



As We See It

By DAN PATRICK

Some five weeks and 236 (by actual count) days after our piece on Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen and his Catholic Hour broadcasts, we are ready to report.

This report is directed primarily to those readers who took the time to write us and express their views and those of the organizations they represent. Let it be said that Monsignor Sheen goes on hands down. Not a dissenting ballot appeared in the returns.

At the outset it might be well to clarify one point: Who controls the Catholic Hour? Speakers on this program are selected by a Radio Executive Committee of the National Council of Catholic Men. The National Broadcasting Company in no way exercises a final choice over the selection of such speakers.

On occasion, the NEC has suggested speakers as was the case when Monsignor Sheen was proposed by the NEC as the Catholic Hour speaker following the death of Mr. Roosevelt, V.E. Day and V.J. Day. That suggestion was not followed.

Another observation to be made in connection with the Catholic Hour is that not all NBC stations carry the program. For instance, WHAM, the NBC outlet in Rochester, does not take the Catholic Hour on its broadcasting schedule.

Now for the case of Monsignor Sheen.

On last May 15, Monsignor Sheen received a letter stating that it was the "unanimous desire (of the members of the Radio Executive Committee of the National Council of Catholic Men) that you have the microphone for the Catholic Hour for the same period you had it last year, namely, from the first Sunday in Advent (December 2) until Easter (April 21, 1946)."

We cannot reveal the name of the writer of this letter at the present time other than to say he is in a position of authority. We can state that Monsignor Sheen had a conversation with the writer last July during which the subject matter of the May 15 letter was confirmed.

This arrangement for Monsignor Sheen's broadcast schedule was confirmed in a letter sent to another person early this year by a representative of the National Council of Catholic Men.

During the summer months and following the apparently final understanding that Monsignor Sheen would broadcast from December 2 to April 21 — something happened.

This something led to a survey of members of the Radio Executive Committee of the National Council of Catholic Men on the station. An observation was made at the summer meeting of this committee that "there would be no maintenance of listening interest" if Monsignor Sheen were on the Catholic Hour program for the usual season.

It is noted in this connection that precisely this principle — that of individual guilt — was stressed by the Archbishop and Bishops of the United States in the statement they issued on November 18, 1945. "Justice demands the punishment of the guilty and reasonable reparations of damage done," the American Bishops stated. "But we cannot forget, or allow our representatives to forget, that our traditional system of punitive justice is anchored in the concept of individual responsibility."

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(3) "You were prepared to die for your people, now be prepared to live for your people." (The censor's contention was that the German soldiers were not prepared to die for their nation, but for Hitler.)

One other fact suggested that a Catholic well grounded in the religious beliefs of his people would read the Fulda Pastoral with a certain degree of interest. The Fulda Pastoral is a document of the Catholic Church in Germany which was issued in 1945. It was a document of the Catholic Church in Germany which was issued in 1945. It was a document of the Catholic Church in Germany which was issued in 1945.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. J. MURRAY



Washington

Holland Empire on Wane; Unrest in Persia Tabbed

By Tom Rogers

Washington — The Holland Empire, Old-timers are still wondering why the comparatively easier route through Nicaragua is still neglected. This question may arise soon on the floor of the Senate.

The estimated population is in the region of 70 million people. There are 250,000 whites — all planters or millionaires — promoters.

Holland at home totals 12 thousand square miles. Her overseas totals 730,000 square miles.

And note: the Indonesians — we'd call them patriots — are willing to deal with the British.

Both Britain and Holland fear the soon-to-be-announced program of General Carlos Romulo for a pan-Malay federation in Southeastern Asia.

In Iran, Russia may already have taken the huge unexplored deposits of oil concession. Holland has an outside in finished. Few will regret his passing.

You can't hang a hook on it, but the Soviets are probably behind the trouble in Persia. Figure it out for yourself!

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Inquiry in Capital On Fulda Letter

By J. J. Gilbert

Washington — (NC) — When an American Army captain in Germany blue-penciling three passages from the joint pastoral issued by the Catholic Bishops of Germany last August, he was exercising discretion under a censorship which is part of our national policy.

That the American junior officer did cut the pastoral, with the result that Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich, refused to permit the doctored letter to be read in his See, has just become known here.

The American national policy toward Germany is held to be summed up in the directive which the Joint Chiefs of Staff issued to General Eisenhower last April.

This directive, which says "the principal Allied objective is to prevent Germany from ever again becoming a threat to the peace of the world," also tells the American commander that "freedom of speech, press and religious worship will be permitted to the extent that military interests are not prejudiced," and subject to other considerations.

These other considerations are that the commander shall countenance no political activities of any kind unless he sanctions them; that he will "prohibit the propagation in any form of Nazi, militaristic or pan-German doctrines," and that "no German parades, military or political, civilian or sports, shall be permitted."

Another consideration involved is the "control of public information media in Germany."

It was undoubtedly under this directive, and probably under the portion relating to the "control of public information media in Germany," that the captain exercised his discretionary powers, officers here believe.

Whether the officer who actually censored the pastoral — Capt. John R. Rorer of Houston, Tex. — was exercising his own discretion, or merely implementing the discretion of someone in higher authority, officers here were not prepared to say.

Some felt certain the decision in such a matter would not rest with a junior officer. Captain Rorer is connected with the Information Control Division.

The three passages which Captain Rorer cut out of the Fulda Pastoral were as follows:

(1) "But we also know that in the case of those who were in dependent positions, especially civil servants and school teachers, membership in the Nazi party often did not mean an inner assent to the awful acts of the Nazi regime. Many joined knowing little of the activities and aims of the Nazi party. Many were forced to join and others joined with the good intention of preventing evil. It is a demand of justice that the guilt be investigated in each individual case lest the innocent have to suffer with the guilty. For this we Bishops have stood from the beginning and for this we shall also stand in the future."

(The censor contended this passage was "political" and the issue at stake "none of the Church's business.")

It is noted in this connection that precisely this principle — that of individual guilt — was stressed by the Archbishop and Bishops of the United States in the statement they issued on November 18, 1945. "Justice demands the punishment of the guilty and reasonable reparations of damage done," the American Bishops stated. "But we cannot forget, or allow our representatives to forget, that our traditional system of punitive justice is anchored in the concept of individual responsibility."

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