

Changes Asked In CA Human Rights Charter

Washington (RNS) — Changes in the proposed United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Human Rights were suggested here by the Catholic Association for International Peace.

The Catholic group said the Declaration's article on the family and its rights needed "strengthening." As it now reads, the article says:

"The family deriving from marriage is the natural and fundamental unit of society. Men and women shall have the same freedom to contract marriage in accordance with the law. Marriage and the family shall be protected by the State and society."

THIS ARTICLE would be modified by the Catholic Association as follows:

"The family deriving from marriage is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights antecedent to all positive law and as such shall be protected by the State and society."

"Men and women have the same right to contract marriage and to the rights that flow therefrom."

Describing the article on freedom of thought and conscience as "too sweeping," the Association proposed it be changed to read:

"EVERY INDIVIDUAL is free before the law to hold any religious or other beliefs and to change these beliefs according to the dictates of his conscience. Every individual has the right either alone or in community with other persons of like mind and in public or private to manifest his beliefs in worship, observance, teaching and practice."

The Association said the article on the right of education "does not include anything on the rights of parents to choose the type of education for their children or the right of education by non-governmental agencies."

It proposed, therefore, that the article be changed to read as follows:

"Everyone has the right to education. Parents have the primary right to determine the type of education their children shall receive. Non-governmental agencies have the right to conduct schools."

"FUNDAMENTAL education shall be compulsory. The State shall maintain adequate and free facilities for such education. There shall be equal access for higher education as can be provided by the State or community on the basis of merit and without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion, social standing, financial means or political affiliation."

In the International Covenant on Human Rights, the Catholic agency said the following article "is improperly phrased and could lead to grave abuse."

"Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hostility that constitutes an incitement to violence shall be prohibited by the law of the State."

A FAMILY ROSARY BRIDE



Rev. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., Director of the Family Rosary Crusade, is shown congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Gerwin of Albany, N. Y., following the couple's marriage on May 15, at St. James' Church, Albany. Father Peyton came from California to perform the ceremony. This was the keeping of a promise he made to Mrs. Gerwin—that wherever he would be, he would travel to Albany to perform her marriage ceremony. Ms. Gerwin, the former Eileen M. Soraghan, was Father Peyton's secretary and was the first employee in the headquarters of the Family Rosary Crusade. Photo courtesy of The Evangelist. (NC Photos.)

Pope Says Human Dignity Basic to Property Right

Rome (NC) — Recognition of the right of private property, who knows what kind of a system it will assure the legal guarantees of constitutional law. God grant we may never see the day when a definite rupture on this point may come and separate peoples."

Saying that, if this should happen, one of the columns of the edifice of our civilization, western unity, would crumble. The Holy Father added that, like the ancient temples, it would remain covered by the ruins of its fall.

"Please God, we are not again at that point," His Holiness continued. "However, the absence of scruples with which incoherent private rights are violated today, not only by the particular systems of some peoples but also by international conventions and unilateral interventions, is such as to alarm all leaders of our civilization."

"Once more, we are not at this point and in the juridical life of the peoples healthy forces seem reappearing, recovering strength, permitting new life. An indication of this renewal is precisely the perseverance of our Institute to which go a number of States and organizations have thus far assured assistance and, we do not doubt, will continue to give it."

Yugoslavs Step Up War on Religion

Vienna — (NC) — The hollowness of Belgrade pretensions to "freedom of religion" in Yugoslavia is again illustrated by recent news from that country, showing that the warfare of its communist regime is directed against all Christian churches and aims at wiping out Christian religion in general.

Reports received here state that another Catholic Bishop has been thrown into jail for no stated reason; that an American-born Bishop of the schismatic Orthodox Church was sentenced by a People's Court to 11 years imprisonment at hard labor; that many Protestant ministers are still kept in concentration camps while Protestant churches are being systematically dismantled to furnish building material for " Tito houses."

The newly arrested Catholic Bishop is the Most Rev. Peter Cule of Mostar, whose diocese is located in the "Peoples Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina." There is no indication so far of the charges, if any, against the 50-year-old prelate, who became a Bishop six years ago, nor is it known where he is being detained.

(Dr. Philipp Popp, German Protestant Bishop of Yugoslavia, was executed at Zagreb in June, 1945, according to a report in "Christliche Nachrichten" in Munich. The report is held to be of particular interest in connection with a statement by seven American Protestant ministers who visited Yugoslavia last year and subsequently said that there was no religious persecution in that country.)

EVERY THE usually biased and garbled reports in the communist press failed in the case of the Orthodox Bishop of Sarajevo, Varnava Vojislav Nastic, to paint him as a black criminal. He emerges from newspaper accounts of his "trial" as a courageous hero, guilty only of fighting for the religious rights of his people, of condemning the immorality of communist youth organizations, of refusing to collaborate with the regime in its efforts to subjugate the Orthodox Church to communistic dictation, and of charging that communism is threatening the very existence of religion in Yugoslavia.

To those who knew the situation in Yugoslavia it is perfectly obvious that, as in the case of the "trial" of Archbishop Aloisius Stepinac of Zagreb, the communists sought primarily an excuse for removing the Bishop from the communist scene for a long time.

Bishop Nastic was born in Gary, Indiana, in 1914 and was taken to Sarajevo by his parents while still a boy. He studied theology and, in 1940, entered an Orthodox monastery. The Pavelic regime, at that time in power in Croatia, offered him the post of Bishop of the Croatian "Orthodox" Church, but he refused and remained in Sarajevo all during the war, caring for his people. He was consecrated Bishop by the Patriarch Gavrielo in Belgrade on August 18, 1947.

IN HIS "TRIAL" which lasted three days, the Bishop was accused of saying there was no freedom of religion in Yugoslavia. Those familiar with the situation point out that this was hardly a strange statement for a Bishop to make — aware, as he was, that hundreds of Orthodox priests are in prison, that many have been murdered by Communists, and that priests in general lost their means of subsistence when their little plots of land were confiscated under the land "reform."

Nor is it surprising, it is said here, when Bishop Nastic, according to Yugoslav press accounts, admitted during the trial that he had rejected the possibility of collaboration between the Orthodox Church and the Yugoslav regime and had preached against the Communist youth program, comparing it with the Hitler "Jugend" and the Fascist youth organizations in pre-war Italy.

If Bishop Nastic, as charged by the prosecutor, preached against the need of a huge Yugoslav army for a small country so ravaged by war, he merely expressed the view of many observers who fail to see how reconstruction can progress steadily as long as a large part of the young and able-bodied population is kept in army camps.

WHITE HOUSE VISITORS



Winners in a nation-wide essay contest, Donald Meehan, 15, and Patricia Ferguson, 14, president and vice-president of the Civic Club of St. Joseph's Orphanage, Peekskill, N. Y., accompanied by the Sister Superior of the orphanage, are pictured outside the White House, following a reception by President Truman to the delegates of the National Conference on Citizenship. They were brought to Washington by the Commission on American Citizenship of the Catholic University of America, which has chartered some 1,000 Catholic Civic Clubs in the nation's Catholic schools. Photo by Reil. (NC Photos.)

Vatican Scores Bishop's Arrest

Vatican City — (NC) — The arrest of Bishop Peter Cule of Mostar is a clear indication that "the system" in Yugoslavia has not changed, writes Osservatore Romano.

The "system" consists, according to Osservatore, in proclaiming full recognition of liberty and the rights of religion and, at the same time, the elimination, pure and simple, of all those who should enjoy these rights. Punishment, the "system" says, is only meted out for "unspecified crimes" against the State, in other words the (Communist) regime. "But who is to establish and de-

side," Osservatore asks, "if the liberties and rights of religion have been infringed upon, and if the priests, in defending these rights, are therefore against the regime, or if it is not the regime rather which is against the clergy?"

The editorial concludes: "Thus it is that Bishop Cule could be arrested, that episcopal sees remain vacant and Catholic religious life remains paralyzed, while it is said at the same time, and even published for the benefit of Protestant guests who have been invited from America, that religion is entirely beyond discussion and the Church most respected."

Mundt Bill Denounced By Bishop Haas

Washington — (RNS) — The Most Rev. Francis J. Haas, Catholic Bishop of Grand Rapids, Michigan, condemned the Mundt Bill, which would outlaw the Communist Party, as "potentially destructive of the moral and civil rights of all Americans."

Bishop Haas' statement was made in a telegram read in the House of Representatives by Rep. Mary T. Norton (D-N.J.).

The Bishop said he was registering his "emphatic opposition" to the bill because he believed in the "widest measure of individual freedom consistent with the public interest."

HE SAID the measure would grant such "arbitrary powers" that in professing to combat Communism it would "make the government in effect a totalitarian dictatorship."

Only a believer in private enterprise, "talking with his tongue in his cheek and risk-taking the government such wide dictatorial powers over individual conduct," the prelate added.

"Communism is an evil to be removed, but it would be folly to destroy ourselves in removing it," he said, urging "clever and sure methods of reason and Christian regard for others" as the best means of "striking out Communism."

Congressman Eugene T. Cox (D-Ga.) protested the bishop's statement as not expressing the "views of the Catholic Church."

COX SAID it was "incomprehensible that a great religious order, headed by one of the great world figures — I think one of the three greatest of all Popes — that has wrought so nobly in behalf of the preservation of freedom on this earth and that has contributed to stopping the spread of Communism, would approve the views expressed" by Bishop Haas.

In presenting Bishop Haas' statement, Congressman Norton said:

"The Catholic Church, as we all know, is and has been the greatest force in the world against Communism. But that does not mean that the Catholic Church endorses a bill of this kind."

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