

### Church Ouster Of Italian Reds Seen Unlikely

ROME (NC)—The general use by the Church of the measure of excommunication in the fight against communism is considered highly unlikely at this time and in the present circumstances by scholars and informed observers here.

While they declare that if the Church did invoke the measure it would be exactly in her own sphere of action, they do not expect such a course under present conditions for several reasons.

A general censure of excommunication against communists, they say, would work too great a spiritual and mental hardship upon thousands of simple untutored persons, already plagued by difficulties of living and confusion of mind.

FURTHER, they point out, the common people are gradually coming to possess the right mentality about communism, under an intensive campaign of instruction and education by their priests, they are growing to recognize the specious error by which they have been misled, namely, that they may be both Catholics and communists at the same time.

Commenting on the problem, an outstanding canonist and author, and a prelate high in Church circles, outlined the general and the specific evils of communism here. The general trouble is, of course, he said, that communism is not merely an erroneous school of social philosophy but an anti-Christian doctrine which directly attacks the Christian religion.

The specific difficulty in Italy, and France as well, he continued, is the deceitful dissimulation by which communism seeks to mislead the simple people into believing that they may retain their religious faith and at the same time adopt the political philosophy of communism, that communism in Italy or France would not be the same as in Russia.

HE CITED several examples of these tactics a speech by one of the party communist chiefs who made several malicious remarks about the Cardinal-Archbishop of the place and yet, at the conclusion, finished with the exhortation "Now let's go to Church. It's time for Mass."

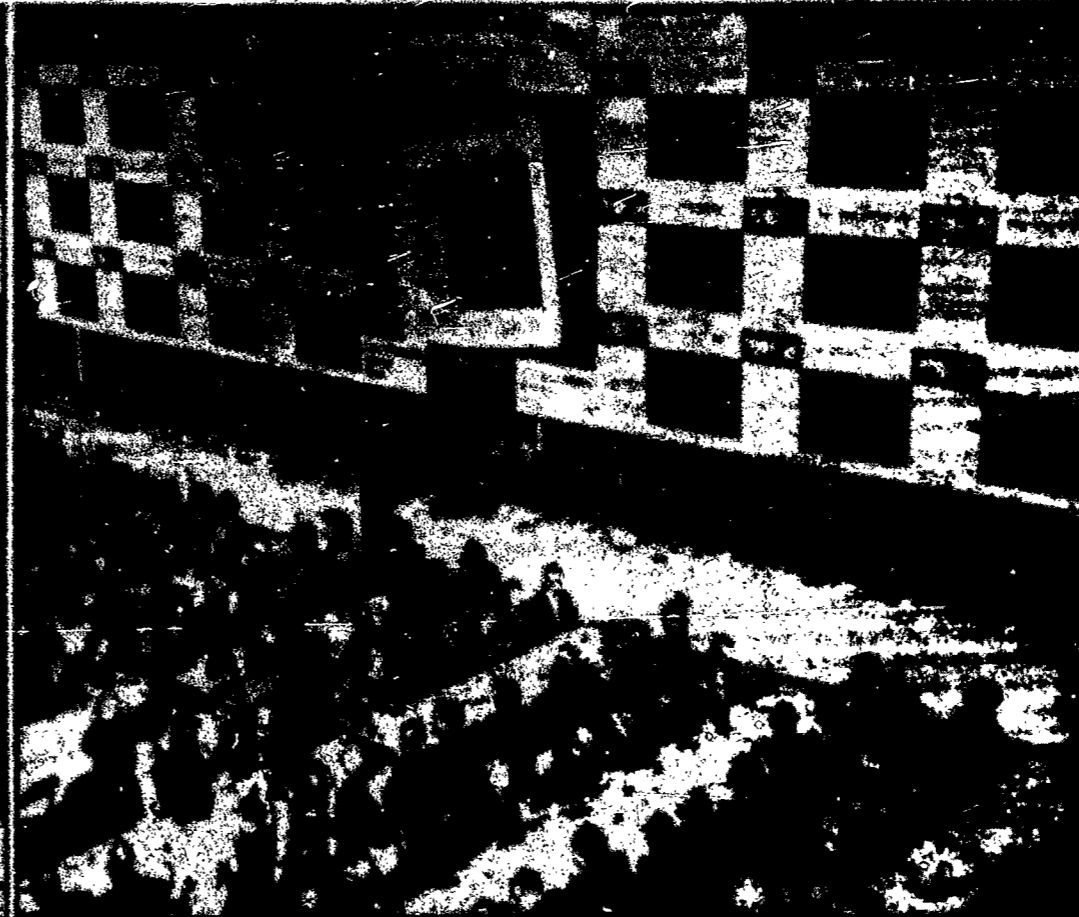
Another instance was the communists' attempt to contribute the crucifixes erected in churches as memorials of missions, and a third the references, for the benefit of untutored peasants, to the pictures of bearded Garibaldi, posted on walls everywhere in Italy, as "St. Joseph, the saint of working men."

Returning to the question of the censure, the jurist compared the position of the Church to the position of the United States Government should there be found members of its armed forces who were communists and who were working for the overthrow of the government and the establishment of communism.

### Scenes as St. John Fisher College Campaigners Started \$1,047,236 Drive



Leaders of the various dioceses in the Rochester Diocese are pictured at the speaking dinner of the St. John Fisher College campaign at the Rochester Chamber of Commerce. Seated from left to right are the Very Rev. Magr. James A. McAnn, chancellor; Otto A. Sholtz, chairman of Special Gifts Committee, and the St. Rev. Magr. William J. Brien, dean of Aurora Diocese. Standing from left are the Rev. John A. Smith of Corning, chairman of the Corning Diocese, and the Rt. Rev. Magr. John A. Conway, dean of Auburn Diocese.



Here is a general view of the speaking hall and a portion of the crowd which gathered in the main banquet hall of the Chamber of Commerce. By seated center, Lt. Gov. Dewey was seated in representation from all dioceses of the Diocese. The St. Rev. Magr. William J. Brien, P.A., V.L., and Judge Charles J. Murphy of Rochester's Court of Chancery. These were the two principal speakers of the speaking dinner. This scene will be repeated at the closing dinner Monday evening when all parishes in the diocese will make a final report.

### Tibet's Lone Missionary Outpost Target of Lamas

PARIS (NC)—Reports of new measures to destroy Christianity's feeble hold in the land of mystery, Tibet, have been received by the Superior General of the Paris Foreign Mission Society here.

According to recent reports from this largely unexplored land, under the rule of the Grand Lama, with an estimated population of 6,000,000, and only 350 Christians, the lamas (Buddhist priests) of Sogun have issued an order aimed at wiping out Christianity.

Christians have been asked to sever "voluntarily" all connections with the mission at Yerk, also the only Catholic mission within the Grand Lama's jurisdiction, they must not wear religious insignia or bury their dead in a Christian manner; bodies of the deceased are to be cremated and the ashes thrown into the river in accordance with the rites of the lamas.

Any violation of these instructions shall carry with it the penalty of being drowned or any other punishment the head of the lamasery may proclaim, the order states.

Unwilling to submit to these conditions, Christians decided to abandon their belongings and leave the area. However, they were prevented from doing so and the head of the Christian community was placed in prison.

The report says that a group of lamas then invaded the mission, destroyed the altars of the church, burned the Stations of the Cross, and carried off the church furnishings. Wheat reserves were taken away and 15 young Christian men were forced to enter a lamasery to undergo indoctrination in lamaism.

Fear has been expressed here that the latest measure against Christianity may spell the end of this lone outpost of the Church in Tibet.

### Jews Seen RED TARGET

NEW YORK (NC)—Anti-Semitism is so widespread in Soviet Russia today it is difficult to believe it could exist in so closely controlled a police state if the Government did not give its tacit approval, writes Drew Middleton, former New York Times correspondent in Moscow, in a recent article of the series he is writing for the Times on conditions in Russia.

"Announced or not," Mr. Middleton writes, "it appears to be Government policy to reduce the number of Jews in positions of influence in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, Jews are barred from joining the Ministry even in the most subsidiary positions."

"Jews cannot now enter the principal military academies in Moscow. Their number is restricted in the medical and law schools in the university at Kiev and in Moscow University.

"Jews trace the start of the present antagonism to the treason trials twelve years ago. Leon Trotsky, they point out, was a Jew and so were many of his followers."

Berlin Fast Limited Berlin (NC)—The Lenten fast throughout the Diocese of Berlin has been restricted to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday because of the food shortages.

### Prelate Warns Catholics On Filing Divorce Suits

SAN ANTONIO (NC)—Catholics of the San Antonio diocese have been advised that if they file civil divorce suits without previous written permission from Church authorities they will automatically bring upon themselves a "personal interdict," that is, a prohibition to attend Mass and other liturgical services and to receive certain Sacraments.

In giving this notice, Archbishop Robert E. Lacey stated that "many and more of the holy, with scandalous disregard for divine and ecclesiastical law," have positioned civil courts to dissolve the sacred bond of matrimony which in the Christian Church is indissoluble.

The Archbishop reserved to himself in his decree the power to lift the interdict, and made it effective as of March 10. At the same time the San Antonio prelate directed that Sunday services during Lent be devoted to explaining Catholic principles and ideals concerning marriage and divorce.

### Lenten Drink San Urged

TORONTO (NC)—Catholics in the archdiocese of Toronto have been called upon by James Cardinal McGuire to abstain from all alcoholic beverages during Lent. They were also asked to refrain from serving such beverages and to avoid such places where they are served.

### Anti-Communism Law Protecting India Christians

NEW DELHI (NC)—A bill introduced in the Indian Parliament by a member of the Congress party to protect Christians in India from the activities of communists is expected to be passed in the near future.

The bill, which is known as the Communist (Prohibition) Bill, is intended to prevent the activities of communists in India from interfering with the religious and social life of the Indian people.

The bill is expected to be passed in the near future and will be a significant step in the protection of Christians in India from the activities of communists.

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### Pope Attends First Of Lenten Services

ROME (NC)—Pope Pius XII attended the first of a series of weekly Lenten services which are being presided at the Vatican Palace by Father Giuseppe, of the Church of St. Mark in Venice in Rome. The Pope was accompanied by a group of cardinals.

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