Released-Time Argued In Rhode Island

Providence, R.I. (RNS) — A spokesman for the Episcopal Bishop of Rhode Island, and four Roman Catholic priests spoke in favor of permissive released-time legislation for Rhode Island at the second public hearing held by the special state commission studying the proposal.

Meeting in a packed State House hearing room the commission heard the statements of 5 of 42 witnesses who had indicated their desire to speak. Edward M. McEntee chairman, said that a third and final hearing would be held.

OF THE 15 witnesses seven favored permissive legislation nearly all of 19 heard at the first session were opposed.

The Rev. C. Lennart Carlson, director of Christian education for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island said he was authorized by the Rt. Rev. Granville G. Bennett, head of the diocese to recommend the passage of permissive legislation.

This marked the first time that the Episcopal Diocese had been heard from in the released-time controversy.

OTHER PROPONENTS included the Rev. V. Cassidy, diocesan superintendent of Catholic parochial schools; the Rev. Arthur T. Geoghegan of Our Lady of Providence Seminary; two Catholic pastors, a Woonsocket school teacher, and City Councilman Edward P. Quigly who appeared for the Knights of Columbus.

Father Geoghegan said it was time that "public education should give a slight nod to religion."

He said he favored a released time law for two reasons that in excluding religious instruction we breed Godlessness," and "we provide no common basis for moral teaching."

IN EARLY Massachusetts, he said, the sole purpose of public education was to teach children to read the Scriptures, as contrasted with the situation today.

"We are not asking to use the public schools for religious purposes, nor the machinery of the public school system," he said "but merely one hour a week. It seems to me that public education should give a slight nod to religion."

THE NEW FIGHTING 69TH

Grouped before the Times Square statue of New York's Fighting 69th's famed Father Duffy are three New York City high school students—campaigners in a new Fighting 69th—and the Rev. James P. Conroy, national director of the recently established organization. The object of the 30,000 campaigners in the new Fighting 69th is a concentrated effort against violations of the sixth and ninth commandments.

Stars and Stripes Fly As British Carmelites Return

London (NC) After walking in procession across the River Medway and through the ancient streets of the village of Aylesford, Kent, the Carmelites retook possession of their first foundation in Britain where 700 years ago St. Simon Stock was elected Prior General at the first Carmelite chapter in the west.

A 44-year-old Irish lay brother, Brother Anthony, from the Faversham, Kent, friary, who is to be a member of the new community, led the procession of friars back to their old home, "The Friars," just outside the village.

The Stars and Stripes flew from the Friary flagpost in honor of Father Killian, who is an American citizen and was former Provincial of the Carmelites' New York province. He is from Tarrytown, N. Y.

No Halt In Tito's Anti-Church Policy

London — (NC) — As Marshal Tito's recalcitrance to Moscow and his wooing of the West continues, there is no indication that he plans to halt the persecution of the Church which has marked his regime since he took power in 1945.

THE WESTERN press has speculated in recent months that the freedom of the Church might be restored in Yugoslavia. However, reports reaching here from Church sources inside that country show that every tactic is being used to isolate the Church and to empty it of its adherents.

New pressure is being applied to the clergy as well as the faithful to wean them from the Church. Yugoslav authorities are trying to force priests to join the "popular front" controlled by communists. Priests who remain adamant are placed under strict surveillance and subjected to exhausting questionings with the aim of breaking down their resistance.

In Slovenia one of the constituent parts of the federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a special publication is being issued with a view to leading priests into schism. It is called Bilten the organ of the "Secretariat for Promoting the Liberation Front for Priests."

Arrests of priests, expulsion of religious communities from their centers of activity, and the systematic confiscation of convents continue without interruption.

LAST AUGUST, it has now been learned, a priest of the Ljubljana diocese, the Rev. Henrik Gorican, was condemned to death for "hostile propaganda against the government" while serving a forced labor sentence the regime had imposed on him.

In its pressure on the faithful the regime organizes "voluntary" work brigades and "democratic" meetings and demonstrations to keep them from attending church services and frequenting the Sacraments.

Bishops trying to make pastoral visits, meet with transportation difficulties and experience restrictions in their administering the Sacrament of Confirmation or celebrating Mass in local churches. The similar pattern of these restrictions in various places suggest central direction.

It is also significant that while the Yugoslav press criticizes many other actions of its neighboring communist governments, there is no criticism of the anti-Church measures taken in these countries.

'Mass Brought Me Back To Church,' Says Diplomat

By FRANCISCO de LUIS

Madrid — (NC) — Victor Andres Belaunde, Peru's permanent delegate to the United Nations Assembly, stated here that attendance at Mass was the factor that brought him back to Catholicism after years of religious indifference.

Mr. Belaunde spoke on the subject, "Why I Am a Catholic," at the University Study Center. He came to Madrid as the Peruvian delegate to the Latin-American Congress on History.

THE DIPLOMAT related that his childhood and youth were spent in a Catholic family and Catholic school environment. However, his university education was characterized by positivism, he said, which made him reject Christian philosophical principles. Positivism holds that only natural phenomena and their properties are knowable.

Divine grace aided him and he continued in search of truth, he said. He studied positivist philosophers and compared their theories with those of Catholics. Finally, God removed his doubts through the grace of the Mass, Mr. Belaunde added.

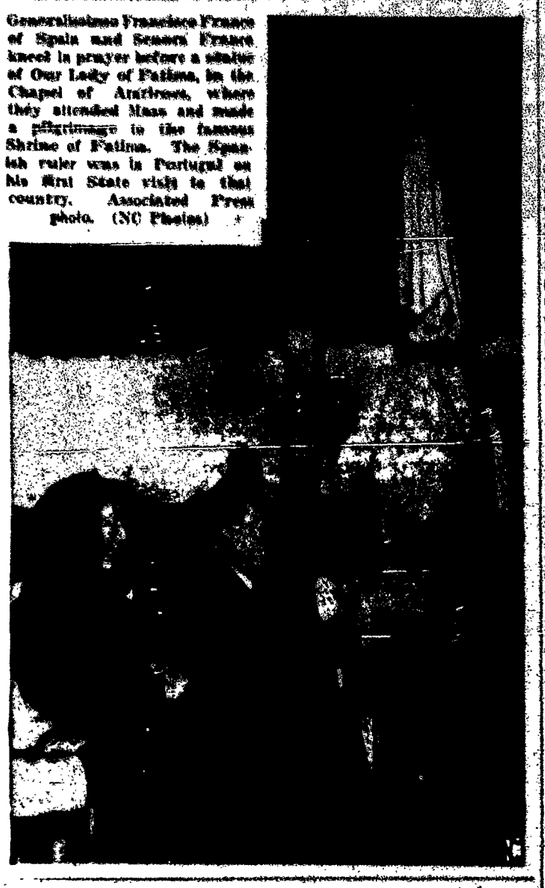
IN DESCRIBING the profound and beautiful significance of the Holy Sacrifice, Mr. Belaunde said that it leads to the true refuge, Jesus Christ. During time he spent in the United States, far from his country and family, God's presence in his soul brought him to the Faith, he added.

"In St. Augustine I found all the truth that I had vainly sought in non-Christian philosophers," he declared.

Speaking of the Eucharist, he called it "the epihany of Divine Majesty."

GENERAL FRANCO AT FATIMA

Generalissimo Francisco Franco of Spain and Senora Franco kneel in prayer before a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, in the Chapel of Arifreses, where they attended Mass and made a pilgrimage to the famous Shrine of Fatima. The Spanish ruler was in Portugal on his first State visit to that country. Associated Press photo. (NC Photos)



Apostolic Delegate Makes Plea To Youth On Farms

Columbus, O. — A stirring appeal to youth to help "open up new Christian horizons" and to cooperate in the task of bringing "the people in rural areas closer to Christ" was sounded by His Excellency Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, during Youth Day of the 27th annual convention of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, here.

TOGETHER WITH this appeal, the Apostolic Delegate exhorted young people in rural areas not to be precipitate "in abandoning your fertile and sunny fields." He warned them against "the false idea that the more intelligent, able and alert youth simply must move to the city," reminding them of the opportunities of leadership and of the obligation to render "faithful, patient, generous" service "out of love for God and for our neighbor."

"Young men and women, whether you live in the country or in the city, be that which the soul is to the body," Archbishop Cicognani said in his "Message to Youth," delivered following a Pontifical Mass. "Be proud of your Catholic name, without vanity or disdain. Seek to associate with those of your own Faith, and let no occasion pass to help each other."

THE APOSTOLIC delegate particularly stressed the need of joint effort, in working for the common good, through some association or unit of the parish. "Each parish is, as it were, the Church in miniature," he said.

Warning Given Pilgrims To Holy Land

Vatican City — (NC) — Holy Year pilgrims planning to visit the Holy Places of Palestine are warned in a report of the International Press Agency about the difficulties they may experience as a result of the tense situation still existing between the State of Israel and the various Arab countries. The number of prospective pilgrims to the Holy Land has been estimated as high as 100,000.

SINCE THE situation is far from peaceful, both sides are following practices which result in much inconvenience and expense for tourists, the Fides report says.

Pillaging of Arab possessions in Israeli territory are making life difficult for Arab inhabitants of that area continues, the report asserts. As a result, Arab authorities retaliate by refusing entrance to travelers coming from Israeli territory, Fides declares.

IN VIEW of this situation, Fides strongly urges pilgrims to enter the Arab area of Palestine, which contains most of the Holy Places, not through Israeli territory but through Arab countries. Holy Places listed as being located in the Arab zone include the Temple in Jerusalem, the stations of Christ's Passion, Mount Olivet, the Tombs of Kings, Bethany, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Samaria, the place of Christ's Baptism, etc.

After visiting these shrines, the report says, pilgrims are most likely to obtain permits for entering Israeli territory through the consular of their respective countries. Travel facilities in Israel are good, the report says, but hotel and travel charges are about two and one-half times as high as in Arab territory. Furthermore, currency restrictions for foreign money are practically non-existent in the Arab countries, while they are most severe in Israel.

Paulists Note Founder's Jubilee

Washington — (NC) — Paulist foundations throughout the country are celebrating the centennial of the ordination of their founder, the Rev. Isaac Thomas Hecker.

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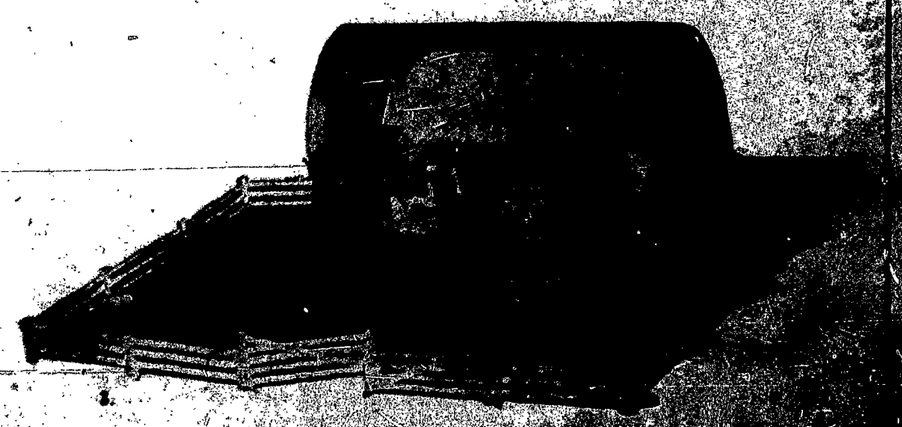

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