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JOHN K. SULLIVAN
Dundee, New York

Vatican Scientists Aid Atomic Study

(Continued from Page 1) . . . time to be of the greatest interest and help in all atomic energy projects of the American universities and in the United States atomic energy laboratories such as Los Alamos and Oak Ridge.

The importance of the spectroscopic research carried on by the Vatican scientists and the development of atomic energy was explained by Father Miller as follows:

"The presence in atomic piles of elements known as rare earths slows down the emission of neutrons in the uranium piles. Hence it is very important to determine the presence of rare earth elements even in trace form, and this is accomplished best by spectroscopic means."

IN CONNECTION with this important work a special glass prism spectroscope has been under construction during the past year by Bausch and Lomb Com-

pany in Rochester and during his visit here Father Miller made a preliminary inspection of the prisms which are scheduled for delivery in Vatican City next month.

Another project absorbing Father Miller during his American visit is the securing of an optically perfect reflection grating from Johns Hopkins University.

This equipment is necessary in the work of photographic analysis of band spectra of molecules. The immense labor of photographing and analyzing the intricate band spectra of molecules was undertaken by the Vatican Observatory at the special request of the International Astronomical Union.

THE URGENCY of this international scientific research drew Father Miller the assignment of coming to the United States to work to prompt completion of the equipment necessary for this project so important to astronomers, astrophysicists, chemists and physicists throughout the world.

The Vatican Observatory and its Astrophysical Laboratory are located at Castel Gandolfo, the summer residence of Pope Pius XII outside the City of Rome.

Father Miller claims that the Laboratory at Castel Gandolfo is the best equipped in Europe and believes that there are few laboratories its equal even in the United States.

This scientific work is supported most generously by the Holy Father who maintains a staff of seven Jesuit priests and three Jesuit laybrothers at his Castel Gandolfo residence.

THE HOLY FATHER and his papal astronomers would like to have an American built Schmidt telescope for the Vatican Observatory. Although such a telescope costs \$150,000, the Pontiff is hopeful that some generous American benefactor will answer his prayer.

As a Papal astronomer Father Miller's work consists principally in the discovery of variable stars (stars that vary in brightness) of the Milky Way clouds in the constellations of Cygnus and Cepheus. He has already discovered over two hundred variable stars which will be called the "Vatican Variable Stars" in research studies soon to be published.

Father Miller has a brother the Rev. Maurice J. Miller in the Jesuit order; a brother Harold in New York City and a brother Robert, of Titus Ave with whom he is visiting.

'ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD'



"St. Patrick, Mo., The Only One in the World," reads the green-inked sheet rubber-stamped on the thousands of pieces of philatelic mail pouring into rectory of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, St. Patrick, Mo., only postoffice named for the patron saint of Ireland. Rev. Francis O'Dulgan, pastor and little Timothy O'Brien look over some of the letters they are stamping and hope to surpass last year's March 17th record of 25,000 letters mailed. A building fund has been started for a Natl. Shrine to St. Patrick.

Cardinal Spellman Hopeful For Settlement of Strike

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As the work began His Eminence Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, received at his residence a five-member committee of striking grave diggers' wives and conferred with them for two hours.

ARRIVING at Calvary late in the day Cardinal Spellman made the following statement: "I spoke to a committee of women for two hours. I feel as badly about them as if it were my own mother in the same circumstances. They had nothing to offer me and I had nothing to offer them."

He emphasized that his attitude towards the strike should not be construed as antagonistic toward unions. "I feel I am doing something for proper organized labor," he is reported to have said. "Just because a union exists doesn't mean it is a good union. Because a strike is called doesn't mean it is a good strike. Several labor leaders have contacted me and confirmed my belief in this."

Cardinal Spellman told reporters that the seminarians had kept up with daily burials since last Thursday in addition to preparing 200 graves for burial of striking grave diggers which had been kept in a temporary grave. Picketing continued at the cemetery and outside the Archdiocesan Chancery office which is directly opposite the Cardinal's Madison Avenue residence.

MEANWHILE, the New York Supreme Court is hearing arguments on the request of the St. Patrick's Cathedral trustees that the union show cause why the strike should not be ended. The application also asks that picketing be stopped outside the chancery office and the cemetery.

The injunction plea also alleges that the strike interferes with "proper respect for the dead and the carrying out of a religious rite."

Cardinal Spellman's announcement that he would lead the seminarians and place himself at the disposal of foremen was made last week during the seventh week of the cemetery strike.

Speaking with visible emotion, the Cardinal said that the strike and breakdown of negotiations had caused him more "thought and pain" than anything else during his ten years in New York. Another group of seminarians started to dig graves this week at the Gate of Heaven cemetery, Hawthorne, where 49 employees are on strike. The workers involved in the Calvary strike total 240.

BOTH CEMETERIES are operated by St. Patrick's Cathedral trustees as a non-profit enterprise. On January 13, Local 293 of the United Cemetery Workers, an affiliate of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers (CIO), called the Calvary strike and followed it by calling off Gate of Heaven workers on February 10.

Cardinal Spellman said the men were paid \$59.40 for a 6-day week last year and were demanding \$59.40 for a five-day week, plus time and a half on Saturdays. The trustees offered an 8 per

cent wage increase. His eminence remarked that making the five-day week a central issue was a "half-truth."

The strikers themselves have told me that Saturday is the heaviest day in our cemeteries," he said, adding, "that there are more interments on Saturday than on any other day, and that in addition, the graves to be used on Monday must be opened on Saturday. They told me they wanted 6 days work for 7 1/2 days pay and their agent demanded a 10 per cent wage scale of \$77.25 for a six-day week."

He said he had decided to call seminarians to take over "the corporal work of mercy of burying the dead," when a negotiating committee of striking workers told him that they were unable to comply with the request that the local disaffiliate from a "communist-dominated" international.

At a meeting of 200 workers on February 28 he said he invited the strikers to go back to work "as individuals" and give them permission to form a new union, "provided it was not in any way affiliated with a communist international." Cardinal Spellman said he believed that all the strikers were Catholics. "Any rate," he said, "they call themselves Catholics."

The Calvary strikers at a meeting in Sunnyside, Queens, voted unanimously to request that the local disaffiliate with the international branded by Cardinal Spellman as "communist dominated."

Informed of the local vote to disaffiliate, the Cardinal intimated that it offered no basis for settlement. "They say communism is not the issue," he said. "The issue is this morally unjust strike that leaves all these people unburied. If they think that decency, I don't."

Commenting on the strikers' vote to quit the parent union, the Cardinal said: "They have had two years in which to disaffiliate and I had requested it during the two-year period. They have been paying 70 cents a month to the communist-dominated international and they are getting repentant rather late. I don't say they are communists and I never did, but their tactics are certainly communist. I am very glad to hear that they voted against communism, but actions speak louder than words."

Cardinal Spellman announced the seminarians would continue to work as gravediggers pending developments. He said there were no plans to hire new gravediggers until "we see what the courts say."

Workers in South Need Unions, Priest Asserts

New Orleans — (NC) — An economic representative system similar to the political system is one of the nation's present needs, the Rev. Vincent J. O'Connell, S.M., general chairman of the Catholic Committee of the South asserted in an address at a meeting of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees held in the State House here.

"Fear with a capital F and a false sense of self-respect on the part of white collar workers," Father O'Connell said, "are the primary reasons why Louisiana and the rest of the South have the weakest and smallest labor organizations in the United States."

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Parents Urged To Write Pleas On School Aid

(Continued from Page 1) Representatives, he cited the importance of contacting members of the House Committee.

EMPHASIZING THAT Catholics do not ask for their schools, but only for their children, Father Mahoney suggested the following points be considered in writing to congressmen:

"We support the Senate McMahon-Johnson Bill (S-458), or the Fogarty Bill (HR 1570) in the House.

"We oppose the Thomas Bill (S-246). It is unfair to non-public school children because it excludes their schools from a share in health and welfare services and bus rides.

"CHILDREN of non-public schools should not be excluded from public services because their parents are exercising their basic constitutional right to select the school of their choice.

"Catholic schools save U. S. taxpayers approximately 400 million dollars annually, a sum which would have to be paid out by the American people in additional school tax. Replacement value of Catholic school property is well in excess of one billion dollars.

"THE GRAVEST danger in letting appropriation go to public schools only is the possibility of establishing a precedent in all other government appropriations for social welfare. Private institutions such as hospitals might conceivably be excluded in future measures.

"Taxes raised for federal aid are collected from all U. S. citizens. The funds should be distributed to all the children.

"NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS are just as American as are public schools. Totalitarian govern-

ments have tried to establish a single system of schools. Cardinal Mindszenty is in prison because he fought such a system. Welfare services for children in nonpublic schools by the Federal government are constitutional.

"Catholic parents, in addition to paying taxes to send other children to the public schools, support schools for their own children for reasons of conscience."

The Catholic School Superintendent also noted that letters from prominent citizens to whom a Congressman will have to reply would be helpful.

Following members of Congress, particularly Senator Ives, should be addressed: Irving H. Ives, and Robert F. Wagner, U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.; Kenneth B. Keating, James W. Wadsworth, W. Sterling Cole and John Taber, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

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Msgr. Hart Asks Public Housing

(Continued from Page 1)

the fulfillment of healthy family life.

"As individuals who are interested in the sound development of the family, we feel that the welfare of all the citizenry can best be served by official consideration of the housing needs of the whole community. The areas of general neglect are our slums and blighted areas. . . . Therefore we urge you to take the necessary steps to establish a municipal housing authority for Rochester."

80,000 Square-Mile Diocese
Paris — (NC) — The Most Rev. George Mercier, of the White Fathers, recently consecrated in Rheims Cathedral as Bishop of the new See of the Sahara, will administer what is believed to be the biggest diocese in the world.

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