Coffin, at Convocation redefines nonviolence

By Bill Roberts

Yale University

William Sloan Coffin delivered the keynote address at the 1970 MIT Christmas Convocation in Kenney Tuesday, saying, "We must find that we are far from the end of the road, that we face the unspoken consciousness of our race." Instead of comparing our feelings, he claims, we suppress them; it is this repression which results in violence to others and to ourselves... It is alright to have ambivalent feelings -- it is wrong to pretend to have them.

Our social structure is the same, Coffin continued, being outwardly orderly but inwardly violent. Non-violence, according to his definition, is a determination not to violate the integrity of another human being -- including and especially ourselves.

To Ship in Jerusalem


Study in Jerusalem Israel"

Dr. Coffin pointed out. As an illustration, he compared the outwardly orderly but inwardly pathetic, they are part of the American dream. But they come home to their "overheated teen-age daughters" and a D in English, car-mashing and ton a nightmare -- ashes in the world to a town of 1,000. Of these 60 would control 50% of the city, town, would have over 15 times as much material wealth as all the rest combined. Their average life expectancy would be 71 years as opposed to less than 40 years for the other 940.

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