

I Testimoni di Geova espongono la bandiera degli Stati Uniti ad un loro congresso del 1946

Wednesday, August 7, 1946 The MESSENGER Page 3

"Theocratic Ministry School" and "Refuting Arguments from Door to Door"

The Monday evening session was devoted entirely to the demonstration of the proper conduct and the practical value of the Theocratic Ministry School for young and old. It was established in 1942 first at the headquarters of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society for the further training of Jehovah's witnesses in ministerial work.

Thereafter, in April 1943, like courses were introduced in the local groups of Jehovah's witnesses throughout America and many other countries in the world. In these courses the enrolled students are being trained in effective public speaking and preaching of the Gospel from the platform and in the homes of the people who are willing to listen.

Maxwell G. Friend, an instructor of the Watchtower Bible College of Gilead, acted as chairman or school servant at the demonstration. This took place on the illuminated platform of the Stadium, which for this event was transformed into a classroom where about sixty male and female students of various ages were seated.

The session opened with oral review of ten subjects on the lecture "Bible Concordances" which was

presented on Monday evening in a variety of settings on the platform. In the first demonstration a young man who was met by the objection "You're too young to be a minister." This was scripturally and strikingly refuted. The minister was W. H. Gobbitz, and the householder B. B. Geyer.

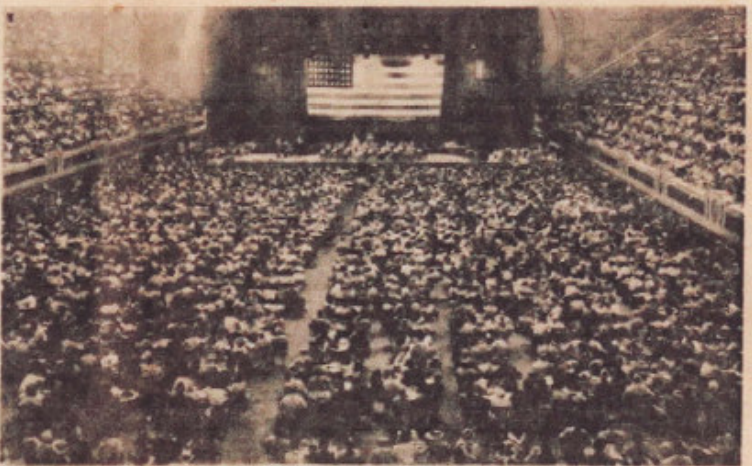
In the next setting, enacted by two ladies, M. A. Hannan, a witness, and M. Russell, a Sunday school teacher, the latter objected that "Jehovah's witnesses don't believe in hell." To her surprise she was emphatically assured of the converse, and by the aid of a Bible concordance shown from the Word of God that the Bible hell is entirely different from religion's hell.

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Watchtower study in the Main Auditorium Sunday afternoon



E. Anderson delivering instruction talk at Theocratic Ministry School of Monday evening session

given to the student body the week previous. This review was conducted by the speaker himself, F. F. Garrett, and the students participated therein with lively and intelligent interest. Their answers, given through portable micro-

Other-language Meetings

The sweep of events during the second day of the Glad Nations Assembly highlighted the theme of the day. After the assembly for field service conducted by M. A. Howlett of Brooklyn, Bethel, the witnesses put into practical application the theme by standing in defense of the gospel in field witnessing. This second day of the assembly was the first to introduce other-language meetings. From 10 to 11:30 a. m. four meetings were conducted simultaneously. The Greek assembly was held in the Music Hall, at which time 564 attended to hear three speakers address them in the Greek tongue.



log was similar in outline to that of the Greek session, as, indeed, are all the 19 scheduled meetings in languages other than English, a discourse on the importance of learning the English language, service organization, and a third discussion based upon a recent Watchtower article being the basic outline followed by each.

The two remaining foreign language meetings, Lithuanian and Russian, were conducted in different sections of the Stadium with J. Wasieleski in charge of the Lithuanian assembly and N. Belokon, chairman of the Russian meeting. Both are from Brooklyn Bethel. Attendance of the Lithuanian meeting was 132; 272 were present for the Russian session.

On the following day, Tuesday, "Good Courage" day, R. E. Abrahamson from Bethel conducted the assembly for field service. Thereafter, from 10 to 11:30 a. m., four

additional foreign-speaking assemblies were held. The meeting, the chairman, and the attendance for them are as follows: Polish, P. Mabaok, 1,470; Italian, G. De-Cecco, 374; Portuguese, J. A. Perry, 78; Armenian, D. P. Dardarian, 76.



Russian meeting

Saluto alla bandiera – Loyalty, 1935:

day of great trouble.' There is only one place of safety, and that is on the side of Jehovah God. Let all persons be free to believe what they will, but if you desire to live and be happy, put yourself on the side of Jehovah God and his kingdom, become his servant and serve him faithfully and truly. Do not follow the teachings of men, but follow the teachings of God's word of truth as set forth in the Bible.

SALUTING A FLAG

[Broadcast over chain Sunday, October 6, 1935, by Judge Rutherford]

RECENTLY much publicity has been given to the case of Carleton B. Nichols, Jr., a schoolboy of tender years, who declined to salute the American flag and sing "America". He is the son of one of Jehovah's witnesses. The Associated Press has requested me to express my view of the matter. This I do from the standpoint of a true follower of Christ Jesus. To many persons the saluting of the flag is merely a formalism and has little or no significance. To those who sincerely consider it from the Scriptural standpoint, it means much.

The flag representatively stands for the visible ruling powers. To attempt by law to compel a citizen or child of a citizen to salute any object or thing, or to sing so-called "patriotic songs", is entirely unfair and wrong. Laws are made and enforced to prevent the commission of overt acts that result in injury to another, and are not made for the purpose of compelling a person to violate his conscience, and particularly when

that conscience is directed in harmony with Jehovah God's Word.

The refusal to salute the flag, and to stand mute, as this boy did, could injure no one. If one sincerely believes that God's commandment is against the saluting of flags, then to compel that person to salute a flag contrary to the Word of God, and contrary to his conscience, works a great injury to that person. The State has no right by law or otherwise to work injury to the people.

For many centuries Satan the Devil has been the invisible ruler of the nations of the earth. God has suffered or permitted him to so act in order to put a test upon the human race to determine how many will serve God willingly and how many will serve the Devil. For that reason Jehovah God gives this commandment to those who will receive his favor (Exodus 20: 3, 5): "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. . . . Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them."

At the third chapter of Daniel the Divine Record states that in violation of God's law the government of Babylon made a law commanding all persons, when the national hymn was played, to fall down and worship before a certain image and that those who refused would be put to death in a fiery furnace. Three Hebrews who had covenanted to serve Jehovah God refused to obey that commandment and said to the king: 'We have no need to obey you in this matter; and if it be that you cast us into the fire, our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace; and he will deliver us.' The test was on. The three Hebrews were cast into

"Recentemente molta pubblicità è stata fatta sul caso di Carleton B. Nichols Jr., uno scolaro di otto anni che si rifiutò di salutare la bandiera americana e di cantare un inno patriottico. Lui è il figlio di un testimone di Geova. La stampa mi ha richiesto di esprimere il mio pensiero sulla questione. Questo è quello che faccio dal mio punto di vista quale vero seguace di Gesù Cristo".

Per molti il saluto alla bandiera è una semplice formalità e ha poco o nessun significato. Per coloro che sinceramente lo considerano dal punto di vista scritturale. Significa molto.

La bandiera rappresenta le potenze invisibili che governano. E' assolutamente ingiusto e sbagliato cercare per legge di costringere un cittadino o il figlio di un cittadino a salutare un oggetto o una cosa o a cantare i cosiddetti 'inni patriottici'. Le leggi sono emanate e fatte osservare per impedire che si commettano intenzionalmente atti che causino danno ad altri e non per costringere una persona a violare la propria coscienza, specie quando questa coscienza è guidata dalla Parola di Geova Dio.

Rifiutarsi di salutare la bandiera e restare in silenzio, come ha fatto questo bambino, non può offendere nessuno. Se uno crede sinceramente che il comandamento di Dio sia contrario al saluto alla bandiera, allora costringere questa persona a salutare la bandiera, atto contrario alla Parola di Dio, e alla sua coscienza, reca una grave offesa alla persona. Lo Stato non ha alcun diritto, attraverso le leggi o in altra maniera, di recare offesa alle persone.

Per molti secoli Satana il Diavolo è stato l'invisibile governante delle nazioni della terra. Dio ha subito o permesso che e gli agisse in tale veste allo scopo di mettere alla prova l'umanità per stabilire quanti avrebbero spontaneamente servito Dio e quanti si sarebbero affidati al Diavolo. Perciò Geova Dio dà questo comandamento a quanti godranno del suo favore (Esodo 20:3,5): 'Non devi avere altri dèi contro la mia faccia... Non devi inchinarti a loro né essere in dotto a servirli'".