

SIGN EITHER YOUR SLIP
OR THE ONE ON THE BUL-
LETIN BOARD, NOT BOTH.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
January 12, 1938

MASS, FRIDAY, DILLON 7:20,
FATHER OF BILL BARTON
REQUEST CHEMISTS' CLUB.

The Resurrection of Spain and of Christianity.

In encouraging you to petition President Roosevelt and the Seventy-Sixth Congress to keep the Spanish Embargo, the Bulletin urges you to exercise your democratic right as an American citizen. With un-American citizens pressing your Government to entangle itself and you in a foreign war, you should be interested enough to write, phone or wire your protest. The immediate object of the petition bears no relation to your personal decision or indecision as to where your sympathies should lie in the Spanish war. Rather, the immediate object of the petition is to keep this democracy, using the term in its traditional and rightful sense, from lining up with one form or other of state totalitarianism. If you love your liberty, your freedom of speech, press and assembly, now is the time to act. So far 530 of you have handed in your petitions. Those of you who have not acted yet, please affix your name to the form which was pinned on the bulletin board in your hall today.

Last Monday night the Bulletin carried the caption "United Affront" as a significant substitute for "United Front." (South Bend Tribune, please note.) The heterogeneous, artificial hock-up of Christian Liberals, including religious groups and clergymen, with Finks and Reds is surely a united affront to Catholicism and Democracy both. It is an indignity pointed at your person as a religionist and as an American. Why believers in God and the Son of God should link themselves up with militant atheists is a mystery unless in common both wish to express their anti-Catholicism. You expect this kind of hostility from the Reds and suspect it in Pinks. But when you get it from Christians, more especially from clerics, you think of them as so many Judases betraying the Master. They use, as Judas did, the outstretched hand and the kiss.

The super-deception practiced by the "United Front" (that is, the "American Friends of Spanish Democracy") on the citizens of this country has been an outrageous hoax. But the Gallup Poll certainly shows, if nothing else, their relentless campaign in the name of "peace" and "democracy" has succeeded magically. The next step for "peace" is to lift the Spanish Embargo. Then the Loyalists can buy arms to continue their war. The next step for "democracy" is to set up a throne. Then the Number One proletarian of the Soviet Democracy can sit in Madrid.

Only the short-sighted connivance of a free but badly biased American press could have won such results to date for the Third International, this "United Front." Its willing cooperation is a deep mystery to intelligent, fair-minded men who think they see the noose of dictator-censorship slipping over the neck of this same prejudiced press. At least that is what they naturally look for should the revolutionaries this press so eagerly abets finish the work they have already begun in these forty-eight states. May that God forbid! And may He grant us the sense to return to Him and His Way without any reserves. From at least one totalitarian enemy we should learn to give up forever certain economic prescriptions and racial discriminations. These things are inhuman, anti-Christian and anti-God.

As to Catholics siding in Spain. First, this is another question from the present petition of neutrality. Our demand upon the President and Congress today is to keep this country out of messing itself and its honor in a foreign war. Secondly, the totalitarian state, whatever its name, whatever its actual practice, contains in germ the principle, "wire out" God - we make our own morality. Hence Catholics oppose not only Communism but Fascism, Nazism and every "ism" that is not Catholicism. This is not intolerant but logical when Catholics can furnish absolute proof for their Faith. But thirdly, however one may theorize on perfect neutrality, in the life-situation something must be done. If there is no such thing, in the concrete, as an indifferent act; if one must do good or evil; if one is not to stand perfectly still as bombs burst in air and guns rain fire, Catholics in Spain or out of Spain must do what seems best to conscience and common sense. Hoping in France does not mean, nor can it, whole-hearted approval of everything France does or plans. It is one way of praying God end the war and God reconstruct in Spain and elsewhere Christ's Christianity.