

# AFL Trade-Unionists Ask Federal School Aid For Parochial School Pupils

Cincinnati—(NC)—The American Federation of Labor has reaffirmed its policy of supporting federal aid for all school children, whether in public or non-public institutions, and will press for the early enactment of such an aid-to-education measure in the 81st Congress.

This was decided unanimously at the federation's annual convention here as the membership accepted the position on school aid set forth in the 1948 report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

The federation, representing 7,200,000 workers, asks a four-point federal aid program:

1. Federal aid for salaries of public school teachers (the term "teacher" to be defined in the bill), to be administered by the public education authorities of the State.
2. Federal aid for services for all children 5 to 17 years of age, to be administered by such public agency as would be permitted under State law to administer such a program for all children.
3. Federal aid for scholarships to enable needy children and youth to remain in school; the payments to be made

directly to the needy child and youth by a properly designed public agency.

4. Federal aid to wipe out illiteracy in this country.

"Since World War I, the American Federation of Labor has actively sought federal aid for education," declared the A. F. of L. policy-makers. "Legislation has failed of enactment because certain organized groups are unwilling to permit all children to share in the benefits of such a program. Until this intolerance is overcome by an articulate, concerted movement to assure the benefits of federal aid

to every child and youth, we shall not have sound federal aid legislation."

"It is an empty right," the policy statement continued, "to allow the existence of parochial schools for the use of those children whose parents, in good faith, believe they should send their children to such schools. If our government, while recognizing this right at the same time denies the children who attend these schools such services and such privileges as will protect their very health and safety."

# McCOLLUM CASE REVISION URGED

## THE CATHOLIC *Courier Journal* OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

14 Pages ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1948

'Big Story of Our Time'

# Religious Freedom Right Violated In China By Communists, Newsmen Claim

## Red Inroads In Religious Circles Cited

Washington, D. C.—(RNS)—In a booklet called "100 Things You Should Know About Communism and Religion," the House Committee on Un-American Activities charged here that the Reds have designated religion as their No. 1 enemy and are working to destroy religion in the U.S.

"You cannot be a Communist and believe in God," a preface to the booklet said. "You cannot believe in God and have a peaceable life under Communism."

## DISCUSSES HER CONVERSION



The Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, managing editor of the Catholic Courier Journal, interviews Miss Elizabeth T. Bentley, self-confessed ex-Communist espionage agent, who addressed a capacity audience at Aquinas Institute Sunday night.

## 'Time' Man Says Church Plight 'Hard'

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Shanghai — (NC)—Eleven out of 12 foreign correspondents now in China, who have answered a questionnaire, affirm that the Chinese communists have been violating religious freedom to a notable degree. The twelfth says that while "the communists might be violating religious freedom" as far as Christianity is concerned, they are not interfering with "their native religions."

The 12 replies were given to the following question: "In your opinion, has the Chinese communist regime been violating religious freedom to a notable degree?"

Eleven answered, "yes." Nine added brief remarks. Eight preferred not to be quoted by name.

Some of the correspondents have been covering China for years. None is affiliated with a religious news agency.

ANSWERING "yes," Henry R. Lieberman, New York Times correspondent in Nanking, added: "There is obviously no compromise between communism and the spiritual doctrines of Christianity, Catholic or Protestant. However, for reasons I have no way of knowing, the communists seem for the time being — at least — to be following a more moderate policy than they have in the past towards missionaries."

Frederick Gruin, Nanking correspondent of Time, also answering "yes," said: "I believe the plight of the Christian Church under Chinese communism has been hard and is one of the big religious stories of our times."

A. M. Goul, Shanghai bureau chief of United Press, added to his "yes" the comment: "The cold words of history are irrefutable evidence of communism's attempts to (Continued on Page 11)

## Communism Inspires Followers With 'Hate,' Says Miss Bentley

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

The Catholic Church offers "a philosophy of love which is the opposite of the creed of hate offered in Communism," Elizabeth T. Bentley, self-styled ex-Communist espionage agent and recent convert, told a Rochester audience Sunday evening.

In her first public address since her Catholic baptism by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen Nov. 3 in Washington, Miss Bentley told 1,200 persons at a Christian Culture Lecture in Aquinas Institute auditorium that she now is "wonderfully at peace," and will dedicate herself to showing "by my own mistakes how dangerous and evil Communism can be."

Miss Bentley who left Rochester 23 years ago as an obscure East High graduate and was catapulted into the national spotlight early this year by her testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, blamed a lack of religious and civic education for her "fall" into Communism.

Terming herself "a product of an era of materialism," she blamed her former "lack of a true sense of our democracy on the courses in which I was enrolled in Vassar College and Columbia University, which stressed the humanistic viewpoint."

Urging her listeners to be "very patient" with Communists "because sometimes the greatest sinners make the greatest saints," Miss Bentley asserted:

"THOSE WHO are genuinely carried away by Communism aren't lukewarm persons. They have dedicated themselves to what they believe is the truth. Anyone without a fundamental faith could fall for its propaganda. In fact, I was so convinced that I was carrying on an American tradition that I took the name of a signer of the Declaration of Independence for one of my Communist aliases."

Explaining that she became a

## Nazareth College Student Will Sing At China Relief Concert in New York



Miss Cecilia Chang (left), Chinese scholarship student at Nazareth College, rehearses here for her debut next week at a concert in New York's Hotel Roosevelt Ballroom. With her are classmate, Mary Ann Donovan (at the piano), and Irene Chen also a student from China.

## Fr. Gefell, New Army Chaplain, Appointed to Fort Monmouth

The Rev. Gerard J. Gefell, former assistant pastor of St. Michael's Church, Newark, has been commissioned a chaplain with the rank of captain in the United States Army and assigned to Fort Monmouth, N. J., headquarters for the Army Signal Corps. Sworn in to service on Monday he will leave Rochester next week to report for active duty.

A native of Rochester and formerly of St. Michael's parish, Father Gefell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. August E. Gefell, 42 Hill St. Educated in St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, he was ordained to the priesthood in June, 1941.

HE WAS ASSISTANT pastor of St. Alphonse Church, Auburn, from June, 1941 to June, 1943, when transferred to St. Michael's Church, Newark, where he has been assistant pastor for the last five years.

Father Gefell's twin brother, also a priest, the Rev. Joseph G. Gefell, now assistant pastor at St. Theodore's Church, Gates, was an Army Chaplain serving in the Pacific theater during World War II.

Father Gefell's appointment gives the Rochester diocese a total of five priests now serving in the Army and Navy. The Rev. John K. Wheaton is a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy and District Chaplain of the Panama Canal Zone; the Rev. John Albert is chaplain with the 8th Air Force at Carswell Air Base, Texas; the Rev. John Widman, a Lieutenant (J.G.) in the Navy, is attached to the District Chaplain's office in New Orleans, La.; and the Rev. Joseph Ciochon, also Lieutenant (J.G.) is stationed at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal.

Shopping for that special Christmas gift now at Bill Thorne's will assure you of a large selection of fine jewelry from which to choose. Lay-away plan for all Christmas purchases. 518 East Main—Adv.

## Bishops Ask US Tradition Be Preserved

Washington — Revision of the Supreme Court's decision in the McCollum Case and a call to "all who believe in freedom under God" to help avert the danger of "a judicial establishment of secularism," highlight specific pleas contained in the statement issued by the American Catholic Bishops at the conclusion of their annual meeting here in the nation's capital.

Entitled "The Christian in Action," the statement assails secularism as "the most deadly menace to our Christian and American way of living." It is signed in the name of all the Bishops of the United States by the four American Cardinals and the episcopal members of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

(Text of Statement on p. 4)

MUCH OF THE Hierarchy's joint statement deals with separation of Church and State as it touches the field of religious education.

In this connection, the Bishops express hope that the "novel interpretation" of the United States Supreme Court in the McCollum case, "will be a process of revision in the process of revision."

"To that end," they urge, "we shall peacefully, patiently and perseveringly work in the McCollum case, and in the barred religious instruction from the public schools."

THE CATHOLIC prelates blame secularism and its "corrosive influence" for the ban against religion in public schools and charged that secularism "is now bent on destroying all cooperation between government and organized religion in the training of our future citizens."

"It has undermined the religious foundations of law in the minds of many men in the legal profession and has predisposed them to accept the legalistic tyranny of the omnipotent state," they declare.

Moreover, they state, "It has cleverly exploited to the detriment of religion and good citizenship, the delicate problem of cooperation between Church and State in a country of divided religious allegiances."

THE BISHOPS call for a "reaffirmation of our original American tradition of free cooperation between government and religious bodies — cooperation involving no special privilege to any group and no restriction on the religious liberty of any citizen."

"We solemnly disclaim," they state, "any intent or desire to alter this prudent and fair American policy of government in dealing with the delicate problems that have their source in the divided religious allegiance of our citizens."

Turning to a discussion of the First Amendment, the Hierarchy says the Amendment's meaning is clear enough from its own words: "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion or forbidding the free exercise thereof."

THE FOUNDERS of this country by the wording of the First Amendment, meant there would be "no official Church" for the country as a whole, no preference of one religion over another by the Federal Government — and at the same time no interference by the Federal Government in the Church-State relations of the individual states."

Under the terms of the First Amendment, the Bishops continue, the Federal Government could not extend preferential treatment to one religion as against another, nor could it compel or forbid any state to do so.

"If this practical policy be described by the loose metaphor of a 'wall of separation between Church and State,' that wall must be understood in a definite and typically American sense," they declare.

"IT WOULD be an utter distortion of American history and law to make that practical policy involve the unbridled, joyous involvement of the

## ON GUARD

Now They Tell Us! Eleven Years Late Seeing in the Dark

By REV. P. J. FLYNN

Are there any quiz fans in the audience? All right, step up and identify the following quotation:

"You cannot be a Communist and believe in God. You cannot believe in God and have a peaceable life under Communism."

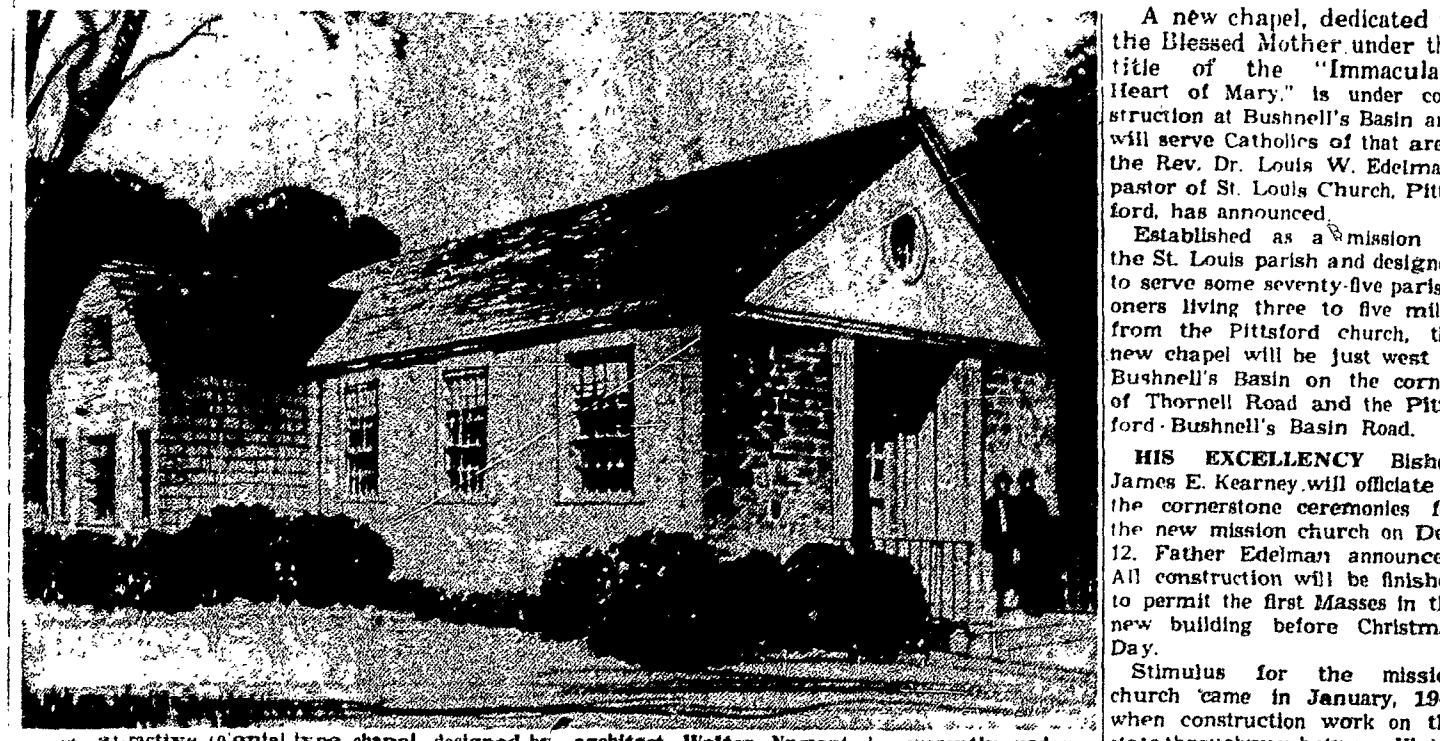
This statement as you might guess is not from a Catholic priest. Neither is it from one of Monsignor Sheen's speeches or from Pope Pius XI's Encyclical on Atheistic Communism.

Those words if you have not guessed are from a pamphlet issued this week by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Title of the pamphlet is "100 Things You Should Know About Communism and Religion."

TO STATE THAT Communism is irrefutably opposed to (Continued on Page 6)

Attention Brides — Ask for a free booklet on planning your wedding. (all Blanchard Florist, 3 Lake Ave., Main 1986—Daily deliveries to all sections, including hospitals.—Adv.)

## New Bushnell's Basin Church Will Be Ready For Christmas



A new chapel, dedicated to the Blessed Mother under the title of the "Immaculate Heart of Mary" is under construction at Bushnell's Basin and will serve Catholics of that area, the Rev. Dr. Louis W. Edelman, pastor of St. Louis Church, Pittsford, has announced.

Established as a mission of the St. Louis parish and designed to serve some seventy-five parishes living three to five miles from the Pittsford church, the new chapel will be just west of Bushnell's Basin on the corner of Thornell Road and the Pittsford-Bushnell's Basin Road.

HIS EXCELLENCY Bishop James E. Kearney will officiate at the cornerstone ceremonies for the new mission church on Dec. 12. Father Edelman announced. All construction will be finished to permit the first Masses in the new building before Christmas Day.

Stimulus for the mission church came in January, 1947 when construction work on the state-throughway between Victor and Bushnell's Basin caused the rerouting of bus service which (Continued on Page 6)

## Attention Brides — Ask for a free booklet on planning your wedding.

(all Blanchard Florist, 3 Lake Ave., Main 1986—Daily deliveries to all sections, including hospitals.—Adv.)