be, it is infinitely better than total war with atomic weapons. If ultimate brutal war comes, it will not be through failure of spiritual means and upon the demand of the Churches. If it comes, it will be because of the breakdown of political machinery of the States, eventuating in a frantic resort to military force. We steadfastly cling to faith that peace will come, not only in our time, but for all time, the final triumph of the Christ of the Church.

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WHAT WILL CONGRESS DO?

In undertaking to fulfill President Truman's campaign pledges, the Democratic Congress will, among other issues, tackle

Inflation
Revision of the Taft-Hartley Bill
Housing
Civil Rights
Taxes
Federal Aid to Education

Federal aid to education, it is predicted by the press, will come up early. Senator Ellender of Louisiana says a bill similar to that passed by the Senate last year will be offered. In that bill (S.472), which sought to avoid Federal control, a loophole was left for those states which appropriate tax monies for church schools to allow application of Federal funds to parochial textbooks and bus fares. It is reported that the Roman Catholics have appropriated a million dollars to promote the passage of such a bill!

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WHAT TO ASK OF SPAIN

Concerning the repeated suggestions that Spain be permitted to share in the Marshall plan and that the United States welcome the normalization of its relationship with Spain, it should be answered: only on condition that Franco's Government assure religious liberty and liberalize its Fascism. Whence arises this insistence that we yoke up with Spain? Is it solely for defense purposes? Is it merely in the interest of world trade? Who is pressing for this collaboration? Whatever the desire of the Department of State, under proper conditions, is it not obvious that the Roman Catholic Church is eager for Spain's forgiveness and restoration to Western favor?

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THE PRESENT DRIFT

"The American people in 1947 spent about \$1,250,000,000 (1946 figure) for Church contributions; \$1,447,637,629 for jewelry; \$1,565,000,000 for the movies; \$3,880,000,000 for tobacco; \$7,000,000,000 for dairy products; \$9,640,000,000 for alcoholic beverages; and nearly \$15,000,000,000 for preparedness. All education in America totaled only \$3,522,007,441 (1943-44 figure)." - Newsletter of Council on Christian Social Progress, Northern Baptist Convention.

Christian citizens in search of grounds for hopefulness in respect to social evils may well be impressed by defeats suffered by anti-liquor forces in most of the states where the wet-dry issue was up for decision in various forms at the general election. For example, Kansans voted to repeal the state's 68-year-old constitutional prohibition against the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, though the legislature may yet prevent liquor sales. Washington state authorized the sale of liquor by drink, and both Colorado and California rejected proposals by the drys. In Washington, D. C., Dr. Wilbur La Rue, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, a lawyer of distinction, declared there is more liquor consumed in the National Capital than in any city in America, also more gambling and more felonious conduct. Over against this may be noted unmistakable signs, here and there at least, of a moral awakening, particularly as concerns drinking and gambling.

UN COMMITTEE ADOPTS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ARTICLE

Despite Soviet attempts to eliminate a reference to religion, Article 16 of the draft Declaration on Human Rights was approved in Paris, 38 votes to 3, by the UN General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

As approved, the article reads:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

After proposing an amendment that would have deleted the word "religion" from the article and another that would have subjected religious services to the "laws of the country concerned and the requirements of public morality," the Soviet representative, Alexei P. Pavlov, voted in favor of the article. The three nations which opposed it in the voting were Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

UN COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES EDUCATION RIGHTS OF PARENTS

An amendment to the proposed international Declaration on Human Rights recognizing the prior right of parents to choose the kind of education their children shall receive was adopted in Paris by the Social Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

As now framed the article also declares that education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality, to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to the promotion of understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, religious or racial groups, as well as of activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Mrs. Vodil Begtrup of Denmark urged the adoption of a paragraph to the effect that all persons belonging to a racial, national, religious or linguistic minority have the right to establish their own schools and receive teaching in the language of their own choice. In the United States this has been established by judicial decision, though in wartimes certain foreign languages have been forbidden.

She agreed, however, to postpone discussion of the proposed paragraph until the Committee has examined a separate article on the rights of minorities proposed by the U. S. S. R. The attitude of Russia toward religious minorities will thus come into the open.

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UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ATTACKS PROTESTANTS

Releasing a booklet called "100 Things You Should Know About Communism and Religion" the House Committee on Un-American Activities charges that the Reds have designated religion as their No. 1 enemy and are working to destroy religion in the United States. The Committee specifically named two clergymen, an unofficial Methodist Church group and a magazine as agents for Communist interests. One minister was the Rev. Claude C. Williams, "A Presbyterian whose congregation expelled him for party activity;" and the other was the Rev. Eliot White, a "retired Episcopalian minister who served as a delegate to a Communist convention and lectured at Communist meetings." The Committee also said The Protestant was "a magazine which fanatically spreads Communist propaganda under the guise of being a religious journal." "Its avowed purpose", the booklet added, "is to 'build a bridge' between Christendom and Communism. Boasts support of 6,000 ministers but not actually connected with any official religious organization."

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam replied in pronounced terms, resenting the Committee's invasion of religion, asking why the Committee does not investigate Fascism as well as Communism, and demanding what is back of the attack on Protestantism. His was the forerunner of a swelling chorus of condemnation of the House Committee.

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LETTER TO AN EDITOR

Editor
The Evening Star
Washington, D. C.

Your reviewer of Lloyd Douglas' new novel, THE BIG FISHERMAN, Sunday, November 21, fell into a deplorable sectarian attitude which, I feel sure, your unbiased newspaper would like to disavow. The reviewer asserted that the Big Fisherman (Simon Peter) "founded the Christian Church and was the first Pope". That statement, of course, is very definitely a partisan view of a most controverted subject, a view held only by approximately sixteen per cent of religious adherents who reside in Washington. A national broadcast for a well-known product on the market, recently guilty of the same blunder, immediately apologized to numerous complainants, offering in explanation that it had inadvertently been led into this unhappy predicament of seeming to champion a strictly partisan view.

Mr. Douglas' novel nowhere puts forth any such claim as to Peter's alleged papal position.

All Protestants insist that there is no historical evidence whatever to substantiate the claim that Peter was a pope. Indeed, it cannot be proved factually that Peter was ever in Rome; and in the belief of Protestants there is no Scripture which indicates that he was ever pope. In saying this, I am not asking the Star to accept the Protestant view. I am only protesting against its unwary and uncritical acceptance of what to a majority of your readers is manifestly a fiction.

In line with the above, I am one of multitudes made to wonder about your fervent championship of the Roman Catholic hierarchy's slurring pronouncement against the Supreme Court in its decision in the Champaign case. Has the Star nodded again? We sympathize deeply with the Romanist concern for adequate religious instruction for the children of our generation. They are much to be commended for their zeal for religious education, for all of us should be profoundly challenged by the menace of communism and certain other equally sinister forces working to change our national culture. We accord to the bishops utter sincerity also in believing that the government should join with the churches in conducting religious education, for we know that their Roman Church is accustomed by doctrine, tradition and practice to expect government aid, financial and otherwise, to be extended to the Church. But that is no valid reason why they should ask the Supreme Court to rule against the Constitutional provision for separation of Church and State in our democracy. On this principle sectarian teaching in the public schools is forbidden by the Constitution of every state in the union. The lengthy and labored argument of the bishops, in their effort to interpret the Constitution may be summed up in one sentence: In respect to union of Church and State, the Constitution forbids the marriage of the state with a single church; but in respect to this matter of union of Church and State our founding fathers left the state free to marry any and all churches, just so it treats all alike. Who but a non-Protestant believes any such doctrine of a polygamous union?

Religious education, as a joint effort of government and churches, was long tried out in Germany, along the identical lines in force in Champaign, Illinois. Did it save either religion or the state? Elsewhere in Europe has it made religion more vital or dynamic than in America? Our historic arrangement has proved best for both the church and the state in this country. I cannot believe that democratic Americans are ready to turn the teaching of religion over to the government either in whole or in part, because under our conception it is not the function of government to teach religion, except possibly as related to history, ethics, the arts or social effects of religion - never in relation to personal faith, as was done in Champaign. Just see what was being done there: Churchmen, appointed by the churches, clothed in their sectarian garb, armed with their sectarian textbooks, invaded the public school property, where they collaborated with the school authorities in use of the school machinery, all under the framework of the compulsory school law, to segregate the children of their particular faiths and teach them sectarian creeds. Do we want to reverse our seasoned American philosophy of separation of Church and State embodied in our constitutions, federal and state, to set up such sectarian opportunities as existed in Champaign and elsewhere? Not democratic Americans who have thought this thing through!

J. M. Dawson, Executive Secretary
for Public Relations, Baptists
of the United States

In publishing the above, The Washington Evening Star appended the following editorial note:

"It is unfortunate that the book reviewer neglected to qualify his references to Simon Peter in acknowledgment of sectarian differences of opinion.

"In Mr. Dawson, author of the recent book 'Separate Church and State Now,' The Star recognizes a qualified spokesman for those who agree with the Supreme Court's decision in the Champaign, Ill., case. By no means does it accept Mr. Dawson's implication that those who disagree are nodding, or are undemocratic Americans who have not thought this thing through."

ROMAN CATHOLIC LOSSES

An authentic, confidential, word comes from a high government official to the effect that the Pope is steadily losing ground in Europe. Dr. Frank B. Gigliotti writes us that 2,500 Roman Catholic priests are deserting the Church in Italy. Scarcely a Protestant Church of importance in this country that does not regularly receive members who have quit the Catholic faith. Numerous priests in this country are known to be leaving their Church. A recent poll of Greater New Orleans reveals the city to be 51.4 Protestant, 47.3 Roman Catholic and 1.3 per cent Jewish - a finding so surprising that the hierarchy is vehemently contesting the figures.

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CHRISTIAN BREAKFAST GROUP

In Washington there is a gratifying support of the National Committee for Christian Leadership, which maintains headquarters at 2524 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W. The Committee fosters breakfast groups which have proved most inspiring by encouragement to prayer. Among Baptists in the forefront of this impressive movement are Senator A. Willis Robertson of Virginia, and Representative Brooks Hays of Arkansas, on Joint Conference Committee, also Representatives Percy Priest of Tennessee, Olin E. Teague of Texas, and Sam Hobbs of Alabama.

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THAT CATHOLIC ARMY AGAIN

No satisfactory explanation has yet been offered by the Catholic War Veterans of their proposed Catholic Army, of which notice was taken at the last meeting of the Baptist Joint Conference Committee. Concerning the matter the Watchman-Examiner, New York, makes the following pertinent observations.

"In a recent announcement by the Catholic War Veterans regarding the establishment of an 'officers candidate school' in Washington to 'fight against communism' can undoubtedly be found a prelude to the setting up of a Catholic army. It has long been the concern of many Protestants in this country that one sect shall have undertaken to organize its Army veterans into a close-knit and militant force. Outside the Jewish War Veterans, no other denomination has found it necessary to organize war veterans along denominational lines. If the experience of European countries is a guide, it has long been a policy of the Roman Catholic Church to concentrate on the military in both rank and file. One of the reasons why the officer class in the French Army is so overwhelmingly sympathetic to granting privileges to the Roman Catholic Church is that the training schools and military academy are strongly administered under Catholic influence. Catholic War Veterans in this country have undertaken to compete with the American Legion, although they are adept at infiltrating that organization with their own personnel. The Joint Committee on Public Relations, at its recent meeting in Washington, declared that the creation of an officer candidate school in Washington by the Roman Catholics is an idea 'repugnant to all who cherish the ideals of religious freedom and civil liberty.' It should be obvious to us all that when such a totalitarian religion as Roman Catholicism is merely in the forum of public opinion there is little to fear, for common sense will deal with many extravagant assumptions of Catholicism, but when this large and disciplined body, using political privilege to serve its own ends, assumes to develop a military force within the nation, no matter under what guise it may be presented, it raises a menace of dreadful possibilities. Looking forward into the long future, where can such actions lead? Are we to contemplate a repetition here on Europe's disaster, which originated with private armies which developed into totalitarianism and war? The citizens of this country should let it be known that non-Government armies will not be tolerated, and all the more so when designed under the guise of a religion which is not averse to the employment of force."

WHAT OF CIO?

Our cherished colleague, Dr. James A. Crain, Executive Secretary for Social Welfare for the Disciples of Christ, has the following in his Social Action News Letter:

"Standing between right and left and trying to hold both together inside CIO is big, wholesome, Scotch-Irish Roman Catholic Phil Murray, president of the steel workers and president, since the exit of booming John L. Lewis, of the National CIO....

"In the April, 1948 issue of Social Action News Letter this writer called attention to the purges then going on in a number of unions belonging to the Congress of Industrial Organizations, directed, ostensibly, at Communist leadership. The article pointed out that while no doubt Communists had infiltrated certain unions, there seemed to be evidence that the crusade was being sparked by Catholics both within and without the unions who were using the Communist threat as cloak under which to get control of the movement. Attention was called in this connection to an article written by James Higgins for the New Republic (October 20, 1947) describing the growing influence of the Association of Catholic Trades Unionists (ACTU), which has strong priestly leadership and which specializes in training Catholic workers for labor union leadership. Higgins declared that ACTU was exercising great influence not only in local groups, but also over certain high officials of the national CIO.

"Evidence continues to pile up that the Anti-Communist crusade within the CIO is not directed exclusively against Communists (whose disruptive and destructive tactics make them legitimate targets), but also against all liberal leaders within the movement. Shortly after the April article appeared rumors were afloat that Kermit Eby, educational director of the National CIO, Church of the Brethren minister, and active in liberal causes, was marked for separation from his job. Some weeks ago announcement was made that Eby had resigned to accept a position on the faculty of the University of Chicago. Washington sources say that there is considerable mystery about whether he actually resigned or was discharged. He is said to have remarked several months ago that the 'CIO is going to war,' and that he was a minority holding out against the group determined to purge those who disagreed with the dominant trend. Informed Washington observers point out that the drive to eliminate the Communist element seems also to have been a drive to place Catholics in the driver's seat. It is said that when the ACTU was formed in 1937 it was as an alternative to setting up a Roman Catholic trades union organization. It begins to look as if the Catholic Bishops are accomplishing by oblique methods the same result.. Protestant workers will support legitimate efforts of CIO unions or any other organizations to free themselves from Communist leadership, but they will resent deeply the effort of any church to place its own members in positions of leadership of movements which by their very nature serve all the people. It will be a serious blow to the labor movement if this important group of workers seems to fall under ecclesiastical domination, whatever the source."

Thus we see a contest between Communism and Roman Catholicism for control in the CIO, and it is difficult to decide which would be worse for the country.

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AN SOS CALL FOR BAPTIST CHAPLAINS

We take pleasure in commending the following by Alfred Carpenter, Director of Chaplains Commission: "All branches of the service are in dire need of the type of ministry performed by our Southern Baptist preachers. In the Army, the total Baptist quota is 35 short of its goal. Southern Baptists are short 10. In the Navy we need 15 Baptist chaplains immediately. The National Guard is in need of at least 20 Southern

Baptist chaplains - young preachers in their early thirties. Numbers of former chaplains in the over-age bracket are returning to duty.

"Denominational endorsement is required for all branches of the service. Apply to Chaplains Commission, 161 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta 3, Georgia".

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHURCH AND STATE

January 27, 1949 is the date and Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C. is the place set for the National Conference on Church and State. This notable conference is being called by Protestants and Others United for Separation of Church and State. During the morning the National Advisory Council of the organization will convene. In the afternoon there will be a significant program of papers on major aspects of the church and state issue. The Evening Mass Meeting will hear addresses by Bishop Oxnham, Executive Director Glenn Archer and others. This Conference should prove historic in its meaning for separation of church and state.

IMPORTANT BOOKS COMMENDED

Judicial Doctrines of Religious Rights in America, by William George Torpeyl. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C., 376 pages, \$5.00.

A professor in George Washington University, who is connected with a government research department, has produced a book invaluable to the student of Church and State. His findings include judicial decisions, state and federal, on rights of religious assembly, exemption of church property from taxation, religious rights in marriage and divorce, religious rights in parental conflicts over child control, educational practices involving the right of religious freedom, etc. Deserves a place on the same shelf with the most reliable treatises on church law.

SEPARATE CHURCH AND STATE NOW

A book for the times which is stirring the Nation.

The Broadman Press sent a folder commending this book to 23,000 pastors, urging it as one of the most important books of the year. Many Baptist papers have carried editorials which have commended it in like manner. The press of the Nation is giving it attention.

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