

The Jewish Veteran

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

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JWV URGES GOV'T ACTION

Comdr. Brooks Thanks Pope For Anti-Semitism Stand

The action of the Catholic Church and, in particular, the Vatican, in combatting anti-Semitism, was hailed today by National Commander Theodore Brooks, of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, the nation's oldest active war veterans group.

In a letter addressed to Pope John XXIII, Commander Brooks expressed the satisfaction of the organization with the efforts of the Church to attack the religious roots of anti-Semitism.

"Our membership, consisting of Americans of the Jewish faith, who fought against tyranny, pays tribute to the leadership of the Catholic Church for its forthright stand against anti-Semitism," Commander Brooks' letter read. "It is a source of profound satisfaction to know that the enlightened spiritual and temporal head of the Church, His Holiness Pope John XXIII, has shown in many ways his feeling of revulsion against the age-old perversity of Anti-Semitism, and is thus leading the faithful in a crusade against this un-Christian sickness of the Western World."

The Jewish War Veterans letter cited the orders of the Vatican to parishioners in the Catholic Church of Deggendorf, Germany, to cover up the medieval anti-Jewish descriptions of a "ritual murder." Tens of thousands of Catholics go to Deggendorf on a holy pilgrimage each year, and many of them doubtless have viewed the "ritual murder" scenes depicted on church windows. The Catholic Diocese of Regensburg, storied town in Bavaria, Western Germany, also confiscated a book published by a Benedictine Father in 1960, in which the Fourteenth Century ritual murder story was repeated as a historical fact.

National Commander Brooks' letter to the Pope lauded the statement issued by the National Conference for Inter-Racial Justice calling on Catholics to work for the removal of anti-Semitic prejudice "wherever it exists among individuals or among nations."

The letter also indicated the satisfaction of the war veterans' organization with the elimination of the phrase "perfidious Jew" from the Good Friday liturgy by decree of Pope John, and with further plans to revise offensive portions of the same liturgy.

Text of letter follows:

His Holiness Pope John XXIII
Vatican
Rome, Italy
Your Holiness:

I am taking the liberty of addressing Your Holiness in my capacity as National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Our membership, consisting of Americans of the Jewish faith who fought against tyranny, pays tribute to the leadership of the Catholic Church for its forthright stand against anti-Semitism.

It is a source of profound satisfaction to know that the enlightened spiritual and temporal head of the Church, His Holiness Pope John XXIII, has shown in many ways his feeling of revulsion against the age-old perversity of anti-

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State Dept. Asked For U.N. Aid To Soviet-Jew Relations

The United States Government was urged this week to seek action by the United Nations in condemning recent anti-Jewish activities in the Soviet Union.

In a telegram addressed to Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, U. S. envoy to the United Nations, the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. declared that recent arrests of Jews by the Soviet Government "smacked of purges reminiscent of Nazi Germany."

"We feel that it is incumbent upon us as Americans," the telegram read, "to alert the Free World to official Soviet discrimination against its Jewish citizens."

"We cannot help but feel," the message, which was signed by the National Commander of the veterans group, oldest organization of its kind in the U. S., continued, "that the recent disclosure of the twelve-year jail term imposed on lay leaders of the Leningrad Jewish Community is proof of Russian determination to terrorize its Jewish population."

"Other arrests, and in addition, the disbandment of the 'Vaad Yeshivo,' advisory council of the only Jewish Seminary in the Soviet Union, which has an authorized enrollment of 30 Rabbis for three million Jews in the country as a whole, reveal to some extent what is going on behind the Curtain of Darkness."

"These are not isolated incidents, nor are they merely confirmed rumors."

"Radio stations inside the Soviet Union have openly broadcast anti-Semitic attacks on tiny Jewish communities in the vicinity."

"The United Nations must condemn the officially approved program of anti-Jewish incitement in Russia. The forum of world opinion should speak out against this action. Moscow ridicules racism in other countries, and singles out the United States for special hate attacks in the matter of segregation. But why doesn't the Soviet bring its own house in order?"

"We call on the United States to lead the United Nations protest against the Soviet activity against Jews inside its own borders."

Israel Presents Torch



The Jewish War Veterans were among the organizations co-sponsoring the Torch Ceremony, in connection with the People to People program at the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater. Shown here is the torch, presented by the State of Israel, one of six presented by various foreign countries. L. to r.: William Hauck, Director of Washington, D. C. office of the American Legion; Benjamin Aronsohn, past Dept. Commander of the American Legion and the Jewish War Veterans and former N.E.C. member; James C. Watkins, American Legion Washington office assistant director; Ambassador Avrom Harmon of Israel and Col. Alfred Cohan, Commander of Washington D. C. Post 58, J.W.V.

Early Bird Dues Drive Enters Final Month!

As the Early Bird Dues Payment campaign of JWV prepared to enter into its final month, per capita payments to National Headquarters indicated that members of Posts throughout the country will respond to the appeal of "Pay Your Dues in Advance to Stop the Advance of Bigotry"—the slogan of the drive.

In Wheaton, Md., Post 707 offered a "sparkling evening" and "gay festivities" to all paid-up members. The Neumann-Goldman Post 69 of Bronx, N.Y. made history when it racked up 137 paid-up members as a result of its annual Membership Dance, leaving 49 members to be reinstated. Goal: To accomplish the reinstatement of this group by the end of this month!

Many Posts sponsored Early Bird prize contests. Atlanta Post 112 has created an attendance jackpot. If a member's name is drawn and his 1962 dues are paid, he receives the cash jackpot. The 4th Region, of which the Post is a member, has also devised an incentive

plan to encourage Posts to sign new and retain old members. Savings bonds go to the Post with the highest percentage of membership increase, to the individual personally signing the most new members and the member who retains the most old members. Lt. Seymour M. Kirschenbaum Post 282, Chicago, Illinois, is sponsoring a prize drawing, with number of chances predicated on month that dues are paid, i.e.—four chances in November, three chances in December, etc.

To help Posts in their campaigns to collect dues, National Membership Department has prepared and distributed a new manual, "How To Collect Dues."

Open Letter

To the members of JWV and JWVA:

It would be impossible for me to acknowledge in person the hundreds of cards, letters, and notes I have received, expressing prayers for my recovery. I am positive that these expressions were in good part responsible and provided the impetus to move me on the road to recovery. It is my hope that I shall be able to meet with most, if not all, who were kind enough to think of me so I can express my thanks in person. God bless you all!

Joseph F. Barr,

National Executive Director

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EDITORIAL

Danger From The Right

It is with deep emotion that we note that both President Kennedy and former President Eisenhower felt obliged to speak out last month against rightist agitation in the United States. The action seemed late in coming. Perhaps, in a way, it was a tribute to how far these groups had come during the past few years, far enough, it seemed to merit recognition by their two arch-foes, the "Reds" Kennedy and Eisenhower.

One observes with sadness the bubbling ferment which brings the scum of over-bearing super-duper nationalism to the surface of American life. We didn't think for a minute that we had "reformed" the American-firsters. Certainly we knew we did not stamp them out.

Indeed, every once in a while one or another of them would appear somewhere or other, snakelike, exploring the world beyond their dark, rocky lair, only to be discovered again by the apparent disinterest on the part of most Americans in the rot they were trying to peddle.

But now, it appears they're crawling out from behind the rocks in numbers enough to be noticed by people in high places. They spread themselves, octopus-like, into the Congress, the Service, the Schools, and even into Churches and other aspects of life.

Well-financed, tightly organized, espousing a hodge-podge conglomeration of mixed up facts and slogans harking back to an era reminiscent of the days of King Arthur's Knights, these fellow citizens seem to be living in a far different country and time than the one we know.

Listen to them and the first thing you know you'll be thinking that the real culprit wasn't Stalin or Khrushchev, but Chief Justice Warren. If these accusations weren't so ludicrous, you'd be inclined to rush to the windows to find out if you weren't in Moscow or some place behind the Iron Curtain.

Unfortunately, however, there apparently is a market for this garbage, and it would be foolish for us as supposedly logical, restrained, believing Americans to dismiss these groups as crackpots or morons. There are people who really think that Chief Justice Warren is a traitor and Eisenhower nothing more than a Red agent. And most disgusting of all, there are people who really believe that anyone who does not swallow this fanatically, illogical and fantastic line is a communist.

Worse than that, they don't believe it, any of them have dedicated themselves, financially, physically and one supposes, morally, to this cause.

Make no mistake about it. These groups are dangerous. In Germany in the twenties the nationalist, super-patriotic right wing movements were also unnoticed, until galvanized into action by a mad genius who also spoke of his country as being "stabbed in the back."

He too, had won adherents in the Army, in the "Reichstag" or Congress, the Church and Schools. He too, was quick to call those in power, during the unsteady days of the Weimar Republic, traitors. And then, too, men were cashiered out of the Army because they espoused his cause.

He too, talked of strangling the democratic form of government.

He too, won financial supporters from industry. He too, had his secret societies, his mumbo-jumbo pledges and the like.

But because his fellow citizens were too stupid or too slow to act, he did come to power and all the things, once ludicrous, that he spoke of and wrote about, came to pass.

We must act to fight this menace from the right. It smells of the same brand of terror manufactured by its cousins on the left. But before it gets out of hand we must seek positive ways to educate the American people into rejecting this outrageous, un-American, unsavory, and frightening philosophy from eating its way into our free institutions.

We commend the President and Mr. Eisenhower for forthrightly branding this menace for what it is.

And we call for a massive program on all levels to root it out, expose it, humiliate it with logic and common sense, and above all, defeat it.

The Commander Reports

By

Ted Brooks

National Commander

It is with a heavy heart that I note the upsurge of fanatical extremist right wing organizations in the United States.

I am not fearful of the crackpot splinter groups that have long been a pinprick in the side of American democracy. Rather, I refer to those organizations which, by a strange twist of faith and logic, wear a mantle of respectability.

The John Birch Society, for example, well-heeled and extremely active, is undoubtedly making an impact in certain circles. It is incredible that there are Americans who would follow the banner of men who truly believe that democracy is an anachronism and that many of our most respected and revered statesmen are "communists."

There is, I believe, enough of the democratic tradition in the American people to eventually reject such absurd notions,

but it will take time and it will take effort.

It is to the eventual obliteration of the ideas and ideals espoused by the John Birch Society and organizations of that ilk that I dedicate this year of effort.

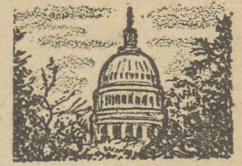
This, I believe, is the mission to which my administration must be dedicated... just as those of my predecessors dedicated their efforts to the fight against McCarthyism. I feel incumbent upon me to guide the organization in the battle against these alien and Fascist ideas. I expect, too, that the battle will grow thicker as the year progresses. Although the ideals spouted by these so-called "patriots" are illogical, shallow and superficial, and in many cases ridiculous, one cannot dismiss them as such. We must take them seriously. They represent

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Capitol Corridors

by Felix Putterman

National Legislative Director



At last a counter-offensive has been launched by the President and other members of the Administration to put in proper perspective the irresponsible quackery indulged in by some addle brained self-styled patriots serving the communist cause by considering as "conspiracy" the beliefs and actions of fellow Americans with whom they may disagree. President Kennedy, in Seattle, and Vice President Johnson, earlier in Gainesville, Florida, have led the way in speaking forthrightly against the weird behavior of the "radical right" thereby slowing the momentum generated by the John Birch Society through its use of General Walker and the other news-making marginal outfits crawling out from under the rocks.

Undoubtedly some damage has been insinuated into the nation's morale. Our unhappiness with the world situation draped in shades of gray rather than the more easily discernible black and white, our uncertainty as to how we are progressing in trying to convince the Russians of our purpose and resolution to protect the national security while searching for peace, and the tremendous cost to our people of trying to underwrite a viable free society on every continent of the earth provides fertile ground in which the seeds of doubt and disunity may be profitably planted. It is in the performance of this treacherous task that the Kremlin has had as handmaidens (innocent) and helpers (unwitting) the Smirchers and other domestic political paranoids.

Until the Executive Branch of the Federal government, a silent patsy, decided to take some of its precious time and energy from really important matters to unlimber a heavy swatter at these insects feeding poison into the bloodstream of our national self confidence, for the better part of a solid year the political underworld has had a free ride in all media of communication. The legitimate opposition has had to wait a long time for its case to be made by the people's most important vested interest—the elected government.

It hardly seems likely that Americans can believe that our government is shot through with traitors; that our judges are biased; that our elected legislators are motivated solely by self enrichment; that our educators would subvert American youth; that our most serious threat is internal subversion rather than worldwide communist aggression from Mos-

cow and Peking; that so many of us, not you mind you, but probably your neighbor, are communists; that etc. etc. In addition to the handful that we bought this nonsense hook, line and sinker, there are unfortunately those who have developed a sort of tolerance for just a couple of these big lies thereby weakening their basic confidence in American democratic institutions.

Were this nonsense believable, our chips would be better liquidated. This outrageously distorted view of our country should make the Russians look like giants and geniuses. But what have you? A casual inventory of Mr. Khrushchev's troubles would at best buy a draw from the Birchers if they could sensed trouble in his cozy cuddle with his musclebound Chinese brother or the surfeit of comradely love in Eastern Europe or the refusal of one new nation after another to take on the trappings of the Communist lodge. Is it a draw?

We are the strongest and richest nation on the earth. Regardless of what the nearest sourpuss Bircher says, we have won time and time again over the Soviet in every crucial area of international contention. Do you really think the Russians won or are winning in China? We saved Europe from falling into Stalin's hands. Today it is capitalist, rich and free. Despite the Berlin Blockade a free democratically elected government is entrenched in West Germany. The communist army was stopped in Korea in an exercise of military self control never known before in the history of the World. We are universally recognized, even by some unneutral neutrals as the proponent of independence and free choice. This is the United States.

We are a free and generous people. This is as it has been and as it should be. It is the basis for our spiritual and material strength. As Brooks Atkinson has written "We have not failed so miserably that we have had to build walls to keep our people in. Shooting people who want to escape our civilization is not only unthinkable; it is unnecessary."

The Birchers and their other un-American kin are the wall builders of our American society. Their success would result logically in an extensive shelter building program in which each American family would construct a shelter from his communist neighbor next door. Is this for real?