

Abp. Lucey Scores Racial Injustice

El Paso, Tex.—(NC)—"Sharp questions" such as how the United States can "assume the moral leadership of the world when race riots and murder, political crimes and economic injustices disgrace the very name of America" are "getting under the skin of every decent American." Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio declared at the annual meeting of the Bishops' Committee for the Spanish Speaking here.

"During the past quarter of a century many good citizens of our country sincerely believed that the race question might well be left alone to work itself out to a happy conclusion by the slow, sure formula of peaceful evolution and patient progress," the Archbishop said, but today "all are agreed that something has to be done about it."

SEVERAL HUNDRED priests and laymen of the Southwest and some from the Northern States where there is a Mexican migrant problem attended the three-day sessions (this week) of the committee, which consists of the 18 Archbishops and Bishops of the Southwest.

Archbishop Lucey, executive chairman of the committee, told the delegates that "the recent worldwide and devastating conflict disturbed peaceful consciences, opened unseeing eyes and posed stubborn questions that simply will not be downed without direct and adequate answers."

"Some of these questions are: Can we keep our self-respect if we demand that the Colored American fight for freedom in Europe and deny him freedom at home? Can we make the western hemisphere a bulwark of liberty and law while we maintain and mangle Mexican youth in the streets of our cities?"

"CAN WE CONDEMN our Latin Americans to starvation wages, bad housing and tuberculosis and then expect them to be strong, robust soldiers of Uncle Sam? Can we tell our Spanish-speaking soldiers that dishonorable discharge from the army will deprive them of civil rights when they never had any civil rights?"

"If I were asked to mention one outstanding problem that weighs most heavily upon our Mexican people, I would say that it is the burden of undeserved poverty," he continued. "I stress that word undeserved. I suppose that among all peoples one can find examples of solemn myths, folklore and bits of popular nonsense. One of the myths seriously entertained by some English-speaking Americans is that Mexican workers are lazy, slow and improvident."

"He would indeed be an optimist who would declare that no Mexican workers deserve that description. But the same is true of all nationalities—a few are im-provident but the vast majority are normal hard working people."

Full Freedom To Teach Religion Asked In China

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Shanghai — (NC) — Catholic and Protestant educators hope that the Chinese government may soon grant full freedom to teach religion.

Regulations in force for the past 20 years forbid religious instruction during class hours in private universities, colleges and schools, and also ban all religious ceremonies in primary schools, even those under Church auspices.

THE VICE-MINISTER of education, Mr. Han Lih-Wu, has announced he would "personally welcome a reconsideration of the whole matter."

Last February, at the national Catholic educational convention in Shanghai, Archbishop Paul Yulin pointed out that the ban is contrary to China's new constitution. "If our people are free to believe, they should be free to learn," he said.

In a Nanking press conference the Minister of Information, Dr. Hollington Tong, was asked about the dispatch and editorial. In reply he read the education vice-minister's statement, saying that the schools actually enjoy considerable latitude because of the liberal application of the ruling but suggesting that the matter might be reexamined.

THE CHINA CHRISTIAN Educational Association, a Protestant organization representing 13 universities and colleges and more than 240 high schools, has decided to ask the government for removal of the ban.

"Our young citizens have the right to learn about religion in private schools, and the schools should be free to offer courses in religion," Dr. J. M. Tan, secretary of the association and graduate in education of the University of Pennsylvania, stated.

In practice, many local officials have allowed private schools to teach religion during class hours, sometimes under the heading of ethics. "We realize that in many places the authorities have not applied the strict letter of the prohibition," the Rev. Dr. John B. Kao, O.F.M., director of the school department, Catholic Central Bureau, said. "But we feel that this liberal attitude should be legalized, to make it nationwide and to safeguard the position of the authorities and educators."

India Bishop Consecrated Bombay (RNS) The Most Rev. Alcuin van Millenburg, new appointee, Roman Catholic Bishop of Karachi, was consecrated at solemn rites in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Karachi.

Oldest Benedictine Dies Latrobe, Pa. — (NC) — Brother Clement Michael Hausmann, 95, believed to have been the world's oldest Benedictine, was buried today in the monastery cemetery following Requiem Mass in St. Vincent Archabbey Church here for 36 years. Brother Clement was manager and typesetter of the Archabbey Press, setting up and printing publications in English, Latin, German, Greek and Hebrew.

CHILD'S LIFE SAVED



This little boy has been in this hospital at Elizabeth-Krankenhaus, Koeln-Hohenlid, British Zone of Germany for the past three months suffering with T.B. meningitis. His life was despaired of until he received streptomycin supplied by War Relief Services—N.C.W.C. Doctors say he will now recover "through the goodness of the Catholics of America." The boy is the only child of young German woman whose husband is still being held by the Russians. (NC Photos)

U.S. Students In Europe To Study Social Methods

Rome — (NC) — Amaze-ment at the progress toward social and economic recovery in Italy, compared with conditions in France, particularly Paris, was expressed by seven American Catholic graduate students of sociology who arrived here on a field tour through three European countries.

Headed by the Rev. Paul Hanly Furlley, of the department of Sociology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, and Dr. Mary Elizabeth Walsh of the same department, the group has been investigating post-war social conditions in Belgium, France and Italy. The group includes four young women who, while working for their doctorates in sociology at Catholic University, are teaching on the staff of Xavier University in New Orleans.

WHILE HERE the group has toured several of Rome's "Borghese" where the poorest of the poor live. Inspected the vast center of Catholic Action, on the Via Conciliazione and made contact with NCWC War Relief Services.

Members of the study group said that, both from a Catholic and sociological viewpoint, conditions in France were particularly interesting. In Paris, Lyons and Marseille the group studied the work of the Mission de France and the Mission de Paris — two new movements among priests and lay people who approach the great numbers of non-pagans and non-practicing Christians in France with techniques similar to those used in the foreign missions.

The party attended an evening Mass in one of the suburbs that make up the "Red Belt" of Paris and conferred with priests of the Mission de Paris, who are actually living among and working in the factories with the most exploited classes.

IN LYONS they broke through the great reserve and fear of contact with the "bourgeoisie" that surrounds a group of young women who, under the direction of the Mission de France, are taking a lead from communist technique, and like a few of the more heroic priests live, work pray and suffer with the poorest classes to help win them back to Christ.

Brazil Nurses Organize Rio de Janeiro — (NC) — Thirty Catholic nurses, representing different schools, hospitals and public health services, met here to inaugurate the Catholic Union of Brazilian Nurses, with the view to becoming formally incorporated with the International Council of Catholic Nurses.

Priest Hits Change In American Courts

Boston — (NC) — American democracy is imperiled by changing ideals of American courts of law, the Rev. Robert I. Gannon, S.J., president of Fordham University, declared at the eighth annual Mass at Immaculate Conception Church here.

Japan Soldier Baptized Before His Execution

Shanghai — Condemned by a Chinese court for war crimes, Y. Matsutan, a corporal in the Japanese gendarmerie, was baptized here by the Rev. Paul Faury, S.J., professor of Aurora University, a week before execution and confirmed on the day of his death.

Matsutan took instruction from a Salesian priest who had worked in Japan. Father Faury gave him simple English first, and a few days later performed the additional baptismal ceremonies in the corridor outside the cells of the men under death sentence.

All the cell inmates reverently attended the rite, watching through the bars, except one determined Buddhist who took the occasion to recite his Buddhist prayers with special earnestness.

Britains Project National ACTU

London — (NC) — Preliminary steps have been taken to form a national British association of Catholic trade unionists, Bernard Sullivan, leading Catholic union official and chairman of the Westminster diocesan association of Catholic Trade Unionists, told its annual meeting.

A national liaison committee already has been formed in conjunction with the other dioceses, he said. The main difficulty at present is that in most dioceses Catholic trade unionists have no independent organizations but are tied up with other Catholic groups, he explained, adding that any national Catholic association must be independent and run by trade unionists themselves.

The meeting was told that the Westminster diocesan organization had not received much support from the clergy which, said Mr. Sullivan, was to be developed as the spiritual guidance of the clergy was essential.

4 Nuns at Parents' Jubilee Courcelles, Que. — (NC) — When Mr. and Mrs. David Bloudeau recently marked the 50th anniversary of their marriage, eight daughters and five sons participated. Four of the daughters are Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi.

Vatican Information Bureau Documented Rome — (NC) — A short history of the Vatican Bureau of Information, set up by Pope Pius XII during the war to provide information clearing houses for refugees, prisoners or refugees, has been published by the Vatican Polyglot Press.

The book describes the workings of the bureau, which transmitted 1,250,000 messages by radio and thousands more by other means.

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