November 20, 1932

Dear fellow countrymen and countrywomen, I greet you with the words: Praised be Jesus Christ!

Once more let us reach for the Sacred Scriptures. In the book of Leviticus we find the following order given by God: “You shall not offer any of your offspring to be immolated to Molech!” [[1]](#footnote-1) Molech was a big and ugly god. He was worshipped by the Canaan nations; he was especially popular with the Ammonites. He was cast in bronze. His body was part human, part animal. The torso of a man; the head of an ox. The statue of the god was hollow inside. On his back he had a little door through which fuel was put, fire was made and warmed, or in other words, heated the giant statue. In the heated arms pagan parents placed their newly-born children. The defenseless children, writhing in terrible pain, died a slow death. The thousand strong crowds, to deafen the cries and laments of the children writhing in pain, danced around the menacing and bloody god, to the sound of drums, trumpets and pipes. Historians claim that even in our times in certain provinces of India there is a similar goddess in whose honor the inhabitants make sacrifices of children. The goddess’ name is “Maryatali.”. In the arms of the goddess there are spoked wheels. The children are placed between the wheels, which are set into movement, slowly and completely crushing the children. The parents, instead of crying – yell cries of joy and sing happy songs, convinced that they have contributed to satisfying the goddess, and to making the children, themselves and their country happy. Surprised, you ask yourselves, what do I have in mind, what is the goal in mentioning to you the description of these two bloodthirsty gods: Molech and Maryatali, who extended their hands, covered in human blood, so insistently and greedily for fresher and more numerous victims? And victims who were innocent, the most innocent among the innocent. – Today even among us, or more aptly, above us we have in one god both Molech and Maryatali. They gobble up directly noble and peaceful citizens, along with their property and happiness. Our society is stifled and crushed by iron arms and through a machine which squeezes out the sweat and blood of citizens. These arms, these wheels – they are excessive, exorbitant and unjust taxes. No class of society is exempt from taxation, but everyone sees that in our times there is perhaps no one who suffers more than the worker, the citizen, the owner. This poor man, who for long years dreamed, worked and saved, so as to at least in his old age have peace and quiet, rest under his own roof, has lived to see what? Well – he has lived to see the day when, due to unemployment and excessive federal, state, county and municipal demands, that is, taxes, they take from him his property and land, and throw him out of the nest he had built with so much effort for himself and for his family. The government, the state, the county and the city cast this Molech, who opens his arms wide and far, and not paying attention neither to the cries nor the beseeching of the citizens, lives and fattens himself on the tears and blood of citizens. And so we have the title of today’s talk:

The Molech of the Twentieth Century.

Every country has certain duties to fulfill in regard to its citizens. This is God’s truth and a natural truth. These are just laws! But citizens cannot and should not be regarded as slaves, or as soulless machines, and citizens have rights both God-given and natural in regard to countries and governments. This truth was taught us by the Savior himself, when he was asked by the Pharisees and Herodians: “Teacher, Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” [[2]](#footnote-2) and he answered: “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” [[3]](#footnote-3) Later the Evangelist Matthew, in Chapter 17, describes that when “they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax approached Peter and said, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" (This was an annual tax paid by each man either to the Romans or to Herod.) “Yes," he said. When he came into the house, before he had time to speak, Jesus asked him, "What is your opinion, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take tolls or census tax? From their subjects or from foreigners?" When he said, "From foreigners," Jesus said to him, "Then the subjects are exempt. But that we may not offend them, go to the sea, drop in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up. Open its mouth and you will find a coin worth twice the temple tax. Give that to them for me and for you." [[4]](#footnote-4) - On the other hand we read in the First Book of Ezra, that the Jews sent the king Artaxerxes a letter in protest against unjust taxes: “Now let it be known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are raised up again, they will no longer pay taxes, tributes, or tolls; thus it can only result in harm to the throne.” [[5]](#footnote-5) And now let us take into account taxes, or rather their endless amount which threatens society, if not with ruin and death, than at least with unhappiness; the Buffalo newspaper in its Saturday edition on November 12 of this year contained thirty eight-column pages with fifteen thousand names of the owners of properties set out for “Tax Sale!” – In the nearby town of Batavia, Mr. Frank H. Webber announced that there is $40 000 in unpaid taxes, therefore on Thursday, November 17th, there will be an auction of 450 properties for unpaid taxes. – In the year 1931, the board of supervisors in our own Erie County spent $ 8, 728, 763; this year, in spite of unemployment, the budget was set at $11, 727, 537, so a full three thousand more, visibly $2 more for each thousand. Yes, the owner of a house estimated at $5, 000 in 1931 paid $23 to the county; in 1932 he pays $35, or only $12 more! This is not all. Local newspapers from Monday, November 14, brought the inhabitants of our town the consoling news that the Erie Country Board of Supervisors, after its Sunday session, has passed a raise in taxes, of only a dollar, so that the inhabitants in spite of paying the country $6. 84 for each $1000 will now pay $7.84 in the year 1933! I am extremely curious whether the Buffalo sheep will pay this also without protest, or whether they will rise up on their hind legs and bleat so loudly that the supervisors will lose for once and for all their desire of playing the role of Salomon and making fun of naïve citizens who allow for the excesses of ward and farmer dunces and yard-spinners! In Chicago, a county judge decided that 56, 000 properties worth $50, 000, 000 will be put up for sale for unpaid taxes. During the political campaign that was just brought to a close, when different things were invented by people resembling a group of youngsters loitering on the corners of our Buffalo streets, a certain E. Eliot Kaplan, the secretary of the National League of Civil Service, stated that there are only 135, 000 civil servants in America, and their yearly annual income is only $125, 000, 000! This expert in statistics claims that 35, 000 of these officials – are only needless luggage. Getting rid of them would save citizens millions of dollars in taxes! He goes even further and names some of these positions. And so: Close to 15, 000 are the positions of postmasters, whom the government pays $32, 000, 000 yearly! Then around 10, 500 duty collectors, the deputies of collectors and federal marshals, with a salary of $25, 000, 000 yearly! Then different officials in the offices of Congress, who work out of pure patriotism, because yearly they collect only $4, 500, 000, so almost as good as nothing! This is an army of prosecutors, assistants, lawyers and doctors; all are specialists, who know how to squeeze out every last cent from the already excessively drained pockets of the citizens! Government statistics have it that the government’s income in 1912 was 33 billion dollars; the expenses of the government were 2 billion dollars. In 1913 the government expenses jumped up to $2, 919, 000, 000! In 1922, the upkeep of the government called for $6, 700, 000, 000; or around 11.1 of the general income. In 1931 from the general national income, amounting to $54, 000, 000, 000, the federal offices ate up $12, 000, 000, 000 or 22.2 percent of the whole income! In the United States there are 250, 000 different offices which collect taxes, and which take payment for doing so! Mr. Merle Thorpe, editor of the famous monthly “Nation’s Business” proved in numbers that the citizens are suffocated by the government’s bureaucracy. – The government itself directs around 250 different companies, banks, insurance companies, factories, hotels, laundromats etc which compete in the business sector with their own citizens, and which are financed by the taxes of the citizens themselves! Other government offices control almost every activity of the citizens, and finally numerous committees gobble up million-dollar sums. In Washington itself work 71, 693 officials, outside of Washington another 545, 144, so a total of 616, 837 officials live off the blood and sweat of the American citizen. I almost forgot that this figure does not include 33, 077 clerks, so-called offices of the fourth category and 22, 147 “mail messengers”. It is not surprising then that in eleven and a half months of the last fiscal year, the federal treasury had an income of $1, 839, 914, 998 and $4, 621, 218, 314 in expenses, so there was a deficit of $2, 781, 303, 316! The state of Mississippi can serve as an example of what is happening in the whole country. We read in the “Times” of El Paso: “And to think that well over 40, 000 farmers’ families in only one state are left without a roof over their heads, due to unpaid taxes.” And to top it all off, on June 6 of 1932, the head of our country signed yet another tax bill. The bloodthirsty Molech has sunk his hands even deeper into the empty pockets of the bankrupt citizen! We read in this government litany that we are left only fresh air – as being free from taxes! Thank God at least for this! The incentive to the citizens was: “Pay until it hurts!” What great consolation! I would change that somewhat: “They cry – but they do not pay – because they do not have anything to pay with!” – First of all the masses of people thrown out from their jobs; those who still work earn a few times less than before; the banks are frozen, and so on without end! So it is easy to cry: “Pay until it hurts!” The echo cries back loudly and incessantly: “Where can we take the money from!” You ask, what is the reason, what is the cause of this state of matters? Two main reasons! Reasons thought up by the limited minds of people, who thought that they and no one else could make society happy and save it, and in spite of the promised salvation – they put together a cross onto which they nailed our citizenship! Federal bureaucracy and the stupid queen – prohibition! The first – is the child of petty party politics! The second is – the miscarriage of religious fanaticism! The government – the towns – the villages – the states and counties have put up bankrupt signs. The representatives call upon the nation to save, and do they give an example themselves? They prey on the pockets of citizens – they grow fat and rich thanks to their positions. What do they care about the complaints and well-founded protests of the masses? So long as they regularly obtain a money order with their monthly paycheck, everything else is – a cinch! How many useless offices, committees, commissions and departments exist today? Why not get rid of all of this now and for always! All of this only weighs down, enlarges and complicates the government – state – county and municipal machinery, and creates a selfish and bureaucratic Molech. Political parties do this slowly and unwillingly, because that is where their power and their strength lie. But they must do this! The director of the Chicago Chamber of Commerce, P. B. Carey, speaking to merchants cried out: “on the back of every taxpayer in this country there is a bureaucrat, who pulls money out of his pocket. From the year 1800 the population of the country grew only 25 times, and the number of administrators grew 1, 500 times.” – Instead of feeding the poor or thinking about the unemployed so that the workers could work for the payment of taxes and in this way save their huts from being confiscated, the fathers, yes, I repeat, the fathers of the nation vote for the formation of new committees which well help the country as much as fleas help a dog, and they make the country happy by putting on - new and higher taxes! – When I come to the second cause of high taxes, that is, the prohibition, then I feel not only warm but even hot! – Henry H. Curran, the president of the Association Against the 18th Amendment on February 7, 1932 presented statistics, taken from the official federal report, that from January 1920 to July 30th, 1931, the federal government lost $10, 984, 000, 000 in taxes; that the passing of the dry amendment cost $370, 000, 000 and that the so-called national bill for liquor would be $28, 414, 949, 600! However, it seems that the patience of the citizens of our country is wearing thin! At least, if we are to judge from the last elections! The American citizen has had enough of bureaucracy – and he has grabbed prohibition by the neck and thrown it out of the country. Really, now is the time for the government to roll back its sleeves and set to work eagerly to set free the citizens from the monster which for a long time was an omnipotent and fearful lord!

The emotions of the soul of the Polish nation were beautifully described by Zdzisław Dębicki in these words: “During the Bolshevik invasion in 1920, I was in the church village of Grudusk. The village was horribly destroyed by enemy fire. One morning I went to Mass. After Mass, the elderly priest intoned a supplication. The organ played; the pious caught up the melody, and suddenly something powerful happened. The church, ruined by artillery shells, without a roof, trembled in its ruins. The singing, unrestrained, went straight to heaven, beseeching God, pleading for mercy. There in those surroundings, in that atmosphere of war and encampment, there was something so deeply moving that it was impossible to hold back tears. All eyes filled with tears. It was Poland which was praying in that church. It was Poland, enveloped by fire, left a victim of a foreign invasion, which cried for mercy: From fire, famine and war, save us, o Lord. In that hymn there was not only the present. It held the whole history of our nation. In that plaint sounded the echoes of Tatar invasions, of the Swedish and Cossack wars, and so many others, which had plagued the Polish Commonwealth. All of this had survived in this hymn and burst forth with a latent force, accumulated across centuries. It was the centuries which sang.”

Our own country today is ruined by the artillery shells of unemployment. It is plagued by hunger, poverty and want. Uncertainty, doubt, helplessness and despair as far as the eye can see. Our society is on its knees, chanting one powerful and wistful pleading: “From unemployment, hunger and excessive taxation, save us, o Lord.” The soul of American society shows through this pleading. It is true that in this desperate pleading we hear only the voice of the present situation of the nation, because the present situation was unknown to us earlier and came upon us out of blue. Both those ruling and the ruled were too sure of themselves, and so unprepared for what happened! The fault belongs to those whose duty it is to care for their subjects, to enable them to be successful, and to protect them from disasters! – Our society which up until now was the defenseless victim of Molech, in the sphere of politics, finance and industry, looks with hope towards those whom it gave power in the last elections. It waits only for the happy moment when Molech will fall, once and for all, - and on his pedestal Liberty will stand once again, with its huge torch, announcing peace and quiet – to the distressed nation. And this will happen only when the whole nation, both the authorities and the subjects, the officials and the citizens, the employers and the employees will return to the laws of Christ, who taught: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12).

Comments:

1. 16 746 / 1600 = 10.47 translation pages

10. 47 x $15 = $157.05

1. Leviticus, 18: 21. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Marc 12:14. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Marc 12: 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Matthew 17: 24-27. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ezra 4: 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)