Communists Attack Bill Curbing Subversive Groups

By REV. J. F. CRONIN, S.S.

Washington — The American Communist Party has announced a major campaign against the enactment of the proposed Subversive Activities Control Act of 1948.

Its national board has announced that it "will fight to the last ditch," and top flight officials of the party have said with evident determination that "one thing we will not do is register." A major provision of the bill is to require the Communist Party to list with the Department of Justice the names and addresses of its members.

The communist attack upon the bill reached an all-time high for vilification and misstatement. They charged that the bill would turn America overnight into "a police state," prohibit strikes, and make the slightest liberal activity a criminal offffense.

On the basis of these distortions, communists plan to rally misguided liberals and innocents to flood Washington with protests against the proposed law. To the Reds, this is a struggle for survival and they intend to leave no weapon unused.

A **STUDY OF** the text of the bill shows how complete is the communist misrepresentation of its contents. There are three important points in the bill. The first is a finding that world communism seeks power in every country, and uses secret and conspiratorial means to effect this. It is stated that a domestic Communist party and its front organizations are tools of world communism.

The second major section makes it a crime to seek to bring about a communist totalitarian dictatorship in the United States, as a part of the world communist movement. This section is so phrased as to cover only clear Moscow agents.

THE THIRD main point forces the Communist party to register and list its members. Communist front organizations must also register, but need list only officers. Both groups must indicate the sources of funds and purposes of expenditures.

The registration provision is the key to communist hysteria. It removes from the Communist party its main weapon, secrecy. Communists know that if they are labeled as such, they will be unable to deceive millions of innocents through front and infiltrated groups. Their power in the labor movement, radio and motion pictures would shrivel away. They would be less successful in deceiving minority groups.

Furthermore, the registration clause is likely to receive public sympathy. If the party were outlawed, it would be made a martyr in the minds of many. Furthermore, it could continue its secret work under other guises. But few Americans will quarrel with the requirement that a secret conspiracy be exposed.

In view of the tremendous Communist pressures generated against the bill, various religious and patriotic groups are mustering support to ensure its passage. A barrage of letters and telegrams in its favor is expected, as the public learns the facts of the case.

Impartial observers view the proposed legislation as the most important control measure against communism ever contemplated here. If properly enforced, the law would effectively stifle Communist activities in America. In view of public sentiment today, exposure of secret Red activities would be fatal to the party. Hence the present struggle is really one of life or death for American communism.

Girl Pickets Dad on Sunday

Kansas City, Mo.—(RNS)— Dr. Herschel Phillips, a dentist who keeps his office open from 8 a. m. to noon on Sundays, was picketed here by his 10-year-old daughter, Elsie.

Elsie carried a sign reading: "Unfair to make daddy work on Sunday. Unfair to his children because we want him to go to church." Dr. Phillips scolded her, but the child later said: "I'm going to picket every Sunday until he stops working."

Poles Have Only 10,000 Priests

Warsaw, Poland — (NC) — There are only slightly more than 10,000 priests ministering to Poland's approximately 20 million Catholics, according to figures released in connection with a pilgrimage by Polish priests, former inmates of Nazi concentration camps, to the miraculous image of St. Joseph in Kalisz.

The tabulation shows that there are in Poland at present two Cardinals, three Archbishops, 13 Bishops, 17 Suffragan Bishops, 8,806 diocesan and 1,499 regular priests, 3,467 seminarians and 13,012 Sisters.

In explaining the serious shortage of priests in Poland, officials point out that nearly 1,000 Polish priests died in the Dachau concentration camp alone.

Emphasizing the shortage, Msgr. Boleslaw Kominek, Apostolic Administrator of Opole Silesia, has issued an appeal to the clergy to work and pray for more vocations.

4 Filipinos To Be Ordained

New York —(NC)— Four Jesuit priests, native Filipinos, will celebrate their first Solemn Masses here on July 4.

State, Church Cooperation Seen

St. Louis —(NC)— Although the U. S. Supreme Court outlawed the Champaign plan of religious education in tax-supported schools, their decision did not outlaw cooperation of government and religion, Bishop James A. Griffin of Springfield, Ill., declared at the Pontifical Mass marking the American centennial of the Christian Brothers in St. Louis Cathedral here.

"It belies our own history and the common experience of Americans to maintain that this wall of separation does not admit an area of cooperation," he said.

The Bishop cited traditional American practices: members of Congress standing together in prayer, compulsory chapel attendance at West Point and Anapolis, and the religious sentiments expressed in public addresses of Presidents as making "it difficult to accept absolute separation as it is when we see millions of American students in Catholic schools pledging allegiance to the State, praying for their President, Congress and courts, and singing the national anthem . . ."

"Between 'hostility' which the Court expressly disavows and 'aid' which it specifically prohibits, there lies the broad field of passive but benevolent cooperation," Bishop Griffin said. "Within this area men must find the formula for religious education for public school children."

Three Foreign Scholarships

Atchison, Kans.—(NC)—Three more foreign scholarships have been instituted at St. Benedict's College.

Communion Time In Auburn Prison

Rev. Gregory Dugan, Catholic Chaplain, who celebrated Mass for 105 Auburn Prison employes including 70 guards and 35 civilian employes in the prison chapel, is shown at Communion time as five of the prison guards received. The two servers are inmates. Eighty-seven of the 200 inmates present also received Holy Communion. Mass was celebrated simultaneously in eight state penal institutions under the Department of Correction and services were instituted at the suggestion of Hon. John A. Lyons, Correction Commission. At a breakfast following in Osborne Hotel, the employes heard Warden Foster, Principal Keeper John Harding and Father Dugan. Carmen Colella, toastmaster, presented Michael Cuddy, prominent Auburn businessman, in the principal address.

Card. Spellman Says Mass By Lantern-Light

Sydney, Australia—(NC)—A touching and impressive story of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman's flight to Australia deals with a midnight landing at Canton Island.

With lanterns as the only illumination, Cardinal Spellman celebrated Mass at 2 a .m. Msgr. Francis X. Shea, of the Cardinal's party, preaching on the text "It is good for us to be here," said there was "no essential difference between the tabernacles of Galilee and this little mid-Pacific coral reef."

The Cardinal gave faculties to all priests traveling with him to hear confessions of the natives. The islanders were awestruck at this honor as Maryknoll missioners are able to visit them only rarely.

Here at Sydney the civic reception by Lord Mayor Reginald Bartley was colorful, with 150 prominent citizens honoring the American Cardinal.

The weather has played a part in Cardinal Spellman's Australian visit. A children's display at the Sydney sportsground was postponed a day because of rain.

Rural Areas Backed For DP Resettlement

Albany—(NC)—Considerable opportunities for displaced persons exist in the small towns and rural communities of New York, Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, chairman of the National Catholic Resettlement Council, told a group of New York State diocesan directors of the organization at a meeting here.

Monsignor Swanstrom disclosed that preliminary surveys in the dioceses of New York State reveal there are housing and employment opportunities for these people.

The greatest need for their services is in the rural areas where there is also plenty of housing facilities for them, he said. He then pointed out that "because of the present housing shortage no plans can be made to settle the DPs in the cities except where their relatives are prepared to take them into their own homes."

"THE DPs," Monsignor Swanstrom stressed, "cannot return to their homelands because they are in deadly fear of the communists who are in power there. They want more than anything else a chance to start life anew — to have a job and live for the future. We can certainly give them this opportunity without disturbing our economy or depriving one of our citizens of a job or a home."

Pointing out that the "organized church" bodies of the United States are "ready and willing" to take the leadership in solving this human problem, Monsignor Swanstrom declared that "we have great traditions as a haven for the homeless and the oppressed. The present trend of world events make it necessary that we make our great traditions work before the spotlight of the world which is now on us. If we fail in this, our great history and our traditions will be but a fable to those who look to us for world leadership."

The Very Rev. Msgr. Gerald C. Lambert, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, and the Rev. Arthur Ratigan, assistant director, attended this meeting.

France Honors Famed Abbey

Paris — (NC)—As a special mark of honor to the Benedictine Abbey of St. Martin of Liguge, Prime Minister Robert Schuman went in person to bestow the grand cross of the Legion of Honor on Abbot Dom Basset in recognition of the services rendered to France by the Abbey during the German occupation.

M. Schuman was himself hidden by the monks when the Gestapo was seeking him after he had escaped from Germany, where he had been deported. He remained hidden at the Abbey for six days, after which one of the monks guided him right across the frontier, guarded by troops and dogs, into the free zone of France. When the Germans overran the whole of France M. Schuman again took refuge in a monastery near Grenoble.

Czech Private School Status Uncertain

Prague —(NC)— The future status of private Catholic schools in Czechoslovakia is still uncertain, following the publication of the new Czechoslovak school law according to which only government-controlled schools will be recognized.

During a recent radio debate on the subject, a government spokesman was asked about the future status of private Catholic schools. He answered: "The government has not yet made any decision as to what type of private confessional schools will be permitted to function. It seems certain that seminaries and other special training institutions for future priests and clergymen will be allowed."

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