

American Liberty and "Natural Law," Lawyer-Priests, Artificial Insemination

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LETTERS

*American Liberty and
"Natural Law"*

BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

To the Editor:

You were especially kind to send me a copy of the April issue of *THE CATHOLIC LAWYER* containing Mr. Constable's review of my little book. I am happy to have this along with my other reviews.

Mr. Constable and I had some correspondence about natural law last year, and I found him an outstanding scholar and a gentleman who argued his point with clarity and courtesy. I think he has demonstrated these qualities in his book review, even though, of course, he has a different viewpoint from mine.

When we are born into a new world, we are already in line to be committed to the philosophy adopted by our forebears. Mine were English and Scotch-Irish and of course American. This led me to certain commitments in my childhood which have become my major premises. In the same way Mr. Constable and some of my dearest Catholic friends were led to different major premises in their childhood homes. As Einstein said once, you must assume something. Those who are raised in the tradition of accepting authority, naturally take one view of natural law. We who are rebels against the idea of authority from above, rebel against the authoritarian approach to the state. I am confident that once we start on this major premise, it is impossible for either side to convince the other. One of the grand things in my conversation with others about natural law is that I can respect the sincerity of their views without necessarily accepting their validity for myself. This doesn't mean that

I am right — or that the other fellow is, at least for me.

Eugene C. Gerhardt

NEW YORK, N. Y.

To the Editor:

Thank you for sending me a copy of *THE CATHOLIC LAWYER*. Mr. Constable's review of Mr. Gerhardt's book is very thoughtful. I think he has pointed up correctly the errors in emphasis of both sides. There is no question that all thoughtful people are presently concerned with the limitations on freedom required in modern society. This was the subject of our roundtable last year at Columbia (printed in the May, 1955, Col. L. Rev.).

We seem now in 1955 to be returning to a balance, although I sometimes wonder whether some of the limitations are not too rigid when I see the difficulty non-communist teachers have in getting passports or scholars have in getting the words of the enemy so as to analyze them for what they contain. If natural law is the authority of reason working upon the data of experience, I would like to see what it suggests about the ultimate effect of limitations upon freedom of movement for scholars and freedom to read.

John N. Hazard

Lawyer-Priests

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

To the Editor:

I was interested in the listing of the priests in the country who have studied law. You might add to that list Reverend Raymond T. Feely, S.J., University of San Francisco, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, California. Father Feely was a practicing lawyer in San Francisco before he studied for the priesthood.

Andrew F. Burke

Other lawyer-priests are:

Reverend Timothy Bouscaren, S.J.
Borgo Santo Spirito 5
Rome, Italy

Very Rev. Aidan Carr, O.F.M. Conv.
St. Anthony-on-Hudson
Rensselaer, N. Y.

Reverend Charles Coolahan, S.J.
Georgetown University
Washington, D. C.

Reverend Marion L. Gibbons, C.M.
St. Mary's Seminary
9745 Memorial Blvd.
Houston, Texas

Reverend Paul Gregg, S.J.
Creighton Law School
Omaha, Neb.

Very Rev. George Guilfoyle
268 Wadsworth Ave.
New York 33, New York

Reverend Dexter Hanley, S.J.
Georgetown University
Washington, D. C.

Reverend Francis J. Nicholson, S.J.
297 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, Mass.

Reverend Thomas J. Taylor
Our Lady of the Elms
1310 West Market Street
Akron 13, Ohio

Artificial Insemination

DENVER, COLORADO

To the Editor:

First, let me say that issue No. 2 is better than issue No. 1 — and you and your staff deserve high praise and encouragement for your efforts.

I look forward to the July and later issue with articles on artificial insemination.

An odd bit of knowledge about artificial insemination in animals is the fact that almost all registry associations for thoroughbred horses and purebred cattle will not permit the registry of an artificially inseminated animal. This does not apply to dairy animals and swine. Maybe the reason is strictly commercial.

T. Raber Taylor
