

### Supports Louisiana's Free Textbook Law

New Orleans — (RNS) Recent resolutions passed by the

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Presbyterian Synod and the Methodist Conference of Louisiana favoring repeal of the law which authorizes distribution of free textbooks to parochial as well as public schools have been attacked here by the Rev. Henry C. Bizou, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools in Louisiana. Dr. Bizou asserted that "several thousand children in Louisiana, pupils either in schools with no religious affiliation or in schools conducted by non-Catholic groups, are present beneficiaries of the free textbook law."

## Moscow Charges Nailed as Lies

(Continued from page 1)

charges brought at the Nuremberg war crime trials. "Pravda" said. "The Holy Father's Christmas message speaks textually of the just punishment of criminals because of their misdeeds. The Pope asked that war prisoners be treated as men and not as man beings, even though they are conquered."

"Thus, the Pope asked that all prisoners, including political prisoners, be returned to their countries and their families as soon as possible. He explained that the mere fact of a person's being a prisoner of war or a political prisoner does not mean that he is a criminal. Precisely for this reason, the Pope actually did not speak of those who are on trial in Nuremberg."

Pravda asserts that the Pope in his 1944 Christmas message failed to defend those who had suffered under Fascism, but that he attacked popular democracy. "In his 1944 Christmas message," Osservatore counters, "the Pope illustrated democratic principles which exclude the possibility of citizens being oppressed and hounded by secret police. He did not make popular democracy an object of his attack but rather those who desire to substitute 'mass' for 'people.'"

Pravda says that the Vatican cooperated with Fascism as far back as the Lateran Treaty. "Pravda equivocates," is Osservatore's blunt answer. "The pre-

### POPE RECEIVES NOBLE GUARD



A member of the famed Noble Guard at the Vatican, kisses the ring of Pope Pius XII at the annual reception for the guardsmen, December 23. The Holy Father moves among the members to offer his blessing. One of the privileges reserved exclusively to the Noble Guard is that of notifying newly-designated Cardinals of their appointment. AP photo. (NCWC).

war period carries us back to the Lateran Treaty, through which the Vatican safeguarded the religious rights and freedoms of Italians. If, by means of these pacts, the Pope had desired to collaborate with Fascism, he would not have condemned Fascism, as he did, in the Encyclical "Non Abbiamo Bisogno." The editorial then calls attention to the attacks on the Vatican made throughout the period by Regime Fascista, Radio Milan, and the Voelkischer Beobachter (Nazi newspaper), and invites Pravda to read the diary of Count Ciano (Italian foreign minister, son-in-law of Mussolini, who was executed at the Duce's orders).

Pravda charges that Pope Pius XI called Mussolini "the man sent by providence." And again Osservatore answers: "Pravda lies. Such a sentence was never uttered. What was said is this: 'Perhaps even a man such as the one that providence has us meet, was needed.' Moreover, this, too, was said: 'To save souls I would even negotiate with the devil.'"

Pravda asserts that Cardinal Pacelli (the present Pope Pius XII) was in close rapport with Nazi Germany. "Pravda lies," says Osservatore in refutation, pointing out that Cardinal Pacelli did not cooperate with Nazism or Fascism, but under his then Superior, Pope Pius XI, condemned it. Furthermore, the editorial states, it should be remembered that Cardinal Pacelli left his Berlin post as a Papal Nuncio to Germany in 1929, while Hitler did not come into power until 1933.

Pravda repeats the old Communist charge that, after the Lateran Treaty, the Vatican concluded a Concordat with Hitlerite Germany and told the German Bishops to instruct the faithful to be obedient to Hitler, and to collaborate with him against Bolshevism. "Pravda deceives and lies," is the reply of Osservatore. "The Concordat in 1933 was concluded with the Nazi regime, but, in exchange, the Nazis promised to respect the Catholic religion in all its institutions. That promise was not kept."

"The Pope never recommended to Catholics," the Vatican daily continues, "to submit to Hitler, but he did condemn Nazism in his Encyclical 'Mit brennender Sorge.' In 1943, the Moscow radio was able to announce that Pope Pius XII had refused to collaborate with Hitler in a 'crusade' against Soviet Russia."

Taking issue with the attempt by Pravda to distort the loyalty of German Catholics during the war, Osservatore reminds that the loyalty and patriotism of citizens, when their country is at war, is one thing, while the insinuations made by Pravda are

quite another. Furthermore, the Vatican daily writes, documents were presented at the Nuremberg trial, revealing the persecution of German Bishops and priests because of their opposition and resistance to Hitler.

Pravda repeats the old falsehood that Pope Pius XI congratulated Mussolini after the Ethiopian victory. "Pravda lies," Osservatore answers flatly. "Pius XI condemned aggressive war. Before the war against Abyssinia he lifted his voice to God with the Biblical invocation: 'Disce gentes quae bella volunt' (disperse the nations who desire war). After the war he expressed his happiness over its conclusion at the opening of the International Catholic Press Exposition — not to Mussolini, and not officially."

Pravda charges that the Catholic Hierarchy of Austria, headed by Cardinal Theodor Innitzer, recommended to Austrians to submit to the orders of the German invaders. "Pravda lies," Osservatore replies unequivocally. "On April 8, 1938, our paper published the Italian translation of a statement made by Cardinal Innitzer, also in the name of the entire Austrian Episcopate, dated Rome, April 6. In that statement it was clearly denied that, as some had falsely insinuated, the previous statement by the Vienna Cardinal implied any approval of that which was not, and is not, reconcilable with the laws of God and with the liberty and rights of the Catholic Church."

Taking up the accusations by Pravda that the Vatican had an active interest in Germany's and Italy's actions during the Spanish civil war, Osservatore again finds that Pravda lies. "The Vatican, far from participating in the preparations for the Spanish war, the editorial reminds, 'always recommended to Spanish Catholics closest loyalty to the republic and urged them to use only legal means for the defense of their rights.' 'The Encyclical 'Directissima nobis' on June 3, 1933,' it adds, 'should suffice to prove this. Nevertheless, the Church was barbarously attacked, and Pius XI never spoke of the horrors and bestialities perpetrated against living and dead priests by their executioners.'"

Pravda charges that the Vatican backed Germany against Czechoslovakia in the formation of Tiso's Slovakian puppet State. "Pravda lies," is the reply of Osservatore. "We defy it to prove such backing and approval. The Slovak government set itself up after Munich, with the consent of all western powers who recognized it. After such recognition had been given, the Church had to take note of this state of facts."

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