

FORGETTING RELIGION.

The Federal Council of Churches in America some time ago appointed a committee "on marriage and the home," which has now submitted a report favoring "careful and restrained" use of contraceptive devices to regulate the size of families. The committee seems to have a serious struggle with itself in adhering to Christian doctrine while at the same time indulging in amateurish excursions into the fields of economics, legislation, medicine, and sociology. The resulting report is a mixture of religious obscurantism and modernistic materialism which departs from the ancient standards of religion and yet fails to blaze a path toward something better.

The mischief that would result from an attempt to place the stamp of church approval upon any scheme for "regulating the sizes of families" is evidently quite beyond the comprehension of this pseudo-scientific committee. It is impossible to reconcile the doctrine of the divine institution of marriage with any modernistic plan for the mechanical regulation or suppression of human birth. The church must either reject the plain teachings of the Bible or reject schemes for the "scientific" production of human souls. Carried to its logical conclusion, the committee's report if carried into effect would sound the death-knell of marriage as a holy institution, by establishing degrading practices which would encourage indiscriminate immorality. The suggestion that the use of legalized contraceptives would be "careful and restrained" is preposterous.

It is the misfortune of the churches that they are too often misused by visionaries for the promotion of "reforms" in fields foreign to religion. The

departures from Christian teachings are astounding in many cases, leaving the beholder aghast at the willingness of some churches to discard the ancient injunction to teach "Christ and Him crucified." If the churches are to become organizations for political and "scientific" propaganda they should be honest and reject the Bible, scoff at Christ as an obsolete and unscientific teacher, and strike out boldly as champions of politics and science as modern substitutes for the old-time religion.

Curley Calls Birth Control Stand 'Moral Bankruptcy'

Archbishop Is Joined by Lutheran Leaders in Opposing Church Council's View; Others See World Ready for New Attitude Toward Family.

Chicago, March 21 (U.P.).—Criticism of the Federal Council of Churches for approving birth control was voiced today by a Catholic archbishop and two Lutheran leaders, while other religious leaders, including one Lutheran minister, expressed general agreement.

Archbishop Michael J. Curley, of the Baltimore Archdiocese of the Catholic Church, expressing his denomination's known position on the subject, declared that the council's "approval of birth control by contraceptives" is a "confession of moral bankruptcy."

The other dissenters were the Rev. John M. Bramkamp, of Chicago, president of the Illinois Lutheran Synod, and Dr. Walter A. Maier, of St. Louis, professor in the Concordia Theological Seminary, a Lutheran institution.

Dr. Maier declared that birth control, "as popularly understood today and involving the use of contraceptives, is one of the most repugnant of modern aberrations, representing a

Continued on Page 4, Column 2.

BIRTH RESTRICTIONS OPPOSED BY PRELATE

Continued from Page 1

twentieth century renewal of pagan bankruptcy."

"It is reprehensible for several reasons," Dr. Maier said. "It sets aside the divine injunction to 'be fruitful and multiply' and a long list of scriptural indorsements of parenthood. It tends to degrade motherhood and through its involved association with companionate marriage and similar laxities, to weaken marriage ties."

The Rev. Mr. Bramkamp warned Lutheran pastors to "be very careful of expressing indorsement of the council's findings" and commented that "the difficulty with birth control lies in the fact that human nature is ready to take advantage of every loophole."

Dr. R. Andreas Bard, pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church at Kansas City, said he could see no reason why "the intelligence God has given us to control nature, which we are doing in many other ways, should not be used in the control of birth."

The view that the world is ready to accept birth control and use it properly was expressed by the Rev. Rolland W. Scholerb, pastor of the Hyde Park Baptist Church, Chicago; the Rev. Homer Lewis Sheffer, pastor of the Unitarian Church at Oklahoma City, Okla.; the Rev. George Gilmore, of the Unitarian Church at Denver, Colo., and Margaret Sanger, New York crusader.

Others who indorsed the council's attitude included the Rev. Dr. Burris Jenkins, Community Church, Kansas City, Mo.; the Right Rev. Edward L. Parsons, California Episcopal diocese, San Francisco, and Dr. Traverce Harrison, First Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo.