

SHOULD HATE BE OUTLAWED?

Most Americans, hearing this question, would answer promptly, "Yes, by all means, hate should be outlawed!" Their eagerness to reply can be accounted for all too easily. During the last decade and a half, they have been pounded with a propaganda barrage calculated to leave them in a state of dazed affability toward the whole world. Those advertising techniques that are normally used to encourage Americans to be choosy in matters of soap and toothpaste are now being enlisted to persuade them that there is no such thing as a superior product in matters of culture and creed. On billboards, on bus and subway posters, in newspapers and magazines, through radio and television broadcasts, Americans are being assured and reassured, both subtly and boldly, that "Bigotry is fascism..."

Only Brotherhood can save our nation... We must be tolerant of all!"

The long-range effects of this campaign are even now evident. It is producing the "spineless citizen": the man who has no cultural sensibilities; who is incapable of indignation; whose sole mental activity is merely an extension of what he reads in the newspaper or sees on the television screen; who faces moral disaster in his neighborhood, political disaster in his country, and an impending world catastrophe with a blank and smiling countenance. He has only understanding for the enemies of his country. He has nothing but kind sentiments for those who would destroy his home and family. He has an earnest sympathy for anyone who would obliterate his faith. He is universally tolerant. He is totally unprejudiced. If he has any principles, he keeps them well concealed, lest in advocating them he should seem to indicate that contrary principles might be inferior. He is, to the extent of his abilities, exactly like the next citizen, who, he trusts, is trying to be exactly like him: a faceless, characterless putty-man.

Along with everyone else, America's Christians have been hammered with the slogans of the "anti-hate" campaign. Additionally, they remember the stories of how prejudice against Christians oftentimes made America a very uncomfortable place for their immigrant Christian grandparents. And so, they too, if asked, would declare unhesitatingly that hate should be outlawed.

What American Christians do not stop to reflect on is that the Christian Faith, by its very nature, fosters indignation, intolerant positions, and strong utterance. The Christian Church is set up to continue the divine ministry of Jesus Christ, Who avowed that He had come on Earth, "Not to send peace, but a sword... to cast fire on the Earth, and what will I but that it be kindled."