

*Ran Juan Star - Nov. 16, 1960*

## EDITORIALS

### An Impasse

The secretary of the Popular Democratic Party, Yldefonso Solá Morales, spoke out adamantly yesterday in support of leaving the PDP platform untouched, despite the fact that it is causing great turmoil in the minds of Catholics. The Catholic church has taken issue with a sentence of the platform and made it a sin to vote Popular at the last—and the next—election.

Catholic Populares find themselves torn; unable to believe it is wrong to belong to the party, yet unable to be a good Catholic by holding such a view.

The Party apparently feels that it would destroy a basic principle to alter the platform. The Party feels that the Bishops were wrong in condemning the Party as anti-Christian, that the Party is not anti-Christian and that changing the platform to say so is like painting a fence white and then painting it white again because somebody said it was black.

However, the church has also taken a stand and if ever there was an institution which has been unswerving on basic tenets, it is the Catholic Church. This is particularly true in Puerto Rico since in addition to the Catholic Church we also have Bishop McManus and Archbishop Davis who seem about as swervable as Mount Everest.

Consequently, we reach an impasse, and it is neither the Popular Party nor the Catholic Church which suffers. The Party has already shown its strength and now continues to flex its muscles after the race is won. The Church, by its nature, cannot be chameleonic on matters of faith and morals.

Caught in the middle of this ideological fight is the man who belonged to both for years, who wants to continue belonging to both, but finds that it is not possible.

Since there is already some middle ground, some gray area where the ideologies agree (Muñoz saying the Party is Christian; the Archbishop answering: if so then we may reconsider), it seems that a meeting of minds is not only desirable, but entirely possible. Perhaps some intermediary should try to resolve the conflict, as was tried unsuccessfully to resolve the "release time" issue.

If the Party really is **not** anti-Christian, then there should be no real objection to putting it in writing. And if the church is truly concerned **only** with the wording of a sentence or two in the Party platform, then it would no longer have a case against the Party if the wording were changed.

There is nothing dishonorable about giving a white fence a second coat of paint, any more than it is dishonorable to admit that white is white.