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Editorial Comment

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Editorial Comment

Today social services have become mammoth operations of both government and of voluntary enterprise. Private agencies, sectarian and nonsectarian, are commonplace in every city of the United States. Public expenditure, in terms of welfare, has become, next to the defense budget, one of the largest items of disbursement from the public treasury.

Since welfare has begun to play such a significant role in today's society, lawyers are frequently in need of data from, or the cooperation of, social service agencies, in order to establish a necessary relationship, or psychiatric, psychological and casework information critical as to a client's case. This involves, of course, not only legal problems but serious ethical considerations as well as social values. The modern lawyer in the modern city must appreciate the position of the social service agencies, particularly with regard to confidential communications, and be able to work with them within the framework of principles and practices now fairly well established in the field of social service.

Aware of the necessity, therefore, to educate attorneys in the field of social service, Father Anthony LoGatto, Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Brooklyn, Queens County, N. Y., and a priest-lawyer, has submitted an article to *The Catholic Lawyer* which aims to familiarize the legal profession with the values involved and the applicable principles.

His article, which appears on the immediately following pages, should prove particularly helpful to lawyers who affiliate themselves with social agencies as members of the board or as members of auxiliaries. Such lawyers become instrumentalities for the interpretation of welfare services and are more useful to their organizations when they accurately and adequately understand the function of social agencies as well as the fundamental principles of professional social work.

Elsewhere in this issue there appears a very excellent article by

Father William F. Cahill, a former editor of *The Catholic Lawyer*, on the subject "The State's Guarantee of Liberty – A Moral Evaluation." To some extent, although it deals solely with the subject of tolerance, the article can be incorporated as part of the broad colloquium which we have planned in our announced endeavor to state a public philosophy of law. Broader aspects of the problem involving the formulation of such public philosophy will be dealt with in articles to be featured in the Spring, Summer, and subsequent issues of *The Catholic Lawyer*.

The attention of the reader is further called to the fact that Father Cahill's article could well be read together with an article by Cardinal Lecaro dealing with tolerance which appeared in the Spring 1961 issue of *The Catholic Lawyer*. Both articles complement each other with respect to religious tolerance in Catholic tradition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward Tegen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

EDITOR