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THE CONTROLLED NEWS MEDIA: A GRAVE THREAT TO AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

John Kenneth Weiskittel

On more than one occasion in these pages we have cited Pope Pius XI's complaint that a "powerful factor in the diffusion of Communism is the conspiracy of silence on the part of a large section of the non-Catholic press of the world." What led His Holiness to reach this conclusion was the fact that the press wasn't reporting Red atrocities in Russia, Mexico and Spain and that it had "relatively little to say concerning a world organization as vast as Russian Communism." These remarks were made in Pope Pius' 1937 encyclical, *Divini Redemptoris*. There it was also noted that "(t)his silence is due in part to short-sighted political policy and is favored by various occult forces which for a long time have been working for the overthrow of the Christian Social Order."

In the five decades that have passed since then, the news media has continued this "conspiracy of silence" by hailing subversives as reformers, whitewashing the horrors of life in Communist lands (while assuring us of the peaceful intentions of their leaders), and applying the tar brush to those who speak out against the militant, atheistic Communist conspiracy. So continuous and unrelenting has this barrage of propaganda been over the years that we may, with the luxury of hindsight, say that the situation is even worse than Pius XI suspected. The media's slanting of the news that may be attributed to political myopia is slight in comparison with that which is not merely favored, but actively financed and directed, by the enemies of Christ the King. (Can any of us doubt that, had today's reporters operated in first century Jerusalem, Our Lord would have been tried, convicted and sentenced by them even before He faced Pilate?)

It is that last point that we wish to focus on here because this journalistic dishonesty has resulted in the enslavement of over a billion people in the 51 years that have transpired since Pope Pius XI's *Divini Redemptoris*. At this moment it is engaged in the sellout of countries such as South Africa, Chile, South Korea, Taiwan and El Salvador. Moreover, it has now entered what for America is the most dangerous phase of its game — *convincing the American people that it is in our nation's best interest to cozy up to the "new, improved" Soviet Union.*

Hidden Hands On The Control Button

To a sizable portion of our fellow citizens, probably a

majority, the suggestion that our major news media is controlled seems ludicrous and unthinkable. Such a concept is possible, they tell us, in a totalitarian country—but *not here* where freedom of speech guarantees open discussion of the issues.

This sounds good in theory but it misses the point on several counts. Principal among these are: (1) the clear record of deception by major U.S. news-gathering organs on a consistent basis for 50 years or more; (2) the monopolistic control wielded by a relative few of these organs; and (3) evidence that control of the major media has been the goal of interests favoring the establishment of a One World Government. (See "The News Media and Secret Societies" in the June 1, 1987 issue of *The Athanasian*.)

Control of the press has been a reality in this nation since at least the turn of the century. That this has long been the state of affairs is evident from the following rare moments of journalistic candor in the first third of the 1900's. John Swinton, a New York editor, in an address given at an annual dinner of the New York Press Association, made this comment:

There is no such thing as an independent Press in America, if we except that of little country towns. You know this and I know it. Not a man among you dares to utter his honest opinion. Were you to utter it, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print... The man who would be so foolish as to write his honest opinion would soon be on the streets in search for another job. It is the duty of a New York journalist to lie, to distort, to revile, to toady at the feet of Mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his bread, or what amounts to the same thing, his salary. We are the marionettes. These men pull the strings, and we dance. Our time, our talents, our lives, our capacities are all the property of these men; we are intellectual prostitutes. (cited, Father Denis Fahey, *The Mystical Body of Christ in the Modern World*, Regina, 1964 ed., pp. xi-xii)

Catholic writers of the period also made note of the fact. Hilaire Belloc and G.K. Chesterton saw similar problems with the British press. Fathers Leslie Rumble and Charles Carty, a little later, made the contention:

It is not only conceivable, but it is morally certain that the Capitalist Press as well as the Communist Press will be guided, not by a love of truth, but by expediency in its presentation of matter for its readers. That is why, to form a just estimate of what we read, we must watch the trend of world events and discern the motives of various parties and systems in the world. Then, in the light of those motives, we can estimate the worth of the information put before us by the various journals devoted to the interests of any given party. You see, I not only maintain that the "Capitalistic Press" misrepresents issues on Catholicism but it will misrepresent almost anything should the expediency of the moment require it. And so will any newspapers published by any parties or systems in which the prudence of this world only is accepted as a standard. The materialistic outlook, whether of Capitalism or Communism, has little in common with moral obligation. (Radio Replies, Vol. II, Radio Replies Press, 1940, p. 282)

The foregoing indicates a basic difficulty with the secular media: There is great temptation for the publisher or producer to place the profit motive above every other consideration. If, say, distortion or purple prose or sensational accusation is required to outsell the competitor, few media heads let scruples stand in the way. Now, this opportunism opened the door to the One Worlders who realized, writes Gary Allen:

...in order to maintain control over government you must control the mass media; therefore, the C.F.R. Establishment has been deeply involved in financing and manipulating the American communications industry. ("The Media: A Look at Establishment Newspapers," *American Opinion*, September 1970, p. 4)

The "C.F.R." mentioned here is the Council on Foreign Relations, America's shadow government that seeks to replace U.S. sovereignty with a global state. The CFR's exclusive membership has, since the group's founding in 1921, included major figures in government, finance, business, academia, the military and communications. Walter Lippmann, one of the most influential columnists of the century, was a CFR member for decades and, from 1932-37, a director. According to John Stormer in *None Dare Call It Treason*, Lippmann, who was widely regarded as the "Dean of American Newspapermen," joined the British Fabian (Socialist) Society in 1909 while a Harvard student (where he helped form and was president of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society in the same year) and was a founder of the leftist Americans for Democratic Action in 1947. (Liberty Bell Press, 1964, pp. 145-146)

In *The Invisible Government*, one of the earliest books exposing the machinations of the CFR, Dan Smoot iden-

tifies 35 major news media figures of the late 1950's—early 1960's as members of this One World clique, but warns that the list is "indicative, rather than comprehensive and informative." (Western Islands ed., 1965, pp. 115-116) Among them are Marquis Childs (syndicated columnist), Norman Cousins (Editor-in-Chief, *Saturday Review of Literature*), George Gallup (public opinion analyst), David Lawrence (President and Editor-in-Chief, *U.S. News & World Report*), Irving Levine (NBC commentator), Henry R. Luce (Publisher, *Time/Life*), Malcolm Muir (Chairman of the Board and Editor-in-Chief, *Newsweek*), William S. Paley (Chairman of the Board, CBS), James B. Reston (editorial writer, *New York Times*), Elmo Roper (public opinion analyst), David Sarnoff (Chairman of the Board, NBC and RCA), William L. Shirer (author, news commentator), Robert Straus (part owner of *Horizon* and *American Heritage*) and Arthur Hays Sulzberger (Chairman of the Board, *New York Times*).

When we move ahead to 1980 the CFR roster shows 209 members in key communications positions. Among them are a few carryovers from Smoot's list (Levine, Paley, Reston) and dozens of new faces, including Robert Bartley (Editor, *Wall Street Journal*), A.M. Rosenthal (Executive Editor, *New York Times*), Max Frankel (Editorial Page Editor, *New York Times*), Roger Heyns (Director, Times Mirror Co., publishers of the *Los Angeles Times*), Joseph Kraft (Columnist, *Los Angeles Times*), Katherine Graham (Chairman, *Washington Post*, and Director, *Newsweek* and Associated Press), Nicholas Katzenbach (Director, *Washington Post*), Lewis Lapham (Editor, *Harper's*), William F. Buckley, Jr. (Editor-in-Chief, *National Review*), Maynard Parker (Executive Editor, *Newsweek*), George Will (Content Editor, *Newsweek*), Edward Thompson (Editor-in-Chief, *Reader's Digest*), Harry Grunwald (Editor-in-Chief, *Time*), Ray Adam (Director, ABC), Ted Koppel (Newsman, ABC), Barbara Walters (Newswoman, ABC), Dan Rather (News Anchorman, CBS), Marvin Kalb (Newsman, CBS), Daniel Schoor (Newsman, CBS and CNN—now a news analyst for National Public Radio), Richard Sonnenfeldt (Executive Vice President, NBC), David Brinkley (Newsman, NBC), John Chancellor (Newsman, NBC), Robert McNeil (News Anchorman, PBS), Jim Lehrer (News Anchorman, PBS), Keith Fuller (President, Associated Press) and H.L. Stevenson (Vice President and Editor-in-Chief, United Press International). (See list, "Who Controls the Media?," accompanying Robert W. Lee's article, "Confirming the 'Liberal' Establishment," in *American Opinion*, March 1981, p. 33.)

In some instances, CFR control continues in a news organ from generation to generation. The *Washington Post*, for example, writes Robert W. Lee, "was purchased in 1933 by Eugene Meyer (C.F.R.), who was also the first president of the World Bank. At Meyer's death, control of the *Post* passed to his son-in-law Philip Graham (C.F.R.). After Graham committed suicide in 1963, his

wife (Eugene Meyer's daughter) assumed her present position as the paper's publisher and chief executive officer. Mrs. Katherine Graham is one of a handful of women to be admitted to membership in the C.F.R. since its ban on women was dropped in 1970. (She joined that year.)" (op cit, p. 94) Lee reveals that the *New York Times* was passed from Adolph Ochs (an early CFR member) to his son-in-law, Arthur Hays Sulzberger (CFR), to his son-in-law, Orval E. Dryfoos (CFR), to its present head, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger (openly CFR until 1971); and that Time Mirror Co., of which the *Los Angeles Times* is a division, was run by Franklin D. Murphy (CFR from late 1950 to early 1970) and now is headed by its President, Robert Erburu (CFR), and by Director Robert Heyns (CFR).

While it is true that merely belonging to the Council on Foreign Relations does not mean a person will subscribe to its One World ideology (since some members, such as Spruille Braden, a former Assistant Secretary of State, and Rear Admiral Chester Ward, were later to be outspoken critics of the Council), yet, more often than not, those who linger in it do so out of basic agreement with its aims. Certainly that is the case with the media members of the CFR. Of those cited above, only Will and Buckley are considered conservative—and many on the right believe that they should be more properly called "Establishment conservatives" to indicate a less than firm commitment to the values they are said to uphold or, worse, deliberate deception. (Buckley was one of the first to smear Robert Welch and counts as close friends the likes of CFR Insiders Henry Kissinger and John Kenneth Galbraith.)

The Judas Syndrome

Journalists often like to say that they are writing the first draft of history. Unfortunately, this is in some sense true in that many initial reports of major news events in this century have been severely slanted. This bias has given Americans distorted views of events and public figures and has aided in the betrayal of several nations into Communist slavery. A sampling of such dishonesty is in order to demonstrate how consistently the controlled media has taken the side of freedom's enemies.

1. Ukranian Forced Famine

According to the House Committee on Un-American Activities, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin ordered, and his henchman Nikita Krushchev personally carried out, "the mass starvation and liquidation of six to eight million Ukrainians in the early 1930's." (cited, Stormer, p. 49) Among U.S. reporters in the Soviet Union during that period was the *New York Times* Moscow correspondent, Walter Duranty. When reports of the famine began to circulate, Duranty, writing in the March 30, 1933 *Times*, denied it with the claim: "There is no actual starvation or deaths from starvation but there is widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition." (cited, *Accuracy in Media Report*, December-1, 1981, p. 1) Six months later he attributed the deaths to a

"food shortage" and charged: "Any report of a famine in Russia is today an exaggeration or malignant propaganda." (cited, *ibid*) Recently, syndicated columnist John Chamberlain has alluded to an incident that clearly shows Duranty's mendacity. Writes Chamberlain:

... I was bowled over when, riding in the elevator in the Times building on West 43rd Street, I heard Duranty say that 3 million Soviet citizens had perished at the end of the Twenties and in the early Thirties in Stalin's forced collectivization drives. Simeon Strunsky, the "Topics of the Times" columnist, was a third man in the elevator. But not a word about the 3 million casualties to Stalin's mania appeared in Duranty's copy. Indeed, he denied ever speaking to Strunsky and myself. The charitable assumption is that he was concerned about keeping his Soviet visa. ("Truth Has Always Been Elusive on Moscow Beat," *Tampa Tribune*, June 6, 1988, p. 9-A)

Some honest reporters tried to get the truth out, including Eugene Lyons (a Soviet apologist himself before he saw the horrors firsthand), William Henry Chamberlain (another journalist who became anti-Communist) and Gareth Jones (a British writer who visited the stricken area disguised as a tourist and was first to break the story to the English-speaking world). Allowed to visit the region as a friendly newsman, "Duranty undertook to refute Jones as the perpetrator of a 'big score' based on inadequate information," claiming that "he had seen only well-dressed peasants and plump babies." (*ibid*) Lyons contends that Duranty privately confided to him and others that 1.5 million had perished in the Ukraine but, later, "When the issues of the *Times* carrying Duranty's own articles reached me I (Lyons) found that they failed to mention the large figures he had given freely and repeatedly to all of us." (*Assignment in Utopia*, Twin Circle ed., 1967, pp. 238-239) Duranty had ample opportunity to atone for his sins of omission in his 1935 biography, *I Write as I Please*. We're sorry to say he did no such thing; instead, he proved himself a great apologist for Stalin, describing the Russian Communism he covered for 14 years as "a heroic chapter in the life of Humanity" and asking rhetorically, "am I wrong in believing that Stalin is the greatest living statesman...?" (cited, *Accuracy in Media Report*, December-1, 1981, p. 1) Others in the press corps that aided the pro-Red cause were Maurice Hindus; Anna Louise Strong (a functionary in the far-left Institute of Pacific Relations who for years edited its propaganda magazine, wrote articles for respectable magazines such as *Atlantic Monthly* and was identified as a Communist before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee—SISS); and Louis Fischer, who referred to what we today call Gulags as "a vast industrial organization and a big educational institution" (a euphemism akin to saying that the Christians thrown to lions in ancient Rome were participating in "a team sport"). Journalists who churned out the big lie were—then as now—never at a

loss for work but, writes Accuracy in Media Chairman Reed Irvine:

Reporters such as Eugene Lyons and Freda Utey, both of whom started out as Soviet sympathizers, lost their entree into those publications favored by the intelligentsia when they tried to tell what was happening in Russia. Eugene Lyons has pointed out that writers who tried to portray the Soviet Union realistically during the 1930's were turned away by editors "with platitudes about not wishing to 'attack Russia.'" (ibid, p. 2)

This period is particularly important on a number of counts. First, it puts to rest the common misconception that the news media only became enamored with the Soviet Union when it was our World War II "ally." Second, it is a striking example (and perhaps the first significant example) of media collaboration with the government on a policy pertaining to Communism. While American readers were told that the Soviet regime was a "heroic chapter" in history's annals, newly elected President Franklin Roosevelt became the first to give Soviet Russia diplomatic recognition. And third, it parallels the reluctance of many of the modern journalists to implicate the Soviet-backed Ethiopian regime for its role in the famine that has ravaged that land.

2. The Death of China

In the late 1940's, Chinese Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek were engaged in a struggle to save their country from Mao Tse-tung's Reds. Mao had been trained in Russia and had Soviet support. But he also had other backing. John Stormer writes that at the end of World War II:

the United States demanded that Chiang Kai-shek give the Communists representation in the government of China. He refused. On the orders of General George Marshall, all American aid was withheld from Chiang. (op cit, p. 29)

While the U.S. Government was ensuring Mao's victory by withholding much needed military supplies from the Nationalists, the U.S. press was assuring the public that the Chinese Communists were somehow *progressives*. Stormer points out:

The *Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, and other influential magazines were flooded with articles glorifying the Chinese Communists as "agrarian reformers" and with other Soviet-inspired materials. During the 1943-49 period the *Saturday Evening Post* published over 60 articles which promoted the Communist line. (ibid, p. 31)

And while pro-Maoist books like *Thunder Out of China*, by *Time* magazine correspondents Theodore H. White (CFR) and Annalee Jacoby, and Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China* won fulsome praise from reviewers in influ-

ential publications like the *New York Times*, the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *Saturday Review of Literature*, the same critics made a point, recalls Robert Welch, "of tearing down, when they could not manage to have the publications ignored completely, such books as W.L. White's *Report on the Russians*, or George Creel's *Russia's Race for Asia*, or Freda Utey's *Last Chance in China*." (Again, *May God Forgive Us*, Belmont Publishing, no date, p. 52) The *Times* book reviewer at the time was Owen Lattimore (CFR), a best-selling author and State Department adviser who was in 1952 identified by the SISS as having been for 15 years "a conscious, articulate instrument of the Soviet conspiracy." In 1961, Lattimore visited Soviet satellite Outer Mongolia. His favorable account of conditions there appeared in *The Atlantic* and four months later the U.S. approved Mongolia's being seated in the United Nations. (Stormer, pp. 12, 30; and M. Stanton Evans, *The Politics of Surrender*, Devin-Adair, 1966, p. 305) The controlled media either denied that tens of millions of Chinese died under Mao or said that "reactionaries" were executed—but failed to say that heading included Christian missionaries and simple peasants.

3. 1950's-Style Backstabbings

Immediately after China's fall in 1949 the call went up for recognizing the Mao regime but unforeseen factors delayed this for decades. And Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-WI) began to charge that there were security risks in the State Department who had played a major role in the Communist conquest. For his patriotism, McCarthy was to be the victim of one of the most vicious campaigns of character assassination ever launched. With the blessing of the Dwight Eisenhower (CFR) Administration, attacks rose up in the news media vilifying McCarthy as a self-serving "witch hunter" who ruined the lives of innocent citizens, and ignoring the fact that he backed his charge—aimed at the clearly subversive—with hard evidence. The attacks were led by the *New York Times* and CBS commentator Edward R. Morrow (CFR). In the fall of 1956, while most Americans cheered the attempt by Hungarian freedom fighters to wrest their country from its Soviet slave lords, Walter Lippmann (echoing the State Department position) wrote in his October 26, 1956 column:

It is not in our own interests that the movement in Eastern Europe should go so far that no accommodation with Russia is possible... In the interest of peace and freedom... we must hope for a time—not forever, but for a time—that the uprising in the satellite orbit will be stabilized at Titoism. (cited, Stormer, p. 145)

And then came the media-State Department collaboration in the betrayal of Cuba. Again, a *New York Times* reporter led the propaganda. This time the hatchet man was Herbert L. Matthews (CFR) whose earlier work included the book *The Yoke and the Arrow*, a dishonest history of the Spanish Civil War which, at the same time,

eulogized the Communists who joined in that struggle from all over the world..." (Francis X. Gannon, *Biographical Dictionary of the Left*, Vol. I, Western Islands, 1969, p. 441) When the U.S. Ambassador to Cuba, Arthur Gardner, regularly sent reports detailing Fidel Castro's Communism to his superior, (the leftist head of the State Department's Caribbean Desk, William Wieland), he was fired. Gardner was not allowed to brief his replacement, Earl T. Smith. Instead, Smith was directed to Matthews, who had told his *Times* readers that Castro was a selfless and idealistic patriot. (Stormer, pp. 50-51)

4. Vietnam... And Beyond

In the 1960's the press demonstrated that it not only had the power to smear, as it had done to Senator McCarthy, but to create false heroes, the best example being Martin Luther King. Using the pretense of civil rights, King surrounded himself with Communists (*literally*, during his visit to the notorious Highlander Folk School), called America "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world" and enthusiastically sided with the Communists in Vietnam. Rather than do the responsible thing by exposing him as a charlatan, reporters jumped at every opportunity to promote him as a prophetic figure during his life, a martyr in death and, with the passage of a national holiday in his honor, a hero of American history. If the media was quick to brush over his pro-Communist statements about Vietnam, it took the opposite tack concerning our fighting men there, who at best were characterized as outsiders that weren't appreciated by the people of Vietnam and, at worst, as drug-using criminals. Meanwhile, it glorified those who protested the war. "The Vietnam War was the first one in history," West German journalist Uwe Siemon-Netto has aptly observed, "that was won by one side essentially via the media of the other side." (cited, *Accuracy in Media Report*, November-11, 1979, p. 1)

Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza shortly before his assassination told American writer Jack Cox that the U.S. news correspondents were a major reason that his country fell to Communism. He singled out Karen Young of the *Washington Post* and Alan Riding of the *New York Times*, adding that "Riding admitted to me that he opposed my government and that he was a Socialist." (*Nicaragua Betrayed*, Western Islands, 1980, pp. 197-198) Another offender was 60 *Minutes'* Dan Rather, who interviewed Somoza for two and a half hours (only a few minutes of which were aired):

I didn't realize what the power of film editing really meant. With that power, Rather cast me in any role he chose. Everything good I said about Nicaragua was deleted. Any reference to (President Jimmy) Carter's effort to destroy the government of Nicaragua was deleted. Every reference to the Communist activity and Cuba's participation was deleted. (ibid, p. 206. Other victims of the 60 *Minutes'* treatment have included U.S. Army Gen-

eral William Westmorland and the Illinois Power Co.)

Media involvement also assisted the Carter State Department in toppling the Rhodesian government in favor of Communist dictator Robert Mugabe. And the failure to tell the tragic truth about Afghanistan is still another striking example of the controlled American press.

Fighting For The Truth

Earlier this year *Mikhail Gorbachev: An Intimate Biography* appeared in bookstores and libraries around the country. So favorable is the portrait it paints of the Soviet leader that one might well believe it to have been put together by *Pravda*. Instead, it turns out to be the work of the editors of *Time* magazine. The *Wall Street Journal*, which boasts of being "the diary of the American Dream," helped sell *glasnost* by carrying an advertising section bought by the USSR. Last November (11-16-87) *Scholastic News*, a grade-school newspaper, carried the Communist line in an article entitled "World's Largest Country Will Turn 70." Telling the students that many czars were bad and that "Czar Nicholas II was especially cruel," it ends on this "upbeat" note: "Nicholas II was the last Russian leader to call himself a czar. New leaders started a different kind of government. That's something for the world's largest country to celebrate!" Perhaps Krushchev knew something when he confidently told Americans 30 years ago that *their grandchildren would be Communists*.

That there is Communist infiltration of our media is certain. British traitor Kim Philby, a double agent for Moscow, was so effective in posing as a pro-Nationalist reporter during the Spanish Civil War that General Franco awarded him a medal. Australian Wilfred Burchett, whose articles frequently appeared in the U.S. press during the Vietnam War, was positively identified by a defector as a KGB man. Another defector similarly implicated Joseph Fels Barnes, the former foreign desk editor for the *New York Herald Tribune*. Cedric Parker, the former editor of the *Madison (WI) Capital-Times*, admitted his longtime membership in the Communist Party on his deathbed. And *Time* used Pham Xuan An as a correspondent in his native Vietnam during the war—and he turned out to be a colonel for the Communist North Vietnamese military intelligence.

Most journalists, of course, are neither CFR nor KGB but are the products of liberal indoctrination. This does not excuse them, however, for instances of deliberate bias. Reed Irvine has said that, when a publisher avoids certain stories in order to prevent "causing damage to the image of the Communists or those on the left, he serves the Communist cause just as surely as he would if he were getting paid by them. The proper question therefore is not whether such an individual is in the pay of a foreign power or is subject to the discipline of the Communist party, but do his decisions follow a pattern

of harming the forces of freedom and benefiting the enemies of freedom." (*Accuracy in Media Report*, May-II, 1978) The late Congressman Lawrence P. McDonald (D-GA) observed: "One method of counterattack is relentless public exposure of Communist propaganda, disinformation, media bias and subversive connections of the leading Far Left activists."

The enemies we face are beginning to run out of foreign countries to ruin and will one day focus all their attention here. We need to keep up on what is really happening around us so we can then inform our neighbors. Two publications that work hard to help us see between the lines are *The New American* and the *Accuracy in Media Report*. *The New American* (395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02178—\$39 per year; \$22 per 6 months) is a biweekly magazine that combines news coverage with informative articles of historical interest. It is strong on pro-life issues, national defense and general articles on the Conspiracy, but weak on Freemasonry and John Paul II (it only quotes him in a complimentary light). *The Accuracy in Media Report* (1275 K Street NW, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20005—\$15 per year for membership) is a biweekly newsletter that focuses on media bias. It tackles the national news magazines, television, radio and the major newspapers and does praise examples of fairness as well; its sole weakness seems to be its fuzziness on the extent to which the Insiders control the national Republican Party.

Although the USA assuredly can still be saved, the stark reality is that the prospects are becoming ever darker. While there is still light, the moral obligation is ours to learn the truth and to fight for it. If we do not do so *now*, we shall one day suffer dearly for our negligence and complacency. †

"FREEMASONRY AND AMERICAN POLITICS"

The above is the title of the article by Mr. Weiskittel which appeared in the previous issue of *The Athanasian*. So current and informative did I consider this article to be that an additional 1,200 copies were printed (cost: \$182.00) so as to have a supply on hand for the bulk orders we were sure to receive. Well, thus far 138 copies have been ordered by a grand total of 8 subscribers! To say the least, not only is this extremely disappointing to me but very puzzling as well. Here we have an article exposing in clear terms the presence and the influence of the satanic evil of Freemasonry in the American government—and 8 subscribers consider it worth their money and effort to spread the awful word by way of this fine article about this deadly enemy of Church and country. Such a pathetic response is quite beyond my understanding. Anyway, we still have 1,062 copies of the article in case anyone else would care to order some.

Fr. F. Fenton

TRUTH AND CONSCIENCE

It is a basic tenet of our Roman Catholic Faith that God, the Supreme Being, is the ultimate source of all truth and that, in the final analysis, all truth is such because it corresponds to, and is in harmony with, the mind of Him Who is its divine author, Almighty God. By the same token, falsehood in whatever form—lies, distortions, misrepresentations, half-truths, hypocrisy—falsehood in any form is morally wrong, is immoral because it is in opposition to the mind of God, because it is contrary to divine truth. Truth, then, is not subjective in the sense that an individual determines for himself what constitutes truth. Rather it is objective, which is to say that it exists whether we accept it or not, whether we comprehend it or not. Nor is truth determined by majority opinion or a Gallup poll. It is, if you will, God-made, God-given. If something is true, it's true even if no one believes it; if something is false, it remains false even though everybody believes it. And further, truth is unchangeable, fixed, permanent. It is absolute: the same yesterday, today and always—as, indeed, is God Himself, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Now, when we consider the concept of truth in relation to moral law, there is the matter of conscience. And what is conscience? It is a judgment of the mind as to the moral goodness or badness of an action a person is contemplating or considering, a mental decision as to the moral rightness or wrongness here and now of a particular course of action. If a person judges something is morally all right and proceeds to act accordingly, then he is said to have acted in good conscience. If, on the other hand, a person's conscience tells him some action is morally wrong and he nonetheless performs it, then he is said to have acted in bad conscience, which is to say that he is guilty of sin.

So far, so good. But supposing a person's conscience tells him that it is morally permissible to think or say or do something which is, in fact, something immoral. If one's conscience is a person's ultimate guide of conduct—and, properly understood, it is—then how can there be any wrong in a person's following his conscience? Indeed, are we not obliged to act or not act, as the case may be, according to our conscience? Yes we are, but we have a prior obligation to have what is called a correct conscience on moral matters, a conscience, that is, whose directions or dictates are in harmony with the moral teachings of the Church or with objective moral truth. So, if a person, say, does something which his conscience tells him is morally all right but which the Church says is morally all wrong, that person is said to have a false or erroneous conscience. To what extent, if at all, he is guilty of sin in not having a correct conscience in this or that matter depends on various circumstances. The fact remains though that we have an obligation to have both a right or correct conscience on moral matters and to act only in good con-

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DISHONESTY

Fr. Francis E. Fenton

The saying, "honesty is the best policy," is not an accurate statement. Rather is honesty the *only* policy because it is a virtue and its opposite a vice or moral evil. What is meant or implied in describing honesty as the best policy is that a person who is honorable and upright and truthful will, sooner or later, always win out or be vindicated in his encounters or dealings with those who are dishonest. While this may sometimes be the case, it is simply not true as a blanket statement that a thoroughly honest individual will always or even likely be victorious over a dishonest person in worldly matters or as far as material things are concerned. On the contrary, in terms of fame or power or material gain, dishonesty is often the "best" policy. But the truly and unreservedly sincere and honorable individual is one whose honesty is not motivated by worldly or selfish reasons but simply for the reason that God wills it. Honesty is the *only* policy.

Dishonesty means lack of integrity, truth, sincerity. The term is used in this article in a general sense to include such moral evils or sins as lying, hypocrisy, stealing, cheating—in a word, deception of any kind. If rampant sexual immorality of every imaginable sort is the primary vice presently destroying the spiritual fiber and soul of America (and it is), then surely dishonesty in one form or another is next in line among the major immoralities of our day.

In citing examples of the flagrant dishonesty currently so widespread upon the American scene, the one that first occurs to me is the massive lie machine known as the national news media. The outright falsehoods, the half-truths, the misleading propaganda, the disinformation being put out by that media on a daily basis across the country—this is a stark fact which no intelligent, informed, honorable individual would deny. 'Tis no wonder that multitudes of the rank and file of the American people are in blissful ignorance as to the awful truth of what is really happening to the USA. (The exceedingly dishonorable—with but relatively few exceptions—American press is the subject of Mr. Weiskittel's article in this issue of *The Athanasian*.)

As for the American government and politics, dishonesty of all kinds is to be found therein in abundance. In the area of the federal government alone deception, falsehood, hypocrisy are widespread as, for example, in its dealings with South Africa, Nicaragua, Soviet Russia, Red China, the United Nations, etc. While the USA and American businessmen and bankers bolster and build up the Soviet economy and military

through aid and trade, millions of dollars of the American taxpayers are being used to pay for the nation's military defense. If the Communist empire is now our friend and ally, against whom or what is America preparing itself to defend? Any intelligent person in this country today who contends that the USA is an anti-Communist nation is either lying or is woefully uninformed.

As for politicians, even the word has come to imply deceit. An honest politician is almost a contradiction in terms. In the U.S. Congress (Senate and House of Representatives) there are some honorable members but they are few—and becoming even fewer. The overwhelming majority of them are "masters of deceit," many of whom, I firmly believe, would sell their souls if the price was right. As for the man who will soon become the next President of the United States, how sadly naive is anyone who honestly thinks that he will be substantially any different from his predecessors in that office over the past 50 years and more. Is it possible that George Bush is a man of moral principle and integrity, deeply religious, solidly anti-abortion, anti-Communist, anti-Freemasonry and pro-American—and yet has made it to the presidency? Is it possible? Hardly.

But surely no better example of deception and hypocrisy (and betrayal) can be cited than that of the Conciliar Church. While dishonesty is very much a stark reality among most of the so-called mainline denominations and in the World and National Councils of Churches, yet nowhere, I venture to say, has more destruction been wrought as a consequence of dishonesty than in the Conciliar Church. Because so much of this has been treated in the previous issues of this newsletter, there is no need to do so further in this article. Suffice it to say that, on all levels from the Vatican on down, dishonesty in one form or another has been and remains rampant in the Conciliar Church. And so overwhelmingly effective has this satanic and Masonic deception been to date that millions of members actually believe that they are still Roman Catholics!

But dishonesty is hardly limited to the media and civil government and politicians and the Churches. It abounds in so many other areas as well—in business, entertainment, education, etc. (Anyone who knows the truth about the National Education Association (NEA) and its ultimate aims is well aware that the true education of America's youth is definitely *not* one of those aims. What the NEA is actually accomplishing is the degradation of America's youth.) And so, while

sexual immorality is the principal cause of the spiritual and moral destruction of America, the vice of dishonesty in its several forms is undoubtedly the second major factor bringing about that destruction. Falsehoods, deceptive dealings and practices, corruption, hypocrisy, cheating, stealing—how very common are these evils in American society today, so common indeed that countless numbers take them for granted and do not even recognize, much less label, them for what they are: sins, offenses against God, violations of His will. Almighty God, His eternal truth and His moral law are ignored or have been abandoned by multitudes. The tragic results are all around us.

Since this newsletter is written with traditional Roman Catholics primarily in mind, the question arises as to how they rate in relation to the American population in general in the matter discussed in this article. Are they honest in every respect, with themselves and in their business and social contacts with others? Whatever the consequences may be, are they willing to accept those consequences rather than to be deceitful in any manner? If, in a particular situation, they have a moral obligation to tell the truth, do they courageously tell that truth regardless of what they may suffer for doing so? Do they despise hypocrisy of any kind in others and do they studiously shun any taint of this vice in themselves? (Some of the strongest words uttered by Christ related to hypocrisy.) Are sincerity and integrity notable qualities in their daily lives? In a world and in a nation submerged in dishonesty, are we traditional Roman Catholics remarkably different? Is the virtue of honesty one of our truly distinctive characteristics? Assuredly we have in our divine Faith the motivation and the supernatural means to be exemplars of truth all the way—and we have the obligation to be. But do we have the courage to be?†

Pray the Rosary Daily

"Truth and Conscience" continued from page 6

science. In a word then, while our conscience is our guide in matters of morality, it is a dependable guide only if it is a correct conscience, that is, one whose directions are in harmony with the moral law of God and right reason.

We have the obligation to seek, to profess and to live by the truth always. In matters of morality that truth is contained in the moral law of God as taught by the Church. In the living of that truth in our daily lives our conscience is our guide. But, if it is to be a dependable guide in moral matters, it must be a right or correct conscience, that is, again, one whose dictates or directions are in conformity with objective truth or with the teaching of the Church. Having such a right or correct conscience—and having the courage to abide by and to act always according to its dictates—we will thereby live in a manner pleasing to God and as becomes traditional Roman Catholics. †

A REMINDER

It was announced in the March 1, 1988 issue of *The Athanasian* that, starting with the following issue (April 15, 1988), the subscription price would be \$12.00 a year for the USA, Canada and Mexico. Apparently a number of subscribers did not read the announcement or forgot about it because we have received payment of less than \$12.00 for quite a few subscription renewals over the past several months. We presently have a total of 921 paid subscriptions, a total which is probably fairly good for a type of publication such as *The Athanasian*. However, the income we receive by way of those paid subscriptions does not fully cover the cost of publication of the newsletter despite the increase in the subscription price last April. And so this reminder to all who will henceforth be renewing their subscriptions to *The Athanasian* that the annual subscription price is \$12.00.

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