

Devout Catholic Keeps Faith While Administering Atom

(Editor's Note: Thomas E. Murray, one of five men who manage America's vast atomic energy empire, sees no conflict between the atom's power for destruction and his love of God. Here's a closeup of one of the most devout men in government service, a fast thinking inventive genius who believes America's greatest industrial wonders still in the future.)

By FRANK CAREY

WASHINGTON (AP)—At 7:30 every morning a slim, neatly dressed man kneels at mass in a Washington church, receives Holy Communion and prays for peace.

Then, after a quick breakfast, Thomas E. Murray hurries to his office at the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission where he does everything in his power to increase the potency of nuclear weapons that could ravage great cities.

This apparent contradiction disappears when Murray explains how he feels about his job as one of the nation's five atomic energy commissioners.

"We know God made the atom," he says. "Because God made it, the atom is good. Man never has anything to fear in God's material creation. Our only fear—and our great responsibility—is not what we do with things but what we do with ourselves. We know nuclear energy can be devoted to constructive and destructive purposes. It rests with man's conscience to decide which it shall be."

Sons Study for Priesthood
Thus Murray, father of two sons presently studying for the Jesuit priesthood and a man who maintains private chapels in both his Park Avenue home in New York and his summer residence on Long Island, sees no conflict between God and the atom.

He has kept his faith at the forefront for most of his 62 years, despite demands of a busy career in which he has become:

A wealthy industrial engineer, corporation executive and bank director.

An inventor of some 200 electric and welding devices and processes.

A successful receiver and reorganizer of New York's 500 million dollar Interborough Rapid Transit Co., which went broke in the 1930s.

Public representative on the three-man board of trustees of the United Mine Workers' 15 million dollar health and welfare fund.

Murray has thrice been knighted by Pope Pius XII for his contributions to human welfare and to his church—yet he is a confirmed crusader for the H-bomb.

He recently proposed that foreign observers, presumably including the Russians, be allowed to observe tests of new American-made atomic weapons, which he says will make the original atomic bombing of Japan "look like a civil war bombardment."

Order Cancelled
Some time ago, the armed forces cancelled an order for an AEC-developed reactor to power an aircraft carrier. That meant funds appropriated for that purpose were to be withdrawn.

But Murray and others at AEC

felt strongly that certain technological aspects of the proposed carrier reactor could be salvaged.

"Murray fought like a tiger in executive sessions of congressional committees," fellow AEC commissioner Eugene Zuckert says, "and funds were allowed for the AEC to convert the original project to one providing the basis for a large-scale reactor which might furnish valuable lessons about civilian atomic power."

Murray also explored the sentiments of private industry on the matter to find out who was ready to put up money and how much. He found little such prospect.

"It was largely due to Murray's findings that the government decided to go ahead on its own, without waiting for private industry to take the initiative," Zuckert said.

A successful businessman himself, Murray is a strong advocate of private enterprise in the atomic energy field.

His father Thomas E. Murray, Sr., left an estate estimated at 10 million dollars when he died in 1929, but he had no cash to spare in 1891 when Tom, Jr., was born, the second of eight children.

The Murray's lived close by the Albany, N.Y., Electric Co., where the father worked as an engineer.

One of his boyhood heroes was a power company lineman named Pete, who had a unique system of setting up power line poles.

"He would dig the hole," Murray's older brother Joe reminisces, "then manage to roll the pole off the wagon in such a way that it blocked the street. He'd wait until a traffic jam developed, then say to harassed milkmen and tradesmen stalled in the tieup: 'I've had a little tough luck, boys. How about a lift getting this pole up?'"

Pete's strategy almost always was successful, and it apparently stuck with young Tom Murray, who used the same kind of technique on at least one occasion later in life.

Murray demonstrated adroit maneuvering at a meeting with United Mine Workers chief John L. Lewis.

"John had me backed up against a wall in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel one day in 1946 urging me to take a job as impartial trustee of the miners' health and welfare fund," Murray told me.

"Let's Pretend"
"I said: 'Look, John, let's just make believe I've taken the job and was meeting with you and the government representative. (The soft coal mines at that time had been taken over by the government.) Let's get the government man down here, and we'll see what you'd say and what the government man would say and what I'd say if we were really in business.'"

"John said okay. We all got together for a trial run meeting, and everything worked out fine. So, I said: 'Okay, I'm in—and we've already had our first meeting!'"

"John got a big kick out of it." On summer weekends the big

Murray home in Southampton, L. I., bulges with Murray children—there are 11 of them—grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Murray doesn't smoke or drink. He takes no credit for not smoking—"I tried it in college and it just made me sick."

On Murray's desk at AEC is an object which in a way symbolizes his still-fresh outlook on life.

It is a transistor, the ingenious device some engineers say eventually may replace the vacuum tube. Murray did not invent the transistor, but he says:

"I keep it in front of me as a constant reminder that the days of inventiveness are not past."

Valentines Are for the Birds, Ancient Writings Indicate

By HERB ALTSCHULL

WASHINGTON (AP)—According to ancient legend Sunday's the day when "every fowl cometh . . . to choose his mate."

At least that's what the day used to signify when Geoffrey Chaucer, who meant fowls when he said "fouls," wrote about it back in the 14th century. Nowadays, St. Valentine's Day is likely to evoke such greetings as:

"Roses are red, violets are blue, 'Mary loves Tom, she doesn't love you."

It used to be that Valentine greetings were concerned mostly with the theme of "I Love You. Now the small fry get pretty cruel in some of their heart-shaped messages.

At any rate, the National Geographic Society estimates that 300 million Valentines will be exchanged this year and that it'll

Dads Club at Oregon State Elects Leader

CORVALLIS (AP)—Paul Menegat, superintendent of schools at Forest Grove, is new president of the Oregon State Dads Club.

He was elected at the annual Dads' weekend here. At noon Saturday more than 1,100 dads had registered.

Menegat succeeds Bert W. Farnes of Portland. Other officers elected Saturday:

Vice president, Al Bauer, Portland; secretary, James L. Hellig, Portland; and treasurer, Urcel C. Narver, Portland.

Directors: Walter Erickson, Warren; P. B. Webb, Cottage Grove; Fred Knox, Gaston; Winslow Cuthbert, Eugene; Paul M. Deller, Klamath Falls; and J. N. Dahlin, Bend.

The dads picked as a project for the year, establishment of a new scholarship for each Oregon county.

Appointments, Promotions Told in 929th

New appointments and two promotions were announced this week for officers and men in the 929th Field Artillery Battalion.

Appointments include assistant operations and training officer, Capt. Lloyd G. Hammel; intelligence officer, 1st Lt. Robert G. Coates; executive officer for Battery A, 1st Lt. Thomas L. Teutsch; motor officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Lt. George F. Wilson; assistant intelligence officer, 1st Lt. Alfred C. Jones; assistant executive officer of A Battery, 1st Lt. Lynn J. Callahan; reconnaissance and survey officer with A Battery, 1st Lt. Raymond A. Carl.

Promotions to private 2 went to Harry Lawson III, and Everett W. Hatch.

GOP Both Friendly, Accusative Of Democrats on Lincoln Day

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans brought Lincoln Day oratory to a Saturday night climax that mingled friendly gestures toward moderate Democrats with another furious fusillade of charges that the opposition party coddled Communists.

Here and there, Democrats thundered back more hot protests that the GOP is trying desperately to convince America that theirs is a party of communism and treason.

In large measure, the oratorical salvos across the land sounded much like the same records the party partisan have been playing over and over for a week or more in tune-up for what looks like one of the roughest, bitterest congressional election campaigns in many a year.

Appreciate Hand
Sen. Knowland of California, the Republican leader of the Senate, held out an appreciative hand to "moderate Democrats in Congress" for "fine support" of Republican policies "essential to the national defense and functioning of our government."

But House Speaker Martin (R-Mass.) called upon the GOP to "sweep back for all time the tide of waste, bankrupt spending and Communist coddling that carried us to the edge of ruin."

And Wendell B. Barnes, head of the Federal Small Business Administration, wrapped together in one speech all the Republican accusations that have been hiking Democratic tempers to the boiling point.

In his prepared text, Barnes spoke, too, of Communist coddling and lit into "fuzzy-minded New Deal Democrats" as "gloom and doom people" who now are peddling a "Fear 'Deal'" and "scare talk."

While playing politics with human misery and the safety of the Free World, he said, "they are crying all over the place and threatening to sabotage needed legislation if the President doesn't halt these terrible accusations."

From Sen. Holland (D-Fla.) came a counter blast that Republicans are trying to cover up guilt and an inability to get things done.

Sen. Lehman (Dec-Lib-NY) saw in "hysterical attacks on the Democratic Party" a sign that Republicans "sense fear and defeat."

Cannoning Echoed
The political cannoning echoed around the nation in Republican addresses prepared for traditional rallies honoring Lincoln, the party founder, and in Democratic speeches prepared for Jefferson-Jackson Day events or other party get-togethers.

But above the noise of the political bombing rose the soothing voice of Sen. George (D-Ga.) saying that "the only people who are disturbed by what a politician says are other politicians."

George told a reporter he didn't think there would be much lasting effect from all the charges and counter-charges because:

"This is a political year and you've got to expect things like that."

Farouk Items Go on Block; Some 'Junk'

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—The fabulous trinkets of a luxury-loving ex-monarch went on the auction block Friday.

The auctioneer's gavel rang out in ex-King Farouk's Kubbeh Palace marking the beginning of the biggest rummage sale of royal property the world has ever seen. The beneficiary—over exiled Farouk's distant protests—is Egypt's military-run government which ousted the fat ruler.

Tens of thousands of exotic items, valued at about five million dollars, will go under the gavel before the auction ends.

The sale began with Farouk's fantastic hoard of postage stamps. It will take six days to dispose of that collection alone. A spokesman for H. R. Harmer, Ltd. of London, which catalogued the stamp collection estimates its value from \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Included were such choice items as a special collection of the American Confederate States worth \$7,500.

But hard-headed dealers looking for finds, labelled much of the stamp collection junk.

Spaniards, who learned the Egyptian art of making mud bricks from the Moors, brought it to America and it is still used for building modern structures in the southwestern part of the United States.

Construction Rise Noted

SEATTLE (AP)—A sharp upswing in private construction in Washington state and throughout the Pacific Northwest in January was disclosed Saturday by the Construction News Bulletin, Seattle business journal.

Major cities and counties in Washington reported January construction at \$15,414,688, up 26 per cent from the \$11,397,883 total in January a year ago, the publication said.

The six-state total of 100 leading cities and counties in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming was reported as \$25,448,013. That was 28 per cent greater than the total in January a year ago and well above the \$20,453,858 of construction in the area in December, the News Bulletin reported.

Flynn Says Nora Put Child Support Pay in Mink, Trips

ROME (AP)—Film star Errol Flynn said Saturday he stopped direct child support payments to ex-wife Nora Eddington Flynn Haymes because the money was being used for mink coats and luxury trips to Europe.

His statement came after newspapers here carried a report from Hollywood saying Nora's attorneys threatened to ask contempt of court proceedings against Flynn unless he met 12 months' back payments of \$500 a month.



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