

Time's Hypocrisy: The Continuing Saga

The cover story is about aching backs. On the cover we can see half of an aching back (cut vertically), and, naturally, one neatly exhibited, beautifully curved left buttock of a youthful model, as well as a lovely contour of her left breast. We know several grandmas with excruciating back aches; for some reason, they were not asked to model for an illustration of what *Time* calls "the oldest agony." We wonder why?

Inside such an eloquently coy cover, we find, among other things, an essay entitled "The Bull Market in Personal Secrets." Its author complains bitterly about the recent flood of salacious memoirs of movie stars and other celebrities. We read there:

The public traffic in what used to be respected as intimate lore is con-

spicuous and feverish enough to have provoked some thought about the implications of the trend. Something more than a mere departure from decorum must be involved when a society begins to live habitually in a blizzard of under-the-rug sweepings.

We may be able to help the editors of *Time* in their newest agony. That "something more" they are fretting about can be found in what they propound as movie and book reviews, what they support in their "Behavior" section, and, above all, what they relish in their "People" department. A hard look at the last 15 years of their own journal would make them marvel at their contribution to the nausea in our popular culture. But would they admit it? Ever? □

Correct

In a recent issue of *The New Republic*, we found an elucidating, impressive and, to our mind, valuable essay entitled: "War Against the West," by Mr. J. B. Kelly. We can read there:

... the West, which is equated in the Arab mind with Christendom, has remained a familiar and tangible enemy, one which has never ceased, at least in popular mythology, to oppress and exploit the Arab peoples.

Racked thus by powerful sentiments of grievance and resentment against the West, the Arabs see the oil weapon as a gift sent by God to redress the balance between Christendom and Islam. It enables them to act as though the might and grandeur of the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates has been restored, to lay the Christian West under tribute to the Moslem East, and to fulfill the destiny which God in His infinite wisdom has ordained

for those to whom He has chosen to reveal the one true faith. Extravagant though these fancies may appear to Western eyes, they are very real to those who entertain them, and infinitely more appealing than the calmer dictates of reason

The conduct of the Arab oil-producing states over the past decade has demonstrated beyond the slightest doubt that their actions are motivated far more by rapacity and by rancor toward the West than they are by fear of the Soviet Union

That upsurge and its aftermath also exposed the irrelevance of the belief in the incompatibility of Islam and Marxism with which the West has been wont to comfort itself.

In *The Rockford Papers* of September 1979, Leopold Tyrmand wrote:

In the Middle East, Israel is only a

part of a much larger problem. We live in a time when the Moslem and Arab world is materializing its centuries-old dream. Christianity defeated Islam in the historic struggle for the Eastern hemisphere; this was completed in the 19th century by the colonial empires of England and France. However, both Islam and the Arabs... have never relinquished the idea of revenge. Oil as a weapon has made vengeance feasible... the Mohammedan universe, under Arab stewardship, is to embark on the crusade for its long-awaited preponderance on the world scene... The Arabs cannot deploy their oil strategy against the West so long as Israel exists. Oil must first serve to force the West to annihilate Israel... The West cannot lose sight of the arch-totalitarian vectors of Moslem and Arab history, their traditions of political despotism and oppression, their receptiveness to tyrannical concepts of government, their cruelty in dealing with political adversaries, their idolatry of [military] conquests, finally — their easy compliance with fascism [and] Nazism... as the outgrowth of Western sociopolitical modes... However, what's most disturbing is the smooth partnership between most Arab states and the Soviet Union, the total dependence of the PLO upon Moscow, the KGB and Soviet armament, and, last but not least, the enigmatic fact of the loyalty of Moslems to the Soviet state. The communists in Russia wage a ferocious warfare against any Christian denomination; the large Islamic population in Soviet central Asia seems to collaborate readily with the Politbureau and pledge the Soviet state an allegiance.*

Better late than never—we are truly delighted that *The New Republic*, an unflinching supporter of Israel, finally has reached a conclusion and indulged in an interpretation which we emphasized over a year ago. □

*The text from which this quote is taken is available from The Rockford Institute for \$1.00.

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