

continue while his bombers are trying to stop the conflict. The international outrage at Cardinal Spellman's call for total victory at Christmas ought to be tempered by an understanding of his emotional involvement in Vietnam after unfailing support for the corrupt Diem régime until its natural conclusion in 1963, his position as military chaplain, and, by contrast, his remarkable tolerance of the witness of the Catholic Worker Movement in his own diocese. There is no evidence that this form of extremism is typical of the hierarchy as a whole, but apart from these extremes and the imaginary clang of chancery doors being shut, silence reigns.

This silence is the background to a growing secular and religious protest throughout America, of many devout Catholics awaiting trial for their faith, of Quakers forbidden to send medical supplies to the North, of a disproportionate number of negroes serving and dying in the South, of the *Terre des Hommes* desperately salvaging some of the human wreckage, of a nation slowly being destroyed. A remark made to me by a cynical American cleric gets less and less funny as time goes on: 'In the U.S.A. the generals talk like cardinals and the cardinals talk like generals. Church and State are one. We've never looked back since Constantine.'

## THOUGHTS ON THE NATURE OF BELIEF

They taught me when I was a kid  
That two and two made four;  
But from me all the time they hid  
That there is something more.  
For if I have fidelity,  
From Dewart's book I know  
That two and two may well make three,  
But more intensely so.

G.A., O.P.