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PREACHERS AND POLITICS

By the time this is read, another election will have come and gone. I felt it appropriate to write about the relation of the man of God to the public life of our times.

It is a commonplace to mention, that for the prophets of Israel, politics and religion were inseparable. For, to them, all of life was God's concern, therefore it was their concern as well. Actually, Nathan's denunciation of David's sin with Bathsheba was as much about the social nature of his deed as its moral character. As the parable of the poor man's ewe lamb shows, Nathan's concern was for Uriah, the lowly subject, whose only wife was taken into the harem of an Oriental despot who already had seven or eight wives. Elijah condemned Ahab for the judicial murder of Naboth for his property. Elisha did even more; he instigated the bloody revolution of 843 that put Jehu in power.

The literary prophets had a deep concern for and an active interest in the political affairs of their time. We remember the counsel which the statesman-prophet Isaiah gave to kings and princes, the message of Jeremiah for his day, the activities of Haggai and Zechariah on behalf of the king Zerubbabel as the long-promised Messianic ruler. The Old Testament prophets were politically active because, to them, all of life was religious.

Today, in those countries where Church and State are not separated, the doings of one have a powerful effect on the other and vice versa. In America where separation is the rule, two extremes of thinking are evident. On the one hand, there are those who say that politics is none of the preacher's business; on the other, there are many who see nothing wrong in the clergyman's active participation in the political affairs of the day.

American political history does not lack for evidence of the Church's political activity. In the late 19th century, it was the regular practice of one of our largest denominations to endorse the Republican candidate for president. It was a Protestant clergyman, a Rev. Blanshard, who in an unguarded moment, referred to his opponents as the forces of "Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion" whom many historians credit with swaying the election to

Cleveland in 1884. In 1928 religious intolerance characterized the campaign against Smith.

Today we have an Evangelical and Reformed minister running for a State office in Pennsylvania, a clergyman in a mid-western state running for the Senate, a Professor in a California theological seminary resigning in order to run for Congress. We have had Norman Thomas, an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church until recently, as the perennial candidate for President these many years. Several other clergymen left the ministry to work for labor unions in their efforts to influence their political fortunes.

A recent issue of Social Action urged Christians to give up their roles as political independents in order to have a greater effect on the life of our time. The writer of the article suggested that we join one of the two great parties in order to influence it toward Christian ends. I, for one, should like to dissent at that point. As far as the two parties are presently constituted, I would say with Shakespere, "A plague on both your houses." Political independence is the role of the modern prophet, it seems to me.

But that means you can't vote in the primaries, you say. Well, there's nothing to prevent you from registering with the dominant party in your neighborhood, if you want to vote in the primaries. Then, I would say, always vote for the opponent of the "gang" in power; as Bernard Shaw says, "A minority may sometimes be right, a majority is always wrong." Then, in the general election, you have six or seven parties' candidates to choose from.

But that's throwing away your vote, you say, well, if my vote is lost, it is not alone, for since 1932 many others have been lost.

The duty of the Christian citizen is to vote and take an active interest in the political affairs of the day. Remember, if we fail to vote today, we may not be able to tomorrow. There is a real danger to our democracy in the all too common attitude of the average citizen to his civic duties. The role of the modern man of God is to help bring religion into our political order.

Dr. Knab

FAMILY ALBUM

With this issue of The Seminarian something new is being added. It is a list of all the couples in the Seminary that are blessed with heirs. This feature will always be under the heading, "FAMILY ALBUM."

I think we'll open the album by introducing Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. DeChant who head the list with three children, Ann 3.5 yrs., Pete & Susan, 2 yrs.

Next come those who have only two children, and here they are:

Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Morrin - Margaret, 4 Yrs; James 6 mos.

Mr. & Mrs. H. S. Sills, who live in a trailer, I suppose have quite a time keeping everything in order with: Rebecca 8 yrs; Steven 6 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Roll - Kathie 2 yrs; Kenneth 6 mos.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Phillips - Thomas W. Jr. 5 yrs; Henry B. 5 mos.

Mr. & Mrs. John Winters - Lisle Elsworth 3 yrs.; Arn Elsworth 1 yr.

(It seems these two latter couples are the only couples with two boys in the family instead of mixing it like most of the other couples with a boy and a girl.)

Now we come to two couples with two girls in the family:

Mr. & Mrs. Eilus Haldeman - Pamela Jean 7 yrs.; Kay Louise 3 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. David Wen-Mary 10 yrs.; Mabel 3 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Foose - Robert Marshall 3 yrs.; Margaret Ann 9 mos.

So that takes care of the families of fours. Now come the number three families and I'll list the couples with the older children first:

Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Barnhart - J. Ronald Jr. 9 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Santoni - Timothy Fredrick 3.5 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Gockley - Janie Colleen 3 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Glatfelter - Ricky II 3 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Busler - Nancy Eileen 2 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Whitney - Richard 2 yrs.

Mr. & Mrs. George Yoder - Rebecca Jane 15 mos.

(Incidentally, these last two families will soon be moving up into the number four group.)

Mr. & Mrs. William Anderman Jr. - David Edward 13 mos.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Martin - Carl R. Jr. 3 mos.

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Schlichter - David James 10 wks.

And last but not at all the least, introducing that two weeks old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Harwick - Diana Lora.

And so as we arrive at the last page in the family album we see the Larry Feltons and the Stan Dunns waiting anxiously for the arrival of Mr. Stork.

If I have not included you and your family in this first edition of the family album, please let me know about it and I will be happy to issue the second of the Seminary Family Album.

Ruth K. Muthard

CONVOCATION PRE-VUES

The 1950 convocation promises to present a program of double significance to the students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the Seminary. In addition to a pair of well-qualified lecturers for the annual Swander and McCauley Lectures, a whole host of dignitaries will assist us in the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the founding of our institution.

The lecturers will be Dr. Richard Misbur of the Yale Divinity School and Dr. Charles E. Scheaffer, emeritus General Secretary of the National Missions Board. Founders Day Speakers will include: Daniel J. Wetzel, George W. Richards, Frederick K. Stamm, Theodore A. Distler, Josias Friedli, K. Otis Spessard, H. W. Lark, James E. Wagner, Floyd Schaefer, Otis Spessard.

The committee in charge has planned a full program, including a banquet and a reception in connection with the convocation.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Congratulations and thanks are in order for all of those who were responsible for the Hallowe'en party held in Alumni Hall the evening of November 2. In the chamber of horrors hung the head of the Society of Inquiry, Robert Delp. Inside the basket, one could mean: "Is that your coffin?" Assisting the scrooress, Ruth Muthard, was Gypsy Billy Joe Leonard with his hands left their mark on all who passed through the horrid chamber of Hallowe'en.

Classic poems were read and then candy, peanuts and eggs were thrown to the group by Paul Gerhart, Tom Phillips and Roy Schmid. Most everyone in the front lines shared in the candy and

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peanuts, but the "yolk" was on Milt Gockley. Dick Wentz gave "consequences" to Richard Carson who enjoyed the clean fun by pantomiming a bath, while Monsieur Rubright made love to Mils. Palmer. Nevin Feather and Joe Kim had a pillow fight blind-folded, Bill Leonard antagonizing them.

"Ogie" Ogaswara enthralled with his piano selections. His playing served as a dessert for the refreshments of cider, do-nuts and candy. Also on the piano were Roy Schmid and Larry Felton who provided duet music for the folk dances.

The night of November 2, 1950, will be remembered long by those present, and for these joyful memories we owe our thanks to the Program Committee.

Mal Palmer

THE ROYAL GOACH

The "Kingfish" has purchased a chariot!

The other evening "Huey" Delp was seated comfortably in the executive suit between the LP and a jug of southern cider, reading his favorite bit of ancient history - the book of Kings. As his eyes caught the eleventh verse of the second chapter of the second book, a strange light (similar to the symbol of Nirvana in one of his classmates) came into his eyes. Here was what he needed - a vehicle. Hadn't the recent movie "All the King's Men" portrayed his political forbearers riding around in a high speed car? And here was he in the School of the Prophets reading about a prophetic forbear in a chariot. "Toot" had to have a car!

For several days he contained his newly born emotion. Only the stars of the passionless pool of peace remained in his eyes. Friday was the big day. Armed with a few Confederate dollars and the reassurance of his room-mate's technical advice, he began to comb the lots. Back he came that evening with a happy smile - but no car!

Yes, he had purchased one, but he wouldn't bring it home until the next day. This we couldn't understand. But when we saw the new presidential chariot we understood. It was really a Yankee car. Its color - blue, its license - Pennsylvania, and its name - Plymouth (a Yankee historical landmark of many years standing). This was the reason for his reticence to drive it

up the driveway of Ye Old F. S. The very symbol of the Old South in our student body had bought a Yankee car.

But its formal christening took away some of its Yankee stigma. Soon Leonard and Sink were swarming over it and removing its Yankee pollution. It was swept, wiped, and rubbed. Like an Oriental ascetic "Shadow" Sink practiced Yoga postures inside the trunk. No one else could get in there to do the job of sweeping and wiping. So now the Yankee chariot has had a Rebel christening.

Like Schmid and Gerhart, "Toot" has proven himself to be hopeful. His purchase of a coupe is a genuine declaration of independence. No families in prospect for these strong-willed men. Their optimism is higher than that of Haas, Feather, Master, and Sink, who bought sedans - just in case.

Asked to make an official comment for publication, Prexy Delp muttered something about the dangers of the executive office newscasts, adding his desire to have his six-cylinder mule armor-plated and crawling with Secret Service men from the Society.

Obviously he's varin' for Turkey Day Holiday to roll around so he can shoot at the trip to Carolina. He's practising up already. If you want an appointment with him, just call A.A.A.

Dave Mark

SPORTS BRIEFS

The football season was completed last week after a campaign of hard-fought contests. After the initial tilts there was little doubt that Team #1 would wear the victor's crown. They had too much speed and experience for the opposition to overcome.

However, Team #1 found the going a little rough in their last two encounters. They managed to squeeze out a 7-0 win over Team #3, and then clinched the season with a 13-0 conquest of Team #2.

On the victors we bestow our congratulations and to all we say, thanks for a season of fun and good sportsmanship.

The interest at present is focused on the ping-pong tournament. To date the competition has been torrid, as usual. The veterans of last year are finding a skillful group of juniors as their opponents. For some excellent ping-pong may we suggest the current tournament mat.

The bridge fans have initiated their league competition. With four teams entered, the series should be, to say the least, interesting.

Dick Masters