

MIRROR MEDITATION

By EMMITT L. BRINSON

I have just finished reading an article by the Rev. T. Robert Ingram, Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Houston, Texas, commenting on: "The Office of Religious Affairs of the Civil Defense Establishment of the United States Government." The director of Religious Affairs, a Rev. Fred W. Kern, has established a policy that will go into effect in the case of disaster, if and when it befalls the United States.

The Rev. Ingram, not only has first hand information from hearing the plan from an address by this fellow Kern; he states the copy is obtainable from the network of Patriotic Letterwriters (box 2203-D, Pasadena, Calif.) to be sure the sticky pious words are in Kern's directive, and he makes his authority clear in no uncertain terms.

His job is to prepare the church for impending disaster. How this is done or what inside information he has as to how human beings of a church have suddenly become incapable of meeting and overcoming disaster, heaven only knows. It seems to be vested in this one person alone. Here are some excerpts from his program.

First, a proper attitude must be assumed; Kern's explanation is that we have sense enough to

recognize that because of the threat of communism, civil defense is justified in dealing well enough with the attitude of the populace, and the Christian attitude should be to submit to the authority of the Government. His exact words: "Civil Defense offers the Church a way of expressing its commitments to the knowledge and love of God, and the love of one's fellow man." Isn't this just wonderful in this government?

His second point is; "All clergy are to register with the office of Civil Defense." Harmless! Well, why do it? He says; "If the Clergymen want to preserve their freedom of Religion and their freedom to minister to the dying and distressed, it will be necessary for them to be registered with the Civil Defense."

Probably Mr. Kern feels it is more important to register than it is to admit to the dying, as he has stated in his address: "If a Minister who is not registered with the office of Civil Defense, tries to enter a disaster area, even if he is wearing ecclesiastical clothing or is personally recognized, he will not be allowed. If he insists, he will find a shot gun in his belly."

Wonder what St. Francis would think of that — who slipped through the battle lines to the very tent of the mohammedan commander to try to convert him, and then returned, unmolested through guards and pickets?

Chaplains, who prayed with the dying in the face of deadly fire of an open enemy, how do you take this threat? America? How do you hear this threat to your Rabbi's,

At Masonic



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to your Ministers, that they must present a card before they can serve in the name of God, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings?

His third point applies to the church grounds and the church buildings, which have been beyond government reach as to taxation since Constantine. He states: "In as much as churches are established throughout the nation and possess more physical properties than any other society — it is to be expected that these resources will be in demand by State Authorities."

However, he feels the Government will permit Church services. Quite lenient, don't you think? The Rev. Ingram says; "The real kicker to this arrogance is the proposition that it is the Christian thing to do." You don't love either God or neighbor if you don't agree with Mr. Kern and his office that they know best about how to permit the church to function — even as to who can come to the side of the dying to say a prayer or to offer Holy Communion."

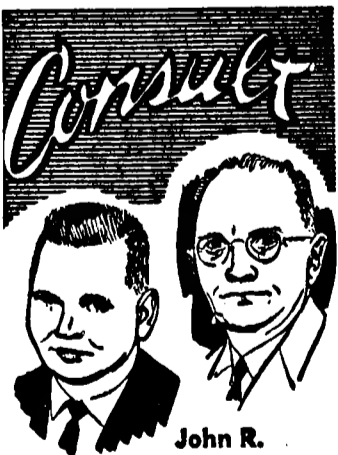
Friends I am not describing pipe dreams. It has been set up and described for you by the man authorized to carry it out with all the force and violence of the entire military establishment of the United States behind him! Of course we have no knowledge how that can be done, since the Government won't send troops against its own populace. What a real laugh.

One thing I agree with this fellow on: We are faced with a dire threat of atheistic communism. But from whom? Of what do we

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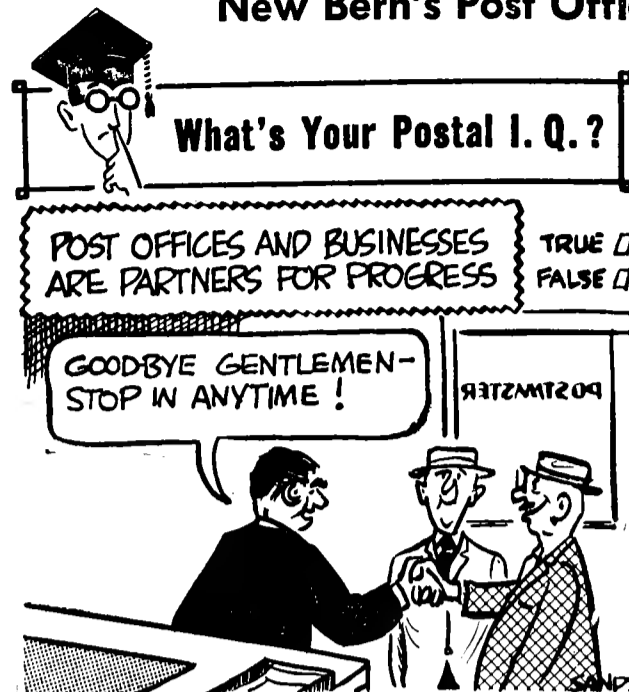
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actually fear from communism, if it isn't the loss of freedom, and bowing to dictatorship.

War is Hell!! War with Russia will bring suffering and great hardship. I can not agree that the horror in the minds of the dying will be any worse than that of the sword in the time of Moses, or even in the days before the flood, or of the bombings in World War II.

My friends, it is for the survivors and those who will need the motivating power of Almighty God, that we should also give some thought to, for there is a greater threat here than war.

Since 1939 there has been a continuous threat of doom, but somehow these threats, designed to cause us to surrender, has not yet come about. No threat of war, nor the entisity and hell of war, can justify the seizure of church property, control of the clergy and the Government propagation of its own brand of religion.

Nor should a Government take over the licensing of ministers, the control of church property and to determine what is the proper Christian attitude toward commun-

ism. When this happens we have indeed been bound over to anti-Christ!

Burn this in your minds forevermore. This is no compromise with atheism or communism! Whether it originates at home or abroad—but sit still and say it can't happen here. Brother, it has happened here!! After all, what do we fear of communism? What else does the atheistic government of Russia do but just that? Can we stop it? In the name of God we can do it. Do we have the guts? I wonder!

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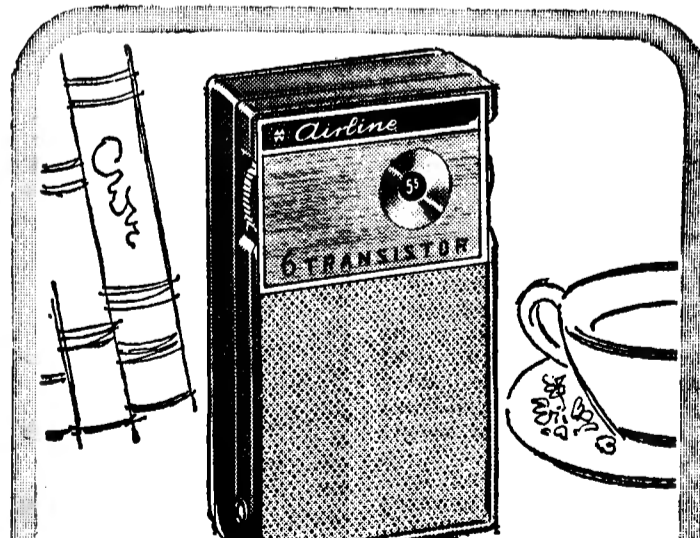


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