

Initial meeting of Chester-
ton Club will be Wednesday,
the 20th, at 8:00 in the...

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 19, 1937

...Law Building. Mr. Lunn
to open meeting with talk
on Christianity And War.

This "Legal" Government At Valencia.

You have read, or certainly heard of, the open letter on Spain signed by 150 Protestant clergymen, educators, and laymen, and published in the New York Times for October 4. That letter is only part of a large contaminated stream of sometimes malicious information that has been inundating this country ever since the present war in Spain broke out.

It is time for American Catholics to master the main facts in the case for the Nationalists. Since accurate quotation is immensely more effective in both formal and informal discussion than mere recollection, it will be necessary sometimes to memorize telling quotations. Cut them out and keep them conveniently before you. Look at them often. Repeat them until you have them on the tip of your tongue.

Are the Nationalists rebelling against a legal government? These are the main facts that led up to the present war: (1) The King abdicated in 1931 after the municipal elections which gave him an eighty per cent majority. He preferred to leave rather than to declare a bloody dictatorship and subdue the minority against him which was concentrated in the towns. (2) The first year of the regime which succeeded the King was ruinous. We quote three Spanish Liberals: (a) Ortega y Gasset, Professor at Madrid, "This is not it. The Republic has a sad and bitter profile." (b) Eduardo Ortega y Gasset, leader of the Radical Socialist Left, "The Republic fails by the incompetence, laziness and vanity of its rulers." (c) Professor Valdecasas of Granada who referred to the new rulers as men "who rival each other in the task of destruction."

(3) The Spanish people stood this for two years, then turned out the gang that were impoverishing Spain and returned a Right Wing-Center Government. In 1934 Moscow engineered an armed rebellion against the legal Government of the day. The first Soviet republic in Spain was set up in Asturias under that name and the currency circulated by the rebels was stamped with the sickle and hammer. Not only that but the Communistic International summed up the civil war in the Asturias in these words: "the workers of Asturias fought for Soviet power under the leadership of the Communists." Thus two years before a single Italian or German landed in Spain, Russia had incited a rebellion against the Republican Government and had landed, as Professor Peers proves, a consignment of seventy cases of arms in Asturias.

American Liberals make capital out of the theory that the Valencia Government is the legal government of Spain. The election which brought the so-called Popular Front into power was highly illegal. The President was terrified by the threat of yet another Red rising and dissolved the Cortes instead of calling upon the leader of the largest group to form a Government. Alcala-Zamora, one of the great radical architects of the Republic, idolized in his day by Anglo-Saxon Radicals, has described (and surely he should know) the methods by which the Popular Front obtained its majority. The Red mob, he tells us, "launched its attack by starting disorder in the streets, and using violence in its demand for power.....the mob seized the balloting papers with the result that false returns were sent in from many places....In certain Provinces where the Opposition had been victorious all the mandates were annulled and candidates who were friendly to the Popular Front although they had been beaten were proclaimed deputies."

The man who makes these statements is, remember, not a monarchist, not a reactionary, but a Radical who was President of the Spanish Republic at the time the elections were held. In spite of terrorism, mob violence and false returns, the Popular Front obtained nearly half a million LESS votes than the parties of the Center and Right. It is altogether disingenuous (to use the gentlest of epithets) of the signatories to the Protestant Manifesto to conceal these facts when they label the Valencia Government "legal".

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother of Roger McGovern ('33). Ill, Bill Hennessey (Zahm).