Philippine Controversy :

Quirino Defends Banned Book On Rizal

Honolulu — (NC) — President Elpidio Quirino of the Philippines, enroute home, said that he could see no reason for religious objection to the book, "Pride of the Malay Race." The book is a biography of the late Jose Rizal, a Philippine hero. It has been banned by the Philippine Catholic Hierarchy because it ridicules the claim that Rizal re-embraced the Catholic Faith before he died.

PRESIDENT QUIRINO, who is returning to the Philippines after undergoing an operation in the United States said that in his opinion Rizal is depicted in the story as a patriot and a citizen and not from a religious point of view.

The controversy began several weeks ago, when the book appeared on a list of home reading for public high school students. Approval of this procedure, by the President and his cabinet, followed a formal protest from the Catholic Hierarchy and Catholic organizations.

President Quirino said that he hoped to permit the publication of the Catholic version of the Rizal matter with public funds. One of the points in the Catholic protest was the use of public funds for the publication of the controversial book.

"I am a Catholic," said the President, "and I will do everything I can to defend religion. If Catholic people do not want to read the Rizal book, they do not have to. Let the controversy be open for discussion. The state is not concerned with the religious beliefs of its citizens."

HE ALSO SAID that his absence from the country had prevented a formal reply to the objections of the Catholic Hierarchy and he would take up that matter on his return.

In answer to a question on conditions in China, President Quirino said that the Philippine government has no great interest in what kind of government China has as long as there is no armed aggression and China minds its own business. He added that a policy of peaceful action to relieve social distress is the best anti-communist action for the government of the Philippines.

Statue Of Blessed Virgin Won Rizal Back To Church, Says C-J Reader

The following letter from an Ithaca reader throws interesting light on the current controversy over Dr. Jose Rizal, Philippine national hero, who, according to Catholic Church authorities in Manila, rejected Freemasonry and returned to the Church before his death in 1896.

Dear Editor:

The Courier-Journal, in its issue of Jan. 20, reported that a pro-Masonic life of Dr. Jose Rizal, Philippine national hero, has been approved by President Quirino and his cabinet for reading in the public high schools of the Philippines.

This book, written by Dr. Palma, maintains that Rizal died a Mason and ridicules as a forgery the document of Rizal's retraction which is in the archives of the Archdiocese of Manila.

I HOLD FOUR diplomas from the Ateneo, the Jesuit College in Manila and was a student there when Dr. Rizal was put to death on Dec. 30, 1896.

The day Dr. Rizal was shot, I was going to the Infirmary of the Ateneo to take some medicine and from the window which faced the Malecon, I saw Dr. Rizal being taken from Fort Santiago through the Malecon to be made a martyr.

The next day or so, I remember that my teacher, Father Francisco Sanchez, who had been the favorite teacher of Dr. Rizal a few years before in the same College, told us that Rizal had been a Free Mason and that he had re-entered the Catholic Faith before his death.

FATHER FRANCISCO told us that it happened as follows:

Jose Rizal, while a student at the Ateneo de Manila, was very handy at carving with his penknife and before he graduated he carved from a piece of wood a little statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and gave it to his favorite teacher, Father Sanchez, for a souvenir, which Fr. Sanchez kept with great joy.

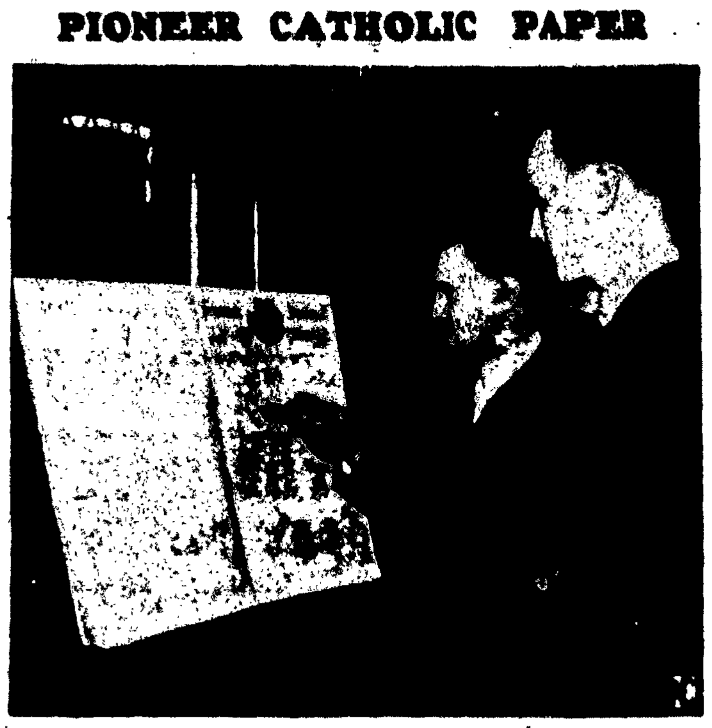
Father Sanchez upon hearing that Dr. Rizal was a prisoner at Fort Santiago and knowing that Rizal was a Free Mason, went to call on him and took the little statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary which Rizal had carved out of wood and had given to Fr. Sanchez a few years before.

They visited together, and Father Sanchez asked Rizal if he wanted to re-enter the Catholic Faith and showed him the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and asked him if he remembered it. Upon seeing the statue which he had carved, Rizal broke down and decided to give up masonry and re-enter the Catholic Faith. Afterwards Fr. Sanchez heard his Confession and gave him Holy Communion before he was taken to be made a martyr.

This is the truth, and you can publish it if you think it will do any good, as I think and hope it will.

Sincerely yours,
Mariano de Vera
Ithaca, N. Y.

PIONEER CATHOLIC PAPER



Looking over a 91-year-old copy of the "Freeman's Journal," most illustrious of Catholic newspapers of the last century, are Associate Professor Russell J. Jandoli, head of the Department of Journalism at St. Bonaventure College, New York, and John D. Burke, editor of "The Laurel," the college literary magazine.

Catholic University Scholarships Listed

Washington — (NC) — The Catholic University of America will grant 55 Fellowships and Scholarships during the next academic year, Msgr. Patrick J. McCormick, rector of the university announced.

The grants range in money value from $2,400 to $175 and are open to men and women, including nuns. Applications must be received by March 1st, accompanied by transcripts of scores in the Graduate Record Examination.

Among the grants are nine Fellowships for men sponsored by the Knights of Columbus covering tuition, board and room for graduate work in any department of the university, including engineering, architecture, law and social work. Two Penfield fellowships, valued at $1,000 each for studies in diplomacy, international affairs, and belles-lettres, are open to men who have completed one year of graduate work. The Winthrop fellowship for men or women, religious or lay is valued at $600 for study in biochemistry.

Bus Petition Upheld In Bay State

Boston — (RNS) — Legality of an initiative petition aimed at repealing a state law which allows parochial and private school pupils to ride on state-financed buses was upheld here by the Massachusetts State Ballot Law Commission.

In rejecting a protest by Chairman John C. Carr of the State Democratic Committee, the commission held unanimously that at least the required 20,000 of 21,183 signatures on the petition were valid. The Democrats had sought to prove that some signatures on the petition were illegal.

Carr said an appeal to the State Supreme Judicial Court against the commission ruling would be considered. Unless the court reverses the decision, Massachusetts voters will find the issue on the ballot in the November elections.

IF THE legislature, meanwhile, rejects the petition, the issue could still appear on the November ballot if the sponsors of the petition obtain an additional 5,000 signatures. Legislative rejection is expected since both major political parties are on record as opposing the petition.

Supporting the repeal move are the Massachusetts Council of Churches and the State Baptist Convention. The initiative petition was originally filed by Frank J. Batcheller of Newton, chairman of the League Opposed to Sectarian Appropriations.

UNDER PRESENT Massachusetts law, cities and towns can provide free transportation for children enrolled in parochial and private schools. The state reimburses the cities and towns for a large part of the cost.

Intended to circumvent the petition are two other bills now before the legislature.

One, filed by Mason Sears, chairman of the State Republican Committee, and Charles B. Rugg, an attorney, provides that free bus transportation could not be denied any pupil who "in the exercise of his religious faith and fulfillment of the compulsory-attendance requirements of the law, is enrolled at a parochial school."

Newsmen Discover 21 War Veterans In American Seminary In Eternal City

By REV. JOSEPH I. SULLIVAN

Rome — (NC) — Twenty-one war veterans — a few with seven years in uniform — is what the U. S. representatives of the Catholic Press found within the quiet, cloistered walls of the North American College in Rome.

Led by two veteran Catholic editors, Patrick Scanlan of the Brooklyn Tablet and Richard Reid of the New York Catholic News, the journalists were luncheon guests at the college. They were impressed by the shining new premises and the solemn atmosphere.

BISHOP MARTIN J. O'Connor, college rector, told the newsmen that among the some 80 young men in black cassocks with blue piping and maroon sashes were former Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine officers and enlisted men with a combined total of over 70 years of service — half of it in overseas campaigns.

The surprise of the newsmen was much the same as that of James C. Dunn, U. S. Ambassador to Italy, who attended the recent ceremony at which His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Pizzardo, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities, accepted his role as the college's protector.

The Ambassador was impressed to learn that the seminarian who carried the Cardinal's train in the procession was a former Army major and a West Point graduate. He is 34-year-old Joseph W. Hartman of Washington, who had seen over seven years service and participated in the Philippines campaign.

THE QUESTIONS of the newsmen soon uncovered that among the 21 veterans were a flier of the B-29s that bombed Tokyo, a flier who was wounded and shot down over Germany, Navy men from the North Africa, Sicily and Anzio operations, doughboys and petty officers from the Normandy, Philippines and Pacific Islands campaigns.

Thomas Meersman of Moline, Ill., a student for the Salt Lake diocese, was navigator and bombardier of a plane shot down over Leipzig, Germany. He [illegible] ed, received a Purple Heart decoration and spent nearly a year as a German prisoner. Charles Frankenhoff of Scarsdale, N. Y., a New York archdiocesan student, served as an Army Air Force captain, participating in the B-29 raids over Japan.

THE NAVY had the largest representation among the students with 11 commissioned and non-commissioned officers. George [illegible] of [illegible], Mass., [illegible] was an Airborne [illegible] who saw service in every theater of the war during four and one-half years in uniform. In all, the 21 veterans collected 32 battle stars, [illegible] Bronze Star medals, Presidential Citations, Air Medals, Distinguished Flying Crosses and [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] (NC Photos)

Congress Lets Italian [illegible]

Washington — (NC) — A bill allowing six Italian nuns, [illegible] to remain in this country permanently has been approved by Congress and forwarded to the White House for President Truman's consideration.

The measure, which passed the [illegible]

Write or Phone HAmilton 4000 . . . Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co.

February Fur Sale!

• *save as much as $130 on a luxurious coat!*

• *save as much as $64 on a year-round cape!*

Again! A famous New York furrier noted for style and quality has combined with Sibley's to bring you a collection of beautiful, luxury furs at unbelievably low prices! They're all new, this-season styles — specially purchased just for our February Sale—and they're all long-term investments in fashion and warmth. Hurry—see them tomorrow, for many are one-of-a-kind. Ask about our Convenient Payment Plan—*Fur Salon, Second Floor.*

$129* **usually would be up to $195**

- mouton dyed lamb
- natural grey kidskin
- black Persian paw
- mink-dyed marmot
- black pony
- grey Persian paw
- seal-dyed rabbit
- beaver-dyed rabbit
- Chekiang caracul
- brown pony
- black broadtail (processed lamb) capes
- silver fox jackets

$199* **usually would be to $295**

- mink-dyed northern back muskrat
- grey Chinese kidskin
- sable-dyed southern back muskrat
- mink-dyed let-out marmot
- grey Persian lamb
- black-dyed assembled Persian lamb
- mutation muskrat
- black Persian paw
- Chekiang caracul
- black Persian lamb
- leopard cat
- silver fox jackets

$299* **usually would be to $429**

- black Persian lamb
- grey Persian lamb
- natural sheared raccoon
- ocelot cat
- silver fox jackets
- natural grey squirrel
- mink-dyed let-out muskrat
- natural skunk
- leopard cat
- grey-dyed Indian lamb

**prices plus Federal Tax*