

OPINION

ONE DOLLAR

STOP MAKING WAR ON THE OLD

Alan Stang tells how the government impoverishes our older Americans and robs them of precious dignity. Also in this issue we feature such important matters as:

Why Reds Win

The Nobel Prizes

Orwell's 1984 Has
Come A Decade Early

Keeping Christmas
Christ's Birthday

London War In
Middle East

AMERICAN OPINION

Volume XVI — Number 11

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Dear Reader:
On the way in you saw our Christmas cover by Daniel Michael Canavan. Dan has that quality of genius which Merrill Root once described as the ability to see colors beyond violet. And, as so often with his paintings, the truth has anticipated the fact.

The fact is that Dan Canavan's "No Room In The Inn" had already been delivered to us when the U.S. Court of Appeals banned the Nativity scene from the great pageant at the White House that includes the lighting of our national Christmas tree. The ruling resulted from a suit by the Civil Liberties Union in behalf of the sort of atheists and radical clergymen whose pleas are regularly received with special attention by our "Liberal" courts. We are now asked to believe that the Constitution of the United States — the law of the land — requires us at Christmas to turn away the Baby Jesus from the White House.

It was Dickens, that master of Christmas stories, who had his Beadle Bumble declare: "If the law supposes that, the law is a ass, a idiot."

You will no doubt be glad to know that though ordered away by the federal court from its traditional place on the Ellipse at the White House, the crèche will be recreated nearby. From speaking with Arthur Lamb, the bureaucrat in charge, we have determined that it will not be any farther from the White House than (we estimate) the distance from an Inn to a Stable.

And so the ancient story is repeated at the door of our national mansion. Once again, there is no room. Caesar may tax and count, posture and rule, without the annoying presence of Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. But let Caesar know that the Star in the East shines nonetheless. Let him know that, for all he might do, the true meaning of Christmas still swells great in the hearts of the American people. And let him be assured that he will yet have to deal with Christian soldiers.

Your friends at *American Opinion* wish you a most holy and merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Scott Stanley Jr.

THE OLD ATTACK

Making War On Our Parents

Alan Stang is a former business editor for Prentice-Hall, Inc., and a television writer, producer, and consultant. Mr. Stang is an AMERICAN OPINION Contributing Editor and is author of the Western Islands bestsellers, *It's Very Simple* and *The Actor*. Author Stang, who earned



his B.A. at City College of New York and his Masters at Columbia, is also a witty and dynamic speaker who lectures widely.

■ ONE OF the measures of a civilization is how it treats its elderly. In primitive societies, as among the anthropoids, the old are usually given short shrift. It is said that the Eskimos cast their old adrift on ice floes, where they quickly freeze to death. Presumably these are the so-called "noble savages" celebrated by Jean Jacques Rousseau. But the Bible enjoins us to honor our fathers and mothers, and in our supposedly humane civilization we have done so. Until recently, old people in the West, and in the East for that matter, have enjoyed the appropriate status, respect and rewards, determined by the degree of civilization where they live.

Lately, however, old people in America have increasingly been shunted aside, victimized, isolated and literally robbed. It begins to appear that an attempt is under way — promoted as usual by the millionaire, totalitarian, Socialists who conspire to rule us — to use old people as still another bloc of political cannon fodder in their schemes to impose full-

blown dictatorship on America. Indeed, what is being done to many old people in our country today makes the Eskimo method seem (by comparison) merciful and just.

The Background

Until only a few years ago, the family, as it should be, was the unchallenged, basic, social unit in America. Most of our people lived on the farms, growing groceries for American markets. Large, relatively stable families were the rule, and in them there was room for everybody. There were maiden aunts and bachelors, uncles, aunts and cousins, successes, failures, and oddballs. And Mother and Father were the monarchs of the house. Of course, as everyone matured there gradually came a time, sometimes indefinable, in which Mother and Father transferred, and the children took, more and more control of the family. Finally, the triumphant, ever renewable process was complete, the children became the new Fathers and Mothers and led the family unit. But they did not order their parents out. They did not hide or isolate them. Indeed, the parents gradually became rulers emeritus. They were still important members of the family. In fact, they were influential because they still had much to do. They still had dignity.

Today our "Liberal" rulers speak glibly of "human dignity." There is such a thing, but it does not consist, as they tell us, simply of material possessions. There are many people, of all ages and with many material possessions, who have no human dignity whatever. In some cases they don't because of their material

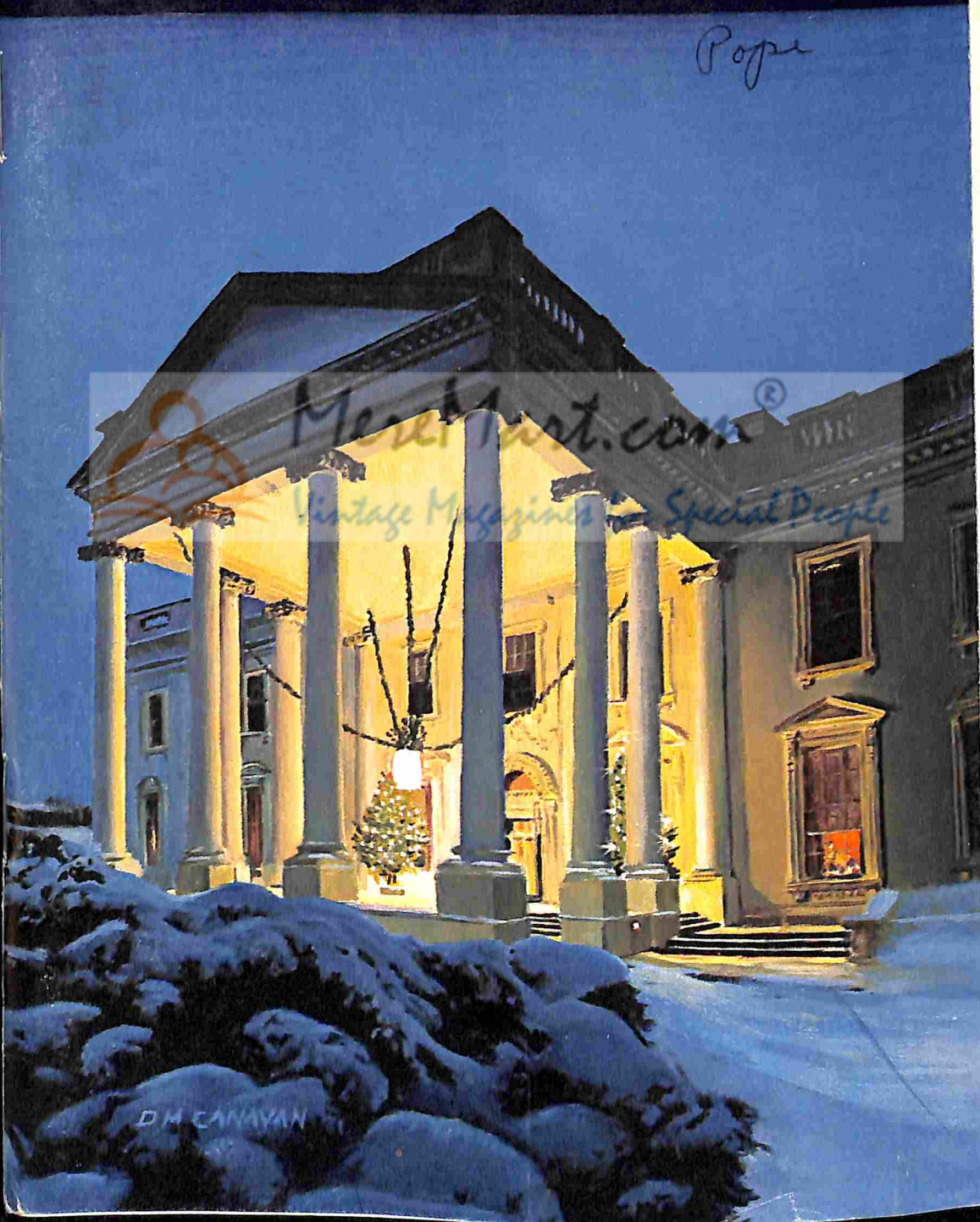
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Pope



D. H. CANAVAN