Warns of Too Much Reliance On Government Planning

LONDON (By Wireless—NNS) — The Most Rev. Bernard W. Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, branded as dangerous the supposition that government planning holds the solution to all problems.

In a pastoral letter issued here, Dr. Griffin said:

"Excessive legislation and control will inevitably lead to servility to the state, and rob us of that freedom for which all are striving. It will make us lose our sense of responsibility, while voluntary effort and initiative will be stifled."

The Archbishop added that "the true solution will be found in constant watchfulness and effort, but above all, in a return to God, and to the observance of His commandments."

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STRANGE BUT TRUE
Little-Known Facts for Catholics
By M. J. MURRAY

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Says Less than 10 Percent Catholics Read Own Books

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (NC) "Of the 25 million Catholics in the United States, we would say that less than 10 per cent are being influenced by even an occasional exposure to a Catholic book," Frank Bruce, of the Bruce Publishing company, writes in his annual statement on progress in Catholic book-publishing and selling.

This estimate, Mr. Bruce states, appears to be statistically correct despite the fact that the demand for Catholic books has reached a high point.

"For years," Mr. Bruce comments, discussing the comparatively low percentage of Catholic book buyers, "we have not studied cause and effect. We have just made books and never even peeped out of our Catholic world to be concerned about the book-reading world outside."

Although formerly Catholic book-buying was confined almost exclusively to the clergy, Mr. Bruce observes, the increasing demand for Catholic books on the part of the laity is bringing to the fore the problem of more Catholic writers of high quality to supply a discriminating demand.

"Most of the lessons we have learned in 1944 are merely the pattern for 1945," he concludes. "And probably the greatest demand of 1944 has been a call for more and more Catholic authors to expand the volume of every type of Catholic writing, but especially of fiction."

LEO McCAREY READY TO FILM STORY OF ST. MARY'S NUN

Although his final script still is uncompleted, Leo McCarey will definitely commence active production at RKO of his next Father O'Malley film titled "The Bells of St. Mary's," within three weeks. Bing Crosby repeats his "Going My Way" characterization of Father O'Malley as he goes from St. Dominic's Church to St. Mary's, there to help the Sisters save a moribund Parish school.

Ingrid Bergman will portray the Sister Superior of the school. Tests for other members of the cast are now being made. The main idea is to develop an interesting and convincing screenplay about nuns.

St. Peter Damian

— was born in 988 and achieved great distinction at the University of Parma. He deserted the world and eventually became head of the monks of Font-Avellana. Seven Popes in succession made him their constant adviser and he was at last created Cardinal Bishop of Ostia. He withstood Henry IV of Germany and labored in defense of Alexander III against the Antipope, whom he forced to yield and seek for pardon.

Political Consequence

From the Hartford Transcript

No one seems to be getting excited over the possible implications of the assemblage of Orthodox bishops in Moscow last week. The fact that officials of that church in this country attended has caused no comment. We cannot help thinking of the ever-recurring charge that Catholics' allegiance to their Church and to the Holy Father renders impossible true allegiance to their country. Plainly there is nothing political in Catholics' fealty to the Pope; he does not dictate their civil allegiance or interfere with it. But this is not true in the case of the Orthodox Church and the Soviet Union. In December 1943 Archbishop Theophilus, primate of the Russian Orthodox Church in North America, said that the Soviet Union had demanded of the Orthodox communicants everywhere that they be loyal to the Soviet Union. "We of the church in North America," he stated, "cannot ... accept loyalty to the Russian government because we are citizens of Canada or the United States."

Moreover, it was interesting to read the account of the Moscow meeting's opening proceedings, as reported in the New York Times. This account contained numerous excerpts from various addresses. The name of God did not occur once in these quotations; the name of Stalin occurred repeatedly. That alone gives some idea of how non-political the meeting was. Again, the principal speaker was the Soviet government's chief bureaucrat for religious affairs. He did more than greet the bishops; he laid down a line for them. It is as if Mussolini or Farinacci had addressed the College of Cardinals when, in 1939, it met to elect a new Pope. Had anything of the sort happened, the resultant indignation would have been world-wide and extremely hot. Why then, given the circumstances, is this Moscow session so generally ignored as devoid of political consequence?

'The Pope Is Swell'

"The Pope is swell." Such an accolade was probably never before been applied to the Holy Father. On first sight or hearing, it seems incongruous. Yet it is so enthusiastically voiced as to say more than pages of stately, sonorous praise. It is, as may be guessed, the utterance of one of the tens of thousands of American servicemen, who, since the liberation of the Holy City, have been pouring into the Vatican to see the Vicar of Christ.

Some have come out of a deep Catholic sense of devotion to the Vicar of Christ, some have been impelled by mere curiosity, some have just followed the crowd. All [illegible]

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