

## "STRATEGY FOR SURVIVAL"

March, 1968

The other day a friend of mine was telling me about a driving quiz he was taking in order to qualify for a driver's license. There was one question that was the hardest on the quiz. The question: "In night driving, what do you do if a car comes toward you with its headlights on high beam?" I am sure that from experience we can all think of various of our favorite solutions to this problem: There is the blinking signal of our own headlights to force him

to dim strategy; there is the full high beam punishment treatment to give him a good taste of what it is like; there is the irresponsible black out approach, you see him but he can't see you; there is the temptation to stare into his headlights, but all of these are false and dangerous answers to the question. According to the manual you should "put your own lights on dim and then look to the right edge of the road where you are driving and proceed with caution." I see a kind of parable in this advice.

Very often in life we face something on the road with the headlights on full beam. You can think of it as something negative or positive.

Have you ever had this experience in meeting someone about your own age who is making more money than you are, has done a lot better in his profession than you have, and the lights are blinding. What do we do about such a situation? We can always turn all of our own lights on, blink them obnoxiously, name drop, attempt to build up a deceptive front of our own importance, or we can stare helplessly charmed and hypnotized at the oncoming lights wishing they were ours. But the manual gives good counsel. Look to the road you are on, to the place where you have been given responsibility and proceed with your own task, live your own life.

Or the oncoming lights may be symbolic of a grave problem or threat to our very existence. The temptations are the same and the manual advice is still wise. Each of us must find the road, proceed where we are, keep on course, find the particular place where we can make our decisive contribution, do what we have been individually given the chance and the ability to do; our part will be one segment of a larger whole, but we must above all refuse to panic or to be intimidated by the intensity of what comes down the road. Every problem appears invincible at night. The Lord who has given to us each a road to pursue has also granted his companionship on the way.