

Denies DP Bill Is Anti-Catholic

Buffalo, July 15 (NC) — Statements carried in the public press asserting that Catholics have denounced Congressional legislation permitting the entrance of 205,000 European displaced persons in this country were criticized as untrue here by Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom of New York, chairman of the National Catholic Resettlement Council.



MSGR. E. E. SWANSTROM

Monsignor Swanstrom declared: "The displaced persons legislation is not discriminatory as far as Catholics are concerned." He added that "no leading Catholic authority or any official representative of the NCRC ever has spoken of the measure as being anti-Catholic despite reports in the public press."

Monsignor Swanstrom presided at a conference here of 60 delegates of the council who mapped plans for receiving thousands of displaced persons in this country.

In his acceptance speech of the presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, President Harry S. Truman referred to the DP legislation passed by Congress as "anti-Catholic." The Chief Executive, announcing that he would call Congress into special session July 26 to consider laws aimed at halting rising prices and solving the housing problem, also asserted: "I shall ask for a displaced persons bill in place of the anti-semitic, anti-Catholic bill that the 80th Congress passed."

It is recalled that when the 80th Congress sent the bill to the White House for the President's signature, the National Council of Catholic Men, the National Council of Catholic Women, the Knights of Columbus and a number of other Catholic organizations sent messages to President Truman urging him to sign the bill. Virtually all of the messages criticized shortcomings and imperfections of the legislation, but urged its approval so that some DP's might be given aid without further delay.

Monsignor Swanstrom pointed out that more than 90 per cent of the Lithuanians and 40 per cent of the Latvians eligible for entry under the law are Catholics and that most of the Poles who will come from the territory east of the Curzon Line are Catholics.

"THUS THERE is a very substantial number of Catholics in this group to which a priority has been given," he added. "At least 55 per cent of the displaced persons to be brought to this country under the legislation are Catholics."

Reporting on the Council's conference, Monsignor Swanstrom said the delegates agreed to appeal to the next Congress, requesting that displaced persons who entered European camps as late as April, 1947, be eligible for admission. Under the Congressional law, only persons in the camps prior to December 22, 1945 are eligible for admission.

"The council has been asked by leaders of both houses of Congress to take up the bill."

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CDA Asks Fair Use Of School Tax

PAID. CALIF. (NC) — Allocation of education tax funds "in a non-discriminatory manner recognizing children attending private and parochial schools on the same basis as those attending public schools," was demanded in a resolution adopted by the 22nd biennial convention of the Catholic Daughters of America here.

In discussing the current controversy relating to Catholic schools, one of the convention speakers, Bishop William D. O'Brien, Auxiliary of Chicago and president of the Catholic Church Extension Society, told the 200 delegates:

"Catholics are not asking for public support for our parochial schools—but occasionally we do ask that discrimination against Catholic children be stopped."

"FREE BUS RIDES, free lunches, free health care furnished by the Federal government or by the State are not donations made to a school any more than the public water system or the public roads, all of which are services furnished taxing citizens."

(Continued on Page 11)

Protestants Seek To Bar N. M. Nuns

SANTA FE, N. M. (RNS) — Formal hearings in a suit to bar Catholic nuns and priests from teaching in New Mexico's public schools are scheduled in late September, District Judge F. T. Hensley of Portales announced.

A group of Protestant residents of Dixon, N. M., and other communities are seeking to "rid tax-supported public schools" of "Catholic influence."

Five nuns who teach in Dixon schools refused to sign 1948-49 contracts following filing of the suit. They have been sent by the Franciscan Order to Texas.

William J. Barker, attorney for Catholic defendants in the suit, told the court that under both the U. S. and State constitutions "no one of the nuns and brothers may be deprived of the right and opportunity to teach."

Release-Time OK Foreseen For N. Y.

CHICAGO (NC) — The Christian Century, "undenominational" weekly, long-time foe of released-time religious instruction classes on public school property as outlined by the U. S. Supreme Court in the *Champaign, Ill.* case, has predicted that the newly-devised New York plan of instruction "will be sustained not only in the State court but in the U. S. Supreme Court."

The publication made its prediction in an editorial, which pointed out it had been eluded by the Rochester, N. Y., church federation regarding the weekly's views on the various types of released-time plans. The federation backs the New York instruction plan, which involves excusing of pupils from school for a half-day each week in order that they may, with parental permission, obtain religious instruction off public school premises.

The New York plan now is being tested in the New York State Supreme Court. The Christian Century calls the suit submitted by Charles H. Tuttle on behalf of the church proponents of the plan "able" but adds that it uses "one or two arguments which we consider unsound."

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Capuchin Monastery for Diocese



This imposing three-story Italian villa of the 12-acre Neater estate on the shore of Seneca Lake, Geneva, becomes the new monastery for the Capuchin Fathers, Italian-American Custodians. The Franciscan Capuchins are entering the diocese with the permission of His Excellency, Bishop Kearney. (P. B. Oakley Photo.)

SLUR AGAINST POPE DEcriED Capuchin Fathers Buy Geneva Estate

ROME (NC) — Stating that "innumerable witnesses can testify to offensive remarks against His Holiness Pope Pius XII attributed to Mrs. Laura Diaz, communist member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, in a public address, the National Civic Committee has announced, it has instituted legal action against Mrs. Diaz. The committee is an affiliate of Catholic Action.

The proceedings, it is stated, are being taken under Italian laws protecting heads of foreign states, including the Vatican State, against slander.

The monthly organ of the National Civic Committee, *Collegarmento*, states that among the remarks attributed to Mrs. Diaz during a political speech in Ortona are that "the hands of the Pope are stained with the blood of many innocent victims during the last war and recently in Greece and Palestine, and no holy water can wash them."

THE VATICAN newspaper *Osservatore Romano*, commenting on the legal action against Mrs. Diaz, said:

"It is necessary for Parliament to deplore officially and condemn the act of one who never should forget the duty of honesty and decorum expected of a Member of Parliament above all in matters relating to the person of a Sovereign."

Mrs. Diaz has denied the remarks attributed to her. "I only said what I told reporters," she said. "The Pope has no power and the hopes of the Italian people and of the people of all the world, lovers of peace, who await from him a word about peace in connection with the barbarous killings in Greece and in Spain or even against the sea in Palestine. That is all."

Mrs. Diaz sent this statement to all Italian newspaper demanding its publication under the Italian press law requiring that people accused of illegal acts be given the press to make their reply.

Osservatore Romano reports that a court in Bergamo has sentenced one Francesco Bonelli to eight months in prison because he said in an election meeting at Fontanelle: "The Pope is a criminal of war."

Capuchin Fathers Buy Geneva Estate

Geneva — Rochester Diocese prepared to throw open its doors to a new religious order following announcement of the purchase of a house and 12-acre Geneva estate by the Capuchin Fathers of the Province of the Stigmata of St. Francis, Italy. Harold A. Neater, father of the three beneficiaries of the estate, announced the sale Thursday, July 15.

Specific use that will be made of the three-story Italian villa, with 12 acres of secluded area overlooking Seneca Lake, has not been revealed.

HIS EXCELLENCY, Bishop Kearney granted permission to Capuchin emissaries from Italy for the establishment of this unit of the Capuchin Fathers in Rochester Diocese.

The Fathers who will come to Geneva are of the Italian-American Custodia. Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, an austere order which takes its name from the long pointed cowl, or capuche, part of its habit. The cowl was adopted as being the original form worn by St. Francis of Assisi, whose rule is followed in its primitive form by the Capuchins.

The Custodia has been established in the United States as a separate unit since 1924 and has a house of studies at Stanford, Va., and a novitiate and preparatory seminary at Beacon, N. Y.

There are 60 members headed by the Very Rev. Felix Mirtello, O.F.M., Cap. commissary provincial, who resides at the motherhouse, Gun Hill Road, Bronx, N. Y.

THE CAPUCHINS also have six parishes located in the archdioceses of New York and Newark and in the Dioceses of Patterson, Their work includes retreats and missions given in Italian and English. A missionary project is located in the Diocese of Brisbane, Australia.

Purchase price of the Geneva property was not disclosed by Neater, who announced the sale in the office of Thomas H. Sweetney and Son, realtors, who with Daniel Chacchia have exclusive sale of the estate. Sale listing of the property was \$85,000. It was valued at close to \$150,000 when completed in its present state with outdoor swimming pool by the late Elyon M. Neater, who died in April, 1947.

RED HUNGARY ABUSES GROW

BUDAPEST (NC) — Hundreds of teachers in Hungarian Catholic elementary schools, which have now been taken over by the government, have been dismissed because of refusal to swear allegiance to the communist-dominated regime, it has been learned.

The communist-controlled newspaper *Freedom* reports that only two nuns, Sisters M. Marcella and Ferdinanda, whose lay names are given as Irene Lakos and Lara Orban, and one Brother, Dezo Kutrovez, have announced their willingness to teach in the nationalized schools.

Meanwhile another meeting of the Hungarian Board of Bishops has been called to receive reports from various heads of Catholic teaching communities whose schools have been nationalized and who have met with government authorities to obtain clarification of the status of their schools under government operation.

ON THE PROPOSAL of the parliamentary immunity committee which has been considering the case of Sister Margaret S'acha, Superior of the Society of Social Sisters and member of parliament who opposed the nationalization of schools, the parliament has voted to banish her for a period of one year from her seat in parliament.

The communist-oriented newspaper *Liberty* has published a list of supplementary indictments against leaders of Hungarian Catholic Action whose trial was scheduled to open this week.

Charges of "antidemocratic activities" have been preferred against both Msgr. Sigismund Mihalovics director of Catholic Action and Odon Lenard, Priest teacher and Catholic Action's cultural secretary.

It has been learned that Monsignor Mihalovics is being tried in absentia.

Withdrawal of Christian Bloc From Red Union in Italy Seen

By REVEREND JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN (Correspondent NCWV News Service)

Rome, July 17—Events in Italy following the attempted assassination of Communist Leader Palmiro Togliatti have revealed causes for concern deeper than the possibility that other mad youths might take into their own hands what they consider the welfare of the country.

Withdrawal of the Christian element from the communist-dominated Italian General Confederation of Labor has now considered practically certain as a result of the nation's dissatisfaction with the Confederation's attitude at the time of the attempted assassination.

While universal regret is felt at the attempts on Togliatti's life and while generous wishes for his speedy recovery have been expressed in all circles, the thing that has "outraged" observers is the quickness with which the communists tried to capitalize on the incident—the efficiency with which they paralyzed the nation and attempted to force the present government's resignation.

HOWEVER, the government of premier Alcide De Gasperi, Christian Democrat, has staunchly refused to accept responsibility for the deed, and has moved quickly and carefully in the interests of public order.

Communist efforts to profit by the attempted assassination were detailed in the Chamber of Deputies here by Interior Minister Mario Scelba when he narrated the public disorders throughout the country during the past few days.

The pattern and development of events, he told the Deputies, clearly showed an intention and an effort to put into operation an existing plan. Within only a few hours after the shooting, he reported, the movement toward a general strike was well under way throughout Italy.

Scelba declared that on the afternoon of the shooting local secretaries of the Communist Party produced telegrams reporting that the strike was in accord with CGIL orders—even before that body began to deliberate on calling a strike.

THE INTERIOR MINISTER also detailed a pattern of immediate and concentrated attacks on Army and police headquarters, the dismantling of police, taking prisoner the officials of industrial establishments, blockading streets and rioting. At Riello, he related, several men occupied the bell tower, rang the bells loudly and proclaimed that "the moment had come."

There was little violence in Rome except for a flare-up on the Piazza Colonna shortly after the attempted assassination. The use of force that prevailed in Rome was largely due to the fast and firm action by police in preventing gatherings from getting out of control.

The greatest physical violence in the Italian capital actually occurred in the streets of Rome.

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Corning Church To Observe Centenary

The one-hundredth anniversary of the organization of St. Mary's Church, Corning, will be celebrated on Sept. 25, 27 and 28, according to the Rev. John A. Smith, pastor.

The celebration, which is expected to bring scores of former parishioners back to Corning, will open with a Solemn Mass in the presence of His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, on Sunday, Sept. 27. The second day will be dedicated to the memory of deceased parishioners, and the third day, Tuesday, Sept. 28, will honor St. Mary's School, the school children and the altar.

ONE FEATURE of the commemoration will be the return, as guests of honor, of all the parish boys who have become priests and religious, and of all former assistants, to participate in the liturgical ceremonies, Father Smith states.

The one-hundred-year-old Church of St. Mary's came into existence on Feb. 9, 1848. On that day Bishop John Timon, first Bishop of Buffalo, while engaged in his first pastoral visitation of the new Buffalo Diocese, reached Corning, assembled the Corning Catholics, organized them into a congregation and started them on the way to building what has become St. Mary's Church.

Eight Basilian Fathers will join the Aquinas Institute staff for the coming term and six new scholars will be added to the faculty, according to the Rev. William J. Duggan, C.S.B., principal of the Catholic boys' high school.

Transferred to Aquinas are the following:

The Rev. James Embser, C.S.B., formerly superior of Catholic Central High School, Detroit, and former principal of St. Thomas High School, Houston, Texas becomes master of novices at the Rochester novitiate of the Basilian Congregation.

The Rev. Donald Benninger, C.S.B., becomes Confessor of the Novitiate.

The Rev. John P. O'Meara, C.S.B., Ph.D. is returning to the staff after studies at the University of Ottawa.

The Rev. James Cross, C.S.B., comes from Catholic Central High, Detroit.

The Rev. Hugh Nelson, C.S.B., also comes from Catholic Central, Detroit.

The Rev. Robert Flood, C.S.B., is being transferred from St. Michael's High School, Toronto.

The Rev. Joseph Thompson, C.S.B., is also from St. Michael's High School, Detroit.

The Rev. John Spratt, C.S.B., is transferred from St. John's Parish, Amherstburg, Ontario.

Leaving Aquinas are the following:

The Rev. Wilfred C. Sharpe, C.S.B., master of novices for the 6 year existence of the Novitiate in Rochester is transferred to St. Thomas High School, Houston, Texas as superior.

The Rev. Walter E. Sullivan, C.S.B., who has been serving at the Novitiate since the death of the Rev. Leonard Dolan, C.S.B., as Confessor is moved to St. Ann's Parish, Houston, Texas.

The Rev. Patrick Lewis, C.S.B., goes to Catholic Central High School, Detroit.

The Rev. Cyril Bergeron, C.S.B., is transferred to St. Thomas High School, Houston, Texas.

The Rev. Edward Pappert, C.S.B., will take graduate studies at the University of Ottawa.

The Rev. John Crowley, C.S.B., goes to St. Michael's High School, Toronto.

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REV. JOHN A. SMITH

Romania Accused Of Treaty Break

ROME (RNS) — Romania's Communist-controlled government was accused by the Vatican of breaking a treaty by its action annulling the 1947 Communist-Vatican concordat.

Vatican spokesmen said the concordat contained a clause which provided for six months advance notice in case of an intended denunciation. The Romanian action came without previous warning, it was said.

THE SAME SPOKESMEN termed Romania's reasons for the denunciation as "inconsistent." According to news reports, the Romanian government acted because of provisions in the new constitution calling for complete religious freedom.

Vatican officials said the annulment was actually a result of atheistic propaganda carried on by the Romanians and of efforts to expel the Catholic Church from Romania in favor of the "Moscow-sponsored" Orthodox Church.

They recalled that the concordat, which was signed in 1927, was not ratified until two years later because of the "violent hostility" of the Orthodox Church.

The Romania-Vatican concordat guaranteed the rights of Roman Catholic bishops over certain schools and contained safeguards for the country's Catholic minority. Of the 18,000,000 people in Romania, 3,000,000 are Catholics.

Party Ordered To Register Negroes

CHARLESTON, S. C. (NC) — Warning that "the Negro has come when racial discrimination in political affairs must stop," Judge J. Wailes Waring here announced he will issue an order requiring officials of the Democratic Party in South Carolina to keep enrollment books open until July 31 to enroll Negroes and grant them full party rights.

The judge also said that the law will include in his order a reference to the rights of religious groups. "If I don't," he commented, "next time they may bar some of the Jews or some of the Roman Catholics."

It is a disgrace and a shame when you must come to court and ask a judge to tell you that you are an American.

Judge Waring said his order will provide that the enrollment books be kept open so all parties regardless of race or religion, be warned that any disobedience of the letter and spirit of this ruling will result in contempt of court proceedings and that any parties responsible for violation will be punished by law.

They Sing 'God Bless America' Nearly Three Million Students in Catholic Schools Next Fall; Taxpayers Saving \$375,000,000 Yearly

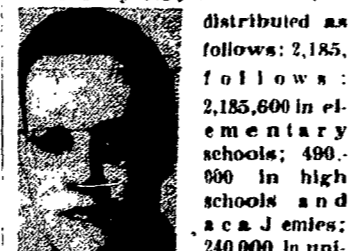
By JAMES E. CUMMINGS, I.R.D. (NCWC Education Department)

Washington — Nearly three million students will be enrolled in the Catholic schools of the United States during the coming school term. This will be the largest enrollment ever attained.

Of significant importance in consideration of this fact, should be the realization that the Catholic school system saves the taxpayers of the United States about \$375,000,000 yearly.

Probable attendance statistics are based on records of previous years and on information secured from the U. S. Census Bureau and the U. S. Office of Education.

The estimated total of 2,947,600 students in 10,850 schools,



MSGR. HOCHWALT

staffed by 105,000 teachers, is distributed as follows: 2,185,600 in elementary schools; 490,000 in high schools and academies; 240,000 in universities; 8,000 in normal schools and teachers colleges; 9,000 in major seminaries, and 15,000 in preparatory seminaries.

This immense student body should be an impressive reminder of the great contribution that Catholics are making to education in the United States.

Last May the director of the NCWC Department of Education, Monsignor Frederick G. Hochwalt, in an address before the American Council on Education in Chicago, stressed the millions of dollars being saved the nation's taxpayers.

This date has real meaning. But recent court decisions and controversies on federal aid to education overlook such facts and especially the importance of religion in education.

No heed is being given to a statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States who, assembled at Washington, in 1919, declared in a pastoral letter: "The Church in our country is obliged, for the sake of principle, to maintain a system of education distinct and separate from other systems. It is supported by the voluntary contributions of Catholics who

at the same time, contribute as required by law to the maintenance of the public schools.

"It engages in the service of education a body of teachers who consecrate their lives to this high calling; and it prepares, without expense to the state, a considerable number of Americans to live worthily as citizens of the Republic."

This declaration, made almost 30 years ago, has great import today. Because the word of God is taught in our schools, there still are many people who do not believe that daily our children sing: "God Bless America."

There should be no question that the songs and prayers of these children have helped to give our nation the strength it needs in the present unsettled world.