

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
on
THE SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

November 8-10, 1954

Monday, November 8 6:30 P. M.

6:30 P. M. Dinner Meeting

Toastmaster and Moderator: Dr. Edward L. R. Elson

Subject: The Predicament of Our Age

Addresses by:

Mr. Thomas E. Murray,
Commissioner,
Atomic Energy Commission

Prof. A. T. Mollegen
Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Va.

Tuesday, November 9

10:00 A. M. Plenary Session

Moderator: Father John Cronin

Subject: The Biblical Basis of American Democracy

Paper by:

Mr. Will Herberg

12:30 P. M. Luncheon

Presiding: Dr. Charles W. Lowry

Address by the President of the United States

2:30 P. M. Plenary Session

Moderator: Dr. Elton Trueblood

Subject: The Necessity of Faith in a Living Democracy

Paper by:

Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.,
President, Notre Dame University

Tuesday, November 9 (Continued)

6:30 P. M. Dinner Meeting

Toastmaster and Moderator: Mr. Charles Edward Wilson

Subject: Practical Steps for Strengthening American Democracy

Addresses by:

Rabbi Edgar Magnin

Mr. Thomas H. Mahoney

Dr. Louis Evans

Wednesday, November 10

10:00 A. M. Plenary Session

Moderator: Rabbi Norman Gerstenfeld

Subject: Democracy's Alternative to the Marxian Dialectic

Paper by:

Dr. Charles W. Lowry

12:30 P. M. Luncheon

Presiding: Dr. Edward L. R. Elson

Adjournment

Foundation for Religious Action
In the Social and Civil Order

1. BACKGROUND. The problem of our time is complex and many-sided. It is easy to say that Communism is the great issue of our day. But a full statement of this problem must include not only the many facets of insidious appeal which Communism has, but also an evaluation of our own reaction to the threat which it represents to our civilization and way of life.

To the extent that Communism menaces us by its military, political, economic, psychological, and conspiratorial methods and activities, the United States and its allies have developed resources of defense and containment. People may differ as to the adequacy of our countermeasures, but at least we have finally faced up to the issue.

In one great area, however, we have both underestimated the Communist appeal and have failed sufficiently to mobilize our resources for a more powerful appeal. This is the area of ideology; the satisfaction of the ideals, aspirations, and hopes of many millions of mankind. In the minds of far too many people, Communism has virtually preempted such terms as peace, democracy, freedom, reform, progress, and economic deliverance. The free nations of the West have been tarred as warmongers, imperialists, exploiters, materialists, and exponents of a decadent civilization.

The impact of this ideological offensive in large sections of Western Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia is tremendous. It is probably as effective, in its total force, as the more tangible forces against which we have mobilized. Yet the nations of the free world, our own included, have done little in the battle for men's minds. Not only are we losing in this field, but we are also suffering political, military, and economic losses because of our failure to win the allegiance of many neutralist nations or groups.

2. THE FOUNDATION. To meet the crisis of our time, an ideological and spiritual counteroffensive is needed. For this purpose, the Foundation for Religious Action in the Social and Civil Order was founded as a means of uniting the religious-minded people of America, irrespective of specific creed or denomination, in a constructive program of opposition to Communism and of affirmation of the ideas of true Democracy.

The purpose of the Foundation may be stated in the following terms, quoted from the articles of incorporation:

The particular objects of this corporation shall be to do and perform every lawful act necessary and incident to be done and performed in furtherance of uniting all people who believe in a Supreme Being into a movement having as the avowed aim and purpose the promotion of confidence of people everywhere in religious truth as the prime support of human freedom; of promoting and encouraging resistance to all attempts which may tend to destroy confidence in religion, or which may aim at enslaving the minds

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to the forces bent on the destruction of religion; and of having every participant in this movement endeavor to make religious truth an effective force for the promotion of ordered freedom and the common good in every nation and in the family of nations; and employing every legitimate educational and informational means of carrying out the aims of purposes herein enumerated.

3. AREAS OF OPERATION. In the United States, we seek to revive in our people an awareness of the spiritual foundations of our democracy. We stress the importance of religion in social and civil affairs. At the same time we interpret the true nature of world Communism, as primarily a design for winning and enslaving the minds of men. This perverse aim must be countered by a vigorous crusade, based on the primacy of God and the reality of man's creation in the Divine image, and expressing itself in clear convictions with respect to the moral law, the dignity of man, freedom in society, and an orderly economic system which affords material support to the family and the higher achievements of man's culture, without falling into the errors of statism and collectivism.

Outside our borders we seek to enlist the support of all believers in God in a common crusade against the tyranny of atheistic and inhuman Communism and for the ideals derived from belief in God and in the rights and dignity of man, and from confident determination to progress toward ever higher degrees of political and economic emancipation. Thus we would seek to win an allegiance which is being rapidly lost because of the effectiveness of Communist propaganda and our own blindness to the transcendent importance of the war for men's minds.

4. METHODS OF OPERATION. To achieve these aims, certain steps will be taken progressively, as ability, resources, and experience permit. Among these are:

(1) A national conference on the spiritual foundations of our democracy, to be held in Washington in November, 1954. This will lead to follow-up efforts to combat secularism and moral anarchy in our nation.

(2) Lecture, radio, and television programs to explain the real nature of the Communist threat, to further spiritual ideals in our democracy, and to enlist support for a worldwide effort.

(3) Preparation of literature in order to influence members and others in accord with the ideals of the Foundation. As a start, a biweekly bulletin is planned, which will emphasize the real nature of Communism, persecution of religion behind the Iron Curtain, and the operation of religious ideals in civic and social life.

In addition to direct distribution, such literature will be sent to the editors of Church papers, selected secular dailies, and the more important weekly newspapers, to radio and television commentators; and to columnists. It will also be made available to libraries and schools.

Ultimately literature will be prepared for worldwide distribution, employing the services of a research staff.

(4) Making initial contact with religious leaders and religiously inclined lay leaders in other lands, in the effort to bring them more closely together in a common cause of preserving freedom and fighting the ideological threat of Communism.

(5) Steps to encourage daily prayer for God's help in bringing about peace and the restoration of freedom to hundreds of millions under Communist slavery.

(6) Efforts to seek support of and membership in the Foundation, with appeals both to Church groups and to individuals.

Thus we would operate in an area which is of the highest importance, yet which cannot be the object of government action or propaganda. We would seek to strengthen and unite the free world, as the Crusade for Freedom strives to implant the ideas of freedom behind the Iron Curtain. We would also hope to influence Americans to oppose Communism for the right reasons and to support a crusade which would capture the ideological initiative too often held by Communists today.

There will follow, on the last page of the printed brochure, the following sentence:

BELIEVING in the necessity of action now for God, for Country, and for Human Liberty, I wish to become a member of the FOUNDATION FOR RELIGIOUS ACTION IN THE SOCIAL AND CIVIL ORDER and to have a part in a spiritual and ideological offensive for true Democracy and against Communism.

On a fly-leaf of the brochure, the following will be reprinted:

FOUNDATION AIMS

1. To stress the importance of religious truth in the preservation and development of genuine Democracy.
2. To unite all believers in God in the struggle between the free world and atheistic Communism which aims to destroy both religion and liberty.

Members of the foundation's National Advisory Council are as follows:

Mr. Maxwell Abbell, Former President, United Synagogue of America,
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Edward W. Barrett, Former Asst. Secretary of State for Public
Affairs, New York, N. Y.

Mr. Harry Camp, San Francisco, California

The Hon. William R. Castle, Former Undersecretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S., Asst. Director, Social Action Dept., NCWC
Washington, D. C.

Dr. Louis H. Evans, Minister at Large, Presbyterian Church in U.S.A.,
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Francis P. Gaines, President, Washington and Lee University,
Lexington, Virginia

Rabbi Norman Cerstenfeld, Pastor, Washington Hebrew Congregation,
Washington, D. C.

Rev. Billy Graham, Montreat, N. C.

Dr. Gordon Gray, President, University of North Carolina

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., President, Notre Dame University

Bishop Ivan Lee Holt, Bishop in the Methodist Church, St. Louis, Missouri

The Hon. Herbert Hoover, Former President of the United States

Dr. Robert L. Johnson, President, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Henry R. Luce, Life & Time, New York, N. Y.

The Hon. George C. McGhee, Former Ambassador to Turkey, Washington, D. C.

Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Thomas Mahoney, Vice President, Catholic Association for International
Peace, Boston, Massachusetts

Mr. Thomas E. Murray, Atomic Energy Commission

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Minister, Marble Collegiate Reformed Church,
New York, N. Y.

Rt. Rev. Noble C. Powell, Episcopal Bishop of Maryland

The Most Rev. Michael J. Ready, Catholic Bishop of Columbus (Ohio)

Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo, Head, Dept. of Religion, George Washington University

Dr. Guy E. Snavelly, Executive Secretary, Association of American Colleges,
Washington, D. C.

Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, Minister, Christ Methodist Church, New York, N. Y.

Dr. Robert G. Storey, Dean of the Law School, Southern Methodist
University, Dallas, Texas

Dr. D. Elton Trueblood, Director of Religious Policy, U.S.I.A.

Rt. Rev. Henry St. George Tucker, Formerly Presiding Bishop, Episcopal
Church, Richmond, Virginia

Dr. W. H. White, President, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Mr. Charles Edward Wilson, Former President, General Electric Company,
Scarsdale, N. Y.

The Most Rev. John J. Wright, Catholic Bishop of Worcester (Mass.)

INVITED

Mr. John Quincy Adams, President, Manhattan Refrigerating Company

Prof. Jerome Kerwin, Chicago University

Mr. Thomas W. Pangborn, Hagerstown, Maryland

Dr. George Shuster, President, Hunter College

The Hon. John L. Sullivan, Former Secretary of the Navy, Manchester, N. H.

Mr. James Twohy, Co-Chairman, National Conference of Christians and Jews

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November 8 - 10, 1954

Hotel Sheraton-Carlton
16th and K Streets N. W.
Washington, D. C.

REGISTRATION AND RESERVATIONS

There will be an information and registration desk in the North end of the Lobby of the Hotel Sheraton-Carlton - opposite the Carlton Room. It will be open from 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 8, and on following days. Members of the Conference are asked to register at their convenience regardless of the time of their arrival. There is no registration fee and no charge for the Conference.

It is urgent that reservations for the luncheon and dinner meetings be made at once. Please use the enclosed postcard. The cost of each luncheon will be \$2.50, of each dinner \$4.50. Checks may be sent in advance, payable to FOUNDATION FOR RELIGIOUS ACTION, but the important thing is your reservations.

Hotel reservations have been made and are being made at the Sheraton-Carlton as requested. No further action respecting these is necessary. It is not necessary to reserve a seat at the three Plenary Sessions but a card of admittance should be secured on registration.

PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

Your attention is called to the following slight changes in schedule. The First Plenary Session will begin at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 9, instead of 10:00 a.m. as previously announced. The President of the United States will make his appearance at 12:00 m. instead of 12:30 p.m. Accordingly we are scheduling Luncheon at 12:00 m. and are adding as a special feature at this Luncheon a Laymen's Panel on "God and Government", at which the two participants will be leading figures in our National Government. The schedule on Wednesday, November 10, will be the same through the noon hour as on Tuesday: Plenary Session at 9:30 a.m., Luncheon at 12:00 m. The concluding Luncheon Session will be devoted to evaluation and plans for future Conferences.

Cordially,

Charles W. Lowry, Chairman
225 DuPont Circle Bldg.
Washington 6, D. C.
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