

# U. S. Pilgrims To Rome Regret Closure Of Myron Taylor Office

## President's Envoy To Pope Aided U. S.

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington (NC)—As more and more Americans return from visits to Europe, and particularly to Rome, one hears increasing expressions of regret that the mission which Myron C. Taylor fulfilled as personal representative of the President to His Holiness Pope Pius XII is not at present so lively sustained.

Mr. Taylor resigned this office on January 18, for what he said were compelling personal reasons. The following day President Truman said the questions of picking a successor to Mr. Taylor and of whether to continue the mission were being studied in the State Department. There has been nothing official said on this subject since.

When Mr. Taylor resigned, Franklin D. Roosevelt, his assistant, asked the State in New York City. He explained that he had been called home for consultations since then. American boys grow to Rome in increasing numbers, and many of them return home to remark how strange it is that the United States, in this year of all years, is one of the nations of the world not having any contact with the Holy See.

All of this makes it opportune to set down some facts that should be borne in mind. If these things are understood one is better prepared to sift truth from falsehood in what will be said on this subject in the future.

TO BEGIN WITH, it can be put down as a fact that the Holy See welcomes relations with the United States just as it does with all nations of good will. In the turbulence of friendly and peaceful relations and the moral betterment of mankind, it also can be put down as a fact that the Holy See does not feel that the initiative in this regard should be left to the government of the individual countries.

It will be recalled that when Mr. Taylor resigned his post, he gave a brief history of it, and said his mission came into being only after President Franklin D. Roosevelt had inquired whether the Vatican would receive a special representative if he might send one and the Vatican had replied that it would.

It may be put down as a fact



MYRON TAYLOR

that the United States, by withdrawing the representative it has had at the Vatican, deprives half of a normal approach to the Holy Father and to the Holy See for American political and other important persons, as well as of the means for the official presentation of such persons enjoyed by countries with representation. It also deprives itself of a useful channel of information.

THE RELATIONS that have existed between the President and the Pope through the Taylor mission in no way involve or threaten independence of action. The so-called policy of separation of Church and State in the United States does not enter into the picture, no matter how often and how vigorously this point is raised. More than 40 nations have full diplomatic relations with the Holy See. Many of them have a policy of separation of Church and State, and none of them feels that it is jeopardized in any way by the exchange of missions with the Vatican. In fact, some of the nations represented at the Vatican have formal non-Catholic religious connections, as for example, England, India, Egypt and others.

## Mass At Sea Rules Explained For Pilgrims

Rome — United States Bishops themselves may now grant Holy Year pilgrimage priests permission to celebrate Mass on the high seas. Heretofore, Bishops were required to seek this permission from the Apostolic Delegate in Washington for individual cases.

The decision was made by the Sacred Congregation of Sacraments and permission will be extended throughout the Holy Year.

THE CONCESSION stipulates that all the usual requirements for the celebration of Mass at sea be observed. These stipulations are that a fitting place for the celebration of the Mass be chosen; that if a chapel is used, the altar must be erected according to canonical requirements, and that the vestments worn by the priest should be reserved for Catholic use only. The customary stipulation that Mass be celebrated only when the sea is calm remains in effect.

Further instructions for the guidance of priests accompanying Holy Year pilgrimages and pilgrimage leaders have been issued by the Commission for Spiritual Assistance of the Central Committee for the Holy Year. They follow: 1. Diocesan (pilgrimage) Committees are requested to inform the Central Committee of the number of priests accompanying each pilgrimage.

2. IF DIOCESAN Committees wish to have Masses said in the Major Basilicas or some other Basilica of Rome, they must inform the Central Committee in good time so that the latter may have the opportunity to make the necessary arrangements.

3. Upon arriving in Rome, leaders of pilgrimages or their representatives should call at the Vicariate of Rome, 13A Piazza della Pigna, for the "celebrat" (necessary) letter for visiting priests and other faculties.

4. PRIESTS APPROVED by their Dioceses as confessors have special faculties given them by the Apostolic Penitentiary. These are explained in a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary in Rome on September 17, 1949.

5. Priest pilgrims are asked to bring their amices and purificators.

## Benediction In St. Peter's Basilica



In this Holy Year scene from St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, His Holiness Pope Pius XII kneels in prayer during the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, in the apse before the Altar of the Chair, in the center of the floor behind the Holy Father kneel the Papal Chamberlains and behind them kneel the escort of Noble Guards. Along the side, toward the altar are monsignori and Cardinals.

## 'God' In Telegrams Censored

Johannesburg — (RNS) — Post office officials in South Africa are censoring the word "God" when it appears in telegrams and cables originating here.

News of the censorship came to light when an American tourist attempted to file a business cable containing the words, "For God's sake, turn down that offer."

A post office official suggested the expression be changed to "For mercy's sake" or "For heaven's sake."

The American said he would comply, but that he preferred not to unless there was a rule prohibiting the word. The official replied that South Africa is a "Christian country" and that the word "God" was restricted in cables and telegrams.

It was explained that the restriction was not censorship, and that in the case of death a person might cable the words, "God" be with you." However, the official said, use of the word in anything but a Christian sense is blasphemous and therefore prohibited.

## Cardinal Spellman Leading Large Pilgrimage To Rome

New York — (NC) — The New York Archdiocesan Holy Year Pilgrimage of Rome, comprising 675 members — from 33 States and the District of Columbia — under the personal leadership of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, sailed from here last week aboard the S. S. Atlantic of the Home Lines.

INCLUDED IN the membership are 13 Monsignori, 25 Priests and 9 Religious. All pilgrimage arrangements are being executed by the American Express-Catholic Travel League here at the request of Cardinal Spellman.

The members arrive at Lisbon on February 25 to make a special visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima where Cardinal Spellman will hold special religious services. His Eminence will also present a handsome American flag for the Fatima trophy room.

ON FEBRUARY 28 they will visit Valletta, Malta at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Paul Boffa, and Archbishop Michael Gonzi. Cardinal Spellman will celebrate Mass for the group in the Pro-Cathedral of St. John.

They will arrive in Rome on March 2, the 74th birthday of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, and

## Hungarian Reds Take Holy Day

Budapest (RNS) — A government decree published here has designated August 20 as an official holiday commemorating the adoption of the new constitution on that day last year.

This is the same day which Hungarian Catholics have observed for about 200 years as a holy day in honor of St. Stephen, first King of Hungary, who was canonized in 1083.

## Catholic Journalists Told Press Aims

By G. R. BRUNST

Vatican City — (NC) — The suppression of public opinion in totalitarian states is "an outrage on the natural rights of man" and "wherever public opinion ceases to function freely, there peace is in peril." His Holiness Pope Pius XII said in a message to the delegates to the International Convention of the Catholic Press here.

The Holy Father developed a "Catholic concept of public opinion" and declared that service rendered by the Catholic press to that concept constitutes a solid guarantee for peace.

SERVING public opinion rather than "making" it, or dictating it, is the task of the Catholic press, the Pontiff said. In meeting this task, Catholic writers should take as a model the Church, which, in her 2,000-year history, has never been discouraged and has never allowed herself to be depressed.

The Pope counseled the Catholic press to renounce "the vain profits of a vulgar interest," and to reject, "be it at the price of financial sacrifices," anything outraging faith or honesty. In doing so, the Holy Father added, "the Catholic press will gain in intrinsic value; it will finally win esteem and confidence; it will justify the oft-repeated motto, 'a Catholic paper in every Catholic home.'"

His Holiness had originally planned to deliver a discourse personally during a special audience for the delegates, but was prevented from doing so owing to his present indisposition. Consequently, he permitted Oreste Romo, Vatican City daily, to print the text from notes written by himself.

The Pope's address, entitled, "The Catholic Press and Public Opinion," defined genuine public opinion as "the natural echo" of events and situations in the spirit and judgment of men living in society. The absence of public opinion must be considered an indication of sickness in social life, the Pope added.

Equally deplorable is the suppression of public opinion in totalitarian states, the Holy Father said, "and perhaps sadder because of its consequences is the situation of peoples where

Oppose Hating Army

Cologne (NC) — OF 1,202 German men polled by the Catholic magazine, Mann im Zeit, here 90.7 per cent opposed military service of any kind and also the restoration of a Germany army.

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