

# India School Fight Involves Hierarchy

**By V. C. GEORGE**

Madras, India — A public controversy between Avanashilingam Chettiar, Minister of Education in the Madras Province, and Archbishop Mathias of Madras, member of the Standing Committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, is the latest development in the dispute arising from the Education Minister's attempts to get a stranglehold on private educational institutions and the opposition of Christians and other minority groups to these aims.

SOME TIME ago Mr. Chettiar demanded that all private schools in the Madras province, conducted mainly by Christian agencies, provide endowments of from seven to ten thousand dollars. Now the Minister is trying to push through the legislative assembly a bill which would permit him to confiscate any private school from which he should see fit to withhold recognition.

The controversy between Mr. Chettiar and Archbishop Mathias began when the former challenged the veracity of the recent annual statement of the Bishops of India.

IN THEIR statement the Bishops referred to the endowment requirements as seemingly discriminatory, and said: "We fail to understand why, while exemption has been accorded to schools managed by Hindu organizations... no such concessions regarding endowments should be granted to our schools, though they are of much longer standing and of universally acknowledged stability."

Mr. Chettiar asserted that in their statement the Bishops "said many things which are not true" and attacked the reference to discrimination in endowment requirements as "absolutely wrong." "I do not like to use the word 'lie' because it is unparliamentary," he added.

In a subsequent statement in Parliament the Minister forgot his concern about "unparliamentary" language and asserted: "The allegation is a lie. It is not true. I have every right to say it is not true."

AN IMMEDIATE answer to the "lie" charge was made by Archbishop Mathias and Bishop Thomas Pothachamy of Bangalore, secretary of the Bishops' Standing Committee, in a joint declaration to the press.

The two Bishops backed up the



Presented at the centenary dinner of St. Charles College, Cantonville, Md. This portrait of their most distinguished alumnus, James Cardinal Gibbons, late Archbishop of Baltimore, is the work of an 89-year-old lady, Miss Marie deFord Keller, (pictured above). It was the gift of a group of Baltimore (Catholic laymen, Baltimore Sunday Sun Magazine photo. (NC Photos.)

# She Paints Cardinal for Alma Mater

discrimination charge made in the Hierarchy's statement by quoting from the Proceedings of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras Province, which gave instructions to inspecting officers.

THESE INSTRUCTIONS stated that no "distinction need be made in the matter of endowments in the case of mission schools" but that, the "schools managed by charitable bodies under proper trusts like Pachayappas or Ramakrishna Mission, may be left out for the time being."

In a reply to the declaration of the two Bishops, Mr. Chettiar admitted that such instructions had been issued, but asserted that they had later been revoked and declared "surprising" that Archbishop Mathias was not aware of the revocation.

ISSUING A SECOND letter to the press, Archbishop Mathias said he saw nothing "surprising" in his lack of knowledge of the revocation order since inquiries made at the office of the Director of Public Instruction met with the answer that it had not yet received such orders.

He also pointed out that while Bishop Pothachamy had some time ago issued a memorandum to the Education Minister protesting the discrimination in endowments, the Bishop had never received an answer from the Minister informing him that new instructions had been issued eliminating the discriminatory feature.

# Fr. Higgins vs. 'Daily Worker' Priest Replies to Red Writer Attack

This was part of the Rev. George G. Higgins' reply to the Daily Worker columnist George Morris as the two writers exchanged criticisms in regard to the Industry Council program. Father Higgins, assistant director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, writes a weekly column for the Courier-Journal and other Catholic newspapers.

THE INDUSTRY Council program was advocated by Archbishop Edward Howard of Portland, Oregon, in his address to the recent Portland CIO convention. Mr. Morris, commenting in an earlier column on the Archbishop's address, noted that the prelate's seven-point summary was taken from the Wage Earner, Detroit Association of Catholic Trade Unionist's paper.

Morris implied that the Industry Council program, as advocated by the Wage Earner, was a fascist program. In proof of that contention he said the Wage Earner greeted an announced de Gaulle labor program as being "much like the A.C.T.U.'s plan."

"I STILL HAVE to hear a single case of authoritative Catholic repudiation of the A.C.T.U.'s position on de Gaulle," Mr. Morris wrote. He also accused his priest adversary of neglecting to tell his readers what he meant by the Industry plan.

Father Higgins replied that he meant by the Industry Council plan substantially the same thing as meant by the CIO when the CIO meant, for example, it endorsed the plan at its Portland convention without a single dis-

senting vote, even from the "communist" bloc.

"The Industry Council plan is a thoroughly democratic program," he said. "It presupposes the existence of free trade unions (in contrast to the State-controlled company unions of Mussolini and Stalin). It stipulates that organized labor and organized management will freely choose their own representatives to the industry councils at the industry, regional and national levels.

"ALL FORMS OF fascism — including 'red' fascism — work from the top down and use the labor movement as a stooge for the government. The Industry Council plan works from the bottom up. It presupposes a vigorous and autonomous labor movement which is willing and anxious to cooperate with management and with the government for the general welfare but which, by the same token, refuses to serve as a labor 'front' for the ruling political regime."

On the "repudiation" of de Gaulle, Father Higgins remarked: "I, for one, am vigorously opposed to de Gaulle's proposal if it means what I think it does, namely, a lessening of the autonomy of the free trade unions of France. And, believe it or not, I don't expect to be excommunicated for saying so. . . I wonder if Mr. Morris could say as much about the Russian labor 'front' and hope to keep his credentials in the Party. I doubt it very much."

# No Walkie But Talkie For Jerry



Jerry Romano, 9, fourth grade pupil at St. Anthony's School, Des Moines, Ia., is in school at home. Confined to bed by a hip infection, Jerry "attends" all his classes via a two-way communication system provided by the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools. He listens in and recites as though he still occupied that old desk in the second row. His written work is conveyed to Sister Mary Janice by a neighborhood buddy. His parents pay a small fee to the telephone company for the use of the wires. (NC Photos.)

# N. Y. Lawyer Hits Easy Divorce Bid

New York — (NC) — Commenting on the recent expose of perjury in connection with divorce actions in New York City, John A. Bell, Jr., president of the Guild of Catholic Lawyers, said that the solution does not lie in the liberalization of the grounds on which divorce is obtained in this State. Liberalization has been proposed in some quarters.

IF PERSONS commit perjury when there is only one ground for granting divorce, as adultery in this State, they will have so much more opportunity to do so when the number of grounds is increased, Mr. Bell said.

The failure of the proposal to liberalize divorce laws in order to eliminate perjury is demonstrated by a comparison with penal statutes, where it is proposed to eliminate perjury in criminal cases by increasing the penal statutes and making crime easier, Mr. Bell contended.

"The enactment of additional grounds for divorce would not be making a bad law good, but would be making a bad law worse," Mr. Bell declared.

"Instead of increasing the grounds for divorce and thus attempting to eliminate perjury, the only present ground should be abolished and there should be no perjury."

"SOME PEOPLE are losing sight of the fact that the State and community have a great interest in the preservation of the family and in the care of dependent wives and children. Broken homes caused by divorce are one of the major reasons for the widespread juvenile delinquency."

"If some effort is not made to preserve the family unit, the keystone of the State, then more homes will be undermined and chaos result for the community. The liberalization of divorce in this State will make it a veritable divorce mill and place it in the same category as Reno and Mexico."

"WHAT is needed is a public awakening to religion and the sanctity of an oath as a witness. Prosecution of perjury in these collusive divorce cases and disbarment proceedings against lawyers who are parties to evasive and trumped-up charges would be other remedies to stamp out the perjury now said to be rampant."

As an alternative to divorce, Mr. Bell pointed out that separation, which involves no breaking of the marriage bond and no remarriage has always been recognized and permitted by the Catholic Church for grave reasons.

# Catholics Make Progress In Tokyo College Circles

Tokyo — (NC) — A notable increase of Catholic activities in Japan's university and college circles is evident here in the present total of catechumens and the spread of Catholic study clubs in these institutions. Catechumens is a rising demand for Catholic literature.

THE REV. Helmuth Erlinghagen, professor at Jochi Catholic University here, reports that there are now about 1,000 catechumens in the institutions, with an equal number of Catholic students in the same.

What is perhaps the first large-scale store for Catholic books and religious articles in Japan has been opened near Jochi University. The owner and director is Rupert Enderle, of Enderle Publishing Company, who came to Japan in 1935 as representative of Herder Book Company. He has organized a mail order service for missionaries, and will extend this to procure Catholic books from abroad as soon as trade restrictions are lifted.

THEN THERE is the spread of Catholic study clubs. For example, a little more than two years ago, the proportion of Catholics at secular Nippon University was exactly one to 15,000 students, and the sole Catholic was about to graduate. But he was the zealous Mr. Kobayashi.

The lonely Catholic decided to go for advice to the Rev. Francis Bosch, S. J., of Jochi University. As a result Mr. Kobayashi organized a Catholic study club at Nippon University. It now has 80 members, including about 20 Catholics.

Mr. Kobayashi entered the Society of Jesus, and made his profession as a Jesuit scholastic last month.

Wins Atlanta Contest

Atlanta — (NC) — Miss Mary Ann Mansour, a student at Sacred Heart School here, has been named city-wide champion in the annual "I Speak for Democracy" oratory contest. She won over seven other Atlanta high school champions.

# Immediate Help To China Urged

New York — (RNS) — Warning that the war in China could well be the "opening skirmish of a third world war," the Very Rev. Gabriel Gorman, provincial of the Passionist Fathers, who arrived here from China, appealed to Americans "to urge President Truman to give immediate encouragement and support to the Chinese people against armed Communist invaders."

FATHER GORMAN, who spent three months in China, said it was not too late to aid that country.

"While the situation is extremely serious," he said, "it is not hopeless. Communism is a sworn enemy of Christianity. If the Reds take over China, Christianity will be forced underground as is now the case in Red-occupied areas of Mongolia and Manchuria.

"If Communism wins in China," the priest said, "I believe our American security will be in jeopardy and by the same token, world peace."

# Priest Warns on Dodging Queries With Stork Story

New York — (NC) — The "stork story" told by parents to children who ask, "Where did I come from?" was condemned here by the Rev. Anselm Lashy, O.F.M. Cap. Advent preacher at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Stressing the nature of the home as God's first school," Father Lashy reprimanded parents who evaded giving sex instruction to their children.

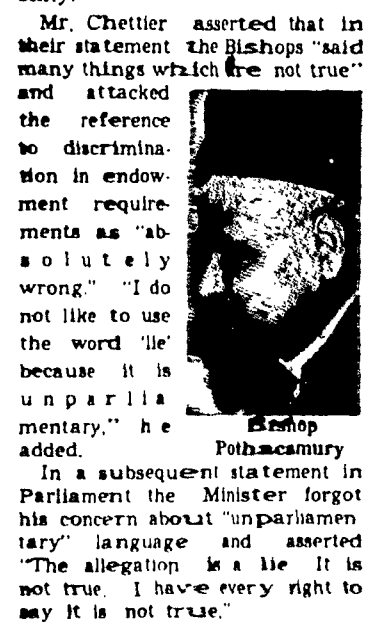
"Don't give your child wrong ideas, wrong reasons for things," he said. "Confidence in mother and father is very important for the child's balanced mental growth. When your little boy at seven asks, 'Mother where did I come from?' don't take a hush-hush attitude and don't give him the stork story. Later he learns the truth, sometimes from the gutter, and he suspects there must be something wrong with certain parts of the body and human procreation. Tell your child the truth, according to his age.

"Tell him every little baby comes from God to its mother; it lives with mother several months; and mother suffers much in bringing the little one into the world. That is sex-training beginning reverently at home.

"Only at home by father and mother can sex education be given gradually to the child. The only sex education countenanced by the Catholic Church is the one that parallels to a marked degree the unique sympathy, the individual approach and the reverence of the parents."

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