

**A Look at Labor
A 'Voice' in Government?**

By A. C. Tuohy

The Secretary of Labor is neither as important as he was nor as he should be. He is because recent Congresses have taken from him whatever real power he had and have reduced him to the inglorious state of being a glorified office boy in charge of labor statistics, speeches, and other minor services.

He was never given charge of the National Labor Relations Board. He has lost his authority over the Federal Mediation Service and the United States Employment Service.

He is not as important as he should be because Congress does not believe that the Secretary of Labor should represent the viewpoint of labor in government.

SINCE THE DEATH of Lewis Schwellenbach, the post has been vacant. It will be interesting to see whom President Truman appoints to the job. It will even be more interesting to discover the reasons why the President selected one man rather than another.

Since 1913, the year when the Department of Labor was established, the Secretaries of Labor have never been outspokenly pro-labor. They didn't dare. Nor did the President dare appoint a real labor spokesman.

The Senate would never have confirmed him. Frances Perkins was probably the best Secretary of Labor. But she suffered because she was a woman and because she was more of a social worker than a labor sympathizer.

The Department of Labor was founded because the politicians felt that organized labor was becoming a real political force in the country. The politicians wanted to give labor some recognition, as long as it did not have any real voice in the determination of government policy.

Even during the New Deal the Secretary of Labor could not be called an effective champion of workingmen.

THE BASIC REASON why the Secretariat of Labor has suffered from mediocrity is that the politicians have believed it should be mediocre. The politicians grudgingly tolerate organized labor but that is as far as they will go.

If organized labor threatens to become outspoken in government, they reduce the Department of Labor to the minimum. If the reduction in power does not work, then they cut appropriations. Not even a small office can run without money.

These "hacking" devices have

'Bride's Prayer' Now Being Distributed Around World

St. Bonaventure, N. Y. — (NC) — Discovered only a few years ago by the Rev. Irineus Herscher, O.F.M., librarian of St. Bonaventure College here, "The Bride's Prayer," found among the effects of a young woman who died after only a year of married life, today is known throughout the world.

Exact authorship of the prayer is not known, but it is believed it was written for her wedding day in April, 1945, by Mrs. Elizabeth Houlihan Dreaver of Philadelphia. Norman Dreaver, her husband, found the prayer, written in his wife's hand, among her effects shortly after her death in May, 1946.

The prayer was brought to the attention of Father Herscher by the bride's cousin, Sister Joseph Burgess of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, who was stationed at Eden Hall in Philadelphia. Father Herscher obtained the imprimatur of Bishop John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., of Buffalo, and arranged for its publication in 1946.

The first edition of several thousand copies soon was exhausted. Subsequent printings of 13,000 and 20,000 copies also were entirely distributed. A fourth edition of 40,000 copies came off the press and still the demand for the prayer continues, Father Herscher reported.

Father Herscher said that in addition to thousands of copies distributed in this country and in Canada, requests for the prayer have been received by him from Ireland, England, Australia, Chile, Argentina, India, New Zealand, and a number of other far off places. It has been printed in some Catholic publications.

In response to many requests, a companion prayer, "A Bridegroom's Prayer," has been composed, approved by Bishop O'Hara, and also is being distributed by the St. Bonaventure College librarian.

India To Be July Mission Intention

New York (NC) — The Holy Father's mission intention for July is "That Social Questions in India May Be Solved in Accordance with Christian Principles." According to an announcement here by Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

"This religio-social question has been of supreme concern for the Hindus for thousands of years," Bishop McDonnell explained. "Even the venerated Gandhi, now veiled with the garments of asceticism, not only by his Indian followers but by many Occidentals as well, while pleading the cause of the Untouchables, still adhered firmly to the tenets of Hinduism and considered it a great 'sin' for one of his followers to embrace any other religion."

"In India," the Bishop continues, "the religious social question extends deep down into the lives of the humblest street sweeper as well as the richest potentate. The former may cause irreparable spiritual harm to a high caste Brahmin who would drink of the water from a well polluted by the lips of an untouchable, even the latter's shadow may lessen the possibilities of one of a higher caste to the right of entrance into a more elevated existence in his next reincarnation. Thus we are made to realize that every act however trivial, is influenced by the rules of Hinduism."

"Christians, on the other hand, with its doctrine of the brotherhood of man through the fatherhood of God," he concluded, "would constitute the answer to many of the problems which confront the people of India today, not only in their political struggle for independence but for their place in the Divine Plan of Redemption."

'Bless My Wedding Day ...'

"O Father, my heart is filled with a happiness so wonderful, I am almost afraid. This is my Wedding Day. I pray Thee that the beautiful joy of this morning may never grow dim with the tears of regret for the step I am about to take. Rather may its memories become more sweet with each passing anniversary.

"Thou hast sent me one who seems all worthy of my deepest regard. Grant unto me the power to keep him ever true and loving as now. May I prove indeed a helpmate, a sweetheart, a friend, a steadfast guiding star among all the temptations that beset this impulsive heart of mine.

"And so may we walk hand in hand down the highway of the valley of the shadow while we hope to lighten with the sunshine of good and happy lives.

"O Father, this is my prayer. Hear me, I beseech Thee. Amen."

Former Concentration Camp Mates See Bishop Elevated

London, July 1—(NC)—Six men, three British, a Scot, a Belgian and a Czech—who spent most of the war years together in Nazi concentration camps, who scrubbed floors together under the eye of German guards, who suffered together in Germany, Austria and Poland, gathered in London to see the seventh member of their prison party consecrated Bishop.

The six men, thrown together by the hazards of war, knelt as their friend was consecrated by His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster as the new Vicar Apostolic of Kisumu, Kenya, British East Africa.

The Ceremony Took Place

in the chapel of St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society's college at Mill Hill. The new Bishop is 46-year-old Msgr. Frederick Hall, from Burnley, Lancashire, a member of the society.

The Nazis caught him in Holland where he was recuperating after ten arduous missionary years in Kisumu. In the same dragnet they also picked up two British Jesuit priest brothers, the Revs. Lawrence and Leslie Dorn; Brother Thomas, Scottish member of the St. Joseph's Foreign Missionary Society; another British cleric, Brother Alex. Greene. Mr. de Valera came here on his return trip from Australia where he attended the centenary of Melbourne diocese last month.

The biggest of the receptions arranged in honor of the Irish leader was that at the Irish College here. Discussing the impressions gathered on his trip around the world, Mr. de Valera particularly extolled the worldwide scope and the outstanding quality of the work performed by Irish missionaries which, he said, equals and even surpasses that done in Ireland's glorious historical past.

Prior to his return home, Mr. de Valera was granted a private audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Irish in Rome Honor de Valera

Rome (NC) — The whole Irish colony in Rome turned out to greet Eamon de Valera former Prime Minister of Ireland, during his three-day visit here.

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Applauded



Roosting his home-state centenary, the Rev. Harold E. Whittig of South St. Paul, Minn., sings "My Minnesota Home," at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, after the presidential nomination was concluded. The song, by Lyle Regal, is the official song of the Minnesota State Centenary. Father Whittig, a former army chaplain, won acclaim for his singing at U.S.O. clubs during the war. (NC Photo.)

**Strange Story
Red Army Officer Kidnaps Priest To Help Catholics**

Cologne, Germany — (NC) — Amid the hundreds of stories coming from countries under Soviet domination and telling of churches being closed and priests being expelled here is one of a Polish priest being kidnapped by a Russian officer for the purpose of forcing him to minister to Catholics in a priestless area of Poland.

The priest involved is Magn. Edmund Nowicki, Apostolic Administrator of Gorzow (formerly Landsberg-Wartha), in the formerly German area now under Polish administration. The story is told in the Aachen diocesan weekly which bases its information on a Polish newspaper account.

MONSIGNOR NOWICKI, according to the report, was invited to ride in the car of a Red Army colonel. Immediately the priest was told in effect that he was being kidnapped and also told why. At the insistence of Catholics to have the ministrations of the Church, three churches had been restored in that area.

The colonel had picked up church vessels, crucifixes and even promised to provide altar wine. "Only the priests are missing," he told Monsignor Nowicki. "You are the first one I could find."

In typically brusque Russian fashion the priest was expected to abandon all his other duties and take over the parish the officer had chosen for him.

The Monsignor readily agreed to dedicate the three churches and hold opening services, but then explained to his kidnapper that he was the Ordinary for the area and would provide three priests for the churches. Thereupon the officer released him.

The background for the incident is this. The shortage of clergy continues to be a serious problem in the newly acquired territories of Poland. As a result, many new Polish settlers relinquish their assigned farms and homes to migrate to another area where they can enjoy the ministrations of a priest.

Appoints Music Commissioner. St. Louis—(NC)—Following the recommendations of His Holiness Pope Pius XII in his Encyclical of last November, "Mediator Dei," Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis has set up an Archdiocesan Music Commission and an Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission.

Student Chapel Opens At Oxford

London—(NC)—A big army-type Nissan hut to hold at least 400 has been opened at Oxford as a special chapel for the university's many Catholic students. It adjoins the Old Palace, resident of Catholic chaplain, which has for the past 50 years served as chapel, clubroom and conference hall.

Archbishop Joseph Masterson of Birmingham, Oxford's diocese, presided at the ceremony at which Msgr. Ronald Knox, world-famed writer, chaplain and former university chaplain, presided. Oxford University now has over 500 Catholic students out of about 3,500. It was stated during the ceremony.

Chief point of general interest in the chapel are two modern three-foot stone images of the Sacred Heart and of Our Lady, by the Rev. Frank O'Malley, a close friend of the late Eric Gill. The Sacred Heart statue has a cap of thorns (as described in Teresa Neumann's visions) and not the usual crown. A spear stands upright against the side of Our Lord Who points a finger to His wound. The wound was originally painted vivid red against the contrasting white stone, but the paint has now been removed.

New Plea Urged For Archbishop

Cleveland—(NC)—The time is now ripe to demand the release of Archbishop Aloysius Stepan of Zagreb, serving a 16-year prison term imposed on him by the Tito regime. Dr. Vojtech Kravcovic, Slovak Catholic leader, who recently returned from Europe, told the 25th annual meeting of Greek Catholic Union here.

Some 250 delegates attended the meeting and gave a rousing demonstration of loyalty to Bishop Daniel Ivancho of the Pittsburgh Greek Rite Diocese when he addressed them at their banquet. The group's 14 national officers all were re-elected.

In Europe Dr. Kravcovic visited the leading capitals and contacted resistance leaders fighting communism. In his address here he warned that some of the "escapees" from communist areas "escaped" too easily, have too much money and are bent only on confusing nationality groups in the United States resisting Soviet encroachment of their homelands.

Bombed College Gets New Status

Manila, P.I.—(NC)—San Carlos College in Cebu, one of the Philippines' oldest existing colleges, demolished in the 1944 American landings, has received the status of university.

San Carlos is the first Catholic university in the southern Philippines. It was founded as a seminary-college by the Jesuits in 1565, and later was taken over by the Vincentian Fathers.

In 1830 the college was segregated from the seminary and received its own buildings and its own staff.

The Fathers of the Divine Word were invited by Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes of Cebu to operate the college in 1935. Enrollment had doubled, new buildings had been constructed, and plans were ready for converting the college into a university when the war broke out.

During the 1944 landings, American bombs demolished both the old and new buildings. With only these ruins as shelters, the Divine Word Fathers opened both high school and college classes in 1945.

Archbishop Reyes turned over Holy Rosary dormitory for the college's use, although he himself was left without a residence and his see without a seminary.

Cardinal Seen No War Soon

Cologne—(NC)—After numerous searching conversations with people at home and abroad I am convinced, His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, told a meeting of Catholic women, "that at the present time there is no danger of war, because our group is not armed and yet while the others have armed themselves the horrors of war and are afraid of them for their country."

The Cardinal appealed to the women to promote peace wherever they can and to oppose the view that conditions could be improved by war.

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