

# Benes Gets Religious Demands of Slovaks

Prague — (NC) — A delegation of eight Slovak Prelates, headed by Archbishop Karol Kmetko of Nitra, called on President Edward Benes and, together with their assurances of loyalty to the liberated Czechoslovakia Republic, asked him to support the religious demands of Slovak Catholics.

## Two Slovak Bishops Freed

Prague — (NC) — Two Slovak prelates, arrested seven months ago by agents of the Slovak government, have finally been released. They were Bishop Jan Vajnsnak of Spis, and Bishop Michael Durak, Auxiliary to the Archbishop of Trnava. The release of a number of other prelates, held in captivity for a long period, has also been reported.

## McCormack Flays New Red Attacks

Washington — The attacks against the Catholic Church by official Soviet newspapers and "other actions of the Soviet Union are causing many who believe in world peace to wonder if the Soviet Union is sincere," Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, House majority leader, asserted in a statement today.

Mr. McCormack addressed himself particularly to the recent blast by the Soviet paper *Izvestia*, which charged the 22 Cardinals, Bishops and Prelates of the Catholic Church with "reactionary" and declared he "is the opposite." He said the Soviet attacks appear to be a "deliberate plan of misrepresentation aimed to divide the people of countries where Western civilization exists."

## Chaplain Named Canadian Bishop

Ottawa — (NC) — The newly appointed Bishop Maurice Legrand Roy of Three Rivers is recently returned from nearly six years of overseas service as a chaplain of the Canadian Army.

Bishop Roy, who held the rank of colonel, and became Principal Catholic chaplain with the Canadian Army in Italy, was named an officer of the British Empire, Military Division, by King George VI.

## Pope Pius Receives Bishop Shell of Chicago

Vatican City — (Radio, NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has received in private audience Auxiliary Bishop Bernard Shell of Chicago, who just completed a six-week tour of Germany and France surveying the conditions and problems of youth in both countries.

During his stay in the French capital Bishop Shell paid a visit to Cardinal Emmanuel Saliou, Archbishop of Paris. Bishop Shell plans to return to the United States immediately.

Expressing the hope that the new Czechoslovak State "will be built on the basis of social justice to all classes, of religious freedom and in the spirit of true democracy," Archbishop Kmetko, as spokesman for the delegation, called Mr. Benes' attitude to measures adopted by the Slovak government, which by their anti-religious nature could endanger the consolidation of Slovakia.

The Archbishop mentioned in particular the nationalization of church-operated schools and colleges, the expropriation of church properties and similar measures.

President Benes, acknowledging the pledge of loyalty and cooperation, and explaining what had been done to bring about a satisfactory settlement of religious and ecclesiastical problems in Slovakia, said to the Bishops: "We are in a democratic country where the Church and religion are respected and will be respected and where we respect the freedom of religious conviction. Of course, things happened in Slovakia which must not be forgotten and which must never happen again."

## Survey Shows Farmers Want Religious Programs on Radio

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A nation-wide radio survey made by the Department of Agriculture reveals that farm and small-town listeners prefer programs featuring religious hymns and sermons to most other programs. News programs and music programs were given the second highest rating in "listener interest."

The Department, in making results of the survey public, pointed out that "old-time" music — both religious and secular — is preferred by twice as many small-town and rural residents as any other type of program.

Farmers, according to the survey, like more serious programs than city dwellers.

The survey was made in connection with a Federal Communications Commission hearing on the question of whether present so-called "clear channel" radio stations render a program service suited to the needs of listeners in rural areas. The National Farmers Union, the National Grange and the American Farm Bureau Federal have criticized programs of the major networks and the larger independent stations for having overlooked the needs of small-town residents and farmers generally.

## Defying Nazis German Catholic Girl Built Altar in Raid Shelter

Trier, Germany — (NC) — A young Catholic girl forced the Nazi gauleiter at Trier to permit the celebration of Christmas Mass in 1944 in one of the city's concrete air raid shelters, a brought out in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the local diocesan organ. In view of the constant allied air raids, the journal explains, people did not dare attend services in their churches. Only four persons appeared for Christmas Mass in the Cathedral crypt a year ago, while most of the population had not been freshly evacuated took refuge in the shelters.

The young girl, whose name is not given, faced the Nazi official and insisted that services be held in the shelter and, over his protest, proceeded to build emergency altars on several floors of the concrete structure. Others helped and soon the practice spread to shelters all over the city.

"That" says the paper, "at least three months were involved in the project, very hot & hard work."

## Preacher



Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, D.D., Archbishop of Boston, will preach the principal Triduum of the world-famous shrine of St. Anne de Bonport in Quebec on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 25, 26, 27, Feast of St. Anne.

## SHOULD WEIGH DOGS

It seems to me that the intellects which can measure the physical world and the stary universe in unlimited space should not be confined to material things or material hopes. — Rev. Michael J. Miller, O.S.M.

# Catholics Retain Posts In New French Cabinet

Paris — The position of French Catholics has not been materially changed through the formation of a new French Cabinet under the socialist Premier Felix Gouin, except that through the resignation of Charles de Gaulle, a practicing Catholic, an individual has disappeared from public life whose very presence in the government gave French Catholics a guaranty of cordiality and understanding.

The three parties represented in the de Gaulle government retain their numerical strength in the new Cabinet, with six members each from the Popular Republicans (Christian Democrats)

the Socialists and the Communists.

George Bidault, Popular Republican, remains minister of foreign affairs, the other five Catholic members of the Gouin cabinet are: Francois Gay, vice premier; Pierre-Henry Teitgen, minister of justice; Robert Prigent, minister of public health; Edmond Michelet, minister of the armistice; and Jean Lotureau, minister of communications.

The three parties forming the coalition have signed an agreement in a "voluntary" non-aggression pact" under which a form of status quo is to be preserved on controversial issues.

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