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Box 3, Folder 21, Book Review, *An Ugly Little Secret: Anti-Catholicism in North America*, by Andrew Greeley, 26 December 1977.

National Catholic Reporter

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book review

AN UGLY LITTLE SECRET: Anti-Catholicism in North America

by Andrew M. Greeley

Reviewed by Marc H. Tanenbaum

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As the publicly-acknowledged culprit who "snared" Andrew Greeley into making his first speech on anti-Catholicism before a major national Jewish organization, it may come as a surprise to some - add more than likely as a shock to Andy himself - to learn that I agree with much of what he has to say in condemnation of anti-Catholic nativism in this important little book.

The issue of anti-Catholic bigotry - especially in its refined elitist manifestations - is, in my judgement, of such moral and sociological importance to the future of American democratic pluralism, that I regret exceedingly that Father Greeley contented himself to publish a collection of several ^{disparate "talks"} ~~essays~~ on various aspects of anti-Catholicism, rather than use those documents as the basis of a more systematic and comprehensive presentation of the problem, and possible programmatic approaches for really coming to grips with it.

In its present form, I am afraid that this book gives off mixed signals as to whether anti-Catholic nativism is an authentic problem - to Catholics themselves, not to speak of the non-Catholic community. Because of the brevity of the book, and the space limitations that ~~talks~~ impose, empirical data about anti-Catholic discrimination - especially in "various high prestige sectors of American life" -

is presented sketchily, and therefore tends not to make the persuasive case that I believe can be made. And I sincerely hope that Andy Greeley will some day soon apply himself to do just; namely, publish a full-scale systematic study of American ~~activist~~ ~~rigorty~~ citing chapter and verse of the empirical data which documents the extent to which it has led to the ~~exclusion~~ of significant ~~underrepresentations~~ of American Catholic ethnics from the elite universities, corporate board rooms, social foundations, and national media.

From our own decades-long struggles against Anti-Semitism and particularly from our meticulous systematic researches on the exclusion of Jews in the "executive suites" of banks, insurance companies, and public utilities, - all WASP-controlled - the American Jewish Committee is convinced that only such sustained data-gathering, and negotiations with power brokers based on such unarguable data, can lead to any changes in combatting discrimination. Sketchy data, public polemics, even righteous indignation only lead to newspaper headlines, not effective social change.