

Reports Of NCWC Departments Made At Bishops' Washington Meeting

New Problems Cited 'Many And Serious'

Washington (NC) — The last 12 months were "replete with momentous events at large," Archbishop John Cardinal Sheen, Chairman of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, declared here.

Introducing the reports on the several departments and bureaus of the NCWC at the Annual General Meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States, his seniors at the Catholic University of America this week, Archbishop McNicholas advised that "problems at home were likewise numerous and serious."

He noted that athletic competition "continued to dominate the foreign scene," but "suffered a staggering blow in the historic decree of the Holy See excommunicating its adherents." It is not yet possible to appraise the break between Tito and the Communists, the Archbishop said, and urged that "the United States which has taken a calculated risk in extending support to the Tito regime will condition that support by a continuing demand for a cessation of the bitter religious persecutions in Yugoslavia."

The "house arrest" of Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague was characterized as "but one of the more striking of a long and sad series of repressive and hostile measures" taken by the Czechoslovak regime against the Church during this year.

Archbishop McNicholas said that "for all practical purposes," China "may be regarded as having fallen under communist domination during the year." He declared that, despite "representations in the highest quarters" to the U.S. occupation authorities in Japan, they "have not ceased periodically to stir up 'propaganda for the legitimization and promotion of systematic population control.'"

The year also presented the Church with special problems in Korea, where occupation troops were withdrawn, and in Germany, where occupation troops remain, but where the functions of the American Military Government were transferred to the State Department. The Archbishop called attention to the fact that "the recent unfortunate developments in Palestine" caused the NCWC Administrative Board to issue a public state-

NCCW Called 'Largest' Lay Organization

Washington (NC) — Making his annual report as episcopal chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations, N.C.W.C., Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio singled out the National Council of Catholic Women as the "largest and most influential lay resource that we have in this country and of profit to every diocese in the country."

The annual report listed the accomplishments and growth of the N.C.W.C. for the period from July 1, 1948, to June 30, 1949.

MEMBERSHIP in the N.C.W.C. increased by 503 Catholic organizations, making the present total of 8,851 organized groups united under the N.C.W.C.

The number of diocesan Councils was increased by the addition of the Marquette and Austin N.C.C.W., thereby establishing diocesan units in 78 dioceses with a total membership of more than six million women. Among the dioceses not having official diocesan councils, the N.C.W.C. has affiliations in 35, thus reaching Catholic women in 113 of the archdioceses and dioceses of the country.

In addition to the direct mailing to each affiliated organization of Catholic Action and the Monthly Message, the N.C.W.C. headquarters sent a regular program service to presidents and committee chairmen of diocesan councils, and special communications called "Alerts" to spiritual moderators and presidents of diocesan councils. This service included background material on Federal Aid to Education and on the Equal Rights Amendment.

AMONG MAJOR services was that of representing Catholic women in meetings of a national or international character in which the interests of the Church were concerned. The importance the N.C.W.C. has gained is evident from the long list of conferences in which it participated, on the national and international level, Archbishop Lucey said.

National Council Set For Catholic Youth

Washington (NC) — Decision of the National Conference on Catholic Youth Work to establish a National Catholic Youth Council highlighted the annual report of the Youth Department, presented by its Episcopal Chairman, Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston.

"Realizing" the report stated, "that the fast changing program of youth work now in progress in this country necessitated further consideration on the national level," the Department issued a call for the National Conference.

HELD IN Washington in April, under the patronage of Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington, more than 700 delegates from all parts of the United States, and from Latin America and Europe, participated. The meeting was also attended by several Bishops, over 300 priests and by several hundred lay persons outstanding in the field of youth work in this country.

The decision of the Conference to set up the National Catholic Youth Council outlined some years ago by the Administrative Board of the N.C.W.C. was practically unanimous. The Council will be made up of representatives of the various dioceses together with representatives of the National Federation of Catholic College Students and the Newman Club Federation.

THE COUNCIL will, when functioning, the report states, "set forth the position of the Catholic youth of America on issues that are so vital to the youth of the world today and also offer suggestions to the youth of the individual dioceses for the formation and furtherance of a solid Catholic youth program."

Because of the need for trained priests to counsel Catholic youth groups, the director of the Department requested seminary directors to establish courses in youth work in the major seminaries along these lines is expected within a few years.

THE REPORT also noted the expansion of the activities of the

NCCM Seeks Wider Field Of Activity

Washington (NC) — The National Council of Catholic Men has shifted its program emphasis from radio to more active participation by Catholic men in diocesan and national affairs which concern the reconstruction of Christian society according to the annual report of the Department of Lay Organizations, N.C.W.C.

The report was made at the American Hierarchy's annual meeting here this week.

DURING THE past year three more national Catholic men's organizations affiliated with the Council the report related. They are The Young Men's Institute, The Order of Alhambra and the Supreme Anchor Club.

To achieve closer liaison with affiliated diocesan and national organizations, the Men's Council in addition to continuing its monthly publication, Catholic Men, prepared a series of four pamphlets called the Action Series. These pamphlets presented a broad program for parish, diocesan and national activities according to the annual report.

With the shift of program emphasis the report said there was no lessening of the quality or effectiveness of the N.C.C.M. radio productions. The Council continued to produce three national network radio programs, The Catholic Hour, The Hour of Faith and Faith in Our Time.

DURING THE past year an experimental venture into television with Station WPIX New York. The venture consisted of a series of nine monthly shows. The N.C.C.M. is at present considering invitations from major network television series. Because of the cost involved serious consideration will have to be given to the invitations the agency said.

Social Action Unit Deplores T-H Act

Washington (NC) — The spectre of unemployment on the national scene, the retarding of the general movement for getting a measure of social justice through collective bargaining resulting from retention of the Taft-Hartley Act and an improvement in industrial relations were noted in the annual report of the Social Action Department, N.C.W.C., by Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington, Episcopal Chairman.

The report also included a survey of the year's activities by the Family Life Bureau and the Bureau of Health and Hospitals. It was noted that the Social Action Department has joined the International Christian Social Association with headquarters in Europe "which may develop into something very much worth while for the world as a whole" and may sponsor a world social action meeting in Rome during the Holy Year.

The report stated that retention of the Taft-Hartley Act "has all but destroyed the earlier drive of the labor movement and some employers and farmers and professionals for the wider labor management cooperation of the Encyclical program to handle justly all economic life. The long-time evils of the Taft-Hartley Act are far worse than the short-time evils; the short-time evils have been largely erased by the great employment—which, however, is temporary."

Regarding unemployment, the report asserted: "This was to be expected because the same 10,000,000 who were out of work in 1939 were employed thereafter only by the war and the cold war, and the population has increased." The report adds that some 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 are unemployed and many others are on short hours and states: "The fundamental economy is still bad."

Services Grow In VA-Hospitals

Washington (NC) — Activation of the National Catholic Community Service program in 85 Veterans' Administration Hospitals and adjustment of services to meet the increased needs of Uncle Sam's largest peacetime armed forces are emphasized in the annual report to the U. S. Bishops' annual meeting here.

The interest of the American Hierarchy in the NCCS-VA hospital program is demonstrated by the fact that NCCS representatives have been appointed for each of the 85 VA hospitals by their respective Ordinaries, the report states.

Catholic Nurses Show Increase In Memberships

Washington (NC) — Seven new diocesan councils affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Nurses during the past year, bringing the total of member councils to 33, Archbishop Robert Lucey reported here at the General Meeting of Bishops. In addition, there are 16 new councils in the process of organization which are expected to affiliate in the near future.

Major activities of the N.C.C.N. during the last year, the Archbishop stated, included: Organization of 17 new diocesan councils of nurses; successful protest to the U.S. Public Health Nursing Organization magazine against its advertisement of contraceptives; participation in the program of the convention of the National Council of Catholic Women on the subject "Catholic Organizations in the Field of Health;" attendance at the annual meetings of all professional nurses organizations and at the Conference of Catholic Schools of Nursing; study of legislation concerning nursing; and attendance at Congressional hearings on the Federal Aid to Nursing Bill.

Press Unit Expands Work

Washington (NC) — Official blackouts, censorship and confusing propaganda have acutely aggravated the work of gathering authentic news of the Catholic world has been infinitely more arduous than for news in general," Bishop Michael J. Ready of Columbus, Episcopal Chairman of the Press Department reported.

Bishop Ready said nevertheless that in the last year the N.C.W.C. Press Department had increased the extent and number of its services to subscribing publications, extended its facilities for the worldwide coverage of the news, and raised to 47, the largest number in its history, the countries outside the United States in which it is serving newspapers.

Immigration Aid Marks Record

A record total of 2,373 services were given to members of the Hierarchy, clergy and Religious of the N.C.W.C. Bureau of Immigration stated in its annual report. This figure exceeded by 433 the number added during the previous year, which also had set a new record, the report said.

Near East Missions

Francis Cardinal Spellman, President
Mgr. Thomas J. Mahan, Nat'l Sec'y
Rev. Harry M. O'Connell
Rev. Andrew H. Rogosh
Rev. Joseph F. Connolly

Papal Nuncio Speaks

Archbishop Marina Papal Nuncio to Lebanon (truly one of God's noblest) writes to our president Cardinal Spellman thus: "The problem of the Palestinian refugees is overwhelming. It has caused me countless anguished moments. I have tried to bring some of Christ's merciful kindness to these poorest of God's poor—but I am tormented by the thought that I have not done enough. Dozens of times each day I pray 'God help me in my weakness and my poverty! But I never stop begging God's help for these homeless, hungry people—who plead for aid in the name of Jesus and the Madonnas.' . . . Surely you will answer this appeal! Give what you can—one dollar—five—one hundred."

CORFU

You must remember that name —It is one of the important islands of Greece that was prominent in the war news . . . The Sisters of Our Lady of Compassion have gone back to find their chapel, school and orphanage in ruins . . . With the brick and building materials at hand they can rebuild everything for \$1,500 . . . Our Lady of Compassion will never forsake or forget the benefactor who gives for this precious gift . . . Seldom—if ever again—will such a sum—accomplish so much for God—for Mary—and for You.

CALLING ALL BENEFACTORS

Dom Leo Rudloff, O.S.B.—the new Prior of Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem stopped in at our office, on his way to his new assignment. . . Like every monk of St. Benedict he has great devotion to the saintly founder of his order . . . He wants to restore the crypt and altar (which were stripped in the recent war) and appeals to all who have the name of Benedict—or wear his medals—to help in this work of charity . . . One thousand dollars will restore the crypt, the altar and the statue . . . If you or one you love bears this name—please help.

BISHOP OF BAGHDAD

After twenty years of priestly labor in Rome, Bishop Paul Hinde was consecrated on October 2nd and has gone back to his native city as Bishop of Baghdad. He will find few priests—they have not had a vocation or new priest there since he left almost thirty years ago . . . The Churches are few and poor . . . He needs everything—altars (fifty dollars)—vestments (thirty dollars)—chalices and ciboria (twenty-five dollars each)—linens, candles, crucifixes . . . If you wish to give a memorial of any kind, he will accept your offering great or small, and God knows he sorely needs it.

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