

Italian Regime Names 6 Christian Democrats To Cabinet Posts

By BURKE WALSH
Rome—First meeting on last Friday of the new Italian Cabinet, headed by Signor Ivanoe Bonomi, revealed that six of the 33 posts in the new Italian Government are held by Christian Democrats.

Umberto Tupini and Giovanni Gronchi, Christian Democrats, are Ministers of Justice and of Industry, respectively. Alberto Clivio, Christian Democrat, is a minister without portfolio.

Of the 33 ministers and under-secretaries the Christian Democrats have six, the Communists five, the Action Party six, the Labor Democrats seven, the Socialists four, the Liberals four and the Independents three.

Observers see it as difficult for the Christian Democrats alone to hold the balance of power since that would depend on how the parties were aligned on any vote. It is noted here that the Agriculture post was taken by the Communists because Southern Italy is largely a farming area. This post is becoming less important as the government is extended northward into industrial Italy. The Commerce, Industry and Labor post, held by a Christian Democrat, therefore becomes increasingly important.

It is pointed out also that the Southern Italy farmers, interested in small property holdings, are not interested in Communist doctrine.

Most persons whom I have interviewed assert that Signor Bonomi is a Catholic. Some express doubt. Certainly he is not anti-clerical for he hid ecclesiastical property from the Germans during their occupation of Rome.

Named Successor To Dr. Johnson

CINCINNATI—Successor to the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Johnson, as Director of the Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference at Washington is the Rev. Frederick G. Hochwalt, Assistant Superintendent of Schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

His appointment was announced by the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, Archbishop of Cincinnati and Episcopal Chairman of the national Department of Education.

Life being short and the quiet hours of it few, we ought to waste none of them in reading valueless books.—John Ruskin.

A WOMAN WARRANT OFFICER



Among the seven members of the Women's Army Corps recently made warrant officers (1st Lt.), the first women warrant officers in the Army, is Vashti R. Rutledge, of Forest Hills, Long Island, pictured above as Commodore E. J. Frey, Deputy Commandant of the Army-Navy Staff College, Washington, pins the new insignia on her Miss Rutledge, a Catholic WAC, stationed at the College, is a graduate of Seton High School, in Baltimore, Md. (N.C.W.C.)

Washington

Leftist Group Given Politicians' Approval

As Viewed by Tom Rogers

CHICAGO—Most old timers out here get a great kick out of the best journalistic father-and-son tieups in the history of reporting. One of the veterans here is James C. Hagerty

of the New York Times. James C. has been around these many years and about a generation ago introduced one James A. Hagerty to the news game. Today James C. Hagerty is covering the convention—as he has covered so many conventions; one of the powers behind the Dewey drive has been the New York candidate's press liaison man; the junior Hagerty. Proof that Dewey knows how to hire!

Also present at his 16th Republican convention is Nell MacNeil of the Times, long night managing editor . . . and who, in over 20 years, has never put an edition "to bed" that contained grounds for even the hint of a libel suit!

This may not be exclusive, but we have not read it elsewhere.

Several weeks ago Robert Hannegan, the new chairman of the Democratic Committee, was called to Washington by some of the powers that be. He was asked why the CIO Political Action Committee was not given more prominence in campaigns throughout the country.

Hannegan answered that there was a resentment on the part of the old-line politicians who are wary of the Hillman-Europacized party that is so obviously allied with the Communists. Hannegan's statement was ignored and he was told to give them more prominence in areas where they might be able to tip the scales.

LaGuardia and Hague are having a long-distance duel—or so goes the tale from the lower reaches of the Hudson valley. LaGuardia is, after the bookies, Hague has long given them refuge. Now, by a series of legal accidents, many of them have been forced to retreat to New York and The Hat (as the press has nicknamed the little flower) is quite excited about it all. He and Hague may disagree now—but they'll sing the same tune in November.

With the announcement of Taste Force 58 now permanently on the prowl in the western waters of the Pacific, hunch players who can turn their minds from the hubbub of Convention City are taking shorter odds on MacArthur in the Philippines before the snow flies.

The backstairs, gents' room journalism of Walter Winchell and Drew Pearson received quite a jolt by Blue Network's crack Henry J. Taylor. Taylor arrived in Chicago Friday morning from New York, and stole Gov. Bricker from under the noses of all the press men, walked him down Michigan Boulevard and planted him before a microphone in time to exchange a few remarks with the fastest rising commentator in the business. Taylor has long believed in going directly to the source of news, rather than picking up stray rumors and half-truths here and there.

Funniest sight of the week (but an idea of what we might be in for):

A veteran free-lance magazine man and editorial writer ran into fellow alumnus of 35 years back. He asked the younger man what he thought of the convention. He was deluged with a ten-minute talk for a fourth time regardless of the GOP nominee.

Then his younger friend launched into the importance of the OWI, how important he was to it, etc. Our friend's face went from the angry, to the incredulous, to the amazed—and finally, the amused.

When his younger acquaintance departed, he turned to me: "I know that guy for four years. I was out of college but went back for some graduate work and used to see him around a lot. All his

criticisms were a lot more intelligent. Now he's a brain on the OWI—or is he? He's probably a bunch of puppets. To all it was funny, to many it was also amusing."

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