

Continent Union Urged by Prelate

Tampa, Fla. (NC) — Without affecting the individual characteristics which distinguish the American nations from each other, the Americans should increasingly organize their forces in order to bring prosperity to our cultural heritage and to combat the atheistic revolution which seeks to undermine the religious and democratic foundations of our countries, for on these democratic foundations rests the guarantee of our liberty and respect for the full dignity of man.

Stressing "the urgent necessity for the union and mutual defense" of the Americas "if our civilization is to be saved," Cardinal Arceaga y Betancourt declared in Spanish:



His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, presents the prizes to winners of the national Mission Sunday Poster Contest, held by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In the picture, right to left, Cardinal Spellman, Barbara Jacob, Marymount College, Tarrytown, N. Y., first prize, \$500; Victoria Donahue, Rosemont College, Philadelphia, second prize, \$250; Bernard Klemchak, St. John's High School, Pittston, Pa., third prize, \$100; Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, New York, National Director of the Society. (NC Photos)

Parish School Control Issue In Great Britain

London (NC) — His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, described the campaign of British Catholics to get a better break for their schools as a fight "against possible usurpation of the rights of the Church and the parents by the state."

"We know how in totalitarian states the first thing that is tackled is usually the education of the children," the Cardinal declared. "Their leaders wish to impregnate into the minds and souls of the children their false doctrines."

The ranking British prelate also criticized proposals for uniform religious teaching in all schools. "I feel myself," he said, "that the agreed syllabus type of religion, drawn up as it is by people sometimes entirely devoid of religion will lead to the secularization of the schools."

Released-Time Legal Here, N. Y. Supreme Court Rules

Brooklyn (RNS) — Legality of the New York plan instruction was upheld in Justice Anthony J. Di Giovanni's decision.

He dismissed a petition by two Brooklyn parents to halt religious instruction of New York public school children during school hours.

Immediately following the decision, Leo Pfeffer, counsel for Tessa Zorach and Mrs. Lata Gluck, the petitioners, said he would "appeal as high as the U. S. Supreme Court."

In his decision, Justice Di Giovanni ruled that the Church-State separation principle had "never meant freedom from religion, but rather freedom of religion."

"To permit restraint upon state and local educational agencies, which are lawfully authorized to grant released time to our young citizens who wish to take religious instruction would constitute a suppression of this right of religious freedom," the court held.

It would be a step in the direction of and be consonant with the individualistic and democratic philosophies existing in jurisdictions wherein atheism and the suppressing of all religions are preferred to the freedom of the individual to seek religious instruction and worship.

IN THE legality of the program he said that the New York legislature had amended the education law in 1946 to provide that "absence for religious observance and education shall be permitted under rules that the commission

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Balancing The Books

Two Sad Problems — Drink And Race

By REV. JOHN S. KENNEDY

It has been estimated that there are some three million alcoholics in the United States — practically one to every family. The problem they present is sizable and serious. Scientific study has thrown much light upon its causes and its solution. Techniques for coping with it (notably that of Alcoholics Anonymous) have been devised and proved effective in action.

But not nearly enough people are familiar with the true nature of alcoholism and how it can be successfully overcome. Hence one hopes that *Easy Does It: The Story of Mac by Hugh Kelly* will be widely read.

THIS BOOK has a powerful spell. But the history of an alcoholic. The author has put a representative case history in fictional form. This he has done to detail the work's shortcomings as fiction, but by every leaf from character-sounding to dialogue this effort is decidedly amateurish.

And yet it is engrossing and memorable, because, however maladroitly it is telling the stark truth to the rectory of a clergyman known to the Padre there comes an inveterate alcoholic named John McMermit out of a job desperate and looking for help. He gives the Padre a manuscript to read. The surprisingly frank account of what he calls his descent into hell. In the successive stages of the alcoholic's ensnarement are graphically described.

Then McMermit is taken in hand by two members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the successive stages of his rehabilitation are presented. All this is as new to the Padre as it is to Mac. Hence lengthy explanations are made. In the end McMermit is free of his demon and has helped save the woman who separated from him years before. Went his way in misery. The Padre is about to marry them as the story comes to a close.

The tendency is to consider the racial problem as soluble either by stark "social engineering" or by an appeal to idealism. Father La Farge maintains that neither "man-centered humanism" nor "an exclusively transcendental religious attitude" will by itself do the job. Rather, success will come "if we have the faith and courage to state and practice all that religion and practical wisdom have to say about the human relations problem."

HOW STUDY has been translated into action is shown in the abundance of concrete examples offered by the author. Most notable is his depiction of the history and work of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York with which he has been connected from the outset and which now has counterparts in various sections of the country.

EASY DOES IT: THE STORY OF MAC By Hugh Kelly. 277 pages. New York: Kennedy, \$3.00.

NO POSTPONEMENT by John LaFarge, C.J. 246 pages, with Index. New York: Longmans, Green, \$3.00.

Admiral Executive Aids University

Chicago (NC) — Roan C. Stragusa, founder and president of the Admiral Corporation has been named member of Loyola University's President's Council. It was announced by the Very Rev. James T. Hussey, S.J., university head.

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