

Wife of Publisher Called 'Crusader Against Religion'

New York (NC) — Mrs. Agnes E. Meyer, wife of the publisher of the Washington Post, is called an "insidious" defender of the "secular" title and a "Woman's Crusader against religion" in an editorial in America, national Catholic weekly.

THE EDITORIAL says that while on "The School, the State, and the Church" in the Atlantic magazine, Mrs. Meyer has opened "her bag of tricks and come up with a series of arguments and insinuations in defense of the McCollum decision following religious instruction in the public schools. Her rhetoric seems to be professional students of law, education and theology in the decade. This triumph, however, is all in the seeming."

The Catholic weekly says that the "author substitutes invective for evidence." It says that the "insidious" opposition to the McCollum decision is "antisocial propaganda" that she writes "off in some form of 'official' statement" and the "medieval-minded" groups among our clergy.

BEFORE THESE serious constitutional issues are dealt with at all, the editorial says regarding her article, "critics are painting in sinister colors the bent on inciting contempt for our higher civil authority and on identifying the American tradition 'concerning the relationship of Church and State.'"

The Catholic weekly adds: "The argument is over before the debate begins."

Mrs. Meyer never gets around to explaining the meaning of the constitutional prohibition of an "establishment of religion" in the mind of the man who made it law. The editorial goes on quoting U. S. Supreme Court Justice Wiley R. Rutledge, Justice Rutledge in the Everson case (1947), declared: "This case forces us to determine squarely for the first time what was an establishment of religion in the First Amendment's conception."

THE MAGAZINE continues: "It is hard to see how anyone can appeal to the American tradition associating the relationship of Church and State when the Supreme Court itself announced that it had never ruled on the legal definition of the 'establishment' from 1789 until 1947."

From a judicial point of view, the question was wide open in 1947. From a legislative and executive point of view it had decided time, and time again in favor of a much more liberal system of cooperation between the Federal Government and religious institutions than the McCollum decision would allow. Mrs. Meyer very cleverly dodges the fact that Congress and the President have traditionally taken a quite different view of the First Amendment from that read into it by the present court."



Katholistic Sisters take part in demonstration of folk dancing during meeting of Illinois Catholic Kindergarten Association in Wilmette, near Chicago. High point of meeting is kindergarten workshop where Sisters exchange ideas on teaching religion, rhythmic activities and physical education. Dances were under direction of Sister M. Camel, O.S.F., of St. Joseph School, Wilmette, New World Photo. (NC Photos)

Nuns Study Methods in Workshop

Vatican Denies Beatification Rumor in Press

Vatican City (NC) — The Sacred Congregation of Rites has labeled as completely false press reports to the effect that the beatification of Pope Pius X was likely during the Holy Year of 1950.

According to an official of this Congregation, which is in charge of all matters pertaining to beatifications and canonizations, the beatification of Pius X in 1950 is simply impossible, because the required preliminary work cannot be accomplished by then. Furthermore, this official pointed out several other causes are pending before the Congregation, which are further advanced.

THE OFFICIAL explained the steps that would be necessary for the beatification of Pius X under the requirements of Canon law, which lays down the regular procedure. The first step would be the opening of an inquiry into his holiness in the practice of virtues. This process requires three deliberative sessions by the Congregation, namely an antepreliminary, a preparatory and a general session.

If finally the conclusion has been reached that the candidate has practiced virtues to an heroic degree, he receives the title "Venerable."

THREE SIMILAR sessions are required in the process leading to beatification in order to establish the truth concerning two miracles attributed to the candidate. Beatification follows after the final decision of the triple deliberation has been affirmative.

For the canonization of the beatified, a similar process is repeated concerning two other miracles, the official pointed out. The Sacred Congregation of Rites has confirmed that the canonization of Blessed Joanna de Lestonnac, foundress of the Daughters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is scheduled to take place on May 15, 1949. She was beatified on May 20, 1900.

British Cartoonist Muffs Cardinal Griffin Drawing

London (NC) — Giles, cartoonist for the London Daily Express and as such a nationally known satirist of British life, has in his own inimitable way commented on the recent speech of His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster.



CARDINAL GRIFFIN

Giles depicts a group of harassed fathers rushing to what was supposed to be Westminster Cathedral to buy the Cardinal's pint—a pint glass of beer—for having said in that speech to a Catholic youth meeting in Middleborough that in family matters "the father rarely receives honorable mention."

"There is an enormous amount written about the expectant mother, but not a word about the expectant father. . . . If the mother is called the 'queen' of the home, the father should be the 'king'. . . . Human fatherhood is a reflection of the fatherhood of God," the Cardinal said.

This championship of what is commonly considered — among men — the forgotten side of marriage has been the object of other humorous drawings and comments and was given widespread publicity in the national, man-run press.

But Giles made one mistake in his cartoon — he showed the fathers rushing to Westminster Abbey — London's consecrated, pre-Reformation masterpiece now in Protestant hands — instead of to Westminster Cathedral, the modern Catholic edifice a few hundred yards away. After the Daily Express had gone to press the mistake was realized and the background had to be deleted.

The Cardinal wrote later to the Daily Express and asked Giles for the original drawing. It was sent to His Eminence and will remain a constant reminder of his great flair for the human touch and his appreciation of the ordinary man-in-the-street's perplexities and worries, and also of his great sense of humor.

Cardinal Griffin today is probably one of the most popular prelates in Britain, despite the normal non-Catholic self-consciousness at using the title "Cardinal" and hesitancy at "His Eminence." The Cardinal is certainly the most often quoted — apart perhaps from the Protestant Primate, Archbishop Fisher of Canterbury, and his "Red Dean" Hewlett Johnson.

UN Observer Status Voted For Holy See

Washington (NC) — The application of the Holy See for a permanent observer status in the councils of the United Nations was approved here last week at a general session of the fourth meeting of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

The vote, announced as "almost unanimous" was taken after a report by the FAO general committee has been read. The report said that the application was for a permanent observership at both the central and regional offices of the FAO and stated that the general committee agreed with the Council of the FAO that the Holy See's request should be approved because of the unique status and extraordinary character enjoyed by the Holy See.

THE HOLY See's application was forwarded by Msgr. Giovanni B. Montini, Substitute Vatican Secretary of State, and filed with Norris Dodd, director general of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

In the application for a permanent observer in the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, Monsignor Montini stated: "HAVING NOTED with satisfaction the high moral and humanitarian principles which motivate the Organization, the Holy See desires to contribute in concrete form to the realization of these objectives, in whatever manner will be considered appropriate."

"We have decided to request to be good enough to inform the Governments who are members of the Organization that the Holy See would be glad to take part as a permanent observer in the conferences, meetings and activities of the Organization, both at the central seat of the Organization and in its regional offices, especially in those where the activity of the Holy See is likely to be most efficacious."

Delegate to Iraq Vatican City (NC) — Archbishop Blanchet du Chayla of Bagdad has been appointed Apostolic Delegate to Iraq by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. It was announced here.

Employ Statesmanship, Shun Revenge In Law Changes, Priest Tells AFL Group

Cincinnati (NC) — If existing labor legislation is to be changed or repealed, "let its provisions be based on mature statesmanship, not on the unworthy sentiment of revenge," Msgr. Stanley J. Bertke of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary told delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention here.

Speaking as a representative of the Cincinnati archdiocese, Monsignor Bertke, who was introduced by William Green, A. F. of L. president, urged the labor organizations to exercise wisely and justly the power which they had demonstrated in the recent elections.

"AS A PRIEST and your friend, permit me to say a word about the power you have always had, but have only begun to exercise," Monsignor Bertke said. "The word is this: For the love of God, America, yourselves and your families, you have got to realize now more than ever that responsibility comes with power. What the future of America will be depends in good part upon how you exercise your power."

It is also labor's duty to "face the facts about communism," Monsignor Bertke declared. He saw little danger of American labor succumbing to communism, but he warned that "there are agents of this alien and vile creed among you" who will urge strikes when no strikes are justified and who will seek to turn even good policies and actions, including just strikes, to their own ends.

Paris Honors Cardinal Suhard

Paris (RNS) — Catholic churches throughout Paris tolled their bells in tribute to Emmanuel Celestine Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and the 20th anniversary of his consecration as a bishop.

Highlight of the celebrations was the Golden Jubilee Mass celebrated by Cardinal Suhard in Notre Dame Cathedral on Advent Sunday, which marks the beginning of the ecclesiastical year.

Special prayers for the cardinal were offered at Masses throughout the Paris archdiocese. Funds from a gift offering being taken up in churches for the cardinal will, at his request, be turned over to the special seminary at Morsay Sur Orge.

Defeat Sunday Bars Dublin (RNS) — A Bill permitting bars in rural areas to open on Sundays has been rejected by the Irish Parliament. The measure was criticized by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy when it was first introduced.

'Light of World' Statue Delayed

Washington (NO) — Work on casting the 23-foot statue of "Christ, the Light of the World," which is to be placed in front of the building of the National Catholic Welfare Conference here, has been delayed because of the unavailability of the sculptor, Eugene Normand, the statue's sculptor, reports. Originally scheduled to be completed by November 1, it will not be ready for three more months.

Mr. Normand in charge of the School of Sculpture at the University of Notre Dame, stopped at the N.C.W.C. headquarters here en route to Caracas, N. Y., to check personally progress on the statue being cast by the Ecom Bronze Corporation there. He was informed of the delay in the statue's completion in a letter sent him by the foundry officials.



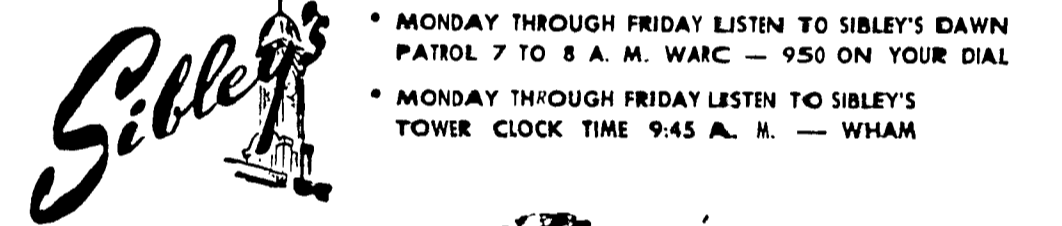
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