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On Guard

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aid program assisted without discrimination needy students in public and non-public schools. Veterans who avail themselves of the GI bill of rights may use the Government's grant to attend any school of their choice. Under this Government assistance program, veterans are enrolled in Catholic, Protestant and public-supported colleges and schools.

Best example of the Federal Government's non-discriminatory policy in the field of educational assistance is The School Lunch Act which extends its benefits to all children in all schools, non-public as well as public.

As explained by Father Robert Harrison, editor of AMERICA, The School Lunch Act contained a notable formula. It provided that if a State wished to share in the Federal grant, it had to allow the benefits to go to all children. If a State law prohibited the matching of State funds to provide free lunches to children in parochial schools, the Federal administrator had to channel funds directly to parochial-school children. In the School Lunch Act, in other words, Congress refused to introduce into the Federal system the discriminatory practices of many State systems.

So far, therefore, the record of Congress is remarkably clear and consistent. Congress has not only avoided discrimination but has refused to allow States to impose a discriminatory policy when they are using Federal funds.

IN THE CURRENT school-aid controversy, Catholics are not asking for general Federal support of parochial schools. All that is asked for parochial school pupils is a sharing in those benefits which directly concern the children themselves: bus transportation, non-religious textbooks, and health services. This Catholic demand is in keeping with the Federal Government's policy of non-discrimination.

The two school-aid bills now before Congress call for breaking away from the traditional Federal policy. The Senate's Thomas bill bids the States decide whether or not they will withhold Federal funds for transportation, textbooks and health from parochial-school children. Since more than half the States prohibit such use of public funds, the Thomas bill marks a surrender of the Federal policy of non-discrimination to the discrimination practiced by many States.

The Barden bill in the House clashes even more violently with the non-discriminatory record of the Federal Government. The Barden bill specifically prohibits the use of Federal funds for the transportation of parochial-school children. Even States which wanted to use Federal funds for transportation of parochial-school pupils would be prevented from doing so under the Barden bill.

Catholic opposition to the Thomas bill and the Barden bill is not an attempt to change Federal policy. On the contrary Catholics are making an honest fight to preserve the Federal Government's admirable policy of non-discrimination. The Barden and others are attempting to do an un-American thing — to establish discrimination in Federal law.

AN OLD LADY IN NEW LAND



A 66-year-old Lithuanian Displaced Person, Mrs. Elizabeth Rogienka, oldest refugee brought to the United States through the auspices of War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, is en route to Michigan, where she will make her home on a farm with her daughter and son-in-law. The nonagenarian was met at the docks in New York by a representative of WRS (left).

U. S. Catholics Set Record In Clothing Relief

Washington, (NC) — A collection of more than 2,000,000 pieces of clothing for war relief is the record-breaking total achieved during the fiscal year ending July 1, 1949, according to a statement issued jointly by War Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference and the National Council of Catholic Women here.

MORE THAN 1,000,000 new garments for babies and children reached the New York Ware house of War Relief Services N.C.W.C. in the special appeal for the Storerooms of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, and this total is swelled by more than 1,000,000 pieces of worn clothing for general relief.

The contributions through N.C.W. affiliates were supplemented by cash donations of \$9,100 designated almost exclusively for the purchase of garments for the Holy Father's Storerooms.

With the consent of the Holy Father, the bulk of the funds was used to purchase, at less than wholesale cost, 1,000 complete layettes for infants, which were forwarded to Poland, tagged as gifts of the Pope through the generosity of U. S. Catholic women.

The year's record is made more impressive when it is realized that a comprehensive package-adoption program proceeded simultaneously with it, and that the same contributors gave generously to the Laetare Sunday collection of funds in the Bishop's 1949 Campaign for Victims of War.

'Weeping Virgin' Story Censored

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and all the more calm and spiritual pulse should be observed. Concerning this appeal of ours concerning the Lublin events to your beloved brothers in Christ, we are convinced that you will accept it as an expression of solicitude for your spiritual welfare, and that the demonstration of your Faith and your religious feelings will be carried out in an intelligent manner.

The priests will call upon the faithful to abstain from pilgrimages to the Lublin cathedral. . . . We send greetings in Christ to all our dioceses and we bless them from the bottom of our heart.

The results of the commission's work do not give any basis to recognize the phenomena which took place in our Lublin cathedral as miraculous and supernatural ones.

"If God wants to show us His will through the mediocrity of the Holy Mother, in an unusual manner and beyond the natural course of events, He will surely not spare His clear and convincing signs. For the present such signs have not been established.

"The year's record is made more impressive when it is realized that a comprehensive package-adoption program proceeded simultaneously with it, and that the same contributors gave generously to the Laetare Sunday collection of funds in the Bishop's 1949 Campaign for Victims of War.

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"ON GUARD"
By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn
PAGE 1
THOMAS F. TROTT
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Bombay Regime Adopts Prohibition

Bombay, India (NC) — Christian-removal purposes when Christians Parsis and Jews will be able prohibition is introduced allowed the use of wine for sac in Bombay province on April 1.

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