

Table Talk

News and Views of the Student Body of The Lutheran
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TO HELL WITH ASIA??

Since the resumption of bombing over Hanoi, it is no longer a question of not bombing the North, but one of withdrawal, as Senator Morse would like so much to see. But since people seem to be concerned with the value of the bombings, I will discuss that first.

Some suggest that bombings are not effective. Therefore, we should stop the bombings but remain in South Vietnam. Now, it does appear that the bombings are not as successful as McNamara first indicated they would be. But the fact remains that in the bombing pause, several well equipped planes were moved into Hanoi; at least 12 missile sites were made operational, and others were near the operational stage. Also, there remains the fact that there were massive ("greatly increased") troop movements into the South. We must not forget that it is this kind of infiltrator who is shooting at U. S. troops, and without mercy killing innocent farm women and children. In the eyes of the V. C. the south has one choice, death or the yoke of communism (in the form of Chinese or North Vietnamese aggression). Why else would they annihilate innocent villagers?

During this pause, did Hanoi make peace moves? NO! Nguyen Huu Tho, head of the political arm of the Viet Cong, proceeded to call for a return to guerilla-style warfare to "erode McNamara's plan" to lure the V. C. into an "open fight." He announced this in the form of a five-point program for 1966 over the guerrilla radio. Another fact which remains to be seen is the one common statement which comes forth from the deserters and those captured in the V. C. army: The thing which scares them most is the Big B52. "We hear its roar, and even in our tunnels we run and run."
(cont'd on page 3, col. 1)

PHARAOH

(Reprinted from "Expression", Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Va.)

I was called from prison into the presence of Pharaoh. He looked as though he had had a bad night and wanted to talk about something.

- 1P----I have had a dream, and there is no one to interpret it, and I have heard it said of you that it helps to talk things out with you.
- 2J----I take it that you're disturbed by this dream.
- 3P----Yeah, that's about it. I just don't understand it.
- 4J----I see. (Pause)
- 5P----It's like this. There were seven fat cockroaches under the palace sink, and then out of the drain came seven skinny cockroaches. And dern if those skinny cockroaches didn't eat those fat ones.
- 6J----Sort of gobbled them up.
- 7P----Right! And not only that, but they were still skinny as before. Now what do you think of that?
- 8J----Well, I'm not sure, but I take it that you feel that there is some meaning in this.
- 9P----Yes, but I can't put my finger on it. I think maybe God is trying to tell me something.
- 10J---You feel as though he has a message for you?
- 11P---Yeah, maybe it means that the kingdom has been hoarding its food and those cockroaches from Canaan are going to come down and get it. That must be it! What we need to do is use up our surplus--spread it out among all the people--have something we can call a "Great Society!" Thanks Joe! You've been
(cont'd on page 2 col. 2)

"I Will Cherish The Old Rugged Cross"

TABLE TALK

(Ed. Note: Dean Thompson, a student at Richmond's Union Seminary, went to a KKK cornfield rally with his wife, Beckie, The following is the record of their reaction to the event.)

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Our feeling was one of apprehension We were somewhat frightened, somewhat anxious as we turned our car off one of the main highways of Chesterfield County and onto a country road leading to the vacant cornfield. At the junction of the roads stood two men with flashlights summoning cars to the rally. One appeared to be a Virginia State Trooper, the other a fully robed disciple of the United Klans of America, a strange juxtaposition of law and lawlessness.

HMMMM!

Those who clamor the loudest for peace in Vietnam at any cost are those who will be the first to bellow when the bombs start hitting home!

Michael Fisher

Lights flooded the cornfield and the voice of a man skilled at crowd motivation rang over a loudspeaker. The man was Robert N. Shelton, Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, a man who only a day previously had been under intense investigation by the House unAmerican Activities Committee. Shelton's harangue was a two hour attack upon the President of the United States, the Supreme Court, Communist infiltration, the Negro Revolution, Catholicism, the American University system, and civil rights workers--pawns in the hands of communists.

PHAROAH (cont'd from page 1)

a real help!
12J---I'm glad we've been able to work this out together.

(Sally Hagy & Joe McCutchen)

The crowd mostly of rural southerners or laboring men was captivated by his evangelical spiel. The Imperial Wizard spoke their language. He moved them with butchered English, vulgar allusions, emotional, sensual, and at times pedantic speech. "Hold fast to your 'forebarriers'", or, said Shelton, "The typical civil rights disciple of 'Martin Luther Coon' is out for all the good time and sex he can get--white or black!" And, with this, the crowd bristled with apprehension.

Rugged Cross (cont'd from col. 1)

Carolina who proclaimed, while strains of "The Old Rugged Cross" filled the night air, the religious significance of the klan's burning cross. Filled with emotional and religious fervor, both men and women, farmers and laborers were moved to come forward and give generously of their earnings to the movement wherein they felt lay their hope and salvation.

Robert Shelton was accompanied by two other klan officials, The Grand Dragon of Virginia who led an attack on state police harrassment of klan supporters, and The Grand Dragon of North (cont'd next col.)

Our reactions were mixed. We were both shocked and concerned. We knew we had to talk further to this man who possessed such power to motivate the minds of these people, so afterwards we talked with Robert Shelton. Sensing us to be college students, the Imperial Wizard abandoned his cornpone jargon. The change was immediate--his approach differed; he tried to speak our language.

As we listened, Mr. Shelton spoke of the Pope as being "either a communist or a terribly misguided man", of the Negro as mentally demented by a smaller (cont'd page 4, col. 1)

ASIA (cont'd from page 1)

Although McNamara might have been a bit too optimistic about the bombings, his critics and the general public might have put more optimism into his statements than McNamara himself intended. We must not forget that we have only had limited bombing thus far. Can we deny the fact that the bombings have not been successful? NO! It is only a matter of how successful it has been. Does bombing cause escalation? Not really. The V. C. hope to infiltrate fast enough to push the U. S. into the ocean. We have now stopped that infiltration to the point where we can deal with it. It is with bombing that we have kept the communists in Laos. We did not defeat the Indians by using bows and arrows. And guerrilla warfare can only prolong the agony of countless deaths that need not be exceeded by effective bombing, which the military states they can do if given the go-ahead.

Let us say we go along with Morse and withdraw. What can we lose? Thanom Kittikachorn, Prime Minister of Thailand said "help from the U. S. is not adequate. We have more American troops here now, but assistance to us has been reduced. It does not meet the needs. . . now we would like to have anti-aircraft weapons and your military authorities say it is not necessary because, in case of attack, they would send their planes to defend us." What would that promise mean if we pulled out of South Vietnam? This country is on the domino chain, and Thailand is aware of the fact that, after South Vietnam, their country is next on Mao Tse-Tung's list of candidates for "wars of national liberation." Right now the 500-odd Chinese guerrillas, who fled Malaya in 1960 with their leader Chin Peng, after the failure of a 20-year insurrection against the British, are at work in the North East province of Thailand. At the same time Communist (aggressors) have begun a systematic program of infiltration and indoctrination of villages along the Mekong River. In Nakhon Phanom province many of the (cont'd next col.)

ASIA (Cont'd from col. 1)

males of Ban Dong Luang village attend secret communist meetings about once a week. Meanwhile the Patriotic Front of Thailand, which is run from China by a former Thai lieutenant colonel named Phayum Chulanomt, has ordered a step-up in the number of small scale attacks against provincial police patrols. There are also communists from North Vietnam at work here. Without elaborating the picture further, you should recognize the pattern. It took place in Vietnam several years ago. The answer to the above question is "No, we would not lose a thing right now." Oh, perhaps a little trust and faith from other countries, but then, what is that? On, yes, there are Asians who don't want to live under the communist yoke. But the hell with them! We owe them nothing. We do not even know how their minds work or understand their values. Of course, this writer does not understand many of his fellow Americans or even the mind of Senator Morse; nor does he know, let alone understand, the fellow to whom he gave blood, but he gave it anyhow in time of need. But then some say the South Vietnamese do not care what happens. This raises the third question--What is the will of the South Vietnamese?

Recently, a Canadian who has been stationed in Vietnam for some years (some-what longer than Mansfield's "fact" finding committee) wrote to a friend when the UN decided to discuss the Vietnam problem. He indicated that the U. S. should not take this to the Geneva Conference under the old charter even if the NLF does not represent South Vietnam. According to the charter, the people of Vietnam must decide by voting. The people in North Vietnam, who know what communism is, are afraid to vote for their own freedom for fear of losing their lives. Others are under the illusion of the great society and freedom that communism (aggressive dictatorship or oligarchy) will provide. Of course we know this freedom is a lie and only lasts while the communists are gaining complete (cont'd page 4, col. 1)

Rugged Cross (cont'd from page 2)

brain, of American university professors, liberal theologians, and school books being communist infiltrated. Shelton summed up the situation by saying that the whole integration problem was due simply to a "lack of education". The solution, though impossible, he said, would be to just "send all the 'Negras' back to Africa".

The estimated two thousand had dwindled by now and only a few remained. As Shelton drove away in his Cadillac and we walked back to our car, our minds were astir with thought. "How could a crowd become so mesmerized by a simple, illogical, obviously emotional harangue?" "To what extent is this man able to influence and motivate other's thoughts?", and, "What can his impact be on Christian society?"

As seminarians and as Christians the challenge was as evident as it was immediate. How can we, and will we be able to communicate the Christian principles of love, brotherhood, and opportunity to those who would follow the gospel of Shelton and The United Klans of America?

Dean and Beckie Thompson

ASIA (cont'd from page 3)

control. Some people in the south also believe the hopeful propaganda coming from North Vietnam, while others, who live outside the city, still fear the tyranny of the V. C. and feel as though there is no escape from them. The annihilation of villages where they lost loved ones fills a very large part of their memory. Indeed, it would not be a fair vote.

This letter points out one thing very well. The South Vietnamese are not indifferent but scared and confused. Their sense of direction has been impaired. When one looks at the communist organization, he can see why the South Vietnamese are confused. The Central Office of the South Vietnamese (cont'd next col.)

ASIA (cont'd from col. 1)

Peoples' Revolutionary Party (COSVIN) gives directions to the Liberation Army which are the Viet Cong who do the fighting. The COSVIN also gives directions to the National Liberation Front (NLF) which carries on the function of recruiting and propagandizing. Nguyen Huu Tho, a 55-year-old former Saigon lawyer, heads the NLF. He is not known to be a communist, yet the NLF takes its orders from the COSVIN, which takes its orders directly from Hanoi; and Hanoi appears to take its orders mainly from Red China because of their dependency on them and other factors. Compare this set-up with what is taking place in Thailand. At any rate, all three groups appear by their very name to have the needs of the people of South Vietnam at heart. But do they? Isn't the U. S. responsible to give direction to a will that does want to go someplace or find a peace in which they can manifest their own creative will? By the same token that Christianity feels it has something more valuable than any other religion to give to the cannibals (even though we do not understand their mind) or to the Japanese who already have Shintoism, perhaps the U. S. has something valuable in its form of a mature government to give to the South Vietnamese.

Don Seiple

ANNOUNCEMENT

A discussion on the subject, "The Nature of the Resurrection," will be held on March 8th at 7:30 P. M. in the coffee shop. Dr. Philip Hefner and Dr. John Loose will participate.