Reds Ruled Out of Government Work By U. S. Civil Service

WASHINGTON—Members of the Communist Party and followers of the "red party-line" can no longer work for Uncle Sam.

A new memorandum issued by the United States Civil Service Commission states that anyone "found to be a member of the Communist Party or to be a follower of the Communist 'party-line' has no place in the government in time of war or in time of peace."

The Commission quotes Section 3 of "War Regulation II," which treats of reasons for disqualifying government employees. Section 4 gives as one reason for disqualification of an applicant or employee "a reasonable doubt as to his loyalty to the government of the United States."

From this the Civil Service Commission concludes that a follower of the Communist cause "has clearly indicated that he is willing to take orders from a political group located in a foreign nation, and whose first loyalty is to a foreign government. Such a person cannot, should not and must not be entrusted with the duties and responsibilities of a public official.

"Such a policy does not reflect any lack of genuine enthusiasm for the tremendous contribution which the Soviet government and the Soviet people have made to the winning of this war. Such a policy is simply a frank recognition of the fact that man cannot serve two masters, for sooner or later he will hate the one, and love the other.

"It is absolutely impossible to imagine the Soviet government following a policy of tolerating, as one of their public officials, a Soviet citizen whose primary loyalty was to a political group whose primary loyalty, in turn, was to any foreign government."

The Commission now declares its right to investigate any applicant's or employee's "formal affiliation with the Communist Party" or even "adherence to the Communist Party line."

Terms Publishing Of Contraceptive List As 'Downfall' Of A. M. A.

CHICAGO—The American Medical Association has executed a right-about-face and for the first time in its history published a list of "accepted" contraceptive preparations and devices.

The December issue of the "Journal of the A.M.A." presents the list of birth control devices as the "New and Nonofficial Remedies" accepted by the Association's Council on Chemistry and Pharmacy, which in its annual meeting last year declared "contraceptives ineligible for consideration on the same basis as therapeutic (treatment) agents."

The A. M. A.'s "shrewd choice of the term 'Nonofficial Remedies'" according to The Southern Cross, Catholic weekly of San Diego, "fools no one, even though it does leave open a convenient and academic door of escape."

Accusing Dr. Morris Fishbein, president of the A. M. A., with "shifty opportunism," the editors of The Southern Cross state:

"It is with a sorrow akin to disgust and despair that we witness this tragic downfall of the American Medical Association. Silent and helpless in their graves are the great medical giants of yesteryear."

The A. M. A.'s present relaxation on contraceptive practices is directly contradictory to the stand of former A. M. A. officials and many international medical authorities.

On the matter of birth prevention, Dr. William G. Morgan, past president of the American Medical Association, has written:

"If this social practice were to be universally adopted it would open the door to the most widespread physical abuses."

Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones, M.D., internationally famed authority on mental diseases, has also stated:

"Birth control leads to lunacy. If you are to have birth control on a large scale you will have to add to your lunatic asylums for mothers."

Credits Catholic Church With Top Gain In Members

NEW YORK. — The Catholic Church in the United States has exceeds the membership growth of any other religious group.

Statistics released by the Protestant Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, revealing trends in church membership between 1926 and 1941-42, show a Catholic membership in 1926 of 18,605,603 and in 1941-42 of 22,949,247. This represents an increase of 4,340,244.

Figures given for the next largest group, the Baptist bodies, show a total membership in 1926 of 8,293,187 and in 1941-42 a total of 11,170,962, an increase of 2,867,475.

Figures given for the second largest of the non-Catholic groups, the Methodist bodies, show a total membership in 1926 of 7,966,692 and in 1941-42 a total of 9,474,870, an increase of 1,508,788.

Figures for Lutherans

For the Lutheran bodies the figures show a total membership in 1926 of 3,766,812 and in 1941-42 a total of 4,814,898, an increase of 1,047,961.

For the Presbyterian bodies the figures show a total membership in 1926 of 2,533,582 and in 1941-42 a total of 2,796,051, an increase of 261,469.

The figures for the Protestant Episcopal Church show a total membership in 1926 of 1,559,086 and a total of 2,074,178 in 1941-42, an increase of 215,092.

For Jewish congregations the figures show a total membership in 1926 of 4,081,242 and a total of 4,641,184 in 1936, an increase of 559,942.

SOLDIER TODAY, BY A MIRACLE

On March 14, 1921, the day of his birth, an overdose of silver nitrate solution burned the sight from the eyes of Peter J. Smith, of New York City. Through the intercession of Mother Cabrini, the eyes of the stricken infant were completely cured on the following day. He is pictured here as a healthy lad of 12 and as he looks today, in the uniform of a U. S. soldier. Also alive today is Sister Delfina Graziola, of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Seattle, cured from a fatal illness in 1925, through the intercession of Mother Cabrini. Their cures were the two miracles accepted by the Holy See in 1938, when Mother Cabrini was beatified. The final decision in her cause for canonization was announced by the Sacred Congregation of Rites on January 11. (N.C.W.C.)

Work and the Worker

(A speaker on the Vatican Radio recently related this story of "The Three Stone Cutters," symbolizing the three attitudes of men towards life.)

Do you remember the story of the three stone cutters who replied to a seeker of information who wanted to know what they were doing? The first replied, "I am earning my living"; the second, "I am cutting a stone"; the third, "I am building a Cathedral."

The first worker was essentially materialistic, seeing nothing in work but painful necessity. The second was an individualist, stopping at the work itself, at the joy of overcoming the immediate task. But the stone cutter who felt he was building a Cathedral, saw in his humble task a service to mankind and a work of homage and praise to God.

Three Civilizations Symbolized

The three types of workmen represent three civilizations. The first is representative of the collectivist State, of which the beehive or the ant heap is the highest model. The second represents the ideal of the eighteenth - century philosophers: individualistic man the measure of all things. And the third is a model too. He is the type who, as Pope Pius XII has said, gives to work the place assigned to it by God from the beginning.

Labor is not imposed on man as a punishment. Even before Adam's fall, work had its place in God's plan. Its scope then was that man should dominate the world, and complete it by adding to the material expression of God's beauty, man's formal praise of God's goodness. The idea of sin has brought in pain and suffering as difficulties in the worker's path, but essentially work remains the expression of man's personality and thus should be used as a means towards reaching his perfection.

Human and Divine Values

We must place all labor problems, all social questions in this eternal perspective, if we want to see them as they are and bring to them a mentality broad enough to reach lasting solutions. Man in his work must be free to develop himself and to express himself, but there are some things in which man cannot be morally free. He must serve God, he must do good. Similarly, neither the employer nor the worker can renounce the rights of the individual, his claims to moral, economic, and civic justice. And thus, in one sense, the worker who built the Cathedral contained the man who earned his living and him who was cutting stones.

But the man who built the Cathedral went further. He put his soul into his work. When we see what he has achieved we may revise our ideas about the progress of civilization. The Christian concept of work is that which puts a seal on the order and excellence of human and divine values.

FOR IMITATION

"Place before your eyes as models to be imitated, not the weak and the cowardly, but the courageous and the fervent." St. Ignatius Loyola.

Fr. Serra's Remains Identified, Reburied

FRESNO, Calif. — Remains of Padre Junipero Serra, great Franciscan missionary, the cause of whose canonization is now being carried forward, have been removed from his grave at Mission San Carlos Borromeo in Carmel, Calif., examined, identified and reburied there in a new coffin, it was revealed here by the Chancery of the Diocese of Monterey-Fresno.

The work was done secretly over a period extending from Sept. 1 to Dec. 7 and had been ordered by the Most Rev. Philip G. Scher, Bishop of Monterey-Fresno, at the request of the Very Rev. Gregory Wooler, O.F.M., Provincial of the Franciscan Order on the Pacific Coast.

A scroll sealed in a copper tube and placed in the new coffin of Father Serra reads:

"The remains of the Rev. Father Junipero Serra, Apostle of California and Founder of the Missions, buried on Aug. 29, 1784, exhumed and identified in 1943 and reinterred in this new coffin on Dec. 7, of the same year, by authority of the Most Rev. Philip G. Scher, Bishop of Monterey-Fresno."

Father Robbins Heads Oblates

LOWELL, Mass. The Very Rev. William A. Robbins, O.M.I., has been named Provincial of the First American Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, it has been announced here by the Very Rev. James T. McDermott, O.M.I., retiring Provincial. The appointment was made by the Very Rev. Anthime Demeyere, O.M.I., Vicar General of the community, who resides in Montreal.

Other appointments by the Vicar General were announced as follows: Father McDermott, First Assistant Provincial; the Rev. Edward Fox, Superior and pastor of Sacred Heart Church, here, Second Assistant Provincial; the Rev. Charles J. Costello, Superior of the Oblate Scholasticate, Washington, D. C., Third Assistant Provincial; the Rev. John J. Donnelly, Superior and pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, here, Fourth Assistant Provincial, and the Rev. Andrew H. Egan, of Holy Angels Church, Buffalo, N. Y., Provincial Bursar.

Blessing Service Flag

New York.—A service flag bearing [illegible] was blessed by the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, [illegible] of New York, at the [illegible] Church, the Immaculate [illegible] the hero [illegible] Mass [illegible] of Our [illegible] of the [illegible]

Soldiers' Gift Shows Up As Mission Pleads For Aid

UNION CITY, N. J.—At the same time that a wireless message reached the office of *The Sign* magazine here, from the Rev. Caspar Caulfield, C.P., telling of the plight of a mission at Yuanling, Hunan, China, pillaged by Japanese soldiers, a letter was received from the Catholic chaplain of a Regimental Combat Team in the South Pacific, enclosing a gift of $1,000 for missionaries in Hunan, China.

In his plea for help, Father Caulfield said:

"Bishop Gerard Herrero and his Spanish priests and Sisters of the neighboring Augustinian Mission in Changteh are destitute after the plundering of Changteh by the Japanese. When the Japanese broke into the orphanage the Sisters and the girls fled to the Bishop's house next door for protection. Though beaten to the shedding of blood, Bishop Gerard withstood the soldiers so courageously that not one girl of the orphanage was carried off.

"Nevertheless, the mission buildings were half ruined and all the sacred vessels, money, clothing, bedding, and equipment of the Bishop's house, the seminary, the convent and orphanage were stolen or destroyed. The Chinese Catholics of the Passionist mission district in Yuanling are raising funds for relief of the Changteh Bishop."

In his letter the Catholic chaplain wrote:

"Enclosed is a little Christmas present for the brothers in Hunan from the Catholic men of this Regimental Combat Team. And what a team! These fellows have won foreign missionaries in action. They wanted to do something for the Foreign Missions. I told them about the missionaries in Hunan, China, and of the hard days that have come their way."

"The $1,000 gift of the American Catholic soldiers was like an answer to the cry for help from the mission field of Hunan," said the Rev. Emmanuel Trainor, C.P., Mission Procurator.

FACULTIES TO SAY EXTRA SUNDAY MASSES GRANTED CLERGY IN MEXICO CITY

MEXICO CITY.—By virtue of a circular addressed to all the priests of the Archdiocese by the Most Rev. Luis M. Martinez, Archbishop of Mexico, vicars *forain*, pastors, vicars and other priests have been granted the necessary licenses and faculties to celebrate two and three Masses, according to the needs within their respective parishes or churches, on Sundays and Holy Days, from now until Jan. 1, 1945.

Issuance of this circular instruction has been necessary because there are not enough priests in the Archdiocese to serve the spiritual needs of the people.

New Palatine Guards Sworn In At Vatican

VATICAN CITY.—New members of the Palatine Guards were sworn in on the Feast of the Epiphany, following a Mass in the Hall of Benedictions at the Vatican. A review of the Guards followed in the Belvedere Cortile.

CHOIR OF LEPERS SINGS MASS OF POPE MARCELLUS

HONOLULU.—A choir composed entirely of leper patients has been trained by the Rev. Peter d'Orgeval, pastor of St. Francis' Church, in the Kalaupapa Settlement of Molokai, to sing the classic Mass of Pope Marcellus, which was composed in 1565 by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.

The patients were taught the full score, except the Gloria and Credo which they will sing in the traditional Gregorian Chant.

Although 71, Father d'Orgeval is well qualified for his role of choirmaster, since he has lost neither knowledge nor artistic touch which he acquired more than half a century ago at the Paris Conservatory of Music.

Nun In Auto Crash

Shreveport, La. — Sister Mary Berchmans of the Daughters of the Cross, a native of Brest, France, died of injuries suffered when the automobile in which she was a passenger crashed into the rear of a bus on a highway. She was 74 years old.