

Pope Calls on Catholics To Fight 'Diabolical Conspiracy Against Truth'

Vatican City — Pope John XXIII, 79, called on the world's Roman Catholics tonight to fight what he called a "diabolical conspiracy against truth" being carried out through all forms of art and mass communications media.

"In face of the open or covert treason of this Christian ideal, our heart cannot restrain its anguish and our voice shakes," the Pope said in a sad but confident Christmas message to the world.

The pontiff's 5,500-word address was broadcast around the globe by the powerful Vatican Radio and by a link-up of national stations in other countries.

It was devoted for the most part to the theme of "truth"—divine revelation and doctrine as preached by the Roman Catholic Church.

Against this truth, the Pope said, a current of modern thought is raising an "antidecalogue"—the opposite of God's Ten Commandments—encouraging man to kill, to commit adultery, to steal and to bear false witness.

Pope John did not at any point refer specifically to Communism, and his remarks seemed to be of a general nature rather than aimed at any one group.

Despite his stern warning, the Pope made it clear he was confident of the final outcome of the struggle between "truth" and its "travesty."



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Mankind's Inventions Important — But None Equals Miracles of Nature

When you sat down to breakfast this morning did you wonder or consider just where that food came from? The eggs you ate, the toast, the cereal, even the coffee you drank, all came from mother earth. The bacon, crisp or limp, depending on your individual preference, was produced by the chemistry of a living creature that ate materials which grew in the soil. The breakfast food, the coffee beans, the cream you poured in your coffee, the sugar that sweetened it, the fruit juice, the jelly or preserves you spread on your toast, all came from that one place. Not from the grocery store, the dairy, the mill — those places were merely distributing points — but from the earth itself.

Provident Nature

Could you honestly sit at a linen-covered table in a fashionable restaurant and treat your taste-buds to the delicious, tingling delight of a T-bone steak without marveling at the foresight of a provident Nature that made all these things possible?

There are those uninformed and unthinking individuals who vehemently and stupidly maintain that Nature plays no part in their lives. That the birds and bees, the flowers and the plants, the soil and the sun, are only non-essential things having no actual bearing on business, profits, or commerce.

'For the Birds'

"Nature," says the stupid man, "is for the birds." He may add, "My business is real estate, manufacturing, commerce, banking (or any number of other things) all concerned with business. I have no time for the birds and bees routine. I make automobiles, aspirin tablets, machines that lighten housework, or simplify living itself. Nature is for the crackpots, and the time-wasters."

Sure, machines that spin yarn to keep us warm, cars to carry us from place to place, guided missiles to explore outer space all are important to some degree, but not a single one of them sustains the human machine. They all assist in making life easier, but there is not a miracle in the lot.

All mankind's inventions combined can hardly equal in importance, a blade of grass, an ear of corn, an apple or an orange. The combined knowledge an inventive genius of all the people on this earth cannot make a loaf of bread without the grain that grew from the good earth. Neither can they make a bean, an apple or a cabbage. Man, and all his inventiveness has never made a single article that he, or a monkey or a mouse can eat — and we stupidly say "Nature has no meaning for me."

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Talents of Messenger Service Taxed at Christmas Holidays

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD UPI Financial Editor

New York (AP) — Messenger services are continually fulfilling unusual requests for their customers but their talents are really taxed around the Christmas holidays.



Mercury Service Systems, Inc., has had a fair share of these unconventional orders, and proudly notes that it accomplishes them all.

Several business firms each year ask Mercury to deliver Christmas gifts with the messengers garbed in Santa Claus suits. In an out-of-season switch, one firm last year had the Mercury messenger dressed in a rabbit costume to promote his upcoming line of clothes for Easter.

A national magazine once asked Mercury to deliver Christmas gifts to advertising agency space buyers with messengers outfitted in space suits.

Probably the most unusual order came from a wealthy dowager who requested a Mercury messenger dressed as Santa Claus to walk her two beribboned pomeranians down Fifth Avenue in New York to give them "a touch of the Christmas spirit."

Of course this is only the lighter side of a very profitable business that started 22 years ago as a one man operation. The one man was Anton J. Roper, president of Mercury.

Largest in World

Mercury is one of 90 messenger services in New York City but Roper said it is the largest in the world. It now has 300 foot messengers; affiliates throughout this and other countries; operates a

fleet of small trucks for "immediate trucking;" is the official ground carrier with radio-equipped trucks for freight in New York; and operates a helicopter-ground delivery service in coordination with New York Airways.

The company grossed about \$1.5 million this year, 7 per cent ahead of 1959, but Roper said this was one of the smallest year-to-year increases on the company's books. It usually runs about 12 per cent, and he blamed the slowdown in the economy for the dip.

He explained that an adjustment or recession period that the business world has been going through brings about much cost-cutting in most firms, and messenger service sometimes is included in these cuts.

Early Upturn Seen

However, the Mercury executive looks for the messenger business to start rolling again in February or March, much

earlier than the experts expect the economy to get back on the uptrack. He said that by then the new administration should have given some indications of what it plans to do for the economy, helping the indecision now enveloping businessmen.

Roper said his firm's success has been made from the following ingredients: Energy, imagination, patience, industriousness, and a pleasing personality. But, he noted that these ingredients do not spell success unless opportunities are sought to put them to work.

Mercury has a staff of a dozen men who continually call on businessmen to show them how they can save money by hiring messenger service.

Looking ahead, Roper said his firm is continually seeking acquisitions because there

will come a day when accelerated expansion will be necessary to meet increased demand, "and Mercury wants to be prepared."



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Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Milwaukee, Wis.—Rep. Henry S. Reuss, (D-Wis.), on the selection of a sponsor for the telecast of the presidential inauguration:

"If we are going to have a commercial sponsor for this milestone in this history of democracy, I submit that beer is as appropriate a product as any."

Norfolk, Va.—The wife of John Richard, on learning that her husband had decided to remain alone aboard the broken tanker Pine Ridge:

"I didn't think he would do it. He's a good man."

New York—Gen. Douglas MacArthur, on why he chose to answer former President Truman's allegation that MacArthur wanted to use the atom bomb in the Korean conflict:

"I do so only to prevent a complete prevarication of history designed to cover up Mr. Truman's past failures."

San Quentin, Calif.—Gov. Edmund G. Brown's press secretary, on the accidental sending of a Christmas card signed by the governor to a young killer sentenced to die in the gas chamber:

"It's a tragic mistake."

Living Cost Again Hits Record High

Washington — (AP) — The cost of living edged up slightly in November to another record high, the government reported today. It marked the ninth time this year that record levels were set.

Price increases for some foods, movie admissions, and hospitalization in S. U. R. A. N. C. pushed up the Labor Department's consumer price index by one-tenth of 1 per cent, the report showed.

The November index reading of 127.4 was up 1.4 per cent from a year earlier. It was the ninth time in 11 months this year the index has gone up. Once it declined and once it held steady.

Some Declines

Although the over-all movement was up, there were November price declines for several items. These included clothing, new houses, medicine and some fresh foods.

The department said that on the basis of the November

index, 225,000 workers would get wage increases. Their pay rate is tied to the index by cost-of-living clauses in their contracts.

Most of the workers, chiefly employees in meatpacking, and aircraft and missile manufacturing, are to get wage increases of two cents an hour.

About 10,000 scattered metal workers will get three cents more. Other employees in aircraft and other lines will get a one-cent increase.

Eight Cent Boost

Another 25,000 employees of retail foodstores in Los Angeles county who are represented by the Retail Clerks International Union are scheduled to get a pay boost of eight cents an hour. This is their first living cost adjustment in two years, the department said.

A cut in the average factory work week trimmed the weekly take-home pay of the average factory worker with

NEW WHERE TO GO

Waukegan, Ill. — (AP) — Commercial fisherman Mathon Kyriltis last fall studied the habits of Lake Michigan perch and came up with the prediction that it would be a mild winter. Newsmen decided to ask him Thursday to explain the sub-zero cold wave which gripped the area in the wake of a deep snowfall. They were told he already had left for a cruise in the Caribbean.

three dependents from \$81.18 in October to \$80.95 in November. Buying power was slightly reduced further by the over-all increase in prices.



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