

THE SEMINARIAN

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"IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE"

It was my privilege to study in German Universities in 1932-33. The first semester was spent in Berlin where I had a ring-side seat during the exciting months of the Weimar Republic's death and Hitler's rise to power. There are certain parallels between the situation there and our contemporary scene that led me to borrow the late Sinclair Lewis' title for this piece.

For one thing, "guns instead of butter" soon became Germany's slogan under Hitler. We now know that Thyssen and other German industrialists, no less than British and American capital, secretly financed Hitler as an antidote to the Russian menace on the East. So that, in a sense, Germany's rearmament really poured their contributions back to them in war contracts. The Stahlhelm, the German counterpart of the American Legion, also backed Hitler when he promised Germans their "place in the sun". In a word there was complete dependence on might and power, mostly military, to gain their ends.

That America is more and more depending on military power to answer her problems is very evident. When almost 3/4 of the budget goes to wars, past, present, and cold (as someone has said), ours is rapidly becoming a "guns instead of butter" economy. If my reading of Bible history is correct, we are doomed as surely as the empires of the past which have trusted in their own might to bring them survival. Isaiah wrote, "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

A second parallel I discern is the technique of vituperative slander and the "Big Lie"... In Mein Kampf, Hitler outlined his plans for gaining power. Repeating a lie big enough and often enough, he wrote, will make it believed. George Noss, who was in Japan in the 30's, writes that he witnessed such techniques in every progressive and liberal figure in Japan's national life. When that was accomplished, the war party was ready for Pearl Harbor.

Campaign by slander is not a new technique in American elections. History tells us that even the

greatest of presidents: Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, were the object of the wildest of tales manufactured out of the whole cloth. Recent Senatorial campaigns are in augury of what we may expect in the Presidential campaign of 1952. Progressive voices are, with but one or two exceptions, no longer heard on the radio, and with but one or two exceptions, such views are not found in the newspaper columns.

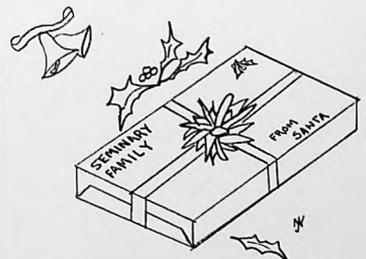
A third parallel I note is the indifference of the Church. There has been a good deal written about the part which the German Church played in the last years of Hitler's life, to help bring down his empire but my personal feeling is that the German Church was at least 10 years too late. The late 20's and the early 30's were the years they should have fought him.

We know, of course, that the Protestant Church in Germany was a State Church; therefore, they hesitated to enter the struggle. Our reasons are not theirs; we say it is none of our business. Some words I read in the recent best-seller, "Cracks in the Kremlin Wall" come to mind. The author writes, "The only way the Soviets can defeat us without war is, if we so frighten ourselves, that imperceptibly we will become a dictatorship in which no one will dare attack corruption in high places or speak up for the underdog for fear of being called a Red."

Now, if I read my Bible rightly, at least part of the Church's duty is to attack corruption in high places and to speak up for the underdog. If we of the Church are ever silent through fear, then "It Can Happen Here."

D. M. C. E.

DECEMBER 1951						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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EDITOR THE SEMINARIAN

SIR: I wish to share the following poem with you. I just received it from my good friend Loy. He remarks, "I hope you enjoy the poem. It is not an easy poem, but it makes a lot of sense once it is understood".

We shall have, Annabel,
In November this,
With the changing of trees,
And the changing of skies,
And the changing of sun,
And the changing of all.
You will mile other, Annabel,
Feel other, Annabel,
Look on the past other, Annabel,
Feel other, Annabel,
Look on the past other, Annabel.
In November, in mornings,
With hushedness in woods,
And leaves falling to earth,
And the sun far,
O, Annabel, a new world for you and all.

Summer's worms will have gone,
Trains will be in autumn's form.
Houses will show autumn.
Fires will seem other.
Where will be the possessions of many, many springs?
Where will be the quarrels, vexations, desires, longings of hundreds of summers,
Hundreds of autumns, many, many winter?
You will live then, Annabel, this to be November, and you will step on leaves touching earth, lying on pavements, lying in roads, lying by doorsteps, lying by trolley-tracks, and in quiet, rich suburbs; these leaves, these leaves.
Annabel, in November, you will be November Annabel.
It will be Annabel winds; Annabel skies; Annabel sun; Annabel autumn; Annabel all.
For ourselves make what we're in, what have, what's around us, what is with us, and you Annabel, make a world for yourself, make a yourself world, make this world, make the world yourself.
Annabel, with November, this November coming, coming November, it will be Annabel November.
Because, how else could it be?
Annabel, how else could it be, this Annabel November?

--Eli Siegel

Reading this poem I come to realize even more how self-centered we are in everything. The November I see is not through someone else's eyes. Annabel sees nothing but the "Annabel November." With great insight and art the poet has seen into our ego-centeredness. However he leaves us there, in this our sin, as thousands of unliberated, unsaved souls. We are without knowledge of our sin. In our ignorance, we do not know what to do or who to

turn to.

Now in Advent-time I ask, has not Jesus Christ's coming penetrated our ego-centeredness?

Yours faithfully,
Simeon E. Quella

WAR AND CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE

The Society of Inquiry, for its Tuesday evening program, presented a discussion on the subject, War and the Christian Conscience. Presenting the Pacifist position on this subject was Charles Walker, a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Presenting the non-pacifist viewpoint was Professor Robert Mickev, professor of religion and college chaplain at F. and M.

Mr. Walker, after mentioning the three main positions taken by Christians on this matter which were enumerated by the World Council of Churches, viz. the attitude that there can be a just war, that war is sometimes the lesser of two evils, or that all war is totally un-Christian. He defended the latter position as being the only Christian position on the grounds that it alone was in agreement with the fundamental Christian affirmation that God is love, that all men are brothers for whom Christ died, and that only from good deeds can good results follow. He also pointed to the fact that all history shows the futility of war.

He concluded that in the present world struggle, which is not an ideological but a power struggle, that a dynamic pacifism, which would supplant the arms race with world cooperation for economic improvement of mankind, is the only way by which another catastrophe and the only way by which Christians now do the will of God.

Prof. Mickey took the second position. Although no positive good can flow from war, it sometimes acts as a restraint of evil. And, he added, it would be better to be annihilated by an H-Bomb than to be subjected to tyranny. He stated that almost everything that we do is against God and we cannot find any absolute answers to our problem. The task of the Christian, is not to be devoted to peace or to social justice, but rather to be devoted to Jesus Christ. He stated that no matter what position we take we should implement it by positive action for peace, such is the proposed point four program.

Following the talks the two speakers questioned each other and then answered question from the floor.

Refreshments and informal group discussions followed the program.

(Ed.'s note: This meeting which was sponsored by the Society of Inquiry was covered by Reporter 1.)

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

Without looking at the school calendar I could tell that this past week end was the last one of the term. There were several indications and since I finished my term's work several days before the Thanksgiving vacation (yes, I am bragging...it's my first opportunity) I was in the position to observe almost all of them.

First of all there is a particular noise that is peculiar to the end of the term. Whenever you stroll down the halls and are inclined to think that you are in a printing house by mistake, it is a sure sign that the end is at hand. Typewriters are going rat-a-tat-tat and peck-peck-peck. Alarm clocks go off sooner than usual. Yawns are not infrequent. There is a silence which can be heard coming from the ping-pong room. Yes, the term's end has a peculiar sound.

Secondly, at the end of the term the conversations are limited in range. Questions such as, "Have you finished your term paper?" "How many pages do you have?" "Have you studied for that exam yet? Wonder what he's gonna ask!" and "How many times do we have this prof while we are in Seminary?" come floating out from under closed doors.

And speaking of closed doors and stuff, I have noticed that the majority of the students are not as friendly toward the end of the term as they are at the beginning and during the bulk of the term. Now this could leave lasting impressions on the personalities of the men here at the Seminary. For instance when I came back from the vacation I had no particular work to do so I thought I would catch up on my visiting. I walked into Shepherd's room and found him sitting at the typewriter using the Columbus method...discover and land. I noticed that his wife seemed unnaturally quiet and then I saw the reason. She was bound and gagged. After asking sixteen questions by count and waiting for forty-six minutes by the hour glass for my answers, I got the impression that he didn't want to talk to me. I left.

"Herb Ziegler," I thought, "is always friendly". I knocked on the door and told him who it was. Two hours later I knocked again. This time he opened the door. Walking into his room I stumbled over an assortment of chains and pad-locks which had been used to secure the door. "Say, Herb, what are these for?" He merely glared. I kept quiet as he went back to his typing. "Do you mind if I look at your term paper?" He sighed. I looked. "Mjfcdeg ihtq." was the first sentence. I didn't have the heart to tell him. It may have been the beginning of my end. Mel Palmer

SEMINARY SPORTSCOPE

The ping-pong tournament is now in its third week of activity, and interest on the part of spectator and player alike seems to be mounting as the tournament progresses.

To date there are only fourteen players participating in our ladder type tournament, and you are to be reminded that it is not too late to enter. All you have to do is see Bob Titus who will place a card bearing your name on the "ladder", and then you can begin challenging in accordance with the rules of the tournament.

Norm Bucher appears to have a very firm grip on the top rung of the "ladder", and it is quite unlikely that he will slip --- unless a last-minute "dark horse" signs up to alter the present picture. Not far behind, hanging on just the same as Norm, is Ivan Morrin. In third and fourth position respectively, are Mel Palmer (our Southern Flash) and Keith Sink. Rounding out the top six, are Harold Frantz and Bob Titus. To be sure, not all of these top six have their spots all sewed up, for their numbers are being sought after by some of those in the lower bracket. Drop down to the basement sometime if you want to see some good ping-pong!

The curtain was officially lifted on the 1951-1952 basketball card as the Seminary Angels emerged the victor from their first league encounter. In turning back a fast Hartman Hall #1 team 57 to 39, the Angels didn't actually reveal their true scoring power as was evidenced in several of the pre-season warm-up games, probably due to the long lay-off for the Thanksgiving recess and end-of-term pressure. Their usual sterling defense stood out again in this game, particularly in the final quarter when the Hartman team was able to score only three points.

The Seminary Angels made effective use of their zone defense as Bruce Hatt and Glenn Rader controlled the backboards consistently. On the floor, working that old ball around, Bruce Hatt and Harold Frantz were outstanding performers. Herby Ziegler paced the scoring for the Angels with 15 points. The other two big guns in the Seminary attack were Glenn Rader with 13 points and Nels Wenner with 12 points. These three fellows really pack a lot of scoring punch and should do a lot of damage to future opponents. When a team is as well balanced, both on the offence and the defence as now is this team of Angels, we ought to see a long string of victories in the future. Of course they need a student following to keep winning, so let's not forget them and come out to the games.

Maurice Smith