

Prelate Hits 'Merry-Go-Round' For Postmaster General Blast

FORT WAYNE (NC)—An attack made upon Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, who was accused in a syndicated column published by a number of secular newspapers of having been influenced in the denial of second class mailing privileges to obscene publications by the National Organization for Decent Literature, is reported in a letter which the Most Rev. John P. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne and Chairman of the NODL, has addressed to the author.

Writing to Drew Pearson, who conducts the column "Washington Merry-Go-Round," Bishop Noll noted that the writer had charged that the Postmaster General was cooperating by design with the NODL. Asserting that there is no collusion between the NODL and the Post Office Department, the Bishop called attention to the fact that publications which were banned from the mails were not on the NODL disapproved list and stated that "if anything, the standards of the Post Office Department are more severe than those of the NODL."

Text of Bishop Noll's letter follows:

"My attention has been called to the observations made in the March 25 installment of the Washington Merry-Go-Round. That installment deals with the NODL with which you imply, Postmaster General Frank Walker is cooperating by design.

"I can assure you, and I hope that you will accept this assurance, that there is no collusion between the NODL and the United States Post Office Department.

"If anything, the standards of the Post Office Department are more severe than those of the NODL, because it has learned from the mail magazines which were not on the NODL disapproved list. It is not likely that, in his capacity, the Postmaster General thinks in terms of morals as much as he does in terms of the unfairness on the part of publishers to expect the Federal Government to pay most of the cost of carrying through the mails periodicals which, to say the least, are calculated to do more harm than good. Kindly read carefully the statute governing the grant of the second-class mail privileges to periodicals.

"Those who examine magazines for the NODL do not pass arbitrary judgment on them, nor permit their own personal standards to influence their judgment. They relate the magazines to the viewpoint Code of the NODL, which nearly all publishers of magazines have recognized as most fair and sane. There is no prudishness in that Code. In fact warm commendations of our policy have come from publishers, from national, regional and local distributors, from thousands of retail dealers.

"We should like to ask you, Mr. Pearson, to examine objectively the Code of the NODL in order to satisfy yourself whether it is not eminently sane and sound.

"If Frank Walker, as you say, indignantly denied that members of his own religious faith were influencing his policy in barring

magazines from the mails, he told the plain truth. Personally I have refrained from approaching him lest he might become embarrassed. But since Mr. Walker's office liberally receives every week hundreds of marked copies of magazines, leaflets and circular letters advertising wares which may not law-



REPORTED MISSING in action in Africa is Chaplain Stephen W. Knox, St. Bernard.

Assistant Chief of Navy Chaplains Dies; St. Bernard Alumnus

Word of the death of Lieut. Commander Thomas J. Knox, Assistant Chief of Chaplains of the United States Navy, has brought deep sorrow to many priests in the Rochester diocese who knew him as a student at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Lieut. Commander Knox died Mar. 21 at the Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Md., at the age of 42 years.

In the death of Lieut. Commander Knox, the United States Navy lost an exceptionally able chaplain, the Most Rev. John P. O'Hara, C.S.P., Military Delegate, said in a statement issued in New York.

"He had the full confidence of Catholics and non-Catholics alike and the commanding officers with whom he served were fully appreciative of his work in maintaining high morale among the men," Bishop O'Hara said. "In his last sea duty he served on the flagship of Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, who is now Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

"Father Knox's death is a loss not only to his home diocese of Savannah-Atlanta but to the Military Ordinate as well."

After attending St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on May 21, 1925. He entered the Navy Chaplains Corps in 1932, and prior to becoming Assistant Chief of Chaplains, served aboard the Battleships New Mexico and Wyoming and at the Navy Yards at Philadelphia, Norfolk and Washington, D. C.

Before entering the Navy he was assistant pastor of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah.

In announcing the death of Father Knox, Capt. Robert D. Workman, Chief of the Chaplains of the United States Navy, said: "During his years in the Navy Chaplain Knox won for himself many warm friends. His death comes as a deep loss to the Chaplains' Corps and to the Navy."

Mother of Navy Hero To Christen Vessel

NEW YORK.—When the Destroyer Escort U. S. S. "Dempsy" is launched at Boston Navy Yard on Holy Thursday, Apr. 22, it will be christened by Mrs. James A. Dempsy, of this city, mother of the late Ensign Richard J. Dempsy, Catholic naval hero.

Ensign Dempsy, a member of the class of 1940 at Fordham College, was killed in action at sea on Sept. 12, last.

fully be carried by mail, he has ample reason for independent and wholly objective action. You, I am sure, are too good a philosopher to fall for the fallacy "post hoc ergo propter hoc."

"You leave the impression on the readers of your column that the Washington Office of the NODL requires publishers to send summaries of forthcoming issues for examination, while the fact is that those publishers who submit summaries have themselves requested the privilege of doing so, because they claim they actually want stories containing incidents of illicit love to be inspected before going to press with them.

"I should like to declare that the Bishops of every country have both the right and duty to give direction to their Bishops in matters relating to morals. If the clergy and laity of other countries, if members of orders and juvenile scout groups, believe in the NODL standards, they have an equal right to get behind the effort to make magazine literature safer for youth.

"It may not be out of place to remind you that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is just as sympathetic towards the NODL as is the United States Post Office Department. If it has not suppressed many very low periodicals it is only because it is not within its province to prosecute. It must leave that to the Federal Courts.

"And it may not be out of place to remind you of the figures on the increase of sex crimes among minors during the year 1942 as compared to 1941. Figures released on March 30—only five days ago—disclose that "arrests of girls under twenty-one for sex offenses increased 104.7%"; that rape was committed every fifty-two minutes of the day and night during that year—an increase of 11.7% over the previous year. J. Edgar Hoover believes that the obscene publications are largely responsible for the increasing tide of sex offenses.

"I feel, dear Mr. Pearson, that even if you are not inclined to make corrections, you will, in the interest of what is fair, send a copy of this to the papers which use your syndicated column."

Deny Mail Privileges To Five Magazines

WASHINGTON.—The Post Office Department announces five magazines have been denied the second-class mailing privileges under the postal statute "in a flagrant obscenity in the mails. The statute is designed to prevent the use of the United States mails for sustained and systematic appeals to lascivious curiosity or for the circulation of periodicals for the purpose of profitably pandering to the obscene, lewd and indecent.

In the case of three of the magazines—"Speed Adventure Stories," "Speed Detective" and "All Story Love"—their applications for entry as second-class mail matter were denied. In the case of "Street and Smith's Love Story Magazine," an application for re-entry as second-class mail matter was denied, while the publishers of "Uncensored Detective" have abandoned the application without establishing that the publication meets the requirements of the law governing second-class matter.

Seek Scapulars For Soldiers

NEW YORK.—Orders from military chaplains for more than 100,000 additional free Scapulars for our Catholic Service men have sent the headquarters of the Scapular Militia into high gear during the past few weeks. The Very Rev. Gabriel N. Panaback, American Assistant General of the Carmelite and Religious Director of the Scapular Militia, said the group already has supplied over 100,000 Scapulars free to the Armed Forces.

Courtesy Magic

There is a magic about courtesy that enhances friendly words and kind actions; it wins and cements friendship.



NAVAL TRAINING at the Markell Chaplain School and Hospital in Navy service were told to the Ensign, Richard Dempsy, by Chaplain Francis J. Pagan, point of Ensign Dempsy, before leaving to duty, last week.

The Bishop's Appointments

- APRIL
- 2 Friday—St. Patrick's—Low Mass, St. Monica's Society—9:00 A. M.
 - St. Bernard's Seminary—Convents—5:30 P. M.
 - St. Andrew—Lenten Sermon—7:45 P. M.
 - 4 Sunday—St. Patrick—Low Mass, Nocturnal Adoration Society—7:45 A. M.
 - 7 Wednesday—Our Lady of Mercy High School—Mary Guild Luncheon—12:30 P. M.
 - St. Lucy—Novena Service—4:45 P. M.
 - 8 Thursday—Our Lady of Mercy High School—Society Reception—2:00 P. M.
 - 9 Friday—St. Andrew—Lenten Sermon—7:45 P. M.
 - 11 Sunday—Holy Rosary—Convents—4:30 P. M.
 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel—Meeting of Service Men—7:45 P. M.
 - 13 Tuesday—Columbus City Centre—Priests' Holy Hour—3:00 P. M.
 - 14 Friday—Catholic Women's Club—Lenten—2:00 P. M.
 - St. Andrew—Lenten Sermon—7:45 P. M.
 - 18 Sunday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Meeting of Priests' Football Mass—9:00 A. M.
 - 22 Thursday—Pro-Cathedral—Pontifical Mass, Meeting of Holy Oils—10:15 A. M.
 - Tenants—4:00 P. M.
 - St. Patrick—Holy Hour, Nocturnal Adoration Society—10:00 P. M.
 - 23 Friday—Pro-Cathedral—Mass of the Pro-Cathedral—11:00 Noon
 - St. Andrew—Lenten Sermon—7:45 P. M.
 - 25 Sunday—Pro-Cathedral—Pontifical Mass—12:15 P. M.
 - 26 Monday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Ordinations—1:00 A. M.

Cancel Student Mission Meet

CINCINNATI.—Postponement of the biennial national convention of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, scheduled for this year, has been announced by the Very Rev. Mgr. Edward A. Frickling, national secretary, in a letter addressed to the national officers and

diocesan directors. The action was taken because of the difficulties of transportation and the request of the Government that civilian travel be curtailed.

Mgr. Frickling expressed regret at the postponement because this year's convention would have marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Crusade. Observance of the silver jubilee by means of local rallies was recommended by Mgr. Frickling, who stated that suggestions for programs will be issued later.

New Maryknoll Bishop To Be Consecrated In Mexico For Bolivia

MARYKNOLL, N. Y.—The Most Rev. Alonso Escalante, of New York, recently named Vice Apostolic of Pando, Bolivia, will be consecrated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City. It has been announced here by the Most Rev. James E. Walsh, Superior General of the Maryknoll Fathers. No date for the ceremony has yet been scheduled.

Archbishop To Lead Good Friday Rite In Civic Auditorium

SAN FRANCISCO.—In order to care for the large numbers in the population of San Francisco and especially to care for the large number of the members of the Armed Forces of Our United States in and around this city, John J. Nitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, has made arrangements to conduct the traditional "Three Hours' Devotion on Good Friday" in the Civic Auditorium.

Bishop-elect Escalante was born in Mexico and came to the United States as a boy. He was a missionary in the Manchuria Mission of the Maryknoll Fathers before his appointment as Superior of the Bolivian mission.

Cooperator: The banana, you know, gets skinned every time it leaves the bunch.

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