

# Clay Reply Fails to Meet Bishop's Protest on Trials

Munich — (NC) — Replying to a telegram Bishop Johannes Neuhäuser, Auxiliary of Munich had addressed to President Truman — who referred it to the Department of the Army which in turn passed it on to the European Command — Gen Lucius D. Clay has informed the Bishop that all objections raised by the Catholic Hierarchy and leading officials of the Protestant churches of Germany in connection with the war crime trials of Dachau, had been carefully investigated.

GENERAL CLAY adds that a special commission to investigate charges of irregular procedures in connection with these trials was sent to Dachau and that the sentences were "just and opportune."

In a statement Bishop Neuhäuser now insists that this reply is but a reiteration of former statements made by U. S. authorities. He says it fails to consider the German Hierarchy that the defendants be granted the right of appeal.

An investigation based on a mere check of previous evidence says the bishop, fails to meet with the objections raised. He points out that Belgium as well as France grant appeals in war crime cases and suggests that the United States would have nothing to lose in granting similar privileges.

THE WESTPHALIAN Protestant Synod, associating itself with Bishop Neuhäuser's views and with the previous protests by the Lutheran Bishop Theophilus Wurm, has addressed letters to the governors of the three western zones declaring that the "spirit of Landsberg (the prison for sentenced war criminals) is the spirit of vengeance, not that of responsibility toward justice."

His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Munich, in individual letters to Americans who had protested against his stand, explains that he recommends retrials "because among those now sentenced to death one must assume there are some who are innocent, or, at least, people of limited moral responsibility."

THE CARDINAL also emphasizes that under the Nazi regime he had frequently interceded on behalf of persecuted Jews, and affirms that he is in no way opposed to the punishment of war criminals who have been found guilty through regular legal procedure.

## Newsstand Cleanup In Chicago



The drive against indecent literature in response to the appeal of His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch of Chicago, gets underway in and around Chicago. Members of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women join with parish sodalities in a store canvass of newsstands. In the photo, Carmen Tortello, operator of a newsstand at Wilmet, points with pride to his stand which he has rid of objectionable literature. In compliance with the request of the local Catholic women's clubs. Photo courtesy of New World (NC Photos.)

## 'Lady of Ransom' Society Formed To Assist Prisoners

Boston — (RNS) — Father Joseph A. Robinson, chaplain at Charlestown State Prison, has launched a program which aims to have convicts "go straight" when they're discharged.

To accomplish this objective, Father Robinson has formed the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, comprising public-spirited persons and groups who try to halt crime by "reaching" the criminal himself.

"MANY MEN in prison have not seen the face of a man or woman outside prison walls in ten or 20 years. How can such men possibly become normal citizens when they are discharged?" Father Robinson asked.

"Half the men in state prisons are first offenders," he explained. "Scores of them are proving that with a job and wholesome associations, they can go straight when they're discharged. Every thing depends on environment for these men when they're released."

FATHER ROBINSON, a broad-shouldered man with graying hair, was the hero of a 1946 riot at the Charlestown prison. Convicts laid down their clubs and other weapons voluntarily at his request. Recently, the priest received from the prisoners a solid gold watch inscribed with their "gratitude and affection."

He urges church and civic groups in all parts of the country to work in their respective communities for the reconstruction of the life of the offender.

"Aid to the prisoner," he said "may be given in many ways. The new arrivals need toilet articles. Public-spirited citizens may also help those inmates without funds who desire to learn a trade. They may help inmates who are troubled over domestic emergencies. They may provide books and reading matter for inmates who spend so long a time in their cells. The average routine state prisoner spends 17 hours of the day in his cell."

## Large Increase Reported from Mission Areas

New York — (NC) — The Catholic population has shown an increase of nearly 10,000,000 during the last 15 years in the mission territories of Asia, Africa, the Americas, Europe, East Indies, Oceania, Australia and New Zealand, according to latest statistics released by Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, Auxiliary of New York and national director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

WITHIN THE territories, Bishop McDonnell reported, there are 560 dioceses, vicariates and prefectures with a Catholic population of 27,843,762. The missions, he said, are staffed by 261,893 full-time missionaries, who include 25,494 priests, 9,093 Brothers, 54,892 Sisters, and 91,677 catechists.

The Bishop stressed that the statistics cover only territories which are under the jurisdiction of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith and do not include areas where the Oriental Rites are in use.

AT PRESENT, Bishop McDonnell said, there are 2,714,746 adults receiving instructions in preparation for Baptism within the territories, where there are a total of 10,414 churches and chapels.

He also reported that there are 2,267,391 boys and girls enrolled in 39,439 elementary schools maintained by the Church in the territories. He added that institutions of higher learning number 743 and have an enrollment of 110,403 students. He said there are 1,359 trade schools with an enrollment of 48,693 students. Teachers in the area number 80,314, the report stated.

From the health standpoint, Bishop McDonnell quoted the following statistics: a total of 41,688,000 patients received free treatment in 936 hospitals and 2,992 dispensaries, while 17,671 were given care in 221 leper sanatoria.

## Swiss Praise U. S. Schools

Basel, Switzerland — (NC) — Nowhere in the world, says the Zurich Orientierung (Orientation), organ of the Swiss Catholic Action organization, in a survey of the American Catholic educational system, does there exist so widespread and complete a private Catholic school establishment as in the United States.

Its achievements obviously would not have been obtained except for the spirit of sacrifice and the unselfishness of American Catholics, who have accomplished these grandiose results, it added.

"Seen as a whole, the educational accomplishment of American Catholics must be admired," the publication goes on. "The Catholic schools of America provide a dependable spiritual and intellectual armory for life and the American Catholic who enjoys at least part of this education has a perspective of faith with which the average European Catholic often lacks."

## German Charter Drafts Protected

Cologne — His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, chairman of the Fulda Conference of Germany's Bishops, has formally protested the drafts for a new German constitution.

The constitution drafts now under consideration disregard "several of the principles that are of essential importance from the Christian point of view for the position of the citizen in the state and for the functioning of human society," the prelate charged.

THE CARDINALS' protest is contained in a letter addressed to the German Parliamentary Council which is engaged at Bonn, Rhineland, in drafting the constitution. Text of the letter was released by the recently established press office of the German Hierarchy.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR HIM



The youngster peering out of the porthole is Jan Kopeck. He used to live in DP camps in Germany, but this year he'll be having his first Merry Christmas, free from the gloom and misery of an un-wanted life. Behind the youngster is his father, Martin Kopeck. Recently arrived in the United States, father, mother and young Jan are now settled on a farm in Greenville, N. Y.—three of the nation's future citizens. (NWC-War Relief Services photo by John Galvin.)

## Italy President Awarded Honor By Holy Father

Rome — (RNS) — President Luigi Einaudi was decorated with the Order of the Golden Spur, one of the highest honors in the Roman Catholic Church, by Pope Pius XII at a special audience. Accompanying the President was Foreign Minister Count Carlo Sforza.

It was the first time the head of the Italian State had officially called upon the Pope since the proclamation of the republic.

SPEAKING IN Latin, Pope Pius XII congratulated President Einaudi for the "proof of confidence" he received from Italian voters at the last general elections and expressed hope that under his direction "Italy, so dear to our heart, may soon rebuild the ruins caused by a terrible war."

Italy, the Pope urged, should seek the "greatest good of the poor and needy" and "acquit herself of the task which divine providence has assigned to her, which history has confirmed, and which her geographical position in some manner has determined."

"PLACED AT the meeting point of the three races which compose mankind, Italy," Pope Pius said, "seems like a haven where all peoples may be united by bonds of brotherly friendship in a single human family."

## Commemorative Medals Set By Vatican Mint in 1949

Rome — (CIP) — The Vatican engraver, Professor Aurelio Mistrulli, is now preparing four artistic medals to be struck on the occasion of the Holy Year and of the Holy Father's forthcoming anniversary.

The Pilgrim's Medal for the Holy Year will show a reproduction of the Porta Santa, the famous gate of St. Peter's which is opened only during the Holy Years. There will also be an "official medal" of the Holy Year.

A MEDAL commemorating the Pope's fiftieth anniversary as a priest (April 2, 1948) will show the Borghese Chapel of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. It is the chapel in which Pope Pius XII celebrated his first Mass, fifty years ago.

The fourth medal now in preparation will commemorate the eleventh anniversary of the Pope's coronation. The medal represents the Papal Chapel at the University City of Rome. The Chapel is a gift of the Pope to the University.

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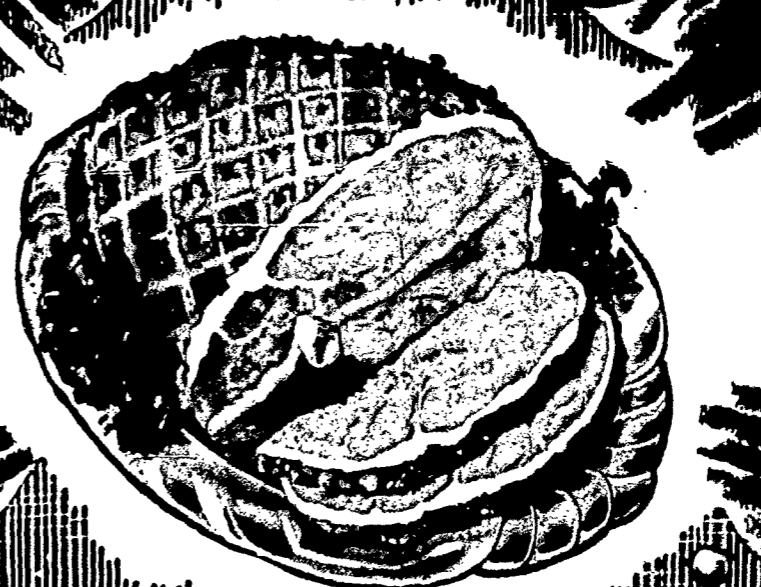
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