

“CANBERRA: INEPTITUDE? INTRIGUE?” A supplement to NO.4 **“Why bother about ‘Catholic Action’?”** Written on the 1st anniversary of the death of John Curtin

XIV

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

The disparity between the Income Tax paid by Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy (apparently a closely-guarded secret) is probably as striking as the contrast between the patriotic contributions of State and Roman Catholic schools — and the criminal statistics of the products of State and sectarian education.

As for the Australian Press, Adelaide may be taken as typical. Protestants pay the “Advertiser” about £3,000 a year for Saturday advertisements. For very much superior publicity, Roman Catholics pay exactly nothing.

Which is exactly the cost to the Roman Catholic Church of the 5KA “Catholic Hour” — a propaganda privilege shared by political Labour, of enormous advantage to the Party, especially for Referendum and Election purposes. (See No. 5.)

Methodists pay for anti-Protestant, anti-Methodist propaganda.

Catholic Actionists are expert in exploiting every opportunity.

In Canberra the people's emphatic "No" is transubstantiated into a practical "Yes." Communists are ousted from Trades Unions and Catholic Actionists left in control. Having been persuaded to "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel," the A.L.P. is safely within the fold.

And now the Totalitarian Church is coquetting with non-Catholic churchmen and flirting with influential Liberals, hoping (and expecting) them to become party to paying out of the public purse for utterly illiberal, undemocratic, anti-Christian teaching in segregated sectarian schools.

What, precisely, is this teaching?

XV

LET CATHOLIC ACTIONISTS SAY

Commenting on —

"If religious freedom has been accepted and sworn to as a fundamental law in a constitution, the obligation to show this tolerance is binding in conscience."

Father Ryan in "The State and the Church" writes:

"But constitutions can be changed and non-Catholic sects may decline to such a point that the political proscription of them may become feasible and expedient."

In a Christian Brothers "Manual of Religious Instruction," LIBERALISM is defined and condemned thus:

Q.: What name is given to the doctrine that the State has neither the right nor the duty to be united to the Church to protect it?

A.: This doctrine is called LIBERALISM. It is founded principally on the fact that modern society rests on liberty of conscience and of worship, on liberty of speech and of the Press.

Q.: Why is Liberalism to be condemned?

A.: Because it denies all subordination of the State to the Church. . . .

XVI

BRINGING GOD INTO IT

Father Peter Finlay, S.J., writes for the Australian Catholic Truth Society, No. 247:

"Every Catholic professes as an article of Faith the falsity of all separated Churches. . . . He cannot even deliberately doubt that GOD REPROBATES AND DETESTS THEM."

Having that kind of un-Christian God, Roman Catholics are not allowed to pray with us: but they expect us to pay them to teach that "God reprobates and detests" us; pay them to teach, too, that John Curtin "died in sin" because on his death-bed he was man enough and patriot enough to repudiate the right of Rome to ride rough-shod over the law and liberty of the Commonwealth.

Pay them to teach these things? Any decent Australian would see them in Spain first.

INEPTITUDE? INTRIGUE?

John Curtin, who died a year ago to-day, was a Roman Catholic "living in sin" because he married a Protestant! To save the Prime Minister from "dying in sin" a priest called at the Lodge and offered "to marry him to his wife, make his grown-up family 'legitimate' and his relationship with his wife free from the sin of adultery."

No law-maker protested against this foul flouting of Australian marriage laws. Why? What ails our Canberra legislators? Ineptitude? Intrigue?

The "raising of the sectarian issue" is not an honest excuse. It is a flagrant fraud.

Let Roman Catholics share and enjoy political liberty on the same conditions as all other churchmen and citizens, and there will be no sectarian issue.

Let politicians sheet the charge of sectarianism home to the guilty party.

Let patriots prevent Australian children born in wedlock being branded "illegitimate" and citizens married according to the law of the land being libelled "living in sin." And establish equal law and liberty in the land.

"Questions Men Are Asking." At cost of printing, one shilling the set of ten. T. E. Ruth, Seaclyff, S.A.