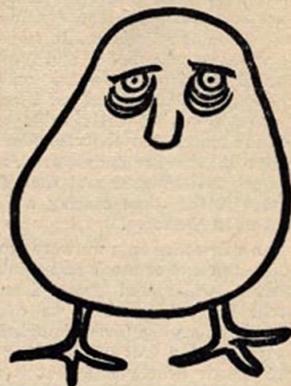


## freethought criticism and satire

# The Realist



September, 1959

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No. 11

## The Bombing of a Buddhist Mission

by Frank Newton, Preceptor  
Harmony Buddhist Mission

CLARKSVILLE, ARK. — Up until about eight-thirty in the evening, there was nothing which set January fourteenth apart from any other day of that month. A cold and leaking fog had enveloped the mountain country by five o'clock P.M. The dampness made the simple fireplace in the mission home a cozy place to sit by and meditate.

In telling what happens to one in moments of stress, we are inclined to overstate the facts. This I must not do. I will with reserve tell the story so that the reader may not be misled.

The Harmony Buddhist Mission is located about one-quarter mile North of Hunt, Arkansas and about fifteen miles North of Clarksville, the County seat. It is almost totally concerned with mission work through the mails, and sends out literature, tapes and letters throughout the world. There had not been any great interest in Buddhism up till the event herein described. Buddhism does not seek converts through proselytism.

The family, including three children, had just completed reciting the Harmony Meditation, which reads as follows:

"I will try to become a living link in the holy Buddha's jeweled chain of endless love that encircles the world. I will try to speak only words that are pure and noble. I will try to be kind and gentle to every living being. I will try to think only pure and beautiful thoughts and do only pure and beautiful deeds. I will try to make my life an endless sermon of love, tenderness and compassion."

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*on a Second Gangsters' Convention*

*Hitler's Disciples—a Survey of Neo-Nazism*

The words had been spoken and the small group sat in silent contemplation of the meaning of these lofty words. The only sounds were those that came from the hickory logs in the fireplace as the flames embraced them. The gasses which they emitted seemed to chuckle with joy as the imprisoned molecules and atoms burst their bonds and leaped free into infinity. In a few more moments, the children would retire for the night, leaving the father and mother to answer letters and tapes, and send out the daily literature to the world.

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(Continued from Cover)

We were about to rise and go to the mission office, which is situated about twenty yards from the mission home. Then the floor seemed to rise and beat us about the head and body. A sun-like flame raked the area, blotting from the scene the dancing shadows from the fireplace. It seemed as if a monstrous hand had suddenly reached in from nowhere and was crushing the life out of us. Glass and china fell out of their cabinets and shattered upon the concrete floor. The flames in the fireplace were for the moment extinguished and then flamed up again, this time casting a fearful light upon the room.

For a few moments we were stunned, unable to move or much less think. The children whimpered from fear and shock. We did the best we could to calm them, saying (even though it was winter) that a bolt of lightning must have struck nearby and that it would not happen again. I rushed outside to survey the area while the mother took the youngsters to bed, though none of them, I feared, would sleep that night.

#### Fear In The Night

The nearest telephone was fifteen miles away and, having no car, getting help was out of the question. So alone through the rest of the night, not knowing if the bombers would make another attempt, I paced the ground. To say I was not afraid would be telling an untruth. I was scared and even though I tried my level best to conceal it from the family, I am afraid I was not very successful.

In the early dawn, I typed up a letter to Governor Orval Faubus, appealing for protection. Next morning, the State Police and the Arkansas Bureau of Investigation moved into the scene. The following day, came the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The action of both sections of law enforcement was prompt and effective.

The guilty youths who had thrown the taped sticks of dynamite into the mission yard were pale with fear as the officers questioned them. These poor misguided young men had been inflamed into doing this deed because of the inflammatory speeches of unlettered hill preachers.

We refused to sign charges and appear against them in court, as the real instigators of this infamy could not be touched, since they had not given direct instructions. It was only through inference and emotional utterances that the backwoods preachers had inflamed the minds of the people against us. When we were asked to prosecute, we quoted from the words of the Buddha: "Hatred is never overcome by hatred; hatred is only overcome by love."

Now, many of those who formerly showered contempt upon us and the great wisdom of the Buddha, show a marked degree of friendliness. Only the ministry of several primitive churches show open hostility, as our teaching may have cost them some loss in membership—and revenue, too.

Buddhist ministers do not receive any material remuneration for their work, as this would be contrary to the teaching of the founder, the Buddha. Our work is a labor of love and compassion extended to all living beings. Our work must in the main be supported by our own earning power. There are, however, noble persons who do contribute from time to time, funds for postage, printing, tapes and other incidental expenses of the mission.

#### Rational 'Religion'

It may be deemed appropriate at this time to state some of the important tenets of Buddhism. The word Buddha means the enlightened One, and Buddhism stems from the Sanscrit and means Enlightenment. This lofty doctrine does not at any time involve the worshipping of a god or gods. "By oneself is evil done and by oneself is evil left undone."

In conclusion, we sincerely believe that Buddhism is the highest form of psychology ever developed by the mind of man. It is a wisdom-religion that has over one-half billion followers. It holds the enviable record of never having been the cause of the shedding of a drop of blood, of either man or beast, in its over twenty-five hundred years of existence.

Can any other major religion make this claim?

#### "Mister, You Got a Quarter For a Cup of Espresso?"

A letter to the editor of *The Bowers News* this month complained that members of the beat generation are providing unfair competition to panhandlers:

"They got screwball beards, screwball clothes and a screwball line when some of them go out plinging on the stem, which is panhandling to my less well-informed readers.

"What a line some of these beatniks dish out when they hit the street for a handout! They ask for money to buy gasoline for their Cadillacs, or to complete a college course or a course in poetry or what have you. Another guy wanted a dime to put in the parking meter. A lot of them are educated quite a bit and their line is real polished up.

"Before the beatniks came — I'm not saying all beatniks are moochers but the ones who are, are first-rate stem artists — my Panhandlers Union had control of the situation. Now I'm not so sure. . . ."

#### SIR REALIST

#### Reimbursement . . .

I can appreciate a good logical comment as well as the next guy, but one which was printed in your August issue nearly made me throw up. I refer to the comment registered by the "Joe College" Miss from Douglass, the one upon which you unselfishly wasted almost three inches of valuable space.

I too attend college, but, like many other students, get damned sick of having things spoon-fed to me without an unbiased look at them first. If an individual cannot appreciate the efforts of those with enough guts to blast away at a wrong regardless of its origin, then I scarcely feel that he or she rates your sweat.

I have enclosed the price of one issue. Send the girl her 35c. "Anti-just-about-anything-you-can-think-of..." How cute can a co-ed get?

Roland H. Cunningham Jr.  
Jersey City, N.J.

#### Toot, Toot, Tootsie . . .

Please cancel my subscription. Most of your issues seem to be devoted to an attempt to thoroughly discredit the Catholic Church.

I, as a Catholic, recognize weaknesses in the physical structure and in some of the interpretations of certain of the clergy. Just as in every other institution, there are human beings whom I do not admire.

However, your intolerance rivals that of the Ku Klux Klan and other Fascist organizations that I cannot in good conscience support.

Mrs. George P. Firth  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

*Editor's note: The Catholic Church does a more-than-adequate job of discrediting itself. The REALIST merely prints the facts. Actually, we are quite tolerant, even of name-calling.*

#### An Unhurried View . . .

I'm grateful for the invitation to write for the *Realist*, a periodical which has become dear to me in just the three or four issues I've received thus far. But I'm going to beg off the assignment just now. I'm full time at a new book . . . and I've made a rigid self-promise to take no outside work just now.

Meanwhile, I salute you on completion of your first year of fearless dissent with the *Realist*. American heritage is preserved, in the main, by guys like yourself, with guts, though Joe Hoople is too timid to acknowledge this fact.

Ralph Ginzburg  
Jackson Heights, N.Y.

#### This Is the First . . .

Is it true that you write your own letters-to-the-editor?

Joe Hoople  
Timidity, Conn.

The Realist

## EDITOREALISMS

### By Their Fruits . . .

"This humble being," says Reverend Frank Newton about himself, "spent many years in the Orient in contemplation and study of the great question: life and death. Does man have a soul? Is there a personal immortality? How can man live happily among those who hate? All these are questions I have tried to find the answers for. In a small measure I feel I have succeeded."

His article in this issue of the *Realist* would seem to indicate that he has succeeded indeed — and in deed — in answering those questions for himself. Other questions, however, still remain unanswered for him:

"I was born in Chicago (some sixty years ago). I saw and heard the men marching away to the Spanish-American war, singing, 'There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight.' I saw their return and they did not sing. I wondered then what that song meant, and I am still wondering."

Reverend Newton holds various degrees: B.A., B.S., M.S., D.D., LL.D. He is the vice-president of The Buddhist Society of India. Recently, he participated in a three-round debate on the question, "Does an Almighty, Personal God Exist?" Since, "in our form of Buddhism, there is nothing mystical or supernatural," he took the negative position.

And, "since the Roman Catholic priest lost the debate, which his bishop admits, the bishop transferred this poor priest out of his parish, and he must do penance in a monastery for several years."

### Inter-Faith Now and Zen

There was a delightful little piece of satire in the *New Yorker* last month, entitled "Zen in the Art of Tennis." Its target was the new breed of Zen Buddhist seekers currently making the bellybutton scene.

It is highly unlikely that any commercial magazine would poke fun at any of the three "major" religions, though. But Zen is safe. As Will Herberg wrote in his recent exploration into American religious sociology, *Protestant-Catholic-Jew*:

"Not to be — that is, not to identify oneself and be identified as — either a Protestant, a Catholic, or a Jew is somehow not to be an American. It may imply being foreign, as is the case when one professes oneself a Buddhist, a Moslem, or anything but a Protestant, Catholic, or Jew, even when one's Americanness is otherwise beyond question.

"Or it may imply being obscurely 'un-American,' as is the case with those who declare themselves atheists, agnostics, or even 'humanists'. . . . To be a Protestant, a Catholic, or a Jew are today the alternative ways of being an American. . . .

"Within this common framework there is a persistent tension and conflict, reflecting the corporate anxieties and minority-group defensiveness of each of the three communities. To mitigate these tensions and prevent the conflicts from becoming too destructive, American experience has brought forth the characteristically American device of 'inter-faith,' which, as idea and movement, has permeated broad areas of national life."

Last month, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs filed a protest with Congress in regard to Sep-

tember 4th having been declared as Inter-Faith Day, stating:

"At first glance this resolution appears to be a harmless move for the promotion of good will among the American people, but on closer observation there are some basic underlying assumptions that could make it offensive to the church people of the nation. For instance, should the government put such pressure on the churches for religious conformity?"

Inter-Faith Day arises out of the public policy of "brotherhood" as publicized by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Some see it as a method under which Jews and Protestants share the expenses of preventing criticism of Roman Catholicism—which Church invites criticism more than the others. The Conference supposedly tries to suppress unfair criticism, but usually ends up trying to stifle all criticism.

Says Herberg in his above-mentioned book:

"The common ground between Judaism and Christianity, and on another level between Protestantism and Catholicism, is real and important, sufficiently real and important, indeed, to make it possible to speak significantly of Jewish-Christian faith in a way that no one could conceivably speak of Jewish-Buddhist or Christian-Hindu faith."

Thus, the professional Christians and Jews who sponsor the Inter-Faith movement did not deem it necessary to bring pressure upon the manufacturers of Shredded Ralston, whose advertisements featured a picture of Siva, the multi-armed Hindu diety — but with a spoon in each and every hand — because you "just can't get enough" of that scrumptious breakfast cereal.

But just imagine the furor that would arise if an ad were to appear showing Christ nailed to the crucifix, with the caption, "Don't let this happen to you—register today for the Dale Carnegie course."

### J.D. and the Square Root of Piety

Hearst columnist H. I. Phillips said this month that:

"Nothing brands this the screwiest of ages more than teachers, lawyers, schoolboards and civil liberties groups hurrying thru streets, blocked by juvenile gang 'rumbles,' on their way to hassle over whether non-denominational prayer in public schools is good for kids.

"Above the shootings, screams and howl of squad cars it wasn't easy to hear the New York State Supreme Court decision that a 22-word prayer (see issue #7) in opening school sessions would not violate the Constitution, if speedy and non-compulsory. . . .

"Imagine any child, regardless of faith, creed or denomination, being hurt by this simple profession of belief in a divine being! Fancy legalistic quibblings which seem to substitute (for the prayer)!

"'Oh, schoolrooms, schoolboards, teachers and courts, we beseech thee to guard against anything that can put tenderness, love and a scorn for violence in the heart of a child. We beg you all to fight the touch of faith that might save children from pagan patterns of viciousness leading them hell bent to prison and perhaps the chair.'"

In 1955, then-Attorney General of California, Pat Brown, ruled that "Religious prayers may not be made

a part of the curriculum of the public schools."

Evangelist Dan Gilbert — author of *The Bible Basis of the Constitution* — has, during the past ten years, gone from jail to jail, preaching to the inmates and holding revival campaigns. Currently, he is campaigning against the above four-year-old California ruling. He writes:

"Under this 'Bible Blackout,' California skyrocketed to America's most lawless state. . . . Crime in California is increasing four times as fast as the population. 46 per cent of all major crimes are the work of boys and girls under 18. Youngsters 13, 14 and 15 years of age are now committing an increasingly large share of serious crimes. . . .

"In the face of this crime epidemic, mainly involving those of high school age and younger, it is a crime against children to take God and the Bible out of the public schools. It is like outlawing penicillin when the flu plague is raging. It is like declaring vaccination 'unlawful' when small pox is massacring the youth of the land."

On a less hysterical but equally misinforming level, the Executive Secretary of "The Greater New York Coordinating Committee on Released Time of Jews, Protestants, and Roman Catholics, Inc." has sent a form letter to the presidents of all "progressive" Parent-Teachers Associations, stating:

"Children who get their spiritual heritage do not become delinquents, otherwise they often do. Scientific studies show this."

The *Realist* queried him as to what these "scientific studies" were, specifically. There was no response.

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New York Supreme Court Justice Bernard S. Meyer, in ruling that the "establishment" clause of the First Amendment did not prohibit the non-compulsory saying of a non-denominational prayer, held that "freedom of religion is not an absolute right; the state may impose restrictions if reasonable in relation to the end sought to be attained."

Whatever that is — "the end sought to be attained" — it will be undermined by:

1. The fact that *no* religious prayer can ever be "non-denominational"; as the California ruling stated, "It is true that the majority of our people are Christians or Jews, so that simple prayers to a Supreme Being would not be incompatible with the views of most students in the public schools. Nevertheless, even atheists and agnostics are protected in their beliefs by the Constitution."

2. The fact that the prayer is non-compulsory — "so that a conscious choice can be made (by the parents) whether a child shall or shall not participate" — means that certain children will either have to conform or be set apart from the others. Again quoting from the California ruling:

"Their right to absent themselves during such prayers would seem to be inadequate protection from the very real though subtle pressure which the endorsement of school and teacher would produce."

But New York Justice Meyer said that religious tensions and divisions over the saying of the prayer do not constitute a constitutional reason for not permitting it to be said.

The let-us-pray decision is being appealed. In the meantime, of course, we can rest assured that there

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PAUL KRASSNER, Editor

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will be a sharp decline in the juvenile delinquency rate.

A Fresno teacher has gone on record with the following statement:

"Authorities say that narcotic drug addiction is more common among California high school students than almost any other element of the population of our whole country. Why? I know of no way to educate youth in decent living except through the reading of the Bible, which teaches the sinfulness of corrupting the human body, made by God to be the temple of His Spirit.

"Prohibited and intimidated from reading the Bible to our students, we are helpless to give them moral and spiritual reinforcement against temptation. Our tongues are tied, and we are obliged to sit hopelessly by, as they stumble ignorantly into dope and drink debauchery."

It may be safely said, however, that juvenile delinquency is aided and abetted by adult delinquency: by sins of both commission and omission.

For example, a Youth Board worker explains how dope pushers flock to neighborhoods where two gangs are at war, knowing they will find buyers among members of the gangs who are so keyed up that they welcome any kind of 'relaxation.' Or, they're just plain scared.

And narcotics can serve a double purpose for a scared kid. Not only is he enabled to escape from his fear, but the rest of the gang won't even want him around when he's on dope: he'd be considered too undependable in a rumble.

The pushers are around after a fight, too, when the kids are let down, but still looking for kicks. Or when there's nothing afoot, and so now they really 'need' some kicks. But what about the enforcers of the law?

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The *Realist* interviewed a man who, for a fee, cashes bribe checks for policemen, on New York's lower East Side, in the very shadow of Police Headquarters. (They get checks so that the check-maker has a receipt for a 'business expense'; and the checks are made out to "Cash" so that the policeman-payee doesn't have to incriminate himself with an endorsement.)

A raid on a dope ring can be scheduled, the check-casher explained, but somehow there's a tip-off—"You know what I mean?"—and when the raiders arrive, why, no one is there.

But even while the gangster-syndicates are flourishing in a morass of corruption, The Order of the Sons of Italy have adopted a resolution condemning—and possibly preventing, via a threat of sponsor boycott—screen and television productions based on the 'alleged' existence in this country of the Mafia, a secret underworld organization exposed in a recent book, *Brotherhood of Evil*.

Yet, the nation's hoods do have their code of ethics. As mobster and Billy Graham-adherent Mickey Cohen said this month, "They should let somebody know when they are going to kill somebody."

The junior varsity likewise has its sense of values. That very same day, a 17-year-old youth-gang leader—charged with killing a 15-year-old girl during an outburst of shootings and stabbings on New York's lower East Side—said, "I did not know I was shooting a girl."

One week later—as federal and state authorities were busy cracking down on a million-dollar international stock swindle ring, financed by Carmine Lombardozzi, who was a delegate to the infamous Apalachin gangsters' convention—a couple of teen-aged gang-leaders were seized by New York police in connection with the slaying of two 16-year-old boys, the stabbing of a third, and the beating of several others. The two:

Tony Luis "Umbrella Man" Hernandez, 17, who has a large tattoo of the Crucifixion on his right forearm, running all the way from wrist to elbow.

Salvatore "Dracula" Agron, 16 and effeminate—who likes also to be called "Machine-Gun Sal"—and who is the stepson of the minister of the Pentacostal "Messenger of Jesus Christ" church. "He would lie in bed all day reading the Bible," said the stepfather.

His mother brought the Bible to the police station and asked a detective to give it to her son. The detective complied with her request, then came out again and returned the Bible, saying, "He doesn't want it."

Said Dracula: "I don't care if I burn—my mother can watch."

Nothing brands this the screwiest of ages more than the shallow thinking which oversimplifies—to the point of blasphemy—the relationship, if any, between parroted statements of belief in 'God' and crimes committed by children.

### Boys and Girls Together . . .

In the Broadway play on which the current film *Blue Denim* is based, two youngsters—after having given in to their glands and their emotions—sought, and got, an abortion for the girl.

In the movie, they seek the same solution to their problem, but a typical Hollywood chase scene—screeching tires and all—makes a 'happy' ending possible, as the boy and the two fathers race against time to prevent the abortion. Instead, the kids—aged 16 and 15—will marry and raise the baby with all the wisdom that their maturity and experience can provide.

Meanwhile, back in real life, a sample survey suggests that at least 125,000 cases of adolescent abortion occur every year. And, considering the number of criminal abortions, that figure may be called conservative.

In the film version of *Blue Denim*, the actual word "abortion" is never once even mentioned. The ads for the picture say that it is a story about "nice young kids in serious trouble. . . . These are no juvenile delinquents!" Critic Jaik Rosenstein says, in *Hollywood Close-Up*:

"It is nice not to see all this blood and violence and dope and brutality, but while the social strata is nicer and cleaner in *Blue Denim*, still the editorial significance, which is that although it poses sort of a problem for two teen-agers to get in a family way, all it really requires is a little parental 'understanding,' and

everything can just work out real swell."

Rosenstein then proceeds to express his own crude brand of parental understanding: "Just let one of my daughters pull anything remotely like these hi-jinks and I'll crack her and the punk's heads together."

Movies often reflect the societies in which they are produced. A recent Japanese film concerns itself with some of the ramifications of a young girl's abortion. In Japan, abortions are legal. Last year, there were 1,500,000 legal abortions.

A public opinion survey taken by the Bureau of Statistics of the Japanese government reveals that 65 per cent of the people there have no religious beliefs. Japan has practically solved its population problem by cutting the birth rate in half.

In this country, we are slightly more hypocritical. The head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York said this month that 90 per cent of the 'therapeutic' abortions performed there were illegal by the strict interpretation of the law—which permits abortions only to save the life of the mother—and that out of 147 performed, only about a dozen could be justified for this purpose.

The balance were for psychiatric reasons, to prevent the birth of abnormal children, because of past or present cancer, and for other reasons based on physical problems.

The head of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology said that such operations, while illegal, were "morally and medically correct." The Mt. Sinai physician added that no honest doctor with a clean record had ever been arrested for performing them.

The American Law Institute has recommended liberalization of the anti-abortion laws . . . with the opposition of guess which religious group.

The literary hierarchy in this country—in terms of artistic honesty—ranges, from top to bottom: books; legitimate theatre; films; television. *Blue Denim*, however, can, in a way, be considered something of an exception.

Herbert Brodtkin is the producer of TV's *Playhouse 90*. Working in a medium that has been called a gutless wonder, he has nevertheless managed to present drama with, to turn a phrase, the convictions of his courage.

Now the national statistics show that since 1930 the number of unwed females who give birth to illegitimate children has gone up 40 per cent (and these are only the recorded births). Over half of these unmarried mothers are between 15 and 19 years of age; two-thirds are under 21. How many similar births escape official records is unknown.

And so it came to pass that Herbert Brodtkin saw the stage production of *Blue Denim*, and his dissatisfaction with it directly inspired a beautiful televised portrait of a home for young unwed mothers-to-be, "In Lonely Expectation." Without any maudlin moralizing, the dreams and illusions of a group of pregnant girls—one only fourteen years old—were knitted into a fabric of heart-rending reality.

On the other hand, Hal Eaton, critic for the Newhouse newspaper chain, had this to say:

"Realism can be carried too far. It was, on *Playhouse 90's* 'In Lonely Expectation,' an obvious exploration of a distasteful dilemma. I know it exists; that it was beamed late enough not to be seen by youngsters and other stock answers.

"But is it TV's function to air all social problems? Though most are strictly verboten for children, isn't it possible for some to offend and repulse sensitive adults?"

"'Expectation' wasn't a sound drama, but a character study of a dozen misled and misguided girls. It offered no solution or corrective measure. In fact, it accomplished nothing, except, perhaps, shock a few naive viewers."

We hope, for Mr. Eaton's sake as well as all his "sensitive adults" who are too offended and repulsed to twist their channel-selectors, that *Sing Along* — a program devoted to community singing — comes back to the air. It kind of gets you—the thought of millions of viewers scattered throughout cities and villages across the nation—sitting, in their lonely expectation, in front of their TV sets, and joining in on a chorus of "There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight. . . ."

### Sexual Discrimination

Although nobody wrote us any letters about last month's "The Women Are on the Job," there were several verbal protests, including a telephone call from a gentleman in Washington, D.C., complaining that the article smacked of "antediluvian ideas" with "Fascist overtones."

We hadn't felt it necessary to include a disclaimer, but, just for the record, let us say here and now that we are completely in favor of equal rights for women—both in theory and in practice.

Some time ago, the editor of *Argosy*, a man's magazine, said that he would never vote for a woman for President of the United States because she would undoubtedly be "a rebel against society."

Frankly, we would find it hard to resist the temptation of voting for her on that basis alone.

### Hitler's Disciples

That we don't agree with everything which is printed in the *Realist*, has been evidenced before, with the appearance of Jack Kaae, a seventeen-year-old Nazi (issue #4 and #6).

To bring readers up to date: Kaae enlisted in the (U.S.) Army. He is now stationed in Germany. He writes, sadly: "The Germans aren't ready for Nazism yet."

During the recent flamboyant visit to the United States of Deputy Frol Kozlov of the Soviet Union, he was charged with mistreatment of Jews in his country. He denied the charges. However, a UN report shows instances in Russia of closings of synagogues, arrests of Jewish leaders, and desecrations of cemeteries.

Meanwhile, a sick little piece of hate-literature now in circulation — entitled "The Government of the Soviet Union" — states that:

"In the Soviet Union there are two distinct governments; one visible and the other invisible. The visible government is composed of Gentile personnel and also Jewish personnel, whereas, in the invisible government all members are Jewish. There are 600,000 secret police within the Soviet Union, and of these

400,000 are Jews. The secret police receive their orders from the secret invisible government.

"In the Soviet Union the Communist Party is limited to 3½ million members, and approximately 2 million young Communists called Comsomols. The latter do most of the spying on the Gentile population for the Jewish Secret Board. Of the 5½ million party members 50% are Jewish with the remaining 50% composed of prostitutes, criminals, illiterates.

"The Jewish Talmud says 'torture and kill the Gentile people and raise holiness for Israel.' Every year the Jewish Secret Boards execute a secret plan for the liquidation of many thousands of Christians who are considered too well informed. These victims are discovered by the spys (sic) who mingle with the general population. . . ."

"Jewish Communism has destroyed all the members of the pre-existing government along with their families, with the exception of the Jews. It has destroyed all the Federal officers, detectives, State police, and Army officers along with their families, with the exception of the Jews. Jewish Communism has destroyed all of the Masons along with their families although this group was used effectively at the beginning to further the cause of Communism.

"Jewish Communism has destroyed the freedom loving farmers, merchants, real estate owners, businessmen and professional men along with their families. Jewish Communism has destroyed all the spiritual leaders of the Soviet Union with the exception of the Rabbis and a token force of other spiritual leaders for exhibition. All churches have been destroyed or converted into other buildings with the exception of the synagogues. . . ."

"In the Soviet Union the Jewish invisible government separates wives from their husbands and men from women. About 20,000,000 men are confined to concentration camps, and as a result succeeding generations will be affected. The supervision of these concentration camps is under the direct control of the Jewish Gestapo."

Humane slaughter bills are being considered by state legislatures across the country, and if New Jersey is a forerunner of what will happen when hearings on the proposed bills are held, there will be some vehement anti-Jewish prejudice spouted in the guise of humanitarianism for animals.

One witness, representing the Humane Society, said: "We Christians have fought three wars so that you Jews could be safe!"

Another, Mrs. Madeline Thompson, of the states Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, testified: "We don't want to be converted to Judaism by these Rabbis who are attempting to force us to eat kosher meat. . . . The only countries that do not have humane slaughtering are Communists. Let us not follow their steps," she told the legislators. "I urge that you vote for this bill."

Rabbi Pinchas Teitz asked, rhetorically (that is, there was no answer to his question):

If the Humane Society which is pushing this and other similar bills throughout the country is so concerned with humanity for animals, why doesn't it start a campaign against hunting deer with guns, shooting birds with arrows, and baiting fish with harpoons, all under the name of sport?

The editor of *Flying Saucer News* — who receives periodicals in that field published not only in this country, but throughout the world — revealed this month that three out of four have a political or ideological ax to grind, and that many of these are anti-Semitic in nature.

Calling them "political and theological demagogues," he charged them with "using saucers as a front." As the field became lucrative, he said, they began to spew their prejudices under the pretext of carrying messages from the other world. They found it "very convenient to associate hatred with religious doctrine and spiritualism."

For example, they describe the "method of segregation employed on other planets, such as Mars." They "substitute saucer terminology for Nazi terms." Thus, "the Reich" would be referred to as "the high master of Venus."

He told of one particular flying-saucer meeting he attended, at which a pamphlet was distributed. It dealt with racial superiority; "the space-people content was clearly subterfuge." On the cover there was, prominently displayed, what is described in the dictionary as "a primitive symbolico-religious ornament, having arms bent at right angles." Namely, a swastika.

Two Catholic publications have recently included the expression of anti-Semitic sentiments in their pages.

The Brooklyn *Tablet* printed a letter from Austin J. App of Philadelphia, a pro-Nazi apologist who once demanded that President Eisenhower be hanged as a war criminal. In his letter, App offered specious "proof" that the figure of six million Jews killed under Hitler is "a bloated libel."

And a letter to the editor of *Our Sunday Visitor* commented on a column in a previous issue which had criticized V. S. Pritchett for mentioning, in *Holiday* magazine, that six million Jews had been killed by the Nazis. The column had said that "the rehashing of such bitter memories would hardly help an American enjoy his holiday in Germany."

The letter writer agreed with that criticism, adding that Pritchett "uses the old propaganda myth that millions of Jews were killed by the national socialists. From what I was able to determine during six post-war years in Germany and Austria, there were a number of Jews killed, but the figure of a million was certainly never reached."

In Germany itself, a reporter took his TV equipment into twelve schools in five widely differing regions, and he asked the 15- to 17-year-old pupils: "What do you know about Hitler?" and "How many people were murdered in the Nazi era?"

He found that nine out of ten students either knew nothing at all about Hitler or believed that he had done more good than harm. The highest estimate of the number of Jews killed by the Nazis was 30,000. Many students professed total ignorance.

The answers aren't surprising. Here, for instance, is the complete account of Nazi persecution of Jews in a history textbook:

"The Jews fared worst under Hitler. They were expelled from the German people. They were shipped by the thousands into concentration camps. Through hun-

ger, disease, and maltreatment, many died."

The monthly organ of the General Students Committee at Heidelberg University disclosed that a self-styled students' Fascist group has been "engaging in anti-democratic and anti-Semitic" activities. In their own paper, the Fascist students published many articles supporting racist theories and saying that the figure of 6,000,000 Jews exterminated by Hitler was "grossly exaggerated."

West Berlin senator Joachim Lipshitz wrote in a Dusseldorf newspaper:

"It is tragic that today we still debate the consequences of the horrible philosophy of Nazism. When there are people who can argue whether it was six million or only four or three million who were killed — then Hitler still lives. When there are those who say that Hitler's murder of the Jews was a 'big mistake,' thus reducing the murder of six million to the status of a tactical or political *faux pas* — then too, Hitler still lives."

One of the great tragedies of our time, then — the genocide practiced in Nazi Germany during World War II — was based on the biologically unsound thesis that Judaism is inherited.

This month, with almost unbelievable irony, sixty-one world-famous Jews — polled on the question, "What is a Jew?" — answered almost unanimously: "The child of a Jewish mother."

### **Blackmail and Beauty (Concluded)**

Last month, the *Realist* reported that Sue Ingersoll, who won the Miss New Mexico contest, was ordered by her bishop to withdraw from the Miss Universe competition, or else neither she nor her mother would be allowed to receive the sacraments of Confession and Communion. She at first defied his threat, but she finally gave in, and gave up her chance to be Miss Universe.

As a letter to *Time* magazine said, "it would seem that the Roman Catholic Church has taken a leaf from Communism's book. It has learned how to punish an offender thru the offender's loved ones."

### **Freedom of Circulation**

If it went to our editorial head when we announced last month that the *Realist's* readership had gone well over the 2,000 mark, then that pride was extinguished just a wee bit by the Catholic Press Association's announcement that the total circulation of Catholic newspapers and magazines in the United States has reached 25,582,770.

Yet, though the feeling is not mutual, we would not want to see a single Catholic publication suppressed, ever.

The government of South Korea has forced the closing of a daily newspaper in the capital of that country operated by the Roman Catholic Apostolic Vicariate on the grounds that it was "undermining democracy and security." We are thoroughly opposed to the government's action.

### **The Day Leon Uris Became an Atheist**

Leon Uris, author of the number one best-selling book, *Exodus* — which has been called a Jewish *Battle Cry* — last month wrote in the N. Y. *Herald Tribune*:

"I don't read much except research books and these are rather grim and icky. When I do get a crack at pleasure reading, I lean toward humor. Max Shulman is my God. Harry Golden sits on his right hand."

In the current issue of the *Carolina Israelite*, published by Golden — who has been called a kosher Will Rogers — a review of *Exodus* says that it is "a world built by cliché, textured by contrivance, and spins unredeemed by novelty . . . the Israelis of *Exodus* plan strategy, make love, go into battle, and wage political argument by quoting Biblical verses. . . ."

"This literary ineptitude gives *Exodus* an ephemeral quality. *Exodus* can only be bad news for Israel. This is because Mr. Uris is propagandizing. His propaganda is that Israel's emergence as a state is the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament.

"Certainly there is a metaphorical significance between the Prophets and Israeli statehood, but at the same time Israel is more than Biblical prophecy fulfilled. Israel is a political fact and it exists in a political world. While *Exodus* attributes political and economic motives to the rest of the world, it attributes only a religious motive to Israel.

"It is true that propaganda has often led men into accomplishing noteworthy art. Dante is the prime example. But though the *Divine Comedy* is sometimes obviously propaganda, it is also supreme poetry. *Exodus* is not good prose. . . . [Uris] has instead invested *Exodus* with an hypnotic and militant fervor. More usually, however, fervor convinces the writer before it convinces the reader."

(Editor's note: Nevertheless, the book has caused many a matronly 'Shirley' to support — with time and money — the Zionist cause, little realizing that the state of Israel is actually a cruel theocracy.)

The review continues: "What makes *Exodus* propaganda is that it ignores the whole truth and deals with only part of it. The novel often tries to avoid the excruciating political issues. Neither Israel nor these issues spread themselves in black and white relief. To pretend they do is to perform a disservice both to Israel and to literature."

The reviewer, incidentally, was Harry Golden's son. That the father lacks the son's logic was indicated by old Harry's brooding about a question he once forgot to ask of Robert G. Ingersoll:

"When Col. Ingersoll told us how foolishly superstitious the curates and the Bishops and the Rabbis and the church-goers were, why didn't we ask him, 'But what about the [religious] homes for the Aged?'"

### **Epitaph for a Happy Skeptic**

Tiffany Thayer had it made.

Since 1948, he had worked the first six months of each year for an advertising firm, and the second half he would spend at Nantucket, Mass., writing on his own. The author of *Thirteen Men*, a best-seller in the 1930's, Thayer wrote nineteen novels under his own name and numerous others under various pseudonyms.

He had been an actor and a reporter and a screen writer; he had worked in a greenhouse, clerked in a bookstore, and sailed as a cabin boy. And while other advertising men went out during lunch hour to coat their ulcers with martinis, he remained in his office, alternately munching a sandwich and playing the recorder.

He had often told his wife, jokingly, "Take me

[to Nantucket] to die." Last month, in Nantucket, he awoke one morning and exclaimed exuberantly to her: "What a beautiful day. We'll all have another day of sailing." Just then he was stricken with a heart attack, and, at the age of 57, he died.

His last book was published in 1956, the first of what was to have been a trilogy entitled *Mona Lisa*. He had spent years of research on the life and times of the subject of da Vinci's famous painting. Ironically, at the close of the first volume, he wrote — in the Renaissance tradition, indicating that no work of art is ever finished — "Tiffany Thayer Was Writing This Book."

The *New York Times* devoted a full 18 inches to his obituary — but with nary a blessed word about what was probably dearest to Thayer's heart: the Fortean Society, which he founded in 1931 along with other admirers of the works of Charles Fort, including Theodore Dreiser, Alexander Woolcott and Ben Hecht. Until his death, Thayer was its Secretary. To quote his own description:

"The Fortean Society is an international association of philosophers — that is, of men and women who would live no differently if there were no laws; of men and women whose behavior is not a sequence of reflex jerks caused by conditioning, but rather the result of some cerebration, or of some mystical whimsicality of their own.

"Membership is open to all. Interest is the sole requirement. The Society has no grips or pass-words, no rituals, by-laws, initiation or similar horse-play, and only one symbol — an enormous question mark.

"Eminent scientists, physicists and medical doctors are members — likewise chiropractors, spiritualists and perhaps Christian Scientists. We do not ask any man his religion, his color or his political affiliations.

"Forteanism is itself a religion — the religion of self-respect.

"Members come from the 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii and 49 foreign countries.

"By its animosity toward all herd dogmas, its belligerence against all mass indoctrination, and its independence of all Authority, the Society has attracted — quite incidentally — a small congress of minorities, most of them antis left over from 'drives' of other days, from hysterics of other eras.

"The Society provides haven for lost causes, most of which — but for our sympathy — might become quite extinct, not always thru lack of merit but, more generally, thru lack of any possible cash profit in their popularization.

"A good many adherents of a flat Earth are members, anti-vivisectionists, anti-vaccinationists, anti-Wasserman-testers, and people who still believe disarmament of nations would be a good thing.

"On the other hand, many Fortean embrace ideas so new, fresh and novel that twelve Einsteins couldn't understand them — yet, they may be the sciences and the arts of tomorrow. While one member tinkers a rocket for interplanetary explorations, another charts and graphs maritime disappearances on the theory that we have had visitors here from other worlds — perhaps for centuries.

"Yet, even within the Society, these minorities are a minority, and the majority of Fortean are men and women who recognize and regret:

## The Tolerant Pagan . . .

by Reginald Dunsany

"My approach to peace is from the religious rather than from the political standpoint."

—the late John Foster Dulles

**Most persons don't think of the peregrinations of Dicky Nixon and Nicky Khrushchev as having much religious significance. Yet they may have important repercussions in the field of church-state relations in international affairs.**

The cold war is more than a conflict between democracy and dictatorship. It is also a battle between religion and Communism in which the democracies happen to be on the side of the churches. But the Communism that the churches are fighting—especially the Roman Catholic Church—is not the same Communism that the democracies are against.

Pope John has no objection to dictatorships. What he objects to is the "materialism" of the Russians, especially their refusal to share control of the people with his priests. And in this respect, the Church is as much opposed to the U.S. government as to that of the U.S.S.R.

Popes have violently condemned so-called "Americanism" and the separation of church and state. The condemnations are now soft-pedaled, but they have not been recanted. To the extent that our government respects the secularism that our constitutional forefathers prescribed, the present co-operation between our State Department and the Vatican is a strange alliance—strange to both allies.

### Different Reasons

The Christians and the democrats (using the term in its generic sense) are both opposed to Communism but for different reasons and with entirely different purposes. It is possible that the Russians could make enough concessions to the Catholic and allied interests to satisfy their aspirations.

On the other hand, it is possible that such concessions would be made to the democrats — concessions such as greater security for the democracies, or even a liberalization of the

totalitarian system where it exists. If the religious interests were satisfied, they would promptly walk out of the alliance. So would—and should—the friends of freedom and democracy.

### Deals With Communists

The religious powers are already making such deals in Poland and Hungary. The latest is the action of the Pope in appointing new administrators to the sees of Cardinal Mindszenty and other anti-Communist bishops in the latter country.

The visit of Nixon to Khrushchev and the invitation for Khrushchev to visit Eisenhower indicate that the ground is being laid for a new *rapprochement* between the Communist and democratic secular politicians as such.

The religious and secular politicians may be rushing to be the first to leave the sinking ship. This can have important effects also on domestic politics.

### Captive Voters

The secular politicians are not inclined to recognize openly the breach with the past. Recently the Assembly of Captive European Nations, an official organization of refugee governments dominated by Catholic politicians, induced Congress to sponsor a

Captive Nations' Week and called on churches everywhere to pray for captives—including the captives in Poland, who have been told by their Cardinal to vote for the Communists; those in Hungary whose leader has just been repudiated by the Pope; and those in Lithuania who have been deprived of recognition at the Vatican.

### Nixon's Route

When Nixon went to Russia, Khrushchev got many a laugh out of the crowd about this, and Nixon was just embarrassed. Then Nixon went to Poland where he was expected to visit the Cardinal. He did not; he made only a perfunctory visit to a Catholic church where he talked with the priest in charge of the building.

Then he went to a cemetery and made a speech taking the Poles to task for their anti-Semitism, which is mostly a result of their Roman Catholic education. The Cardinal found himself suddenly called out of Warsaw on an emergency vacation.

### Castigation Complex

The Catholic press did not miss the point. It castigated Nixon's refusal to condemn the persecution of the Catholics, saying that it was tantamount to endorsing it.

Now, as the *Realist* reaches you, Khrushchev will be sitting down to tea with our President. So far as Christians are concerned, he lacks only horns to be Satan himself. Protestants seem not to have raised active objection, except a few crackpots. But the Catholic press is in an uproar.

### Guest Relations

At this writing, Khrushchev is being routed around New York; Mayor Robert Wagner will not have to insult him as he did Yugoslavia's Tito. Congress is rushing to adjourn so it will not have to invite him to address the members. John McCormack has pushed thru a resolution opposing admission of China to the UN—as an indirect slap at the Communist dictator.

But the Republicans seem to know

"(a) That Science has been false to its own first principle — that of *temporary acceptance* — becoming a faith rather than a method, and adopting the closed shop not only as regards its personnel but a shop closed against new ideas and — more especially — against all questioning and criticism of old ideas which still pay; and,

"(b) That 'popular education' is tenaciously opposed to enlightenment, and that the schools of the world have miserably failed in their (avowed) intention of teaching people to think for themselves.

"These members embrace the only 'doctrine' Forteanism has, that of suspended judgment, temporary acceptance and eternal questioning. We like to think there is some hope for the future in a Society dedicated to the dissemination of healthy, enlightened doubt,

informed skepticism, perpetual dissent from all dogmatic assumption. . . .

"That is why the Society provides mental antitoxin against the poison of press, pulpit and school."

Members of the Fortean Society have included George Bernard Shaw, Havelock Ellis, Clarence Darrow, Robert Lindner, Mrs. Vashti McCollum, Arthur Miller, Frank Lloyd Wright, H. L. Mencken, Albert Einstein, Dorothy Parker, Norman Thomas, Bertrand Russell.

What with Tiffany Thayer's zest for life, he never bothered to make any funeral arrangements; but we were honored when he called the *Realist* "the sprightliest paper in its field since Brann's *Iconoclast*," and we'll try to keep it a living eulogy to the memory of his optimistic cynicism.

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what they are doing. It seems amazing that a man like Nixon who was elected Congressman, Senator and Vice-President in the role of a Red-baiter should make such a switch. But it is not the first time such things have happened. And it certainly has happened now.

#### Batman And Robin

One of the top political commentators says that Nixon and Eisenhower have put through a *coup* such as has not occurred before in recent history. They are in the course of capturing for the Republican party the whole issue of Peace. They may even be able to tag the Democrats as the War Party.

The Tolerant Pagan agrees. Although the Democratic Party is still stronger than the Republican, it is now by no means certain that it can carry the Presidency. Certainly it would seem unwise to put forth a Catholic candidate: for the Democratic Party is already being characterized as the Catholic party and the Catholic Church as the War Church.

#### Mission To Hollywood

Another commentator suggested the possibility that public attitudes toward the Communists would again assume the shape they had in early New Deal days. This was the period when Joseph P. Davies wrote his *Mission to Moscow*, later converted into a rather ridiculous movie.

If this should happen, it would be a great relief for liberal writers. They will never fall head over heels in love with the Communists, as capitalists have a habit of doing during the times when they are not preaching hate against them, but at least, it would be possible for liberal writers to defy the present taboo against ever, under any circumstances, saying a kind word for the Reds.

#### Over His Dead Body

It would then be possible to say a good word, for instance, for the fine effort they are making to stamp out religious superstition. Such good words could then be said without incurring immediately a charge of favoring their autocratic political ideas.

There is a story around Washington that the earth covering the grave of John Foster Dulles in Arlington Cemetery shows signs of developing cracks or fissures, such as occur during extreme droughts. Washington has had plenty of rain, though. The cracks are supposed to have been caused, rather, by the several complete revolutions which the Dulles cadaver performed during Nixon's travels.

\* \* \*

A building supply merchant in Wheaton, Maryland, Roy R. Torcaso, applied for a commission as a Notary Public last month. Although he was fully qualified and offered to pay the prescribed fee, he was refused the li-

cense because he would not sign a statement expressing his belief in the existence of God.

The Washington *Post* commented on the case, saying "to require a declaration of belief in the existence of God is to impose a religious test. . . . Marylanders ought to remove (the requirement) out of respect for their own best traditions."

#### "In Perfect Accord"

But the Archbishop of Washington, D.C. disagreed. Answering the *Post*, an editorial in his own weekly newspaper said that such a requirement is "not a violation of the spirit of the constitution . . . but in perfect accord with the principles on which our nation was founded."

The Catholic Hierarchy thoroughly opposes questions that are sometimes asked of Catholic candidates as to whether their political loyalty is first to the Pope or first to the nation; as to whether they favor state aid to churches; about whether in their opinion church law or "man-made" law is superior, etc. etc. But the Catholic *Standard* endorses the requirement that atheists must make a confession of faith or be barred from office. This does seem inconsistent.

#### The Inconsistent Pagan?

On the other hand, the Tolerant Pagan favors asking Catholic candidates — and some others — such

#### Whose Little Reactionary Are You?

"I won't mince words," said Russell Kirk—author and epitome of *The Conservative Mind*—"This is the most important letter I have ever written."

It was a mimeographed invitation to subscribe to "a conservative review" he edits, with the misnomer, *Modern Age*.

The publication, he says, "fills a need—the need for an unhurried format that will allow writers to examine the roots of our civilized heritage in a world that — until recently — had thought it could exist without tradition. . . ."

"I need not point out to you the prevailing climate of 'liberal' opinion among intellectuals. Conservatives often find it difficult to obtain a fair hearing, let alone support.

"And a serious quarterly, especially one admitting a prejudice against change for the sake of change and a preference for the wisdom of our ancestors, requires support. . . ."

Among the examples of "the kind of meaningful reading you can expect" from *Modern Age*: "Toward a Christian Approach in Judging Economic Systems"; "Liberalism and Christianity"; "In Defense of Prejudice"; and "Some Neglected Aspects of the 'Minorities' Problem."

questions as are mentioned above. Yet he opposes the Maryland requirement. Is the Tolerant Pagan just as inconsistent as the Catholic Church?

Is it just that the Church opposes all tests that Catholics cannot pass and that the Tolerant Pagan opposes all tests that pagans could be expected to flunk? I don't think so, for the reason set forth in the next paragraph, which I would appreciate your reading twice.

#### That Was No Lady . . .

The federal Constitution does forbid the government to impose any religious test on candidates otherwise qualified. However, if one of the qualifications for office is that the candidate must have won an election, the Constitution does not forbid the voters to ask him any questions they wish. (They can even ask him: "Whb was that lady I saw you with last night?")

The voter cannot make the candidate answer. If he fails to answer, he is not barred from office. But if he fails to satisfy the voter on any score, the voter may withhold his support at the polls. The ban on religious tests applies only to the government, not to the voter.

#### . . . That Was My Constituent

If the above-mentioned Torcaso were running in an election for Notary Public or any other position, the voter would have a right to ask him questions — even whether he believes in the existence of God.

Furthermore, aside from the constitutional question, the questions addressed to John Kennedy and others are not purely religious tests, such as the Maryland requirement is. They may involve religion. But questions about dual political loyalty, about the supremacy of civil law over religious law, about aid to religious schools, etc., are political questions as well as religious questions. But this is only secondary. The important thing is that the constitutional prohibition applies to the government, not to the voter.

#### Dirty Hands

Aside from the legal question there is also the question of propriety. Is it nasty to ask such questions? The Catholic Bishop of Boston has just said in effect that the Methodist Bishop of Boston has "dirtied his hands" by endorsing such questions to Catholic candidates. In this respect, I also disagree. I think the Methodist Bishop's hands are clean — at least in this regard.

But I do think that the Archbishop of Washington dirtied his hands when he proposed a rule that would bar all unbelievers from any office of any kind. Such a rule would bar from office a great many of the men who won our revolution and wrote our Constitution. Forcing atheists to sign professions of faith will not make them believers. It will just make them liars.

The Realist

# Negative Thinking

by Robert Anton Wilson

A COLUMN OF  
MISCELLANEOUS HERESIES

Lately, for the good of my soul, I've been reading the *National Review*. Except for learning that Dr. Russell Kirk considers copulation "vulgar"—which I had already suspected—I gained little from the venture. New Conservatives are very much like Old Conservatives, in that their minds have a kind of twitchy quality of perpetual nervous vehemence: a scratchy irritability bristles in every sentence they write. Reading them at length is like getting entangled in an old man's beard: you can't help beginning to feel scratchy, twitchy and irritable yourself.

However, as Lao-Tse wrote, the wise man who keeps his eyes open sees things even in the Void, and I have gleaned a few nuggets of sense even from the shrill pages of the *National Review*. For instance, the writers on this journal are constantly repeating the line that all our problems—social, political, economic and military—would be solved if we returned to "the old-time religion." Strangely enough, I am beginning to agree with them.

Of course, their notion of "the old-time religion" seems provincial to me: they have in mind a cult scarcely a couple of thousand years old. Speaking *historically* and *anthropologically*, however, the real "old-time religion" is phallus-worship—a faith that was hoary with age before the *Upanishads* were composed, and that was once world-wide in scope; a faith, furthermore, that endured for hundreds of thousands of years without persecuting its rivals.

William Buckley, Russell Kirk, Frank Meyers and the other New Conservatives are much given to endless repetition of the rather threadbare argument that, since the age of world wars and dictatorships has followed the "age of reason" it must have been caused by it: *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*. This line of reasoning is palpably absurd: the first "world war" was that which ended at Thermopylae, and dictatorships were old news to Plato, or even Amenthotep.

But, if you will grant for a moment that phallus-worship deserves to be called the real "old-time religion," an interesting fact comes to light; indeed, sev-

eral interesting facts. The era of wars began in the Near East about 6,000 years ago: precisely at the time when phallus-worship began to disappear from the world. Phallus-worship, furthermore, being a *naturalistic* rather than *super-naturalistic* religion, does not have the schizogenic effect of asking man to live in two worlds simultaneously.

It is this modern bifurcation of experience into the "real" and the "spiritual," according to semantics, phylobiology and psychiatry, which underlies the mental illnesses of our culture. Phallus-worship, by identifying the divine with the natural, avoids this fractionation of the personality. Further still, phallus-worship has always been a pacifistic religion and is associated with pastoral and rather idyllic cultures.

Need I argue further? *Aux armes, citoyens!* Back to the faith of our ancestors. Back to true piety, true simplicity, true humility toward the Source of Life. "It's the old-time religion, but it's good enough for me." Let us build temples to the God of Dingle-Dangle.

It suddenly occurs to me to add a warning to the above. In its initial stages a recrudescence of phallus-worship would be subject to ridicule, misunderstanding and perhaps even persecution from those reckless Modernists who despise all the wisdom of our ancestors. (On the time-scale which we are considering, the "reckless Modernists" are, of course, the members of the established Churches—just as, on the time-scale of the *National Review*, "reckless Modernists" are those in favor of any social change that has occurred since the Long Parliament.)

Modern phallus-worshippers, perhaps, should pick a name for themselves that would be obscure enough to disarm criticism. Let me suggest that, in honor of D. H. Lawrence, the one man who never gave up the old-time faith, a good name would be *The John Thomas Society*.

Speaking of that great and wonderful writer, David Herbert Lawrence, I am reminded of another heresy; but this one is my wife's. She and I have been reading the unexpurgated Grove Press edition of *Lady Chatterley*.

\*Mellors, the uninhibited gamekeeper who taught Lady Chatterley to be a Woman, christened his phallus "John Thomas," and baptized her corresponding private parts, "Lady Jane."

## Modest Proposals

(Continued from back cover)

named an "AI" could be awarded to the actor who does the best portrayal of Al Capone within any fiscal year. (Capone, on his way to the Valhalla of authentic folk-heroes, is soon to be immortalized in comic-strips, T-shirts and bubble-gum cards: fat kids with oily complexions will have their hero-image at last.)

A motion-picture and TV vigilance committee could be set up with a permanent staff to pass on all Crime and Private Eye productions, with a rating system and a code of "Honest Portrayal" standards. Persuasion in this instance would extend beyond mere boycott to more forceful expression as exemplified by the stink-bomb in the balcony, or box-office dynamite (which is not *Variety* rhetoric in this case).

After all, the criminal is a minority, too; his dignity as a thinking individual must be maintained, and not given a distorted image through forcing him to speak in a

guttural, un-grammatical dialect, and identifying him with flashy clothes, or any other hurtful clichés.

Most important of all is the fact that this would be a *moral* convention: no scented bevy of "twists" (floozies, to you laymen) filling the corridors with their provocative laughter; the girlie element will remain at the normal business and Legion conventions where it belongs. After all, at a convention, you don't sample your own wares.

### Rumor of the Month

When it was discovered during summer inventory that the Playtex Company had an overstock of 5,000 brassieres, an ingenious employee was able to make a deal with a distributor of synagogue supplies. The project, called "Operation Circumcision," yielded 10,000 special skull caps: *yarmacles* with chin straps.

*terley's Lover*, and we agree that it is one of the most beautiful novels of the 20th Century. We were discussing the ridiculous charge of obscenity made against it. "It's a good book for adolescents," said my wife, "but I don't think it's suitable for most adults."

She explained: "Adolescents are still plastic. A lot of them can learn something from Lawrence. The book will make them better husbands, better wives, better lovers. But the average adult in America is already too far gone in the swamps of Puritanism and Fulton-Sheenism and Dear-Abbyism. All they would get out of those wonderful passages about John Thomas is a terrible sense of envy and frustration. Let them stick to pornography and television, where they can see their own empty sex-lives mirrored and can be assured that the emptiness is really a superior virtue."

This particular heresy will, I suppose, be the most unpopular one in the column, but I can't resist asking, more than a decade after the Nuremberg Trials, what the hell good have they accomplished? Besides showing the German people that *our* ethics were not much different from those of the Nazis, did the trials even serve the scare-function that is their only possible theoretic justification?

It would appear not. We, the accusers, did not even scare ourselves or one another. Our government, and Russia's, and now England's—France, and, ironically, Germany, may be next—are engaged in creating and testing weapons which are literally poisoning the milk of our own babies, and which, if ever used, will be thousands of times more atrocious than anything done at Buchenwald.

Not that I'm against War Crime Trials. *Au contraire*, I would have approved thoroughly if we had brought to the dock, in the name of humanity, the leaders of Germany and Japan, and also the leaders of America, Russia and England.

If we had handed out equally stiff sentences all around—the Russians who were responsible for the Katyn Forest massacre and the Americans who were responsible for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs getting the same sentence as the monsters of Auschwitz and Belsen, and the Nimitzes who preached race-hatred against the Japanese getting the same sentence as the Streichers who preached race-hatred against the Jews—there would then have been a kind of 'justice' involved.

As it was, all that can be said is that some of the War Criminals were killed by the rest of the War Criminals, just as would have happened if Germany had won.

**A VERY SHORT STORY.** Ira Hayes was an Indian. Indians are supposed to be savages who scalp people. Ira Hayes was not a savage and he never scalped anybody. His tribe, the Pima, had never been scalpers—they considered scalping an evil act. The Pimas became Christians and tried to be good Americans. War came. Ira Hayes joined the Marines, because he wanted to be a Christian and a good American. He was sent to the Pacific. He saw his buddies, his white buddies, scalping and beheading Japanese. He thought, "They wouldn't do that to other white men." He knew that Americans did not behead or scalp Germans. He wondered what kind of attitude white people have toward non-whites.

He wondered about it a lot. He stopped trying so hard to be a Christian and a good American. He drank. He drank a great deal. Somewhere along the line he happened to be with five other Marines and helped them raise a flag on Iwo Jima. This made him a hero. It did not make him stop wondering about white men who chop the heads off yellow men. It did not make him stop drinking. Eventually, he died of alcoholism.

The Government put up a big statue of the Iwo Jima flag-raising in Washington. Every day young men walk past it and it inspires them. They look at it and think, "Now *that* war was for something. It was for human dignity and against fascism and barbarism." This proves what a Latin poet said long ago: that war is sweet, to those who know it not.

My wife and I are bringing up our children without a belief in Santa Claus. Strangely enough, some people who are otherwise rational say that the Santa Claus myth is so much fun that the children are missing something wonderful by not believing in it. "After all," they say, "you can tell them the truth in a few years, and they won't grow up believing in it."

To which I reply, tersely: Nutz!



In the first place, any lie you tell your child destroys some part of his confidence in you; and it is just as important for him to have faith in you in his early years as it is for him to doubt you in his adolescence. A small child is literally helpless in many ways and must depend upon its elders; if it cannot trust them, its whole psychology becomes riddled and shot through with half-conscious anxieties and neuroses. Only in his teens, when he is stronger, can he afford the luxury of "thinking for himself" without it being a traumatic experience.

(It is because most people never really grow out of childish dependencies—because they have been lied to so much by their own parents and have a permanent case of existential jitters—that they *cannot* "think for themselves" and clutch so desperately to any Faith which offers them certainty.)

In the second place, our children are having as much fun with Santa Claus as anybody else's kids—perhaps more. Children love "make-believe," when they know it as "make-believe." (So do most adults: what else are art, literature and television but "make-believe" known, and enjoyed, as "make-believe?") The tree, the reindeer, the Christ child. Santa Claus himself, are all a wonderful game to them; and if they believed in these

## Religious Socio-Politics Around the World

**HISTORY IN THE MAKING.** The Draper Committee, appointed to report on foreign aid, recommended certain changes. Among other things, it said that certain countries had set up "the necessary programs" to bring birth rates into line with mortality rates.

"Most countries lack the large numbers of trained social and public health workers needed to implement an effective program," the report said. It then recommends that the U.S. "assist the countries with which it is cooperating in economic aid programs, on request, in the formulation of their plans designed to deal with the problems of rapid population growth. . . ."

The report's remarks on population control have been considered a "clearly implied" recommendation for promotion of birth control. Loud outbursts of indignation followed from the Catholic hierarchy. This occurrence presages the possibility that the birth control issue, which made such a hassle in New York City, may be involved in the next presidential campaign. This could be extremely embarrassing to a Catholic candidate for President.

**DIAGNOSIS.** After a three-year-old child was strangled to death in Philadelphia by a fifteen-year-old honor student in a parochial school, a bill was introduced in the legislature to provide psychiatric examinations of pupils in both public and parochial schools. *The Pittsburgh Catholic* said that "all who vote for the bill should be themselves psychoanalyzed" and that it was "the silliest and potentially most dangerous piece of hot weather

things they could not possibly enjoy them more, any pompous nonsense-to-the-contrary notwithstanding. Nobody has ever yet tried to claim that it is necessary to believe in Sherlock Holmes in order to enjoy Conan Doyle's wonderful stories.

Harking back to the *National Review* (the Magazine for the Man Who Thinks for His Employees): one of their exercises in pseudo-logic depresses me even more than the others. I refer to their argument that desegregation is unwise because it is making the white southerner act even worse than he did when segregation was legal.

Aside from the fact that this just isn't true (acts of illegality and violence against Negroes were worse during Reconstruction, around the turn of the century, and in the 1920s, than they have been since the desegregation decision of 1954), it is also, on Conservative principles, irrelevant. As Russell Kirk is always saying, the aim of Conservatism is not the happy society but the virtuous society. Besides, Kirk and Buckley and their cohorts (I almost wrote, "their henchmen") are supposed to be disciples of Edmund Burke, and Burke put the ice on this type of argument way back at the

legislation we have come upon in years."

**VACCINATION CONFLICT.** A woman in Trenton took in and adopted three Greek orphans. Then, because she is a Christian Scientist, she refused to have them inoculated against diphtheria. The court has just held that they can be excluded from public school for this reason.

**HER MASTER'S VOICE.** When evangelist Jack Coe died of polio, a disease he had claimed to be able to cure, his widow could not let his multi-million-dollar operations go to pot. So she has taken over the business. Last month, she explained the transference of healing power this way:

"God spoke to me and said, 'I will enlarge the field of thy labors. You shall speak my word to multitudes, and gather a great harvest from the earth. The mantle of my anointing that I put upon thy husband I have now laid upon thee. I will open new doors unto thee and thou shalt make full proof of the ministry I have set before thee.'"

**FELLOW TRAVELERS.** It is not just the Christian Scientists and the Mrs. Jack Coes who believe in faith healing.

Preaching at St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, Canon Christopher J. Loat said that "any priest will tell you of many cases of healing through faith."

And President Eisenhower's pastor, Presbyterian Rev. Dr. L. R. Elson,

addressing a vast crowd at the Minneapolis Aquatennial celebration, cited the "whole development of psychosomatic medicine" as showing that Christ "does bring healing and health" to the bodies of men. Under such a theory, Jewish physicians are handicapped in this branch of their profession.

**JEWISH PREJUDICE.** This month, the special restrictions on movements of Arab citizens of Israel are being relaxed. They will be permitted to travel to most communities — but only during daylight hours.

Race relations in Israel seem now to have progressed to the same point as in Reconstruction days in the South when so many towns put up signs: "Nigger don't get caught in town after sundown." Even some Jews, who happen to come from North Africa, are having similar trouble. In July, a group of them rioted against what they said was police violence against them.

A leader of the Association of North African Immigrants said that his members had found it "difficult to integrate" with Jews from Europe. He also said that "if a North African soldier is a hero, they say he is a Jew. But if he is a criminal, they say he is a Moroccan." This habit of the Israeli press has a familiar ring to American Negroes.

**MASS CENSOR.** Pope John is planning a revision of the Catholic Index of Forbidden Books, which now consists mostly of a listing of obsolete publications. Catholics are forbidden to read anything that they know to be

time of the Gordon Riots.

Burke, it will be remembered, had been largely responsible for the restoration of Civil Rights to Roman Catholics in England. When Protestant fanatics rioted against this much-needed reform, and actually invaded Parliament, Burke was told that, since this violence was the result of his idealistic meddling, he should change his position. Burke angrily repudiated the suggestion. "If we repent of our good deeds," he asked, "how shall we feel about our bad ones?"

He presented an analogy: Suppose I give a coin to a beggar and some lunatic is enraged by this and commits acts of violence; should I then be sorry for my charitable impulse? But Burke went even further. He said he was happy that he had helped Catholics gain their civil rights *precisely because* this had led to such turmoil. The turmoil, Burke said, proved the need for the reforms, by indicating the "state of mind" of those who opposed reform.

I have always admired such great 18th Century conservatives as Burke and John Adams, but I never admire them more than when I compare them with the modern Buckylys and Kirks who claim to be their disciples.

contrary to the Catholic Faith, but the new Index will give them a more specific guide as to what they are not permitted to think about. This means that the staff at the Vatican will have to read numerous books — which at least may do them some good.

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**ITALIAN INTRIGUE.** Silvio Milazzo, who bolted the Catholic party, was elected head of Sicily's semi-autonomous government in spite of threats of hell and damnation from the Cardinal against all who dared support him. Milazzo had the support, among others, of the Communists, while his Catholic party opposition had an alliance with the neo-Fascists and Monarchists.

One of Milazzo's supporters was a former priest whom the Cardinal tried to have removed from office because, under Mussolini's Lateran Treaty with the Vatican, ex-priests are supposed to be disqualified from public office.

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**LEGS AND PROPAGANDA.** Leaders of the Republican party of Italy have protested the drive of Catholic Action against "indecent fashions and activities" of foreign visitors to swank beaches in that country. Last summer, some women tourists who appeared in shorts were tarred by "actionist" mobs of the 3,000,000 member organization.

The hierarchy also instructed its legions to "intervene with determination in the case of illegal Protestant propaganda." The attack on Protestantism is not to be confused with any attack on prostitution, for which the cities of Rome are notorious.

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**LABOR PAINS.** Monsignor George T. Higgins, agent of the Catholic hierarchy for labor relations, says that recent actions of the International Labor Organization are "a significant step in the direction of the so-called Industry Council Plan." Industry Council Plan is an Americanism for the schemes which were proposed in Papal encyclicals and formed the basis of Italian Fascism.

Meanwhile, Paul Hallett, star writer for the Roman Catholic *Register*, says he "never could understand the aversion of so many in industry and labor to compulsory arbitration," which is another device to destroy effective trade unionism, they feel.

Jack McGinty, Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, told the 13th National Convention of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists that "the time may have come for another look" at the Industry Council Plan.

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**UNWELCOME MISSIONARIES.** The Belgian government, and even more so the royal family, collaborates closely with Christian missionaries in the Congo, especially the Catholics. All of

them get governmental subsidies.

Last month, native Roman Catholic political leaders addressed a petition to the Pope complaining that Catholic missionaries still keep natives in a condition of total servitude "to insure their adherence to the Faith." They recalled that last January a million dollars' worth of Catholic mission property had been destroyed by rebellious Congolese.

They complained that Belgian priests had "persistently set the interests of Belgium and Belgian politics above those of the (Catholic) Church." They said that "our faith is losing ground, and we beg the Holy Father as well as Christians throughout the world to pray that liberty may be granted to us in order that we may use our human faculties as do other men before God."

The Pope did not respond. Instead, he conferred the Order of the Grand Cross on Prince Albert of Belgium, recently married to an Italian princess whom he met at a Vatican ceremony.

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**RETALIATION.** At Brazzaville in the Congo Republic, about 2500 Matswanis killed 7 Africans and wounded 43 in a "night of the long knives" against the pro-government Lari tribe. The Matswani sect is a native group which borrows its ceremonial from the Catholic religion.

The Matswanis were retaliating for the death of 35 of their members and injuries to many more when police tried to evict them from a compound, using tear gas grenades.

The Premier of the Congo Republic, which is semi-autonomous but still under French control, is a Roman Catholic priest who has been officially defrocked but continues to wear his clerical robes on all public occasions.

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**A ROBE AND A SPLINTER.** The world was reminded this summer that the exploitation of alleged religious relics of Christ and the Saints is not a thing of the past.

Three million Roman Catholic pilgrims were expected to visit Trier, Germany, from July 19 until September 20 for the first public exhibition in 25 years of what is supposed to be the miraculously preserved seamless robe worn by Christ for which the Roman soldiers cast lots on the Hill of Calvary.

And Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston recently received a relic of the True Cross from the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan which was "reauthenticated" as genuine as late as 1958. He is planning to erect a special chapel to house this splinter of wood; it will be one of the world's largest religious shrines, on a hillside dominating a major highway in East Boston.

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**OUT OF THE FRYING PAN.** A strong light was cast on the nature of the religious leadership which had been provided by the now-exiled Dalai Lama of Tibet, when Communist 'reforms' were announced. The Panchen Lama, who has succeeded the Dalai Lama as temporal ruler, said that the big estates of the monasteries will be broken up and the holy men stripped of ancient privileges.

One of these privileges, he said, was that of "holding serfs" as members of the feudal aristocracy also do. Communist publications described the present way of life in Tibet as "the darkest, the most backward and cruel serf system in the world."

At the same time, however, the International Commission of Jurists filed a report with the United Nations accusing the Chinese Communists of the "crime of Genocide" in attempting to destroy the Tibetan people. (Contrary to the implication of its title, the Commission is a non-governmental voluntary organization of 35,000 lawyers from 53 nations.)

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR.** President Eisenhower has fixed October 7th as National Prayer Day, asking all citizens to "give thanks for the bounty of Providence which has made possible the growth and promise of our land."

Meanwhile — according to advertisements in a single current issue of the national Catholic *Register* — if you suffer from hay fever, or asthma, you can write to Consolidated Chemical Company for inhalers that are smoked like cigarettes; if your baby has teething pains, you can get Numzit teething lotion; if you are ruptured, you can get non-surgical treatment by mail; if you have a backache, you will be cured by Doan's pills; if it's a sour stomach, it can be sweetened with Phillips' Milk of Magnesia; bunions can be reduced with Dr. Scholl's reducers; and pinworms which cause "fidgeting, nose picking, and a tormenting rectal itch," will be literally slaughtered by Janes' P-W tablets.

Sufferers from nervous and mental disorders are exhorted to write to the National Shrine of St. Dymphna, Patroness of such sufferers. And persons wishing to enjoy a secure and definite income for life are urged to invest their money thru Reverend Father Ralph, who sells "Mission contracts." Readers are also offered the aid of St. Jude, who is known as the "saint of the impossible."

The advertisement of his "national shrine" has a coupon on which one may check off whether he wants novenas for employment, peace of mind, financial help, happy marriage, conversion of Russia, world peace, return to the sacraments or thanksgiving. There is also a blank space in which one may

specify which other "impossible" feat one wants St. Jude to perform. Presumably, the more impossible the requests are, the more pleased St. Jude will be. But he will obviously be displeased if the coupon is not accompanied by a check. The fee prescribed is four dollars for one year and seven dollars for two years.

**RESURGENCE.** A Nazi-type organization in Mexico known as the Sinarquista movement, which died out during the Second World War, showed signs of coming back to life. Its representatives have just been permitted to confer with the newly appointed Catholic cardinal about combatting "Protestant infiltration" in that country.

**CANADIAN CAPERS.** While Canada was ruled by Roman Catholic prime ministers, the appointment as Governor General was never given to a Catholic. Now, for the first time, a Roman Catholic has been appointed to that post in which he is personal representative of Queen Elizabeth, head of the Church of England, successor to Henry the Eighth and "Defender of the Faith"; that is, the Protestant Faith.

Responsible for the appointment was Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, a leading Baptist layman, who recently returned from a visit to the Pope saying that he "immediately wins the heart of anyone who has the good fortune of coming in contact with him." Before his election, Diefenbaker favored a bill of rights for Canada, which, like that of the United States, would forbid government aid to churches. This proposal has not been heard of lately.

**SECULAR SWITCH.** Representative Albert A. Bosch has introduced a bill to provide that the pledge of allegiance to our country "under God" shall be displayed in all American diplomatic and consular offices. And the Ohio Senate has passed a resolution adopting a state motto: "With God all things are possible."

Ironically, though, the National Assembly of Roman Catholic Portugal has rejected by 43-37 a motion to invoke the name of God in the revised constitution of the country. The speaker of the assembly said, "We cannot in a document addressed to all Portuguese insist that those who do not follow a specific god shall invoke his name."

**PURGATORIAL GREEN LIGHT.** Pope John has just prescribed a prayer for automobile drivers, addressed to Jesus Christ, "who has travelled here the earth's roads and seas to flee enemies, to heal the infirm and to preach the reign of Heaven," to the Blessed Virgin "who was the support

of the Child Jesus on the road of exile, the guide on his journeys as a boy to the Holy City," and to the Heavenly Spirits who "fly through space as messengers of the Most High."

Whether it will prevent any accidents is problematical. But it does carry with it "if recited under the usual conditions" an "indulgence" of three years. This means that every time a Catholic says the prayer, he will be excused from another three years of the time he would otherwise spend in the fire for his sins.

The Pope has not issued any orders forbidding the carrying of Christopher statues on dashboards, although it has been officially described as a serious driving hazard. Nor has John abolished the white-starched "blindness" worn by his nuns, which have been the cause of at least one fatal accident in recent months.

**MINNESOTA vs. N. Y.** The Minnesota Legislature has killed a bill providing scholarships to either public or church-related colleges. It was objected that it violates constitutional church-state separation. It is claimed that the grants to students are really grants to the churches, that it matters little whether the money goes to the church in the form of direct grants or by payment of tuition of its students.

Yet New York, New Jersey, and other states grant such scholarships, and now the Federal Government is doing so under the "National Defense Education Act," including scholarships for the study of theology in a Methodist village. And the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has just announced that it will grant a number of scholarships at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

**HOMEWORK.** Archbishop William O. Brady of St. Paul, Minnesota has gone to the support of, oddly enough, a Unitarian couple. They were sentenced to jail for refusing to send their son to public school. They are educating him at home and experts testified that they are doing a better job than could be done at school.

**STICKING TO PRINCIPLES.** The American Civil Liberties Union is sometimes criticized for pussyfooting on religious liberty issues to avoid attacks from religious quarters. If this is true, it doesn't do them much good. Three official Catholic diocesan newspapers have recently expressed their opinions of the Union.

The Brooklyn *Tablet* says that the ACLU "has been a champion of civil liberties for Communists or pro-Communists but a foe of liberties for worshippers of God."

The *Universe Bulletin* of Cleveland says that ACLU has an "unbalanced

philosophy" and "is found more and more frequently in opposition to religious citizens."

And the *Times-Review*, of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, says that the Union is "controlled and manipulated by a handful of power thirsty individuals" and "is the closest thing this country has come yet to a dictatorship. More correctly, it is a directorate of the French Revolution style. Officials of this group are busy telling the rest of Americans what is and what is not good for them and then they push around everyone in the country, from the President on down, to make sure their policies of 'what is good for Americans' are followed."

The Catholic complaints were based on (a) the Union's opposition to use of public school buildings by parochial schools; (b) its alleged acceptance of the "church-state separation principle of Protestants and Other Americans United"; and (c) its opposition to the proposal that census enumerators demand information about the religious affiliations of all citizens.

**NO FREE ADVERTISING.** George A. Heinrich, director of the West Coast Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. — which represents some 30,000,000 Protestants — this month attacked American movies for their overemphasis on sex and violence.

He said his group has been studying carefully the movies being released this year, but he declined to name a dozen movies which the group thought had shown a flagrant tendency to stress sex and violence.

The Catholic Legion of Decency might do well to take heed of his reason: he explained that if he named the pictures, it might increase their drawing power at the box office.

### Contributions

We would like to thank the following persons for their contributions this month to The Realist Association — a non-profit corporation which publishes the *Realist* — and donations to which are tax-deductible.

Anon. \$1; Anon. \$10; A. Beckett \$2; Harold & Mary Bishop \$2; Frank T. Bleya \$2; Alfred G. Dorsch \$2; Fred Elder \$2; Dr. Albert Ellis \$5; Simon Emler \$2; John A. English \$4; Roger Frohn \$5; Henry Heller \$2; Alfred Hengst \$2; Richard J. Herbert \$5; S. W. Herman \$5;

Ervin Knowlton \$1; G. Kormel \$2; Duncan McDonald \$2; Walter McLean \$5; Mrs. L. H. Michelson \$2; Robert J. Morrell \$3; Mrs. Mary T. Newell \$1; Urban W. Pfeffer \$2; Silvanus Roden \$1; Gertrude Smith \$5; Ludwig Steiner \$2; Edward T. Wilbur \$5; Cloyd E. Zeiders \$2.50.

Total: \$84.50. Last month's total: \$33.50.

John Francis Putnam's

## Modest Proposals

Two years ago, nobody had ever heard of Apalachin, New York. Today, it has passed into the language. ("In answering our ads, just mention Apalachin, it identifies you.") If this obscure little town were only a few thousand miles closer to Southern California, Walt Disney would move it intact to the perpetual carnival he maintains there and call it Gang-Land.

Even now, tourists with irritable children in tow, peer with adenoidal expressions at the commonplace resort hotel at Apalachin where once the Lords of Darkness met in a brief moment of concord for solemn deliberation (and to divvy up the scratch).

It must have been all those Cadillacs parked in the driveway of a hotel deep in Chevrolet country that caused the steely-eyed State Police to blow the whistle on that first National Convention of the Society for Organized Vice. The honorable members in attendance are now, for the most part, under custodial care and must conduct their business by proxy. For most of the delegates, having been at Apalachin was like having taken a fifth: it left them with unpleasant after-effects.

Meanwhile, Apalachin has prospered — like, for instance, the candy store where that holdup man was shot. People come by who never came before, to spend a nickel and look for blood spots on the floor. Yet this fame — this identity which has come to Apalachin — is the result of an interrupted convention.

Picture what could happen to any small town with enough imagination and initiative to invite members of the Underworld to hold a full Convention in their fair city. The opportunities for aggrandizement are limitless. Look at what conventions and the long week-end did for Atlantic City.

If your town has an itch for aggrandizement, too many empty rooms in the local hotels and a lethargic Police Force, why not set up a Convention Bureau and make plans to invite a Second Mafia Convention, at least as soon as a quorum of these worthies will have been paroled.

We are pleased to offer a few suggestions as to how a Convention like this could be set up and run.

One worth-while aspect of holding conventions is the space-rental deal in the exhibition floors that are a part of all hotels nowadays, where you stick various interested parties with an outrageous fee for the privilege of occupying a booth the size of an egg crate between the cigarette machine and the gents room.

Large corporations are always susceptible to participate in conventions, any convention, just so long as they have a chance to "make friends," distribute samples and pamphlets, and thus improve the patina on their corporate image.

Mosler Safe Corp. is a likely prospect for the convention we have in mind, and their display of cross-sectional models of bank vaults and time-lock devices could well prove to be the hit of the show.

Dole Pineapple, which is as public relations minded as the next company might well be persuaded to take space on the rich possibilities of association with the underworld vernacular for hand grenade. (To the determined P.R. flack, no association is too remote.)

The Treasury Department's Secret Service has always been happy to display, free of charge, their exhibits of counterfeit money side by side with genuine bills. This would offer to certain delegates a chance to improve their techniques and end-products through careful study. Excepting, of course, those lonely poets who still insist on plating three dollar bills.

The Portland Cement Association could set up a demonstration booth to display their latest quick-drying cement. This allows the practitioners of the ancient craft of "feet in the bucket" to weight and dispose of a "subject" in less time than it takes to pry a call girl out from under a stuck zipper.

Esso Touring Service could be depended on to set up a booth with their excellent Consultation Service. Delegates interested in taking a friend for a ride could request specially marked routes showing the better swamps and garbage dumps with information on the location of police road-blocks brought up to date.

As for the Convention proper, Roberts Rules of Order would be revised so as to include some sub-sections from the Manual of Small Arms. Voting would be by acclamation only, with God, as ever, on the side with the most heaters. Resolutions would be drawn up and voted on:

Repeal the third offender law — a man deserves at least six chances if not more; Reduce Police Commissioner Kennedy to the ranks and put him on a midnight-to-morning foot patrol on Staten Island; Give lie-detector tests to all vice squad plainclothesmen who first get themselves picked up by whores and then arrest them up in their hotel rooms; Unemployment compensation for families of the men in stir.

All delegates to conventions wear lapel badges. Since this would be a specialized crowd, only aliases would be worn, and no more than one alias to a badge. (Hello! My Name Is Greasy-Thumb Guzik! Who Are You?)

The educational aspect of the Convention would be covered by many thought-provoking talks and seminars on such subjects as "Cutting Heroin With Seidlitz Powder May Lose You Customers"; "Door-to-Door Pimpmanship"; "Irresponsible Juvenile Delinquents Make It Hard For the Self-Respecting Mobster"; "Forgery For the Left-Handed."

The Convention could establish an annual Waxey Gordon award (up to \$100,000 bail, interest- and security-free) for the most sympathetic plea before a court made by a junkie arrested for selling "horse" to high-school kids after having hooked them with free samples.

A small gold-plated statuette which would be nick-

(Continued on page eleven)

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