FLYNN IN VATICAN, MOSCOW TRIP SEEN

Washington, D. C. — (RNS)— Edward J. Flynn, of New York, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, visited President Truman here as speculation began to grow that he would be sent to Europe again to try to cement friendly relations between the Vatican and Moscow.

Flynn said after visiting the President that he expects "eventually" might be. But some mission to Rome and Moscow.

He would not specify when "eventually" migh be. But some observers here feel that he will be sent back abroad in a month or so.

The White House never has revealed the extent of Flynn's mission to Moscow and the Vatican, reported frequently in the press during and after the Yalta "Big Three" meeting early this year.

Religious News Service was authoritively informed at that time that Flynn carried with him a memorandum from the Vatican to Moscow which sought clear-cut replies by the Soviet government to three specific propositions regarding East European Catholics.

The propositions requested permission to send priests to East European countries at present under Russian occupation, approval for the reopening of church institutions in these areas, and assurances in regard to Russian intentions toward Italian prisoners in the U.S.S.R.

Coming to Rome after his Moscow visit, Flynn was hopeful of speedy results from his talks with Russian leaders, but had to leave the Italian capital empty-handed when expected replies to the Vatican memorandum failed to arrive from Moscow.

Marriage Bill Opposed By Catholics in Poland

London — (NC) — Catholic opinion in Poland is opposed to a matrimonial bill drafted by M. Swientkowski, Minister of Justice of the Warsaw regime, which, it is contended, "may loosen family life, give rise to mass divorces and be in other ways detrimental to the welfare of the Polish nation," according to the Polish Catholic Press Agency here.

N. Y. Chaplains on Guam Greet Archbishop

Among the Catholic Chaplains of the Island Command at Guam hailing from New York State who greeted His Excellency, Archbishop Spellman on his current visit to the Pacific was Captain William T. Nolan, Marine Corps Chaplain and priest of the Rochester Diocese (front row, extreme right). Archbishop Spellman as Military Vicar of the Armed Forces brought the priests news from home and commended them for their heroic work. (Official U. S. Navy photo-Catholic News).

Stigmatist Recognizes Priests in Uniforms

U. S. Army Chaplain Francis Vogt of the Diocese of Rochester, writes from Germany that he and Chaplain Donald Murphy, also of Rochester, have seen Therese Neumann, the stigmatist of Konnersreuth, Bavaria, several times.

Recently Father Vogt visited the Neumann home on a Friday, the day each week when the stigmatist reportedly experiences her ecstasy and vision of Christ's passion and death.

"In all my visits," he writes, "I had never been there during an ecstasy and I wanted to see her. It was really something! I was there about two hours along with eight priests and two officers."

Describing the stigmatist, Chaplain Vogt writes:

"She was sitting in bed, straight up, eyes closed most of the time, and hands stretched out in front of her. She didn't say a word but went through the motions of the blasphemies, the thirst, and finally the last agony and death. You could practically tell just what she was witnessing at every moment. Her hands didn't bleed but the wounds in her head, breast and shoulders did and the blood came from her eyes."

An attempt by the witnesses to test Therese is explained by Father Vogt as follows:

"After she sank back on the pillow some of the priests went up and spoke to her. One of the chaplains who spoke German asked her who the man was standing next to the bed. She had her eyes closed and all of us put our collars up so she couldn't see whether we were priests or officers. Yet she called each one rightly, saying 'he is a good priest' for all the priests who tried it, and 'he is a good man' in the case of the officers.

Plan Oberammergau Passion Play for 1946

Oberammergau — (NC) — It is hoped that the famed Passion Play of Oberammergau can again be presented next year under the auspices of the American Military Government. The 300th anniversary of the establishment of the play was observed eleven years ago; since that time it has not been presented.

The prospective participants are hopeful that their hair will have grown sufficiently by next summer to enable them to assume their parts in the cast.

A total of 800 actors and actresses is required, while some 1,500 persons, about half the population of the village, participate in some of the scenes. It is hoped that by the time the play can be staged next year those villagers who are now prisoners of war will have returned home. They will be needed to replace many former members of the cast now above the normal age limit.

PRELATE OPPOSED TO SUNDAY MOVIE

Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — A proposal to legalize Sunday motion pictures here was denounced by the Most Rev. George L. Leech, Bishop of Harrisburg, as "an unwarranted, self-seeking business enterprise" and as "one more covert attack upon our sacred Christian Sabbath."

"Certainly every practical Catholic will resent it as such," Bishop Leech asserted, "as will thousands of their neighbors. It is one thing to rest and take legitimate recreation on Sunday; it is quite another thing to break down the holy barrier which, in our Christian tradition, distinguishes the Lord's Day from the business and working days of the week."

Bishop Leech asked that the question which is being submitted to voters of Harrisburg and several nearby boroughs in the form of a referendum in the general election on November 6, be "overwhelmingly repudiated again by a Christian people." Sunday movies were rejected five years ago.

Banks to Stress Life Insurance

Savings Banks issuing life Insurance in the states of New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut have designated September as "Savings Bank Life Insurance Month." The two Rochester Mutual Savings Banks which issue life insurance, Rochester Savings Bank and Community Savings Bank, will participate.

Program emphasizes the need and value of life insurance, states P. Raymond Haulenbeek, vice president, North River Savings Bank and President of the Savings Bank Life Insurance Council of New York State.

Fact that with increases in unemployment and lower take-home pay during the reconversion period, will be stressed as will the low cost and liberal cash and loan provisions of Savings Bank Life Insurance policies, he states.

Rochester committee for the promotion is headed by William F. Hamilton, manager, Rochester Savings Bank Life Insurance Department and Richard Barker, manager Community Savings Bank Life Insurance Department.

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