

"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

Is This Christianity?

That officials in the religious life of our country are issuing long-winded statements against our President's appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican state is a sad state of affairs. It is an abuse of the great right of petition so important to us. A privilege is only a privilege so long as it is treated as such. Using the power and influence of the religious part of our lives against the simple appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican state is the doing of an act which cheapens the religious beliefs of millions of honorable non-Catholics.

Indeed, a feeling of disgust erupts when viewing those of the President's own religious faith feverishly signing their names to petitions against Gen. Mark Clark's being ambassador to the Vatican state. True, a U.S.A. citizen may rightly petition his government about anything, but—and it is a big "but"—there is no right to hurl insults by that route. It is an insult to the U.S.A. that poorly informed citizens should be party to spilling poisonous words on the less than "world shaking" thing of a U. S. representative to the Vatican state.

It is admitted by all that our form of government means freedom from religious control. Our founding fathers wanted the new government free of religious fetters. That their choice was a wise one is clear. If the same religious fanatics who now shout so emotionally were in control of government—how strange the things we would see done in the name of Christianity. By what means an ambassador to the Vatican state would control our U.S.A. government and ruin our religious freedom has not been explained. Rest assured no explanation will be given.

If there isn't the guiding hand of small politicians back of this "no Vatican state ambassador" petitioning—no doubt they are greedily using it. Those who thirst for power have little mind for the rights of true religious and political freedom—rather they thrive on abuse of such rights. The President has not withdrawn his recommendation—he stands firm. The President pleaded with the religious leaders of the U.S.A. not a year ago, for a simple, united stand for Christianity.

The President got nothing except bitter criticism for his efforts. He wanted this simple affirmation of Christian faith so that Stalin can not say so freely all over the world that ours is not a true Christian nation. Now these same religious officials add more fuel to the idea that ours isn't a Christian nation. Many U.S.A. citizens still have red faces about their signing communist dreamed-up so-called peace petitions. We earnestly hope citizens will think twice about putting their names to such petitions.—Arthur L. Davis.

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Editorial Comments:

A LETTER FROM A TRUCK DRIVER

"I don't know who the driver was," the truck driver wrote to the Oregon Teamster newspaper, "but for a while after it happened he was a badly scared man.

"You see, it was like this. I was driving a double-bottom toward Salem about 4 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon. It was cloudy, the road was wet. I wasn't moving fast because I was on an up-grade just before you hit the top of the hill at Aurora.

"A string of cars, held up by a slow-moving farmer's pickup, was coming down toward me. All of a sudden this Chevy, about three cars back pulls out of line to pass the pickup. I guess he saw right away that it was a mistake. But he poured it on and decided to come around anyway.

"The pickup driver mustn't have seen him coming because he didn't move an inch. I swung off fast as far as I could to the right. I don't know what those things are that you measure distance in when inches are too big to describe it. But whatever they are, he made it by one of those—and no more!

"He was young and there was a young girl with him. She just threw her hands up in front of her eyes and opened her mouth. I guess she was screaming. He had his mouth set, his eyes straight ahead and if I ever saw fright before, it was written all over his face.

"I don't suppose he'll read this. But, in case he does, I would like to tell him, 'Son, if you keep driving like that you aren't going to be living very long. And if I were that girl with you, I'd tell you goodbye right now. You and the others who take unnecessary chances on the highway haven't got much future to speak of.'

"Before it's too late, take a tip from a guy who's seen the times when fellows like you didn't make it. It just isn't worth it."—The Oregon Teamster.

EISENHOWER CONSENTS TO CANDIDACY

Ike is in. It was a sort of side door entrance, with Senator Lodge pulling and Senator Duff pushing. At any rate, his political sponsors got him to consent to accept the GOP nomination for President. His own statement makes it clear that (1) he is a Republican, (2) he will accept the republican nomination for president, (3) that he will take no part in the pre-convention campaign, (4) that he will not resign his present job with NATO to enter the political lists.

This is the end of the mystery that was no longer a mystery after his recent visit in America. From what he said in public and what his sponsors drew from him in private, it was evident that he was ready to cross the political Rubicon. It was also evident after that visit that Democratic attempts to enroll him as a Democratic candidate had failed.

Eisenhower's name will be entered in the New Hampshire primary in March, the first to be held. Four years ago he asked to have his name withdrawn from that state's primary. Then he wrote to Leonard V. FINDER, publisher of the Manchester Evening Leader:

"It is my conviction that the necessary and wise subordination of the military to civil power will be best sustained, and our people will have greater confidence that it is so sustained, when lifelong professional soldiers, in the absence of some obvious and overriding reasons, abstain from seeking high political office . . . Politics is a profession; a serious, complicated and, in its true sense, a noble one.

"In the American scene I see no dearth of men fitted by training, talent and integrity for national leadership. On the other hand, nothing in the international or domestic situation especially qualifies for the most important office in the world a man whose adult years have been spent in the military forces. At least, that is true in my case."

To be sure he left himself an escape clause—"in the absence of some obvious and over-riding reasons"—but



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

It's Slim's
For An "Honest" Meal

Most people thought Slim Benson would probably go broke when he first started his system of letting customers figure out their own checks over at his big diner on the highway.

Slim trusts them to pay for as much as they eat—you simply tell Sally, his cashier, the amount of your bill. It works, too. Take the other day when Buck Harris told Sally his bill was 35c.

Now I was right there with Buck and I knew all he had was coffee and pie which comes to a quarter. "How come thirty-five

some will assert that the ideas he expressed in 1948 are valid today.

It is only fair to Ike to say that he has literally been dragged into this race, so far as we can observe; that he would much prefer to rest on his military laurels and engage in private pursuits. He yields to what he feels is the call of his country, to discharge his duty as a citizen in very critical times.—The Statesman.

Editor's Letter Box

Dear Editor:

Isn't it a shame some one doesn't produce a Christmas tree, an artificial one that could be used for several years and stop this waste of beautiful firs? For one month we enjoy them decorated up, then we have to discard them where in the forest they grow into large trees which will provide shelter for our wild life, beauty for us who seek it. The motto "Let's Keep Oregon Green" can start by finding a replacement for our usual Christmas trees. Like other good things in life, trees are a priceless heritage which we can pass on to the next generation so let's make a New Year resolution to take care of our trees.

CHRISTENE FRENCH,
4852 Rickman Rd. Salem.

To the Editor:

This letter taken from the Oregon Statesman should be reprinted in every western Oregon newspaper. It wins my most enthusiastic approval as I am a woodlot owner and can assure you from my own experience that the average Christmas tree cutter is an unappreciative, inconsiderate destructionist.

Every year there are thousands of Christmas trees left on the street corners of every city that are not sold. It is an inexcusable destructive waste. Why not confine Christmas decorations to lighting the shrubbery and house front? What could be more obvious than that there is more beauty in an evergreen tree while it grows, as nature intended for it to do, than after it has been murdered and adorned with a false halo of artificial lights? Isn't a living human being more attractive than an illuminated corpse or skeleton? And finally, did Christ ever call for the sacrifice of millions of trees by crucifying them on cross-stands?—Respectfully,
LEONARD MOSEER, Route 6, Salem

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to be published in our local papers, so that it will reach everyone. The purpose of this letter is to ask each one who reads this letter to contribute to the local March of Dimes.

Why do I have an interest? It was this New Year's eve that my husband, 25 years old, was stricken with polio. He is now in our local Salem Memorial hospital where he is now resting in an iron lung. All of which makes me qualified to ask for your help. It is not only materially that I appeal to you but spiritually, also. Not only for my husband but for the hundreds of people all over the United States.

For an example of how important your contributions are, I will show you by my husband's example.

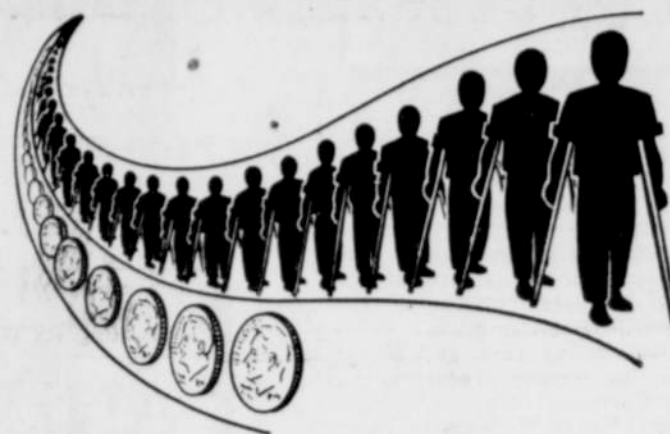
It was Monday evening when we took my husband to the hospital, thinking he had only the flu with complications. But after careful examination it was diagnosed as polio.

You can imagine what I felt since I have two children, Bernadette Elizabeth, almost 2, and Martin Douglas, almost 5 now. You can imagine my relief when I saw him safely placed in the ironlung, where I once more saw him begin to breathe more easily and to relax and drop off into the first sleep in four days.

We still do not know what my husband's outcome will be, but I have been assured as far as financing of his treatment which consists in this first stage of special care 24 hours a day with a registered nurse watching over him at all times. I do know that it will be through your financial assistance in this new year that my husband, as well as many others, will be helped back to normal and happy life. (God be willing or if it be God's will).

There is not much more to be said except that people do not act unless it strikes near home. If this be your case, let me be your friend, let my

The March of Polio is OUT-PACING THE MARCH OF DIMES



March of Dimes incurred \$5,000,000 debt aiding 67,800 Polio patients in 1951. This included 45,000 cases carried over from previous years.

Despite yearly increases in March of Dimes receipts, the rising tide of polio has forced the National Foundation into debt each of the last four years. The debt in 1951 was approximately \$5,000,000. The financial crisis faced by the March of Dimes has been brought about not only by increased incidence but also by increased costs and increased numbers of carry-over cases requiring aid long after they have been stricken. The March of Dimes aided 45,000 such cases last year, in addition to the four out of five new patients needing aid in 1951.

Shifting--

(Continued from Page 1)

gives students what is often the fourth or fifth choice of the commission. Such compromises, many times on inferior texts, make teachers lose respect for decisions of the commission, Dr. Holy states.

The majority of educators, as well as representatives of school book companies advise "an approved list" rather than specified texts, from which local districts then make their own selection. However, the report does not recommend canceling out the commission yet.

It cannot be done as long as there are so many small districts without leadership of a calibre to select texts, and set curriculum, it is said.

"Third class districts spend six times as much on audio-visual aids as first class districts—and have a much less adequate program."

The trend in the United States is toward better districting.

West Virginia has county-wide districts.

A total of 40 districts in Utah. Texas has eliminated some 1800 districts in past few years.

Arkansas has reduced number of districts from 1000 to 400. Illinois had 12,000 districts in 1937. It now has about 4,000 and is still cutting.

Washington has shown more progress in reorganization than any other Western state.

South Carolina combined 1,092 districts to a total of 104 districts.

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