

Ministers' Birth Control Support Seen 'Surrender to Expediency'

(The statement in which Father Schneider refers to this article is a resolution circulated by the National Clergyman's Advisory Council of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, reportedly signed by more than 1,500 Protestant and Jewish clergymen, stating that the failure of hospitals, nursing and welfare agencies in America to provide birth control advice is a peril to national health and welfare.)

By THE REV. DR. EDGAR F. SCHNEIDER, D.D.
(Director, Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conf.)
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

It is nothing new for ministers to sign a statement upholding birth control. But that of course does not change the law of God which condemns the practice of birth control. Nor would it do so if these ministers succeeded in inducing many more to sign.

The moral law is not affected by either minorities or majorities, not even if the minorities or majorities consist of individuals who bear the honored title of minister of religion.

Incidentally, it might be noted, that the signers of the birth control statement do not refer to the non-Catholic ministers who do not accept their ethics of expediency in this important matter. Nor of course do they refer to the many thousands of ministers of an integrated Christianity who universally uphold the traditional interpretation of God's law in this regard and consequently condemn contraception as an utterly vicious, an intrinsically immoral practice.

Based On Expediency

Unfortunately this faulty view of birth control does not stand alone. It is only one of the modern surrenders in the all important field of morals. And all these surrenders are based on the same shifting and attractive principle of expediency. "If it is convenient it is right; if it is inconvenient it is wrong." Under a persistent application of that principle no commandment of God would remain. To be sure, no one denies that it is a bit intriguing to falter human nature. But the real question is whether it is in harmony with or contrary to God's law.

It is only to be expected, of course, that such a constant noising abroad of a faulty ethic and such a deliberate flying in the face of nature, would in time result in dreadful harm.

Thus it is unthinkable that it should not affect the religious beliefs and weaken, if not totally steal away, the faith of millions of intelligent American citizens. The contradiction of holding aloft on the one hand the image of the suffering Savior crucified for the good of mankind, and on the other hand, surrendering to an ethic of expediency—an ethic that is identical with pagan hedonism or the shrewdest pleasure philosophy of life—is too transparently obvious. It has made many indifferent to religion; it has made many cynical toward religion, it has made many laugh at religion.

Harm To Youth

The harm brought upon American youth by the propaganda for this immoral practice is an open book to those who care to read. It is an exceedingly far-reaching harm in the pitiful moral breakdown of vast numbers of young folks. It was bad enough when millions of the American boys were taught this practice while in the country's armed forces, but it is worse, if that is conceivable, when the teaching comes from a body of men whom people were wont to respect because of their honored title of "ministers of God."

The harm done the nation from the viewpoint of population through this cheap flouting of pleasure while shirking the bur-



FATHER SCHNEIDER

den of reproduction should be well known. In our large cities today there are many more deaths than births. In our cities of 100,000 and over we are reproducing ourselves by only two-thirds.

To call attention to one bit of data on this score there is the following: referring to all non-farm families with incomes from wages and salaries, taken from an issue of The Bulletin of the Social Security Board.

Childless Families' Income

"Nearly half the children are in one-tenth of the families which have three or more children, and the other half are in about one-third of the families which have one or two children. Almost half the families have no children." The publication also notes that the childless couples had more than twice the income of those with children.

Incidentally, too, there is a close connection between this and our shocking divorce situation. The great majority of divorces are obtained by childless and near-childless couples.

The teaching of the Church down through the centuries regarding contraception has been clearly restated in our day in the encyclical of Pope Pius XII on Christian Marriage. Directly to the point are these words: "Any use whatever of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offense against the law of God and nature and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of serious sin." There is also the following statement: "No reason however grave may be put forward by which anything intrinsically against nature may become conformable to nature and morally good. Since therefore the conjugal act is destined primarily by nature for the begetting of children, those who in exercising it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose, sin against nature and commit a deed which is shameful and intrinsically evil."

Renew Ideals Of Atlantic Charter Is Plea

Washington — (NC) — A call to "the democratic nations of the West" to return to the principles of the Atlantic Charter in order to regain their "moral leadership needed to make our ideals and aspirations effective in the world at large" was sounded by Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan, Auxiliary of Baltimore and of Washington, in his sermon at the annual Pan American Mass, celebrated in St. Patrick's Church here.

Bishop Shehan traced the failure of the western democracies to reassert their leadership to an apparent confusion as to "whether they are bound by the principles of the Atlantic Charter or by the compromises and concessions of Tehran and Yalta," and to a "confusion of mind about certain basic truths which lie at the foundation of true and lasting peace."

Declaring the "real principles" of the Charter to be "forever binding on all men," Bishop Shehan said: "No authority on earth can bind us to commitments which contradict those principles."

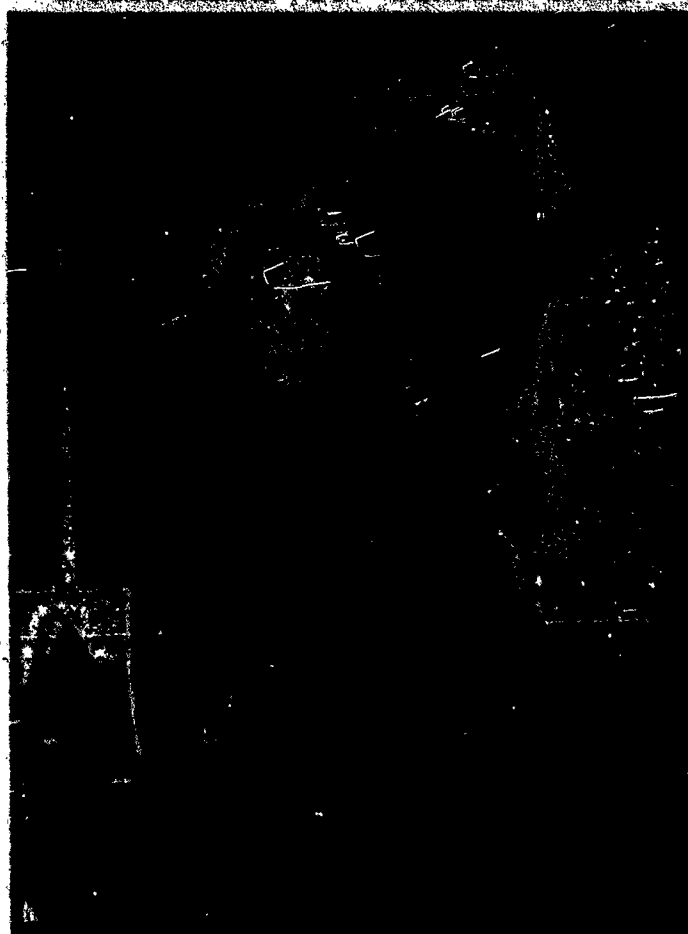
His Excellency the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, pontificated at the Solenn Mass which was attended by the ambassadors of a number of South American countries, including Argentina, Colombia, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia; representatives from other nations; Dr. Leo S. Rowe, director general of the Pan American Union; Spruille Braden, Assistant Secretary of State; members of both Houses of Congress and a large group of priests. The Church was decorated with the flags of all the American nations.

Fr. Hugh Pope, British Biblical Scholar, Dies at 77

London — (Cable NC) — The Rev. Hugh Pope, O. P., recognized as one of the greatest biblical scholars of the present age, has died at Edinburgh where he was Superior of the Dominican Vicariate. He was 77 years old and marked the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood two months ago.

Father Pope, who was the son of a convert, studied medicine before he entered the Dominican Order. Father Pope, who knew Cardinal Newman, was widely known throughout the British Isles as a preacher and lecturer.

Portrait On Feast Day



Leontine artist Yolande Hubert, of Overbrook, Pa., is shown setting the lighting touches to her first portrait, that of the first U. S. citizen-saint, Mother Francis Chial, founder of the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who died in Chicago, in 1917. The portrait will be presented to the Ordination of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrated last July, the feast day, December 22, will witness many pilgrims come to her shrine in New York. Photo by Charles Higgins (NC Photos)

Bath Naval Officer Leads Rescue of Chinese Nuns

By THE REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR, S.J.C.
(Special Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Nanking, China—When fighting was reported recently between advancing government troops and the Communist forces occupying Chefoo, Chinese coastal city, a white-robed nun in her Nanking chapel whispered another thankful prayer for some Americans whom she has never seen.

She is Mother Marie-Francoise Michel, provincial superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Last July, all her Chinese sisters were in their Chefoo convent, and Chefoo had been held by the Communists since the end of the war. Today the young Sisters are safe in Tientsin, thanks to friendly Americans — and thanks, also, to Communist leaders who acceded to the Americans' request.

For months Mother Marie-Francoise Michel was torn with anxiety for her 22 novices. "Only one man in China can do anything for you," she was told, "and that man is General Marshall."

General of the Army George C. Marshall, then immersed in the troubled sea of China's internal difficulties, paid sym-

2500 Priests In Reich Area Cleared by U.S.

By MAX FREEMAN

Frankfurt — (NC) — The single one of about 2,500 Catholic priests in the State of Western Germany today, and German Bishops were found to be "reliable" by Military Government in the recent of recent action proceedings. It has been learned here.

In the State of Bavaria, only 17 out of approximately 1,000 Catholic priests were found to be "reliable" by the German denazification boards.

The survey, which included both members of the diocesan and regular clergy, points up the fact that less than two out of every 1,000 German priests in the two states had any Nazi leanings.

After the German bishops and members of the clergy in the U. S. zone of occupation were classified into three groups: those against whom no objection was raised by Military Government, those whose retention was approved by Military Government pending trial under the law for treason from national socialism and those whose retention was subsequently approved by German denazification boards.

Directed By Washington

The proceedings were based on a Washington directive providing that all clergymen proved by investigation to have been active Nazis should be treated in the same manner as any other person similarly guilty and restricted from preaching and a 100% tax, normally through their established ecclesiastical superiors.

In accordance with this directive, clergymen and all full-time professional employees of religious organizations throughout the American zone were required to fill in denazification questionnaires which were then studied by the Public Safety Service and placed in one of the following five categories: (1) Non-objectionable; (2) Discretionary (favorable recommendation); (3) Discretionary (adverse recommendation); (4) Discretionary (adverse recommendation); (5) Discretionary (adverse recommendation).

Since clergymen could not be removed from office automatically the cases of those belonging to categories 1 or 2 were referred to their superiors in order that they either resign or show why removal should not be ordered. Cases in categories 3, 4 and 5 were referred to the Military Government.

U. S. Born French Head Dies In Battle

By THE REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR, S.J.C.

Paris — (Cable NC) — The death of a Frenchman, born in the U. S., who died in battle during the recent fighting in the French zone of occupation, was reported here.

Father Robert, who was the 19th American-born priest in the French zone of occupation, died in battle during the recent fighting in the French zone of occupation.

During his recent tour of duty in the French zone of occupation, Father Robert had been assigned to the French zone of occupation.

The Rev. Robert, who was born in the U. S., died in battle during the recent fighting in the French zone of occupation.

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