

Comment

America's Goal

THE AMERICAN attitude toward war ought to be the attitude of George Washington, asserts the Rev. James V. Linden, S. J., in a recent radio address over station KGA in Spokane, Washington.

"The American attitude," said Father Linden, "should be one, not of wondering whether we can keep out of it. It should be a determination never to enter it.

"If the nations that are fighting one another knew that, they would make peace!

"Nor is it for the President to keep us out of war — nor for the Congress. *It is for the American people to make their influence felt so strongly that no Congress would dare put us into war.*

"This nation should not be run either by its fears or by its hates or by its national prejudices or sympathies. It ought to be run by men dedicated to the welfare of the American people who have been elected to high office to preserve our welfare and keep us at peace and not to keep thinking in terms of China, Greece, England or any other nation on earth. It ought to keep before its mind the wisdom of the past and the experience of the past and ponder deeply over the long range effects of its words and present acts in the future.

"If we have any fears let us fear those who insist in making the United States not only the arsenal of democracy, but also the scapegoat of democracy. If we have any fear, let us fear those who hold that our safety is in the hands of England.

"This nation, or any other nation, that has to trust another nation to guard it, is doomed."

In the January issue of the *Inland Empire Outlook*, Father Linden wrote as follows:

"In an effort to stifle free discussion of our possible entry into this war, those who plead for peace and are opposed to our entry into it, are also styled 'constructive traitors.' And that vile epithet is used by those in the highest seats of Government.

"Senator Wheeler then must be a constructive traitor. Ambassador Kennedy, Senator Walsh, Senator Johnson, Lindbergh and Lundeen and Borah — men who take their stand side by side with Washington and Jefferson in safeguarding the interests of America. Washington, the Father of our Country, must have been an isolationist, because he warned us against entangling alliances; Jefferson, a constructive traitor, because he advised us against entering the wars of Europe.

"Lindbergh came from Germany and warned us of the strength of the German air force. Lindbergh was reviled because he told the truth. If he had desired to hurt America, he would have concealed such information instead of revealing it. But when he follows Washington's advice and warns us against mingling again in Europe's wars, he is called a constructive traitor.

"When such things are done in America, may it not be that we are storing up for ourselves a just retribution?

"Kennedy is praised by all English and Americans alike as a wonderful ambassa-

dor; the best brains of America in the greatest court of the world. And the great Senator Lundeen could not go to his death without a whispering campaign being started to blacken his memory because he stood out for peace and was opposed to our entrance into this war.

"What in God's name is wrong with America?" Fr. Linden asks.

"Can it be that the only true Americans are those they call 'isolationists,' 'appeasers,' and 'constructive traitors'?

"Or can it be that the wrong voices are to the fore — that men take their opinions not from those who have the true welfare of America at heart, but from the war makers, the scandal-mongers, the hired columnists and radio commentators with an ax to grind.

"It is a sad day for America when Americans cannot lift their voices for peace, and what they honestly believe to be the interests of the land they love, without being branded as 'traitors' . . .

"Like Lord Lothian and Col. Lindbergh," Father Linden concludes, "I believe we are on the verge of a new world order. We shall have to face it, or deliberately shoulder the burdens and the wars of the old order over the entire world. Recently I wrote an article and entitled it '*Peace now or war forever.*' And that is just where we are going — to war forever.

"This war will not settle world problems.

"If Germany is conquered, who will pacify Europe? Shall the United States have that terrible responsibility? Who will keep Europe pacified with Communistic Russia with the largest army the world has ever known, and the largest array of internal agitators waiting for Germany and England to exhaust themselves?"

Our Goal Is Peace

"THOUGH there may be a great deal of confusion of thought about many international and national questions in America . . . one fact is as clear as the sun in a cloudless mid-Summer noonday sky," says the *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, official newspaper of the Cleveland diocese.

"That one indisputable fact is that the vast majority of Americans earnestly desire to remain at peace.

"No one must be allowed to do anything to jeopardize our peace. In this prohibition we must include the President of the United States and the Congress. The first objective of all legislation that Congress passes and the President signs should look to the preservation of peace.

"Since our constant goal is the maintenance of peace our Congress should chart its course along the well-established principles of international law so that peace may be maintained.

"Why should not our country ask the belligerents for a statement of their war aims?

"Seasoned students of human affairs are agreed that the world chaos of today would have been avoided had the belligerents of 1917 listened to the peace proposals of Pope Benedict XV. Pope Pius XII desires peace as earnestly in 1941. Why not seek out his proposals now and follow them?"

Crusade Against War

EVERY pulpit in the land, Catholic and Protestant and Jewish, should be ringing with moral factors of warfare, says the Rev. Dr. Edward Lodge Curran, president of the International Catholic Truth Society, in a recent editorial in the society's official magazine, *Light*.

"Every pulpit in the land, Catholic and Protestant and Jewish, should be resounding with the warning to our Government that war must always be the last resort," Dr. Curran warns, "and that for the political and social and economic prosperity of our people, as well as for the preservation of democracy in the United States, our country must be kept out of war.

"Every pulpit in the land, Catholic and Protestant and Jewish, should preach the Gospel of Peace and acquaint those of our Government in whose hands lies the destiny of war or peace, that he who provokes a quarrel is as guilty as he who was provoked into the quarrel.

"The time has come when the religious leadership of this nation must stand up and shout forth for the defense of our citizens against war-minded statesmen and war-mongering officials.

"The time has come when the religious leadership of this nation must protect our citizens against the economic, political, social, religious and spiritual evils of war.

"The time has come when the religious leadership of this nation must call upon all citizens, Catholic and Protestant and Jewish, to kneel every day in prayer so that our beloved country will not be stampeded into the present World War, either directly or by subterfuge.

"This is not politics. This is a religious and moral duty. This is applying the moral law to a current use.

"To whom have the common people of America to turn for peace?

"The President has indicated that he believes in forging entangling alliances with foreign nations, even at the risk of dragging the United States into the war.

"The Congress is on the eve of making the President a dictator for the defense of foreign nations.

"Only religious leadership is left to save our citizens from bloodshed and misery and mangled bodies and unknown graves and empty firesides and the wreckage of war's fury which may yet be observed in our Veterans' Hospitals.

"Fellow-clergymen — of all faiths and races — Catholic, Protestant, and Jew — as a fellow-American I summon you to join with me in this Anti-War Crusade.

"It is a Crusade against the evils of War and for the blessings of Peace.

"It is a Crusade for the happiness of the lowly and not for the gratification of the proud or the powerful.

Enroll now in the ranks of those of whom Christ said: '*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.*'"

Comment

70 Starving Millions; One Million Refugees

FORMER President Herbert Hoover in a nation-wide radio address recently made another stirring appeal to enlist public aid in breaking through the British blockade to feed the starving peoples of Europe.

At the same time, a special meeting of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee at the Hotel Astor in New York launched a nationwide campaign to aid distressed Jews throughout the world.

President Roosevelt called this latter effort "the cause of all Americans, for democracy must begin with man's humanity to man."

Mr. Hoover's proposed aid to our fellowmen is surely just as much "the cause of all Americans." In one case 300-million people are on rations and 70-millions, in the "democracies" overrun by Hitler, are facing actual starvation. In the other, a few over a million Jews are either in transit from their native countries or are stranded en route; but their rescue is virtually assured by the superb organization work of American Jews who have been so generously aided by Washington officials.

Mr. Hoover offered a five-point program, submitted jointly to the British and German governments. The German government is reported willing, but the British government, despite personal contacts by Mr. Hoover with Ambassador Halifax, believes essentially that the best way of relieving the present hardships of starving peoples held by Hitler is to concentrate all their efforts on annihilating Hitler.

To which Mr. Hoover replied:

"This is no discussion of temporary empty stomachs. It is *extinction for millions* unless something is done for them."

The program proposed to the belligerents, with Belgium as an experimental center, provides:

1. That all feeding be done through soup kitchens, so there will be no question of feeding the Germans.
2. That at the start one million adults and two million children be cared for with 50,000 tons of food a month.
3. That the German government agree not to requisition native food.
4. That both England and Germany give free passage to relief ships.
5. That some neutral body supervise the program.

"I am opposed to the whole philosophy of dictatorship," Mr. Hoover said. "I want to see a world of free men and women. Here are six or seven nations whose whole philosophy of life and government has been and is yet opposed to totalitarianism.

"If the democracies of the West are to say to them now, as some of our citizens have said to them: 'We will make no effort to save your millions of women and children, that they must die or grow up with stunted minds and bodies,' then there is little encouragement for them to hold fast to our ideals of life.

"We are asked for aid to Britain of stupendous dimensions. I believe we should give to them generously that aid, and in-

cluding food. But if that aid is to be given to preserve free nations, have we not a right to suggest that these other free peoples—friends of America all of our national life—be allowed also to live?"

The method of aiding Jewish refugees in Germany is explained by Edward M. M. Warburg, son of the late Felix M. Warburg, in the *National Jewish Monthly*:

"During a given month, the J. D. C.'s Budget Committee in New York decides to appropriate, say, \$35,000 for work in Old Germany. The local committee in Old Germany, known as the *Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland* is informed of this appropriation.

"Knowing that the average passage cost is \$250, the *Reichsvereinigung* is aware that 140 people will be able to emigrate during the month through the \$35,000 appropriation. It summons the next 140 persons on its emigration lists.

"Experience has shown that the *Reichsvereinigung* can secure an average of 10 marks to the dollar through the clearance arrangement. This means that for \$35,000 it can secure 350,000 *Reichsmarks*, which represents a per capita of 2,500 *Reichsmarks* for each of the 140 emigrants.

"This does not mean that an emigrant who does not possess 2,500 *Reichsmarks* is deprived of his opportunity to leave, but it does mean that emigrants who still have a large supply of *Reichsmarks* left are asked to put up 6,000 or 8,000 or 10,000 *Reichsmarks*, in order to provide emigration opportunities for their poorer brethren.

"Having lined up 140 emigrants possessed of the necessary visas and emigration papers the *Reichsvereinigung* cables the J.D.C. in New York a list of their names and destinations, and instructs it to pay out a total of \$35,000 to the steamship companies with which passages have been booked. This is done.

"When the emigrant, having left Germany, arrives at his port of embarkation, he finds a paid-up steamship ticket awaiting him. Thus the J.D.C.'s dollars have never entered Germany, but have been paid to an American or Spanish or Japanese or Portuguese steamship line.

"In the meantime, what happens to the 350,000 marks? They are used by the *Reichsvereinigung* to finance welfare aid to over 20 per cent of the Jewish population remaining in Old Germany, the schooling of 8,000 Jewish children debarred from the public schools, the maintenance of 122 homes for the aged, the conducting of hundreds of vocational retraining courses, and a number of other social and welfare services which the *Reichsvereinigung* performs in Old Germany just as does the *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde* in Vienna, or the analogous local committee in Prague or in Bratislava.

"A modification of this system is employed for remittances to Poland."

There we have two methods of aid to Europeans.

One is highly organized and functioning efficiently, backed up by the United States Government, where it benefits a few more than a million Jews.

The other, affecting 70-million directly, and 300-millions indirectly, is hopelessly bogged down.

If Jewish leadership can organize, finance and cut through all obstacles, where is Christian leadership?

Should not the starving 70-million also command Government action?

Michael Williams

SPEAKING recently at an Institute of Religion, held in the First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Mr. Michael Williams, "special editor" of *The Commonweal* magazine, told his audience that the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, radio orator of Royal Oak Shrine near Detroit, "does not represent the views of Catholics in the United States."

The lecturer, who was presented as "one of the country's most distinguished Catholic laymen," told the audience in the Wilkes-Barre Presbyterian church that the "Radio Priest's views in *SOCIAL JUSTICE*, his magazine, represent nothing but a nuisance opinion held by a minority of American Catholics *egged on by sinister forces from outside our country.*"

In a radio broadcast on "*American Catholics and the War*" over station CKLW, Windsor, Canada, Mr. Williams as president of the "*Calvert Associates, Inc.*" said (according to the *Crusader* of Pembroke, Ontario):

"I said I would return to the subject of the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin. All I wish to say is to inform you, and all others who are interested, that yesterday I mailed him a letter as president of the Calvert Associates, challenging him to debate with me the question of whether or not the United States should fully support Great Britain and Britain's allies, in the just war they and other peoples who are still free are waging against Hitlerism.

"What reply will come from Father Coughlin?"

"That is only for him to tell you."

Father Coughlin was not in the city and could not be reached for any comment.

Michael Williams, this "most distinguished Catholic layman," has free access to the radio, apparently.

The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, a most humble parish priest at the Shrine of the Little Flower, may not broadcast.

Father Coughlin is barred from the radio, as all America knows, because of the refusal of radio stations, privately owned and monopoly controlled, to sell him time.

Hence, Father Coughlin has made no recent utterances on this war, either over the radio or in *SOCIAL JUSTICE* magazine — and Michael Williams knows why.

It is extremely doubtful whether Father Coughlin would be permitted to debate with Michael Williams — and Mr. Williams knows that, and he knows why.

Mr. Williams, "special editor" of *Commonweal*, made some inaccurate statements about *SOCIAL JUSTICE* magazine. And he could have known they were inaccurate when he made them!

Mr. Williams, who was better known to the newspaper craft as "Bill" or was it "Charlie" Williams, in the old Hearst paper days in San Francisco, and the Michael ("of-the-Will-to-Good") Williams, whose spiritual autobiography was one of the finest Catholic books of our generation — are "two other fellows" from the "special editor" of *Commonweal* and the quondam candidate for a job on *SOCIAL JUSTICE*.

SOCIAL JUSTICE Magazine, we fondly hope, will never consider itself above criticism or "personal opinion"; but when that criticism is presented in the guise of official Catholic opinion, we are not going to take it from "Bill" Williams, "special editor" of the *Commonweal*, or from "Doctor" Shuster "special-honor" president of Hunter College.