Low Income Family Allowances Proposed

New York — (NC) — Family allowances for the United States are proposed by the Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., Director of the Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, in an article appearing in the current issue of The Homiletic and Pastoral Review.

Explaining that "the immediate purpose of family allowances is to provide increased income in view of increased family burdens," Father Schmiedeler writes. "They are supplements to the remuneration of wage earners and salaried workers to offset variations in family responsibilities. Behind them is the notion of enabling the financially weak to exercise their natural right to marry and rear a normal family of children, thereby helping to maintain the population of their country."

"Furthermore," Father Schmiedeler writes, "there is the idea of helping them to do this without undue hardship and without denying their children the ordinary opportunities that other children have. Family allowances aim to accomplish this by providing for a basic wage in an industry for all workers, whether married or unmarried, and then in addition, for a supplementary allowance to heads of families."

Noting a considerable variety of ways of granting family allowances in other countries, Father Schmiedeler states that in New Zealand and Australia wages have risen since the allowance system was adopted. He gives a concise review of the benefits derived under the Family Allowance Act of Canada, which went into effect in July 1945.

Dr. Schmiedeler feels that perhaps the most promising and effective way of providing security for low-income families is through the adoption of a first-rate program of family allowances.

"The idea is not entirely new to us," he observes. "We have had military allowances on a large scale since July 1942. But civilian allowances have not been in vogue here. We have had Federal Aid to dependent children under the Social Security Act; this is the social service of our country most closely related to family allowances. The principle difference between the grants under this measure and the usual family allowances is the Social Security Act's stipulation of a lack of parental support as a condition of eligibility, and consequently a more direct implication of poor relief. Both the grants and allowances should be retained. As matters stand at present, they tend to punish those who beget children and to reward those who do not."

Picking Up Food Scraps In Paris

To feed the hungry mouths of French youngsters in a Paris Orphanage, a nun and French girl are pictured in a Paris market place, picking over discarded scraps of food. (Acme Photo).

'Awesome' Atomic Bomb Blast Described by Jesuit

New York — (NC) — The main buildings of the Catholic University of Tokyo still stand and all of the members of the Jesuit faculty are safe, according to a report from three U. S. Navy chaplains in Tokyo.

They estimate from data collected at the University that at least 80 Catholic institutions — schools, convents and churches — were destroyed in the whole of Japan during the war.

These chaplains were the first Americans to arrive at the university. They received a rousing welcome from the Jesuit faculty, all of whom had undergone many hardships of war and were plainly suffering from malnutrition.

One building of the university — the oldest one — was destroyed by an incendiary bomb in a B-29 raid, but the fathers fought the fire and saved the newer building. In a second incendiary raid this burnt structure acted as a fire-break and preserved the University, the chaplains were informed, although the whole surrounding district was burned out.

In the Vicariate of Hiroshima, four churches and mission stations operated by the Jesuits were destroyed and three others damaged, including the novitiate situated just outside the city of Hiroshima. The Superior of the mission, Father Hugo Lassalle, S.J., was residing there when the Atom bomb struck. He and three other Jesuits were slightly injured, but the novitiate building was not seriously damaged.

The Jesuits described the effect of the Atom bomb as "first a blinding flash, as of magnesium fire, then a terrific and awesome pressure from above that blew out all windows and scattered furniture as in a doll's house shaken by hand, then silence, absolute and complete for about 8 seconds, and finally the rumble and roar of houses collapsing in the city."

They declared that as far as they can remember the bomb itself made no noise, but they admit that its sound may have been drowned out by the greater roar of falling buildings. The fathers rushed into the city and gave what help they could, carrying some of the casualties to the novitiate building, the chaplains report.

Hospital To Be Shrine To Al Smith Memory

New York — (INS) — On the lower west side of New York, in the district he loved so well, a 16-story hospital addition will be erected in memory of the late Alfred E. Smith, humanitarian and four-time governor of New York State.

This was disclosed in an announcement that 1,500 friends and admirers of the great American leader will gather at the Waldorf-Astoria on Oct. 4 the first anniversary of his death and launch a $3,000,000 national fund drive.

James A. Farley, former postmaster general and a close personal friend of the late Gov. Smith, is general chairman of the campaign. John J. Raskob is the national director, and serving with him in the 48 states are outstanding figures in public life.

Speakers at the testimonial dinner will be Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, Elder Statesman Barnard Baruch, Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and Archbishop Francis J. Spellman. Byrnes is returning from London for the occasion and Archbishop Spellman is flying home from Tokyo to be present.

The dinner will raise the first $150,000 of the national total. The memorial hospital will house 250 beds, and will be an addition to Historic St. Vincent's General Hospital, in the Dock and Market District from which the venerable statesman rose to tremendous heights and nomination for the presidency in 1928.

It will be known as the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Hospital.

St. Vincent's for many years was of special interest to the late governor. He was chairman of the advisory board at the time of his death.

Over the entrance to the Memorial Hospital will be carved

Alfred E. Smith

these words from St. Vincent's constitution: "These doors are ever open to the afflicted of all classes without distinction of creed, country or color." The 250 beds will include 100 for charity patients and 50 for semi-private patients.

800,000 Lose Liberty In Tito's Yugoslavia

Rome — (CIP) — According to refugees who have recently arrived from different parts of Yugoslavia, approximately 800,000 persons in that country ruled by Marshall Tito are at present deprived of liberty. This number includes those convicted and imprisoned, those in "preventive custody," internees, persons under house arrest, and those inducted into forced labor squads.

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New Ford President a Convert

Detroit — Henry Ford II, a convert to the Catholic Church, last week became president of the Ford Motor Company, greatest family-owned industrial enterprise in the world.

He succeeds Henry Ford, his grandfather, who founded the Ford automobile industry in 1903. The elder Ford, who submitted his resignation to the company board of directors last July, recommended his 28-year-old grandson as his successor.

The appointment of Henry Ford II, who has been serving as executive vice-president, was made by the directors following their acceptance of Henry Ford's letter of resignation.

Young Ford was elected a director of the company on Dec. 20, 1943, and was appointed vice-president on Dec. 21, 1943. His advancement to the executive vice-presidency came on April 25, 1945.

Henry Ford II

The Elder Ford's resignation marks the second time he has relinquished the presidency of the company. He first became president on July 14, 1906, and held the position until he was succeeded by his son, Edsel B. Ford, on Dec. 31, 1918. On June 1, 1943, a few days after Edsel's death, he again assumed the office.

Young Ford is 28 years old and thus becomes one of the youngest chief-executives in the country. His father, Edsel Ford, however, was 25 years old when he assumed the presidency of the gigantic Ford empire. Ford II was released from the Navy in which he held the rank of Lieutenant in 1943, shortly after his father died.

Prior to his marriage to Miss Anne McDonnell at Southampton, L.I., on July 12, 1940, he was baptized and received into the Catholic Church by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen.

The couple were married in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament of Notre Dame, New York, performed by Father Sheen, with Monsignor Sheen officiating the vows. They now have two daughters.