

British Told To Call Union Bluff of Reds

London—(NC)—A Bishop, a Catholic Member of Parliament and a former communist editor called British Catholics to "pull their weight" in the community, to stop complacency, and to call the "red bluff" in the trade unions.

Bishop John E. Butt of Geneva, speaking to a Catholic young men's convention in Llandudno, North Wales, said British Catholics were guilty of "treachery" because of their failure to work hard enough to influence non-Catholics.

"We are letting the position go by default," the Bishop said. "We are committing sins of omission. We are too much on the defensive, too fond of explaining away or softening down unpalatable truths. We let ourselves be poisoned by the atmosphere in which we live. We snigger at the foul things which are prevalent here, instead of showing our disgust. We weaken our defenses and the whole Catholic position by not disagreeing with anything which is against the law of God."

REONARD STONES, Catholic Member of Parliament for Ipswich, expressed similar thoughts in an address to a big Catholic workers' rally in Glasgow, Scotland. "Why on earth don't the 500,000 Catholics in the world get cracking to see that the world economic situation is ordered in such a way as laid down by the encyclical Rerum Novarum?" he asked.

"Complacency is our worst enemy," he added. "It is no use sitting back saying, 'I'm a good Catholic.' We have the theory but we do not do enough to put it into practice. For Heaven's sake, all of you get into your unions. Not only get in, but be active in them." He pointed out that of the 840 members in the House of Commons only 20 are Catholics, but there should be at least 70.

Desert Hermit's Cause Advanced

Albany, N. C.—The process in the cause for beatification of Father Charles de Foucauld, French aristocrat and dashing cavalry officer who retired from the world to become a hermit and labor in the Sahara for the conversion of the Mohammedans, is entering its second phase.

The diocesan investigation is now over and the cause has been placed before the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome. The next step will include a review of the diocesan process and a review of the hermit's writings, some 14,000 pages. Copies of the original writings were made by the White Sisters for presentation to Rome. After review of these documents a solemn decree of introduction of the cause is hoped for.

Three religious groups tracing the inspiration for their founding to Father de Foucauld are now established in North Africa and the Sahara. The Little Brothers of Jesus, founded in 1932 at El-Biodh Sidi Cheikh, South of Omdurman, today number 22 Religious. The Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart, founded in 1933, have headquarters at Montpellier, France, now number 16. The Little Sisters of Jesus, founded in 1940 and with present headquarters at Aix-en-Provence, France, have 43 members.

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Schools Red Target Behind Iron Curtain

Vienna—(NC)—News reaching here from five countries behind the Iron Curtain—stretching from the Baltic Sea in the north to the shores of the Adriatic in the south—throws further light on the struggle of the Church to defend her rights against the efforts—sometimes sly and hidden, sometimes ruthless, but always persistent and systematic—of atheistic regimes to alienate the people from their traditional Faith.

In all five countries—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Albania—the communist-dominated regimes regard the Church as the last remaining obstacle to unrestrained totalitarian power.

To remove this obstacle is the overall purpose of the policies pursued in the various countries. There are two immediate objectives: (1) to capture the youth through domination of the educational systems and (2) to drive a wedge between the people and their spiritual shepherds.

THE COMMUNIST-inspired efforts to create distrust between priests and people created a particularly critical situation in Czechoslovakia, where the Bishops, just before yesterday's (May 30) rigged "elections," barred all priests from being candidates.

In two of the five countries—Yugoslavia and her satellite Albania—the communist war on the Church has taken the form of ruthless persecution, with the murder and imprisonment of Bishops, priests and religious. The arrest of Bishop Peter Cule of Mostar in Yugoslavia and the latest reports on the declaration of the Hierarchy and clergy in Albania are illustrative of this type of persecution.

In the other three countries, the persecutors of the Church use, for the time being at least, more refined methods. They screen their efforts to stifle Catholic life with spurious declarations of "freedom of religion" and "freedom of conscience."

IN POLAND, Czechoslovakia and Hungary there is still "freedom of worship" in other words, churches are open and religious ceremonies are permitted. The fact that Masses can be offered and that the dead receive Christian burials is ostentatiously presented to foreign visitors as evidence of the existence of "freedom of religion." Some are deceived by such evidence, being entirely unaware of the Holy Father's injunctions or unwilling to grant that the Church cannot permit herself to be confined to the four walls of the sanctuary. But whatever form the persecution takes, the fact remains that in all five countries Catholic life in the fullest sense of the word, over and above sacramental functions, is being stifled. So far as any Catholic societies are still allowed to exist, membership constitutes a serious social and economic handicap; the Catholic press is a mere shadow of its former self; the economic foundations of the Church are being steadily undermined; and Catholic schools have either been nationalized or are threatened with nationalization in the near future.

IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, the Hierarchy took special measures to clarify the position of the Church regarding political activities of priests. In view of the "elections" on May 30 the Bishops announced after a joint meeting in Olomouc that (1) none of the priests who intend to be candidates at the elections has so far applied for the consent of his Ordinary, which is required by canonical law, and (2) that those priests who were already members of parliament or other bodies had agreed to some laws and ordinances to which non-Christian, and even less a priest, can agree—an action which has scandalized the Catholic people and the clergy.

"Therefore," the Bishops announced, "the Ordinaries have decided not to grant to any priest a permission to become a political candidate." They added that this action was taken in the spirit of the sacerdotal vocation and the law of the Church, and they noted that similar actions have been taken in most other countries.

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Jews, Arabs Said to Want Church Lands

London—(NC)—Grave anxiety for the safety of Church possessions, and even more for priests and religious in North Galilee, "surrounded by the constant parties and assured of the good-will of neither of them," is expressed in an article by a Palestine correspondent for The Tablet, British Catholic weekly. Asserting that these possessions are "coveted" by both Jews and Arabs, the correspondent says that "the old virus of anti-Christian feeling is strong in the Mohammedan world."

Arabs know "that it is in their interest to remain friendly with people who have western wealth and influence behind them," the correspondent writes, and "they carry out the policy dictated from above of retaining Christian good-will."

"THE JEWS seem to have no such policy," he continues. "As soon as the partition plan was decided upon, the Catholic communities here received notice from the Jewish authorities that they would have to pay the customary taxes (from which they had always been exempt under the Mandate) and if they failed to do so legal action would be taken against them."

"The fate of Church property here is for the moment in the hands of the Jews," he adds. "Whether they will maintain their ascendancy or not is a moot point, for the Arabs have not shown their full strength and it remains to be seen what will happen when their forces come over the border."

The correspondent expresses the hope that "if and when steps are taken for the safeguarding of the Holy Places in Jerusalem these northern Church possessions will not be forgotten."

IN THE SAME edition of The Tablet there is editorial comment to the effect that among the about 750,000 Jews residing in Palestine there are only perhaps 40,000 Orthodox Jews, while the rest, the Zionist immigrants of the past 30 years, are filled mainly with a kind of political and secular Messianism.

The great majority of the "Yishuv" (that is, the Jews of Palestine as distinct from those living in the diaspora) "are today indifferent to religious sentiment as such, whether their own or that of others." The Tablet asserts.

Whether these sectarian classes are conducted in the school buildings or elsewhere can make no difference, since attendance upon them during compulsory school hours is deemed attendance at schools.

Notre Dame U To Honor Prelate
Notre Dame, Ind.—(NC)—Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, and Paul G. Hoffman, newly named director of the European Recovery Program, will be among those who will receive honorary doctorates from the University of Notre Dame at its 103rd commencement exercises on June 6.

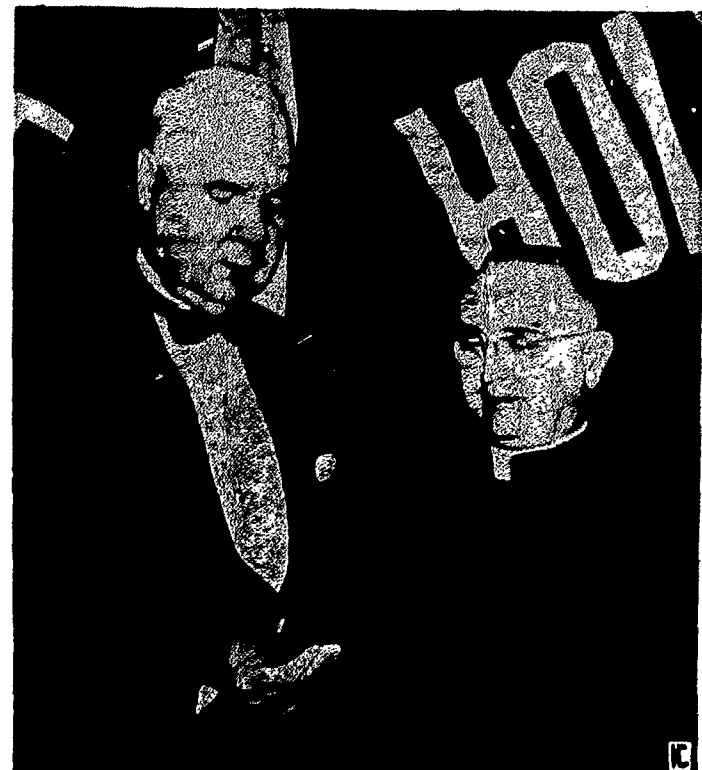
Archbishop Cushing will deliver the baccalaureate address, and Mr. Hoffman, a non-Catholic, will give the commencement address.

School Superintendent Named Frisco Auxiliary
Washington—(NC)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII has named the Rt. Rev. Msgr. James T. O'Dowd, Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, to be Titular Bishop of Coea and Auxiliary to the Most Rev. John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, it is announced in word received at the Apostolic Delegation here.

Bishop-elect O'Dowd was born in San Francisco, August 4, 1907 and ordained on June 4, 1932. He made graduate studies at the Catholic University of America here from 1932 to 1933, taking his doctorate in education. The newly named Bishop served as assistant superintendent of schools in the San Francisco before becoming superintendent.

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CRUSADER'S SHIELD AWARDED



Scoring the influences of irreligion evidenced in recent deliberations of the U. S. Supreme Court, Hon. Edward N. Scheiberling, (left) Albany lawyer, and former National Commander of the American Legion, accepts the Crusader's Shield, honor award of the Holy Cross Club of Eastern New York. Rev. John J. A. O'Connor, (right), president of the club, made the presentation of the shield, an award for outstanding Christian achievement. (NC Photos.)

Papal Radio Talk Slated At Cologne Cathedral Rites

Frankfurt—(NC)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII will address by radio at least two German Catholic events this year, according to present plans. In addition to speaking at the celebrations on August 15, marking the 700th anniversary of the foundation of Cologne cathedral, the Holy Father also will address the "Katholikentag," German national Catholic convention, next September 15 in Mainz. Furthermore, the Pope is expected to appoint a Papal Legate to represent him at the Cologne ceremonies.

Bishop Aloisius J. Muench of Fargo, N. D., Apostolic Visitor to Germany, will attend the ceremonies at Cologne and Mainz. Cologne cathedral which suffered severe damage during the war, has been largely restored.

Fr. Hess Re-elected Minister General

Vatican City—(Radio NC)—The Most Rev. Bede Hess has been re-elected Minister General of the Priars Minor Conventual at the first general chapter of the Order to be held since 1938. The re-election of Father Hess, an American who formerly served as Minister Provincial of the Immaculate Conception province in Syracuse, is considered a high tribute since only very rarely are exceptions made from the rule establishing two six-year terms for the Minister General. Father Hess was first elected in 1936 and has served ever since.

Bus Bill Passed
Annapolis, Md.—(RNS)—A bill permitting transportation of parochial school children in public school buses in Calvert County was enacted here.

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4 Children Tell Wishes To Pius XII

Rome—(ENS)—After a "wonderful" week of sight-seeing in Rome, four children from Italy, France, England and Germany told their hearts' desires to Pope Pius XII at a special audience.

The children were winners in a contest sponsored by the Universal Film Company among 1,000 youngsters who were asked to write letters expressing "your dearest wish." The Rome visit was their reward, plus an appropriate gift for each.

Little 8-year-old Gabriella Locatelli told the Pope she wanted a red house with "great big windows" to let the sunshine in, and lots of flowers outside. She was given a large-scale doll house, equipped with furniture.

"A donkey that walks and eats," was 8-year-old Robert Gayraud's wish. The French boy got what he wanted—a handsome grey animal.

For 10-year-old Rudiger Kircher, of Germany, his dearest wish was a visit to the tomb of his Uncle Sora.

Ruth Thomas, who is 12, and came from England, added a grim comment when she told the Pope she had wanted to visit the Sixtine Chapel in the Vatican "before it or myself are destroyed in a new war."

House Gets New School Aid Bill

Washington—RN—Special provision for federal aid to parochial schools of secondary grade level and less is made in two bills now before the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The bills—HR 6600 and HR 6597—would provide reimbursement to such schools up to 60 per cent of their annual expenses for (1) necessary transportation of pupils, (2) school health examinations and related health services, and (3) purchase of non-religious instructional supplies and equipment, including books evangelizing is forbidden.

Reds Coerce Lutherans
Albany, N. Y.—(RNS)—Lutheran pastors in Czechoslovakia are being forced to join the Communist party, and free religious instruction is forbidden.

Prelate Sees Housing Lack No. 1 Problem

Boston—(NC)—America's housing shortage is the problem most vitally affecting the nation's wellbeing and the future of family morality and it calls for "drastic public action," Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston told 800 members of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters at their convention dinner at Swampscott, near Boston.

"In Massachusetts alone the families of more than 50,000 veterans are in critical need of housing at reasonable rentals in the low-income and middle income brackets," the Archbishop declared. "I believe it likely that our local condition, bad as it is, is better than the state of affairs elsewhere."

NOTHING THAT almost three years have passed since veterans returned from the services, he said that the families of ex-GI's are beginning to grow, and "those who are living with others, even their own families, are faced with an intolerable situation. The strain on affections, health, morals and finances is frequently well-nigh impossible."

"We are told that private capital is worried about housing projects carried on by the state. We are told that the leaders of the state are worried about this, that or the other political angle of the problem." But the rest of us are worried about the families involved; we feel that people without homes and without prospects of homes are the principal ones to worry about.

"I do not know any subject more vitally connected with the wellbeing of America and the future of family morality than that of housing—and I call upon all to find out from their representatives what can be done to accelerate a sane solution of the problem."

Reds Coerce Lutherans
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