

Those Moral Standards

The Moral Rearmament Association has been having its mid-winter assembly on Mackinac Island, Mich., its American headquarters.

The chief speaker on this occasion was Dr. Fadil Jamali, head of the Iraqi delegation to the U.N. who told his brother crusaders that "the United Nations is a useful organization but it needs teeth; those teeth are absolute moral standards."

It seems that the trouble with Asiatic diplomats when they go from their usual habitats to the solemn assembly of the M.R.A. (sometimes referred to as the "rich man's Salvation Army," though it is much less influential than that great organization) is that they try to convert themselves overnight, and for a brief period of time, from run of the mill politicians, which most of them are, to moral perfectionists under the stimulus of group-psychology.

No doubt, it would be a fine thing if absolute moral standards were practised by all nations, including the Arab nations, at all times. We then should have a perfect world or something very much like it. But in a perfect world there would, of course, be no need of a United Nations General Assembly nor, incidentally, of an international police force to keep the Iraqis, the Jordanians, the Syrians, the Israelis and all the others from cutting one another's throats.

Dr. Jamali may be sincere enough in his moral pronouncements; but somehow these ultra-idealistic sentiments do not tally with the Iraqi Government's recommendation of a few weeks ago that Israel be "exterminated." That can scarcely be called an absolute moral standard.

Reaction In India

A report from Washington quotes Mrs. Agnes E. Meyer, an American author and language expert, as saying "the West is losing ground in India because the Indians have no word in their language for 'humanitarianism.' The only way Indians can understand 'giving away riches' is as political bribery. The Russians who are giving with an obvious and stated political purpose are considered more honest and above board than ourselves."

This is not a particularly reassuring analysis of the free world's response to the economic needs of the backward areas of the world, but it probably contains a good deal of truth. When the United States, and other Western nations in a smaller way, began to give economic aid to those areas after the end of World War Two the assumption was that political considerations were paramount in the programs. Soon, the Soviet Union followed suit with its own political aims as the guiding factor. Indians and all the other recipients of this bounty caught on to the large scale competition that was afoot and decided to get all they could from both sides without definitely committing themselves politically to either. Thus, playing one side against the other, with the hand-clapping going to the side that offered the bigger bid at any particular "auction," so to speak, became

the favorite pastime of Asiatic governments.

In the last few years, however, the official Western view has gradually veered from political considerations to a "humanitarian" outlook. The chief proponent of the change was President Eisenhower who, soon after he took office in January 1953, began talking about the need to help the peoples of the backward areas in order to raise their standards of living and to make them happier and more contented, whether or not they chose to ally themselves with the West. This seemed like a good idea; and, of course, it was, a very splendid idea—in form. The thought that human need must be subordinated to political intrigue is a repulsive one to anyone who has the slightest understanding of Christian morality. Meanwhile, however, the Russians kept on their original political course without bothering to talk about "humanitarianism" — chiefly, perhaps, because they know nothing about it, as their organized cruelty in Hungary has proved clearly enough. It seems now that the Russian "political bribery" system is working out in India and other Asiatic countries better than the mixture of humanitarianism and practical politics which holds temporary ascendancy in Washington and other points West. This has been reported from a number of on-the-spot observers from time to time; and Mrs. Meyer has given it an interpretation that appears plausible, though it is far from comforting to those who hope that eventually Asia will choose the democratic way of life in preference to a Soviet-sponsored totalitarianism.

Where Was The Board?

Since the issue in the railway strike is whether safety and efficiency would be affected by the company's proposals to restrict the use of firemen on certain operations, it is hard to understand why the Government did not at once order its Board of Transport Commissioners to adjudicate on this matter. This Board has wide powers, as we know to our cost in this Province from the adverse rulings it has given on several occasions in connection with railway transportation. Why did it not function in this case? Section 290 of the Railway Act provides that "the Board may make orders and regulations," among other things "designating the number of men to be employed upon trains, with a view to the safety of the public and employees"; also "generally providing for the protection of property, and the protection, safety, accommodation and comfort of the public, and of the employees of the company, in the running and operation of trains."

These powers would seem to cover the issue fully; yet they have not been invoked. Nor was it necessary to wait for instructions from Parliament in doing so. The C.P.R.—or the union, or for that matter the Canadian National, which last year made similar proposals about the use of firemen on diesels—could make an application to the Transport Board for a hearing, and the Board could not very well refuse if the subject falls within its jurisdiction. Indeed, it appears to be the only body able to decide the basic question of safety involved in the dispute.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A 110-year-old prospector of Kirkland Lake, Ont. hopes to "strike it rich" one day. Certainly he will after he has gathered a bit more experience. All in good time.

President Eisenhower evidently thinks that \$400 million divided among Middle East countries will stamp out the enmities which have been plaguing the region for centuries. He may be right; but there is no precedent for it.

A new scheme for punishing persons serving jail sentences for drunk driving has been proposed by a Colorado Senator. He is drafting a bill requiring these offenders to "pick up the whisky bottles and beer cans along our highways."

The Japanese are certainly recovering industrially from their World War Two defeat. They have won an international tender—outbidding American, French and German contractors, for the building of an underground railway in San Paulo, Brazil.



IN CASE WE FORGOT

After You, Col. Nasser

Judith Robinson in The Toronto Telegram

So the United States is going to lead the United Nations perhaps more than \$3,000,000 towards clearing the Suez Canal.

This is big. Turn now to reports from Washington and elsewhere concerning the present state of the Suez Canal.

On Jan. 2, the first vessel to be raised from the channel bottom by U-N efforts was lifted to the surface of Port Said harbor. It was a tugboat named Adriote. It had been lying where it was sunk for nine weeks.

Five of the nine lost weeks passed in argument between Col. Nasser of Egypt and Secretary Hammarck of the United Nations. Main subject of the argument was the U-N order for the immediate clearance of the Suez Canal, an order which Col. Nasser, for reasons of personal and local prestige, was interested in blocking or evading.

Thanks to Dr. Hammarskjold, he got five weeks' worth of prestige built up for himself at U-N expense before he consented to let the canal be blocked for cleared for him — also at U-N expense.

A FREE HAND It is a long two months since Mr. John Foster Dulles, using the banker's usual threats behind a U-N Assembly front, saved Col. Nasser from Israel vengeance and ensured him triumphant possession of property he had grabbed, with no pretense of legal or treaty right, from British taxpayers and French shareholders. In those months, while Egypt's ruling treaty-smasher has kept U-N Secretary Hammarskjold happy arguing, the property has deteriorated — with other things of value.

Dr. Hammarskjold has protected Col. Nasser's feelings from being injured by crude insistence on ownership and international agreements and from unkind suggestions that U-N orders are for Egypt also to obey. But the canal bottom has silted up with 650,000 cubic yards of new muck.

The canal company dredgers that should have been pumping the muck out all these weeks are lying under it where Col. Nasser had them sunk. Forty ships and a couple of bridges are lying with

them also where Col. Nasser had them sunk, in the ship channel.

UNTIL THE EMERGENCE of the tugboat Adriote under U-N auspices last week any clearance done in the 103-mile length of international waterway which Nasser first grabbed and then wrecked had been done at their own expense by the dispossessed property owners.

They managed to do quite a lot in Port Said harbor before Dr. Hammarskjold made them stop doing it because Col. Nasser did not like it. That's all over now, the property owners have been kicked out, the U-N is in charge and it's a new year.

It's a new year and everything is going to be lovely. The tugboat Adriote has been raised by the U-N and that only leaves 40 ships and two bridges, and President Eisenhower has a new Middle Eastern policy.

He told a U.S. Congressional committee so yesterday. Now only cynics bellow that, with Mr. Dulles in charge, it will still be American oil companies doing the what-comes-naturally under cover of that blessed word "anti-colonial."

NONE OF THAT No indeed. No more New Jersey oil leases busting out all over Arabia. No more agents of the USSR spending U.S. oil funds to promote the dictatorship of the Syrian, Libyan, Algerian, Saudi Arabian, Lebanese and other local potentates.

None of that, but something really big. A U.S. loan of perhaps more than \$3 millions to help clear the Suez for Col. Nasser; that's the sort of scotch-tape to mend the Middle Eastern break in the West's defenses.

That will show how Dulles knew what he was about when he used the U-N to make France and Britain cease and desist from trying to protect their treaty rights in the Suez.

There's only one question now. Mr. Hanson W. Baldwin the New York Times military expert puts it: "Who will get the leadership of the Middle East; the United Nations, the United States or the Soviet Union?" You guess.

Atomic Conscience

Globe and Mail, Toronto

Backed up by the nuclear power of the United States, which is at least equal to that of Russia, the free nations of this world should be entering the New Year with a feeling of assurance. That is not, in fact, the case. The free nations are apprehensive—more apprehensive than they have been at any time since the war—and the reason for it is, paradoxically enough, the nuclear power of the United States.

It is not that power in itself which worries America's allies—why should it—but the psychological effect it appears to have on the people who possess it. Theoretically, the Americans should draw confidence from their nuclear strength; actually, it alarms them. Theoretically, it should encourage them to act bold in all the world's trouble-spots; actually, it is pushing them back into isolation. Theoretically, the atomic prowess of the U.S. should be holding back the Russians; actually it is opening the door for them.

WAR-TIME BOMBING The reason for this dangerous, indeed disastrous, state of affairs goes back twelve years to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. President Truman authorized the use of atomic weapons against Japanese cities on the quick surrender by Japan, thus saving millions of American lives—which otherwise might have been lost in a costly invasion. Having accepted this as a good reason for using atomic weapons themselves, the Americans realize they cannot deny it to other people: meaning the Russians, who are the only possible enemy in possession of such weapons.

They know that Russia has the same right to avert heavy casualties today as the U.S. had twelve years ago—the same right, that is, to employ the bomb—and that they themselves gave it to her. This weighs heavily on the American conscience, and has implanted in the American people a profound resolve that they will never do anything which would enable, or encourage, Russia to invoke that right. They will never, as they themselves put it, pull the trigger. Thus, the United States has condemned herself to a state of virtual paralysis. She will do nothing which "might" cause Russia (and so the U.S.) to use atomic weapons—which means in effect that she will do nothing at all. She will at times be tempted (as in Hungary's case) to take a stand, but will ask (as in Hungary's case) if it warrants the risk of atomic war, and will conclude (as in Hungary's case) that it does not.

NO FIRM LINE Which is just as the Russians want it. With no firm line drawn, no point at which they must stop, they and their friends in Peking can move step by step toward their objective of world domination. No single step, no single act of Communist aggression or subversion, will be deemed grave enough by the U.S. to warrant resistance—because such resist-

MAXIMS

We must not allow Christian faith to breed opposite moods of fanaticism and fanulity.

Medically Speaking

By Herman N. Bundesen, M. D. EMOTION MAY PRODUCE SPOTS BEFORE THE EYES

YOU may actually "see red" when you are angry, but you may see spots.

Those floating specks or little hair-like curlicues which most of us see before our eyes at some time or other may be temporary caused by some violent emotion. Chances are you might have noticed them while seated in a dentist's chair having your teeth fixed. It's not unusual because such a situation sometimes produces a certain amount of fear.

These spots — we call them "vitreous opacities" — might also be the result of lowered physical condition or high blood pressure. MAY BE OLD AGE Possibly it is old age creeping up on you. Then, again, it may mean something serious. Detachment of the retina, for example, might be indicated by a large spot or a cloud of fine dust-like particles before the eyes.

Coarser spots sometimes mean a serious rheumatic or tubercular infection, an injury to the membranes of the eye or even an abscessed tooth. These spots, or curlicues, which appear to dart about in floating in your vision actually are floating inside the eye in the jelly-like substance which fills it. The vast majority of these specks are the remains of white cells which become detached from the eyes interior membranes. The denser spots usually come from broken blood vessels.

OTHER CAUSES If you are nearsighted, or have astigmatism, you are much more likely to see these specks, and they are more likely to remain with you. But if you are still young or middle-aged, and are in pretty good health, they probably will not cause any great annoyance. Still, if these spots appear suddenly, and remain for any length of time, it's a good idea to see an eye doctor.

QUESTION AND ANSWER A.R.: What causes a person to be a dwarf?

Answer: There are many causes for a person not growing to proper size. One type may suffer from chondrodystrophy, a condition affecting the cartilages in the body in which they do not grow properly. Other types evidently are hereditary.

Dwarfs are not premature babies. Certain types of individuals may be abnormally short because of disturbances of the glands of internal secretion.

The Poets Corner

CHAUCER An old man in a lodge within a park; The chamber walls depicted all around With portraits of huntsman, hawk and hound, And the hurt deer. He listeneth to the lark. Whose song comes with sunshine through the dark Of painted glass in leaden lattice bound; He listeneth and laugheth at the sound. Then writeth in a book like any clerk.

He is the poet of the dawn, who wrote The Canterbury Tales, and his old age Made beautiful with songs; and as I read I hear the crowing cock; I hear the note Of lark and linnet, and from every page Rise odors of plowed fields or flowery mead. —Longfellow.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

Don't worry about not having everything you want. It's really fun to have something to look forward to.—London Free Press.

The most contented woman, after all, is the one sitting in a movie with her shoes slipped off.—Brandon Sun.

Hungary will issue no more exit visas. But Hungarians have been getting along well without them anyway.—Toronto Star.

The ordinary man will find some point in Earl Rowe's question: "Are we to believe Nasser or Eden?"—Ottawa Journal.

They were interviewing a prospective cook who brightened their day by asking: "Does I peel or thaw?"—Printed Word.

An English clergyman proposes a "Grumbling Day" upon which everybody would blow off steam and get over their peevishness. The Chinese have a good idea about this. Many communities have special platforms at street corners where any man or woman can mount and publicly scold aloud to their heart's content. Having done so they calm down and quietly return to their affairs.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Then there was the girl who was so discreet she wouldn't enter a revolving door until she was sure of the people she was going around with.—Toronto Star

K.W. asks how and by whom the Red Cross was started. Henry Dunant, a Swiss, advanced the original idea after he had witnessed bloodshed and suffering in the Battle of Solferino between French and Austrian troops, in 1859. Conferences at Geneva in 1863 and 1864 made the Red Cross in effective international organization.—Toronto Telegram.

It happened in an Ottawa court room the other day. A civil action for damages arising out of an automobile accident was being heard by a jury when a witness mentioned that an insurance company was involved in the case. The presiding judge thereupon dismissed the jury and continued the hearing by himself. This is the established practice in such matters. The theory is, of course, that jurors might be influenced in their verdict, perhaps unconsciously, by a knowledge of this situation. Very often it is the fact that on one side or the other, or perhaps on both sides, the actual litigant is an insurance company.—Ottawa Journal.

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