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**THIS MOVIE MENACE**  
**By Holland B. London**

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Statements in this booklet seem to indicate that it was probably published some time in the 1940's. Those who know what years Dr. Lewis T. Corlett served as president of Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho could perhaps pinpoint the time of its publication more precisely. -- DVM

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Edited by DVM

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**PART 1**

This address was delivered at Northwest Nazarene College at Nampa, Idaho, to an audience of over 700. The president of the college, Dr. Lewis T. Corlett, along with members of the faculty and student body, requested that it be placed in book form.

I make no claim whatsoever to originality. I have read everything that I could find relating to this subject which is one of the most discussed questions of our day. I pass it on with one thought in mind. That all who read these pages will receive benefit and help.

Holland B. London

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**PART 2**

I know that I am writing on one of the most discussed subjects of our day. In many of the older churches of our land it has become so important that many church leaders other than those of

our own denomination have had much to say in recent months regarding this matter. In my opinion it is one of the most vital problems facing the church world at the present time.

This subject is not only a matter of importance to our church, but to many others. I have been asked often by sincere Christian young people and by Christian parents what attitude there should be regarding the movies. I hope in this discussion that I may be of help in the question being asked, What harm or wrong is there in the movies?

Many of this group were not permitted to go while they were at home. They asked why? The only answer given was that Christians do not go and second, that it was against the rules of our church, and yet you saw professing Christians go and some who belonged to our church. When you got away from your parents, many of you did go. I now hasten to state that I want to, in this talk, base my remarks on facts which I think you should intelligently consider. I am not here to give you my opinion or the opinion of the leaders of the church. I have read much from many books on this matter in recent weeks and in what I have to say, I claim no originality nor merit of my own.

I am really not here to tell you what I think of the modern movie, while I think it to be destructive to our youth and attendance of them to be inconsistent with the Christian testimony and deadening in its effect upon spiritual life. But your answer to that would be, I am a minister in a church, that takes a radical stand against it and not attending the movies, I am not a fair judge. To be honest, I know that I am prejudiced and any testimony might be found as biased. I have heard many statements from many leading national evangelists such as Gypsy Smith, the late Billy Sunday, and the great Evangelist Appleman, but we are looking elsewhere for our authority. Your reason would be the same perhaps as to the verdict that you would give me, so I am giving you statements of fact that will be scientifically cold and where there can be no questions of one being prejudiced.

Now in the motion picture research council during recent years, groups of scientists have conducted scientific investigation of the motion picture industry. One of these were undertaken by Hoover's Commission, and its findings published in 1933 in a volume entitled Recent Social Trends. However, the most recent study of the problem was made by the motion picture research council supported by the Payne fund from 1930 to 1940. These scientists came from the Universities of Iowa, University of Chicago, Yale, New York, and Edgar Dale and W. W. Charters of Ohio University. This data was made available and their findings by a former editor of the Readers Digest. His book was entitled, Our Movie Made Children. This book was published a few years ago and has now had eight printings.

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### PART 3 -- THREE QUESTIONS

Now in coming down to the heart of the talk, we must content ourselves with three factors, or I might say three questions. First, the motion picture industry encourages crime. Second, it is wrecking the ideals of our nation as to sex. Third, the movies do not help one to live a true Christian life.

First the motion picture industry encourages crime. To answer this question accurately, we should ask who goes to the movies? Our scientists found that a total of seventy-seven million persons attend each week. Out of this number, 37% are minors. That means that nearly 1/6 of the movie crowd would be under 14 years of age. It has been estimated that 53% are under 21 years of age and that 17% are under 7 years of age. What is the harm? This is the question that is being asked. Suppose we turn to Dr. Edgar Dale after careful study of 1500 films and classify them on that. Somewhere between 75% and 80% of all pictures dealt with love, sex, crime -- pictures that were conducive to theft and robbery. Now the only logical conclusion is that these children see the regular run of pictures. That being true, here are some of the results. Says a young lady working off a sentence of theft: The ideas I got from watching pictures where the hero never worked, but seemed to have lots of money to spend and all the women would be after him -- I thought that was the kind of life to live big cars, fine clothes, she said, I still think it would be great.

A boy doing time for robbery says the pictures that show of this sort, with the man who is a crook gets his money, outsmarts the law and it looked so easy. Here is his testimony. After he left the movies, in fifteen minutes he went out to do the same thing he saw on the screen. I always felt bad for the kind of guy that got caught and always hoped he would pull a job and never get caught. To have all the people fear me and think of me as a gangster was my ambition. Another says I learned from the movies the way of pulling a job, leave no finger prints, then be cautious in every way. There are many testimonies and examples I could bring, but I simply ask you what your answer is -- would you say that movies do not encourage crime? NO! Leaving the church, forgetting the fact that it is absolutely against the rules of our church for one to go as an intelligent person, I believe you would answer that movies do encourage crime.

Second, Movies are destructive to the ideals as to sex. What are sex movies? Dr. Charters answered the question on page 51 of his book, in this class are listed pictures whose major themes are; first, living together without marriage; second, loose living, pictures that have no respect for the sacredness of the home, women smoking and dressed indecently, and half drunk. These types of pictures, no one can deny but what have had, and are now playing the sad part in the life of our American people. As one young girl said, movies are a liberal education in the art of making love. One outstanding scientist of our day declares that 50% of the ideals now held by the American youth regarding loose living come from the movies. Out of 252 delinquent girls, when questioned, 54% admitted that they have stayed away from school to attend the movies, 49% said that the movies gave them a desire to live a fast and loose life and 17% said that the one thing responsible for getting them in trouble was the movies. Movies weaken the will power. Movies help to weaken one for the best things in life. Movies place you with harmful associates and movies call you to support an evil industry.

Third, movies do not help one to live a Christian life. In considering the question of movies attendance, a so-called Christian is at once confronted with the fact that to support the movie brings a division of loyalty for the influence of the movie is surely hostile to Christianity and the church. This is seen in a statement by Dr. Gam in an article entitled, Missions and Motion Pictures. He says that one of the greatest hindrances to missionary activities today is the factor of motion pictures. The missionaries go to the Far East to preach the gospel of Christ which brings purity, good will, and peace. With the influence of the motion picture, it spreads violence, crime, and evil everywhere.

Jesus told his disciples that he who is not with me is against me. When we place ourselves on the side of the world, our influence is then in direct conflict with the cause of the gospel and to clean living.

I make here my appeal to all who know His name, do not let these things linger in your mind. Not only do not attend, but take your stand in school, in the shop, on the street, in your home, and with your associates until it can be said of you that you are letting your light shine for Christ.

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#### PART 4 -- SUNDAY MOVIES EMPTY THE CHURCHES

Nor does one need to go to the mission field to see this influence at work. It can be seen plentifully right here in our own country. Naturally, any institution which fosters crime and immorality, as we have definitely seen to be the case with the movies, is evidently combating the influence of the gospel. But there is another practical angle to this consideration.

For the past several years there has been a marked decline in the influence of the Church in our nation. The story is not told entirely by pointing to the decreasing number of church buildings in use nor to the loss in membership rolls. Far beyond this in seriousness is the fact that the Church is losing its grip. Religion is no longer the vital factor which it once was. This is being reflected in the passing of the mid-week prayer meeting, the Sunday evening evangelistic service, and efforts at spiritual revival. Our country is forgetting God.

After an absence of nine years from America, Mrs. E. Stanley Jones wrote her impressions of changes which had taken place during the period of their absence. She said, "We noted the change in vocabulary, self-expression, freedom, nudity, thrill; not often the words modesty, decency, duty, responsibility, obligation. We were puzzled to find many churches closed on Sunday evening, but theater doors wide open and crowds pouring in. Often we could discover no midweek prayer meetings, but dramas, scoutings, dancing, bridge in church parlors. To find churches being sold for debt; benevolent budgets cut; Christian work of all kinds being closed because of lack of funds; thousands losing their homes, unable to get work, going on relief; but to find that, apparently, America still had an abundance of money for ball games, motor cars, movies, cigarettes and beer."

Perhaps the greatest contributing factor in this condition of affairs is the growing spiritual deadness of the organized church of Christ considered as a whole. But undeniably a strong contributing factor has been the keen competition of worldly amusements, and particularly of the movies. Dr. W. W. Charters reports the findings of the Motion Picture Research Council to the effect that twenty seven per cent of all the movie attendance is on Sunday (Motion Pictures and Youth, p. 46) and this is in spite of the fact that in many communities Sunday movies are prohibited.

Then we wonder why it is that Sunday evening services are being dropped and churches are being closed for lack of support. Am I a consistent Christian if I help to support an industry which is degrading and demoralizing society?

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## PART 5 -- MOVIES KILL CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY

To proceed further, what sort of testimony am I bearing for my Savior, when the world sees me enjoying this worldly and often positively sinful entertainment? I have a personal acquaintance who makes no profession of Christianity, in fact is a bit scornful of Christians and their religion. He, of course, attends the movies frequently and brings it up as a reproach against God's people that he sees so many of them at the movies. He once said rather contemptuously, "I can't see much difference between them and myself."

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## PART 6 -- "I CHOOSE JESUS"

If I desire above all things to be pleasing to God, I must break with the world and its amusements, for God's Word admonishes me (1 John 2:15, 16), "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Again in Paul's letter to the Corinthians we read (2 Cor. 6:17): "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

As a child of God, therefore, filled with the love of God and leading a Christian life, I shall jealously guard His temple from unclean thoughts and suggestions, as well as from the more overt unclean actions and I can certainly not allow myself to come under the unholy influence of the movies or lend them my sanction or support.

I find that the persons who are most wholeheartedly engaged in the winning of souls to Christ do not go to the theater. These soul-winners not only do not have time for movies, they have not the taste: "old things have passed away, all things have become new." Most of them are outspoken against the movies because they understand the evils.

If a person finds you haven't seen the current "masterpiece", his curiosity often will cause him to ask why or at least to tell you to see it -- and there's the opening. But the answer must be given tactfully in a spirit of love. Reasons given must be adequate, valid, Scriptural, and must arise from personal conviction.

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## PART 7 -- THE MOVIES CONTRIBUTE TO LOW LIVING

The movies have a detrimental physical effect, especially upon children. Dr. Frederick Peterson, noted neurologist of New York, who made extensive studies regarding the effect of movies on the nervous system of the child says that scenes of horror, if sufficiently strong may be definitely, even permanently injurious. Further that "they have an effect very similar to shell shock such as soldiers received in war. Repeated stimulation often amounts to emotional debauch. Scenes causing terror and fright are sowing seeds in the system for future nervous disorders." A trained nurse connected with a Chicago theater declared that one horror picture caused eleven faintings among adults in a single day, not to mention numerous cases of hysterics among children. All pictures may not have this effect but all pictures falsely stimulate the emotions without giving any opportunity of release and any psychologist knows the danger of this in producing many types of nervous disorders. Let us remember that 28,000,000 young people, under the age of twenty-one are spending two hours each week in movie theaters. These pictures all arouse emotions and out of emotions spring actions. The producers have endeavored to arouse emotions but have not bothered about which emotions they arouse, nor do they assume any responsibility for actions which grow out of these stirred emotions.

We are against the movies, for they provide a distorted pattern of conduct. While occasionally the behavior pattern of a picture may not be positive in its ill effect the vast majority are. They are patterns taken from the careers of gangsters and rum runners, crooks, prostitutes and wastrels. Crime, Sex, violence -- these are the major themes, while luxury and extravagance provide background and atmosphere. Dr. Fred Eastman, writing for the Christian Century in 1933 says, "The most important effect of the movies -- and here I give my own interpretation -- does not arise from the overemphasis on the crime and sex pictures, pernicious as those may be. It comes rather from the whole scale of values that seem to be dominant in Hollywood studios. The values that you as a parent and your school and church have tried to implant in your child's mind might roughly be suggested by certain adjectives -- unselfish, courageous, honest, hard working, competent, faithful, poised, restrained, patient, thrifty, good and kind. These are not the adjectives that describe Hollywood's values. Hollywood has a different set, something like this -- smart, sophisticated, daring, bold, clever, rich, thrilling, big, stupendous, exciting, passionate and dazzling. Between the two sets of values presented by these adjectives there is a great gulf fixed. What is wrong with the Hollywood adjectives? This is what is wrong: they express a type of mind that has lost all sense of spiritual values, all sense of the burdens of man's destiny. It sees life only as a whirling, rushing, confused struggle after money and things, and then more money and more things. The goal of religion and education is to produce characters; the goal of the movie is to acquire things, get ahead, be smart, dazzling, "a big shot."

We are against the movies because they contribute directly to crime. Mrs. Ellen O'Grady, formerly New York City Deputy Police Commissioner, told the New York legislators in a hearing, "I know from my own experience that the greater part of juvenile delinquency is due to the evil influences of motion pictures. I could cite you case after case of youth gone wrong because of films." In one group of delinquents 25 per cent indicated that the movies suggested to them that holdups would be a way of easy money. Further, 49 per cent of a group of 110 criminals declared that movies gave them the desire to carry a gun and 28 per cent that they gave them the desire to practice a stickup. Of 122 heads of penal and correctional institutions 48 per cent were of the

opinion that movies contributed to delinquency and crime. With such testimonials and facts as these can any Christian think it right to patronize the movies?

We do not believe in the movies for we feel they are inconsistent with Christianity.

First, consider the matter of personal influence. One who may claim that he can attend without harm may be leading another in a way which might prove his downfall. No Christian can attend the theater except at the expense of his Christian influence. The entire industry is far too closely connected with sin and worldliness to receive the support of the followers of Jesus Christ.

The testimony of history is that the theater has always been held in reproach by the forces of righteousness. The historian, Rollin, affirms that the theater was one of the chief causes of the decadence of Greece. Schaff says that the Roman theater became a "nursery of vice." Emperor Augustus was urged by poet Ovid to suppress it for the sake of national safety. The early Christians, in avowing their loyalty to the Caesars, pledged themselves ready to appear in any place but the heathen temples and theaters. Macaulay tells us that from the time theaters were opened in England they became "seminaries of vice." Today we find evangelical churches united in their stand against this present day evil.

The moving picture theater will not stand the light of the gospel. One's Christian conscience speaks against it. We cannot imagine Jesus as a supporter of the industry. We may argue and rationalize but when we submit it to the high test of His presence the answer comes without question. Alexander Maclaren has said, "What you cannot lift before His pure eyes and think of Him while you enjoy, is not for you. Friendships, schemes, plans, ambitions, amusements, speculations, studies, love, business -- can you call on the name of the Lord while you put these cups to your lips? If not, fling them behind you."

We do not believe in the movies for we have discovered in Christ the true source of joy and happiness. Ancient Greek mythology gives us the story of the Siren sisters, which illustrates just what we mean. From their island lair they would sight a ship, then sing so bewitchingly that mariners, drawing close to listen, dashed their vessels to pieces on the rocks and were lost. Many attempted by various devices to pass this enchanted isle. One filled his ears with wax so that he could not hear. Another lashed himself to the mast and commanded his sailors to not under any conditions release him or permit him to escape. A third brought on board Orpheus, the divine musician, who sang and played so beautifully that the voices of the seductive singers were drowned out submerged by a sweeter song. Thank God, as young people, we have found in Christ the Orpheus of life. We have divine song on board so supremely sweet that the notes of sin sound off key.

There's no thirsting for life's pleasure,  
Nor adorning rich and gay,  
For I've found a richer treasure,  
One that fadeth not away.

"In his presence there is fulness of joy; at his right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

People will seldom, if ever, ask the Christian who attends movies why he does, with any serious intent of taking the Christians' standard of choice as their own. But when a person asks you why you, as a Christian, do not go to the movies, then an answer that is valid and reasonable must be given.

In my own experience I have never known a person who went to the movies in order to enrich his life and testimony who would keep on going very long. The only real reason for attending the movies, after all, is entertainment, or more truly, escape. A sincere lover of the Lord Jesus will be unable to find entertainment from the Christ dishonoring traffic of a Christ dishonoring Hollywood. The Christian, certainly need not look for escape, for he faces life not in the fatalistic furor and dark defeat of the Christless man, but in the power and presence of the Person of Christ. Life is all too short, and we must be about our Master's business, spreading the gospel as we are enabled by the Spirit of God. The reality of life -- be it the humdrum cares of routine schedule or the intense emotion of the extreme experiences -- must be met in the mature mastery of men alive in and through Christ.

In these days there have been many so-called good pictures. These pictures may be far more deceiving and injurious than questionable productions. Why is this so? It is so because these pictures are man-centered -- companions to theological modernism. They do not center in the Lord Jesus; indeed, He is excluded. These pictures falsely portray the ideal life of worth as being possible to any person, without God. But we know from God's Word that this is tragically wrong. The general effect upon the millions of moviegoers is to produce in them decisions to be fine like the screen character, in the same way and by the same method. But Christ is excluded; the resultant goodness is Pharisaical, the righteousness which in God's holy sight is as "filthy rags."

The woeful harm, especially of so-called good pictures, comes from the humanistic and naturalistic philosophy in which they are conceived, acted and received by the gullible public. The teaching of movies builds up and bolsters the very first thing which must be torn down if a man is to come to the Lord Jesus Christ for his soul's salvation, that is a feeling of self-adequacy and personal worth before one's fellowman and God.

It must be remembered that the whole effect and purpose of the movies of Hollywood is amusement, escape, relaxation. The only inward impression is exalting to man and leads to the ignoring of God.

Among the worst effects of the screen is that the emotions and experiences portrayed there stimulate corresponding feelings in the onlooker so that eventually attempt at imitation of these is made. Upon the fact Blaise Pascal made a remarkable statement. Pascal, great 17th century Frenchman, contributor to science of many important discoveries and to Christian literature of his written thoughts, says "All great amusements are dangerous to the Christian life; but among all those which the world has invented there is none more to be feared than the theater. It is a representation of the passions so natural and so delicate that it excites them and gives birth to them in our hearts, and above all, to that of love."

If you are a Christian you walk with the King of kings every step of the way. When you begin to realize that your King is your constant companion, closer than a brother, nearer than your



own flesh to you, decisions will be made without doubt or question when they are made in the consciousness of the presence of the Lord Jesus in your heart. There may be places to which you go now that you'll stop going when once you understand that you take your King with you there. You wouldn't dare subject Him to some words, some thoughts, some motives, some plans.

No one can make the decision for you regarding the movies or any other matter. This is for the individual. Submit yourself to the Holy Spirit, to the searching scrutiny of the Scripture, and in that light, remembering Whose you are and with Whom you travel earth's journey, make your decision.

If you were asked the question, What is public enemy number 1? What would you say? Some would say the Liquor Traffic, others would name the modern dance, others would name the cigarette habit, others would name gambling. There is no question but what these things that I have mentioned have polluted and distorted our age, but in my opinion the modern movie could well be classified as Public Enemy Number 1. It is positively immoral and rotten. It defies reform, destroys standards of right living and depletes the mind.

Good pictures "so-called" would bankrupt the theater in short order. The average movie crowd are not interested and concerned in what we call good pictures. Take the filth and love making out of movies and the theaters would have to close their doors within a short while. I have been told that the pictures which are a success are those that touch upon the shady side of life. Bad girls are pictured as good. Marriage is made light of and the sacredness of the marriage vow is nothing but a joke. A member of the Turkish Parliament sought to prevent the children under sixteen years of age from attending the American made movies. The reasons he gave were they distort the brain, shake the nerves, suggest adventurous ideas, convey premature information about sex and wrong motives in life.

It has been estimated that 77,000,000 people in the United States attend the, movies every week, of which about 40,000,000 are young people. To a great majority of these the movies set the standard for dress, manners, righteousness, religion and love-making. Their influence for evil is tremendous. Not only are the pictures bad, but so are many of the people who produce them. We can not spare words in speaking of their licentious standards of living. This within itself should cause sincere Christians to know that by attending the movies you are placing your influence with those whose standards are against the church and Christian living.

A young lady came up to me not long ago and said, "Mr. London, I attend the movies but only the good ones," but I argue that every good thing of the movies is polluted by the evil. It is the Devil's school and church for millions. It has debauched the actors and actresses and defiled its patrons.

There can be no question but what today there is being made an attack upon the morals of our country that we have gone so far in this country in the wrong direction that sin is no longer looked upon as sin; that is with the masses it has become so commonplace until many no longer have a conscience against those things which in days gone by were forbidden. We must stop and think. For example, what has become of the Sunday night congregation that once filled the churches

of America? Now the truth of it is, these professing Christians are no longer found in the church. Yes, the churches are empty and the theaters are crowded.

Take the confession of a movie actress. Said she, "In early childhood I knew the peace and warmth of a Christian home. When I was ten years old, in response to an invitation given by the pastor of the church I attended, I stood to my feet signifying publicly that I wanted to confess Christ as my personal Saviour. Shortly after this I was baptized, but as I grew older, I became intensely interested in the movies. Finally I became fascinated in the whirl of social life that followed, contact with wealth, politics, and at the age of eighteen I left school and went to Hollywood. Months later I lost all sense of reality. I ate, drank, and danced with the heroes of the land of pretense and make-believe. From some of the lowest dives in Hollywood to the most exclusive club where I was made an honorary member, it was the same old story. One night while in a famous night club, I sat and watched young people throwing their lives away and this passage of Scripture came to me, 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?'

"In a few moments I asked to be excused and I went from that night club to my room and there found Jesus Christ. My heart was hard and my will stubborn, but in Christ that was broken and today I follow Him."

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## PART 8 -- IN CONCLUSION

Any unbiased person will agree with us that the movies appeal to the baser elements in human nature. The appeal as has been stated is often upon sex. Our nation today is in the whirl of a sex orgy.

Mr. Mott, world traveler, for forty years, states that as a nation, we are now leading the world in juvenile delinquency, sex crimes and broken homes.

Gene Tunney, one time World Heavy Weight Boxing Champion, had an article in the Reader's Digest, in which he states that we lost one-hundred thousand more boys after World War I, from social diseases than we lost by bullets. He also states that out of a thousand cases where investigations were made, fifty per cent of them were socially diseased.

The editor of a great Southern daily came out with an article stating that out of the first two and a third million boys who were called up in our latest war, forty-five and three-tenths per cent of them were socially diseased. This means that they were as another writer has said, "Unfit for soldiers, and unfit for fathers."

A letter today from a friend tells of the sad facts found in a public institution. Two hundred and fifty-five young high school girls were sent home during the year because of venereal diseases.

The mayor of a western city said that a physician had just been in his office stating that 55 girls were coming to him each week for treatment of social diseases, and that in view of the fact

that he did not pretend to be a specialist in that line. Any institution that gives special emphasis on sex appeal in these days, is helping to feed our prisons in the tomorrows. We are at the crossroads as a people! The fact that thirty millions of our American youth are outside of our churches, makes one of the darkest pictures ever drawn before the people of our nation.

The fact that our forefathers founded this government upon the teachings of the Bible, and started us out as a God-fearing, God-loving people, causes no little alarm among the people of our land, as to where and how we are to come out down the way not very far distant.

The movies have a special appeal to those who indulge in drink. Our liquor bill last year reached a high mark of \$7,000,000,000. The liquor interests spent fifty million dollars to advertise their goods. The Christian Advocate declares that fifty million people in our land above the age of fifteen years are now drinking intoxicants. This means that an average of every other person whom we meet on the streets and highways of our country, has come under the influence of this awful curse.

Dr. E. J. Bulgin, one of the great preachers of our day, made the statement that the movies have sapped the emotional nature of our young people until the church no longer has any appeal for them.

Our people last year used two hundred fifty-seven billion cigarettes. Our tobacco bill was around \$4,000,000,000 in twelve months.

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## PART 9 -- OUR CRIME BILL

Our criminal list now has reached the staggering number of six millions. Their cost to the tax-payer is \$2,000,000 per hour. I simply give these figures to show that something has come over the youth of our land. Our churches are half empty, while our prisons are running over. While our Sunday schools for ten years have been on the decline, crime has been on the increase. Could any thoughtful person deny the fact that the movie industry has had a great part to play in the emptying of the churches of our country, and helping to produce conditions that has led our youth from standards of right living, as given us by those who bought our privileges with blood and sacrifice?

It has been stated by good authority that the movie industry is largely controlled by a few people who reject Jesus Christ, as the Redeemer of the world, and have no interest in the propagation of the principles of the Christian religion.

May I ask a few simple questions: First, does the movie industry make our citizens more spiritually minded? Are they coming from scenes thrown on the screen with a deeper reverence for God and our Holy Religion? Does youth have a greater desire to become genuine Christians, after having seen the average picture? Does the movie industry hold a high standard of morals? Does the movie industry make the home sacred, frown upon broken families, and speak out against the loose way of living that has seized our people like an awful disease?

Our divorce courts now are turning out 300,000 cases in twelve months, and our nation rates the highest with one divorce out of every five marriages. In my own city, out of 10,000 marriage licenses granted, the divorce courts gave near 5,000. Is the movie industry helping us save our homes?

Home is the foundation of our civilization. No nation can ever rise higher than its home life.

Dr. DeWitt Talmadge, one time the great preacher of Brooklyn, said that a boy may go seventy years in one direction away from a good home but he could never get away from the parental shadows. Seventy-five per cent of our six million criminals have come from broken homes. Is the movie industry doing its part to make possible better homes, out of which will come our future statesmen, and church leaders?

The late President Franklin Roosevelt said as we stood out in front of him in Washington, during his inaugural address, that "one-third of our nation is under-fed, under-housed and under-clothed."

Is the movie industry helping to feed the teeming millions of a broken world, or doing its part to put clothes on the backs of those who are suffering, or a roof over the heads of those who are walking the streets without a home? Am I as a professed follower of Jesus Christ, willing to put my money into an institution that fosters crime, helps to swell our army of listed criminals, fill our overcrowded prisons, empty our churches, and assist in destroying the foundations upon which our civilization was founded? I leave the question for your kindly and prayerful consideration.

THIS MOVIE MENACE!

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THE END