

Planning Now To Provide Jobs In Post-War Era Urged By 565 Clergymen

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—Planning to provide jobs and full scale production in the post-war era—"democratic planning" in which all interested groups, employers and employees, farmers and consumers, would participate—is urged in a statement made public July 6 on behalf of 565 clergymen in 44 states, including 150 Catholic priests.

The statement was issued jointly by the Rt. Rev. Magr. John A. Ryan, Director of the Department of Social Action, National Catholic Welfare Conference; James Myra, Industrial Secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and Rabbi Ferdinand M. Iserman, Chairman of the Committee on Justice and Peace of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, who collaborated in arranging the appeal.

Coupled with the statement is an appeal to the Congress and to the President of the United States. Specifically the statement is a call for the enactment of the Voorhis Bill now before Congress, or for something like it. However, the signers of the statement do not bind themselves to every provision of the bill.

Asserting that fear of the future grips much of the country's citizenry, the statement says "when the war ends widespread unemployment must not be allowed to return to curse our land, and to disillusion our citizens and our returning soldiers. A test of democracy is the provision of employment for all citizens able to work."

The statement calls it a "significant fact" that while various economic groups in this country hold widely divergent views on many issues, all are agreed on the "urgency of instituting at this time further democratic and coordinated study and planning for post-war economic reconstruction." It points out, too, that the Voorhis Bill has received the indorsement of various employers' organizations, workers, farmers and consumers, in Congressional hearings.

Monsignor Ryan said "the advantages of this bill are evident to one acquainted with the Papal teaching on social order. It seeks collaboration rather than conflict between labor and economic interests of all sorts," he declared. "It tries to lift some of the burden and responsibility for keeping the Nation's business going from the shoulders of the Federal Government. It assumes the necessity of organizing, coordinating the diverse forces which can provide general prosperity."

In addition to Monsignor Ryan, Catholic signers of the statement include

The Rev. Urban J. Baer, U. S. Army Chaplain, Editor, The Christian Farmer Monthly; the Rev. Dr. John P. Boland, Chairman, New York State Labor Relations Board; the Rt. Rev. Magr. A. J. Burke, President, St. Ambrose Col-

lege, Davenport, Ia.; the Rev. Raymond S. Cliney, Director of Social Action, Archdiocese of Detroit; the Rev. Thomas L. Conarty, U. S. Navy Chaplain; the Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S., St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore; the Rev. Bernard W. Dempsey, S.J., St. Louis University; the Rev. John C. Friedl, S.J., Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Mo.; the Rev. Joseph A. Hughes, Editor, The Bishop's Register; the Rev. Franklyn Kennedy, Editorial Manager, The Catholic Social Citizen, Milwaukee; the Rev. Lucian L. Lawman, Director, the National Catholic School of Social Service, Washington, D. C.; the Rev. Joseph F. MacDonnell, S.J., of Weston College, Weston, Mass.; the Rt. Rev. Magr. J. J. May, Vicar General of the Diocese of Charleston; the Rev. Thomas A. Meahan, Managing Editor, The New World, Chicago; the Rt. Rev. Magr. Joseph P. Morrison, Rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Name, Chicago; the Rev. Niel O'Connor, Editor, The Catholic Weekly, Saginaw, Mich.; the Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, S. J., of the Catholic University of America; the Rt. Rev. B. H. Penning, O. Praem., President of the St. Norbert's College, West La. Parc, Wis.; the Rt. Rev. Magr. J. Jerome Ruddy, Director of Catholic Charities, Brooklyn; the Rev. Charles Owen Rice, Director of St. Joseph's House, Pittsburgh; the Rev. T. Lawson Riggs, Chaplain, The More Club, Yale University; the Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmalzleber, O.S.B., Director Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.; the Rev. Arthur M. Tighe, Director, Catholic Welfare Bureau, Kansas City.

Heads Engineers

Washington.—James J. Bowe, Associate Professor of Engineering at the Catholic University of America and National Secretary of the Alumni Association of the University, has been elected President of the District of Columbia Society of Professional Engineers.

Quality Reading Matter Wanted By Men In Service

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—The American man in uniform today is reading books of higher quality and weightier content than his counterpart in World War I, according to Dr. Franklin Dunham, Executive Director of the National Catholic Community Service, member agency of the USO.

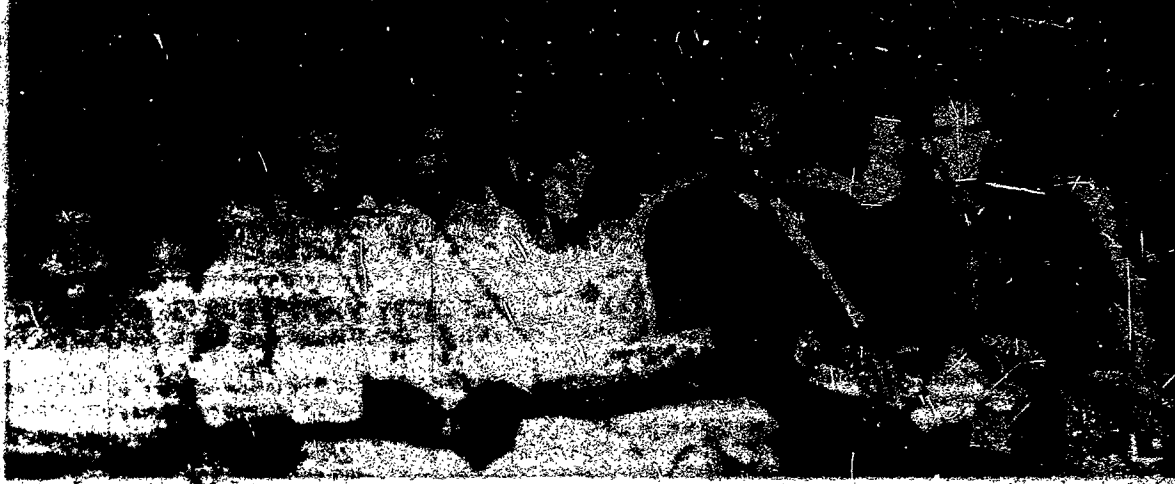
Speaking before the Catholic Library Association in convention at the Knights of Columbus club house here, Dr. Dunham said that for the most part, reading tastes of the soldiers are but a mirror of the civilian population. The race between fiction and non-fiction is a "fifty-fifty" proposition, he said.

Pointing out that as a Catholic organization the NCCS sets a very definite program between what a man reads and what he does, Dr. Dunham outlined the library program of the National Catholic Community Service which, he said, is based on the "core library" theory of books to "live with" and books to "live by."

"All our objective reports from the clubs (USO clubs operated by the NCCS) indicate that our boys want the best and are taking advantage of the opportunity to get the best," Dr. Dunham said. "It is our joint responsibility as Catholics to continue to make the best available to them."

"For this is one of those rare periods of history when today's thinking will have a lasting effect on tomorrow's world pattern. In our armed forces we have the cream of American life—the men who are destined to be the leaders of tomorrow. In the few precious off-duty hours at their disposal, consciously or unconsciously as the individual case may be, tomorrow's course of action is in the making. There is presented to us the opportunity to provide the heaven that will raise a man to a greater consciousness of his ultimate destiny to be one with God."

MINISTERS AT MONSIGNOR'S MISSION TALKS



At the request of a non-Catholic Colored school teacher, who had been listening to his "Catholic Hour" radio talks, Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, of Catholic University, went to Sanford, N. C., and conducted a mission which was attended by a large group of Colored, including local ministers, pictured with the Monsignor at the close of the mission services which they attended each evening. Now, plans are underway for the foundation of a Colored Catholic church here. (N.C.W.C.)

Can Prisoners Really Help In Our War Effort?

(The following statement is released and signed by the National Association of Prison Chaplains with headquarters in New York. President of the Chaplains' Association is the Rev. Francis J. Lane, Catholic Chaplain at Elmira Reformatory).

The calendar says July 4, 1942—and the American calendar says Independence Day. But that is all it does say. That neat little calendar on the July sheet of the calendar doesn't even whisper of the terrible conflict that is in progress; nor does it tell of the men engaged in that conflict; or of the men and women, yes, even children, who are backing our valiant defenders with money, labor and prayers.

Yes, today is Independence Day. We are celebrating it with blood—the blood of our American young men that is being spilled in the far corners of the world, that their loved ones may celebrate future Independence Days in peace. This spilling of blood is not our way of doing things, no matter what our ambitions may be. But when an aggressor demands that we fight, then there is no alternative but to call on our men to sacrifice their personal home lives and in too many instances to give that very life in order that the American way of living may be preserved. When that call was issued there

was no hesitancy on the part of Americans. They answered with a heart-warming rush.

There is no need for us to mention the heroism of these men; not is it necessary to remind you of Eagan, Wake, Gason, the Coral Sea, General MacArthur, Colby Kelly, John Smith and Tom Brown. These names will long live in American breasts and they will still be remembered when the dust shot has been fired, and the last man has come home, there is try to forget the horror he has witnessed.

Yes, you know of these heroic fighters and their leaders; and no doubt you are familiar with the work of the men behind these fighters. But have you ever really thought of other young men in this country, young men who are eligible to take their place in the ranks of the defenders of these United States? There are such men in our prisons.

We have almost 100,000 men serving prison sentences in these institutions; men who are being taught the hard way that "Crime Does Not Pay." We, the Chaplains of these prisons, know these men, sometimes far better than they know themselves. We talk with them, work with them, and enjoy their confidence—a confidence that is most times withheld from the average layman who is trying so very hard to help them.

We could tell thousands of stories about prisoners, most of them good, some of them bad. But these stories are pushed out of our minds by the events of December 7, 1941 and the days that have followed that foul attack.

These men know what that attack means. They didn't waste too much time in talking. Instead, they called on their wardens to give them something to do that would repay our enemy; and that call was answered.

Now, we are happy to say most of these prisoners are engaged in helping our country toward the victory that is coming. Shirts were stripped off and backs bent to the machines that turn out countless products for every branch of our armed forces. When quilting time comes each day, these men wash up just as every one of you. A good day's work is finished; but these prisoners refuse to stop there.

Everyone of them is acutely aware of his position, but not one of them has taken advantage of it. These men do not have to work at war manufacture. They can eat, and usually get another work assignment. But when in our prison system can any point a finger to a slacker?

No indeed! There are no slackers in our army of gray. Not as far as winning this war is concerned. These men work and work hard and willingly. Then when they receive their compensation, it's money, small as it is, is turned over to their wardens for war bonds and stamps. That is one of the things that make our hearts lighter in this war-torn day.

GIVE OWN BLOOD
This purchase of ammunition is not the end of their activity, far from it! They too are spilling their blood in this conflict; and they are insisting that it be spilled. But every drop that is taken from the

American heart of these American men is put in the blood banks of our Red Cross in the hope that it will save an American boy who needs American blood to continue the American defense of these United States.

Our prisoners are helping to "keep 'em flying" in hundreds of ways, both inside and outside of prisons. We have received many letters from our "boys" who tell prison on parole as termination of their sentence and return the service of their country. And why must the rest of these men wait until their debt to society has been paid before they can volunteer for the armed forces? If ever there are to repay that debt, now and not tomorrow is the time to pay it. Most of them are able to meet army requirements and many one of them are more than willing to trade their prison gray for army khaki.

To our spiritual leaders would make excellent soldiers because they are prepared. The army would find these men well disciplined and cooperative; and after all, what is the foundation of an army training if it isn't discipline? We have found our chaplains to be remarkably well informed on the current interests of our boys; and to be perfectly honest, we have to keep on our toes to stay abreast of them in the ways, means, and ends of the activity of our armed forces. Our national leaders, our industrial enterprises and even the social activity of our American people.

Surprising! But at all. These prisoners are interested in what is going on. They have their radio and their papers; and believe us nothing escapes the scrutiny of these men, especially when the subject of their search concerns their families and their country.

Are these men to be kept confined because of the one crime in their lives? We say no, because a large percentage of them are first offenders. They are young, strong, eager, intelligent and determined. Why not set aside the labor that has been placed before them? Why not bring these men to the test, instead of keeping them from their fight? We don't say that these men should be given the world on a silver tray, but we do say that they should be given the chance to prove that their intelligence was really a mistake; and that chance can be given to them if the American public will stand aside these "one-time" prisoners against a man with a criminal conviction. Now is the time for action. Steel must be met with steel—not with words. Our army needs men, especially men who know what is required of them. We have such men in our prisons. Why can't they be used more effectively than they are being used at the present time?

Today, then, is the time to really consider this problem; and in your consideration remember they too are Americans. They have loved and loved ones that need protection just the same as every other American awaiting citizenship in the Stars and Stripes. These men have learned the folly of that way; but that was yesterday. They know what must be done and they are eager to be about the task of doing it. Are the wardens of these men to be kept on the sidelines, instead of permitting them to go on to their tomorrow, is tomorrow that will bring victory to them, to you, and everything American.

Let's take these men out of their gray and put them into some khaki. Let's show them that we are interested in them by action instead of round-table discussions of their rehabilitation. We need not discuss their future lives here, because we know that if they fight for that future, they are not going to idly cast it aside. National Association of Prison Chaplains.

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100,000 'Why' Leaflets Go To Army Chaplains

CONCEPTION, Mo.—One hundred thousand leaflets answering questions non-Catholics often ask about the Catholic faith are now being sent weekly to 600 chaplains in the armed forces of the United States for distribution among the men.

They are the "Why" leaflet series published by Defenders of the Faith under the direction of the Rev. Richard Felix, O.S.B., of Conception Abbey here, and have brought an enthusiastic response from hundreds of chaplains. Published weekly, the complete series now consists of 100 leaflets. Packets of 200 copies of each week's new leaflet are sent without charge to each of 600 chaplains.

In addition to 200 letters from chaplains, expressing approval of the leaflets as "short and to the point and just the thing they need," Father Felix said, many letters have been received from convert soldiers stating that their interest in the Church was started through the "Why" leaflets.

The packets are sent weekly direct to the chaplains, who distribute them at Sunday Masses. Questions answered in them were received from interested listeners to the "Highway to Heaven" radio series, produced by Defenders of the Faith and a weekly feature on 140 radio stations throughout the country.

(Reprints of the "Why" pamphlets appear each week on the editorial page of the CATHOLIC COURIER under the heading "Queries and Replies.")