

French Cardinal Sees Strike of Reds As Warning to Pay Workers Living Wage

Continued

Paris — (RNS) — In a declaration regarded as one of the most important of its kind issued by a French prelate in modern times, Pierre Cardinal Gerlier, Archbishop of Lyons, told the French people that the Communist-sponsored strike wave was a warning that must be heeded.

He declared that a country in which workers "do not receive a living wage is in a state of sin and that the whole nation should feel its responsibility for re-establishing justice."

Issued just before Communist leaders called off the strike, the Cardinal's declaration, while strictly neutral in tone, clearly stressed "the fact of the poverty men receive a living wage."

The declaration caused widespread comment throughout the country.

"I do not wish in any way," Cardinal Gerlier declared, "to justify the present strikes, but I do wish to throw light on them and give warning."

They are seen couched in violent terms and in a spirit of hate. That is undoubtedly regrettable, but it would not happen if the workers' demands were better understood."

Cardinal Gerlier stressed his declaration by stating that "if we do not wish to mix in politics, business politics are necessary affairs and not the business of priests. However," he added, "priests must preach clearly and respect for rights."

Proceeding to describe the conditions in which a majority of workers live as the result of "impossibly high living costs," the Cardinal asserted: "These strikes have been to a great extent political, but not entirely. The workers wished to strike to protest against insufficient wages."

They were pushed by despair into striking, although they knew they would suffer by doing so. "Christian people," Cardinal Gerlier said, "would like to make the political aspect of the strikes less serious by rejecting all slogans. They forget that the workers would not have ac-

cepted Communist dictatorship if they had found elsewhere men who were prepared to defend them."

THE CARDINAL asserted that every man is entitled to a living wage, and "if he is obliged by necessity or fear or worse to accept less, he is a victim of unjust exploitation."

"This," he emphasized, "must be realized. It is not a new doctrine. It is a doctrine put forward by Pope Leo XIII in the Rerum Novarum encyclical. Those who employ workers are held responsible for giving a living wage. Otherwise they rob workers, and are held responsible for restitution."

Anticipating that some would reply that raising wages pushes prices up and the worker gains nothing, the Cardinal said: "I do not say wages should be increased. I am not an economist nor a financier. I simply say that every worker must have a living wage."

Gen. Leclerc, Plane Victim, Hailed as Model Christian

Paris — General Jacques Philippe Leclerc, who met death in an airplane crash in North Africa, was the most popular and beloved of French military leaders. Although scarcely 40 years of age, he was an epic and legendary hero.

During World War I he gave proof of his exceptional valor. In the recent World War he was wounded in 1940 and taken prisoner, but he managed to escape, crossed France on a bicycle, and fought at Port-au-Franc and other battles.

General Leclerc continued the war as governor of Cameroun in the center of Africa. He organized a group of "free French" and assigned to them the following tasks: "We shall traverse Africa to the Mediterranean, and when we shall have expelled the Germans from this continent, we shall deliver Paris and Strasbourg."

He kept his promise. Crossing the Sahara with his men, he drove the Italians from Fezzan and attacked Rommel in Tripoli. After his arrival in Tunisia he disappeared for several months from the scene of combat. The Germans said that he was in disagreement with General de Gaulle and that he had abandoned the struggle.

On the contrary, General Leclerc had gone to England to form an expedition. At the head of this division he landed in Normandy with the Americans, drove into Paris and was the first to enter the city on August 24, in the midst of wild acclamations. Without staying for a formal greeting, he left in pursuit of the enemy.

General Leclerc was a fervent Christian. The morning after his victorious entry into Strasbourg, while the fight was still going on around the city, he attended Mass in a chapel of the Cathedral. A few days later, upon learning that one of the chaplains of his division had been mortally wounded, he hurried to pray at his stretcher and to ask for his blessing. He was the father of six children.

Czech Bishops' Pastoral Hits 'False Justice'

Prague — (RNS) — The joint pastoral of the Czech and Slovak Bishops drawn up at their annual meeting in Prague and sent from the pulpit, of all Catholic churches, throughout Czechoslovakia deplores a decline in the sense of true justice throughout the country. Cicerone has replaced genuine justice, and atrocious injustice, sometimes accompanied the campaign to "purify" the nation of so-called evil elements, the Bishops charge.

The result of this is that a perverted sense of justice has seized the vast mass of the population, they state.

"It is a very sad and instructive, dishonest and false presentation of facts," they are spreading also in those circles of society dominant in the nation's culture, with the consequence that public opinion is exposed to false influences," the Bishops declare.

The pastoral, which carries the signatures of all the Archbishops, Bishops and administrators Apostolic of both Czech and Slovak dioceses, also criticizes the government's attempts to monopolize education, charges that religious ideologies are openly propagated in public schools, declares that the present law imperils the existence of the churches already imperiled because of wartime damages, warns of a threatening Kulturkampf by the government, and declares the country to the Sacred Heart of Mary through the coming year.

ONE OF the greatest bulwarks of religious freedom is the existence of religious schools, the Bishops assert, adding that they do not oppose reforms in the present system but uphold the right of existence for religious schools, whether private or State supported.

The trend of education in the state schools at the present moment is harmful to Catholic children because religious ideologies are being propagated not only by individual teachers but through State-approved textbooks on history and other subjects, the pastoral asserts.

Another grave danger to Christian education and culture is the Land Reform law passed by the Czechoslovak legislature, the letter says, adding that many churches, at present finding maintenance extremely difficult because of damages inflicted during the war, will be unable to remain open if they become further impoverished by the Land Reform Law.

"From the highest places it was repeatedly emphasized that cultural strikes is quite undesirable in our country," the Bishops continue. "We are grateful for this assurance but we would be bad guardians of religion if we silently tolerate a hidden, secret Kulturkampf which would block the way to a more effective application of the Modus Vivendi agreement between this country and the Holy See, a pact whose importance is recognized by every sensible and unprejudiced man."

Princess Grateful For Lourdes Rosary

London — (RNS) — A Lourdes Rosary, whose beads are carved from rock near the holy grotto of the French shrine, was sent to Princess Elizabeth as a wedding gift by children of St. Mary and St. Joseph's parish, Bedale, Yorkshire. The Princess thanked the children in a letter.

THE MONSIGNOR TELLS ONE



It appears that someone "Tapped This One," sending Harry Sheen into a spin of laughter. Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen is shown with the "tough motor" at the 11th annual McCook-Winsfield Catholic Home Dinner in the Waldorf Astoria, New York. The proceeds of the event go to maintain the home for adults with heart disease at SUNY, N. Y. INF. (NO Photos)

Public School Teachers Hit NEA Stand on Bus Issue

Detroit — (RNS) — Letters of two public school teachers, former members of the National Education Association, who express sharp disagreement with the NEA's stand against permitting parochial school children to ride public school buses and against the released-time program, were featured on the front page of The Michigan Catholic, archdiocesan weekly here.

Declaring that the NEA is becoming "openly contemptuous" of the opinion of its Catholic members, the letter of one of the teachers states: "Because of this intolerable situation, a Catholic teacher in the Detroit public school system have discontinued my 10-year membership in the NEA."

While the policy of the NEA always has been to better the educational opportunities of America's children, it makes a strange exception when it comes to approving tax-supported bus service for a tiny minority of rural school children who go to parochial schools. Can the NEA not realize that health services, transportation, etc., are given to the child and not to the school?

"Supporting a policy which causes little children to suffer hardship and danger and which deprives them of public services which their parents have paid for, purely on the basis of religion, is an example of un-American bigotry. An organization that distinguishes and discriminates between American children is in need of a searching self-examination."

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Natural Law Seen Needed for Peace

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — A world government based on a working knowledge of the natural law as opposed to positive law, is the only solution to world peace, the noted philosopher Dr. Mortimer J. Adler of the University of Chicago declared at a two-day Natural Law Institute at the University of Notre Dame here.

The hundreds of lawyers, judges and educators in attendance also heard other speakers urge greater application of the natural law to modern living. Among these were the Rev. William J. Dobney, C.S.C., Notre Dame canon law professor; Ben W. Palmer, of the University of Minnesota; Harold R. McKinnon, San Francisco attorney; and Dr. Clarence E. Manton, dean of the Notre Dame law school.

"People throughout the world must be taught to depend on the natural law, which requires will power to obey, as opposed to the positive law, which is based purely on rationalism," declared Dr. Adler. "Positive law is merely an act of opinion and reason in positive law, then, since one man's reason is as good as another, any man could make the laws."

"TOO MANY law schools throughout the United States," he continued "are tending to base their teachings on the positive law, with little or no consideration given the natural law. This must be corrected if the nation is to have lawyers with a working understanding of law based on the natural law."

"More people in the world must start thinking about the natural law as opposed to the positive law if world peace is to result and endure," Dr. Adler said. "The only solution to world peace is world government, and this government must be based on a working knowledge of the natural law as opposed to the positive law. The world today is as full of war as it was three years ago, even though an actual shooting war is not in progress."

In welcoming those attending the Institute, the Rev. John J. Cavanaugh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, said that their interest was "an indication that there remains in this country a strong nucleus of thoughtful Americans who share the conviction that a strong hope the only hope—for the future of American jurisprudence lies in giving law students a proper sense of the basic interrelationship of the positive law and the natural law."

FATHER CAVANAUGH also emphasized that "God's creative purpose existed in His infinite mind before He created man, that the natural law, under which our human law receives its only sanction, existed before God made man, breathed into him an immortal soul, and provided him with nature's bounty."

It was a remarkable experience to see the German monasteries here share their choirs with the French visitors, and to listen to the homily delivered in French after the Mass by one of the latter.

Church Reassembles 1,000

Lisbon (RNS) — Dedicated to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, a new, modern style church capable of accommodating 7,000 worshippers was solemnly consecrated in Oporto by Emanuel Gonçalves, Cardinal Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon.

German Worker Gives 20 Cribs

Munich — (RNS) — To express his gratitude to the American people for their generous help to German children, Kurt Lettmann, a workman of Elektrochemie, Rhoson, has sent 20 Christmas cribs to Santa Claus, Religious Affairs office of the U. S. Office of Military Government here. Mr. Lettmann is on leave from the faculty of New Rochelle College.

"I felt I ought to do something beyond just writing a letter," Kurt Lettmann explained. The cribs will be distributed with the chaplains of this post. Ten will go to Protestant and ten to Catholic children of American families now residing in Germany.

Franco-German Ties Urged

Berlin, Germany — (RNS) — France visualizes no occupation in Germany as a constructive task in the sense of fraternal love and reconciliation," said Bishop Pirard de la Vierge, Catholic religious affairs inspector of the French zones in Germany and Austria, in a sermon here, during a three-day retreat of a chaplains reporting to him.

Twenty-five priests attended and shared the "Kiss of Peace" after Holy Communion with the monks of this Benedictine monastery after the Bishop, who was saying Pontifical High Mass in part to his three assistants at the altar the "Pax Teucom" was a distinct voice, three times.

"Unfortunately," Bishop de la Vierge went on, "the war has separated us Christians all over the world, but we must overcome hate and live together. In a spirit of charity, we must pray together, we French and we Germans. We must pray for reconciliation so that some day the antagonism that has arisen will be overcome."

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Open Cardinal Dead at 71

Paris, France — (RNS) — The Cardinal of Rouen, France, died at his home in Paris at the age of 71. He had been suffering from illness for some time.

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Fourth China School Opened by Bishop

St. Columbian, Neb. — (NC) — "There is a crisis for education, and the Church must move with the times if she is to survive," Bishop Edward J. Galvin, founder of St. Columbian's Society and Bishop of Hanyang, China, stated in a letter just received here at St. Columbian's headquarters.

Butting his actions to his words, Bishop Galvin has opened a new high school in Hanyang. The already has three primary schools in operation there with a total enrollment of 80 pupils.

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