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EDITORIAL

Wise Warning

Four distinguished Catholic prelates and Alfred E. Smith, outstanding Catholic layman, joined Tuesday night in protest against the Nazi persecution of racial and religious groups, which has included Catholics as well as Jews. The prelates spoke against any resort to force in the present situation.

"Let us give sympathy and help till the trial is over," Archbishop John J. Mitty, of San Francisco, said, "but let us not be betrayed by revenge or tempted by any precipitate act to put our trust in any form of force."

Practical, inescapable realities are such that any resort to force in this situation would deepen and extend the human suffering that America and Americans are so desperately anxious to check. Indignation and sympathy are so great that the gentlest people of mercy and justice are powerfully impelled toward drastic action. There is some danger that this feeling will dominate altogether; that its expressions and outlets will result in more persecution and violence and that the climax might be only a tremendous clash of force against force.

The need of matching feeling constantly with wisdom is urgent. The greater the feeling, the greater the need of restraint and intelligence in its expression. Expression of indignation in certain forms can afford a relieving temporary outlet, but it might also produce greater tragedy.

None can say with precision just what are the most effective means of protest, resistance and counter-action; but we must keep intelligence and judgment unremittingly on the job trying to find out.
