

Hands Off.

In the last election, surely no votes were cast on the campus for the Communist's ticket.

Yet some students seem on occasion to have adopted a so-called Communist motto, "What's yours is mine," although they strenuously object to the reverse of the motto, "What's mine is yours."

Let's say that your neighbor comes into your room during your absence and "borrows" a shirt--that one, even, with the buttons off. You expect him to return it pronto. Certainly you do; and rightly so.

That shirt is yours. You own it, and that gives you title to it against the world. You've got a title that the law of common sense supports; that the law of the state supports; that, finally and most important, the law of God supports and protects.

So "What's mine is yours" is ruled out, ruled out by you, by common sense, by the state, and by God.

Now how about the reverse, "What's yours is mine?" That equally is ruled out by common sense, by the state, by God.

By you, too?

Do you respect the ownership vested in others in the same way that you demand that they respect ownership vested in you?

You demand a "hands off" policy regarding your own things. Do you maintain a "hands off" policy towards things owned by hotels? restaurants? trains? theatres? stores?

The same "hands off" policy applies to them by the law of common sense, by the law of the state, and, more important, by the law of God. You may lack common sense. The state may never catch up with you. But no one escapes the law of God.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mr. George Attley ('10); Elizabeth L. Brennan; Sister M. DePassi C.S.C.. Ill, Bill Botzum (Alumni); sister of Bob Campbell (How.). 4 special int.

So it's "hands off" other peoples'--all peoples'--property, because God commands it. "Thou shalt not steal." No matter what you take, no matter from whom you take, don't try to excuse stealing on the grounds that--

"I'm just collecting souvenirs" or "Everybody does it" or

"The company (railroad, hotel, restaurant, or what you will) expects a certain amount of lifting."

Get this straight. Those companies may "expect" lifting, but they are forced to that expectation by the dishonesty of some people. They may "expect" it, but they don't like it. And that makes all the difference in the world. They are unwilling that things be taken, and when, therefore, anyone takes something that belongs to them he commits a theft. Stealing is just another word for it.

God doesn't make allowance for stealing just because some companies have to "expect" it. God demands restitution of the thing or its value to the owner.

If the object stolen is of considerable value, measured by the victim's station in life and wealth, then the theft is a grave one, mortally sinful, and a grave obligation of restitution is incurred. If the thing pilfered is of light value, measured again by the victim's wealth, then theft is a venial sin, with light obligation of restitution.

But whether grave or light, restitution is demanded by God's law, either in this life or in Purgatory.

You're going on a trip. There may be occasions on the trip when this "Hands Off" warning will be extremely practical. Remember if you take what belongs to another, or culpably destroy another's property, restitution is demanded until the last farthing is paid. Your defense cannot be that you were in a crowd and didn't want to be a sissy. You'll be on parade. Act so as to win approval for both yourself and your University.