

# U. S. Writer's Attack On Spanish Catechism Untrue, Misleading

(This is the first of two articles by Mr. de Luis in which he comments on a dispatch to American newspapers from Madrid by NEW YORK TIMES writer Cyrus L. Sulzberger concerning the contents of basic freedoms Mr. Sulzberger found in a "compulsory" Spanish Catholic catechism.)

By FRANCISCO DE LUIS  
(Madrid Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Madrid—The sensational indictment by New York Times writer Cyrus L. Sulzberger of a Spanish Catholic catechism, described as a compulsory text in all State schools, as opposed to freedom of press, conscience and worship has been found on thorough investigation here to be definitely untrue in some cases and, on the whole, a misrepresentation, distortion and incomplete exposition of the objective truth.

Mr. Sulzberger's accusations did not appear in The New York Times itself but the article containing them was widely syndicated in the American press and the name of the Times was mentioned in credit lines.

The catechism which Mr. Sulzberger castigates is the 17th edition of the "Nuevo Ripalda." He states that the original manual was written about the year 1870 and that this revised edition is not only widely circulated by the Roman Catholic Church, but is required reading in all State elementary schools.

The original Ripalda was compiled and published by the Jesuit Father Jeronimo Ripalda in 1891 or 1818, rather than during the last century, which is an error of little intrinsic importance, but seeming to show the cursory nature of Mr. Sulzberger's information.

Not Compulsory  
It is of more importance to know that Mr. Sulzberger is entirely in error when he says that the 1946 Ripalda is not only widely circulated by the Roman Catholic Church, but is required reading in all State elementary schools.

The 1946 Ripalda is in no sense part of a book to be used as a compulsory text in all Spanish children since the book is not an obligatory text for all Spanish schools, nor even for all the schools of any diocese. The only requirement on the use of various catechisms in the schools is that they have the approval of the Archbishop or Bishop of the diocese in which they are used.

There are other popular catechisms in addition to the Ripalda, and many editions of the Ripalda are in use with a variety of appendices. Some editions of those most widely used — are without appendices.

In this connection, it is significant to note that all of the statements with which Mr. Sulzberger found fault are in Appendix III of the 1946 Ripalda: "An Enumeration of Modern Errors," and not in the main body of the manual. The main writer gives no indication of this in his account, referring only to "the catechism" or "the Ripalda."

Five Paris  
It must also be noted that even if the Ripalda in question were a required text in all state schools—which it is not—such a requirement would in no wise be a ruling of the Church, which even in its own schools requires only the Ordinary's approval on any text used and actually uses a variety of texts and editions.

The Catechism in question is divided into five parts: the first, taking up three-fourths of the pages, is a summary of Christian doctrine, followed by four appendices, on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, on the Bull of the Holy Crusade, on Modern Errors, and on Assisting at Holy Mass.

The appendix on Modern Errors is preceded by an explanation from the editor of the 1946 edition, which reads in substance, existing at that time, as follows: "A very sad experience painfully indicates to all of us the

# Compulsory Health Bill Is Favored

Washington — (NC)—Government has the right to compel citizens to take care of their health but it must allow a wide margin of freedom in discharging this obligation.

This was the tenor of testimony given by representatives of three Catholic agencies before a Senate Committee on Senate Bill 1606, which provides for a national health program.

Testifying on behalf of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the Rev. R. A. McGowan, its director, declared himself in favor of a national health insurance system but said that if it is made compulsory in fact it should at least be voluntary as to method.

Speaking for the National Conference of Catholic Charities, Magr. John O'Grady, secretary, stated that national health security coverage "must be compulsory in fact, but voluntary in form." Government, he said, "must encourage the individual to provide health protection for his family through his own efforts." It should not supplant these efforts, "for in doing so, it would be striking at the very foundation of a democratic society."

The Rev. Alphonsus M. Schwitalla, S.J., president of the Catholic Hospital Association, testified: "We recognize the compulsion of the obligation but we deplore the compulsion as to the method of complying with that obligation." "It is a man's duty to take care of his health," Father Schwitalla said, but this obligation also leaves him free, because he is not obliged to choose one method rather than another of safeguarding his health.

Defects Pointed Out  
While expressing favor for a national system of compulsory health insurance, Father McGowan pointed out various defects in the present draft of the Senate bill. He found it unsatisfactory

For a successful national health program Father McGowan recommended an extension of hospital facilities by means of government subsidy, an extension of public health centers for the prevention of illness, and provision for adequate medical and nursing services in areas where such services are now insufficient. Federal subsidy to States on a matching basis to provide care for the medically dependent, and Federal subsidies to qualified schools for medical research. He also emphasized that the program must be universal, covering "all citizens against the hazards of illness."

Planned Parenthood Hit  
In his criticism of some points of the bill Father Schwitalla suggested a revision which would provide for "the use of private agencies in the public health program."

Father Schwitalla also pointed out that under the present draft of the bill any State desiring to develop a planned parenthood program in its public health service could use Federal funds for that purpose. On behalf of large percentages of the population of these United States who find planned parenthood offensive to their convictions and beliefs, the priest said, "I recommend and request changes in the content and the language of the bill, so that grants from the Federal Government to the States for public health services may not be used for the furtherance of planned parenthood programs."

Other officers elected are: James H. Gavitt of Chicago, first vice-president; W. J. Pittner, Houston, Tex., second vice-president; W. J. Slattery, Oakland, Calif., treasurer; and Dan O'Neill, Butte, Mont., and Charles N. Smith, Seattle, trustees.

# Cardinal Shares His Birthday

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, is pictured at Lincoln Hall, New York, N. Y., where he shared his 77th birthday party with 25 boys whose birthdays also fall in May. Each boy received an integrated program, a holiday and a picnic. The school is a child-feeding institution conducted by the Sisters of the Christian Education, Army (NC Press)



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# Vatican Calls Truman Statement An 'Atlantic Charter of Peace'

Vatican City — (NC) — President Harry S. Truman drew an "Atlantic Charter of Peace" when he said in announcing the return of Myron C. Taylor to the Vatican as his personal representative that "we shall establish an enduring peace only if we build it upon Christian Principles." The article appeared following Mr. Taylor's reception by the Holy Father in a special audience.

Quoting Mr. Truman's expression of his belief that Mr. Taylor at his Vatican post could "continue to render helpful service to the cause of Christian civilization," Observers comment as follows: "The head of the victorious North American Union of States, which is in the forefront of modern progress and which presents an example of democratic living together of peoples, confirms the sentiments of faith and the concept of life

held by the Fathers of his country." The President links true civilization and true peace to Christ. The Vatican daily says, adding: "The cause of Christian civilization is today recommended to the thought and duty of peoples in the face of the catastrophe which has attacked it." "This catastrophe has made clear," Observers add, "that civilization is either Christian or it is not. More than two worlds are being created by the Christian and the non-Christian."

Convert Organist Plays at Confirmation  
Washington — (NC) — For almost half a century, Prof. Howard Howard has served as organist at Immaculate Conception Church here in the nation's capital. The other evening he left the console in the choir loft to take part in a ceremony. After a class of 68 children had been confirmed by Bishop John M. McNamara, Auxiliary of Baltimore and of Washington, Professor Howard knelt before the Bishop and also received the Sacrament. He had been received into the Catholic Faith only recently.

# Lourdes Bishop Dies at 68

Paris — Bishop Georges Choquet of Lourdes, 68, since he underwent a serious operation two years ago, has died. The Bishop's duties in receiving the pilgrimages which died through the city of the Apparitions were made particularly difficult during the two years of the German occupation of the town. Through his diplomacy and courage he was able to prevent any incidents disruptive to the reverent nature of the pilgrimages.

Bishop Choquet offered asylum to His Eminence August Cardinal Hlond, Primate of Poland, when the latter fled his homeland to escape the invading Nazis, but when the Germans came to Lourdes, the Cardinal went to the mountains of Savoy, where he was captured and eventually deported to Germany.

# Polish Troops Spurn Warsaw 'Guarantee'

London — (NC) — Although it is a month since the Warsaw government issued its "guarantee" of immunity for those members of the Polish Home Army who would return to their native country, less than two per cent of all Polish soldiers have declared their readiness to be retrained. It was hoped that an authoritative Polish source here.

In London, where many of the Poles are stationed, the guarantee has not been well received. It is believed that the Warsaw government is not serious in its intention to honor the guarantee. The Polish soldiers are not being retrained because they do not believe in the guarantee.

In all, since the Nazis were driven from Poland about 20 per cent of the Polish soldiers abroad have returned home. It is estimated here, however, that a part of these returned soldiers are not being retrained because they do not believe in the guarantee.

Polish Christian League  
The number of Polish civilians still remaining in the west of Germany under American, British and French occupation is estimated at about 100,000, according to the latest figures from the Polish Christian League. The League has been organized since the formation of the Polish Christian League in the United States.

Three Polish newspapers are being published in the American States. The newspapers are: "The Polish Voice," "The Polish Review," and "The Polish Mirror." The newspapers are published in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

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