The Decline In Morality

"When nations cease believing in themselves, when they regard their institutions with cynicism and their traditions with flippancy, they will not long remain great nations"

— By JENKIN LLOYD JONES
Editor, Tulsa Tribune, Tulsa, Okla.

This is the text of a speech given by Mr. Jones before a group of newspaper editors. Because many of the criticisms of Mr. Jones could easily apply to Canada, his full speech is reprinted here.

Long before the prophet Jeremiah uttered his lamentations about the evil behaviour of the children of Israel, the world had seen many calamity howlers. We have cuneiform tablets describing the moral decay of Babylon and Chaldea. We have hieroglyphic inscriptions predicting that Osiris and Ra will smite the Egyptians for their wickedness. And so, when I rise today and make some comments about the moral climate of America and about our responsibilities therefore as temporary custodians of America's press, I speak in a very old tradition.

The calamity howler! It is customary to dismiss such fogeys as I am about to display with tolerant laugh. For, while it was freely predicted all through the ages that the world was going to hell, it hasn't gone to hell yet.

Who can deny that in practically all the crafts and certainly all of the sciences we are farther advanced than we have ever been? Why not be cheerfully optimistic?

I think I can tell you why. Human progress has never been steady. It has washed back and forth like waves upon a beach.

Happily, there has also been an incoming tide, so the waves have washed higher and higher as each great civilization came on.

But the pathway of history is littered with the bones of dead states and fallen empires. And they were not, in most cases, promptly replaced by something better.

Nearly a thousand years elapsed between the fall of Western Rome and the rise of the Renaissance, and in between we had the Dark Ages in which nearly all of man's institutions were inferior to those which had gone before.

I don't want my children's children to go through a couple of centuries of dialectic materialism before the sun comes up again.

So the Jeremiahs haven't been so wrong, after all. It is sad to see an Age of Pericles replaced by the drunken riots of Alcibiades. There is indeed just cause for gloom when into the palaces of the Caesars went Nero and Caligula, and when the once-noble Praetorian Guard became a gang of assassins willing to sell the throne to the top bidder.

Alaric's Goths finally poured over the walls of Rome. But it was not that the walls were low. It was that Rome itself was low.

The sensual life of Pompeii, the orgies on Lake Trasimene, the gradually weakened fiber of a once-self-disciplined people that reduced them at last to seeking safeties in mercenaries and the payment of tribute. All these brought Rome down. She went down too early.

She had too much to teach the world.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, I look upon our own country and much that I see disturbs me. But we are a great people. We have a noble tradition. We have much to teach the world, and if America should go down soon it would be too early.

NOT CENTURIES

One thing is certain. We shall be given no centuries for a leisurely and comfortable decay. We have an enemy now remorseless, crude, brutal and cocky. However much the leader of the Communist conspiracy may lie to their subjects about our motives, about our conditions of prosperity, about our policies and aims, one thing they believe themselves implicitly—and that is that we are in an advanced state of moral decline.

When Nikita Khrushchev visited Hollywood he was shown only one movie set, that of a wild dance scene in "Can-Can." He said it represented decadence, and I am sure he really thought so.

It is a dogma of current Communist faith that America is Sodom and Gomorrah, ripening for the kill.

Do you know what scares me about the Communists? It is not their economic system, which works so badly that progress in a few directions is purchased at the price of progress in all the rest. It is their Puritanism. It is their dedication and self-sacrifice.

It does no good to comfort ourselves with the reflection that these are products of endless brainwashings, of incessant propagandas, of deprivation by censorship and jamming of counter-information and contrary arguments. The dedication is there. The confidence that they are morally superior is there.

The naive questions of your in-tourist guide reveal only too quickly that she thinks she is talking to a self-indulgent Top

NEGLECTED

Having neglected disciplines in education, it was quite logical that we should reject disciplines in art. The great painters and sculptors of the past studied anatomy so diligently that they often indulged in their own body-snatching. And today, after many centuries, we stare at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel or at the walls of the Reichmusee and marvel at the works.

But this self-discipline is of little concern to the modern non-objective painter.

All he needs is pigment and a press agent. He can throw colors at a canvas and the art world will discover him. He can stick bits of glass, old rags and quids of used chewing tobacco on a board and be in a social critic. He can drive a car back and forth in pools of paint and "Life" magazine will write him up.

Talent is for squares. What you need is vast effrontery. If you undertake to paint a cow, it must look something like a cow.

That takes at least a sign painter's ability. But you can claim to paint a picture of your psyche and, no matter what the result. Who is to say what your psyche looks like?

So our museums are filled with daubs being stared at by confused citizens who haven't the guts to admit they are confused.

But the Age of Fakery in arts is a mild cross that American people must bear. More serious is our collapse of moral standards and the blunting of our capacity for righteous indignation.

Our Puritan ancestors were preoccupied with sin. They were too preoccupied with it. They were hag-ridden and guilt-ridden and theirs was a repressed and neurotic society. But they had horsepower.

They wrested livings from rocky land, built our earliest colleges, started our literature, caused our industrial revolution, and found time in between to fight the Indians, the French and the British, to brawl for abolition, women's suffrage and prison reform, and to experiment with graham crackers and bloomers. They were a tremendous people.

And for all their exaggerated attention to sin, their philosophy rested on a great granite rock.

Man was the master of his soul. You didn't have to be bad. You could and should be better.

And if you wanted to escape the eternal fires you damned well made sure you were good.

In recent years all this had changed in America. We have decided that sin is largely imaginary. We have become enamored with "behavioristic psychology."

This holds that a man is a product of his heredity and his environment, and his behavior to a large degree is foreordained by both.

He is either a product of a happy combination of genes and circumstances or an unhappy combination.

He moves in an environment that will tend to make him good or that will tend to make him evil. He is just a chip tossed by forces beyond his control and, therefore, not responsible.

Well, the theory that misbehavior can be cured by pulling down tenements and erecting in their places elaborate public housing is not holding water.

CRIME RISING

The crime rates continue to rise along with our outlays for social services.

We speak of underprivilege. Yet the young men who swagger up and down the streets, boldly flaunting their gang symbols on their black jackets, are far more blessed in creature comforts, opportunities for advancement, and freedom from drudgery than 90 per cent of the children of the world.

We have even let the dragon's teeth of pseudoscientific sentimentality, and out of the ground has sprung the legion bearing switch-blade knives and bicycle chains.

Clearly something is missing. Could it be what the rest of the world has always had, given—the doctrine of individual responsibility?

Relief is gradually becoming an honorable career in America. It is a pretty fair life, if you have neither conscience nor pride. The politicians will weep over you.

The state will give (Continued on page Six)

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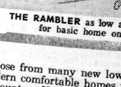

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My how things have changed since Elvis Presley came on the scene. We think it was Elvis who started the present day dancing trends. These things came to mind as we watched a group of healthy Canadian teenagers giving vent to their emotions and pent up energy at a dance session recently. We'll tell you there was no evidence of the graceful gyrations that has symbolized the Waltz these many years. We thought, too, of the late, respected, Daisy Brown who diligently strived to teach the finer points of dancing to local teenagers when we were so classified.

The only similarity between the instruction Daisy gave us and the present teen dancing is that the fellow never gets too close to the girl. We were supposed to keep the girl pretty much at arm's length and to keep on our toes. Now the fellow stands about three or four feet away from the girl and stomps flat footed to the beat.

Another thing Daisy taught us that seems to be no longer popular with the boys, was how to ask a girl for a dance and what to say to her when the dance ended. The procedure was to advance to the young lady as she sat demurely on the sidelines and say "Miss Brown, may I have the pleasure of the next dance". You would then take her tenderly in hand and gingerly circle the floor counterclockwise. When the dance

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THE WORLD OF LEARNING

A MASTERPIECE OF POLITICAL FINANCIAL SKILL

By J. Bascom St. John

Since the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ontario sent their brief on the separate school question to the Premier and Members of the Legislature last fall, there has been considerable public curiosity over what would be done about it.

(It will be recalled that the bishops made four main requests: a share in curriculum planning; the right to train their own teachers; a revision of the financial support of the separate schools, and the extension of the separate principle through the secondary grades).

The leaders of the Opposition parties—Liberal and New Democratic—after a seemly interval both came out in favor of some financial relief, and claimed that their "foundation plans", which are described in quite similar terms would meet the requirements. They were opposed to the acceptance of the other requests.

The same views were almost unanimously expressed by the newspapers of Ontario: more money, but no secondary schools or teachers' colleges...the latter points chiefly on grounds of wasteful duplication.

The other Christian churches, expressing their views in firm but courteous language, took much the same line. The extremely able brief of the Interchurch Committee on Protestant-Roman Catholic Relations answered the bishop's brief point by point, agreed with the need for stronger financial resources, and although opposed to the extensions asked for, it made some counter suggestions that ought to be favorably considered by the Roman Catholics.

It even urged relief from some other obsolete provisions in the Separate Schools Act, which the bishops had not mentioned. This important document has received far less public attention than its auspices and content deserved. There can be no question but that the response of the other political parties and of the public generally expressed in terms of unprecedented fairness and restraint made the Ontario Government's task much simpler. It did, to be sure, have to act this time and abandon the evasions and silence with which it had met innumerable earlier requests from Roman Catholic trustees and civic organizations for financial relief for the separate schools.

The scheme proposed by Premier Robarts last week is a masterpiece of political and financial skill.

If it works as it is expected to work, it ought to solve the problem almost permanently.

The problem is incredibly complicated. Much of this complexity is due to the terms of Section 93 of the British North America Act, which places education in the hands of the provinces and guarantees the then existing privileges relating to denominational schools which "any class of persons have by law in the province at the union."

The specific conditions in Ontario are such that any changes relating to separate schools that may be made must be designed in such a way that they conform to the law, or they could be upset in the courts. What is done elsewhere, as Premier Robarts pointed out in his statement on this question last week, has no bearing whatever on what may be done in Ontario.

Any scheme, for instance, which proposes to transfer local school tax revenues, raised for either public or separate schools, to schools of the other type, is illegal. Thus, the so-called foundation plans of the Opposition parties, even if they were otherwise workable in Ontario, could not collect school taxes into a common pool and then redistribute them.

Any taxpayer, Catholic or non-Catholic, could stop this immediately. This obviously limits the scope of any action to compensate separate school taxpayers for their inability to collect school taxes from large corporations.

Another point of complication comes from the vast variety of conditions of size, wealth, intelligence, civic consciousness and social development in the municipalities of Ontario. What is a fair basis of provincial school grants to such extremely different communities? A possible number of bodies were considered during the evolution of the present grants program.

There is probably more than one way of designing a grants system. At one time, for instance, the Ontario Royal Commission on Education, which reported in 1950 had 16 grant plans before it. There has been no indication that any of its proposals in this respect were adopted by the Government.

There have been several grant schemes in Ontario since the war, each new one becoming more complex than the last. The one now in effect has had the advantage of being well tested, and of having the experience of the others as a guide. The views of a considerable number of bodies were canvassed during the evolution of the present grants program.

The existing scheme is based on an effort to provide equal financial opportunity in the extremely varied conditions. The degree of provincial assistance varies inversely with the local financial strength, up to a maximum of 95 per cent of approved school costs.

The scheme has already had strongly favourable effect on separate school financing as well as on the weaker public school boards in rural and village areas. To say that the Government has been in any degree unfair to the separate schools with respect to grants is quite erroneous.

How the grant system has been operating, and how the new proposal to provide a corporation tax adjustment grant for both public and separate schools will be outlined in a succeeding article.

A TRIBUTE TO BECKLIFFE PRIVATE HOSPITAL --

maternal deaths is certainly very exceptional. The maid would boost any dejected appetite. The staff were most pleasant and obliging at all times. I think Hagersville and surrounding communities are very much indebted to those nurses who have given many years of their lives to the welfare of this community. To Miss Beck and the former Miss Radcliffe(as we know her best) all the best in the future.

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LANA TURNER

MON, TUES, WED.
May 13, 14, 15
"LONELY ARE THE BRAVE"
KIRK DOUGLAS
"Witty Kitty"
CARTOON

DRIVE-IN
Theatre, SIMCOE

THURS., FRI., SAT.
May 9, 10, 11
"THESE THOUSAND HILLS"
Technicolor
RICHARD EGAN, PATRICIA OWEN
"DIG THAT URANIUM"
THE BOWERY BOYS
"Hon. Cat Story"
Technicolor Cartoon

MON, TUES, WED.
May 13, 14, 15
"EXPERIMENT IN TERROR"
GLENN FORD,
LEE REMICK
"UNDERWATER CITY"
Technicolor
WM. LUNDIGAN,
JULIE ADAMS
"Spellbound Hound"
Technicolor Cartoon

News of the Countryside

From The Record's Correspondents

SANDUSK

Master Dale Werner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Werner, had the honour of hearing a poem that he had written, read over the radio (CFRB) Toronto) last week. Dale is a Grade Five Student at S.S. 18 Walpole.

Mrs. Amber Riedill visited her sister Mrs. Lily Lofthouse on Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Bert Ionson returned to her home on Thursday afternoon from the hospital.

Mr. Douglas Howard visited his sister and family Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Mino over the week end.

A number of friends and neighbors attended a charivari on Friday night for Mr. and Mrs. John Willis at the home of the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. Amos Bartlett. A number from the community attended the play entitled "Calm Yourself" held in Cheanside Community Hall Friday night.

Sandusk W.I. held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Cecil DeBoer. After the meeting they all journeyed to the Jarvis Record Office to see the Jarvis Record printed, which was very interesting. It is amazing the amount of time and work that is spent in getting even a paper the size of the Record printed. On behalf of the W.I. we thank the Staff for giving their time on a busy night to show and explain all the different steps and how all the machines do their special part. We appreciate it very much.

Mr and Mrs. Thomas Misener were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Werner on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Werner of Oshawa visited relatives here on Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Werner returned home with them.

Master Larry Vokes stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sternaman Friday night.

Miss Margaret Stewart spent the week end with Miss Catherine Beck of Hagersville.

Mr. and Mrs. Blair Beck visited Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sternaman on Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Kraay's children have been having the measles.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bray on Sunday.

ERIE

FETE NEWLYWEDS

On Saturday evening many friends, neighbours and relatives attended a shower in Chalmers (Walpole) Church Hall, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Jack Willis (nee Evelyn Bartlett) a recent bride and groom.

After a few games of crokinole David Lint asked the bride and groom to come forward and made a few fitting remarks. Jack Biggar, Mr and Mrs. Don Willis and Eleanor Feas helped open the presents and make the presentation of a lovely chair.

The groom showed slides from the snaps taken the day of the wedding and of many places they visited on their honeymoon.

Lunch concluded a very enjoyable evening.

The Hockey Corn Pickers entertained their wives and lady friends to a turkey dinner in the Orange Hall on Saturday evening.

Cards and dancing were enjoyed by all those present.

Mr. and Mrs. Blake Moerschfelder, Mrs. O. Moerschfelder, Mrs Erness Featherstone were recent supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Biggar.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lint spent Monday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Murdock Hamilton, and also visited Mrs. Sanford Fleming and Mrs. Salome Wing er at the Brow Infirmary.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Feeney and Michael attended the funeral of Mrs. Mary Donnelly at Cargill recently.

Mrs. Wm. Campbell spent a couple of days with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fugler, Rychmans Corners.

Mrs. David Genery received the sad news of the sudden death of her father, Vernon E. Hawke, of Fisherville on April 30th.

Mrs. J. W. McBurney entertained her son Keith McBurney and Mr. William Heath, Hamilton after the Sunday services at Chalmers Walpole and Knox, Jarvis.

Mr & Mrs. Edgar Waldbrook and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jepson and Donna spent a day in Niagara Falls visiting friends.

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CLAN DONALD SOCIETY APPOINT SECRETARY

(Intended for a previous issue)

Harold E. MacDonald of R. R. 6, Galt has been appointed Secretary of the now-being-organized Grand River Valley Branch of the Clan Donald Society of Canada.

The appointment was made by Lord MacDonald of Macdonald, High Chief of Clan Donald, from his castle on the Isle of Skye, Scotland, and His Hon Judge Ian M. Macdonnell, of Toronto, National Chairman of the Clan Donald Society of Canada.

Harold MacDonald, along with branch president Andrew Donald of Brantford, are now on the hunt for clansmen and clanswomen in this area to aid in the organization of this new Branch of Clan Donald in Canada.

All interested clansmen and clanswomen in this area are requested to write to Mr. Harold E. MacDonald, R.R. 6, Galt or Mr. Andrew Donaldson, 31 Stymie Blvd., Brantford.

Any Macdonald, McDonald, Macdonell, McDonnell, Hutchison, Houston, MacEachen, JAse Cutcheon, MacAllister, Bowie, Donald, Donaldson, however spelled, in this area is eligible.

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