

Youth Raise \$500 for Youth Work



For diocesan youth work, the Catholic Inter-High Council of Rochester has presented to His Excellency, Bishop Kearney the \$500 check he is holding here, making the presentation in the Bishop's office Friday are Gene Erbin of Aquinas who presented the check and (from left) Kay Mangold, and Joan Taylor, Nazareth Academy; Jean Christian, Meroy High and Barbara Cooney, Nazareth. The check represents three years work on the part of the Catholic high school students in conducting dances and other fund-raising events.

ON GUARD

God and WHAM Holy Name Rally FCC and Freedom

By REV. F. J. FLYNN

Don't be surprised when you turn on your radio one of these days to hear something like this:

"The National Broadcasting System in cooperation with the American Society of Free-thinkers now presents the weekly Hour of Atheism. Speaker on this evening's program is Professor John Doakes, noted Free-thinker, author and lecturer, whose address is entitled, 'Away With God!'"

This sounds like a joke but it isn't. It's what you may be hearing if atheists are successful in their efforts to take over America's microphones. It all depends upon what the Federal Communications Commission decides about the refusal of Radio Station WHAM to allow a Rochester atheist to use its facilities.

THE STORY OF atheism's fight to get on the air goes back at least two years when atheist Robert Harold Scott filed charges with the FCC against three California radio stations which had denied him radio time.

On July 19, 1946, the FCC issued a sensational statement which in effect warned the radio stations that refusal of time to an atheist was a violation of the constitutional guarantee of free speech.

Three months later on Sunday, October 6, a Holy Name Rally was held in Rochester's Red Wing Stadium. The Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, O.P., professor of philosophy at the Catholic University of America, delivered the principal address which was broadcast from the stadium over the facilities of WHAM.

In view of subsequent developments Father Smith's words were very apt. He stressed the fact that our nation is great because she is founded, as is evident from our Declaration of Independence, on a belief and recognition of God. He warned that disregard for God would be followed a disregard for man. Disrespect for the rights of God lead to disrespect for the rights of man he explained.

Arthur Cromwell, president of the Rochester Society of Free-thinkers, listened to the broadcast of Father Smith's address and immediately requested WHAM for time to answer the Dominican priest.

When the station refused this request, Mr. Cromwell complained to the FCC which promised to consider the case when WHAM's license came up for renewal on May 1 of this year.

On May 1, the FCC by a 3-2 vote of its five members, denied WHAM's request for a three-year renewal of its license and issued a temporary license until September 1. Meanwhile the FCC is taking the case under further study.

This is the only case in which a decision of the FCC is based on the rights of man. (Continued on Page 6)

Comic Books Raise Issue In Elmira and Rochester

Citywide reaction against certain comic books on Elmira newsstands subsided quietly this week when retail dealers and magazine distributors agreed to urge that a local committee be established to offer "advice and opinions as to what comics to circulate."

CLERGY GIVEN ASSIGNMENTS

New appointments of diocesan priests, effective Tuesday June 29, 1948 have been made by His Excellency Bishop Kearney as follows:

Rev. Paul E. Tuttle, to be chaplain of the Convent of the Cenacle, the new retreat house for women recently opened on East Ave., Rochester.

Rev. James D. Cuffney, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua, to be the procurator at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Rev. John J. Leary, assistant pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Rochester, to be the spiritual director at St. Bernard's Seminary.

The following assistant pastors have been transferred:

Rev. E. Charles Bauer, from St. Francis Church, Geneva, to St. Casimir's Church, Elmira.

Rev. John S. Maloney, from St. Bernard's Seminary to Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca.

Rev. Vincent P. Collins, from Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, to St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva.

Rev. John E. Duffy, from St. James Church, Waverly, to St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua.

Rev. Valentine Jankovick, from St. Boniface Church, Rochester, to Holy Family Church, Rochester.

Rev. John E. Cieslinski, from St. Casimir's Church, Elmira, to St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester.

Rev. J. Cuffney, from St. John the Evangelist Church, Rochester, to St. James Church, Ithaca.

Rev. Thomas M. Reddington to St. John the Evangelist Church, Rochester.

Rev. John E. Boach from Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, to St. Louis Church, Hilton (summer assignment).

Rev. Lawrence W. Sansom, from St. Rose Mission, Sodus Point (summer assignment).

Rev. Wallace J. Van Deusen to St. Agnes Church, Avon. The newly ordained priests have been assigned as follows:

Rev. James E. Baker, assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca.

Rev. John A. Connolly, assistant pastor of St. Michael's Church, Newark.

Rev. Gerald E. Dunn, assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester.

Rev. James Marvin, as assistant pastor of St. James Church, Waverly.

Rev. Dominic Muckevicius, assistant pastor of St. Boniface Church, Rochester.

Cromwell Demand For Radio Time Cites U. S. Court

Washington, June 25—(NC)—The Supreme Court decision declaring unconstitutional religious instruction in the public schools has been offered as the basis of a plea to the Federal Communications Commission here to have the Commission declare religion a controversial subject and order radio stations to allow equal time for those who oppose religion as for those who favor it.

THE SEVEN MEMBERS of the Commission are now studying this plea after holding up a renewal of license to Station WHAM in Rochester against which protests have been lodged to the Commission because the station refused time to a professed atheist to answer what he considered attacks made on his philosophy during a religious broadcast.

The station's license came up for renewal on May 1 of this year. The Commission has granted the station a temporary extension until September 1, 1948, pending receipt of additional information.

The plea to halt renewal of WHAM's license was made by Arthur J. Cromwell, president of Rochester Society of Free-thinkers, and by his attorney, who for about two years have tried to get free time from station WHAM to answer attacks made on atheism by the Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, O.P., of the Catholic University of America, during a Holy Name address carried by WHAM.

To date the station has refused to accede to Cromwell's demands, stating that "the great bulk of our listening public would resent rather than approve our giving time for Mr. Cromwell to launch an attack on religion either in general or on any particular denomination."

Atheist Plea Based On HN Rally Here

The Cromwell-WhAM case on which the radio world waits for a decision, was occasioned by WHAM broadcast of the Rochester diocesan Holy Name Rally on October 6, 1946.

More than 13,000 persons including His Excellency Bishop Kearney, attended the rally in Red Wing Stadium at which Father Ignatius Smith was principal speaker.

Cromwell objected particularly to what he reported to Father Smith's statement that the Catholic Church was "battling against its difference—Communism, absolutism and atheism" and that it sought to keep godlessness out of the country as well as to "brush" that within the country.

Shortly after the rally Cromwell, who previously had been seeking in vain to air his atheistic views over WHAM, requested the station for time to "reply" to the priest's statement.

In a letter to the FCC, William F. Walsh, WHAM general manager, asserted that Father Smith's talk did not constitute an attack on any individual or group but on the contrary, was a positive in character, being an appeal for faith in God. It raised no issue he added and provoked no controversy as to whether any substantial part of our listening public would be interested.

Pope Cites Social Justice Course for Italy's Workers

Rome (RN)—An indication that Catholic workers may be called upon to break away from the Communist dominated Italian General Confederation of Labor (CGIL) if it persists in using strikes for political purposes, was seen in a 30-minute address by Pope Pius XII to 30,000 Italian workers.

The Pope said Catholics desire to show a spirit of solidarity with Italian labor by remaining within the general labor federation but declared that associations of Christian workers should intervene if conditions arise which threaten the very essence of syndicalism.

It is not a question so much of selecting one syndicate form rather than another, the Pope said, but of choosing one that is truly Christian, one in which workers collaborate with all social classes in such a way as to defend the just interests of workers and make it possible to render the whole social life.

In his address, the Pope sharply denounced efforts by trade union leaders to transform economic questions into a class struggle.

"Should the trade unions," he said, "aim at exclusive domination of the state, attempt to exercise absolute power over the workers, refuse to have a sense of justice and force a desire to collaborate with other social classes, they would fail in their mission and betray the hopes that honest workers place in them."

Declaring that "if there are imperative necessities, there are also false necessities," the Pope warned that even workers may succumb to a thirst for pleasure.

"There are some needs which must be satisfied, such as clothing, food, education and housing," he said, "but there are other modern anti-Christian avices for pleasure, for recreation and for the easy spending of money. This greed has entered the world of labor as well as that of other circles."

Chain Letters

Once again chain prayer letters, allegedly endorsed by "Franciscan Sisters," are being widely circulated. The spectacular promises made by the promoters of these chain prayers should deceive no one. Catholics are reminded that chain prayers are sinful and ridiculous superstition. For the truth read "CHAIN PRAYERS AGAIN!" on Page 4.

McCullum Verdict Challenged By Lawyer's Journal

Washington, June 25—(NC)—Was not the "free exercise" of religion denied by what the U. S. Supreme Court did in the McCollum case rather than by what the Illinois State law prescribed with regard to religious education in the public schools?

This question is asked by the Journal of the American Bar Association, in an analysis of the McCollum decision, which it terms "a pronouncement" by the Supreme Court on a fundamental principle, not only of national policy but of our civilization and way of life.

"The McCollum case may be one of those fateful decisions which is ignored at the time and regretted in the future. It deserves thorough consideration now," the Journal states, and adds, in throwing open its columns to future discussion of the case, that "the people should have the assistance of lawyers, in coming to an understanding of its effect and implications."

THE BAR ASSOCIATION publication asserts that programs in school districts in eleven states have been rendered "definitely unconstitutional" by the McCollum verdict, since they release pupils from regular classes and provide facilities for the religious classes. Programs in 34 states, under which the religious instruction is conducted off school premises but with the active cooperation of school authorities, are regarded as "unconstitutional," the Journal explains.

"Looking at the matter in the light of our country's history as Mr. Justice Reed urged, it is difficult to see how the Constitution was violated by what the local community and school board did. Did it constitute an 'establishment of religion'?" Was not the "free exercise" of religion denied by what the court did rather than by the state law?" the Journal asks.

"The National Board of Religious Freedom," the Journal notes, "is looking to the effect that the First and Fourteenth Amendments 'do not bar every friendly gesture between Church and State' and are not 'an absolute prohibition against any conceivable situation where the two may work together.'"

The publication then cites James Madison's words that the meaning of the First Amendment should be "that Congress should not establish a religion, and enforce the legal observation of it by law, nor compel men to worship God in any manner contrary to their conscience."

THOMAS JEFFERSON, quoted for giving governmental support to any one religious sect or faith to the exclusion of others, did not oppose the use of public funds in support of religious education along with other education," the Journal notes.

"On the contrary, he recommended for his beloved University of Virginia a theological school for the training of clergymen, a large room for religious worship, and elaborate arrangements for students of religious institutions which he proposed that the various denominations should set up in connection with the university—all at public expense.

"As President of the United States, Jefferson used public funds and Government properties in aid of religion and religious education in various ways, as his every President to this day. Recognition of an interest in and support for religion of the recipient's choosing has not been regarded as an 'establishment,' so long as no one faith is singled out, favored or established to the exclusion of others."

The Journal observes that the Federal Government used chaplains to open sessions of the House and Senate, requires chapel attendance at Annapolis and West Point, and supplied chaplains and chaplains to all units in World War II, and then asks:

"MONEY OF TAXPAYERS and properties of Government were used freely to aid to it that our young men who went into the face of danger and death did not lack the ministrations of those who believed in God and the verities of religion. Must State and local governments do less for those who are being educated for citizenship and life?"

The Bar Association organ explains that under 1944 legislation (Continued on Page 4)

Atheist Charges Against WHAM Pose Serious Decision for FCC

Writing on "Atheism Bids for a Place on the Air" in the July issue of Columbia, Edward J. Heffron, well-known Catholic radio specialist, reviews charges currently under study by the Federal Communications Commission and lodged against Rochester radio station WHAM for its refusal to grant radio time to Arthur Cromwell, president of the Rochester Society of Free-thinkers.



EDWARD J. HEFFRON "The atheist must learn to put up with God on the air as he has learned to put up with God on our coils."

BISHOP SCORES VOTING OATH

Charleston, S. C.—(NC)—Criticizing the oath prescribed by the State Democratic Committee as a prerequisite for voting in the party primary, Bishop Emmet M. Walsh of Charleston has asked that the offensive parts of the oath be rescinded "as an unjust invasion of a citizen's right to his convictions."

As originally announced the oath required voters to swear that they believed in and would support "the social, religious and educational separation of the races." Opposition on the part of Catholic and Protestant citizens caused the Committee to omit the word "religious," but for the rest the oath has been permitted to stand.

Further requires the voter to swear before he may vote in the party primary that he is "opposed to any law which would nullify the FPC law and other Federal laws relating to employment within the states." This clause also contains a provision on penalty of disenfranchisement.

Bishop Walsh's public statement in opposition to these parts of the oath declared "The oath prescribed by the State Democratic Committee as a prerequisite for voting in the Democratic primary cannot be regarded as anything but an unjust and unjust invasion of a citizen's right to his convictions on matters of grave importance to the welfare of our state and all its citizens. It is seen to our American traditions to attempt to enforce through control under penalty of disenfranchisement at the polls."

Some time between now and September 1 the men of FCC are going to have to give a lot of consideration to this question. They will need, and I am sure they will want as much counsel and guidance as they can get. And I'm sure they'll get plenty from the professional atheists, the civil liberties champions, and the numerous advocates of license under the guise of free speech, academic freedom, and freedom of religion. I only hope the apostles of reason will not be as they so frequently are, asleep at the switch."

All Diocesan Offices Close

All diocesan offices will be closed on Saturday during July and August and in the Labor Day weekend, by order of His Excellency Bishop Kearney according to a Chancery announcement today.

Pioneer Priest's Remains Placed in Loretto Tomb

Loretto, Pa.—(NC)—The body of Father Demetrius Augustine Galitzin, a Russian prince who was the first priest to receive all Holy Orders within the limits of the 13 original United States, has been placed in a new, permanent tomb.

It will pay you to see Bill Thorne for an accurate watch or a beautiful diamond. Elgin, Waltham, Longines and Bollox. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 East Main St., opposite East Ave.