

New York State Lawmakers Study Measure Against Offensive Comic Books

State Urged To License Publisher

Albany—(NC)—A new approach to the problem of getting rid of evil comic books is being studied by New York legislators. Under a bill proposed by Benjamin F. Feinberg of Plattsburg, who is majority leader in the State Senate, comic book publishers would be required to apply for a State permit prior to the sale of each of their publications. A permit denial would not prohibit the sale of the comic book, but a notice that the permit had been refused would have to be carried on the title page. Similarly, if a permit was issued, this information would have to appear in the publication.

Catholics Ask Action to Break DP Bottleneck

Albany, N. Y.—(RNS)—Resettlement directors of 26 Roman Catholic dioceses in New England and the Middle Atlantic States met here to urge the Federal Displaced Persons Commission to "break the bottlenecks hampering importation of displaced persons from Europe."

The directors said they felt "the commission's lack of forcefulness in putting the displaced persons law into action has resulted in the loss of many homes and job assurances for them in this country."



Fr. Ormsby

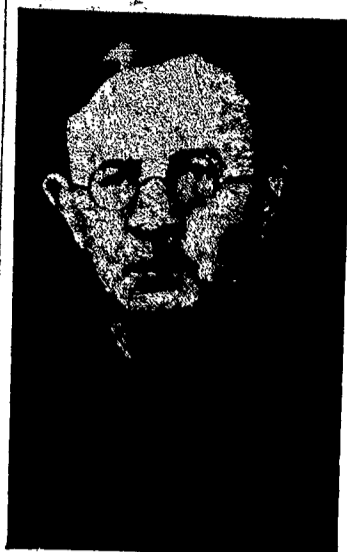
THE MEETING here was the first of 20 Catholic resettlement conferences scheduled throughout the nation. Father J. Stanley Ormsby of Buffalo, urged further investigation of the possibilities of home and job assurances for immigrant DPs in America. "We feel strongly about this point," he said, "for if people are permitted to come into the United States without a job and home assurances, we will be transferring European breadlines to America."

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Such cities in the nation as Baltimore, Providence and Dubuque have taken action to check the sale of objectionable comics. Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro of Baltimore has instructed the city solicitor to search the municipal statute books for an ordinance to control the sale of objectionable literature. If none exists, he directed further, the solicitor is to draw one up and present it to the city council.

IN DUBUQUE the recently passed ordinance which aims to prohibit crime comics and indecent magazines permits the citizens of the city to call such publications to the attention of the chief of police. "The citizens are the censors," the chief declared. The ordinance provides punishment of a fine of \$100 or 30 days in jail for violators.

Elected



Very Rev. Thomas Plassmann, O.F.M., president of St. Bonaventure College and internationally known biblical scholar, has been elected to membership in the gallery of living Catholic Authors. Among contemporary writers who have been elected to membership are Gilbert K. Chesterton, Sigrid Undset and Abbe Dimnet.

Speaker Relates How Cardinal Defended Jews

New York—(Special)—A mass meeting of Catholics, Protestants and Jews who protested the arrest of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, heard a Jewish spokesman laud the Hungarian Primate's courageous record during the Nazi occupation of his country.

DR. BELA FABIAN, speaking for Jewish Hungarian Americans, said he wished to bear witness to Cardinal Mindszenty's long record of fearless assistance to persecuted Jews during the period of Nazi domination of Hungary.

A noted author and former member of the Hungarian Parliament who survived nine concentration camps and several death sentences, Dr. Fabian said Russian agents all over the world were trying to blacken the Cardinal's reputation by asking "Where was Mindszenty while the Jews were being persecuted?" "I am here to tell where he was," Dr. Fabian declared. "In 1935 as a simple parish priest in Western Hungary, he called a conference in Budapest to plan a campaign against the paganism and godlessness of the Nazis. After the invasion of Yugoslavia it was he who went to Prime Minister Barossy to demand protection for the Jews of Munkacs who were being tortured and killed by German soldiers."

"In 1944 as a Bishop he defied the Nazi puppet government to demand an end to the atrocities against Jews in the internment camp at Nagykanyizsa."

'Mercy Killings' Said 'Contrary' To God's Will

Richmond, Va.—(NC)—Twenty Richmond Episcopal clergymen have signed a statement condemning "mercy killings" as "contrary to the will of God as we understand it."

A majority of a group of ministers polled by a local newspaper also expressed opposition to euthanasia, and one Catholic priest, in a radio address, quoted several incurably ill persons as saying they are opposed to it.

THE STATEMENT signed by the Episcopal clergymen said: "We, the undersigned clergy of the Episcopal Church, condemn the proposal to legalize mercy killings for the incurably ill who request it. It is a practice characteristic of a pagan society and is revolting to the Christian conscience. It is contrary to our belief in the sacredness of human life; contrary to the common good and contrary to the will of God as we understand it."

The statement was issued after the announcement that several hundred New York Protestant and Jewish clergymen had petitioned the Legislature to legalize mercy killings of incurably ill patients.

Methodist Clergy Oppose Euthanasia

Louisville, Ky.—(RNS)—Ministers of the Methodist District of Louisville have gone on record unanimously against "mercy deaths."

A resolution protesting "legalized murder" was adopted by a meeting of the ministers who condemned a petition by 379 New York Protestant and Jewish clergymen for a euthanasia law. In their resolution the Methodist pastors endorsed a statement by Dr. W. I. Munday, president of the Louisville Ministerial Association, opposing mercy killings.

"I can't accept euthanasia," Dr. Munday declared in his statement. "To me, life is the most sacred thing possessed. I don't think man has the right to take it from the hands of God."

Archdiocese Now Has Three Co-Chancellors

New York—(NC)—His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, has announced the appointment of Msgr. George C. Ehardt, managing director of Calvary and All Saints parishes, as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York. Monsignor Ehardt will be associated with Msgr. Walter P. Kellenberg and Msgr. John J. Maguire, both of whom were named Co-Chancellors by Cardinal Spellman in 1947.

BOX-CAR WINTER CLOTHES



Spiritual, intellectual, and material aid for the destitute students overseas is the aim of the National Federation of Catholic College Students Relief Drive. These students of Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, complete plans to fill a box-car with winter clothes for shipment abroad. Left to right: Audrey Zarnow, Warsaw, Wis.; Henry J. Holeczek, Chicago, and June Scherer, Kohler, Wis., regional director of the NFCCS drive. (NC Photo).

Ex-Minister Brings Most of His Family of 48 to Faith

Branson, Mo.—(NC)—Surrounded by 48 members of their family, Mr. and Mrs. Pat McCleese, who were converted to the Catholic faith two years ago, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home here.

Mr. and Mrs. McCleese followed the lead of their son, George, a former Baptist minister who had entered the Catholic Church. Since then most of the children with their families followed them into the Church. The influx of the McCleeses into the Catholic Church began when George, who had been preaching in Springfield, Mo., while a patient at a veterans' hospital in Fayetteville, Ark., began asking questions of the Catholic chaplain about the Church. He was received into the Church in 1945.

The following year, the Paulist Fathers with a trailer chapel came to Branson. George McCleese introduced the Rev. Aloysius Farrell, C.S.P., to his family and within a year most of them were members of the Church. Last spring 21 members of the family were confirmed by Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara of Kansas City, and now more are waiting for the Bishop's next confirmation trip to Branson.

School Aid Fund For Health Eyed

Washington—(NC)—Chairman Elbert Thomas reports "great progress" by the Senate Labor Committee toward amending his \$300,000,000 a year aid to education bill to provide an additional \$25,000,000 a year for universal school health programs.

The health fund, Senator Thomas said, would be specifically for private and parochial school children as well as those in public schools, and would be used for health examinations and some dental care.

THE DEPARTMENT of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference reserved comment on the health proposal until full and specific particulars on it are made known. The department noted that press reports on the amendment made no reference to bus rides.

Senator Thomas said the committee has just about decided to handle the proposed health program in a separate new section of the education measure. Apparently this amendment would be a rider to his original aid measure. This original measure is identical with the Taft bill of the last Congress, which left the question of participation of non-public school children up to the individual States and thus actually ruled out aid to them.

THE LABOR Committee has been studying a bill sponsored by Senators Brien McMahon of Connecticut and Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado, which would provide a total of \$325,000,000 a year in aid to States for education. Of this total, \$25,000,000 would be earmarked for bus and health services to private as well as public schools.

Critics of that kind of a program, Senator Thomas said, have always contended that it could not pass a constitutional test because part of the aid would go to church and private schools.

He declared that all committee members at today's session felt that if the health fund were authorized in a separate section of the bill, there could be no valid objection on constitutional grounds.

The health and education funds would be administered separately by the States, he said. He added that grants would be on a basis of the number of school-age children in each State.

Women Push For Federal Aid To Catholic Schools

Harrisburg, Pa.—(RNS)—Catholics of the Harrisburg diocese have been asked to write their congressmen to urge Federal aid for parochial schools.

The letter-writing campaign, sponsored by diocesan members of the National Council of Catholic Women, was announced at Masses in all local churches. The following "model" letter was read:

"CERTAINLY BOTH public and non-public schools are eligible claimants for Federal aid to education. Both types of schools are integral elements of the American education system. In both types parents may comply with their duty under the compulsory education laws of the States. Both types graduate citizens who are qualified for public office, and who are subject to their country's call for military service.

"In terms of justice, therefore, one may say quite accurately that non-public schools are entitled to Federal funds for the very reason that they, like public schools, serve the public interest.

"The very least share of Federal assistance we Catholic parents expect from the new Federal aid law is a provision of funds to furnish essential school service to pupils, such as transportation, health aids, and non-religious textbooks."

Catholic's Aid Published—MILWAUKEE—(NC)—A comprehensive one-volume compilation of source material for religious teachers has been published here by DeWitt, entitled "A Vade Mecum for Teachers of Religion." It was written by Sister M. Catherine Broderick, S.N.D., St. Francis, Wisconsin, N.Y., and edited by Miss William P. Lawlor, Newark archdiocesan superintendent of schools.

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