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District Auxiliary To Meet October 25
District No. 1, Ladies Auxiliary, Knights of St. John will hold its quarterly meeting on Friday evening, October 25, at 8:15 p. m. in the Empire Room, Rowesa Hotel.
Mrs. Margaret Kall will give a report on the recent NCCW Convention in Kansas City. All representatives are requested to be present.

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U.S. Protested Moscow 1923 Trial of Prelates

Washington—(NC)—The strange trial of Archbishop Alysius Stepinac in Zagreb recalled to many here the farcical court proceedings in Moscow in 1923, when the Bolsheviks, newly possessed of power, adopted this same means of casting suspicion upon the Church.

The trial in Zagreb involved an Archbishop and a number of priests. So did the trial in Moscow.
The 1923 proceedings were conducted by the Russian Communists themselves. There is no reason to believe that the Tito government in Yugoslavia acted this year without the encouragement of the government in Russia.

The Zagreb tribunal condemned Archbishop Stepinac to 16 years of forced labor and there are those who believe that only the outburst of public indignation prevented that body from issuing a death sentence. The Moscow trial condemned Archbishop Copiak and Monsignor Budkiewicz to death. There was a storm of angry resentment then, too, and shortly after the sentence was pronounced it was revealed that Monsignor Budkiewicz had been executed, but that the Archbishop and a number of priests had been sent to prison.

Catholic Press Acted
In 1923, the Catholic Press of the United States scored one of the notable achievements of modern journalism in connection with the Moscow trials. An "iron curtain" existed then, too, although it was not known by that name. Russian censorship was particularly rigid with regard to the trial of the Catholic prelates. Only the most meager reports issued from the Russian capital.

Despite this the Catholic Press obtained verbatim reports on the indictment, the testimony, and the addresses of the prosecutor and the defense counsel to the extent of many columns. It was such a notable achievement that secular newspapers asked permission to reprint the material.

In the recent case of Archbishop Stepinac, immediately following his arrest the Catholic Press began to inform a very wide reading public of the true facts in the case. It is believed that this intelligence in the Catholic Press contributed greatly to the appeals made by clergy and individuals to our own and foreign governments to intervene in behalf of the Archbishop. In other words, the Catholic Press has made notable contributions to truth in both instances.

Secretary Hughes Protested
In the 1923 case, the then Secretary of State, Charles Evans Hughes, officially expressed his Government's disapproval of the Communist Russian's action in a note transmitted to the Soviet government through the United States Embassy in Berlin. In announcing this action, Secretary Hughes issued this statement:

"With reference to the report of the death sentence passed on Archbishop Copiak, and other Roman Catholic ecclesiastics in Russia, the Department of State has taken steps through the American Ambassador at Berlin, to give expression to the humanitarian interest of the American people, and their earnest hope that the lives of these ecclesiastics may be spared."

Subsequently, Archbishop Edward J. Hanna of San Francisco, Chairman of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and Bishop Peter J. Muldown of Rockford called at the White House to thank President Harding for the action of the Government in the case of the Archbishop, the Monsignor and the priests tried by the Russian Reds. President Harding received the two American prelates cordially and informed them that the Government authorities had been able to do all they could to save the lives of Archbishop Copiak and Monsignor Budkiewicz.

Trial Worries State Department

(Continued from page 1)
an now able to say concerning us. We do not have, of course, a record of the trial nor have we had a specific report from our embassy in regard to it. Therefore our information about it is the same that you have, which is that which has been conveyed through the press.

Civil Liberties
"It is in the civil liberties aspect of the thing which causes us concern, aspects which raise questions as to whether the trial has any implications looking toward the impairment of freedom of religion or worship. The aspects of it which indicate, at least to the reporters who reported it from the spot that the actual conduct of the trial left a great deal to be desired."

You will recall that under the Constitution and law of the United States, freedom of trial is guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Supreme Court of the United States has set aside as not being legal procedures at all, trials in which the court room has been dominated by feelings adverse to the defendant by demonstrations of prejudice.

retary of State Dean Acheson. Representative Haverman said: "San Francisco citizens of all religious faiths are deeply concerned about the political persecution of Archbishop Stepinac."

Notre Dame Vets Protest to President
Notre Dame—(NC)—The

United States Government was urged to do all in its power to see that the iniquitous persecution of religion and religious leaders in Yugoslavia is stopped," in a resolution adopted here by the Veterans Club of the University of Notre Dame, representing 3,500 Notre Dame students who are veterans of World War II.

War Vets Wait Truman's Answer
New York—(NC)—Your membership nationally await your word to us on your administration's position." National Commande Max H. Bornstein of the Catholic War Veterans, following the sentencing of Arch-



Archbishop Hanna

Protestants Join Protest On Sentence

Washington—(RNS)—An outspoken denunciation of the trial and sentencing of Archbishop Louis Stepinac, in Yugoslavia, was made here by the Rev. Dr. Frederic Brown Harris, chaplain of the U. S. Senate and pastor of the Foundry Methodist church.

Dr. Harris, whose church adjoins the Yugoslav embassy here, said the Yugoslav assurance that Archbishop Stepinac had been given a fair trial could be judged by the fact that such an announcement comes from the country where Mikhailovich is dead and Tito is alive."

'Dangerous Pattern' Seen in Trial

New York—(RNS)—The trial of Archbishop Stepinac "set a dangerous pattern which may be employed by other governments and repeated against other religious bodies," Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church here, declared in a sermon.

"No intelligent Protestant will rejoice in the misfortunes that have overtaken the Roman Catholic Church in Yugoslavia," he stated. "Experience has established that when one portion of the Christian Church meets with reverses, it is a setback for all Christians."

300,000 Sign New York Protest

New York—(NC)—Three hundred thousand New York Catholics have wired President Truman to make "an immediate request to the government of Marshal Tito" that Archbishop Alysius Stepinac "be freed forthwith and given full liberty to resume his pastoral and religious duties in the interests of the oppressed people of Yugoslavia."

The petitioners, who are members of 83 member organizations of the Coordinating Committee of Lay Organizations of the Archdiocese of New York, forwarded their request to President Truman through their chairman, Francis X. Stephens, a New York attorney. Their action follows the sending of a petition for Presidential intervention sent individually to Mr. Truman by some 70 organizations of the New York archdiocese.

San Francisco Prelate Calls for Action

San Francisco—(NC)—Are we as a nation to stand by idly while the "terrors of oppression" which men become mere pawns? Archbishop John J.itty of San Francisco asks in a statement, in which he characterizes Archbishop Stepinac as the symbol of the courage and fidelity of those who are willing to die in defense of religious freedom.

"It is imperative that our government should give expression to the moral indignation of liberty-loving people who see in the loss of religious freedom anywhere a threat to religious freedom everywhere and a threat to all freedom," the San Francisco prelate said.

Congressman Asks Protest from U. S.

San Francisco—(RNS)—Rep. Frank P. Haverman, Congressman from San Francisco, called upon the U. S. Government to protest to Yugoslavia against the prison term imposed on Archbishop Louis Stepinac, convicted by a Yugoslav court of wartime collaboration with the Nazis.

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