

WOULD CLARIFY TAX EXEMPTIONS



Recommendation changes which would clarify the tax exemption status of religious, educational and charitable institutions in the District of Columbia, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready (left), General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph M. Nelligan, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Washington, appeared before the Senate District of Columbia Committee, expressing the alarm felt by Catholics throughout the country over the proposals to tax such property. (N.C.W.C.)

Warn Congress, D. C. Tax Exemption Rulings May Become Pattern For Nation

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—Congress was appealed to this week to make certain that the tax laws of the District of Columbia provide positively and affirmatively for the proper exemption of religious, educational and charitable institutions, lest the local legislation become the pattern for the taxation of such properties in the 48 States.

The appeal came in hearings held by the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia on a bill sponsored by its Chairman, Senator Pat McCarran, of Nevada, "to define real property exempt from taxation in the District of Columbia." The legislation is felt to be necessary in view of the recent action of the Real Estate Tax Exemption Board of the District of Columbia, which, interpreting existing legislation, has placed properties of numerous religious, educational and charitable institutions on the tax rolls. These properties have heretofore been exempt.

Speaking at the direction of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, General Secretary of the

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N. C. W. C., urged the Senate 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," Monsignor Ready declared, adding that "what the District of Columbia now provides in its tax laws will be precedent-setting all over the country."

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph M. Nelligan, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Washington, told the Committee that the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore and of Washington, is deeply concerned about tax legislation and its interpretation as it affects religious, charitable and educational institutions in the National Capital, and that he believes action taken here might well constitute a pattern for a tax attitude towards these types of properties in the several States. He said the Archbishop's views were contained in the statement Monsignor Ready presented to the Committee.

Schools Affected Acting on its own interpretation of existing legislation, the three-man Real Estate Tax Exemption Board here has put on the tax rolls some of the houses of study affiliated to the Catholic University of America, asserting that they are not schools within the meaning of the law. The Board held they are not open to the public generally, but are maintained to train candidates for the Catholic priesthood. It was held that other properties, including the Franciscan Monastery, are not churches within the meaning of existing law; that other properties are not charitable institutions because they serve persons belonging to one faith or one fraternal organization; that other educational or charitable agencies have "excessive land" which should be subjected to taxation.

Representatives of various Catholic institutions affected by the action of the Real Estate Tax Exemption Board appeared before the Senate Committee in the course of the hearings on Senator McCarran's bill.

Nun's Last Work Chicago. Many prominent Chicago women were in the art and French classes taught by Sister Mary Pauline Corcoran during her 41 years as a Sister of Mercy in Chicago. Her funeral was held from St. Malachy's Church. Her last work was a set of Stations of the Cross for the Mercy Novitiate in Des Plaines, Ill.

Christians Underground If Axis Win, Seminar Told

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—Victory in the war for the forces of Nazi-inspired aggression would drive Christians underground for generations in the conquered countries, the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and Chairman of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, declared Monday in an address on "The American and the Crisis of Christianity."

Archbishop Mooney spoke at the opening session here of the Inter-American Seminar on Social Studies which has assembled in Washington one of the most distinguished groups of churchmen, economists, educators and leaders of social work the nations of the Western Hemisphere can count among their outstanding citizens. The Seminar, sponsored by the National Catholic Welfare Conference and conducted by the N. C. W. C. Department of Social Action, will hold meetings over a period of three weeks. Sessions are to be held in Washington, at the University of Notre Dame, in Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo and New York.

The opening session was presided over by the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City and Episcopal Chairman of the Department of Social Action, N. C. W. C. Among the distinguished foreign participants were two Bishops, the Rectors of two Catholic universities and outstanding laymen from North, Central and South America.

Ruthlessly Mangled In warning of the catastrophes that would result from victory for the force of aggression, Archbishop Mooney said:

"The spirit of Christian charity has been outraged in tyranny's barbarous treatment of the Jews. The body of Christianity has been ruthlessly mangled not only in martyred Poland but in every place where the full force of totalitarian fury could be safely unleashed. The soul of Christianity has been put in bonds in Germany itself and in every country occupied by force or fraud against the will and right of its people. To us who share the faith and promise of Peter there can never be question of the survival of Christianity. The Church, as Christ founded it, will last to the end of time. But a victory in this war for the forces of Nazi-inspired aggression would drive Christians underground for generations in the conquered countries. In the twilight of western civilization, the followers of Christ would again become a 'gens lucifuge'—a people forbidden the light of day by those whom Pius XI in 1927, branded as the 'enemies

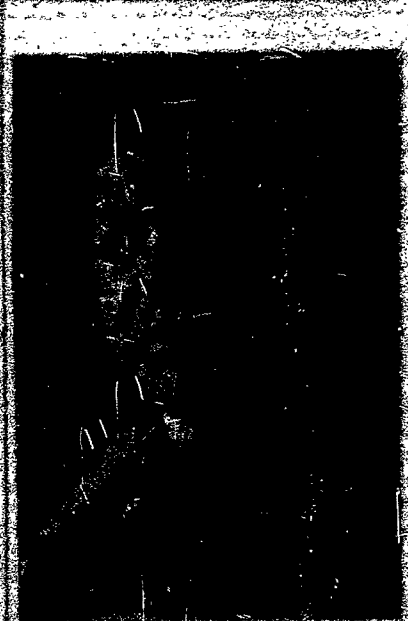
SEMINAR SPEAKER

and destroyers of the Christian West." Much in Concern "Among the Catholics of the United States," Archbishop Mooney told the distinguished scholars, "you are neither strategists nor secretly honored spies. You are brothers in the household of the Faith." Indeed, His Excellency added, the peoples of the Americas are neighbors in more than a geographical sense. "Neighbors now brought closer by the motives of modern communication and the impetus of a common danger. Within the framework of a rich variety in cultural background and national life, we have much in common. Speaking diverse tongues, we understand a common language of the soul in a common devotion to the ideal of freedom under God."

Reminding that after the war is won there will still be the struggle for a truly Christian peace, Archbishop Mooney said: "In every free nation we shall at least be assured of the right to teach and to worship, and we shall, in the words of a distinguished group of European thinkers, retain the possibility of making the Gospel serve as a weaver of society. It is in this sense that the war which now rages is full of the deepest religious significance. It intimately bound up with the future of the Church, and is, in very truth, a 'Crisis for Christianity.'"

Role of American Catholics "It is true," His Excellency said, "that through the teaching of the Pope, the heroic stand of Churchmen for their country's soul and the Christian vision of many of our civil leaders there has come a new awareness that God may not with impunity be treated as a stranger in His own world, and that if men are to dwell in peace and security, religion must be accorded its rightful place in their individual and social lives." "It is our deep conviction," he said, "that in the work of social reconstruction in the world, the Catholic people in both Americas are called upon to play a role of increasing importance. Wise and far-seeing statesmen are now laboring as they have for decades past to foster neighborliness among the governments of our free peoples."

SEMIGAR SPEAKER



Most Rev. Edward Mooney

All Members of Great Christian Family Says Argentina Bishop

WASHINGTON (N. C.)—Seven Archbishops and Bishops were present Monday at the formal opening of the Inter-American Seminar on Social Studies, which has brought together distinguished Catholic scholars and leaders of North, Central and South America for three weeks of study and conference under the auspices of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

The Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and Chairman of the Administrative Board of the N.C.W.C., addressed the distinguished visitors, saying, "The doors of our houses and of our hearts are wide and welcome open."

The Most Rev. Miguel de Azua, Bishop of Buenos Aires and Director of the Catholic Workers' Center of Buenos Aires, Argentina, responded on behalf of the members of the seminar.

Great Spiritual Family "This salutation has touched us deeply," Bishop de Azua said on behalf of the members, "but we declare that we have been more profoundly impressed with the international welcome which you have extended to us from the first moment of our arrival. We know that no citizen belonging to any of the countries of our continent should be taken as a stranger in any of the nations of America. We know that all Catholics, no matter what we the colors of the flag under whose shadow they were born in the divine life, should be considered as members of the great spiritual family whose head is Christ. We know, finally, that all men, no matter what be the race or the continent from which they immediately proceed, come from the same blood of Adam, and for that reason are neighbors who in the command of the New Law must be loved as one loves oneself."

Under the pleasant auspices of this most promising fraternity, we will do all that is in our power to collaborate with you in the success of this assembly, to which you assign such transcendent importance as no other has known in our continent for 400 years.

"We who are of the Southern Hemisphere, peopled by nations traditionally Catholic, feel ourselves under the protection of the Southern Cross. You who are of the Northern Hemisphere have borrowed from heaven the stars which symbolize your Stars. Very well; I make this wish in the name of all: May the Southern Cross be the immovable star eternal from whose top waves the banner whose stars represent principles taken from heaven to serve as a basis for justice—for that justice which is the basis of peace—of the peace which is the basis of the order and the progress of the world."

Groups Pressuring War Strategy Hit By K. of C.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—The membership of the Knights of Columbus was declared "determined to risk all that we possess in defense of our freedoms" in a resolution adopted at the sixtieth annual convention of the organization which closed here.

Expressing confidence in "the final victory of our arms," the resolution said: "Such fears as we do entertain arise from no thought of military defeat but from certain disturbing tendencies we see in our midst—tendencies as deadly inimical to our freedoms as Hitler's panzer divisions. The enemy from without will be vanquished. We are determined in our patriotism that shallow minds will not achieve what enemy armies cannot accomplish."

The resolution deplored "attempts by pressure groups to interfere with and to dictate the strategy of our competent military leaders." At the outset it was stated that the resolution was prompted by "the instructive and inspiring sermon delivered to us by His Excellency the Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago."

Other resolutions reaffirmed the organization's opposition to "any form of Communism"; pledged loyalty and devotion to President Roosevelt in his conduct of the war; praised efforts to eliminate the distribution of indecent publications, and called upon publication distributing agencies to cease the distribution of publications which have been denied the use of the mails.

Individually as well as collectively, the Knights of Columbus are supporting the nation's war effort. Supreme Knight Francis P. Matthews said in his address at

the States Dinner which was one of the outstanding features of the convention.

World Peace Objective "The all-embracing ideals comprehended in the objectives for which the United Nations are fighting could not find the Knights of Columbus insensible to their sacredness of indispensable character," he said. "Collectively and individually, as a society and personally, we are contributing to the holy cause of freedom which must consume the total resources of modern Christian civilization until the universal justice of the Prince of Peace is actually and permanently established throughout the world."

Supreme Secretary Joseph F. Lamb, outlining the general condition of the organization in his annual report, stated that during the past year there has been a net increase of membership of 9,871. The total membership of the organization is 424,823 distributed 218,281 in the insurance class and 206,542 in the associate. Total benefits and payments made to members during the year amounted to \$4,271,112.08. Eighteen new Councils were instituted, bringing the total to 2,480.

Moves Offices St. Augustine.—The editorial and business offices of the Florida Catholic have been moved from Miami to this city, seat of the historic Diocese of St. Augustine, of which the weekly newspaper is official organ.