Americanism Only Hope Of Resisting Communism

By EUGENE KEILIN

Clarence Manion, former Dean of the Notre Dame School of Law, author of a number of pamphlets used in the American Legion Americanism programs, and professor of Constitutional law and a practicing attorney for 25 years, addressed a large group of Rice students and a smaller group of visitors Monday afternoon in the Library Lecture Lounge.

Manion prefaced his speech by announcing his intention to be "somewhat provocative," telling his audience he wished to explore their "interest in Law Day and Loyalty" and warning that he would be dogmatic and categorical in a deliberate attempt to be provocative. Maintaining that he was not engaged in an academic discussion, the speaker characterized his remarks as "practical and realistic."

PICTURING A WORLD struggle in which the forces of right are drawn up in a parade of law facing the forces of might drawn up on the other side of the curtain in a parade of modern weapons, Manion asserted that Americanism presents the only sound system on earth capable of defeating Communism. The war in which we are engaged thus poses a contest between Americanism and Communism, and any form of government suited to the temperament of its people can resist Communism provided the substance of that government is the substance of Americanism.

Discussing the struggle, Manion argued that right could not prevail unless the American people understand what the law is. Reminding his listeners that the Declaration of Independence maintains that all men are created equal, Manion asserted that all "rights come from God, not from the State," and that denial

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of this fact, in effect, constitutes Communism.

IF ANY OF our advocates are lacking in the Faith of our Fathers, then our advocacy is going to fall down.” Manion claimed that the American system cannot be defended with any other presuppositions than those of the founding fathers. “Whenever God goes out of the hearts of any people, the vacuum sucks in a tyranny to fill its place.”

According to Manion, Madison staked the future of America not on the power of government but on self-government.

Manion predicted a future which would have to answer the dilemma of faith versus Communism.

A SPIRITED question and answer period followed Manion’s presentation. Most of the questioners seemed to disagree with Manion’s contentions, although his acknowledgement of membership on the advisory council of the controversial John Birch Society was followed by vigorous applause from a small number of students, faculty members and visitors. Manion argued with many of his questioners, accusing one of not doing his homework and stopping others before they completed their questions.

Justifying American intervention in Cuba and other Communist countries, Manion asserted, “There is a revolt in spirit if not in fact in every country which is controlled by Communism,” maintaining that America was obligated to use its might in defense of what it considered to be right, but that the Communists used might as an end in itself.

MANION ARGUED for the support of dictators such as Franco and Samoza on the grounds that they were fighting Communism today much as Stalin fought Hitler during World War II. He claimed that the idea that it is possible to transplant democracy is ridiculous. After all, he pointed out, Franco’s spies have never been caught in the cryptographic department of the Department of State.

Repeating claims similar to those of Robert Welch, Birch Society founder, Manion charged that the infiltration of Communists into the US was “pretty far and pretty deep” and that the Communists movement is sponsored by the elite, not by “overalls and dirty hands.”