

Moscow Obstructing U. S. Priest's Work

(BY N.C.W. NEWS SERVICE)
The difficulties the Rev. Arthur O. Brassard, Assumptionist priest, is reportedly experiencing in the discharge of his ministry in Moscow are not entirely unexpected, according to State Department officials in Washington.

It has been reported that the American priest, who arrived in Moscow two months ago, has not been permitted to offer Mass in the Church of St. Louis of the French, the only Catholic church in Moscow.

WHILE DEPLOING the development, State Department officials say they had warned Father Brassard that such obstacles might present themselves when the priest finally obtained a visa last December after a ten-month wait. They see the development as in line with the Soviet pattern of finally yielding on one point, only to create a new obstruction.

The priest's attempts to exercise his ministry are reportedly being hampered by two administrative blocks the Soviets have placed in his way: (1) Father Brassard has been stalled in obtaining a "residence permit"; (2) The Soviet Administration of Religious Cults has refused to give him permission to officiate as a priest on the grounds that it has jurisdiction only over Soviet citizens. Officials are said to have prevented Father Brassard from offering Mass in St. Louis church because he had neither a residence permit nor the required permission from the Administration of Cults.

Reached by telephone, the Rev. Wilfred J. Duffault of Worcester, Mass., U.S. Assumptionist provincial and Father Brassard's superior related that he received news of the latter's difficulties in letters, the latest of which was dated February 6. Father Duffault concluded from the fact that he has not heard from the Moscow priest since, that the obstacles about a "residence permit" have begun to be ironed out. He added that according to his informant the American embassy personnel in Moscow have been "splendidly cooperative" in seeking to help Father Brassard.

The Assumptionist priest went to Moscow at the beginning of this year in accordance with stipulations of the Roosevelt-Litvinov agreement of 1933 when the United States granted recognition to the Soviet Union.

Polish Cardinal Under Attack First Time

Warsaw — (RNS) — Roman Catholic circles were reported greatly disturbed by a bitter attack on Adam Cardinal Sapieha, Archbishop of Cracow, in a special communique issued here by the Communist-dominated government.

The government statement marked the first time that the aged prelate has been singled out for attack in the mounting conflict between the government and the Catholic Church.

Charging Cardinal Sapieha with political activity designed to injure the State, the statement specifically accused him of requesting that shipments of clothing, medical and religious supplies from the United States be held up pending further notice.

THE SHIPMENTS, it was asserted, were to have been distributed by Caritas, Catholic welfare organizations, which were recently ordered placed under government control. Because of this State action, Catholics were instructed by the hierarchy not to recognize or support the organizations until it was restored to ecclesiastical control.

As soon as the official communique was issued in Warsaw, several Church leaders telephoned the cardinal's palace in Cracow and were told that he had already heard the news and had gone to pray in the cathedral. Meanwhile, many Catholics who heard the statement broadcast over the radio sent messages of sympathy to Cracow.

THE GOVERNMENT statement revealed that the cardinal had definitely refused to negotiate an agreement with the State on the terms submitted to him by Wladyslaw Wolski, Minister of Public Administration and principal government spokesman on the Church-State issue.

Sandlot Season Opens In Japan



A Maryknoll priest, Rev. Thomas J. Pendergast, opens the sandlot season in Japan, which has a nine-team major league. These lads from the Maryknoll mission in Kyoto may become professional ball players some day. Ever since Babe Ruth and other major league players made their barnstorming tour of the Orient in the 1930's, baseball has been Japan's most popular and widest played game. (NC Photos)

New Diocese Of Worcester Board Bars Bus Replaces Reformation Loss To Parish School

Worcester — (NC) — History played a large part in the installation ceremonies of the Most Rev. John J. Wright as first Bishop of Worcester at St. Paul's Cathedral here.

The 20,000 who witnessed the installation, inside and outside the church, were reminded by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston that the Catholic Church once again has a Cathedral town named Worcester. The prelate referred to the Worcester of England, which was the seat of a diocese from the seventh century to the time of the English Reformation.

"CANTERBURY AND York have been lost to us, and Worcester of old, but this Worcester of the New World arises this morning as a cathedral town to perpetuate a name once so glorious in the Church Catholic," he said.

The first Bishop of the Worcester of the West takes up a crucible like that laid down by the last Bishop of Worcester of the Old World, Richard Pates, in 1535. Thus does God in His own good time and place renovate

His losses of the past," the Arch bishop declared.

THIS MASSACHUSETTS city itself contributed a rich out of American Catholic history to the event. The Evening Gazette, a local daily, devoted six full pages to the installation, pointed out that Worcester now the center of a diocese of 225,000 Catholics, had seen episodes which typified the rise of Catholic fortunes in early New England.

Some of the first Catholics in Worcester, it was recounted, were a group of the unfortunate Acadians who were driven out of their Nova Scotia homes by the English. Early in the 1800's came a colony of immigrant Irish canal workers. In 1834 when a priest tried to buy a lot for a church he could not get the legal papers completed because of the bigotry of that period.

Farmington, Me. — (RNS) Pupils may not be carried to parochial schools by public school buses it was ruled by the local school board.

The board's statement followed a town meeting vote which favored such transportation 194 to 11. The only parochial school in town is St. Joseph's with an enrollment of about 60 children.

The board said that under an order it promulgated last fall parochial school children are permitted transportation only as far as the nearest public school. Previously, they were taken the entire distance.

School board chairman Benjamin Butler cited a ruling he said Attorney General Ralph W. Farris made to the State Education Department last July.

American Priest To Aid Jerusalem's Dormition Abbey

Newark — (NC) — The Rev. Lambert Dunne O.S.B. of St. Mary's Abbey here has been appointed American representative for the Dormition Abbey of Jerusalem. It has been announced it will be his work to promote the interests of this shrine, damaged in the Arab-Jewish conflict, in the Western Hemisphere.

THE BENEDICTINE Abbey of the Dormition of the "Dormitio" stands on Mt. Zion on the very site of the Hagia Sion Temple.

An ancient tradition says that the Blessed Virgin Mary spent her last days and died at that site. Because of this the abbey is named the "Dormitio" or "going to sleep." It has become known as Mary's Shrine in Jerusalem and is the only Holy Place there held by the Benedictines.

The "Dormitio" was built at the direction of Pope Leo XIII after the site had been acquired from the Arabs in 1898.

Lawmakers' Quarrels Snag School Aid Bill

Washington (NC) — A week of climatic meetings by the House Education and Labor Committee on Federal aid to education has underscored a fact as ready as known that the committee is deeply divided on the subject.

After more than a month of daily meetings committee members offered six amendments to take the snags out of the Senate.

THE SUCCESSFUL amendment was introduced by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. of New York. It seeks to get fast treatment for Negro school children but erases all mention of separate schools for minority races from the Thomas Bill. In the process it eliminates the Senate bill's provision that funds be spent for these schools in a "fair and equitable" manner. It banks on raising State minimum standards to get better schools for Negroes.

Mr. Powell's provision was that in the 19 "needy" States enough aid be granted to insure a "floor" expenditure of \$60 per year per child at the school—not the school district level. His amendment also provides that the wealthy States be granted a flat \$5 per child per year but apportioned so that all districts spend at least \$100 per child per year.

THE HOUSE committee spent a week over possible improvements in the Senate bill, also took these actions.

Rejected by a vote of 16 to 9 an amendment by Rep. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts which would have guaranteed bus ride aid for nonpublic school children in all States using the School Lunch Act formula. Catholic leaders had pinned most of their hopes for equity for parochial children on this amendment.

Rejected by identical 21 to 3 counts a amendment which would have told the States that they could spend their Federal aid grants for the public schools only. These amendments were sponsored by Reps. Graham A. Barden of North Carolina and Andrew Jacobs of Indiana.

TURNED DOWN by a 19 to 4 vote another proposal by Mr. Barden to do the same thing by defining "school" in the Thomas Bill as "a public school."

Voted down 14 to 10 an amendment by Rep. Thomas H. Burke of Ohio which would have specified that at least 75 per cent of the Federal aid funds go to raise public school teachers' salaries.

President Truman, at a press conference during the week, reported that he was anxious to have a Federal aid to education measure passed. But he said at the same time that he could not settle the details of the arguments among the House committee members.

Card. Mindszenty In Prison Hospital

Rome — (NC) — A Vatican Radio broadcast stated that His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, imprisoned Primate of Hungary, is now in the prison hospital on Maglod street in Budapest. The broadcast gave as its source of information "Budapest ecclesiastical circles."

Czech Priest Arrests Average One Each Day

(By N.C.W. NEWS SERVICE) The arrest of priests in Czechoslovakia is continuing at the rate of one a day according to reliable information.

It is estimated that at least 200 Czech clergymen are now in prison or in forced labor camps. The regime is keeping a tight censorship lid on arrests of clergymen, while its propaganda setup trumpets the release last month of an unspecified number of priests who had been arrested in Slovakia last fall. The trials and sentencing of most priests is kept secret by the regime.

Other news from Czechoslovakia tells of the expulsion of professors of the theological faculties at two top Czech universities and of a propaganda campaign to make a national hero of the priest excommunicated by the Vatican for accepting from the regime the post of "apostolic administrator" of a Slovak diocese.

Expulsion of Catholic theological professors was ordered by the Ministry of Education. They were ousted from the country's two oldest universities, Charles University at Prague and the University of Olomouc. According to the expulsion order the action was taken because of an "anti-working class" attitude on the part of the teachers. About 300 students are said to be enrolled in the theology courses.

Cardinal Mindszenty was reported in bad health at the time due to a complication of lung trouble and Basedow's disease. The latter is described as an exophthalmic goiter characterized by a hyperthyroid condition, nervous excitability, accelerated heart beat, muscular tremors and loss of weight.

One medical authority in Washington D.C. stated that Basedow's disease while its exact causes are not known, may arise from long continued periods of nervous excitement. He stated that there is little evidence that drugs or bad diet lead to contraction of the disease.

ANOTHER DOCTOR stated that the disease could result from a number of causes. However, these usually boil down to interference with the thyroid gland causing it to step up drastically the metabolism of the individual. The disease could be occasioned by drugs which would unduly excite the thyroid gland, he said. Long nervous excitement could be considered a causal factor.

Million Dollar Youth Center Opens

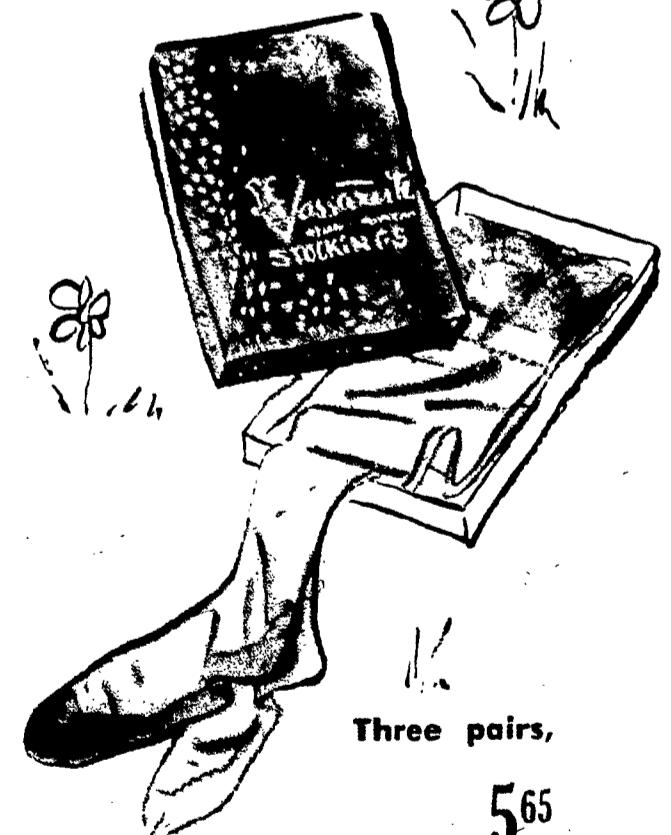
Scranton — (NC) — The new \$1,000,000 Catholic Youth Center here, was dedicated by Bishop William J. Haley of Scranton. The center contains a large gymnasium, swimming pool, 12 bowling alleys and an auditorium for movies, lectures and banquets.

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