

# Champaign Atheist Leads New Move Against Religion Study

Champaign, Ill.—(RNS)—Circuit Judge Grover W. Watson of Farmer City, Ill. has upheld a plea by Mrs. Vashli McCollum, self-professed atheist, for a writ of mandamus for the issuance of orders compelling public schools to carry out the Supreme Court's ruling against religious instruction.

However, no orders were immediately entered in Circuit Court. Judge Watson left it up to Walter Dodd, Chicago attorney for Mrs. McCollum, and John L. Franklin, attorney for the school board, to draw up the orders and present them for approval.

MRS. MCCOLLUM is seeking to compel the Champaign board of education to prohibit the use of public school buildings for the dissemination of religious doctrine and force the board to ban the use of compulsory machinery whereby public school pupils would be released from classes to attend religious instruction.

In her application for the writ, she asked for a definite interpretation of the Supreme Court decision which might affect the decision in similar cases throughout the country.

Her attorney told Judge Watson that the Illinois Supreme Court should have issued an order binding directly on the Champaign schools when the U. S. Supreme Court ruling was referred to it, instead of returning the orders to the Circuit Court where the McCollum suit originated.

EARLIER, JUDGE WATSON, who was one of three judges who originally upheld the Champaign method of conducting religious classes, told both attorneys that he preferred to wait until an Illinois Supreme Court decision handed down in the fall on the legality of public school reorganization here.

This was a reference to the recent dissolution of the school district which was specifically named by Mrs. McCollum in the suit she took to the U. S. Supreme Court. A new district has been formed since an April referendum approved the dissolution. The new district includes a larger area than the one cited in the high court verdict.

"I'd prefer to wait until the confusion over the legality of the new school district is settled," Judge Watson said. "Why enter an order against something that might be declared unconstitutional later?"

However, after more than an hour's argument in Judge Watson's chambers, it was agreed that the mandamus writ would be issued to cover the old school district.

No definite date was set for the presentation of the proposed orders.

## Honors Chinese Prelate

Chowchih, Shenai, China—(NC)—The Government of China has awarded the Victory Medal to Msgr. John Kao, Prefect Apostolic of Chowchih, for his relief work during the Sino-Japanese war. Part of the service he rendered was his aid to 15 S. Airmen forced down in his territory.

## CWV LEADER VISITS TRUMAN



Anthony H. Forbes (right) of New York, newly-elected National Commander of the Catholic War Veterans of the United States, visits President Truman at the White House.

## Protestants in New Jersey Fight Referendum on Bingo

Trenton, N. J. (NC)—The question of whether "bingo" shall be legalized in New Jersey for "bona fide veteran, charitable, educational, religious and fraternal organizations" is expected to be submitted to the voters at a statewide referendum during the November 2 election.

The State legislature, now reconvening for a three-week session, will receive a report recommending that the issue be settled by the voters. The report will come from a three-member special committee of the House of Assembly, which held a public hearing August 10 on a bill to legalize "bingo."

THE THREE assemblymen favor the bill and are expected to carry sufficient weight to get the necessary votes for House passage. There seems to be no definite opposition in the Senate. If and when the legislature adopts the bill, Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll is expected to sign it, although he personally is opposed to "bingo."

The 1947 constitutional convention recommended that the legislature put the question to the voters and Mr. Driscoll is not expected to act contrary to the convention's wishes.

The bill to be recommended is sponsored by Assemblyman Rueben H. Reiffin, Passaic County Republican, who is chairman of the special committee. It calls for a statewide referendum at the coming election. The measure

## Progress Cited English Towns Hear Preaching Of U.S. Priests

Houston, Tex.—(NC)—Delegates at the 66th annual meeting of the Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus, heard Supreme Knight John E. Swift assert that "the denial of the spiritual life" is the greatest menace challenging the nation and then listened to Bishop Christopher E. Byrne of Galveston counsel: "We need Christian democracy . . . With God given His rights by men, our rights are secure."

They spoke at the State Dinner, one of the highlights of the five-day convention.

THE DELEGATES who heard messages read from His Holiness Pope Pius XII, President Harry S. Truman and His Excellency Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

In his annual report to the Council, Judge Swift disclosed that the K. of C. total membership stands at 726,522 an increase of 43,453 in a year.

He reported that the educational trust fund of \$1,000,000, created by the Council in 1944, has been completed to provide a full, all-expense Catholic education for sons and daughters of members killed in military service in World War II, and added that young men and women already had been enrolled in 10 Catholic colleges in the United States and Canada under terms of the fund.

Archbishop Cioognani congratulated the Knights upon the success of their educational trust fund and religious information programs. He expressed the hope that the large membership will promote new undertakings and insure their success.

## Bp. Alter Says State Has No Right to Decide Religious Study

Toledo, O. (RNS)—No state has a "right in justice" to determine the religious and moral content of education courses or to rule out altogether the teaching of ethics and religion, the Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Bishop of Toledo and chairman of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, declared here.

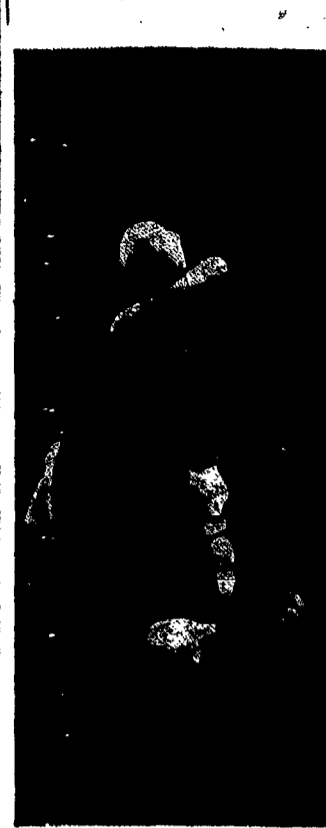
"In either case the state exceeds its jurisdiction," the bishop said in a signed letter to parishioners. "In the one case, it is a positive attack on the rights of religion, and in the other it is a negative interference."

Discussing the state's rights in other social fields, Bishop Alter warned against legislation which infringes upon "the rights of God."

"The state has indeed," he said, "certain interests in the questions of marriage, divorce, birth control, euthanasia and sterilization, but to ignore the divine or natural law and to set up by its own legislation an independent ethic in these fields of social policy is not only a trespass on the rights of God, but an assumption of totalitarian power."

To admit the right of the state to legislate unrestrictedly in these fields is to "open wide the door to a state sectarianism, to promote the establishment of a state church, and to deny our fundamental doctrine of religious liberty and equality," he stated.

## Canada's Next Prime Minister



Louis St. Laurent, second Catholic to lead the Liberal Party of Canada since the Confederation in 1867 and Secretary of State for External Affairs in the Mackenzie King cabinet, is shown leaving Sacred Heart Church, Ottawa, with his wife. It was the day after the national convention of his party had elected him their leader. In the Federal Cabinet since 1942, Mr. St. Laurent will succeed Mackenzie King as Prime Minister upon the latter's retirement soon. (Photo copyright by T. V. Little).

## Canada's P. M. Hits 'Our Worst Menace'

Ottawa, Ont.—(NC)—"Communism is the greatest menace of our times," W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, told the 1,299 delegates to National Liberal Party Convention here, in a farewell address.

He had served as party leader since 1919 and had called the convention to select his successor, Louis Stephen St. Laurent, Secretary of State for External Affairs in the King Cabinet and a Catholic representative of Quebec, was selected on the first ballot. Mr. King will continue for a time as Prime Minister, but when he retires the office will be given to Mr. St. Laurent.

"THE TREND towards totalitarianism," Mr. King told the convention, "with the evils and terrors of which we are already too familiar, is, I believe, the most serious of present day world problems. For some time to come, this trend is certain to be as well the most dangerous of all. The supreme task of Liberalism today is to thwart the growth of totalitarianism, and, by so doing, successfully to combat the menace of communism."

"Communism is the greatest menace of our times, because communism, more than all else, is destructive of freedom—the freedom of nations. It is the most subtle of all evils, because its appeal is made in the name of freedom, and it marches under the banners of freedom. Its appeal is to the masses, whom it promises to deliver from their chains. It speaks in the name of enlarged opportunity and increased security. It asserts that its aim is world unity. It is in reality, none of these."

"THE IMMEDIATE purpose of communism is the complete control of the individual in the name of the State. Its ultimate aim is world domination. Beneath its mask are concealed the secret police, slave labor and the concentration camp."

Mr. King also told the delegates: "It may be that, at any hour, the free nations may be called upon again, as twice already they have in the course of a single generation, to defend freedom, not with their policies only, but with their lives. . . . Mankind has still to discover whether violent conquest or the relief of humanity is to triumph in the end."

The committee now includes one representative from each, including people from the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society, Catholic Daughters of America, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Catholic Youth Organization, New Rochelle Alumnae, Bellarmine Guild, St. Ann's Society, Columbian Squares, and the Children of Mary Sodality. It has the support of the priests of the four local parishes and of Bishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford.

## Norwalk Catholic Groups Form City Action Committee

Norwalk, Conn.—(NC)—Catholics of this Connecticut community, numbering about one-third of the population of 45 to 50 thousand, have a new, alert and authoritative spokesman in the Norwalk Catholic Action Committee.

In only four months of existence this committee can list these accomplishments:

- 1) IT SPONSORS the weekly publication in the local secular press of the Legion of Decency ratings of the motion pictures to be shown in Norwalk's theatres.
  - 2) It has initiated action to rid the city's newsstands of indecent periodicals and comic books.
  - 3) It sponsors a weekly Sunday evening broadcast of Catholic news and comment, covering both local and national items.
- At the same time, the Norwalk Catholic Action Committee stands ready to serve its main purpose, which is to put forward the Catholic position when situations arise locally which involve the need for such declarations.

THE NCAC is an outgrowth of a Catholic Action Committee organized by the Norwalk Council of Catholic Women. When the women's group decided that

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