

The Truth versus Communism

ADOLF HITLER and all his principal associates are now dead. But their evil work in defaming and destroying the system of representative government is still carried on.

The communists, who are more nazi than the nazis in their political thinking, hold high the destructive torch which fell from Hitler's hand in the ruin of Berlin. Over a large part of the globe, including countries where it was once well established, the parliamentary system of government no longer exists. The communists' spotlight is now on the United States, where their agents are working to destroy democracy.

During the last two decades the United States has been challenged by two forces, the forces of fascism and the forces of communism. In the late war the supporters of fascism were destroyed, but the idea lives on. J. Edgar Hoover puts it clearly and candidly when he calls communists, "Red Fascists." Before the war the communists were momentarily halted, but the war unleashed a Red imperialism by which the communists have now engulfed practically all of eastern Europe.

This is the challenge and in order to meet it, the American people must understand the character and nature of communism. Communism is a world-wide movement which seeks the dictatorship of the proletariat. It seeks to regiment the people under Moscow. The Communist Party of the United States is an outpost of the Kremlin in the United States. The communists work by propaganda and infiltration. By propaganda they seek to distort, in the minds of the American people, the real nature of communism. Even in our Government, communists have obtained high positions in various departments, particularly in those which are strategically related to the conduct of foreign policy. Communists were employed in the Office of War Information (OWI), which conducted the propa-

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PRIZE-WINNING ESSAY

This essay was awarded the first prize in the contest announced in *THE SHIELD* of January, 1947. The excerpts and digests included in this symposium are from essays which also were awarded prizes.

of Strategic Services (OSS), which was charged with espionage and counter-espionage. After the war these agencies were amalgamated into the State Department, which is charged with the conduct of foreign affairs.

There are two general types of propaganda for communism: direct and indirect. The direct kind can be demonstrated by the preamble to the constitution of the Communist Party: "The Communist Party recognizes that the final abolition of exploitation and oppression of economic depressions and unemployment, of reaction and war, will be achieved only by the Socialist reorganization of society, by the common ownership and operation of the national economy under a government of the people led by the working class."

The indirect kind of propaganda is typified by the activities of

Mr. Henry A. Wallace as saying that there are five million unemployed at the present time and then twists the statement into a proof of the "incurable vices of a capitalistic economy."

Some of the commentators on the radio follow the communist line, and thus indirectly propagandize for Moscow. These commentators continue to harp on the theme: "We must appease Russia." They insist that General MacArthur be relieved of command in Japan. The facts behind this story are that MacArthur has checked the spread of communism in Japan and has not allowed the Communist Party more power than its members entitle it to.

Carl Aldo Marzani, a State Department official, recently produced the movie, *Deadline for Action*, which is a highly effective vehicle to promote the communist line. Mr. Marzani was a member of the OSS until after the war, when members of the OSS were transferred to the State Department. The movie, a four-reel, forty-minute, sound production, excoriates American business, Congress, the Government, and "atomic diplomacy."

How can we best fight communist propaganda? Cardinal Spellman recently wrote, "We cannot fight communist propagandists with their own weapons of deceit, lawlessness, violence, and liquidation because we believe in justice, law, and liberty. Nevertheless it is our right and our duty to meet the challenge of communism in active loyalty, understanding, determination, and unity, and if we do, no party or nation on earth can ensnare us. But if complacently we yield to the policy of covert compromise and tolerance of a fascist Soviet peace, we shall help to drive one more nail in the crucifixion of civilization."

Americans who wish to fight communism by counter propaganda can do so by joining movements like the "Christian Front."

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bulletins suggesting action in all phases of the lay apostolate, including the fight against communism.

There are many communist newspapers and magazines being published today which should be recognized as such. Such newspapers as *The Daily Worker*, and the magazine, *The New Masses*; are the official organs of the Communist Party. These papers and others, such as *PM*, which follow the party line, are the propaganda sheets of the communists. One method of combatting them is by awareness, understanding, and vigilance and by pointing out to friends examples of this propaganda.

In labor unions and factories where communistic propaganda is spreading, Catholic Action cells and members of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists (ACTU) are combatting it. Catholics should join such groups which fight communism in its own ground.

Study clubs have been set up in the parishes and schools all over America and through them the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow are being trained. Catholic students should join these clubs.

These are not the only forces checking communism. The House of Representatives Committee on Un-American activities is working sedulously at revealing the communists. The United States Chamber of Commerce has issued pamphlets on the methods of the communist agents. These investigations should be supported.

The Catholic press has also contributed greatly in combatting communist propaganda. It was the Catholic press which first revealed the menace of communism. From the Catholic press stemmed the truth and it continues the fight.

The *Catholic News* recently said that one of the most intriguing aspects of the rise of communism in this country has been the absence of persistent, offensive opposition to it. A member of the House of Representatives recently said, "Only a few men

can give full time to politics. The rest, however, must give their spare time. Everyone should take part in holding meetings and getting out the vote to support our concept of government." The American public must become more politically minded and participate in the processes of government. It is literally true that if five per cent of the people would organize as the communists are organized, the Reds would be unlikely to make any further advances.

It is clear that Catholics and indeed all Americans must get in the fight against communism, especially on the propaganda front. And it is equally clear, the practice of the Faith, which champions always the rights and liberties of our people, must be firmly embraced and supported by our Catholic people. By a strong faith and a stout fight, the forces of truth will win over the forces of communism.

A Digest of Ideas and Suggestions from Papers of Other Entrants in the Contest

RED SHADOWS

The favorite communist technique in red-infested Hollywood is pointed out by Patrick Lee, Paulist Preparatory Seminary, Baltimore, Md., in his prize-winning essay. "If not openly favoring Russia, the movies frequently approve by indirection. One recent movie, which deals with the life and problems of a young war veteran, reviews the world situation and roundly denounces Hitler and nazism, Mussolini and fascism, Franco and the Spanish Government, but does not even mention Russia. Newsreels are often prejudiced. Pictures of the Chinese situation do not mention that the horrors pictured there have been brought on by the communist revolt. A recent film summary of the news of the past twenty years makes no mention of communism."

Seminarian Lee's solution: "Consumer demand determines supply in the movie industry. Our Catholic

people should create a demand vacuum for propaganda of this type, and let producers and exhibitors know of our preferences."

TALK, TALK, TALK

The great American predilection for talk, and more talk, can be turned to good effect in the battle against communism, according to the essay of Janet Marie Gilson, Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary, New York City. Miss Gilson does not advocate street-corner, soap-box speechmaking, but just ordinary conversation in one's circle of friends. Pick opportunities to introduce the subject of communism and Russian imperialism, and to correct hazy, superficially formed opinions about the subjects which menace America. If this is done on a conversational level by thousands of Catholics throughout our country, a large part of the communist propaganda can be offset.

RALLY 'ROUND

"Communists have rallies and mass meetings for the advancement of communism. Why can't we do the same against communism?" Edith Agnew, Regina High School, Norwood, Ohio, advocates getting the fight against communist propaganda out in the open. "Debates and open discussions can easily be organized, and not merely for small school audiences but for the whole community. By doing these things much of the truth can be brought out into the open and better understanding of what the fight is about will be the result."

CATHOLIC ACTION

Catholic Action, organized into cells, like the Jociists of Belgium and France, and the Young Catholic Workers in the United States, is seen as the best way to counteract communist propaganda by James Cassidy, St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary, Wis.

These cells must be organized wherever the communist menace has become strong—in the press, in the movies and on the stage, in politics and industry. Catholic Action cell technique, so highly recommended by Pope Pius XI, is effective in "boring from within," and is just the weapon to fight the Reds on their own grounds.