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# NEW PHILOSOPHY NEEDED FOR WESTERN SOCIETY McCORMICK TELLS SCM

by PETER SPENCER

A St. Mary's University history professor says the western world is in great need of a new philosophy to give it the impetus necessary to revitalize its life.

Professor MacCormick was speaking November 1 in the Memorial Room of the Arts and Administration building to the Student Christian Movement on the Roman Catholic Conception of Man in the lecture series "The Nature of Man."

Professor MacCormick said the faith that had activated the western world into its present state was now dead. He said science was that faith and that this faith had taken political and social forms of which the best known form was Communism.

He said until 1945 the West had a really living faith. The 30s were the last great age of secularist faith and hope—hope that man could create what amounted to a Utopia on earth. This science presupposed evil to be no problem, that there was nothing that could not be solved by scientific methods. But he said we are not as sure of this today as in former times.

The United States—the leader of the West—was showing uncertain leadership to the Western world in contrast to some smaller nations, who were driven to achievements by the philosophy of Communism. Belief in the possibility of science continues to be strengthened, said Professor MacCormick, because of great studies in science today.

### Communism Not Accepted

Professor MacCormick said that although the western philosophy was based partly on the Marxist philosophy, the West could not accept the majority of its teachings as interpreted by the Communists.

He said two forms of democracy had arisen. One arose from the French Revolution and was known as natural law and the other from English legal experience, known as common law.

The French Revolution came out of the new belief in scientific discoveries—that all evil in society springs from maladjustment of some sort or another. Externally it was a very revolutionary concept. It rejected all knowledge that could not be represented in a mathematical way. Thus tradition was rejected.

English common law arose from Anglo-Saxon law and the law of

ruling English monarchs, and was strengthened by natural law.

The Western world, said Professor MacCormick, has inherited this English tradition, and today it was against the Communist idea of democracy. But many of our presuppositions arose from Marxism.

Socrates, when he discussed the nature of justice, asked whether or not justice was separate from the mind—the fundamental idea of law grounded in nature against the will of any one man or group of men. Christianity affirmed this idea.

Professor MacCormick said there was a tendency to agree with the natural approach to mankind and believe there was no change in human nature.

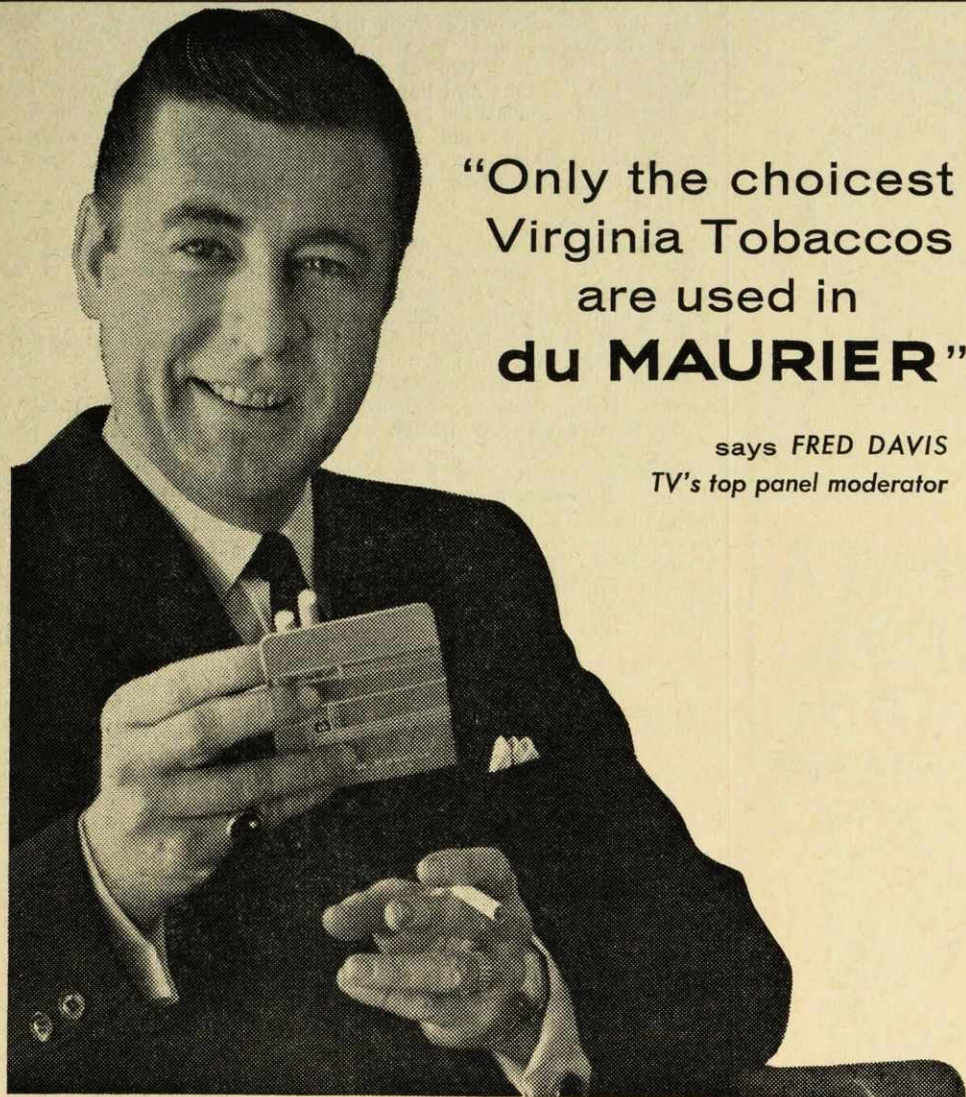
### Church Discouraged

He said that Communists agree with natural approach to mankind but said they see a pattern and development in life. The difficulty then arises that if one does not believe in a pattern and that human nature has a purpose it is hard to get as coherent an approach to life.

Professor MacCormick said the Roman Catholic Church upholds the belief in natural law and thus has been discouraged from all countries and institutions who have done away with and who do not believe in natural law. Thus when England became Protestant, Catholics became divorced from English society.

On the continent, the French Revolution was extremely anti-Catholic, and people disliked republicanism. In France the monarchy leaned on the church for organizational support and the church upheld the monarchy as the true form of government.

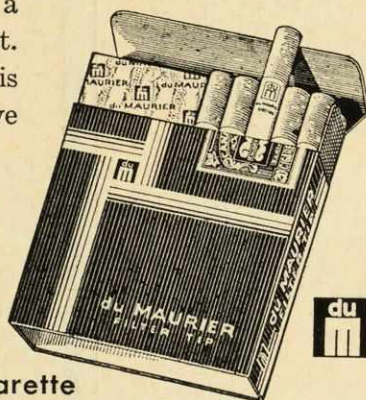
The result today, said Professor MacCormick, is that the Roman Catholic church is not enthusiastic about western tradition which it helped to create. Thus arose a double alienation and until secularists came to a better appreciation of religious and moral tradition our approach will be aimless. What was needed was a philosophy that would give the natural impetus and force needed to revitalize western life.



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INTERVIEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

## SMU Paints On Dal Sidewalks

Professor A. F. Chisholm, University engineer, says it's not yet been determined how much it will cost to have letters removed from the concrete in front of the Dunn Science Building and the Dal Rink.

The letter "SMU," in places as high as four feet, were painted on the sidewalks Friday night in front of the buildings by errant souls from St. Mary's University.

The letters were also placed on the sidewalk in front of the new men's residence. But Prof. Chisholm said Dalhousie was not responsible for these sidewalks, as they were still under the jurisdiction of the contractor.

The University engineer told the Gazette ordinary paint removers, or solvents, could not be used. A wire brush or electric drill would be needed to remove the paint.