

# Schools Vital Issue In Britain's Election

By JOHN A. GREAVES  
London (NC) — With election fever beginning to break out all over Britain and the schools question the top issue for Catholics, the Catholic electoral education campaign is shifting into high gear.

Three weeks before general election day, February 23, a mass rally in Hyde Park will be addressed by His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. Catholics from every diocese in England and Wales are expected, and nearly all Bishops will be on the platform with His Eminence.

Meanwhile, in many districts the door-to-door canvass urged by the Hierarchy's Co-ordinating Action Committee is under way, seeking non-Catholic support in asking Parliament to pass legislation to back the Hierarchy's Catholic schools plan. These parties expect they have no far more with 50 per cent success in this venture.

THE HIERARCHY'S plan proposes that the government lease Church-owned school buildings and that local education authorities appoint teachers subject to approval by the Church authorities of their religious and moral qualifications. In return, the Ministry proposed that the government take over charges of 60,000,000 pounds (\$106,000,000) facing Catholic schools a circumstance that has caused a crisis in Church finances. The Hierarchy also asked that religious education remain unchanged and under supervision of the Church.

In Wembley, Middlesex, the Conservative party candidates for the borough's two Parliamentary divisions, after having the Catholic case explained to them at a public meeting and later by the local clergy, issued a statement in which they declared:

"We would like to emphasize at the outset that we wholeheartedly approved the principle of Church education and are anxious to see Church schools of all denominations maintained in existence and even extended."

"If the opportunity arises we will support any amendment of the Act (the 1944 Education Act) which will give the Catholics, and of course other religious denominations, a higher proportion of the seat government aid of their schools."

"We will also endeavor to persuade our own party of the justice of the Catholic cause."

COMMENTING on this the *Evening Catholic* weekly, New York, in an editorial:

"When the Catholic has achieved a party he should pull his full weight in it. We can influence candidates and it is our duty to do so. Nothing is easier than to make the defeatist assumption that since all parties have defined their attitude on the schools and candidates may be expected to be the party line our case is hopeless. We have specific evidence to the contrary. . . . What has been done in Wembley may be done elsewhere. It will be observed that in this matter we are fighting not merely the battle of the Catholic schools, but that of religious education. In this we can get support from outside our own ranks. . . ."

## Fraud Charged In Bus Petition

Boston (RNS) — An official protest over the validity of an initiative petition which would bar parochial and private school pupils from tax-supported bus transportation has been filed today by the Democratic State Committee.

State Chairman John C. Carr said his committee had examined each of the 2,000 signatures on the petition with handwriting experts. He charged that a large number of the signatures were "forged" or "obtained by fraud."

It was further claimed that the petition was "executed, simulated and filed contrary to and in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth."

The petition was sponsored by the League Opposed to Sectarian Appropriation and had the support of several Protestant groups and a number of individual Protestant clergymen. The League has insisted that every signature on the petition be genuine.

Should the protest be upheld by the State Board of Elections, the legislature will not consider the measure this year and bus transportation will continue to be provided for children of all faiths.

In Massachusetts an initiative petition with 2,000 signatures was filed for a law that would bar parochial and private school pupils from tax-supported bus transportation.

# Tito's 'Tolerance' Starves Seminarians, Arrests Priests

Genoa, Italy (NC) — Marshal Tito's "religious tolerance" and "freedom of worship" is manifesting itself in the continued arrest and "trial" of priests, the seizure of rectoria, the starvation of seminarians and the destruction of another historic church.

This picture of the current religious situation in Yugoslavia is shaping itself from the latest news to reach here from that country.

IN THE EARLY part of December, these news sources state, Magr. Janet Janiko, Vicar General of the Belgrade archdiocese, was seized in his rectory without explanation by Tito secret police. Meanwhile four priests were tried and sentenced at Cetinje on charges of "collaboration with the enemy during the war and promoting armed revolt against the people's government."

They are Magr. John Stjepovic, Episcopal Delegate of the Kotor diocese, given six year imprisonment; the Rev. Jajo Vrank of the Bar archdiocese, condemned to death; the Rev. Trifun Milosovic, Vice-Chancellor of the Kotor diocese, sentenced to 15 years, and the Rev. Victor Kocicra, also sentenced 15 years. Monsignor Stjepovic is aged and in ill health. Father Milosovic, 64, is also ill.

Father Vrank, who is 33, offered a courageous defense in court winning the admiration of those present. Many in the courtroom left in protest when the death sentence was pronounced. Father Kocicra, 33, stated at the trial that he was tortured and given electric shock treatments after his arrest. The principal witness against the priests was a man named Radovic, known to be a pathological liar of priests.

In another trial the Rev. Mauro Vrnec of Kotor was sentenced to two and one half years in prison for having led a procession on the feast day of St. Anthony.

ANOTHER REPORT relates that many priests in the diocese of Split have been exiled from their rectoria and have been forced to find shelter elsewhere. A number of those exiled now live together in a house at Sinj, near Split. Some of the priests are a four-hour walking distance from their parish churches. One priest was forced to take shelter in a stable.

From Split it is heard that the diocesan seminary there is facing a crisis because new seminarians have been refused admission cards by the authorities. Red officials have even confiscated what they charged was surplus food in the homes of parents of seminarians.

Reports of Red pressure also come from the diocesan seminary of Dubrovnik, which is also experiencing difficulty in obtaining food. Communists recently attempted to restrict the seminarians to three large rooms in the building and to make the rest of the seminary into a "workers' technical school." They abandoned the project after the Bishop protested to the authorities.

News from Ivar diocese states that priests are having serious difficulties trying to give religious instruction in the schools, despite the fact that permission for this function was promised long ago. Some priests applied for permission last June, but ran into new obstacles when they tried to give instructions. The destruction of the second Catholic church in recent months took place in a village near Knj on the Dalmatian coast. The twin towers, Byzantine in style, long ago was a landmark. It was torn down by the Red authorities despite protests by Church officials. No reason was given for the destruction.

## CONGRATULATIONS FROM U. S.



With a plaque in base-relief of the late General Michael Collins as a background Mr. George Garret, American Minister to Dublin, is shown presenting to the Laotach, Mr. John A. Costello a resolution passed by the Legislature of the State of California, congratulating Ireland on attaining the status of a Republic. (NC Photos)

## Women Catechists In Japan Start Religious Community

Nagoya (NC) — Preparations are being completed for the establishment of a new religious community of women catechists in this city. A house capable of accommodating about 20 candidates is being erected near the Catholic University of Nagoya, and it is hoped that the first group may begin their training with the opening of the new school year in April.

MEMBERS OF the community will take the full four-year course of university studies in philosophy, pedagogy and social sciences, besides special courses in exegesis, moral theology, catechetics, Church history, liturgy and Church music. They will live in community and will have the usual religious exercises common to all religious communities, but will not wear a religious garb.

Among the works envisioned for the community in the future are not only regular courses of religious instruction, but social work such as founding and directing girl scout troops, youth guidance and social service. They will not, however, undertake institutional works such as schools and hospitals.

ONLY SUCH girls will be admitted as wish to devote their whole lives to the works envisioned by the rules of the community. Provision will likewise be made for a sabbatical year every eight years in order to enable the catechists to devote themselves to special studies and to a deepening of their own spiritual life.

Red Violence in India  
Trichinopoly, India (NC) — An organization to mobilize public opinion against organized communist violence and to help the government maintain law and order has been formed with headquarters here. It is called the "Organization" Opposed to Communist Violence.

## Reds Hinder Ministry Of 34 Prelates

Vatican City (NC) — The 1950 Annuario Pontificio, pontifical yearbook, shows that one Cardinal and 33 Archbishops, Bishops and Vicars General of various dioceses throughout the world are now imprisoned, exiled, deported or otherwise impeded in their ministry.

The first copy of the Annuario just off the press, was presented to His Holiness Pope Pius XII on the Feast of St. Peter's Chair the traditional date for the ceremony.

THE PRELATES shown as not free to exercise their office are all in Iron Curtain countries. The Cardinal is His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of Hungary. He is under a life imprisonment sentence imposed by Hungary's communist regime.

Rumania has taken action against 11 high Church officials more than any other country. Russia is next with eight, and the Soviet regime in Lithuania follows with six, according to the Vatican press release on the Annuario.

THE RELEASE lists the following prelates as among those impeded by the Rumanian regime: Bishops John Suciu, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Fagaras and Alba Iulia; Basil Aftenie, Auxiliary and Vicar General of the archdiocese; Valerian Trajan Frenituz of Oradea Mare; Anthony Durcovici of Iasi; John Balan of Lugoj and Alexander Rusu of Maramures; and Magrs. John Ploscaru, Vicar General of Lugoj, and Louis Vida, Vicar General of Maramures — all imprisoned. Bishop John Scheffler of Satu Mare and Oradea Mare, is listed as deported.

Among those impeded in Russia are the Rev. John Swiderski, Apostolic Administrator of Kamieniec, and his Vicar, the Rev. Alexander Wierzicki, Bishop of Bolestaus Sloskara, Apostolic Administrator of Minak; Magr. Theophilus Skalski, Apostolic Administrator of Zytomir; his Vice-Administrator, Magr. Casimir Naskrecky, and Magr. John Roth, Apostolic Administrator of the Caucasus and of Tiraspol.

## Irish Premier Gives Pope Gift

Rome (RNS) — Prime Minister John A. Costello of Ireland presented Pope Pius XII with a precious old Irish rosary of gold and amber during a special audience in the Vatican Palace.

The Irish leader received in return a medal with a reproduction of a famous picture of the Virgin Mary before which Pope Pius, then Father Pacelli, celebrated his first Mass 51 years ago.

## Girls' 'Visions' Not Proved, Report Says

Munich (NC) — The official investigation of the "visions" of the Blessed Mother reported in recent weeks from Heroldsbach in the Bamberg diocese "has not divulged anything justifying the assumption that they are," the Bamberg diocese has stated, "of a supernatural origin."

"On the contrary," adds the statement, "facts have been established which give us occasion to serious misgivings with regard to such an assumption, even though the honesty of the children is not meant to be left in doubt."

ACCORDINGLY, THE clergy are instructed not to refer to the Heroldsbach events in their sermons, not to question the children without permission of the Bishop, not to arrange for processions and pilgrimages to the spot where the visions are said to have taken place and to refrain from collections whose proceeds are to be used for the erection of a church or other memorials there. Relevant publications, the statement concludes, are not permissible without specific permission of the competent ecclesiastical authorities.

As in the case of similar reports from a village near Pir masens in the Palatinate, where the Bishop has ruled against a publication describing the experiences of a young girl who claims to have had several "visions" of the Blessed Virgin, this statement seems to dispose of the reports that Germany now has a "Fatima of her own."

IT IS RECALLED that the Heroldsbach children, who reported their "visions" ever since last fall, had repeatedly contradicted themselves, and that the Palatinate girl had predicted "visions" which did not materialize.

Both the Palatinate girl and the Heroldsbach children had attended showings of the motion picture, "The Song of Bernadette," before having their "visions." Nevertheless, large crowds were attracted to both spots during the past few months.

## Electric Organ In Church Allowed In Exceptional Case

Vatican City (NC) — The use of an electrical organ as a substitute for a pipe organ for liturgical ceremonies may now be permitted by Ordinaries, according to a communication of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in the current issue of the Acta Apostolicae Sedis.

The Congregation says that the faculty of allowing the use of electrical organs in exceptional cases and with due precautions is entrusted to the prudent judgment of Ordinaries when the acquisition of a pipe organ is entirely impossible.

In April, 1938, a commercial firm, acting through an Ordinary, had the question of the use of electrical organs for liturgical ceremonies brought before the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

On December 5, 1938, the Congregation answered that "having heard the opinion of the competent commission, and not having found in the new form of organ that which is required by liturgical law in the matter, the Congregation has considered it opportune to deny the requested approbation, at least for the present."

## Jubilarians



## ARCHBISHOP WALSH

Newark (NC) — Three weeks will highlight the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Archbishop Thomas A. Walsh of Newark, commencing the 50th anniversary of his ordination on January 27, 1894.

The first of these will be a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving to be celebrated by the Archbishop on Thursday in St. Patrick's Cathedral here, with Bishop Thomas A. Boland of Paterson delivering the sermon. On February 18 there will be a banquet at Seton Hall College auditorium, and on May 1 a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in the Sacred Heart Church.

Archbishop Walsh became Bishop of Trenton in 1918, was transferred to the see of Newark in 1941, and appointed Archbishop of Newark in 1947. He was installed on April 27, 1948.

## Communists Seize Bucharest Pastor

Rome (CIP) — Father Mantica, Pastor of the Italian Church in Bucharest, Rumania, was arrested by the Communist militia shortly after celebrating Midnight Mass at Christmas, CIP has learned from a source inside Rumania. According to this source, four militiamen came to the rectory almost immediately after the priest's return from Midnight Mass and arrested him together with his niece, who kept house for him.

Nothing is known about the reasons for Father Mantica's arrest nor about his present whereabouts. Father Mantica is over 70 years old.

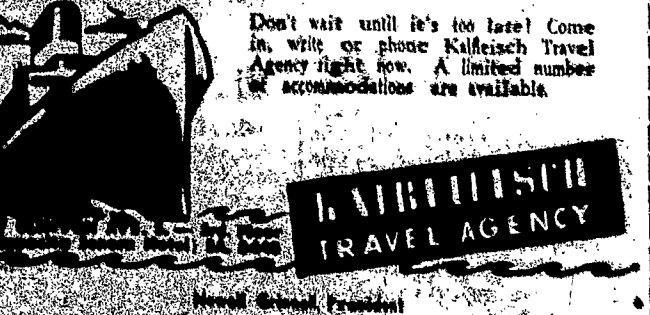
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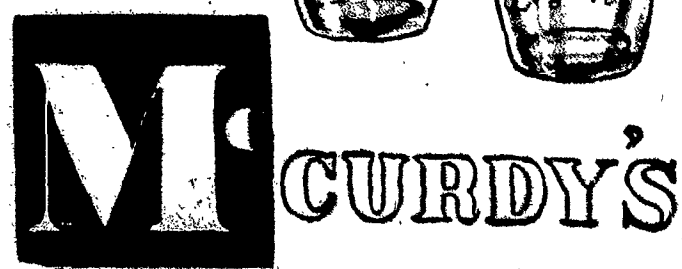
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