

Atheist's Son Asked To Learn Religion Court Trial Discloses

Champaign, Ill. — A 10-year old boy embarrassed his mother's legal attempt to suppress all religious study in public schools of Illinois when he admitted in open court this week that he wanted to attend the religious courses, but that his mother, a self-styled atheist, refused him

permission.

The effort to throw voluntary religious classes out of the Champaign public schools, where they have been held for the last five years, began here on Monday in hearing before three circuit court judges.

Because of the issues involved and the probability that the case eventually will reach the United States Supreme Court, the action has aroused national interest.

The suit was brought by Mrs. Vashil McCollum, wife of a University of Illinois Faculty member and daughter of Arthur G. Cromwell, head of the Rochester, N. Y. Society of Free Thinkers.

In her petition for a writ of mandamus against the Champaign School Board, Mrs. McCollum attacked religion as "a chronic disease of the imagination contracted in childhood," and declared her 10-year old son, James Terry, was "embarrassed" by being the only member of his class not enrolled in the voluntary religious classes.

She also contends that the teaching of religion in public schools is a violation of State and Federal constitutions.

The school board holds that no state or Federal law is violated by the voluntary religious classes.

Catholic priests, protestant ministers, Jewish rabbis, and lay teachers of the different creeds teach the classes.

The classes are open, the board explained, only to children whose parents grant permission.

At the opening of the case here on Monday, Mrs. Bessie Taylor, the McCollum boy's fifth grade teacher, testified that James Terry seemed to want religious instruction but was not allowed in the class because his parents refused permission.

James Terry, principal in the nationally significant legal battle, appeared as the final witness at Tuesday's courtroom session.

Squirming and swinging in the swivel witness chair, he testified that during most of the school year he was the only boy in the fifth grade not enrolled in the religion courses. He said he usually went to the music room while the other pupils went to Bible instruction.

Under questioning the boy said he would have liked to take the courses but his mother would not let him.

The McCollum boy was preceded on the witness stand by his maternal grandfather, the Rochester atheist Arthur Cromwell, who sent a gasp through the courtroom when he asserted flatly that he didn't believe in God.

Asked by the defense lawyer for the school board what he thought of the statement, "There are no atheists in foxholes," Cromwell said that he had never been in a foxhole so he didn't know.

Crowding the courtroom this week were priests, ministers, science professors, parents, and several teen-agers.

Joins Writers On Pope Pius X

Contribution of Pope Pius X to church music will be discussed in a sketch now being prepared by the Rev. Benedict Brennan of St. Bernard's Seminary for the Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese of Chicago.

Father Brennan's work, which emphasizes Pius X's saintly and spiritual character, will become part of a symposium on the Pope whose consecration anniversary is being celebrated by the Cathedral Chapter.

This symposium of discussion will be presented as a program of the Cathedral Chapter of the Diocese of Chicago on September 11.

A Diplomat's Child Is Baptized



In the chapel of the Apostolic Delegation in Washington, Hugh John, month-old son of Maj. John G. Lockhart, private secretary to Lord Halifax and First Secretary of the British Embassy, and Mrs. Lockhart, was baptized by Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Papal Delegate to the United States. Left to right, Major Lockhart, Archbishop Cicognani, John Balfour, Charge d'Affaires of the British Embassy, Godfather by proxy for Capt. John C. Stewart of Murderson Castle, Mrs. Charles G. Ross, wife of the presidential secretary (holding the child), Godmother by proxy for the baby's aunt, Mrs. Archibald Hope, of Infirmary, England, and Mrs. Lockhart. (N.E.W.C.)

Catholics Desire Own Cemeteries For War Veterans

Washington — (NC) — In a letter to Representative Andrew J. May, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, William F. Montavon, Director of the Legal Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, states that various bills before the Committee providing for additional national cemeteries are "cause for grave concern to many citizens of the Catholic faith."

"In our country," Mr. Montavon writes, "as in every country in which the Church has freedom, provision has been made for the exercise of the right of Christian burial through the establishment of Catholic cemeteries. It is our belief that the legislation now pending, while not purposely, would be a positive encouragement to the abandonment of this traditional phase of the Catholic religion."

Recognizing "the desirability of providing every reasonable benefit to veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country's welfare," Mr. Montavon is of the opinion that "the large numbers of national cemeteries will be considered undesirable by many Catholic veterans who, together with members of their families, in keeping with their religious beliefs and practices, will wish to be buried in Catholic cemeteries." Many have already made such arrangements, he said.

Mr. Montavon told Congressman May that he spoke for those who represent the Catholic Bishops in the administration of Catholic cemeteries in the United States, and urged that "the religious convictions and rights of veterans and their families be recognized and safeguarded in whatever legislation affecting the burial of veterans may be recommended by the Military Affairs Committee for enactment by Congress."

English Archbishop To Visit Germany

London — (AP) — The Most Rev. Bernard Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, plans to visit Germany at the end of this month.

The Archbishop had been invited to attend the recent meeting of German Bishops at Bonn and to meet with them and other church leaders.

Diocesan Chaplains Write Of War's End in Pacific

Announcement of the Japanese surrender was received with prayers of gratitude by the fighting men in the Pacific according to reports received here from Rochester diocesan chaplains.

"Gratitude was deep and sincere in my heart when the good news was flashed to our rather isolated part of the islands," writes Navy Chaplain John B. Kleintjes who is stationed in the Philippines.

"The news," he adds, "touched off a tremendous celebration and every gun on the island went into action. To help quiet things down we announced an immediate assembly in the chapel for a few prayers of thanksgiving."

"The response was most gratifying. Everybody turned out, Catholic, Protestant and Jew. We reminded them of their debt to

those who had paid the supreme price to make victory possible, and then recited the Rosary."

"Many of our non-Catholic brethren heard the prayers for the first time and I am sure all were impressed by their simplicity and grandeur."

"We had our Mass of Thanksgiving on the Feast of the Assumption and I don't think that there were many Catholics missing."

From somewhere in the Pacific Navy Chaplain Thomas Reddington, serving with the Marines, also writes:

"The end of the war eased the pressure here but there was not much of a celebration of it. There were many prayers of thanksgiving offered up though, because we had been alerted and ready to move in for the final cleanup."

Chaplain Waters Phones From Rome

Waverly — Chaplain Edward J. Waters, major in the U. S. Army and son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Waters, of St. James Parish, called on a Sunday forenoon in Rome, Italy, telephoned to his sister, Mrs. Donald Doty of this village.

Major Waters, whose voice was distinctly heard over the thousands of miles, talked with his sister and her three children. He told of an audience with Pope Pius XII and he stated that the Holy Father had said his blessing to the thousands of American soldiers in Rome. He stated that he had been invited to attend the

PRIZED PICKER

Handwritten text, possibly a list or notes, including names and dates, written in a cursive script.