

# VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



REV. J. R. KELLY, M.A.

The new Editor asks for a few lines, even proposes a regular contribution. ... How to approach it? The very first lines are no real problem: Thank you very sincerely, Mr. Editor, for the thoughtful invitation. You have in your hands now a very effective instrument for truth and good; may you always have strength to use it wisely, and may we always respect the voice you raise. It was a humiliating and wholesome reminder two weeks ago when we heard a visiting speaker quote an editorial of your predecessor: the thought was clear and elevating, the expression was careful; we had read it and hardly noticed it — it took a stranger to recognize its beauty and unveil it to our eyes.

It takes many points of view to get at the truth in the concrete; the Editor, indeed, does begin to look a little god-like as he sits matching them all in to get the whole picture. Your chaplain, then, is under no illusion of knowing all the answers — not after a year and a half of often fruitless experimenting in spiritual direction, and not after some of the welcome home-truths brought out in the recent religious survey. But he does represent one point of view, and he must keep sifting it tirelessly; how successful in getting attention for it, and how get it recognized for that point of view it is??

The banner-head of the column should certainly suggest something having to do with religion, and also with an overall view of things. The Old Testament picture seemed good, the watchman on the walls

set there to blow the trumpet and warn of approaching danger. But this was negative; if any signal has sounded loud and clear from Vatican II it is not EVASIVE, but rather ENGAGE. It is not the embattled city on the defensive that we must envisage, but rather the ship bound for a definite port, alert and well-prepared beforehand to attack any foe who would thwart the expedition. The idea should not be so much WARN as DIRECT. The picture, then, is not that of the watchman on the walls, but rather that of the Captain on the bridge; on his decisions all hope of safe arrival depends, but his decisions are in vain if he does not have a competent and keen crew to carry them out. — You see, it is not his own point of view that the Chaplain must voice; it is a measure of both the humility of Christ and of the gravity of that the Chaplain must make Christ's voice heard, must reflect the view from the bridge.

Thursday, March 3, should mark the start of the most exciting and challenging spiritual event on campus for many a year past. The University Renewal (Thur. evening through Sunday noon) represents the most modern approach to spiritual renewal, using: discussion groups, movies, statistics, etc. The director, Father Edward Royce CSSR (see news story, P. 1.) is willing to state all on the opening session. Men and women, we know we can bank on everyone's being mature enough not to make any decision about attending the Renewal before having taken in the opening session. Students of all faiths are welcome to attend throughout.

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# THE FALLING DOMINOES! WHAT'S THE WAR ALL ABOUT?

By ARNOLD F. DOUCETTE

There are times when serious doubts enter one's mind whether man is actually a reasoning animal. Thousands of people are being killed, and endless statements are being made justifying the killing, in order to prove some silly Domino theory of the U.S. State Department.

I was never much good at playing Dominoes and I find the Washington version hard to follow. According to this version you have to fight with everything you've got to prevent the first Domino from falling; because if it does all the others topple over and the game is up. And the consequences of losing are supposed to be too horrible to contemplate.

The main Domino in Asia was China. Washington had predicted a catastrophe of horrendous proportions if this leading Domino were allowed to fall to the "wicked, nasty, old Communists." But in spite of America's billions to bolster up Chiang-Kai Shek, Mao-Tse Tung won and the first Domino in Asia fell to the Communists. How did that affect your life and my life? What were some of the horrible consequences from this fall? Did the change of regimes from Chiang to Mao in any way change the pattern of life for 99.99 per cent of the people in Canada or the U.S.? If so, was it for better or for worse? If for the worse, in what way? Many competent observers believe that for the people of China, the change was for the better. Many Canadians also believe that China's large purchases of wheat have done the Canadian economy a world of good. But we won't go into that. What are supposed to be the adverse effects the Mao-Tse Tung regime has had on the

lives of millions on this continent? What about those dire predictions of calamity made by the State Department?

### WHAT KIND OF CALAMITY?

But let's go on with our game of Dominoes. China fell and we are now on the next Domino - South Vietnam. Again we are told that if Vietnam falls all the other Dominoes in Southeast Asia will fall, plop, plop, plop, one after another. And again it is being drummed into our ears that this would have a calamitous effect on the lives of millions on this continent, whether Negroes in Mississippi or Indians in Manitoba. Again the nature of the calamity we are to expect is not spelled out. Just what are those horrible things Washington is predicting for us? Could we have a few details?

Let us assume the very worst has happened: Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, along with Vietnam have fallen. All the Dominoes have been toppled over and the political colouration of that whole area has changed to a bright Red. Then what? How will that affect the lives of us in Canada? Will our standard of living go up or down as a result of it? Will we have better or worse minority governments because of it? Will it help or hinder us in our war on poverty? Exactly what are the adverse effects such a course of events would have on us?

Upon the Vietnamese people the United States is inflicting the cruelest punishment conceivable. Thousands are killed and maimed and subjected to the pain and the terror of modern warfare. Yet the State Department blithely keeps telling us they are doing all this to spare the Vietnamese people from a worse fate if the Viet Cong came to power! What conceivable worse fate

could befall these unfortunate people?

### IF ALL THE DOMINOES FALL

Every day in the week we are told what a dire calamity it would be for the western world if the whole of Asia fell under the influence of China. But what would be the nature of the calamity? Who in the West would be affected and in what way? Granted a few investors from the West lost out in China and they stand to lose a few millions in the other countries in Asia if the guerilla bands come out on top. But let the investors look after themselves; I'm primarily concerned about the great mass of people who have no investments anywhere. How would it affect the lives of the other 99.99 per cent of the population? Would we be worse off or better off than we were when the whole of Asia was under the domination of the western powers? Did the millions of us ordinary citizens live any better when Chinese ports were controlled by Great Britain, the United States, and any other western powers? In what way would Chinese influence be worse?

Coming back to our game of Dominoes, let's raise a few questions of a different kind. If we are really threatened with all sorts of unspecified calamities by the falling of Dominoes, is there no other way to keep them from falling besides bombs and guns?

### THE OLD, OLD STORY

In an article headed "Thailand: The Anatomy of a Domino", Newsweek magazine (January 31) gives us a good look at one of the Dominoes which hasn't fallen yet. We get the old familiar story: a dictatorial regime, corruption on a grand scale, extremes of

wealth and poverty - and the inevitable guerilla bands on the move. Thailand is almost the exact counterpart of South Vietnam. Behind the superficial appearance of prosperity "10 million peasants ... eke out a bare existence." There are the trappings of royalty and a complete absence of democracy. This member of the "free world" is ruled by an "highly exclusive elite... Included in this tight circle of power are leading members of the aristocracy, government ministers, army generals, wealthy businessmen, property owners, and a small professional class..." Pointing out the obvious the article says: "Not surprisingly, in this sort of system corruption thrives." Mention is made of a former prime minister who died and left behind 150 "minor" wives, 51 private cars, and an estimated \$140 million. Even if we indulgently overlook the item of 150 "minor" wives, this fellow was no slouch when it came to gathering wealth into his coffer. Corruption in Thailand is standard practice according to the Newsweek article. It quotes an American administration official there who sums up the situation in the following pungent comment: "The Thais are our allies, but they're crooked as hell and I detest them for it."

This is, of course, the same sort of story we used to hear about Korea under Syngman Rhee, Cuba under Batista, South Vietnam under Diem and his numerous successors. It is the same in every country the U.S. has become involved in. Before the rebel bands get the upper hand we are allowed to get the true facts about these countries. We learn that they are dictatorships, that corruption is rife, that the mass of the people live in extreme poverty while a few are fabul-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

# MADALYN MURRAY

This interview appeared in the University of Chicago Maroon of January 14.

Atheist, free-thinker, cynic, crack-pot, those are just a few of the epithets thrown at Madalyn Murray over the last few years.

Advertised as "the most hated woman in America," Mrs. Murray became nationally known in 1963, when the Supreme Court upheld her contention that prayers should not be allowed in the public schools. Presently the director of the Freethought Society of America, Inc., Mrs. Murray is currently involved with a suit aiming at removing churches' property from tax exemption.

Maroon: Mrs. Murray, do you think college students are getting more radical?

Mrs. Murray: Why, not at all! College kids are getting less radical all the time. I have spoken to colleges all over the country and in Hawaii as well, and I am appalled by the conformity of opinion, the conformity of thought, and the lack of understanding that I find. Apparently you've not getting a good liberal arts education at many colleges today.

For example, I am shocked that many kids do not know what Socrates stands for, or what the basic theories of government are. You have no historical background, no socioeconomic background, and no cultural background in the philosophic writings. You have nothing!

Another thing that throws me is that it's no lie when they say that 85 to 90 per cent of the kids support the war in Vietnam. This is Hillerian, just like our rationalizations for moving into the country itself.

And as for those who are against the war, I am infuriated

by the ragamuffins among them. I don't see why dirt should be equated with radicalism.

Maroon: What do you think, then, is really going on in colleges today?

Mrs. Murray: I say that the further you go to college, the more you are lost to humanity. By the time you get your Ph.D., you have sold out completely to the Establishment. Sometimes I think that the dropout from high school are the most fortunate people in our culture, if only because they're not constantly being brainwashed by the system.

And you know, the seniors are more gone than the freshman. So often you've got to write what they want to hear and not what you think, and every time you do that you debase yourself in a sort of intellectual prostitution. I know, because I did the same thing when I was in school. Come on now, you must have a sense of guilt whenever you have to parrot back some of the ideas being dished out in classrooms.

Maroon: Can you suggest a remedy?

Mrs. Murray: Perhaps the best place for education would be a small local library somewhere, reading indiscriminately and at the same time embroiling yourself in the problems of the community.

Maroon: Is education compatible with religion?

Mrs. Murray: Yes! Do you know what group of people attends church most regularly? College graduates, that's who. Maybe it's hypocrisy, maybe it's status seeking, but in any case the working class is beginning to stay away from church en masse, and the white-collar college graduate is

flocking into the churches.

Oh, it's true that a good liberal arts education is incompatible with religion, but how many places are left where you can get one? Our present education is leading us toward a national god of some sort; what it is I can't define exactly.

Maroon: Where do you think society is going?

Mrs. Murray: I think we're moving into neo-fascism, into a sort of national socialism. We have the military fanaticism, the wedding of the military with business and government - all the while fighting for churches' rather vague God.

You know, one of the most frustrating things in everyday life is to run into some stupid young man or woman who keeps telling you, "I'm sorry, but you can't do that. It's against the rules." You kids are trained like that at home by your mother, at school by women, at college by men, and finally somebody rams a gun in your hand and says, "Go out and kill!"

There's one thing that everyone should say constantly -- "Why?" And if they can't show you why, then say, "Go to hell!"

Maroon: I take it that you are not in favor of military conscription?

Mrs. Murray: I'm absolutely against military conscription of any kind. I am against war; I'm specifically against the war in Vietnam. The very idea of one person going out to deliberately kill another is foreign to my mind.

On the other hand, if you have an ideal that you believe in and you need a goddamn gun to defend it, then OK. If we're going to have fascism in

this country, for example, then let's arm the students and fight the fascists.

Maroon: What do you think of your fellow American women?

Mrs. Murray: I think that generally the American women are a bunch of stupid cows in the pasture, feeding indiscriminately on the pabulum dished out in the mass media. They have the leisure time for reading and social action, but usually they don't do a damn thing.

In fact, I can't think of a term low enough to describe the acculturation of obedience to authority that the mothers are perpetuating on their children.

Maroon: To change the subject, what is your opinion on the consciousness-expanding drugs, as far as their social or religious implication is concerned?

Mrs. Murray: I used to think that everyone had a right to experiment with himself on any level, but last summer's experience at Mexico's Blake College has made me change my mind. I saw kids take these drugs and become complete automatons, not doing a damn thing. Well, I'm sorry. This is a complete waste of human being, a withdrawal of persons of high intellect from the fight for a rational society. We need people who are vitally involved with life.

Maroon: You're involved with life that way, aren't you?

Mrs. Murray: You're damn right I am! It's so exciting to be your own person -- to have your own likes and dislikes, your loves, and especially your hates. My life is always stimulating, and everyone's can be if they can keep their self-love and self-respect.