Why The Vatican Council Cannot Be Truly Ecumenical

By P. H. RAND

That word "Ecumenical." Perhaps one of the most used and abused words in Ecclesiastical circles today. Ecumenical — whatever does it mean? I looked in "The Little Oxford Dictionary" and found where it should have been but the word was missing. The nearest was 'Eczema' described as a skin disease. I should not be surprised if there were some here who think that Ecumenicalism is an ecclesiastical disease which might appropriately be called Ecumania — a very contagious disease among the Ecumaniacs.

I had in fact to turn to a more ponderous work "The Imperial Dictionary of the English Language." Here I am informed that the word "Ecumenical" is derived from both Latin and Greek and means, 'pertaining to all the habitable earth. General, Universal, as ecumenical council — that is an ecclestical council regarded as representing the whole Christian church. The designation is claimed by Roman Catholics as appropriate to their church.' That last sentence is very true and very significant. Will the Roman church which has appropriated the word 'Catholic' for its exclusive use also seize hold of the word "Ecumenical?"

In spite of all the pomp and pageantry that attended the long heralded Second Vatican Council last October, it cannot rightly claim to be Ecumenical. It was not, is not, and never will, represent the whole Christian church. Though it may be the largest in numbers it is the least Christian of any. We must concede however to the Papal hierarchy that no one can match her for theatrical performances, religious pageantry and sensuous worship. It is claimed that 2,500 bishops of the Roman church gathered in the great church of St. Peter's in Rome. To the pealing of the organ and chanting choirs, rows of cardinals, prelates, priests and nuns moved into the vast nave 'arrayed in purple and scarlet colour and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls' and those who saw it 'wondered with great admiration.' This blaze of spectacular pageantry all tended to bolster up the idea that it was an ecumenical council — representing the whole Christian church.

The enlighted Protestant however is not ignorant of her devices, or blind to the fact that the Vatican Council is the Vatican Council. Pope John himself stated in August 1960 that the main aim of the Council will be that of 'strengthening and invigorating the Roman Catholic church.' The Council is a domestic affair of the Pope and his own particular church. The Vatican council was called by the pope, it will work under the strict control of the pope, it cannot pass any rule or decree without his approval and if the pope should die it is automatically prorogued. The only delegates who are permitted to speak are those who acknowledge the pope's supremacy and are under his professed infallible authority.

But were not some Protestants in attendance? Yes, they were in attendance. They were there as observers only. They had no right to speak, no right to vote, no right to take any part in the council and were bound to secrecy. How then can the Vatican Council be described as truly Ecumenical?

We would also certainly deny that these so called 'Protestant observers' represent Protestantism. In "The Universe" of December 14th, 1962 there is an article and picture of one of these observers. It is of Dr. John Moorman, Anglican Bishop of Ripon, who dressed in Mitre and other Romish garments, is a disgrace to Protestantism and the Church of England. During an interview with a reporter of "The Universe" he said, "I don't mind the word Anglican. I don't very much like the word Protestant." He was then asked, "You look on the Roman Catholic church as the one true church, don't you?" "Yes," replied the Bishop of Ripon, and "We do not look on ourselves as Protestants," exclaimed this Protestant observer. We ask, How can a Protestant observer be a man who denies that he is a Protestant? Bishop Moorman is further reported as saying, "At All Saints' church here in Rome, during the Anglican Masses that are said, prayers have been said for the Council." The article concludes, "As we left the hotel together Bishop Moorman commented with a certain amount of satisfaction, 'I never thought I snould be attending Mass in St. Peter's in Anglican robes.'" One has only to look at his picture to see that he is not dressed in Anglican robes, but has been aping Rome in Rome. Protestant Observer indeed! The Wickliffe Preachers claim to be Protestants, and such men do not represent us.

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SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH IN CUBA

A Great Danger to the United States at the Present Moment

Troops: At least 18,700 Russians, perhaps as many as 35,000, including five Soviet generals.

Missiles: Soviets removed 42, but 44 medium and intermediate-range missiles are reported still in Cuba, hidden in caves, manned by Russians. In addition, 140 or more ground-to-air or ground-to-sea missiles are in Cuba. All missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Planes: 184 MIG fighters have been counted, capable of carrying nuclear bombs into U. S. Also in Cuba are 37 Soviet transport planes, 83 Soviet helicopters. No jet bombers are known to remain in Cuba.

Submarines: 12 to 15 Soviet submarines are manned by Russians, operate from at least four new Russian-built bases.

Tanks: 260 Soviet-made T-34s and T-54s.

Patrol boats: 32, including nine with launchers for nuclear rockets.

Guns: 1,900 artillery pieces, 2,200 antiaircraft guns, 2,720 mortars, 425,000 rifles and small arms.

Let us pray and work more in the Future than in the Past. The Protestant people should know the danger that is close to us. More now than ever before.

TEMPORARILY WEALTHY — PERMANENTLY POOR!

Collectively, these tycoons controlled more wealth than there was in the United States Treasury, and for years newspapers and magazines had been printing their success stories and urging the youth of the nation to follow their examples. Twenty-seven years later, let's see what happened to them.

1—CHARLES SCHWAB—*the president of the largest independent steel company—lived on borrowed money the last five years of his life, and died penniless.*

2—ARTHUR CUTTEN—*the greatest wheat speculator—died abroad insolvent.*

3—RICHARD WHITNEY—*the president of the New York Stock Exchange—was released some time ago from Sing Sing.*

4—ALBERT FALL—*the member of the President's Cabinet—was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.*

5—JESSE LIVERMORE—*the greatest bear in Wall Street—committed suicide.*

6—LEON FRASER—*the president of the Bank of International Settlement—committed suicide.*

7—IVAR KRUEGER—*the head of the world's greatest monopoly—committed suicide.*

All of these men had learned how to make money, but not one of them had learned how to live. **Have You?**

UN - ECUMENICAL COUNCIL !

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They may however represent the World Council of churches. While admittedly they are not delegates but only observers, their presence is a recognition of the pope and to a great extent, an approval of his church. The present pope, John 24th. — I stand to be corrected — and should have said, Pope John 23rd + 1, is a very shrewd diplomat and has seen to it that these Protestant observers occupied some of the most important seats near the papal throne in St. Peters. It was even reported that some of them knelt as the pope arrived in front of his throne.

The official Roman Catholic view of the presence of the 'Protestant observers' and of the ecumenical movement which they represent is surely seen in the words of Pope John when he addressed the Council. After praising the virtues of his church he turned towards the 'observers' and mentioned for their special benefit that "unity of prayers and ardent desires with which those Christians separated from this Apostolic See aspire to be united with us. Surely if there was any Protestantism in the Protestant observers, they would have protested at this. But not a word. They were dumb and silent before the Bishop of Rome. Can we blame the pope for accepting at face value what things appeared to be?—**The Churchman's Magazine, England**