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A Non-Catholic Educator Speaks Out

Alexander Meikeljohn, Professor Emeritus of Wisconsin presents a good analysis of the present state of religion in education in "Higher Education In a Democracy", quoted in the North Central Educational Association Journal (October, 1941). He says in part:

"Here are the two things the dictatorships are saying: first, down with religion, the opiate of the people! Then they have a second one. Not only down with religion, but up with the state. The state, the government--that is the solution of human problems. Down with religion and up with the state! So we want to fight them.

"I ask you to examine those statements a little more carefully because my own impression is that our society fears and hates those two dogmas or war cries or slogans, because they are the strongest elements in our own society, because we, too, are saying in our hearts, "Down with religion," and "Up with the state," and we are afraid of ourselves. At any rate, I ask you to look at ourselves and see.

"Who said, "Down with the church"? Who said, "Up with the state"? We did. In the field of education, in our teaching, which is our most characteristic and fundamental activity, we Protestant Americans have dethroned the church, have cut it off from all vital connection with education and have put in its place the state. The government is carrying on the work of teaching. That is why we are afraid of Germany and Russia. We are afraid of ourselves for what we have and have never yet had the honesty to face it as they have."

His analysis is quite accurate, but now look at his suggested remedy. His solution would further ignore religion and make the state even more powerful, supreme and absolute, which leads to dictatorship even if you try to call it democracy. Read his solution in part:

"This brings me to the second side of the thing that I wanted to speak about with regard to Russia and Germany. I want to call your attention to the fact that, when we dislodged the church from its control of education, we put in its place and we are still putting more and more strongly in its place, the state. In my own opinion, we were right in doing so. When we reflect on it, we find it is the only hope of salvation.

"In our civilization, the day of the church is over so far as the Protestants are concerned, and the day of the state is coming. The state, as the basis of, as the instrument of, as the interpreter of, as the creator of all the things with which the school has to do, must take the place of the church."

Easy Money

We forgot that there will be no Bulletin tomorrow, a holiday, and failed to make provision for announcement this week of the National Essay Contest sponsored by the Notre Dame Student Commission for Decent Literature on "Why and How Promote Catholic Reading Among Catholic College Students". This contest is open to all Catholic college students including those of Notre Dame and has two prizes:- First \$15.00 and the second \$10.00. More details next week.

As you read the educator's statement above you can see the necessity of Catholic reading to keep and develop clear thinking on the problem that faces you-- avoidance of dictatorship and preservation of Christian democracy.

PRAYERS: (deceased) 3rd. anniv. father of P. Clarke; Miss Catherine Kass, aunt of R. Kearns (St. Ed); Ill - uncle of Bob Lauer, (Car); uncle of Father Healy; 5 Spec. Int.