

ON GUARD!

Bill of Rights
The Bishop's Office
Let the Chips Fall

By REV. P. J. FLYNN

We hope that Catholics will give serious and careful attention to the "Declaration of Rights" issued this week under the auspices of the American Bishops.

This notable document has been presented to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, headed by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt as chairman, and faced with the task of drafting an International Bill of Rights for the United Nations.

Only this week, V. T. Teplov, Soviet delegate on the United Nations Human Rights Commission, urged his fellow delegates to delete from the Bill of Rights, which they are trying to draft, the following concepts:

The right of life, of personal liberty, prohibition of slavery and compulsory labor; right to petition national governments and the United Nations; non-retroactivity of penal laws; right of property and prohibition of unlawful expropriation; freedom of movement (migration); and freedom to resist oppression.

These rights and freedoms, Mr. Teplov argued, are either superfluous, beyond the present power of the United Nations to lay down or impose on the local laws and customs of nations.

Mr. Teplov's utterances constitute an attack on human liberty and, as such, it sounds shocking to freedom loving Americans.

But we must remember, however, that the Soviet delegate is thinking of the Russian-controlled world where human life is cheap, where concentration camps, suppression of free speech, slave labor and armed rule are part and parcel of the governmental machinery of characters like Mr. Stalin and Mr. Tito.

In view of all this, therefore, the American Bishops' forthright declaration on human rights is most timely.

We fear that Catholics in the United States have not appreciated, or even been aware in some cases, of the efforts made by the American Bishops to secure true freedom for all the peoples of the world.

At the time of the San Francisco Conference, the Bishops called upon the United Nations to incorporate in their Charter an International Bill of Rights guaranteeing to all peoples their God-given freedoms. Unfortunately, those were the days when we were still appearing Russia and the Bishops' plea was ignored.

But the American hierarchy has never given up its brave fight for human freedom. Doggedly, the Bishops have insisted that no government should be admitted to membership in the United Nations unless it recognizes, in fact as well as in theory, the natural human rights of its own citizens.

At the conclusion of their annual meeting in Washington last November, the Bishops once more appealed to the United Nations to recognize the human rights of all peoples and warned that world peace cannot be established unless man's dignity as man and his God-given liberties are respected.

Now the Bishops have enlisted their magnificent struggle in defense of human liberty with their sponsorship of "A Declaration of Rights."

This document enumerates carefully and clearly all the rights of the human person, the family and the state. Its importance cannot be overestimated by those who take the time to read it.

Many people will be embarrassed by the Bishops' Declaration of Rights. Of course it will embarrass the Soviet government and other dictatorial regimes. It will also reproach the imperialists who still carry on their policy of colonial subjugation. Mr. Churchill might find it a bit disturbing.

Important, too, is the fact that the Bishops' statement has application below the Mason Dixon Line as well as behind the "Iron Curtain." Senators, like Mr. Bilbo with his detestable doctrine of "white supremacy," can read the Declaration of Rights with just as much profit as Tito and Stalin.

And the American foes of trade unionism and collective bargaining can read with profit, too, the "inalienable rights" specified by the Declaration as belonging to all men:

"The right to a living wage."
"The right to collective bargaining."
"The right to associate by industries and professions to obtain economic justice and the general welfare."

If the Bishops' Declaration of Rights causes embarrassment anywhere, then there is only one answer. The Bishops have spoken the truth. Let the chips fall where they may.

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PLAN WAR RELIEF DRIVE



Pictured at a New York regional meeting of the Bishops' War Relief Campaign for war victims are the Rev. John S. Randall, campaign director for the Rochester Diocese and the Most Rev. J. Francis A. McIntyre, Coadjutor Archbishop of New York. A special collection in all churches of the Rochester Diocese on Sunday, March 10 will highlight diocesan participation.

Relief Drive Plans Approved by Bishop

His Excellency Bishop Kearney this week approved plans for the participation of the Rochester Diocese in the Bishop's War Relief Campaign for Victims of War.

DIOCESE TO GET RETREAT HOUSE FOR WOMEN

The Religious of Our Lady of the Cenacle in New York City will open a new retreat house for women in Rochester, His Excellency Bishop Kearney announced this week.

The Sisters who devote their lives to the organization and maintenance of retreats for women have accepted Bishop Kearney's invitation to come to Rochester as soon as a suitable house can be obtained.

The Religious of the Cenacle, Bishop Kearney explained, have conducted a retreat house for women on Riverside Drive in New York City for 30 years.

"Such an institution in Rochester," he said, "will offer the girls and women of this area the same opportunities now provided for our men by the Redemptorist Fathers at Lake Retreat House in Geneva."

"Private retreats at any time will be encouraged especially," Bishop Kearney said.

ALBANY GETS ANTI-RED BILLS

Albany (NC) — Several measures have been introduced into the New York State Legislature here designed to crack down on the communists. One is against encouraging strikes by public school students and another aims at forcing the Communist party to make public its roster of members.

The bill which would outlaw strikes by public school students was introduced by Assemblyman Frank P. Davern of Brooklyn who stated that most of these strikes are "communist-inspired" and represent "left-wing agitation against our democratic school system."

The bill designed to force the Communist party to reveal its membership was introduced by Senator Charles C. Cowey and Assemblyman George Archinal. It would permit the State Attorney General to restrain certain types of organizations which fail to report their memberships as is required by the civil rights law of New York State.

State Control Proposed For Catholic Pupils

Spokane (NC) — Any child would be prohibited from attending a Catholic school unless permission first was obtained from the local superintendent of public schools under provisions of an astonishing piece of legislation proposed by State Senators Leslie V. Morgan of Yakima, and Thomas H. Blenz of Dishman, in the State Legislature at Olympia.

The proposal is a radical departure from the laws of the State of Washington, which up to the present always have recognized the rights of parents and guardians to send their children to any approved school.

Truman Scores Polish Envoy on 'Rigged' Voting

Washington (NC) — The

Warsaw provisional government has failed to fulfill its pledge to hold free and unfettered elections, President Harry S. Truman today told Poland's new ambassador to the United States, Jozef Wladyslaw, when he presented his credentials at the White House.

The President made it plain to the Polish envoy that the general elections of Jan. 15 were far from free and had proven a great disappointment to the United States.

By receiving the diplomat and accepting his designation as ambassador of the Republic of Poland, the Chief Executive brought to a termination the recent speculation that the United States might sever diplomatic ties with Poland as a result of the red-rigged Jan. 15 elections.

Yakia Pledge Recalled
An account of the meeting between Mr. Truman and the new Polish envoy was made public by the State Department.

Ambassador Wladyslaw said that the Polish people had been misled by the Polish government in its promise to hold free and unfettered elections.

Among these promises, the President went on, was the holding of free and unfettered elections and the Polish provisional government had pledged itself to carry out this decision, the State Department account continued.

"It is a matter of deep concern to me and to the American people," the President told the Polish ambassador, "that the Polish provisional government has failed to fulfill that pledge. The Government of the United States has not lost interest in the welfare of the Polish people. It is with this in mind that I offer you the cooperation of the officials of this government."

Ambassador Wladyslaw needs Dr. Oscar Lange who has been designated as Poland's chief representative to the United Nations. The new ambassador said he yearned for friendly relations between the United States and Poland.

'Watchful Waiting' British Policy

London (NC) — The British Government does not intend to take any further action about the Polish situation, it was declared today in a statement by the Foreign Office.

"We are working for a permanent peace, a cause that means the very preservation of Christ's civilization," the statement said.

Though almost two years have elapsed since the end of the war, Archbishop McIntyre said, "more than half the people of the world are still feeling its bitter effects through a shortage of food."

The Rev. John F. Hurley, S.J., secretary general of the Catholic Welfare Organization of the Philippines, paid tribute to the work of War Relief Services-N.C.W.C., stating that "we could have been completely lost had it not been for your organization."

The directors in "keep help coming to those destitute people" because "more persons are dying there now than during the period of the occupation." The Jesuit concluded by expressing the thanks of the Philippine hierarchy for the aid received from American Catholics.

Teaching Nuns Barred Under N. Dakota Bill

Fargo, N. D. (NC) — Copies of a legislative proposal which would prevent Sisters from teaching in their religious garb in the public schools of North Dakota have appeared here.

At the present time 74 Sisters teach in 17 public schools in the State. In ten of the school districts in which they teach the school population is completely Catholic and in the others the Sisters have accepted teaching posts only after it was ascertained there would be no objection from the Protestant minority.

Watrak, S.J. of Cincinnati. She states that his "priestly admonitions" had no effect on her conscious mind during the period prior to her conversion, but she knew later that his prayers were responsible, at least in part, for her decision.

In describing her wartime audience with Pope Pius XII, Mrs. Luce writes: "Although I was profoundly impressed by the Holy Father, as many non-Catholics have been, there was nothing in our meeting that suggested to me that I might ever become a Catholic. I had two subsequent interviews with him in the war years, and although my initial impression of his sanctity and sweetness (and aversion to war) were deeply renewed, even then I had no idea that I ought to be, or ever would become one of his daughters."

Catholic Bill of Rights Goes to UN Commission

City Expects Newspapers Next Week

Bulletin

Agreement between the Gannett Company and the Rochester Newspapers and the Rochester Telegram and Labor Council Tuesday noon in the Chamber of Commerce.

Father Higgins, who is assistant director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, in Washington, D. C., and Catholic Courier columnist discussed current proposals for labor legislation.

He described the attempt to solve the complicated problem of industrial unrest through legislation as "a superficial approach."

"It is a major tragedy," the priest stated, "that all our efforts are now being directed to a legislative solution for a problem that is not going to be solved by legislation."

He charged that proposals to amend the Wagner Labor Law are inspired by "much misunderstanding" and explained that the act was passed for only one reason: "to protect the right of workers to organize."

Father Higgins devoted charges that the Wagner Act has failed to eliminate industrial unrest.

"The Wagner Act is fundamentally flawed," he stated, "because it is based on the premise that the right of workers to organize is the only kind of industrial unrest that the Wagner Act was supposed to remove," he said.

Father Higgins blamed the failure of two-thirds of the workers of the country to organize on the fact that the Wagner Act is "a right given to them by God," and declared that he would be "in a major amendment of the Wagner Act."

"If the Wagner Act is effectively weakened by legal revisions," he warned, "the effective exercise of labor's right to organize will be seriously threatened."

Closed Shop Ban
Concerning attempts to outlaw the closed shop, Father Higgins predicted that "in the final showdown it probably will be the employers and not the unions who will defeat such a proposal."

"Already," he pointed out, "a number of employers and employees groups have expressed a preference for the closed shop because a good deal of our industrial tradition is built up around the closed shop and to outlaw it would result in industrial havoc."

Stating that in the United States the battle of trade unionism is still being fought and that as yet only one-third of the work force are organized, Father Higgins declared the closed shop as a "union security measure."

"Regardless of the theoretical merits," he stated, "the realism of present conditions dictates that the closed shop should remain."

Attorney General Warns Pennsylvania Klan

Harrisburg, Pa. (RNS) — Revival of Ku Klux Klan activities in Pennsylvania brought a warning from Attorney General T. McKean Chidsey that "if there is the slightest reason for the law to step in, we'll step in."

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Labor Laws Imperil Unions, Priest Warns

Washington (NC) — The

Thomas Hill Youth Movement Bill, which aroused controversy in the 76th Congress because of its restrictions on States in the use of federal funds in aid of segregated schools, has been reintroduced into the Senate by Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The bill, which was introduced in the House by Representative Thomas (Ladd), of New York, is designed to provide a minimum of \$500,000 per year for the public school education of each child, similar to the Federal Aid Highway Act.

In its general provisions the bill, which would amend the National School Act, would provide for the public school education of each child, similar to the Federal Aid Highway Act.

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NCWC Cites Four Points In Document

New York (NC) — Only

"Inalienable rights" are those which cannot be taken away from a person by any government or by any other power. The document states that the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are inalienable.

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