

Red Issue Divides Swiss Protestants

By MAX JORDAN

Basel — At a time when the Swiss Catholic Bishops have adopted a resolution expressing their "sympathy and admiration to the courageous

Say Warsaw Reds Are More Subtle Than Hitlerites

Paris, N.C. — Persecution of the Church is far more subtle and at the same time more far-reaching under the present Polish regime than it was under the Hitlerite regime in Germany, according to an analysis made by the Paris monthly, La Vie Intellectuelle.

The main mistake of Hitler was his "vehement haste," the publication says, adding that the Polish regime feels it has a lot of time and believes time is working in its direction.

"THE WARSAW regime does not want to make martyrs but criminals," the article states. "The Church is not removed into a remote area, but is made to work in the shadow of the omnipotent State falls over every step. Whoever leaves the ranks is punished not as a Catholic but as a political criminal."

The churches, filled to capacity, give the impression of a magnificent flowering of Catholic life. The "official" life of the churches, however, is a "political criminal."

Polish Reds Copying Nazi Morality Trials

New York, N.C. — A close parallel to the "immorality trials" staged by the Nazis before the war is seen in the arrest reported here by the Inter-Catholic Press Agency of several religious in Poland on charges of "immorality."

According to the press agency, several Brothers at the Albertine Institute in Warsaw including Brother Aniel superior and a Brother at the Franciscan school in Sierpokolano have been arrested by the Polish judicial police on charges of immorality.

Holy Year Committee Seranton, Pa. — Bishop Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the North American College in Rome and former Auxiliary of Seranton, has been named by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to the central committee which is making plans for the Holy Year in 1950 to be observed in Rome by Catholics throughout the world.

Primate of Hungary for his stand in favor of maintaining the confessional schools," a controversy is taking place among Protestant leaders concerning the communist-dominated regime in Hungary and communism in general.

Answering an open letter by Fr. Emil Brunner of Zurich, a Protestant who had reproached him for giving support to the totalitarian and godless regime in Budapest, Dr. Karl Barth, widely known as a leading Protestant theologian, states that he censured the leaders of the Protestant Reformed Church in Hungary to steer a middle course "a narrow road between Rome and Moscow."

THESE AND OTHER discussions in the Protestant camp are particularly interesting in view of the course pursued by the Orthodox churches. According to reports from Rumania, the Rumanian Orthodox Patriarch Justinian, who is considered an outspoken friend of Russia and who has just gone to Moscow to attend the 500th anniversary of the Moscow patriarchate, has issued a new violent attack against the Catholic Church of the Eastern Rite. "Apostasy," he says, "the papists" are trying to win in the Greek Catholic Church to imperialism.

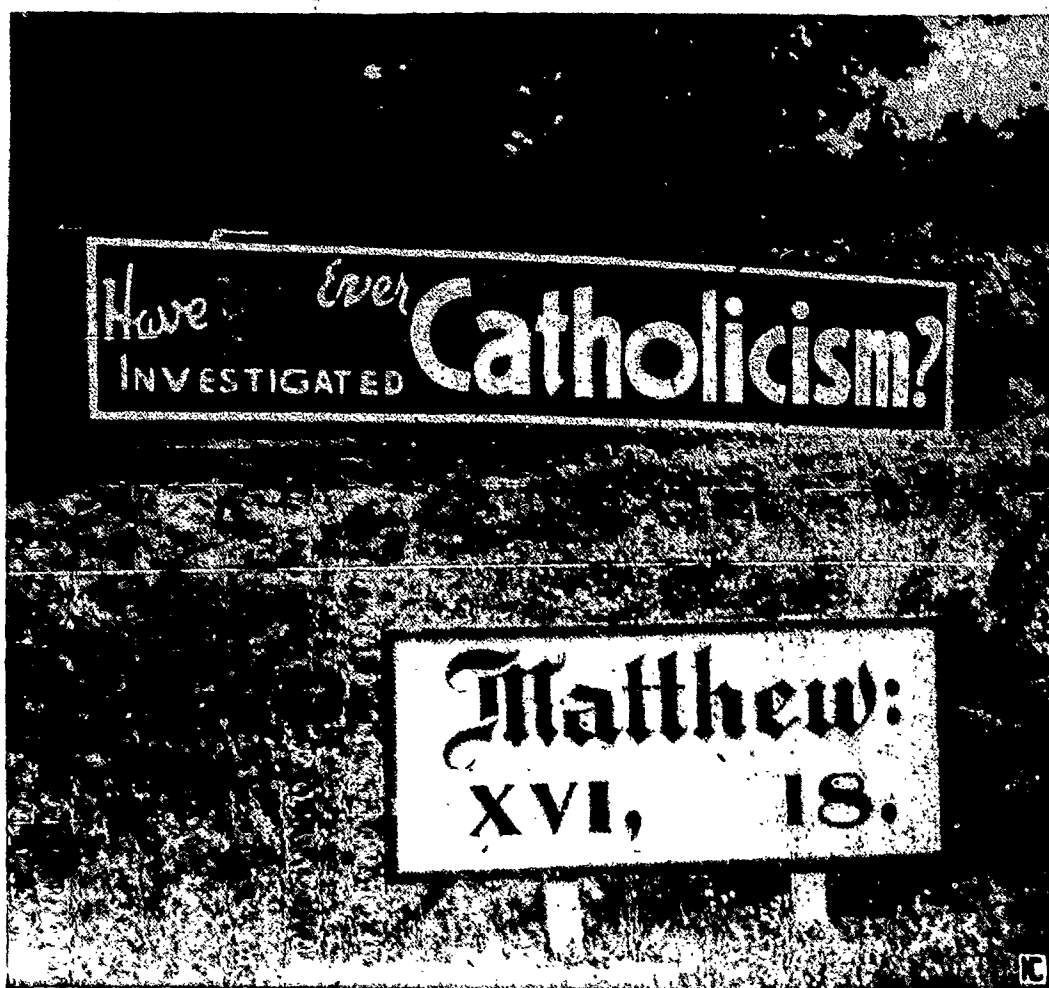
The Protestant Dr. Brunner charged Dr. Barth with dodging basic issues in not condemning communism equally with nazism. Dr. Barth replied that he strongly opposes the system and methods of communism but that the church "need not go with the stream and take a stand against communism" which would amount to "expending her power ahead of time."

In an article he wrote for the Hungarian communist paper, Szabad Nep, Dr. Barth stated that the communist dominated government there had exercised its sovereignty in a way that could well be "approved in general."

Dr. Brunner in his complaint points out that other Protestant leaders in Europe also seem to favor communism. At the same time Dr. Hans Asmussen, former president of the United Evangelical churches of Germany, maintains that the church must not take a stand either for or against the East or the West, while Pastor Diem of the Christian Society of Wuertemberg goes so far as to say that a Christian should not take part in any move against communism.

"Ruthless" Objectionable Two objections have been raised by the National Legion of Democracy to the motion picture "Ruthless" which is scheduled at a Rochester theater this week. The picture has been classified B, objectionable in part, on the grounds that it contains light treatment of marriage and reflects acceptability of divorce.

Businessman Advertises The Faith



Greensburg, Pa. — NC — The conviction that Catholic businessmen not only shouldn't shrink from acknowledging their membership in the Church but should try to "sell" Catholicism has led Wilfred S. McKoon, president of an industrial concern here, to erect two large signs on his property along the road to Greensburg aimed at stimulating interest in the Church.

The large sign, about six feet high and 40 feet long, reads: "Have you ever investigated Catholicism? The other sign, four by ten feet, contains the biblical reference, Matthew XVI, 18. The verse is: "And I say to thee, thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The two signs are so placed as to form a single display.

Mr. McKoon is president of the Sulphur Products Company which is situated here. Active in the Catholic lay apostolate, particularly in relation to non-Catholics, he is also secretary of the local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. He has a sister and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Wildredan of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Asks Prayers for Negro Priest-Writer Sees Japanese Clergy Racial Gains in Dixieland

New York, N.C. — Commenting on the August mission intention of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, "For the Catholic Bishops and Clergy in Japan" Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, said one of the most outstanding events in mission history was the vesting early in the 20th century of a hierarchy in the Far East in Japan in the hands of native Bishops and priests less than 50 years after freedom of worship had been declared in the country. He added that the same decision of the Holy See may have saved Catholicism in Japan during the long period before and during the war.

Now, the future of the Church in Japan, Bishop McDonnell said, faces a new awakening which carries with it not only the promise of a second spring but seems to assure a rich harvest of souls. The same proud nationalistic spirit is being reborn beneath a cooperative willingness which will not only create an atmosphere of good will which activates toward mutual understanding and trust.

New York, N.C. — Under leadership of the Catholic hierarchy and youth, a new trend toward interracial justice in the South is gaining headway despite the fact that discriminatory practices in educational and social circles show little signs of abatement. The Rev. Austin Chachere, Negro Catholic priest, told a Catholic Interracial Council forum meeting here.

Father Chachere said this trend is evident through the admissions of Negro youth to Catholic seminaries, new attitudes expressed from the pulpit in Catholic churches and the growing interracial organizations among the youth.

THE PRIEST ASSERTED that the trend is coming at a time when there still are existing separate separating whites and Negroes in street cars, a predominantly Catholic city like New Orleans and the Dixieland practice of discrimination, even in Catholic schools.

The stand taken by Bishop McDonnell, M. W. Walsh of Charleston in canceling restrictions and banishment required by the courts as "unjust and un-Christian" and in a fight for civil rights in Dixie.

Catholic Paper Decries Rebel 'Dixicrats'

Covington, Ky. — NC — Under the title "Deplorable Spectacle," an editorial in the current issue of The Messenger edition of Our Sunday Visitor, newspaper of the Covington diocese, takes the rebellious Dixie Democrats to task for "a sickening exhibition of the power of passionate hate and prejudice to blind men to justice and charity and to the sacred principles of equality upon which this great nation is established."

THE EDITORIAL points out that the revolt against the Civil Rights plank adopted at the Philadelphia convention comes at a time when "the democratic system of government and the American way of life is being challenged by godless totalitarianism."

"The position of the Christian is simply this: there are neither Negro rights nor white rights—nor rights of any other color, shade or hue," the editorial states. "But there are human rights, and these are essential to all men regardless of race, creed or color. Human rights flow from the very nature of man as man. They can neither be conferred or taken away by edict of government. They admit of no unjust or harmful restrictions by reason of climate, custom or geographical location. To deny this truth is to assail the very basis of democracy and to apostatize from the Christian religion."

"That race prejudice is a form of apostasy is not our personal opinion or interpretation. It is the express teaching of the Popes themselves. The late Pope Pius XI in no uncertain terms branded racism as in truth a form of apostasy." His Holiness added that the "whole spirit of the doctrine is contrary to the Faith of Christ."

Church for Indiana Started Halifax, N. S. — (NC) — The first act of Bishop-Elect Alfred B. Leverman after his nomination as Auxiliary of Halifax, was to turn the first sod for a new church at the Shubenacadie Indian Reservation. The Bishop-elect told the Indians, who sang hymns in their native language, he was pleased that his first official function was for them.

Hungarian Priests Imprisoned by Reds

By DESZOE JABOR

Budapest — (NC) — Msgr. Sigismund Mihalovics, central director of Hungarian Catholic Action, has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, ten years' loss of civil rights, ten years' banishment from Budapest and the loss of all his property after a summary trial in absentia by the People's Court here.

A similar sentence was given Odon Lenard, Farist educator and Catholic Action's cultural secretary, while lesser sentences were handed to three parish priests involved in the trial. A lay employee of Catholic Action was acquitted.

ALL THE DEFENDANTS were accused of "anti-democratic attitudes" allegedly shown in the publication and distribution of circulars and pamphlets opposing the nationalization of Church schools. These writings, the prosecution charged, "seriously slandered our democratic order of the State" and "incited against Hungarian democracy."

Monsignor Mihalovics was also charged with tax fraud because he allegedly neglected to withhold the income and sickness benefit taxes of Catholic Action employees. The tax fraud charges were not acted on by the people's court here and have been passed on to the Court of Currency Affairs.

Mr. Lenard's sentence was six years in prison, ten years' loss of civil rights and ten years' banishment from Budapest. The priests arraigned were: the Rev. Paul Nemeth, pastor of Ordovics; Anthony Kolesa, pastor of Orgovany, and Lewis Varsanyi, pastor of Rad. Father Nemeth was given a ten-month prison term; Fathers Kolesa and Varsanyi were both sentenced to one year in prison, five years' loss of civil rights and banishment from their parish territory.

The acquittal lay employes of Catholic Action is Emma J. Pokorny, who had been arrested for operating the duplicating machine used in the distribution of the "anti-democratic" circulars.

Immigration of Farm Families Urged on Senate

Washington — (NC) — Total immigration to the United States should be increased, the group for Eastern European liberalization, and continued emphasis should be placed on immigration of families with agricultural background, a spokesman for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference has told the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization this week.

"The Immigration law should make more explicit provision for systematic directing of immigrants to areas where additional population is needed and can be absorbed," the Rev. William J. Gibbons, S.J., of the conference's board of directors, further told the Senators. He proposed establishment of a resettlement office which would work with individual States to this end.

FATHER GIBBONS said there is an "already evident decrease in population in certain of our States" and that "if our country is to be properly fed, and its resources to be adequately exploited, we cannot permit present out-migration from those regions to continue unchecked."

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