

article on "The New Fusionism" in the *May Chronicles* of the way the Establishment will eventually dispose of its current conservative allies, applies in spades to how they will get rid of whichever Left-Libertarians have managed to Make It in the current political climate.

Fleming writes: "they [the "official conservatives"] have established a cozy relationship with the leftist establishment media who recognize them for what they are: safe and well-groomed lapdogs who bark but never bite. When the day comes that they are no longer needed, the conservatives will be treated like a lower-class sweetheart picked up for a summer affair. I only hope they're given carfare for the long ride home back to their side of town." Considering their social status and their cultural values, I'm sure that the Left-Libertarians will neither expect nor receive carfare. They'll be happy with the right to hitch-hike.

The Road To Rome?

by M.N.R.

The hottest new rumor among Left-Libertarians is that I have taken "The Vows," that is, that I have joined the Catholic Church. The hottest new rumor among neo-cons is that Paul Gottfried has just done likewise. Paul and I have put our heads together and agreed that that is the best single reason yet for signing up.

What's with these dingbats? It says a great deal about the mentality of these people — both Left-Libertarian and the neo-con wing of The Enemy, who are in so many

ways brothers and sisters under the skin. First, it shows that, for them, joining the Catholic Church is just about the worst thing you can say about your enemy. Why is that? Why, for them, should becoming a Catholic be the ultimate in disgrace? What deep-structure motivation accounts for this curious phenomenon? As for me, I for one do not consider becoming a Catholic on a par with becoming a child molester; on the contrary, I consider it an honorable course. Presumably, one reason for this rumor is that in recent years I have been championing the role of Christianity in human affairs, and in particular that of the original and continuing Christian Church — known inaccurately to most people as "Roman Catholic." Apparently, these Modals, Randians and post-Randians to the man, are incapable of understanding how anyone could be appreciative of the Christian Church without actually having been converted — or, in their eyes, snatched up, something like the invasion of the body snatchers. How could I, a non-believer, become an ardent fan of Christianity? Because, unlike the Modals, whose world-view has evidently been frozen in aspic for decades in the middle of *Atlas Shrugged*, I've learned something over the years.

I am the last person to decry gossip, but it's amazing how much time and energy Modals spend on inventing, contemplating, or spreading rumors. But why not? After all, they've got nothing else to do.

Well, I might as well let you Modals in on it; the Pope has decided to make me a Cardinal *in pectore*. When the time is right, he

will disclose this appointment to the world. Remember: you heard it first here. ●

Contra Don Feder

by M.N.R.

The latest neo-con tactic on the neo-paleo split is to deny that such a split within conservatism exists. *Everyone* is supposedly on the side of the neo-cons, except of course Pat Buchanan, who has apparently created the split within his own fevered imagination. What about the rest of us? As Rand used to say: Blankout.

Conservative columnist Don Feder is the latest to weigh in with this tactic (*Boston Herald*, May 9). Like so many others, Don was horrified at Pat's column quoting Paul Gottfried's now famous article in *RRR*, "Scrambling for Funds." So what about *us*? Feder dismisses us as just simply, terribly *obscure*. Poor Paul Gottfried is so obscure, he doesn't have to be named; Feder only mentions that Paul teaches in an "obscure" college. Feder also sneers at *RRR*'s circulation. Not very long ago, conservatives, in a small minority among opinion molders, did not consider small circulation a badge of shame; almost the contrary. But now that the neo-con-run conservative movement is all over the media, Numbers become the criterion for being taken seriously.

And yet Feder, a former Randian and therefore a long-time enemy of libertarians, can't resist the occasion to fulminate against obscure me at some length, despite our "*Tropical Fish Quarterly*-sized circulation." His major indictment is that, horrors! I favor