

"GOD"

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his misery," commented one housewife in an Elmira, N. Y. supermarket. "I can't believe it," said the Right Rev. Horace W. B. Donegan, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New York. In Paris, President de Gaulle in a 30 second appearance on national television, proclaimed "God is dead! Long live the republic! Long live France!" News of the death was included in a one-sentence statement, without comment, on the 3rd page of *Izvestia*, official organ of the Soviet Government. The passing of God has not been disclosed to the 800 million Chinese who live behind the "bamboo" curtain.

Public reaction in this country was perhaps summed up by an elderly retired street-car conductor in Passaic, N. J., who said: "I never met him, of course. Never even saw him. But from what I heard I guess he was a real nice fellow. Tops." From Independence, Mo., former President Harry S. Truman, who received the news in his Kansas City barbershop, said: "I'm always sorry to hear somebody is dead. It's a damn shame." In Gettysburg, Pa., former President Dwight D. Eisenhower released through a military aide the following statement: "Mrs. Eisenhower joins me in heartfelt sympathy to the family and many friends of the late God. He was, I always felt, a force for

moral good in the universe. Those of us who were privileged to know him admired the probity of his character, the breadth of his compassion, the depth of his intellect. Generous almost to a fault, his many acts of kindness to America will never be forgotten. It is a very great loss indeed. He will be missed."

From Basel, Switzerland, came word that Dr. Karl Barth, Venerable Protestant theologian, informed of the death of God, declared: "I don't know who died in Atlanta, but who ever he was he's an impostor."

Dr. Altizer, God's surgeon, in an exclusive interview with *The Decree*, stated this morning that the death was "not unexpected." "He had been ailing for some time," Dr. Altizer said, "and lived much longer than most of us thought possible." He noted that the death of God had in fact, been prematurely announced in the last century by the famed German surgeon, Nietzsche, Nietzsche who was insane the last 10 years of his life, may have confused "certain symptoms of morbidity in the aged patient with actual death, a mistake any busy surgeon will occasionally make," Dr. Altizer suggested, "God was an excellent patient, compliant, cheerful, alert. Every comfort modern science could provide was made available to him. He did not suffer - he just, as it were, slipped out of our grasp."



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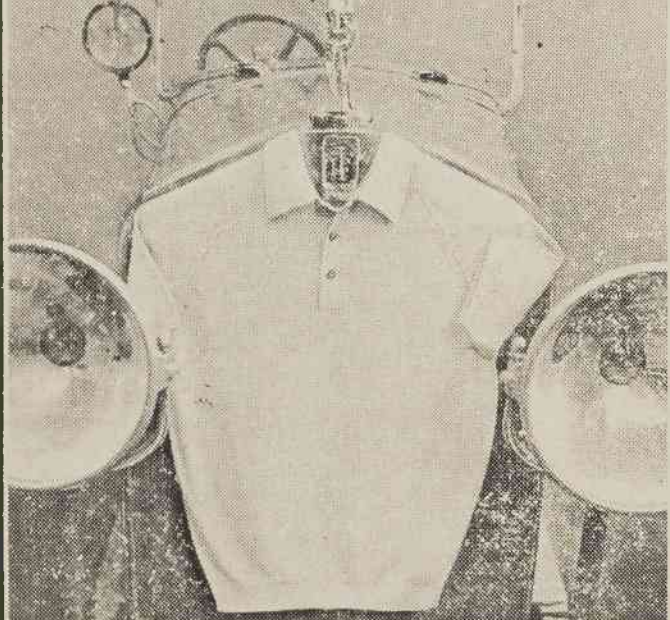
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