

A TRUE WATCHMAN

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their energy. In these days their energies center around two objectives. One is the growth of ecumenism. They are constantly striving toward the building of a great superchurch, to gather all professing Christians, eventually including even the Roman Catholics, into one great organization which they will control. Toward this end they established the Federal Council of Churches (now called the National Council of Churches), the World Council of Churches, and the many other organizations of similar character.

The other aim which has been constantly before the leading Modernists for many years is the building of what they call "the kingdom of God," but which is really very similar to the Communism practiced and promoted by atheistic Russia. It is the attempt to build a utopia on earth by human effort—an attempt whose means and aims are such that it inevitably crushes out the very forces that produce prosperity, and, in the course of the effort, requires the virtual extinction of individual freedom.

Modernism is a subtle force, undermining and infiltrating organizations that were formerly used of God. Less than fifteen years ago an institution was founded on the Pacific Coast for the declared purpose of advancing the Gospel of Christ, and of training men to present the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. What a shock it was, less than a year ago, to learn that the leading professor in this institution had written a book called *The Case for Orthodox Theology* (by Edward John Carnell, Fuller Theological Seminary) of which the recent review in *Moody Monthly* correctly said that its "presentation in many respects is actually the case against historic orthodoxy rather than for it." In addition, the book is full of sneering and raging against Fundamentalists, who stand by the Word of God. Sad as it is to see such a book coming from such a source, it is sadder still to see the institution defending the man and the book, instead of being anxious to repudiate it and to declare its opposition to the views that it contains. Seldom in the past has an institution changed its direction as rapidly as would seem to be evidenced by this. It shows how great is the need of constant vigilance, lest the work of God be undermined. Truly the *Christian Beacon* rendered a needed service in calling attention earlier than most other periodicals to the wicked nature of this ungodly book.

ECCLESIASTICAL TYRANNY

A second trend against which a watchman is greatly needed is the growth of ecclesiastical tyranny. Rank and file members of the churches have little conception how far this trend has gone. It is a subtle grasping force that threatens to wipe out Christian faith.

Recently I heard of a minister who, announcing his separation from a denomination that has come under apostate control, declared that he was not separating because of Modernism, which he said, had been strong in the denomination for many years, but because of ecclesiastical tyranny. It is too bad he did not realize that the

two are generally closely related. Modernism is generally the great force behind the development of ecclesiastical tyranny. The *Christian Beacon* has rendered great service in pointing out developments and in calling attention to this great danger.

Sometimes the *Beacon* is criticized for pointing to similar developments in sound groups. Certainly a different attitude should be taken toward any group that stands for the Word of God than toward one that is modernistic. Yet the watchman needs to warn people of similar developments and of the dangers that come with them. Though the development is largely a result of Modernism, it is easy for sound groups to veer in a similar direction, and to introduce such ecclesiastical control of the activities of the individual as is without warrant in the Word of God and without precedent in the early history of Protestant groups. The watchman must do his duty whether people like it or not. He is serving God rather than men.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

Another danger to which the watchman must be alert is that which comes from Roman Catholicism. This has much in common with the two trends already mentioned. The Roman Catholic movement is one in which the teaching of the Bible has to a large extent become hidden under a mass of superimposed tradition. Thus it has much in common with Modernism, even while officially asserting certain basic Scriptural facts that Modernists deny. Moreover, it is a group in which the hierarchy claims great authority over the details of individual life, and exercises an ecclesiastical tyranny that can easily become a menace to human freedom. The *Beacon* rendered yeoman service in alerting the country to the danger from President Truman's proposal to send an ambassador to the Vatican. It is un-American to give to one religious group special favors which, in the nature of things, cannot be given impartially to other religious groups. It is the duty of the watchman to call attention to all such deviations from true Americanism.

As Americans we strongly maintain the right of Roman Catholics to exercise the privileges of citizens. They are entitled to vote, to hold office, to take their part in free America. They are entitled to have their own independent schools, in which their particular viewpoints are taught. Yet we oppose the election of a Roman Catholic President. We do this because, in the nature of the Roman Catholic organization, he holds a dual allegiance. Spokesmen for the Roman Catholic hierarchy have themselves declared that allegiance to the Pope as ruler of Christendom must be greater than allegiance to any particular country. Americans cannot brook in their top official any double allegiance. Within the last month Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, president of the National Council of Churches, declared that Christians should not oppose the election of a Roman Catholic President. Modernism and compromise with Romanism go hand in hand. We need to be wide awake and vigilant. We need to watch developing conditions and to call people's attention to dangers as they appear. We need watchmen who will point out all attempts to destroy our American freedom, from whatever quarter they may come.