



THESE DAYS

By George E. Sokolsky

The Christian Controversy.

Being neither a Catholic nor a Protestant, I recognize in the current controversy among Christians, not only in this country but throughout the world, a menace to our civilization, an undermining of our way of life, an invitation to Marxian amorality to fill a void. It might perhaps be said conversely that the controversy is, in itself, an index to the vitality of Christianity, as men would not quarrel over or strive against what is no longer important. The danger, however, is that in the quarrel among religions and sects, often it is not the particular groups that are being attacked, but the target is God; the object to be eradicated is moral law; and the oncoming generations are fed the pabulum of materialism and immorality, food which, to those who are without moral or spiritual discipline, can be sweet as manna.

The Barden Bill.

The Barden bill now before Congress is part of the Christian controversy. The bill provides a vast program of Federal aid to State education without regard to the necessities of any particular State. It definitely discriminates against all but State schools. Its assumption is that Government money should, for all purposes, go only to Government schools, and that those children who are sent to Catholic, Lutheran, Jewish or other parochial schools or to other private and independent schools do so without benefit of Government aid. No mention is made of the fact that parents who send their children to other than State schools also pay taxes to pay for the State schools and that whatever funds are to be spent under the Barden bill are, in part, contributed by the 26,000,000 Catholics in this country through Federal taxes as well as by others who do not send their children to Government schools.

The bill, while aimed at the Roman Catholic Church and its school system, attacks the American child. For it ought to be an axiom that a benefit provided any child under the law ought to be available for all children, if the law gives a child a bottle of milk or a drink of orange juice each day, any American child, no matter what school his parents select, should be provided

milk or orange juice. No American child should be made deliberately underprivileged by act of Congress. No child should grow up under the stigma of secondary citizenship because of the faith of his fathers.

Throughout the world a controversy now rages between Marxism and those who believe in God. Hitler focused his religious antipathies upon the Jews. He sought to destroy them as a religion. Hitler was also anti-Catholic and anti-Protestant because he wanted the Germans to regard him as a man-god and he hated the competition from heaven.

The Communist challenge to God is deeper. Their Marxian philosophy, which forms the basis of their materialistic-slave society, rejects the concept of the inalienable rights of the individual man—which are beyond the authority of the state. The Christian—and it is Jewish and Moslem—concept that God created man and inspired him with the Holy Spirit, and gave him a soul which is indestructible and which will withstand any force that man and the state set against it—this idea can destroy the autocracy of Stalin and the slave concepts of Sovietism.

Fight It Everywhere.

So they fight religion as such and they fight it everywhere and over every issue. In Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, it is easier to fight Catholics than Protestants. In the Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland, they have already fought the Jews. In Germany, they will, when they are ready, fight Protestantism. It does not matter to them what the faith is called—they fight God.

In the United States, the battle is disguised. They discover the normal disagreements among the believers in God and accentuate them. Thus, they have devoted twenty years to establish anti-Semitism in the United States—and many Jews and Jewish organizations, some wholly innocent, became their dupes to their own damage. They are now engaged in accentuating the cleavages between Catholics and Protestants—and both may become so bitter in the controversy and so vindictive and vituperative as to forget that the target is God—in whom both believe.

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