THOSE WHO INFLUENCED OUR RULERS

By C. L. SULZBERGER

ANKARA, Turkey — Leaders of the contemporary world have sometimes been influenced by surprising factors or unexpected personalities and nowhere, perhaps, can one find a more unusual instance of this than here in Turkey. Gen. Cemal Gursel, President of the Republic and chief of the military coup that seized power three years ago, is an officer by profession and a Moslem by religion. Yet he concedes that no man has so profoundly affected his life and thinking as the modern French philosopher Henri Bergson.

Gursel did not study Bergson at the officers' academy but, as a young lieutenant on garrison duty, came across one of the Frenchman's books and became fascinated, above all, by the Bergsonian theory of intuition. Now he confesses: "Bergson is the foundation of my political thinking because he accepts liberty as an indissoluble part of life. Bergson says the evolution of life can only develop in an atmosphere of freedom. According to him, only a life evolving from freedom and in freedom becomes creative. And that has become the basis for my thought."

The only other head of state who admits to being influenced by Bergson is also a general, Charles de Gaulle. De Gaulle doesn't list Bergson as primary among the human forces that helped mold his character and among whom he includes his own father, the Greek classics and the French classicists "who had grandeur, which has always been my taste."

De Gaulle also admired Chateaubriand, Hugo, Goethe and Shakespeare, of whom he observes: "What grandeur! How powerful." He acknowledges spiritual debts to the great French leaders from Clovis and Joan of Arc to Clemenceau; and also to Washington, Jefferson and even Bismarck; and, among philosophers, to Bergson and Auguste Comte.

High Moral Sense

President Eisenhower once told me the man who had most affected his character was a little known American general named Fox Conner under whom he served in Panama. Conner's interest in history, politics, philosophy and religion and his high moral sense left a permanent mark on the future President.

Marshal Tito says: "Lenin was for me the greatest example, and today I esteem him very highly. For me Lenin was a great man who was able to carry out in a creative way Marxist theories in revolutionary practice."

U.A.R. President Nasser, while particularly esteeming Tito because "he showed me how to get help from both sides without joining either," claims: "No single man has influenced me. Of course, from the start, Mohammed had a great force and later on I began to meet leading personalities. But there was no single man. I have always been very independent."

Indonesia's President Sukarno told me the three strongest impacts on his life came from Jean Jaures, the French Socialist (whom he never met), his own mother and Tjokro Aminoto, his boyhood foster father. Aminoto was a businessman and nationalist often regarded as the grandfather of Indonesia's independence movement.

Generalissimo Franco admits to the most conventional influences of the military careerist. Above all he rates "the military life" itself. As a young officer, he says, he was always much swayed by his captain, who appeared to him "like the head of a school or of a convent."

"If I have to search my mind,' Chancellor Konrad Adenauer concedes, "I must avow that a teacher in our secondary school who was a friend of Schliemann (the archaeologist who discovered Troy) exercised on me the greatest influence. This teacher told us much outside school hours about Asia Minor, Greece and . . . developments there.

"When I look back I realize that teacher made a huge impression on me. You may know what kind of man he was when I tell you that he once said to us—and that was in the Kaiser's day—that a republic was a higher form of state than a monarchy. This called for courage . . . His name was Petit."

I once asked David Ben-Gurion, a founder of Israel and later its Premier, who had most shaped his life, which man, ancient or modern? Seizing the Old Testament he replied: "This book has influenced me even more than Plato."

Perhaps, one might say, the least unexpected of all these human mirrors.—New York Times.

Wake Up! Protestants!

SCHOOL PRAYER OUT; RELIGION NEXT TARGET

Baltimore — The atheist who successfully challenged Bible reading and recitation of the Our Father in public schools says she will now devote her life to promoting materialism.

Mrs. Madalyn Murray, a local housewife, announced she is forming an atheist corporation which will have headquarters in rural Kansas.

According to the articles of incorporation, "The objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be to promote and advance the philosophy of materialism by whatever means the board of directors may determine."

She filed corporation papers July 1, setting up an organization called "Other Americans, Inc."

Mrs. Murray told newsmen that the group has acquired about 160 acres of land near Stockton, Kans.

The corporation, she said, will establish a university, an information center, a radio station, a printing press, and a home for the aged, "We have 500 members right now, but we are just beginning," she said.

"Atheists have never had a voice in society," she said.

One of the first projects of the Kansas Center, she said, will be to launch a series of legal attacks against property tax exemption now given churches. Suits will be filed in "about fifteen" states next fall, she explained.

Mrs. Murray said the proposed university will not teach atheism.—Western Voice

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RELIGION IN SCHOOLS BARRED

MONTPELIER, Vt. (UPI)—The State Board of Education established a policy banning all outward religious activities in Vermont's public schools. However, the board said, "the school day may, among other possibilities, provide for a short period of reverence to be used by each child for silent meditation in keeping with the religious practices of his own home."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is essential that all changes of address be sent to The American Protest, 350 West 26th Street, New York 1, N. Y., on or before the first of each month, in order that we may have an opportunity to change our records before the regular mailing on the 15th.

PITTSBURGH BARS CLASS PRAYER

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh public schools were instructed to eliminate the practice of required Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer when schools open. In announcing this, however, the newly appointed superintendent, Sidney P. Marland Jr., told the 2,500 system teachers that "I believe that the separation of church from state does not demand a separation of God from schools."

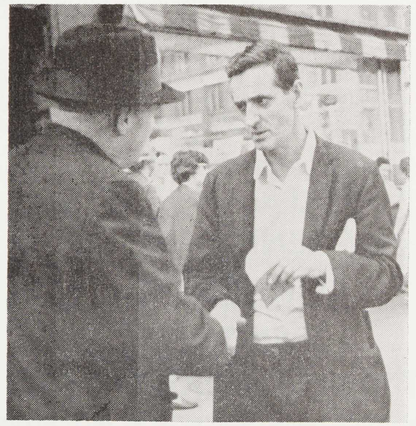
VATICAN PAPER CRITICIZES PRAYER DECISION IN U.S.

ROME (UPI)—The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano indirectly criticized the United States Supreme Court ban on religious practices in public schools. It also said demonstrations would not solve the United States racial problem.

The newspaper spoke out sharply on both issues in a single editorial.

In an apparent reference to the recent court decision, it said the principle of church-state separation in the United States "is tending to become, also, legally, agnosticism."

On the racial issue, it said, "manifestations and counter-demonstrations do not serve to resolve" the problem, which can be resolved "only in the common recognition of a superior law that derives directly from the teachings of the Gospel."



At one of our recent Outdoor Gospel Crusade meetings, this man, a Roman Catholic came to Dr. Little and requested literature. He said his sister is a nun.