

## Editorial Comment

Edward T. Fagan

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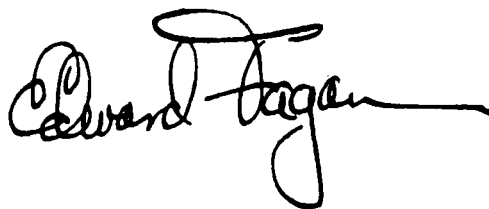
# Editorial Comment

New ideas about morality, based in part upon existentialism and personalism, are currently the subject of much intensive examination and evaluation by lawyers and philosophers of all nations. An up-dating of Catholic thinking on morality is obviously in progress. The emerging "new morality" seems to stress more awareness of the dignity of the human person and his conscience—of the difficulty in applying, and sometimes in knowing, just what are the absolute standards which apply to the concrete situation.

Most of the vast area of human activity involves actions which demand a choice between different possible good means of achieving ends. In this regard there is no quick and easy recourse to general norms to determine the "ought." Here we are ultimately on our own, and in this area a great effort is being made by many Catholic moralists to incorporate certain valid tenets of existentialism and personalism into an *aggiornamento* of Catholic thought.

It is with this background therefore that *The Catholic Lawyer* has undertaken the publication of a two part symposium on "Contemporary Moral Problems." Part one, which appears in this issue deals with the concept of intrinsic evil and its viability. The current problem of race relations is also considered in an article by Father Joseph Leonard, S.S.J., which was originally given as an address to the *Catholic Theological Society of America* at its 1964 convention. Father Cahill, a former editor of *The Catholic Lawyer*, expounds the natural law approach which the lawyer may utilize in the solution of moral problems arising in today's practice. Part two of the symposium, which will appear in a subsequent issue, will feature problems arising in business and in politics coupled with suggested solutions.

Elsewhere in this issue a call to Catholic lawyers is made by Robert Drinan, S.J. to participate in the significant work being undertaken in the area of family law. While his comments are directed primarily to activity in the American Bar Association, the program which he proposes permits independent co-operative activity. It merits careful study by all readers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Tegen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

EDITOR