

# French Elections to Decide Fate Of State Aid for Catholic Schools

Paris—(NC)—Catholic primary schools in France will continue to receive Government aid up to July 15, the end of the school year.

This decision has been made by the Provisional Government, which is not obliged to carry out the dictates of the Provisional Consultative Assembly, functioning as a parliament until such time as general elections can be held.

## To Clothe Victims of War



Typical of scenes throughout the nation as Catholic parishes cooperate in the United National Clothing Collection is this picture of the children of Blessed Sacrament School, New York City, who operated the clothing depot for a day. They are shown submitting their report to the Rev. John Mulachy, Archdiocesan clothing director. (NCWC)

It is hoped that before the beginning of the next school year such elections will have been held and that the duly elected representatives of the people will have had a chance to answer the question: Should the State aid non-public schools?

By a vote of 128 to 49, the Provisional Consultative Assembly passed the communist-proposed bill demanding suppression of State-aid to non-public primary schools as of April 1. The Catholic reaction was prompt and to a certain extent, effective.

The Catholic demand for State-aid for confessional schools is based on justice: the budget for public schools, all secular, comes out of the taxpayers' pocket. If Catholic parents want their children to receive religious instruction in school, they are doubly taxed, and this obligation is particularly heavy for poorer families, the laboring class and the small farmer.

But this hardship had not prevented Christian schools in France from having a large attendance over a long period of years. At the beginning of the war more than 900,000 boys and girls — a fifth of the school population of the country — were enrolled in Catholic primary schools. As for secondary education, Catholic schools or colleges had a higher enrollment than the State lycées and colleges: 265,000 against 230,000.

Five years ago a law promulgated by the Vichy government granted State-aid to non-public education. This item totaled annually a little less than 500,000,000 francs (about \$10,000,000) and represented approximately 500 francs per pupil, although the cost to the State for education in public schools is estimated at 1,500 francs per pupil.

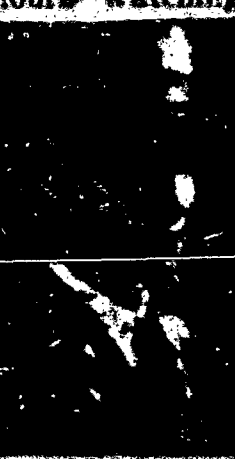
Since the liberation of France, there has been considerable controversy about this education decree, some contending that the Vichy Government in granting it had in mind a whip over the Episcopate.

The debate in the Assembly was heated. Immediate withdrawal of State-aid for non-public schools was demanded by communist members with the support of socialists and radicals.

It was emphasized that great many Catholic primary schools — probably about 8,000 — would have to close due to the current economic and financial situation; and that, as a result, the State would be burdened with the education of some 600,000 pupils at a cost per pupil of 1,500 francs annually, instead of the 500 francs which it has been contributing towards their education.

# Rochester Priest's Story Chaplain Sees Japs Slay Own Wounded

Honolulu—(NC)—Hidden in a closet of a room occupied by Japanese as a first aid station, Father Robert Hearn, of the Redemptorists' Baltimore Province, serving as an Army chaplain "somewhere in the Pacific," spent eight agonizing hours watching enemy doctors care for their wounded and enemy officers slit the throats of those who were deemed too severe.



Fr. Hearn

Father Hearn said he never expected to leave the building alive, but he did and then when everything seemed safe, he was wounded. From a hospital cot he told his story to Father John Brennan, fellow Redemptorist and Army chaplain, who relayed it here in a letter. (Father Brennan served as assistant at St. Joseph's Church, Rochester, before entering service as a chaplain.)

When Father Hearn entered the building it had been wrested from the Japanese by the Americans a short time before. While he was on the second floor, American forces were ordered to retreat in the face of an enemy counterattack. Father Hearn didn't hear the retreat order. Trapped in the building, he saw enemy troops enter and found refuge in a closet, through the cracked door of which he could peer into the room.

"Japanese wounded were brought in," Father Brennan writes. "Plasma and pills were handed out by a Japanese physician; legs were amputated and other operations performed. Officers came in and leaned over the wounded; they all the throats of or put a revolver to those whom they judged too hard hit for service."

## Honolulu Bishop Confirms In Church Above Clouds

Honolulu—(NC)—Confirmation was administered above the clouds by the Most Rev. James J. Sweeney, Bishop of Honolulu, at Sacred Heart Church, Lanai City, on the tiny island of Lanai, off Maui. The town is built in the crater of an extinct volcano at over 1,000 feet elevation.

Ten boys and 25 girls were presented for the Sacrament by the Rev. Raphael Spalders, S.S., C.C., a veteran of the missions on the island of Kauai, westernmost of the Hawaiian group.

coughing. Twice he had his hand on the door, about to surrender to avoid suffocation, but the thought of bayonets being stuck into him gave him pause.

He wanted to use his Rosary but did not dare, as the sound of beads would betray him.

"So he said the Pater and Aves on his fingers, the last prayers he ever expected to say. Then at seven in the morning the Americans stormed the building, cleaned out the first and then the second floors. Those downstairs rubbed their eyes in amazement as they saw their chaplain coming down alive. They had given him up for dead."

It was after his liberation and while he was marching along a road with his men that Father Hearn was wounded. A piece of shrapnel struck him in the right forearm. "Now he's up and around again," Father Brennan writes, "very upset by the regularity of hospital life, anxious to rejoin his outfit as soon as he can."

## Auxiliary Bishop Named for Boston

Boston—(INS)—The Rev. Louis F. Kelleher, D.D., pastor of the Church of St. Catherine of Genoa, Somerville, has been named Auxiliary Bishop of the Boston Catholic Archdiocese, according to an announcement made this week by the Apostolic delegate at Washington. The appointment by Pope Pius XII was received in Washington from the Vatican.

Dr. Kelleher becomes the second pastor of St. Catherine's Church to be designated Bishop, the Rev. John B. Peterson having been made Auxiliary Bishop to the late Cardinal O'Connell in 1928. Bishop Peterson later became Bishop of the Manchester, N. H., Diocese. He died last year.

The new Bishop is 55 years old. He is a native of Cambridge, and a graduate of Boston College, Class of 1910. He studied for the priesthood at the North American College in Rome.

At the same time the Pope accepted the resignation of the Most Rev. Andrew J. Brennan, Bishop of Richmond, who will be succeeded by the Most Rev. Peter L. Treton, Coadjutor Bishop and Apostolic Administrator of Richmond.

## 'Little Flower' on Okinawa Plaque of St. Theresia Unearthed by Marines

Naga, Okinawa—(NC)—Evidence that some of the natives of this village were Catholics were found when a bronze plaque of St. Theresia of Lisieux was unearthed by Marines.

Navy Lieutenant Brian B. Ward, Catholic chaplain, examined the plaque.

"As far as I know, there have been no Catholic missionaries on this island since the seventeenth century," Father said. "St. Theresia was canonized in 1925. The plaque bears the inscription Sta. Theresita, which would indicate that it was of Spanish origin. It is possible that the picture was brought here from Saipan or Guam."

The picture on the plaque shows the Saint holding a crucifix and roses. It is surrounded by a crown of roses worked over a ray effect radiating from the picture.

# Labor Leaders and Teachers Support School Aid Measure

Washington—(NC)—Labor and officials of national, State and city school teachers' organizations have supported Senate Bill No. 717, which would provide Federal aid to nonpublic as well as public schools, in testimony given at hearings on the measure before the Senate Education and Labor Committee.

At earlier hearings the bill, which is sponsored by Senators Mead (D) of New York, and Aiken (R) of Vermont, was supported by representatives of the Department of Education, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women.

Meanwhile, as the Senate hearings were in progress, hearings were conducted by a House Committee on a bill sponsored by Representative Robert Rains-

peck, of Georgia, which would limit Federal aid to public schools. A number of staff members of the National Education Association, who appeared in support of this measure, were questioned closely regarding the aims of the association's support of the measure.

One N.E.A. representative stated he was opposed to the Mead-Aiken bill because it might bring about a union of Church and State, and destroy 150 years of tradition in the United States. Others were asked whether a large fund raised through voluntary subscription by the N. E. A., was being used as a lobbying fund to influence legislation which would raise the salaries of teachers in public schools. Several answered that this was one purpose of the fund.

Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor, in testimony on behalf of the Mead-Aiken Bill, after tracing the history of labor in support of Federal aid to education, asserted: "We do not say that the National Government shall run their schools, but we do say that the National Government must require that any funds the National Government gives must be used by any State equally for all persons for whom it is given without discrimination because of race or color."

# Danish Priest Here of Parma

Parma, Italy—(INS)—Parish troops in liberated Parma have set up headquarters in the palace of Roman Catholic Bishop Epvasio Colli. The brigade commander is a Danish priest, known familiarly as "Paul the Dane," and described by his followers as "one of the great men this war has produced."

An office in the bishop's residence has been set aside for the priest's use. On the wall are pictures of Pope Pius XII, and here the lean-faced, blue-eyed Dane told how he became a leader of the Partisans. Speaking excellent English, he said:

"I began studying theology while serving as an intelligence officer in the Danish Army ten years ago. When the war came to Denmark in 1940, I had a chance to fight the Germans, but only for one day. I escaped to Sweden and smuggled myself into Norway where I fought with the partisans there until the German Nazis trilled me. I escaped again, this time to Finland. I returned to Denmark in 1943 by way of Sweden, where I met my wife in Stockholm, who had been in the Danish resistance."

# First Communion Procession 'Halts' Drive of French Tanks in Rhineland

By DR. MAX JORDAN

Baden Baden, Germany—(NC)—First French Army armor had just swept down on the village of Kuppenheim, in the Rhineland near here, and was rolling along the main street lined by cherry trees in full blossom.

The moment the spear tank was swinging around the corner near the parish house you could hear the children's voices singing, and right then the church door swung open and boys and girls dressed for their first Holy Communion came down the steps, carrying candles, the girls with flowers in their hair, the

boys solemn in their first dark suits. The spear tank came to a sudden stop, and all those following in line, too. From behind the armor surprised faces emerged, faces of French doughboys, snapping their brows, holding the steel helmets in their hands, their guns at rest.

They looked at the children and listened to their hymns. Slowly the procession wound its way through the village street, right across the armor's path. The priest preceded the community of mothers and fathers, all dressed in their best, all serious and conscious of the holy day.

The French doughboys were gasping.

"How could we fight?" one of them said in relating his experience a little later. "With children around . . . Children and flowers!"

Thus the war stopped for ten minutes at Kuppenheim, in the Spring, on First Holy Communion Day, because the armor of the First French Army was imbued with a spirit of reverence at the sight of a church procession, and the boys held their steel helmets in their hands and knelt on the dusty street and made the sign of the Cross.