

EDITORIAL

NOT MANY EVENINGS AGO a discussion warmed to exciting pitch on the subject of Catholic social awareness, only to come to an abrupt stop. Someone had uttered a cliché.

In the face of truisms, the obvious movement is retreat. The mortal enemy of intelligent dialog is the well worn path of easy, self-complacent answers to vital questions. The inquiry which grasps desperately for a quick stopgap in the flow of new or radical ideas is no inquiry at all.

This criticism is not to deny truth to truisms. Rather it should serve to caution against the subtle possibility of using truth—in a garb so old that it is exasperating—to put a halt to a genuine search for truth. Usually clichés and platitudes are so expressed as to allow only two alternatives: complete agreement or complete dissent.

The pride of the Dominican intellectual tradition is its motto: *truth*. Yet truisms have no place here. It is the manner of this tradition to use principles as springboards of inquiry, not as roadblocks to discussion. Ultimately the platitude stems from a position which for all its arrogant statement is insecure; it is a position which halts at the gate of a challenge for fear of losing ground.

Some truths are eternal and unchanging, intended by God in the natures of the things He created. Yet many things are changing; many ideas true from the long view may not measure up in the specific close-up. This is no reason for fear or timidity. This is the area of adventure.

In a day when men and institutions have adopted wholesale taboos on the discussion of moral conduct and principle, because they either deny the existence of truth or doubt that it can be known, *Dominicana* has a great deal to offer. In this issue we reach out to two themes which tempt the timidity of Catholic minds. In "A Plea for Wisdom," the position of disciplined technology is affirmed against a current of opinion resting upon an *easy* answer. "The Word of God and the Psychiatrist" reflects new light on old spiritual problems from the threshold of psychological research. The approach rests confidently on the principles of Thomism, imbued with an instinct for investigating practical problems toward sound solutions. This is an instinct we trust our readers will acquire, develop, and use.