

Release Time Law Under Fire In Two Cities

Chicago — (RNS) — Suit to halt the Chicago Board of Education's practice of releasing public school children one hour weekly for religious education classes has been filed in Superior Court here by Ira Latimer, executive secretary of the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee.

Attorney for Latimer is Landon Chapman, who appeared for Mrs. Vashli McCollum in the recent court action in Champaign, Ill., to halt religious education in the schools there. Latimer was one of the co-signers of Mrs. McCollum's petition.

Latimer claims that by permitting children to leave classes, public school employees are being asked to keep records and perform other duties which are not a part of public education, and violate the principle of separation of church and state.

Since the permission of the principal is required to release the children, he added, the principal is in a position to become "a religious dictator" by discriminating against religions, "although no evidence of this has been developed."

The public schools here have had released-time for religious classes since 1929. At present, 18,000 Catholic and 4,500 Protestant children participate in the program.

Los Angeles — (RNS) — Attacking the constitutionality of legal provisions which permit released-time religious instruction in the public schools here, Mrs. Rita Gordon has brought suit in Superior Court to obtain an injunction against the Board of Education.

Mrs. Gordon is the wife of Attorney George S. Gordon, who recently requested the school board to discontinue the released-time program because it was "undemocratic, un-American and contrary to the spirit of the institution of public schools."

As a result of Mr. Gordon's petition, County Counsel Harold Kennedy, the Board of Education's legal adviser, issued an opinion upholding the legality of released-time, but warning that care should be taken in administering the program.

Catholic Nurses To Meet in Toledo

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — The National Council of Catholic Nurses in the United States is America's answer to the request of Pope Pius XI that the nurses be organized in order to carry out spiritually and scientifically their apostolic work in behalf of the sick. The Rev. James P. Logue, spiritual director of the National Council, told a group of Catholic nurses from Pennsylvania who were invited to the Council headquarters here.

The National convention of the council will be held in Toledo on May 24, 25, and 26, 1946. The Most Rev. Bishop of Toledo, Bishop of Toledo, will preside.

Guard School Rights, Pope Tells Ecuadorans

Nation City — (RNS) — Catholics in Ecuador received Saturday a message from Pope Pius XII which stressed the obligation to guard the rights of Catholic schools.

The Pope's message was read at the Archdiocese of Quito on the anniversary of the death of the Virgin of Luján. It stated that church officials should maintain family unity, especially in the Gospel, and that the church should be the center of national life.

NUNS GREET FLEET COMMANDER



At recently-inaugurated Howland, China, Sir Bruce Fraser, Commander-in-Chief of the British Pacific Fleet, stops to chat with two members of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Sister Gertrude and Sister Francis (right). The nuns sustained their work of mercy throughout the Japanese occupation. (Aome-NC Photo)

Atomic Energy Parley is Urged

Springfield, Ill. — (NC) — Calling for nation-wide, bi-partisan support of the recommendation made by Senator Brian McMahon of Connecticut, that a world conference on atomic energy be held immediately, the Rev. E. A. Conway, S.J., of the Department of Social Action, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D. C., said here that the conference should look toward setting up as soon as possible an Interim Armaments Commission to study and make recommendations on limitation and control of all ultra-lethal weapons.

Speaking to the Springfield International Te Deum Forum, Father Conway said: "Such destruc-

tive instruments as the radio-guided, television-equipped missile, which would be used in the 'push-button warfare' depicted by General Arnold, must be controlled, as well as the atomic bomb."

"The Interim Armaments Commission," Father Conway said, "must grapple with the program which the drafters of the San Francisco charter chose to ignore. The San Francisco conference did not heed the 1939 warning of Pope Pius XII that failure would be the fate of any proposed solution of the peace problem which did not give a place of prime importance to the mutual and progressive limitation of armaments."

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