IRISH PRIEST WHO SPOKE HERE FOR LOYALISTS, DIES

DUBLIN — Solemn Requiem Mass was sung in the Franciscan Church, Merchants Quay, for the Rev. Michael O'Flanagan after the body of the noted Sinn Fein leader of other days had lain in state at City Hall. Dignitaries of Church and State attended.

Among those present were President Hyde, Premier de Valera and members of his Cabinet and the Most Rev. Edward Doorly, Bishop of Elphin. In recent years Father O'Flanagan had said Mass regularly at local convents until his last illness.

On several occasions Father O'Flanagan visited the United States, speaking for support of the Sinn Fein movement in Ireland. On his last visit, during the Spanish civil war he bespoke support of the so-called Loyalists in that country.

Father O'Flanagan spoke at Convention Hall on May 20, 1937 under the auspices of the Rochester Branch of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy.

Proposed Tax Levy 'Alarms' Catholics Says NCWC Aide

(Continued from Page 1)

He expressed vigorous opposition to Section 3 of the Bill, which would require an annual report to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia showing the purposes for which exempted property had been used in the course of the year. This, he said is "a foreign concept."

Encouragement of Private Activities

Another new section was suggested for the bill by Monsignor Ready, which would include under exempt properties buildings and structures used for a combination of religious, educational and charitable purposes when owned and operated by institutions not organized or operated for private gain." He instanced the National Catholic Welfare Conference as an institution that would fall in this category.

After thanking Senator McCarran "for your thoughtful consideration of this problem," Monsignor Ready said:

"Mr. Chairman, I am frank to say that we are alarmed over this question of taxation. At a time when the activities of government have so tremendously expanded that there is just cause for concern lest its entrance into private fields eliminate all private agencies and ultimately dominate the whole sphere of private life, proposals to tax religious, charitable and educational agencies are alarmingly foreboding. These fears I regret to say are not unfounded.

"Rather than place disabilities and impediments in the way of private activities, democratic government should now make it clear that it wishes to encourage private activities in social fields in every way possible.

"Instead, Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government, in some of its recent acts, has given us cause for grave alarm. The Supreme Court has decided that it is not unconstitutional to tax certain activities of religious groups. The Treasury Department has recommended taxation of income accruing to these activities when such income is derived from certain sources. The Treasury has recommended that a limitation be placed upon the amount in charitable legacies deductible for tax purposes in the computation of estate taxes. Treasury decisions demanding yearly information returns specifically setting forth the detailed workings of charitable and educational activities have been promulgated.

Will Be Precedent-Setting

"Senator McCarran, we appeal to you and to your committee to take this opportunity to do something positive and affirmative about this problem. This is a present opportunity to stem a trend that is not in keeping with American tradition. This is an opportunity to clearly demonstrate that government is definitely encouraging the growth and continued activity of private agencies in fields of social activity. Make no mistake, Mr. Chairman, what the District of Columbia now provides in its tax laws will be precedent-setting all over the country."

Monsignor Ready said "we are not unmindful of the difficulties confronting the Government of the District of Columbia in connection with the raising of revenue through the taxation of real property," but the fact that property owned by the Federal Government and the District Government does not produce revenue, through taxation, does not afford a valid argument for depriving religious, educational and charitable properties of an "honest exemption."

Dealing with the argument that the tax-paying public will be made to carry a heavier load if certain properties are not taxed, Monsignor Ready reminded the Committee that taxation of religious, educational and charitable institutions is not taxation of these enterprises themselves "but taxation of the people" who support them." Monsignor Ready also pointed out that many of the institutions threatened with taxation produce benefits which flow to society as a whole, and that the people of the District of Columbia shared in these benefits along with the people of all the rest of the country. Dealing with the exemption of charitable institutions, Monsignor Ready pointed out that "in any society there will be numbers of individuals unable to care for themselves," and that "they must be cared for by society." Whether this duty is discharged by Government-owned or privately-owned agencies "it is clear that the service rendered is a service rendered to society," Monsignor Ready said. "When the Government is spared the financial burden of discharging this function," he added, "the Government should be obligated, at least, not to impair private agencies when they discharge the function."

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CHOIR PICNIC

Members of the choir are looking forward to a Summer Get-together in the form of a sausage roast to be held on Sunday, August 23, at the home of Mrs. George Garny, organist of St. Andrew's Church. There will be plenty of music, singing and games by way of entertainment, and refreshments will be served. This will be but one of the many times that Mrs. Garny has entertained the choir members in her lovely home.

ENTERS CONVENT

Miss Dorothy Streb, a former member of Our Lady's Sodality of St. Andrew's Church, will make her Religious Profession on next Tuesday at Mercy Convent taking the name of Sister Mary Andre.

We of the parish extend good wishes to her parents and family in the choice God has made of one of their own. We also wish to commend Sister Mary Andre as one of God's selected ones who like Mary in the Gospel has chosen the better part.