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PALACE THEATRE DEFIES DECENCY

Refute Rabbi Bernstein On Mexican Church Issue

WRITERS WHO KNOW BRING FORTH FACTS

Reveal Comprehensive Authentic Picture of Condition in Mexico

"When I returned to the United States in February, I found that the incorrectness of the Cardenas statements (Mexico does not persecute Catholics) was equalled only by those of the Catholic leaders and others who were violently opposing religious persecution in Mexico"—Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein speaking before the City Club at Powers Hotel, March 30th said.

With these words Rabbi Bernstein of Temple Beth Shalom, this city, challenged the correctness of statements of two prominent members of the American hierarchy, the Most Reverend Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore, and His Eminence Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

To the charges of Archbishop Curley who spoke February 17 of "the forces that are Sovietizing Mexico and constituting a menace to American rights," and to the charges of Cardinal Dougherty who before a mass meeting of 30,000 declared that "The Government of Mexico is in a state of anarchy, the education of youth in order that they may turn out communists after the Russian pattern, and for this reason it strains every nerve to strip boys and girls of morality," the Rabbi said: "ALL OF THIS IS CHARMING, BUT WITHOUT BASIS IN FACT."

Further Rabbi Bernstein added that "To charge the present government with Communist leanings is simply absurd." In addition, he stated that the Church "must accept for itself a status similar to that of the Catholic Church in the United States."

That the schools in Mexico are beginning to give elementary instruction in hygiene, the Rabbi admitted as true. But "that some kind of instruction is imperative, is (Continued on Page 5)

Abbe Bouquin Is Named Fides Service Director

Rome (NCWC-Fides) M. L. Abbe Andrew Bouquin, editor of the French Section of Fides Service, has been named director of Fides Service by the Superior Council of the Propagation of the Faith.

Abbe Bouquin whose home is in Lazer, France was formerly professor in the seminaries of Issoudun and Fontgombault and in the (Continued on Page 5)

STOP and Read This

THE QUESTIONNAIRE on Page Five of this issue asks several very personal questions. Yet such questions should not prevent you from giving frank and complete information.

NO NAMES or addresses appear on the questionnaire. There is no clue to the identity of those who respond. The questionnaire which you send in merely gives us exact facts about one reader.

ENOUGH FACTS about enough readers will guide us in planning further improvements for

THE GREATER
Catholic Courier
Official Newspaper of
the Rochester Diocese

VITAL QUESTIONS ON MEXICO

In his address to the City Club last Saturday, Rabbi Bernstein said:

"To charge present (Mexican) Government with Communist leanings is absurd."

"The Government in Mexico is not anti-religious, but anti-church."

These statements of the Rabbi prompt the following vital questions, the answers to which the American people have a right to know.

1. Is it not true that circulars were distributed amongst government employees, forcing them to parade in support of the government's anti-religious demonstration of October 1934 in Mexico City?

2. Is it not true that government employees were discharged because they would not agree to parade in support of the government's anti-religious parade?

3. Was not Dr. Antonio Caso, a non-Catholic, a lawyer, the discoverer of the Mole Alban Ruins in Oaxaca, and director of the National Museum, discharged in November 1934, because he would not participate in the government's anti-religious parade?

4. Is it not true that the Department of War in Mexico used to publish a paper called La Patria, which was printed solely to attack religion and whose attacks and cartoons were of the fifth-best type?

5. Is it not true that university students all over the Republic of Mexico are opposed to the government because of the latter's communistic ideas and because of the socialistic program of education which is nothing more than communistic education?

6. Is it not true that a text book has been recently published, in 1934, in Mexico, for use in the elementary schools, which is entirely communistic and anti-religious?

Archbishop Curley's Statement Defended by Baltimore Editor

By VINCENT DE PAUL FITZPATRICK
Managing Editor, Baltimore Catholic Review

We have received a telegram from the managing editor of the Rochester Catholic Courier to the effect that Rabbi Philip Bernstein of Rochester, in an address delivered in that city Saturday noon, denied Archbishop Curley's statement that "forces are Sovietizing Mexico and constituting a menace to American rights."

Archbishop Curley's statement to which Rabbi Bernstein referred was issued to the press on February seventeenth.

In the first place, let us state that Catholics—and I believe all other religious Americans—regard the statement which he made in defense of the persecuted Catholics of Mexico. We Catholics honor him for that statement and thank him for it.

Knows Facts
In the second place, any one who knows Archbishop Curley will tell you he does not speak without knowing his facts. And his address last week was made within a quarter of a mile of the Capitol of our nation and less than two miles from the White House. He knew where he spoke.

No American citizen is better informed than the Archbishop of Baltimore concerning conditions in Mexico and their fearful threat to the welfare of the people of the United States. Fully nine years ago he began his exposition of the conditions in Mexico. He gave dates, names and places. He told not only what was going on in that country but he told what was going on in Washington. Not one of Archbishop Curley's statements has been disproved.

Under Surveillance
The Archbishop has received at his home in the past exiled priests and laymen from Mexico. The former priests of his household know that Mexican agents have shadowed these visitors from Mexico. I can say now that warnings have come from Me-

xico to Baltimore notifying them that the visit of this group to their guard. An explicit statement has come out of Mexico that agents are seeking injury to the Apostolic Delegate to Mexico, who is now living in San Antonio, and to priests and laymen living in other parts of the country.

We declare further without fear of successful contradiction by the Mexican authorities that there is grave reason to fear that there are now Mexican agents in the United States shadowing Mexican exiles, and that the persons of these exiles may be to speak conservatively, in grave danger.

These are the facts of Baltimore—a distinguished rabbi who is nationally known. He is Rabbi Dr. William Rosenau of Easton, Pa. We suggest to Dr. Bernstein that he get in touch with him and ask him what he thinks of any statement issued by Archbishop Curley. We are content to rest with his findings.

We shall invite Rabbi Rosenau, if Rabbi Bernstein so wishes, to examine original documents in possession of Archbishop Curley which show definitely that the Mexican Government is acting hand in glove with the officials of the Soviet Government. We have photographic copies of the originals before us as we write.

Has Original
One of the documents is a circular letter from the Permanent Commission of the Congress of the United States of Mexico to Local Legislatures. Let us quote from (Continued on Page 5)

DR. ZWIERLEIN CHECKS RABBI ON MEXICO

Answers Critic of Catholic Prelates, U. S. and Mexico, With Facts

Definitely proving that charges made by Catholic leaders in the United States against the present Mexican Government are based on facts, the Rev. Frederick J. Zwierlein, D.S.M.H., Professor of Church History in St. Bernard's Seminary in a lecture to the Study Club of Catholic Public School Teachers in Columbus Civic Center, yesterday afternoon, answered several criticisms made by Rabbi Philip Bernstein in a City Club address, Saturday.

Complete text of Dr. Zwierlein's address follows:

Rabbi Bernstein, after a hurried two weeks' trip into Mexico, has repeatedly lectured on the present religious crisis in Mexico. He has emphatically affirmed, in striking details, the fact of the persecution of Catholics by the present Mexican Government. He has maintained, in his address to the City Club last Saturday, that Catholic leaders in the United States were making charges against the present Mexican Government that "are without basis in fact."

In this lecture he also gave a rather bad impression of the work of the Catholic Church in Mexico. This bad opinion seems to coincide largely with the view with which Emilio Portes Gil, Secretary of Foreign Relations, Mexico, is trying to poison the minds of all Senators, Congressmen, and Governors in the United States against the Catholic Church in Mexico. For he has said, "I understand that each one of them a copy of his book, which has been published with the imprint of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1935, on the title: 'The Conflict Between the Civil Power and the Clergy. Historical and Legal Essay.'"

In an interview with Mr. R. L. Martin of the New York Times in San Antonio, the exiled Native Mexican Archbishop Ruiz y Flores denounced this work in its true colors as follows:

"To make his point, Portes Gil has tripped lightly over four centuries of Mexican history, in which he invariably pictures Holy Church as a greedy and trouble-making monster."

How far this picture is from historical truth may be best illustrated by the Faculty Research Lecture which was delivered in the University of California, 1917, by the outstanding American-Hispanic Scholar of Spanish American Colonial History, Professor Herbert Bolton, a Protestant, who gives his conclusion, not after a bit of cursory reading and a two weeks' trip into Mexico, but after ten years of research in Mexican Archives for the Carnegie Institute of Washington and many additional years of intensive study. With all the authority this record of scholarly work gives him, he has this to say of the missions of the Catholic Church in the Spanish Colonies:

(Continued on Page 3)

Niagara Students Pray Mexico Persecution End

Niagara Falls, N. Y. (NCWC)—Students of Niagara University are praying daily for a cessation of the persecution of religion in Mexico. Protests have been sent to President Roosevelt, members of Congress and State officials.

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SHOWS STATE IS TO BLAME FOR HYGENICS

Church Marriages in Mexico Almost Impossible, Dr. Curran Proves

By REV. EDWARD J. CURRAN, S.S., P.H.D.
(President, International Catholic Truth Society)

No Catholic and, for that matter, no individual interested in the past and present history of Mexico can read the report of Rabbi Bernstein's speech on Mexican as reported in the Rochester Press without resenting the Rabbi's prejudiced and unbalanced innuendoes.

In the course of his speech the Rabbi made the following statement: "It is true that Mexican Schools are beginning to give elementary instruction in hygiene."

That some kind of instruction is imperative is revealed by the vital and health statistics. Fifty per cent of the children born in Mexico die before the age of ten.

Does the Rabbi think that it is well and good to introduce the principles and practices of a stock farm into the school-room? We do not believe that the decent mothers and women of the Rabbi's congregation will be happy to know that the Rabbi approves the annual convention adopted by the Mexican government as part of its socialistic educational program.

We purposely allude to the Mexican hygiene program as a social as well as a religious one. The Mexican government is trying to poison the minds of all Senators, Congressmen, and Governors in the United States against the Catholic Church in Mexico.

For the benefit of the Rabbi and those whom his statements may interest, we wish to state that the Catholic Church is not against sex education of the laity. It is in favor of sex education of the laity in a modest and private and temperate manner.

Sex facts should be taught at home, privately. At a proper age the father should instruct the boys and the mother the girls, each one separately. The Church is against any form of public and indiscriminate sex education in co-educational groups, no matter how much the immoral at-

(Continued on Page 5)

Consul from Mexico Declines to Assist Persecution Inquiry

Baltimore (NCWC)—Following receipt of literature from Alfredo Banos, Mexican Consul in Baltimore, denying the existence of a persecution of religion in that country, Dr. William Daniel Day, president of the Baltimore Section of the Holy Name Society, addressed a letter to the Consul calling attention to conflicting statements made in the literature and in news stories from Mexico published in the Baltimore Catholic Review. He was implored to learn which were true. Dr. Day pointed out, and he sought an interview with the Consul for that purpose.

Receiving no reply, Dr. Day wrote a second letter. To this the Mexican official replied, stating that he "was not authorized" to participate in such an investigation. The Consul would welcome him to tell him how much he personally regret the unfortunate incident which occurred in Elmiria recently when Mr. George A. Mo-

A CHALLENGE TO DECENCY

Last week the R. K. O. Palace Theater, this city, hung a challenge in the face of every Rochesterian who stands for decency, by presenting a vile and most offensive burlesque show.

In the staging of Earl Carroll's Vanities the Management pulled squarely up to the Legion of Decency and all other decent citizens the question: "IF WE CHOOSE TO PARADE NAKED, WE WILL SMUT ON OUR STAGE, JUST WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"

The nature of the performance can be judged from the views appearing in the Rochester Daily newspapers.

The Democrat and Chronicle, March 30, said: "It has some elements that are clean, but not enough to annoy those who want Mr. Carroll's best effort. Some were costumes and some strips."

The Times-Union, March 30, put it: "Scarcely a spoken line that is not suggestive. The Vanities would be considered a fair burlesque in the old Corinthian days, although it is to be doubted if the Golden Greeks, Molly Williams ever cringed so much vulgar stuff in the show as there is in the Vanities. A bawdy show is knee-deep in suggestiveness."

The Rochester Journal American, March 30: "A whole round of old color songs, bad even. Carroll gave a hard and wings to Murray, harps to the chorines, and put them all in front of 'peachy girls.'"

This last comment of the Democrat and Chronicle, however, on one of the most offensive things about this public scandal, the burlesque and obscenity, it holds as though an effort to describe it were not enough to satisfy the producers. He felt the need of something more. There is a line, indeed, in the show, which is peddled in the name of the Palace. Earl Carroll's Most Beautiful Girls in the World. Here at page nine in the heading "Earl Carroll's Ten Commandments for Beauty," and below them on page ten, the portrait of a naked woman with a suggestive pose.

Last week in Attorney St. Edward Schlessinger and Ray W. Coey, officers of the Rochester Board of Health, I saw a golden manager of the Palace Theater, who said: "He said he knew of worse pictures than any he had displayed. He said that if he had any children, he certainly would not take them to see that show. Furthermore, he said that he would not take them to see that show, he would not take them to see that show."

Mr. Golden's naive politeness was very taking, but unfortunately it is not what is looked for when a community is wraged against the forces corrupting the morals of a community and its children.

The Catholic Courier feels it a duty to warn the members of the thousands of homes into which this issue will go, that the R. K. O. Palace Theater, in producing the Vanities has forfeited its claim to our confidence.

Decency, there are in the community those who want what is clean and wholesome. Let the Palace Theater know that if it does not stop its filthy show, it is bound to be taken out of town.

Hereafter, adult or child, entering the Palace Theater, does so at the conscious risk, of being contaminated by what he may see there. And should another such outrage be perpetrated there, we shall call upon our citizens, in the name of decency and upon the members of the Legion of Decency, to stand up for their pledge, to sign that theater as a "peach-house."

(Continued on Page 5)

Moreno Who Attacked Mexico Church Quits Lecture Bureau

Elmiria—Resignation of George A. Moreno, defamer of Mexican Church, has been accepted by the lecture bureau under whose auspices he spoke. Moreno's address, three weeks ago, to a large audience in the Elmiria Park Church, drew vigorous protests from priests and laity of Elmiria.

Expressing deep regret over the fact that under my management, ill-advised and tasteless remarks, which reflected unfavorably on the Catholic Church, had been made, Mr. Moreno, in a letter to the Rev. William J. Brin, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, here, one of the priests making the protest, stated that Moreno's services will no longer be required by his office.

Mr. Moreno's letter, original of which is at St. Patrick's Rectory, 604 Park Place, Elmiria, follows:

Harold R. Peat,
Management of Distinguished Personalities
2 West 45th Street
New York, N. Y.
March 27, 1935
Reverend William J. Brin,
St. Patrick's Church,
Elmiria, N. Y.
Reverend and dear Father:
In consideration of the Catholic people of Elmiria and its vicinity, I wish to tell you how much I personally regret the unfortunate incident which occurred in Elmiria recently when Mr. George A. Mo-

respectfully yours,
HAROLD R. PEAT

LEWD DISPLAY OF 'VANITIES' IS RESENTED

Daily Press Says Palace Performance Vile and Suggestive

Rochester, Catholic Daily Press, March 30, said: "The Vanities, the R. K. O. Palace for Earl Carroll's 'Vanities'—a time-shredded road show—was a vile and suggestive display."

"No one who has seen the Vanities can fail to be shocked and disgusted. The Vanities is a vile and suggestive display. It is a disgrace to the city and to the theater."

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POSTERS EVIDENCE ANTI-RELIGIOUS DRIVE IN MEXICO

DIOS
SOLO EXISTE
EN LA CABEZA
DEL HOMBRE

God exists only in the head of man

Down catechism — Up science!
("Bazur" — garbage can)

These posters indicate that the Mexican government is adopting Soviet tactics against God and Religion. (Courtesy "Queen's Work.")

Comrade save your child!

Destroy that which makes
Booze and religion brutish!
your child stupid!

Are YOU With Us?

THE PALACE THEATRE OUTRAGE affects every one of us. Are you in sympathy with our protest? If so, clip this box and mail to 50 Chestnut Street. Sign your name if you wish. The number of responses will indicate the power of our protest. We will be glad to send you a copy of the protest.

THE PALACE THEATRE
Catholic Courier