

Church Cannot Remain Aloof To Holy Land War, Paper Says

Rome—(NC)—The Church cannot keep aloof from the things that are now happening in Palestine. It is the duty of the Church to take a stand in favor of the Holy Land which the Christian spirit has regarded with veneration through the ages.

(According to secular press reports, the bitter fighting for control of Jerusalem has swirled around many of the holy places and some of these have already suffered damage. Among the Catholic institutions reported damaged were the monastery of the Nativity Fathers from France, erected in 1908 in the center of the Holy City, and the pilgrim house of Notre Dame de France, dedicated by French Ambassadors in 1870.)



Hand-to-hand fighting between Hagana members and King Abdullah's Arab Legion is reported in the old walled city of Jerusalem where Jewish Army forces broke through Arab lines holding them back. The battle rages near spots of Biblical events in the life of Christ. (NC Photos.)

Catholic Schools Seen Anti-Totalitarian Guard

Cleveland—(RNS)—Catholic schools and other private schools were described as "the nation's most powerful safeguard against totalitarianism" by the Rev. William E. McManus, assistant director of the Department of Education, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D. C.

Addressing the 38th annual convention of the Catholic Press Association here, Father McManus said:

"The private school, embodying the national tradition, but not subject to political control, is a mighty bulwark against those forces which would destroy both free schools and free nations."

"By denying tax funds to parochial schools," he said, "our government has refused to allow parents to exercise their rights."

"A democratic government whose practice negates one of the fundamental principles on which it is supposed to operate is offering an open invitation to totalitarianism."

"Recent history has proved that the first step toward the suppression of a right is the imposition of economic pressure upon its free exercise."

Other resolutions adopted: Urged the President and Congress to take "vigorous action" to restore "the basic human rights of home, family and independent livelihood to the million of displaced persons still held in confinement," and "not to favor any policy that would exclude so many thousands of possibly worthy and desirable citizens from admission to this country."

Demanding that shrines of the Holy Land "be not destroyed or desecrated" and "that the Christian minority in that land be not victimized," and urged the United Nations "to exert its influence in Palestine immediately for peace among the warring factions."

Called upon the U. N. "to recognize for what it is" the outlawing "by the Soviet communist ring of dictators" of freedom of the press and the unrestricted interchange of information, and "to insist upon freedom of the press as essential to permanent peace and the preservation of human rights."

Recommended that raw wood pulp, instead of the finished newspaper product, be shipped to European countries where there exists at present "a great capacity of idle newsprint machinery." This resolution took cognizance of "the reduced supply of newsprint in the United States, the conditions governing its production, and the effect of such reduction on the publishers of all weekly papers. The association said it "fully recognizes the desperate need of a greater newsprint supply in Europe to guarantee freedom of expression and a broader news coverage."

Msgr. John S. Randall, managing editor of The Catholic Courier Journal, Rochester, N. Y., and chairman of the C. P. A. newsprint committee, gave the convention a detailed account of newsprint shortage.

Hungarian Church, State Reconciliation Impeded

Budapest—(NC)—While the Church has always desired to bring about a "sincere reconciliation" between Church and State in Hungary, political methods "bearing the mark of propaganda" and aimed at prejudicing public opinion on the problem hinder rather than promote its solution.

This is the tenor of a statement issued by an ecclesiastical spokesman through the Hungarian Courier, Catholic news agency. The statement is particularly critical of "write and offensive declarations" charging the Church with "moral terrorism" and throwing "insults" at the Holy Father, although "many of the scribes who today are abusing him owe their very life to the Pope."

According to a secular news dispatch from Budapest, disagreements over the future relations of the communist-dominated Hungarian regime with the Catholic Church are at the bottom of a crisis within the top Communist party leadership in Hungary. Vice Premier Matyas Rakosi, communist party boss, and Minister of the Interior László Rajk, are said to be the leaders of the opposing factions.

Reconciliation between Church and State, the declaration points out, "must depend on important preliminary conditions and not on mere words and signatures of doubtful origin and value. It is remarkable that no mention is being made of the well-known grievances of the Church, such as the diplomatic relations with the Vatican, a non-partisan Catholic daily paper, the revival of the disbanded Catholic societies, etc."

In view of attempts to drive a political wedge between Catholics, the statement declares: "The Church recognizes neither left-wing nor right-wing Catholics, but only Roman Catholics who profess the same faith, whose life is guided by the same rules, who go to the same Sacraments and who readily accept and follow the spiritual guidance of the Bishops who are in union with Christ's representative on earth."

Recalling that both parties in the struggle have solemnly proclaimed their respect for the sacraments sacred to men who believe in Christ, the editorial continues: "The hour has come to cooperate with each other in the unity of these assurances, lest fraternal blood be shed once again, but to fall again upon men and upon States emerging in such similar light."

IN AN OUTLINE of the recent history of the Palestine problem, the paper lays blame for the present state of affairs on the vacillating policy of the United Nations and of individual States prompted by purely political considerations. It adds that these vacillations have made more serious than ever the moral position of the U. N.

The paper reminds that the Pope's Holy See, "Atypical Questions," calling for prayers and a fast, was the latest in a series of similar declarations by the Pope, beginning with Pope Benedict XV in 1921. The editorial adds that Palestine is more than a source of discord between nations hating each other; that it is the focus of the Christian world's moral and spiritual heritage.

THE PAPER also responds to the question of which Catholics and all Christians have the right to appeal. It Quotidian declares: Pointing out that in its decision of November 29, 1947 (when the partition plan for Palestine was adopted) the United Nations General Assembly called for an internationalized Jerusalem under a U. N.-nominated governor, the paper adds: "Implementation of this principle is now the minimum that Christians can ask of the United Nations. Christian conscience has the right and duty to hold the U. N. to its responsibilities."

According to reports from the Security Council—United States, Great Britain, France, Soviet Union and China—have unanimously named Count Folke Bernadotte, president of the Swedish Red Cross, to act as a United Mediator in Palestine.

Catholic Press Pledges War On Secularism

Cleveland—(NC)—The Catholic Press Association of the United States has pledged itself to renewed efforts to "disperse the insidious inroads of secularism" in this country.

Bringing to a close their 38th annual convention, whose program centered around the "scourge" of this evil, Catholic editors and publishers expressed concern "that the light of historic Christian culture be not extinguished in our land," girded themselves for even stouter resistance to secularism and expressed determination to work with renewed vigor "to restore Christ as the light of truth to American thinking and living as becomes our place in the apostolate of the American Hierarchy."

The convention unanimously elected Bishop Michael J. Ready of Columbus, Episcopal Chairman of the Press Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, to be Honorary President of the C. P. A., the third in its history.

The Rev. Paul Bussard, editor of The Catholic Digest, St. Paul, was elected President of the C. P. A.

Leo XIII Award



Jacques Maritain, French Ambassador to the Vatican and distinguished philosopher, who has been awarded the Pope Leo XIII Award of the Shell School of Social Studies, Chicago. The award is given annually for outstanding contribution to social education. (NC Photos.)

Maritain Takes Princeton Post

Paris—(Radio, NC)—Jacques Maritain will retire next month from his post as Ambassador of France to the Holy See. It has been officially announced here, and will go to Princeton University, where he has accepted a professorship with the department of philosophy. Mr. Maritain, who is 66 years old, has served as French Ambassador to the Vatican since 1945. He taught philosophy at the Catholic Institute in Paris from 1916 to 1939.

(Mr. Maritain's acceptance of his call to Princeton has also been announced by Harold W. Dodds, president of Princeton University.)

Heads Radio Group

Columbus—(NC)—Edward J. Heffron, director of media relations of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, was elected president of the National Religious Radio Association at the 18th Institute for Education by Radio held here. Mr. Heffron was formerly executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Men.

Canisius Case Argued Before Appeals Court

Albany—(RNS)—Henry Adsit Bull, the Buffalo attorney, who has questioned the constitutionality of state-aid to sectarian colleges, pleaded his own case before New York State's highest tribunal here, requesting the judges to exercise their "duty" of ruling on the alleged violations.

At the conclusion of the testimony, part of which was given on behalf of the state by Assistant Attorney General Henry S. Manley, the court gave no indication when it would rule on the case.

Bull was appealing the dismissal in lower courts of his suit to rule out a state grant of \$122,000 to Canisius College of Buffalo, on the ground it violated both federal and state constitutional statutes barring public aid to sectarian institutions. Canisius is a Catholic college.

If the Court of Appeals rules in favor of Bull, spokesmen said, the case must go back to the lower courts for trial on its constitutional merits. Heretofore, the courts had not ruled on the merits of the case, but questioned Bull's legal right to bring suit as "a mere taxpayer," whose individual rights were unmoored.

"THE JUDICIAL" oath to support the Constitution, Bull agreed, "makes it the duty of judges to rule on an alleged violation of the Constitution whenever an apparent violation comes to their notice in any proceeding, provided only that all persons entitled to be heard are represented."

Manley reiterated the state's previous argument that Bull had not sufficient stature as a taxpayer to bring the suit.

The assistant attorney general argued that the Canisius project was not a violation of the Constitution, adding the prohibition against state aid to religious institutions was not applicable to what he termed the general program of veterans education now involved.

The aid had been given to Canisius by the State Emergency Joint Housing Board for conversion of a former hospital into classrooms to accommodate student-veterans.

"If this program is truly viewed," Manley said, "there is no offense against state aid to denominational schools or religious establishments."

HONOR ST. PETER CLAVER



Two students of the parish school, class of 1892, were among those attending the laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Peter Claver Church (for Colored), at Lexington, Ky., recently. Pictured on that occasion is the Most Rev. William T. Mulloy, Bishop of Covington, officiating at the ceremonies. Photo courtesy of The Messenger, O.S.V. (NC Photos.)

Bill Won't Help Parochial Pupils, NEA Official Says

Chicago—(NC)—In an effort to reassure the editors and readers of The Christian Century, non-denominational Protestant weekly published here, that the Taft Federal Aid to Education bill is worthy of support, a high official of the National Education Association has stated that under the recent Supreme Court decisions in the Everson and McCollum cases no public funds can go to parochial schools as such and "there is a possibility" that transportation and textbook help to parochial school children will soon be ruled out.

The Taft bill leaves it up to the States as to whether any of the \$300,000,000 of school aid it proposes can be allocated to non-public schools. Catholics have opposed the bill because this provision, in effect, denies all aid to parochial school children. The Christian Century, on the other hand, has opposed the bill because it fears the possibility that some parochial school children may be helped by it.

The N.E.A. official, Dr. Joy Elmer Morgan, editor of the organization's Journal, wrote in The Christian Century that the magazine, in expressing opposition to the Taft measure, had given "a definitely wrong impression of the actual situation."

"Under the New Jersey decision, service can be given to children attending parochial schools in such matters as transportation and books," he admitted, but added: "I believe that the decision should be reversed and that there is a possibility that it may be."

"As you will see by careful reading of the debate while the bill was before the Senate, Senators were fully aware of the fact that under the Supreme Court decision in the New Jersey and Illinois cases no public money, either State or national, can go to parochial schools as such," he pointed out earlier in his letter.

The N.E.A. professional organization of 800,000 public school teachers, has been a most vigorous proponent of the Taft bill, which passed the Senate last month, but is still pigeon-holed in the House Education and Labor Committee, with time running out for the 80th Congress.

Catholic Policy Set On Displaced Persons

Omaha, Neb.—(RNS)—Before a European displaced person is brought to the U. S., he must have friends, a job, and a place to live here.

Those are the conditions on which Catholic Charities is basing its campaign to bring DP's to America, according to speakers at a regional Charities assembly here. Msgr. John J. O'Grady, national secretary of Catholic Charities, told the session that the housing situation "is our most acute internal problem."

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