THE ATHANASIAN

A publication of Traditional Catholics of America † Editor: Fr. Francis E. Fenton, STL † Volume VIII, No. 4 † June 1, 1987

THE NEWS MEDIA AND SECRET SOCIETIES

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"This country is not priest-ridden," wrote the nineteenth-century American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "but press-ridden." Whatever the condition of journalism a century ago, it is difficult to believe that the composer of *The Song of Hiawatha* could have seen anything to equal modern news-gathering practices.

It scarcely seems necessary to catalog entries from the daily parade of unethical reporting in print and broadcast media. This has been ably done by a number of sources, including Reed Irvine's Accuracy in Media group and books by veteran journalists: *All the News that Fits* by Herman H. Dinsmore; Edith Efron's *The News Twisters* and *How CBS Tried to Kill a Book; The Gods of Antenna* by Bruce Herschensohn; and most recently, Renata Adler's *Reckless Disregard.* The Adler study examines libel suits by General William Westmoreland against the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and by Israeli General Ariel Sharon against *Time,* and is so scathing in its exposure of the shifty legal tactics employed by these media giants, not to say their questionable journalism, that the law firm representing both CBS and *Time* vainly attempted to block the publication of the book.

At first glance, it would seem that mass media reporters never saw a scandal they didn't like. But a closer look shows a deep ideological bias even here. Witness the diabolical glee with which they pounced on Pentecostal television host Jim Bakker's single act of infidelity. When the subject is a media hero such as the late Martin Luther King, whose sexual profligacy fills file cabinets, their response is studied silence. Similarly, they pretend that there is little or no Communist influence in South Africa's "anti-apartheid" organization, the African National Congress, while the evidence shows overwhelmingly that exactly the opposite is true.

One of the biggest "oversights" by the national news media has been its failure to cover a major story involving the Masonic Shrine in Florida. Last year *The Orlando* (Florida) *Sentinel* published a series of articles exposing the fact that *less than a third* of the money raised by the Shrine from the public between 1982 and 1985 went to its hospitals for crippled children. In 1985 alone this exclusive group for 32nd Degree Masons kept 71 percent, of the estimated 21.7 million dollars it raised statewide, to pay for clubhouse expenses, travel, conventions and entertainment (including what are commonly called "beer bashes"). The state may fine 63 Shrine units (temples and clubs) a total of 46,500 dollars for failing to register to solicit funds for charity. It remains to be seen, however, whether donors will be reimbursed any of the fraudulently taken money — but don't hold your breath.

Such a revelation should have sent correspondents scurrying like ants at a picnic, eager to test their investigational, interpretive skills in determining whether this was part of a larger scandal. It is a fair question to ask when one considers that only 10 of 188 Shrine Temples are located in Florida and that, throughout the United States, the Order receives two billion dollars to run its 22 hospitals. It stretches the imagination to believe that only Florida Shriners are at fault but, so far, there has been no *Newsweek* cover story crying "Shrinegate!" and the Imperial Potentate has yet to be grilled by *60 Minutes'* chief prosecutor, Mike Wallace.

How To Control A "Free" Press

Such a nonresponse from the media's high and mighty invites a renewal of the charge of *managed* news, the long-held conviction of many Americans that the national news organs—and, to a great degree, some big-city and smaller papers—are controlled by a small but powerful group of elitists with a uniform worldview, who willingly *bend* or *omit* facts to fit their alien ideology. One of the strong points in living in a free country where freedom of speech and freedom of the press are guaranteed is that the people are given an opportunity to hear and read a diversity of views expressed on almost any subject, after which time they will, it is hoped, be able to make informed judgments about the issues of the day. That's the way it is in theory; in practice, however, there is an almost eerie sameness to the way news broadcasts sound and the way articles read. The 1981 Lichter/Rothman survey of 240 of the top editors, reporters, bureau chiefs, broadcasters and executives reveals that 54 percent considered themselves "liberal" in orientation while only 17 percent were self-described conservatives (a majority of the rest was "moderate" by self-description); 86 percent seldom, if ever, attended church (or synagogue) and a mere half had any religious affiliation; 97 percent were against laws proscribing certain sexual practices; 90 percent favored a "pro-choice" abortion stand; and 75 percent felt that homosexuality is not morally wrong. (Lichter/Rothman are the authors of *The Media Elite,* a book that whitewashes journalistic bias.)

Why such unanimity of opinion? First, the leftists learned long ago (far sooner than conservatives) the importance of using the press to promote their agenda to the public. Their having a working control of university journalism departments assures them a steady supply of fresh troops.

Second, the biggest news companies are owned and operated by a relatively small group of people and often are involved with more than the single publication or network with which they are most closely associated: Katharine Graham, for example, runs both *Newsweek* and *The Washington Post,* while Hartford N.

Gunn, Jr. has been associated with *The Boston Globe* and with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in executive capacities; CBS is a conglomerate that also deals in magazines, records and "leisure products"; and newspapers such as *The New York Times* publish other dailies, run their own wire services and syndicate columns.

Third, and most intriguing, is the membership of a sizable number of U.S. journalists in the secretive elitist group, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). The CFR was formed in 1919, ostensibly as an organization to study international policy, and, according to the late Gary Allen in his bestseller, *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, it "unquestionably has become the most influential group in America." The executive branch of the U.S. government has been dominated by CFR appointments (including nearly every Secretary of State for the past 40 years) and the Council also counts some of the biggest names in Congress, labor, business, finance, academia and foundations among its members. Its overall direction has been the promotion of an internationalist "New World Order." Yet it has ever attempted to keep its activities from public scrutiny and warns members that they will be expelled for disclosing what goes on at its meetings. In 1971, Mr. Allen wrote:

> ...Indicative of the C.F.R.'s power to maintain its anonymity is the fact that, despite its having been operative at the highest levels for nearly fifty years and having from the beginning counted among its members the foremost lions of the Establishment communications media, we discovered after poring over volumes of the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* covering several decades that only one magazine article on the C.F.R. has ever appeared in a major national journal—and that in *Harper's*, hardly a mass-circulation periodical. Similarly, only a handful of articles on the Council have appeared in the nation's great newspapers. Such anonymity—at that level—can hardly be a matter of mere chance. (op cit)

According to the CFR's 1979-80 Annual Report, media people accounted for 209 of its 1,500-odd members. Although the current total of journalists isn't readily available, the 1986 CFR roster includes such well-known names as Dan Rather, Barbara Walters, John Chancellor, William F. Buckley, Jr., David Brinkley, Bill Moyers, Marvin Kalb, George F. Will, Jim Lehrer (of PBS' *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour)*, Irving R. Levine, James B. Reston, Daniel L. Schoor, Arnaud de Borchgrave and Katharine Graham (whose brother-in-law, Bob Graham, Florida's former governor and new freshman U.S. Senator, is also CFR).

The Conspiracy of Silence

Although little of the foregoing will be new to regular readers, much of what follows may be. The tactics now in use by the managed media have been developed over a period of two hundred years by the secret societies. It is as naive to believe that our press woes are of recent origin as to believe that the internal subversion of the Church started with Vatican II.

The dishonesty seen in today's news media was just as apparent 50 years ago and one observer who minced no words about it was Pope Pius XI. In his encyclical *Redemptor Hominis* (On Atheistic Communism) he condemned much of the secular press in the strongest possible language for its organized betrayal of the peoples suffering under Red oppression. His Holiness wrote:

> A third powerful factor in the diffusion of Communism is the *conspiracy of silence* on the part of a large section of the non-Catholic press of the world. We say conspiracy because *it is impossible otherwise to explain* how a press usually so eager to exploit even the little daily incidents of life has been *able to remain silent for so long* about the horrors perpetrated in Russia, in Mexico and even in a great part of Spain; and that it should have *relatively little to say* concerning a world organization as vast as Russian Communism. This silence is due in part to short-sighted political policy and *is favored by various occult forces* which for a long time have been working for the overthrow of the Christian Social Order. (emphasis added)

Pope Pius XI does not define what he means by "occult (or *hidden*) forces" but, since he says that they've been fighting for some time against Christian society, it would seem clear that he alludes to none other than Freemasonry and kindred secret orders.

Just two years later, in the 1929 preface of his excellent book, *Freemasonry and the Anti-Christian Movement*, Father E. Cahill did not hesitate to interpret the Pope in such a way. Father Cahill's comments on the matter are so lucid and dovetail so well with the role of today's media (and government) in the anti-Christian movement that they are cited here at length:

> ...Today we behold the apparently strange phenomenon of the most capitalistic government of the world (that of the United States of America) aiding and abetting in its disruptive and tyrannical measures the anti-Christian government of Mexico, which is avowedly Bolshevist in principle and aim, and openly professes a close alliance with the Soviet Government of Russia. We see, too, the capitalistic press of the world engaged in a conspiracy of silence or misrepresentation regarding the Mexican position. But these phenomena cease to be strange when we recollect that the capitalistic press, the U.S.A. government, the Mexican government and the Russian Soviet government—apparently antagonistic to one another in many ways—are equally Masonic, and more or less under Masonic influence or control.
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> Hence when, in recent years, a definite move was made in Italy and Spain to revert from Liberalism and reestablish something of a Christian regime, the leaders of the movement in each case made it one of their first cares to suppress or expel the Masonic secret societies. The results are familiar to every student of contemporary history. The forces of international Freemasonry, through the press and the news agencies, have carried on a persistent campaign of misrepresentation against the newly established governments...

The conspiracy of silence even goes beyond this, however, as any reader who has attempted to find out about Lodges

contention in his five-volume opus, *Memoirs Illustrating the History of Jacobinism,* and it was also espoused by concerned Americans, including Washington. (See Peter Tompkins' pro-Masonic *The Magic of Obelisks,* Harper & Row, 1981, p. 313-15, and Father Kelly, p. 56)

The French Revolution sharply divided the Founding Fathers. Washington, Adams and Alexander Hamilton, though perhaps supportive at first, were soon struck with horror at the blood-bath, while Benjamin Franklin helped engineer it, Thomas Paine helped preside over it and Jefferson gave it his staunch support. Like the conspirators who fostered it, he called the revolution "beautiful" and hoped it would be "established and *spread throughout the world."* (Padover, pp. 141-42; emphasis added) And as the Reign of Terror raged, Jefferson wrote to a certain T. Cox in 1794: "Over the foreign powers I am convinced they (the French people) will triumph completely, and I cannot but hope that the triumph, and the consequent attack of the invading tyrants, is destined, in the order of events, to kindle the wrath of the people of Europe against those who have dared embroil them in such wickedness, and to bring, at length, kings, nobles *and priests to the scaffolds* which they have so long deluged with human blood..." (ibid, p. 142; emphasis added)

In the early 1790's, American Jacobin Clubs—sometimes called Democratic Clubs—began springing up. President Washington expressed the concern in 1794 (a year after a Jacobin mob threatened him) that, if the growth of the groups was not checked, "they would shake the government to its foundations," and Treasury Secretary Hamilton and his followers believed that Edmond Genet, France's ambassador to the U.S., had, "under orders from his government, (directed the importation) of the Jacobin Clubs which led the French Revolution in its bloodiest phase." (James Thomas Flexner, *George Washington,* Vol. IV, *Anguish and Farewell (1793-1799),* Little, Brown & Co., 1972, p. 64)

But *Jefferson* was silent about the clubs, leading to suspicions that he and his Democratic Republicans (today's Democratic Party) were in league with the radicals. Had he not called Weishaupt an "enthusiastic philanthropist," (cited in Robert Anton Wilson's blasphemous *Cosmic Triggers: The Final Secret of the Illuminati,* Pocket Books, 1978, p. xvi) and dismissed Barruel's *Memoirs* as "the ravings of a Bedlamite"? (Thompkins, p. 313) Had he not welcomed an instigator of the French revolt, the Comte de Volney, to Monticello in 1796, promising to translate his book—"a vitriolic attack on the French clergy"—into English? (Brodie, p. 287) And had he not, when president in 1802, invited his friend Paine for a two-week visit as a houseguest, at a time when Paine's "recently published (and anti-Christian—JKW) *Age of Reason*...seemed to most Americans a blueprint for atheism."? (ibid, p. 361) So concerned was Hamilton that a subversive plot was afoot that, in 1802, he sought to organize a Christian Constitutional Society, "a network of political clubs over the nation dedicated to teaching the tenets of both Christianity and Federalism against the atheistic tendencies of Jefferson." (ibid, p. 386) When denunciations of his irreligion came from the churches, Jefferson angrily responded, "I am not afraid of the priests. They have tried upon me all their various batteries, of pious whining, hypocritical canting, lying and slandering, without being able to give me one moment of pain." (Padover, p. 123)

The war for the soul of America, which we see being waged all around us, is now in its advanced stages—but it has been in progress for 200 years. And there can be no doubt but that Thomas Jefferson, with his hostility for the Church and Christian social order, *was a leader in the enemy's camp.* †

Pray the Rosary Daily

A WORD OF EXPLANATION

This particular issue of *The Athanasian* might well be called *The Weiskittel Report* since Mr. Weiskittel's two articles occupy slightly more than six of its eight pages. As with all of his articles, the two in this issue are excellent. Jill Wiesner will return in the next issue with the continuation of her series on the lives of the saints. However, while my articles in *The Athanasian* are never very lengthy pieces, the one in this issue is but one page. Hence, perhaps a word of explanation may be in order. The reason for the brevity of my current article and why I do not generally write at any great length in *The Athanasian* can be reduced to one word, namely, time. As much as I would like to contribute more material to *The Athanasian,* I simply do not have the time to do so. To cite examples: in the month just concluded (May) I was on the Mass circuit (and at the Vexilla Regis Association convention in Michigan) more days than I was here in our TCA office. Apart from the preparation of each issue of *The Athanasian,* perhaps the most time-consuming task involves correspondence. We receive a rather sizable number of letters and my secretary and I answer every one we get which even remotely calls for an answer. While I think it is right and proper that we do so, it assuredly is a time-consuming work.

The only purpose, I guess, in stating the above is to assure our readers that the absence of any extensive writing of mine in *The Athanasian* is merely due to lack of time. There is no other reason. Some time back someone had gotten word that I was dead. A mere rumor! I am 69 years of age and, as the saying goes, "in good shape for the shape I'm in." I do, however, plan to retire in the year 2000!

Fr. F. Fenton

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ciously, always...Lie, lie, my friends; I shall pay you for it when the time comes." And Adam Weishaupt, the Illuminatus who with Pike belonged to Masonry's *inner circle*, instructed his minions: "One must speak sometimes one way and sometimes another...so that, with respect to our true way, we may be impenetrable." How correct Pope Pius IX was in condemning Masonry with Christ's reproach of the Pharisees: "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you will do." (John 8:44)

Unmasking the Masonic Media

"Journalism," wrote the great British convert to the Faith, G.K. Chesterton, "is a false picture of the world, thrown upon a lighted screen in a darkened room so that the real world is not seen and the unreal world is seen...We live under secret government, conducted by a secret process called Publicity." In America the Fourth Estate, as the press is sometimes known, has become an unelected, self-appointed Fourth Branch of government.

Space does not allow the opportunity to delve deeper into the role that Masonry has played in our national media, but the role is significant and may bear a future article if interest is great enough. Here it can be noted only in passing that Benjamin Franklin used his New England printing press to publish not only *Poor Richard's Almanac* (which sometimes carried columns expressing animosity towards the Church and Catholic nations) but also the first U.S. version of the Masonic Constitutions; and that the Communists (and Masons) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote some 500 articles for *The New York Daily Tribune* between the years 1851 and 1862 (recall that the *Manifesto* was first published in 1848). Henry M. Christman, editor of *The American Journalism of Marx and Engels*, writes that at that time the *Tribune* was "at once the champion of utopian socialist ideas and the most respected and influential newspaper in the United States."

So the dishonesty in the American media is nothing new—but does the Council on Foreign Relations have Masonic ties? Perhaps not formally, though even that isn't totally out of the question since the secrecy of the CFR is consistent with the Lodge's mode of operation. In addition, the CFR has with Freemasonry the common goal of *internationalism*. And so the two, at the very least, have common points of agreement.

The importance of exposing the secret forces at work behind the evening news broadcasts and front-page articles cannot be stressed enough. Every day that they are permitted to further the goals of the anti-Christian movement, the closer we are to slavery. We must impress upon our fellow citizens the fact that collusion in the "marketplace of ideas" is just as shady as collusion in the business world. We must work to support those few free agents left in journalism for, as Father Denis Fahey writes in *The Mystical Body of Christ in the Modern World*, "how can editors point out the directions of the Masonic movement when they are not prepared to face the hostility of the sect?" If we are ever to fulfill Pope Leo's exhortation to "tear away the mask from Freemasonry," we must first remove its most important visible prop: the *controlled news media*. †

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THE ATHANASIAN

Published by Traditional Catholics of America

Eight issues a year: (Jan. 15, Mar. 1, Apr. 15, June 1, July 15, Sept. 1, Oct. 15, Dec. 1)
Subscriptions: $ 8.00 per year (via First Class Mail) for the USA, Canada and Mexico; $12.00 per year (via Air Mail) for all other countries
Additional copies: single copy - $1.00; 10 copies - $8.00; 40 or more to same address - $.70 each
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