

Earl Raab

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THE FEVER

Things are pretty hot and angry out there these days. People are pushing, snarling and shooting at each other. If there was a Social Temperature gauge, today's world would register some ominous degree of fever.

Comic books, for example, used to be innocuous, if inane forms of entertainment. But Northern California is now seeing the rather broad distribution of "hate" comic books. The Crusaders comic books, produced by Chick publications in Chino, attacks Jews as well as Mormons; but Catholics are the special target right now.

The series "Alberto," allegedly the confessions of an ex-priest named Alberto Rivera, attacks Catholics in a manner not publicly seen in this country for over a century. Alberto talks about the secret tunnels connecting monasteries and convents, complete with tombs to bury the suffocated babies born to priests and nuns. He attacks the unpatriotic allegiance of Catholics to the pope and "describes" Catholic subversive activity, led by the "black Pope."

Another kind of symptomatic madness has been reported by media people around Northern California, who have just received a bulletin from something in Canada called The German-Jewish Historical Commission. The bulletin asks the question, "Why are Jews terrorizing other Jews with bombs and swastikas?" The point is that the bombing of the synagogue in Paris, other attacks on Jews, and even the establishment of some neo-Nazi groups, have been the self-serving work of the world-wide Zionist conspiracy.

That is the kind of insane historical fabrication, born of hatred, which we see in the Chick comic books -- and in the Institute of Historical Review, a concoction of old-time anti-semite Willis Carto. That "Institute" publishes material and

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holds annual conferences to argue that the Holocaust never really took place. As a matter of fact, for its next conference, the Institute hired a hall in Southern California which happens to be owned by the University of California; there is an active movement, led by faculty members, to try to break the lease.

In passing, the game of historical revision continues apace in the Soviet Union, which has always excelled in it. The latest ironic twist can be found in an official Soviet pamphlet, written by the well-known anti-semitic Korneyev, "to expose the false stereotype instilled into the ordinary consciousness by bourgeois-nationalist propaganda, namely that the Jews played an exceptionally important part in the revolutionary movement in Russia." It's classic: In one part of the world, we're charged with being Communists; in another part of the world, we're charged with *not* being Communists.

In America, unlike the Soviet Union, the pathological edge of hatred is not official. But it is all around us. Somebody in San Jose called for executing homosexuals. Somebody is murdering black children in Atlanta. Somebody else is attacking all fundamentalist Christians. As a matter of fact, while the Jews are on the hatred list, they are not as high on the list today as some other groups. There is a *general* fever of anger and hatred.

What could save us is that the majority of Americans are on the hatred hit-list. It could save us, that is, if everyone on the hit-list would recognize their common position and avoid the fever themselves. Some joint cool action to face the problems behind the anger, instead of just hotly seeking adversaries, however hateful, is the only prescription for bringing the social temperature down.

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