

Archbishop Assures President Peace Aid

IN ONE of the most forceful peace pleas any member of the Catholic hierarchy has delivered in the present crisis, His Excellency the Most Rev. Francis J. L. Beckman, Archbishop of Dubuque, appealed to President Roosevelt *to reject the advice of war-mongers and to fulfill his pledge to keep the United States out of war.*

"Your pledges will be kept because we will help you keep them," the Archbishop assured the President. Speaking over a national radio network from an America First Committee rally at Dubuque, His Excellency continued:

"This time, the Golden Calf must go unworshipped, the sacrificial altars unadored.

"Our boys are staying at home; and, in your own words, 'they are going into training to form a force so strong that of its very nature it will keep the threat of war far from our shores.'

"May God bless and guide you in this critical hour."

The Archbishop emphasized that he was speaking "as a Prince of the Church, this time, not alone as a private citizen," and that his peace message was being delivered "in the line of bitter duty."

The road to war, His Excellency said, was taken "on that day that Congress repealed the *Arms Embargo* with the pretext 'it would keep us out of war' — on that day our people were tricked into the parlor of the interventionists. On that occasion I joined my plea with those of my countrymen who were so valiantly striving to prevent repeal of this law because they were farsighted enough to see in such action a first step toward war.

"But over our earnest plea to the Congress the lying tongues of the hypocrites prevailed. With 'measures short of war' they proceeded diabolically, step by step, maneuvering us to the very brink of military involvement which is our position at this moment.

"Who would have dreamed five years ago that we would thus be led again by the propagandists? And the climax of all this trickery — that monstrous prepetition upon our people who found no vote for war or peace at the November polls! The same bloody brigands who had their way in the last war saw to that. The democracy of which they prattle so effusively was for all present purposes, if I may borrow the phrase, 'sold down the river on November 5th!' What a great laugh these Judas Iscariots and Benedict Arnolds must have enjoyed at the expense of the trusting millions; and tragically, what a great laugh at the expense of all our beloved America stood for!

"Yet it is not enough that our people should be humiliatingly subjected to the vile indignity of the lie, but for those who cry the truth now come the slurs and the revilings. From the temples of the moneyed mighty the flood of denunciation rolls forth; 'These are not of Christ; these are not of democracy; Bundists! Communists! Pacifists! — these are all the same stamp; disregard them! Crucify them!'

"But oh, take comfort, people, for if Christ Himself were this moment to return and confront these modern Herods, and Pilates, and Neros for their crimes before the world, He, too, would be crowned by them a 'Bundist!'

"Therefore, proudly conscious of your own strength, you dear fathers and mothers, you of all faiths and earnest patriotic convictions, you Americans stand up courageously with Christ to your persecutors and make your louder voice for peace prevail.

"Even the valiant English would understand that in thus acting we, the united 83 per cent are merely at long last exercising our prerogative as a democratic majority. If our letters and our telegrams are not enough, let us represent ourselves personally to the governmental authorities.

"This criminal betrayal of our people at the hands of the few must never be consummated! For indeed, the future of all morality, of confidence in government and the democratic process, hinges on the proof that our people still do the debating and the deciding. Imagine! — the suicidal stupidity of risking our own democracy at home while vainly trying to impose it abroad!

"It has been said that there are two sides to this question, and our interventionist brethren accuse us of 'ostrich' tactics. To them we would address an appeal in all earnestness: 'What proof have you that your side of the matter is the just one? The American people took your advice 24 years ago and emerged from the chamber of horrors wiser and sadder after Versailles. Now, it is our turn to have our way.'

"Mr. President, I address you humbly and with all the dignity which becomes your high office; in the name of the 83 per cent whose will have been grossly disparaged, also in the name of my spiritual children over whose welfare I am gravely concerned, Mr. President, I respectfully address you:

"You have given the people of these United States your solemn pledge that the youth of our land will not be sent to fight in any foreign wars. We choose to believe that the pledge was given unequivocally and without mental reservation of any kind.

"To repudiate that pledge, Mr. President, would be to break down the last vestige of public trust in Government. For if we cannot trust your word, then in whom of our governmental leaders are we to trust? As a Churchman, therefore, I solemnly adjure you not to break faith with our people.

"I realize, Mr. President, the extreme difficulty of your position; for on the one hand you are faced with a small but formidable group who control the economic life-lines of the nation, and on the other — the people. Little people, to be sure, with little power of themselves, but united in peaceful democratic existence behind an impregnable defense, they could constitute an invincible moral weapon with which to beat the very brains out of Communism, Fascism, Naziism and all 'isms' everywhere!

"Take heart, Mr. President! *Free yourself of those who are always attempting to*

influence you against the majority will. In this you will most certainly have the united support and acclaim of all our people.

"Their immediate destinies, and the destinies of millions everywhere, at this moment, lie in your powerfully equipped hands. In temporarily surrendering this power, Mr. President, the people expect and have every confidence that you will use it in conformity with your pledges. Yours is indeed the opportunity of a whole era in history. The role of a peacemaker is the role of a true child of God and one appreciated by all mankind save those whose interests dictate war.

"For my part, Mr. President, I would rather go down fighting the cause of peace, suffering any abuse and persecution, than to stand idly by while millions of our youth are prepared for the slaughter.

"I repeat, with the great Prelate of the East, that the continuation of this senseless war truly means the end of our civilization, with complete moral, spiritual, and material collapse at the end of the long road."

America's Trade War

NO MATTER what happens in this war overseas, there will be an economic war in Central and South America. Even before the present war, Great Britain and Germany had planned to invade South America and drive the United States out of those markets.

But it does not follow of necessity that the victory, in any economic war waged between slave and free labor, must be awarded to the "slave economy" of the totalitarians.

All things being equal (which they rarely are) — free labor can out-produce slave labor; and, certainly, it can out-trade it. For slave labor produces no buying power, and buying power is necessary for trade.

America's free labor always has controlled the markets of the world, even in competition with Great Britain's slave labor in the colonies, especially India; and even though the wage slaves worked with British machines.

When two nations, or two continents, produce things which the other must have, trade eventually results, regardless of the feelings these nations or continents might entertain for each other's preferred way of life.

Europe needs us far more than we need Europe.

Even Hitler admits that, after establishing continental Europe as a single productive unit, American products will be more important to Europe than Europe's products would be to us.

Trade with South America must, necessarily, be divided between Europe and the United States. We can buy Brazil's coffee but not its cotton. Argentina must sell the bulk of its hides, wool and meat to Europe, because the United States produces more of these materials than we need.

There is a wide diversity of interests in South America; and it must be remembered that, before the war, both Great Britain and Germany did a substantial business with South American nations.

Indeed, our country's trade with South America has been inconsequential, except during World War No. 1 and immediately after that war.

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America lost the trade created by war because of the discrepancy between gold and silver, trade barriers, and our lack of interest in Latin American trade.

The United States must impress the Latin American nations with the fact that they are not forced to choose between Yankee imperialism and European totalitarianism; that the United States has no desire to "monopolize" their export markets; but that we wish to assure the peoples of Latin America a greater economic independence than they have even known heretofore.

If it be considered highly immoral to discuss such venial affairs as trade and finance, in connection with the "four freedoms," which America dreams of exporting to "everybody, everywhere in the world"; then it is well to remember, none-the-less, that if the United States lost all of its trade with South America, it would all still be *less than one-fourth the cost of war for one year!* Not to mention the sacrifice of lives, and the risk to democratic institutions which we fondly hope to preserve in our Western Hemisphere.

Some Observations Inside the East

MR. P. J. SLETTERDAHL, editor of the *Northwest Insurance* publication, retails some observations he made while in Washington, D. C.

His observations are very concrete.

The editor writes:

"Washington is in a state of wildest confusion. It seemed to us that radicals are everywhere inside the officialdom of the Government. Bunglers occupy many of the pivotal positions. Hundreds of political loafers with juicy salaries strut around like barnyard roosters.

"National defense statistics are largely fiction. Bottlenecks are numerous almost beyond tabulation, and incompetency is the worst of them. Money is thrown around as though it were as plentiful as water in the oceans. What a mess will be uncovered when expenditures and procedures of the national defense program are probed in a Congressional investigation!

"Under the smokescreen of emergency, economic screwballs are busy on schemes for the regimentation and regulation of business in the United States. They seem to have strong support inside the administration for their nefarious operations in the pattern of totalitarianism. Plans in process of development call for additional legislation to expand the supreme authority of the Executive branch of the Government to embrace our entire economy and in dictatorial disregard of democratic principles.

"The clamor for a declaration of war

against Germany is hysterical in Washington. Interventionists cannot understand why the people of the country refuse to be stampeded into belligerency. Millions of dollars have been spent for propaganda to arouse the population to a frenzy that overwhelms reason in support of complete involvement in the struggles of power politics overseas. The results have been negative.

"Many interventionists now argue bitterly that President Roosevelt should ignore entirely the majority of the nation and that like a dictator, he ought to override roughshod the wishes of the people.

"The fear of severe inflation is common in business circles throughout the East. Commodity prices have already outrun the efforts of the Government to control them.

"Business leaders are also disturbed over what may come in the form of taxes in that taxes are likely to be based on the need for revenue in disregard of their economic effects. Congress is inclined to determine taxes from the standpoint of politics rather than equitable distribution. Along such defective procedures the economic machinery of the country cannot escape serious dislocation.

"The situation in Washington is more serious than the majority of the people realize. Wendell Willkie did the nation a tragic disservice when he flopped back into the lap of the New Deal. Loyal opposition to the administration of President Roosevelt is vitally important in the preservation of democracy in the United States.

"Efforts to silence the critics of the New Deal are indefensible except in totalitarian minds. It is folly to believe that national unity requires docile acceptance of everything in the decisions of President Roosevelt."

A Father's Letter

NEWS dispatches last week reported that Mr. Thomas W. Tillery, a rancher of Stauffer, Ventura County, California, had sent the following letter to President Roosevelt:

"My son, Thomas Winslow Tillery, Jr., has just been crushed to death in submarine O-9. He died without a chance to resist in an outdated, unseaworthy craft. His mother and I find little comfort in knowing that the modern products of America's defense effort are being given to a foreign power. Our remaining son becomes eligible for draft in July.

"Tom was a valuable man to his country. For seven years he worked loyally to earn his rating of machinists' mate, first class.

"You, too, have sons who have acquired rank and position in the armed forces. If they are serving on sister ships of the O-9, or are dependent upon obsolete equipment, I beg you, one father to another, transfer them to positions of safety. Then, if we are attacked, they may die honorably in the face of the enemy, rather than helplessly at the hands of their own Government."

Archbishop Spellman and Eucharistic Congress

HIS EXCELLENCY, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York, was one of several speakers at the Eucharistic Congress held recently at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Among other things, he said: "The real peace program has ten points and these points are the *Ten Commandments*. The world has lost peace because these *Commandments* were flouted; and it can regain peace only through their observance and ascendancy. Before they can be observed in the world or in a nation they must be observed by individuals. They must be observed by ourselves."

The *Ten Commandments*, as we know, pre-existed Christianity. Originally they were written upon the fleshly tablets of the human heart.

When hearts became calloused and men became pagans, Almighty God had the *Ten Commandments* written upon tablets of stone which He gave to Moses who, in turn, promulgated them amongst the Jews.

The *Ten Commandments* were and are, in their last analysis, ten expressions of the natural law.

It is our contention that the natural law, due to fallen nature, is not sufficient for peace in the world.

In fact, Christ came to establish a supernatural law and gave us a "new Commandment," as He termed it—an Eleventh Commandment, as it were.

It is: "*Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with thy whole heart, thy whole mind, thy whole strength, and thy neighbor as thyself. This do and thou shalt live.*"

And to promulgate this Commandment, Christ laid down His life for us, established a supernatural method of life for us, and insisted that we become members of the organization which He founded and which the Holy Ghost established on Pentecost Sunday.

To be baptized and to believe in Him were laid down as conditions.

Thus, Christianity goes further in its obligations than was expressed explicitly by the *Ten Commandments*.

Christianity gives us Christ, True God and True Man.

And Christ gives us the way, the truth and the life.

"*Without Me you can do nothing,*" were Christ's words.

We are glad that Archbishop Spellman included in his appropriate address these words: "It is to the Sacred Heart today that we offer prayers and sacrifices that God will yet save men and nations from the livid juggernaut of war's lava of cruelty and carnage, belching forth from volcanos of hatred and greed, destroying and burying our civilization."

Incidentally, Bishop James H. Ryan of Omaha inveighed against Naziism—according to the report in the *New York Times*.

On reading the excerpt of the Bishop's speech printed in the *New York Times*, His Excellency did more than inveigh against Naziism—a fact which the reporter failed to report. He attacked "the brutal dictatorships which have been foisted upon so many nations"—and this included Communism.

He attacked State-ism, totalitarianism and the Slave State—all of which could comprehend the movements in England and the United States towards dictatorship.