

RE Week: 'Atomic Age,' 'Kingdoms'

Church-state Wall Attacked by Father

A wall of separation between church and state was attacked by the Rev. Matthias Burger, in a talk Tuesday morning in the Student Union.

Father Burger, representing the Roman Catholic faith during Religious Evaluation week, stated that such a wall was fine when considering the two as separate institutions. However, he continued, since both institutions deal with collections of the same individuals, it was impossible to draw this line of distinction. Rather than solving the problem, this would only make it worse, according to Father Burger.

The problem of separation of church and state was called a political question by Father Burger. It is one that will vary widely in different states, different cultures, and different eras, he said. "Since both come from God, each has sovereignty in its own sphere, and are distinct and are self-contained in matters with which they deal."

In the United States, pointed out

Father Burger, the question seems to present no great problems. In this country the church is distinct from the government, yet co-oper-



ation characterizes their relationship. Catholics, for the most part, said Father Burger, would have it no other way.

Catholic Concept of Faith As Foundation Of Church Underlined by Father Burger

In an impatient, materialistic America, the Catholic concept of faith as the "foundation stone" of the church is of great significance, according to the Rev. Matthias Burger.

America has "belittled the theoretical in favor of the practical" with catastrophic effect," he said, noting that today we face the bolshevik philosophy which itself has "the dynamic force of faith."

Father Burger, final morning speaker in Monday's RE schedule offered the faith concept as one of four features in Catholicism which he believed have "the most significance in the tradition of the church and most applicable to our present day."

Others included the Catholic "sacramental view of the visible world," their works of charity and their assessments of the value of the individual man.

Noting that to the church the idea of objectivity "begins with an attitude of humble obedience," Father Burger explained that "I do not seek democracy between myself and God."

"Objectivity is the truths that Christ has revealed," the assistant student councillor at Mt. Angel Seminary said. In the question period which followed he explained the idea further.

Obedience, as virtue, did not include gullibility, he stressed. He also acknowledged there is a time,

Mr. Wright Urges Fraternity of Men

Approximately 100 persons Monday heard the Rev. Paul Wright, pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Portland urge a "fraternity of all men" as a weapon against communism.

In his address, "The Protestant Church Looks at Communism", Mr. Wright stated that "we should not sacrifice ideals for short run objectives" in the fight against communism.

The best way to "take the wind out of communist sails" is the idea of brotherhood he asserted. An approach to the problem through religion is necessary for, under God, all men are brothers, he added.

Caesar-Christ Conflict Represents World Issue, Dr. Florovsky Says

The true world issue is between "Caesar and Christ", not between the East and West, or capitalism

and communism, or totalitarianism and democracy.

Theme Tuesday was "The Kingdoms of This World."

That's what the Very Rev. Georges Florovsky, Greek Orthodox priest, emphasized Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the Student Union Dad's lounge.

"The field of the human soul" is the only place the present conflict can be won, Dr. Florovsky said, and religion alone can win it.

The Russian church has freedom to conduct public worship, but no evangelical freedom, he explained. Only since the war has stringent religious persecution been lightened in Russia. He stressed that Communist dogma believes that religion is the "opiate of the masses" and a "disguise of reaction". Thus, the Russian church will never be allowed to become strong, and is in a precarious position.



Meserve States Democracy Role

The religious background of democracy summed up is to possess a tone of spirit to look out upon the world and to see the problems, evils and frustrations which men face and be willing to tackle these problems still believing that the world is a "good creation", the Rev. Harry C. Meserve told an audience of approximately 100 persons in the Dad's lounge Tuesday afternoon.

"Democracy is not perfect today, but I believe we are moving in the right direction," Mr. Meserve said, speaking on "Religious Foundations of Democracy." He based this belief on the fact that there is a deep undertone of feeling in America that democracy is not a finished product but remains the ultimate goal to attain.

Once we realize that the brotherhood of man is true, Meserve said, and that discrimination and prejudice results from a failure to adjust to this realism, then mankind can build upon available skills and techniques to learn to live together.

Meserve maintained that the original separation of church and state in this country resolved from the impossibility of choosing a state religion from those represented at the formative meetings of our government. A state supported church is the best way for any religion to ultimately lose its freedom, he said.

Maser Covers Refugee Plight

The tragedy of refugees is impossible to exaggerate, Clifford E. Maser told a religious evaluation audience Monday morning.

Maser, who is dean of the school of business and technology at Oregon State, spoke on "Refugees and Displaced Persons as a World Problem." He worked with refugees throughout Austria and Germany for 13 months as a representative of the American Friends service committee.

"The escapees are the best treated of all the refugees," Maser said. The displaced persons, on the other hand, are now a very small segment of the refugees, and are also the worst treated.

The rate of their coming depends on the kind of treatment they are getting in the eastern zone, the Dean said, and recent brutal treatment has increased their number to about 11,000 a day.

"The Germans are to be congratulated for having accommodated these people so well," Maser said, but he emphasized their tragic condition.

Those who were sent to agricultural areas of Germany often live in pig sties or hay lofts, he said. Refugees living in cities are housed in camps, air raid shelters, or basements.

Refugees who live in basements are lucky, he said, even if they have no water or other facilities.

Those in air raid shelters have no rooms, only a square number of metres of their own; they have very little furniture and absolutely no privacy.

Knowledge of Eastern Church Said Vital to Knowing Christian Ground

In order to understand the common Christian ground, one must understand the Eastern church, the Very Rev. Georges Florovsky told a crowd of about 100 people Monday morning.

The day's theme was "Man in the Atomic Age."

Dr. Florovsky, a priest of the Greek Orthodox church, born in Odessa, Russia, spoke on the Eastern Tradition in Christianity.

"People say that the Orthodox church is archaic," he said, "but that is a poor criticism. If we reject everything that is archaic then we must throw out the Holy Bible, and the works of Plato and Aristotle."

"No life, no historical existence can exist without tradition. Tradition is the living stream with which nations and cultures are linked together."

"Christianity came from the East," Dr. Florovsky told the audience. "Christ was in Palestine, the first churches were in the East, Paul crossed the Aegean sea and landed in Greece."

However, he continued, the churches did not remain stagnant. They grew, developed and changed because the nations grew, yet the church now is several churches which can be traced back several centuries.

In this way, he explained, the church is both archaic and up-to-date.

"By the Eastern tradition," Dr. Florovsky said, "I do not mean Oriental, because the distinct feature is Hellenistic. Latin was first used in the Roman Catholic services in the fourth century. Before that time the services were conducted in Greek."

Gossard Says Danger of Germany Is In Authoritative Pattern, Not the People

The danger of Germany to the world today is not in the people but in the authoritative pattern, Hal Gossard told his audience in the Dad's lounge Tuesday morning.

Gossard, who has served for the past four years as director of the educational program in southern Germany for the state department, spoke on "A Spiritual Interpretation of Germany."

Germany today is a symbol of the struggle of forces in Europe, Gossard said. The educator traced a history characterized by a framework of authority.

Blaming this for the Germans' lack of individual leadership and imagination, Gossard added, "They have had no democratic experience. Military and industrial leaders never allowed the people to develop a democratic system."

The modern German is very conscious of authority, which is evidenced even in the home. They have little conception of democracy, and changing this is the big problem of rehabilitation, Gossard pointed out. "Someone can come along with a popular cause and, seizing authoritative power, the people accept the false leadership."

When the United States set about bringing economic order to Germany after World War II, they found the deluge of refugees and

a dearth of leadership among the major problems.

The first post-war German mayors and chiefs were hand-picked according to their ability, said Gossard. Then the allies instituted a "grass-roots" democracy among the common people, by establishing PTA's and community forums.

Real Red Threat Said to Be Fear

The real threat of communism is the spreading of fear among a free people, the Rev. H. C. Meserve, religious evaluation speaker, told his audience Monday afternoon in the Dad's lounge.

America should offer to the people of the world something to believe in, rather than maintain a defensive attitude toward communism, he emphasized.

Mr. Meserve is minister of the First Unitarian church of San Francisco and has recently written a book, "Faith in the Making."

In his speech, "Liberalism versus Communism," Mr. Meserve indicated the role of the liberal today. Keeping alive values in a world that is beginning to leave them behind and become a slow and steady force to strengthen the American heritage is the liberal's role, he said.