

# Comment

## Archbishop Stritch

LAST WEEK (Dec. 18) Archbishop Stritch said: "We are fighting for the rights of men and security of our freedoms. Victory will mean not a triumph of might but a benediction for all the world . . . It is for peace that we are fighting . . ."

In the above words the Illinois prelate defined, in a generic manner, the moral objective of our participating in the war. It is not a war for victory where might triumphs. It is a war for peace with justice emerging as victor.

The Archbishop's statement was made in conjunction with a meeting of a group of bishops in Chicago to discuss the Pope's five peace points.

The peace points were incorporated in Pius XII's 1939 Christmas message. They are as follows:

1. Assurance of the right to life and independence to all nations, large, small, strong or weak.
2. Nations must be liberated from the heavy slavery of armaments and the danger that material force, instead of serving to protect rights, becomes the tyrannical violence of them.
3. Any reorganization of international neighborliness should conform with the maximum of human wisdom for all parties concerned to remove the consequences of past lapses or deficiencies.
4. That proper consideration be given the real needs and just demands of nations and peoples as well as of ethical minorities.
5. That those who guide the destinies of peoples must be penetrated ever more by that spirit, namely, of intimate, acute responsibility that measures and weighs human statutes according to the holy, unshakeable rules of Divine laws.

The five points listed above are conceived in the abstract. In the concrete, Point No. 1 is definitely opposed to that type of internationalism which plans to merge all nations under one sovereignty, as Union Nowism proposes to do.

Point No. 2 indirectly opposed any international policemenhip superimposed by strong nations upon weak nations under the theory that might is right. After all, policemen merely execute the laws. They do not write them. Consequently, a policeman may be most unethical in the sense that sometimes he is called upon to execute immoral laws.

Moreover, one of the major curses suffered by our civilization results from armaments built for the maintenance of the status quo and paid for by the sweat and blood of the exploited laboring and agricultural classes.

Point No. 3 is most abstract in so far as it does not define the "maximum" of human wisdom. To reduce this point to concrete terms will be the task of those who sit at the peace table. And their reduction of this will not be conceived in justice if their prejudiced determination is to maintain the imperialism now dominating India or the financial set-up now exploiting America.

Point No. 4 should take into consideration the rights of minorities in race and

religion, not on the basis that racialists or religionists should seek exemptions within the nation where they reside, but on the theory that they should not be disparaged by majority groups.

Point No. 5 clearly states that human laws may not contradict Divine laws.

All this brings us back to the question: "Who has authority to state precisely the meaning of Divine laws, the meaning of rights and duties, the meaning of just demands of nations and peoples and ethical minorities?"

Christians can condense the answer to this last question by quoting one simple, single phrase pronounced by Christ — "Without Me you can do nothing."

## The German Retreat In Soviet Russia

WRITING in the *Chicago Daily News*, Helen Kirkpatrick, capable London correspondent, presents the following analysis of the German retreat:

Hints that the German withdrawal in Russia may be only partially a retreat and partially a deliberate transfer of forces to the Western Front seem to have been received in London during the last few days.

Many times during past months it has been suggested that the Germans intended imminently to invade Spain and establish themselves in North Africa. Seldom have these suggestions been supported by the disposition of German forces.

The British fear that the long-anticipated moment may soon be at hand and interpret the sudden sinking of French and Spanish ships in the western Mediterranean as one of the ominous signs. The closing of the Franco-Spanish frontier may be another, as no satisfactory explanation of its closure has been given.

Vichy has stated that the French ship *St. Denis* was torpedoed by a British submarine on Dec. 9 off the Balearics. The British officially deny the presence of British submarines in that area of the Mediterranean, but state that German U-boats have been entering the Mediterranean for the last eight weeks. To these craft the British attribute the sinking of Spanish, Norwegian, British and French ships.

From this situation the British draw the conclusion that attempts are being made to embroil the British with the Spanish and French with a view to invasion of Spain and further pressure to obtain the French fleet from Vichy.

It is thought that Germany's first plan to close the Mediterranean by the advance of Gen. Erwin Rommel's forces toward the Suez Canal having failed, the Germans will now try closing it at the Gibraltar end.

According to the diplomatic correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, the Germans' first defeat of the war may tempt them "to try to march through Spain and send an air-borne force across the Mediterranean to establish Axis control in Tangier, Spanish and French Morocco."

Helen Kirkpatrick is a correspondent for the *Chicago Daily News* over which Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox presided. Hers is a significant statement which, to our mind, indicates the Germans have achieved some finality in the so-called Russian campaign. Hitler, evidently, is prepared to draw a line from near Leningrad to Sevastopol and call it a day.

## Supreme Court and a Free Press

(Continued from Page 9)

Court concerned the very thing we mentioned in the above paragraphs. It had to do with Harry Bridges and the C.I.O.; with Harry Bridges and his Communistic affiliations; with Harry Bridges and the decision handed down by the State Supreme Court which the *Los Angeles Times* criticized.

No progress in the development of law is recognized in the unconscious attempt on the part of the California Supreme Court to exempt, unconsciously, Harry Bridges and the C.I.O. and the Communist Party. It is a reversal, a retrogression, a step back to the dark days of Bourbonism, "Divine-Right-of-Kingism" and "Ivan-the-Terribleism." In all those days certain classes were exempt from attack as they hid behind the cloak of some divine authority; as they invoked some such cant phrase as "The king can do no wrong."

In these days of war when judgments are unbalanced it is well to recall what Mr. Justice Frankfurter said about the freedom of the press in days of peace. It is doubly well to recall it now when ways and means are being considered to muzzle the press for one reason or another. Mr. Frankfurter once said:

"The press is the most important vehicle for the dissemination of opinion. The Constitution precludes its censorship. Equally inadmissible should be all oblique methods to censor the press. Particularly offensive is the coercive power of unregulated administrative control."

This 1932 statement of Justice Frankfurter we recall in the year 1941 when efforts are about to be made to censor the press despite the ruling of the Supreme Court; despite the vote of 5 to 4.

Censorship is invoked in war-time on the pretext of keeping information from the enemy. Pretext is the correct word. The fact is that governments keep information from their own people and employ censorship to prevent discussion among their own people.

Writing in the *Baltimore Sun* (Dec. 12) Frank Kent, noted commentator, said: "... it clearly is not in the national interests to permit national unity to carry us to the point of silent acquiescence in Administration ineptitude. There are, however, two groups which favor that attitude. One is composed of Administration executives who would like to use the national-unity cloak to conceal incompetence. The other is composed of emotional individuals who take the foggy view that, because we are now at war, it is wicked to utter a word of criticism or dissent from any act. Nothing could be more absurd. That is not the way to win a war; that is the way to lose a war. *That is not patriotism; that is stupidity; that is maudlin sentimentality.*"

## Litvinoff Speaks

AMBASSADOR LITVINOFF said recently the Soviet Union had all it could do to take care of the invading Germans and, therefore, would not become engaged at present on the Japanese front.

This pronouncement is not heartening either to Americans or Britishers.

Of equal concern to Americans is the speech which Britain's Lord Beaverbrook delivered. His lordship admitted that Britain had not yet "gotten up steam" after two years of war; that soon 100,000 or more German cannon will be aimed at Britain.

These statements indicate that Americans have a great deal to accomplish.



## On the Red Front

# Marxian Influence Grows With British-Soviet Tie

THE INSIDIOUS encroachments of Communist propaganda into every activity of life in England is most realistically portrayed in a recent issue of the *Weekly Review* of London.

We quote from it here for the benefit of our own readers, to enable them to see more clearly the extent of Marxist infiltration "over there":

"Communist propaganda in this country (England) can roughly be divided into two classes—a fact which is insufficiently realized. There are the unofficial, violent and unrestrained soap-box agitators, few if any of whom are members of the authorized Communist Party of Great Britain, and there are the speakers and writers of the Party, and the Soviet delegates.

"The official, hieratic propaganda is a different matter altogether, manned as it is by thoroughly trained, fully informed experts steeped in the Hegelian philosophy of Marx, the doctrines of Lenin and the whole *ethos* of dialectic materialism.

"They have a genius for penetration in all sections of society, and—what is seldom believed—they understand thoroughly the strengths and weaknesses of the specifically English mind and character. By the means of 'cells' in factories, units in the forces and other groups, by the means of enlisting the unconscious support of unwary opponents from the seats of the mighty to the obscure of rural councils, they attempt to influence and change the face of society.

"How far are they succeeding? The entry of the U.S.S.R. into the war has obviously given a tremendous impetus to their plans. Much of their hitherto underground publicity is coming to the surface and with the complete support of Home and Foreign Office authority backed by the sentimental patronage of a press-instructed people.

"The power of M. Maisky grows. He is rapidly becoming the social lion of London. On walls and boardings everywhere there are the Communist Party posters calling Britain to arms not, of course, primarily for Britain's sake, but first and last *to support the Red Army as the force which will eventually sovietize the world*. That is its clear implication for all who read it, understanding the methods and aims of Communism. The *Daily Worker* has been partially resurrected under the title '*The Workers' Gazette*,' with the same editor.

"There is an exhibition of Soviet life—its art, culture, science and so forth—at the Suffolk Galleries. Are not the Russians our allies? Russia is in the fashion, ergo, the ideology of its commissars must be studied with every sympathy. Thus the poison works. On all sides one overhears such remarks as: 'Perhaps, they're not so bad after all'; 'All that talk about religious persecution is nonsense! Their churches are open.'

"But each of these is a small symptom, a pin-prick irritating the body politic. There are much larger and more alarming ones

biting deep into our existence. The totalitarian system (that of the international breed), inspired and organized by a kind of Rosicrucian Jewry—men similar to the apostles and manipulations of the Soviets from their inception—is rapidly gaining ground in this country.

"The worst and most insidious elements in capitalism have always been identified with it. All the various chain stores, combines and monopolies, some of which are 'doing their bit' in army catering, funds for air-raid victims and so on, are fertile seed beds for a movement to oust *not merely the small trades, but all individual freedom and enterprise*.

"They are the thin end of the wedge of wholesale nationalization of industry and, ultimately, of State control of life and property: *the establishment of the complete Slave State*.

"It has already been suggested in high quarters that the collectivist farm is a post-war ideal at which to aim.

"There are a hundred and one other indications of what is afoot for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

"The rot has set in. Who is to check it?

"So subtly, so imperceptibly is the virus working that its full results *will not be apparent to an ill-informed, and war-bewildered people until they are actually overwhelmed by it and no longer able to resist . . .*"

## Friends of Irish Neutrality Disband Organization

IN KEEPING with the spirit of national unity born of the Japanese attack on America, the American Friends of Irish Neutrality announced recently the dissolution of their organization.

Formerly active in supporting the cause of Irish neutrality in the face of heavy war pressure both in America and Great Britain, officers of the disbanding group said their main concern now is to aid in the prosecuting successfully the war in which the United States is engaged.

In a press statement executive officers of the organization expressed appreciation for the "sympathetic interest shown by our fellow Americans toward the Government and the people of Ireland. We are grateful to the President and the Government of the United States who have made available several ships to carry supplies to Ireland.

"We are thankful to God," the statement continued, "that our work in stating fairly the position of the people of Ireland was sufficiently accomplished before war came to this country; we are confident that message carried to the American people by those interested in the welfare of Ireland will live in all American hearts inspired by love and motivated by justice."

## A New Line-up of Ambassadors

THE United States of America has made some highly significant changes in ambassadors and ministers on the diplomatic front.

William C. ("Bill") Bullitt has gone to Turkey, hoping to bring Turkey into the London-Washington-Moscow axis with generous promises fashioned after those made by the New Deal Administration to Moscow.

Of course, Mr. Bullitt has had extensive experience in Communist countries—France and the U.S.S.R.—and in making promises of "all out aid" to Britain and the Soviet. His notorious sympathy for sovietism will stand him in good stead when dealing with Turkey, which even now is in the Soviet orbit, though threatened by Nazi troops driving toward the Near East.

Mr. Bullitt's assignment is intended to persuade Turkey to repudiate Germany's offers and defy Nazi threats, and inspire the Turks, if possible, to resist the impending Nazi invasion.

This picture of Christian America and Christian Britain in league with the historic Moslem, enemy of Christianity, is tragic in the view of those realists who can see beyond the headlines of their evening newspaper.

What price the Crusades?

Inner circles in Washington once buzzed with a rumor that a "prominent Catholic" was to be sent to Mexico as American ambassador. The rumor had it that Justice Frank Murphy might be induced to accept; because, while his service on the bench was "adequate," his service as ambassador was preferred. Rumor had it that the Administration was "not satisfied with" Murphy on the bench because he was said to lack the dignity, aloofness and prudential silence traditional for justices of the high court.

Another rumor had it that "Pat" Hurley, former Secretary of War in the Hoover administration, would go to Mexico City. The President blasted all this wish-thinking by his appointment of a career diplomat, George S. Messerschmidt, because of his previous experience in Latin American countries.

Soviet Russia replaced Constantin Oumansky with Litvinov. Oumansky, former OGPU agent and newspaper man who tracked down Troyanovsky, has been recalled to Moscow to serve as an assistant to Commissar Lozovsky.

It appears, too, that Lawrence Steinhardt, Samuel Untermyer's nephew, is to be replaced at the Moscow post, it is said, by General "Jim" Byrnes, one of the observers on the Averill Harriman mission. He is supposed to know more than any of the other "missionees" about the Soviet's military plight and political set-up.

The Administration, we are told, wanted a Catholic for the post in Moscow, to carry out the illusion of our search for religious freedom and to counteract the aversion of Catholics for aid to Communist Russia.

Such Catholics as Al Smith, and former Ambassador John Cudahy, are said to have been approached as to their willingness to accept the Moscow appointment; but the report at this writing is that it will go to General Byrnes. The latter has distinguished himself in the F.H.A. as well as on the Harriman mission to Moscow.



# Comment

## Jews and Judge Frank

IN A RECENT article appearing in *The Saturday Evening Post* (Dec. 6), the eminent Judge Frank, who is a Jew by race, writes:

"... the fundamental position of Jewish Americans can be simplified by considering what would be their answers to these questions: Would you fight and die, if such sacrifices were necessary, to perpetuate the Jews as a separate people? The majority would say 'No.' Would you fight and die to save American democracy? Almost all of them, without any mental reservations, would say, 'Emphatically yes.'"

He adds:

"Jews have survived as a singularly set-off people mainly because of hostility toward them without ... most Jews born in America regard as their significant heroes Jefferson and Lincoln not Moses and David."

Typical of the Jewish newspaper reaction is an editorial appearing in the December 1941 *American Jewish Outlook* which reads:

"Judge Jerome Frank occupies a life position on the highest court of the land next to the Supreme Court. It is to be hoped that his decisions are more judicious and based on a better factual foundation than his recent article in the *Saturday Evening Post* dealing with the subject of Jews in America. His article reads like an amateur's painting appears. Sometimes a painter is so eager to show up one part of a picture that he makes a mess of color contrasts, lights and shadows. Frank attempted to be judicious and say that there were bad Jews and good Jews, but somehow his classification has not appealed to the Jews and what the effect on the 3,000,000 more readers of the magazine will be, can only be pictured.

The Jewish press has been uniformly hostile against the Frank article. There has been a serious talk of suing him for libel. It is said that Rabbi Stephen Wise has appealed to Chief Justice Stone of the United States Supreme Court asking for Frank's removal.

"The Frank article is just one more attempt to prove that the mere fact that a man has Jewish parents and rises to a high position does not make him either a Jew or an authority on Jews. There is nothing in Frank's biography in *Who's Who* in American Jewry to indicate that he is active in any Jewish affairs or that he is a member of any synagogue or temple. He is high in the judiciary, but ignorant of Jewdiciary."

There is no way to discover if the majority of Jews in America agree or disagree with Judge Frank. We believe, however, that it is advantageous to all Jews to rid themselves of their racial hyphen in order to share in the completeness of Americanism. Practically every other group of racialists in America attempt to accomplish this actively.

Religion, of course, is a matter entirely different from race. In Protestantism one finds all types of racialists who have for-

gotten their race. In Catholicism the same holds true.

Is it not possible for Jews as religionists to invite Gentiles to accept Jewry as a religion on the same basis that Catholics and Protestants extend to Jews an invitation to identify themselves with Christianity? It would be a benediction for all Jews if such a policy were launched vigorously and adequately in America. At present most Americans are prone to regard Jews as racialists and not as religionists and to conceive the Jewish religion as one which does not open its arms in a democratic fashion to members of every race.

Gentiles admit that an Irishman can be an Irishman without being a Catholic or a Protestant. It is foolish for Jews to contend that a man can't be a Jew unless he accepts the Jewish religion.

## The Jews Are Warned

MAX A. KOPSTEIN of the Chicago Bar is the President of the Chicago Division of the American Jewish Congress.

In the December edition of *Opinion* (Jewish Magazine) he is credited with counselling the Jews of America as follows:

"Jewish life in America would be more significant and worthwhile if American Jews generally could rid themselves of the notion that all controversy is to be avoided or averted and that nothing is more injurious to the life of a people than controversy. They who thus argue, seem to have no appreciation of the truth that controversy is another name for frank and open discussion and that to the processes of Democracy discussion is indispensable. 'Nothing Controversial, Please' is symptomatic of the implicit unreadiness of what calls itself Jewish leadership to face the fact that opinion may well be divided on many of the more important issues that come before American Jewry. Nor do these sage leaders understand that if American Jewry could succeed in preventing all controversial discussion in American Jewish life, the world might justly claim that Jewish life has regimented itself at the command of its leadership, whether it be in one interest or another, and the liberals of our day, who after all represent the democratic point of view in American life, would be justified in maintaining that American Jews have taken over the anti-Democratic method of limiting, if not preventing, discussion of matters which are the concern of all the members of a community.

"'Nothing Controversial, Please,' is undemocratic, it is un-American, it is un-Jewish. We shall have an end of it when those forces in American Jewish life, who in American and world affairs talk about Democracy, begin to understand that one of the earliest of the democratic groups of history, the Jewish, does not come under the necessity of waiving the democratic spirit and mood in dealing with its own affairs. The prevalence of the slogan 'Nothing Controversial, Please,' is symbol of the breakdown of Democracy in the Councils of American Jewish affairs. The American Jewish Congress was founded and has been maintained as a living protest against the deadening slogan, 'Nothing Controversial, Please.' The American Jewish Congress understands that without such discussion as is but another name for controversy, Democracy becomes a vain and meaningless thing."

## LaGuardia Defense And Mrs. Roosevelt

THE MAYOR of New York is also top man in the Office of Civilian Defense. His chief assistant is Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

To the surprise of all, no less a fervent supporter of these two eminent persons than Walter Lippmann suggested their resignation. It stands to reason that Mayor LaGuardia's chief office is that of Mayor of the City of New York, which is in sad need of defense particularly from within.

While this official is busy playing fireman, planning bomb-proof shelters and meddling with sirens that can't be heard above the din of Broadway, is he neglecting New York City's water supply?

We make mention of that one item because New York's weakest link of defense lies in its fresh water supply, which can be contaminated by fifth columnists to such an extent there would not be sufficient doctors in America to care for the affected persons in Manhattan.

Decidedly, LaGuardia has more to do in guarding New York than in "LaGuarding" America.

As for Mrs. Roosevelt, one is inclined to believe that her over-worked husband is in sad need of comfort and wifely care in the most trying days of his life. During this crisis it appears that a wife's place is beside her husband instead of entrusting his worries to the inexperienced hands of others.

Does Mrs. Roosevelt realize what would happen to America if President Roosevelt's health should succumb before the onslaught of multiple pressures? Perhaps no one knows better than she how to arrange his meals, how to banish his misgivings, how to keep intact his finely woven nervous system.

Decidedly, the first lady of the land should take her stand beside the first man of the land in the capacity of wife.

If the women of America should follow the example of Mr. LaGuardia's first assistant by absenting themselves from their homes and their husbands, a catastrophe of major magnitude would ensue.

Mrs. Roosevelt's place is to set an example not to create a bad pattern.

## John Haynes Holmes

REV. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, noted 62-year-old cleric who has been pastor of the Community Church, New York City, for 35 years, tendered his resignation because he could not use his ministry "to bless, sanction, or support war."

In resigning, the pastor of the Community Church said: "... my retirement may preserve this beloved church from embarrassment, odium or peril." With candor which all men must admire, he added: "We have our share of guilt in this disaster (the war). Ours is a war world to which we have consented, and in which we have participated."

When the day of wrath arrives, the millions who were crucified between the thieves of gold and power will rise from the dead to embarrass their enemies. Therefore, every minister of the Gospel, careless of condemnation by current Caesars and heeding not the rabble's choice of Barabbas, should recognize how greatly they can contribute to mankind by suffering courageously.