

OHIO SCHOOL BOARD:

# Bans School Bus To Children; Fathers Fight For Country

Cleveland, O.—(NC)—Catholics of St. Joseph's parish of the town of Avon Lake are conferring on what to do about a school board order which suddenly barred their children from school buses without warning just before their school opened for the fall term.

Protesting Catholics said that there was no public notice of a school board meeting that hastily met on the Sunday night before the school opening and unannouncedly voted the ban. They did this, it was said, after the Rev. Carl C. Wernet, pastor of St. Joseph's parish, had announced from the pulpit that same morning that their new school would open Tuesday and that parents should have their children at the school bus stations for the ride to school.

HERE IN Cleveland, Mgr. Clarence E. Elwell, superintendent of schools of the diocese, said of the Avon Lake ban.

"Catholics are citizens. They have a right to the full benefits of citizenship—including justice in the enjoyment of benefits provided by the taxes they pay. When they pay taxes to protect the health and safety of children going to school they have a right to expect all children to be benefited, without discrimination, and without being asked to forfeit some other human right as the price of participation."

So widespread were the protests, even by some non-Catholics, that Walberg L. Brown, head of the school board, called another meeting on the night of the school opening. One of the most poignant pleas before the board and 300 residents attending was that of a Catholic mother of three children who said:

"Today my husband was called back to active duty in the Navy. God knows where he will be sent or when he will come back. He's gone away to fight not only for Catholics, but for everybody."

"I can't get my child to school. I have two other children to take care of. You people are supposed to be my neighbors. I ask you, members of the board, to please, please try to work out something so we can get our children to school."

The board, according to observers, sat silent when Harold Payne another parent, rose to say:

"Do you members of the board realize that this concerns chil-

## City Aids Parish Pupils Denied Health Services

Mansfield, O.—(NC)—Mayor S. Robert Weirich has placed this city's health department facilities at the disposal of parish schools, after the board of education suddenly barred parochial pupils from the school health service.

The Mayor said the school board had broken its word to him, and expressed astonishment at its action. The school board opened its own health department this summer, after using the city health department for years, he explained. At that time, Mayor Weirich recalled, School Supt. L. J. Smith and the five school board members verbally agreed that parochial children would continue to be included in the new health program as in the old.

Four of the five members of the school board denied making any such agreement. They claimed that an opinion of an Ohio attorney general forbids school board physicians and nurses to assist parochial school children. They did not name the attorney general, or cite the alleged opinion.

All members of the board are non-Catholics. Action to bar Catholic children was announced to Catholic pastors at the last moment, just before schools opened.

Do you realize what you are doing to our kids? Don't you wonder what they are thinking when a bus picks up other kids and the driver tells our children they can't ride because they go to a Catholic school?"

TELLING OF the danger to Catholic children on the first school day when they were barred from buses without warning James Reser, grand knight of the Avon Lake Knights of Columbus, said:

"I followed the buses this morning. I saw children crying when they were put off. I saw them walking down roads with heavy traffic racing past them."

The school board took no action on a plea by Councilman James King, former Avon Lake mayor, that it provide transportation until St. Joseph's parish could work out a plan.

When three of the five board members insisted that to let Catholic children ride the school buses would "endanger the principle of the separation of church and state," Mr. King

told the board that Avon Lake was paying the Avon Lake First Congregational Church \$20 a month for space for a public school kindergarten.

It was said that the pastor of this Congregational church is the Rev. Paul J. Folson, reported member of the anti-Catholic organization known as "Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State," and that during the summer he had written a brochure attacking any transportation for Catholic children.

One of the three school bus drivers, Ralph Hubert, defied the school board ban and picked up all Catholic children waiting at their stops. He said:

"Some of these kids are the sons and daughters of men who fought for this country. Some of their fathers even now are being called back to the service. They didn't fight, and they are not fighting now, to have their children treated as second-class citizens."

## Regime Will Rob Church Of Treasures

Vienne.—(RNS)—A new Czech law is in preparation which will hand over to the State all religious relics, paintings, libraries, statues, and other church treasures.

Lidove Noviny, organ of Czech writers, in giving the details said that local Communist bosses are now making a complete index of church property.

THE PAPER said the State will give financial indemnity for confiscated property in the form of subsidies for maintaining churches and supporting the clergy.

Among the church treasures that would be affected by the new law are historical manuscripts, paintings and centuries-old monstrances worth billions of Czech crowns.

The new law would also affect individuals owning movable or immovable valuables of "national interest."

AMONG OTHER things, the new statute will give the State the power to confiscate or demolish old castles which are considered an obstacle to the government's industrial plans. Out of 800 historical castles only one hundred will be maintained, while another 200 will be adapted to "socialist needs" as hotels, storehouses and factories.

Lidove Noviny said that a plan has been worked out for pulling down 40,000 objects in the Sudeten border regions.

The government's plans were revealed by the paper in an article headed "Rescue of Historical Relics."

## Egyptian Catholic Actress Killed

Cairo, Egypt.—(NC)—Huge crowds thronged streets and packed St. Joseph's Church here to pay tribute to Lillian Cohen, a famous Egyptian Catholic screen star, who was one of 35 victims in an air crash (August 31). Thousands followed the hearse which was covered with flowers and drawn by ten white-hooded horses.

Lillian Cohen, known as Camilla was born of a Jewish father and French Catholic mother and was baptised and brought up a Catholic.

## YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS



Attending the sessions of the Young Christian Workers' Week, in Brussels, September 2-10, were left to right: Rev. Francis N. Wendell, C.F., New York Federation chairman; Charles Fessenden, U. S. general vice president of the Y. C. W.; and Tony Sivakich, U. S. General President of the Y. C. W. Miss Fessenden and Mr. Sivakich represented United States Christian Worker movement.

## Czech Reds Disrupt Worship On Sunday

Vienne.—(RNS)—Sunday has ceased to be a day of rest and worship in Czechoslovakia, according to reports received here.

Communist officials use a variety of tactics in their attempts to keep the people away from rest or religious activities on Sunday.

Attempts are made to induce clergymen to get the people to cooperate in government-sponsored Sunday activities. Priests are even asked to read from their pulpits government calls for "voluntary" Sunday work in fields or factories or participation in Communist "peace" drives on that day.

IN INDUSTRIAL areas of Czechoslovakia special Sunday shifts are organized in "honor" of anything from "the victorious North Korean peace defenders" to "the Day of Soviet Miners."

In the agricultural areas a man seen at Sunday Mass and found behind his fellow farmers in corn deliveries to the State is bound for trouble with local Communist authorities.

## What Attracts Catholics The Replies of Fourteen

By REV. JOHN A. GRANNON, S.M.

In 1948 a total of 11,117,272 men and women, and all ranks of the Catholic Church in the United States, were members of the Catholic Church of Christendom. This is the largest number ever recorded in the United States in any one year. It shows that the Catholic Church is steadily gaining members.

The question of this huge membership increase has attracted the attention of the Catholic press. The Catholic press has been busy in the past few weeks in publishing articles, editorials, and columns, all of which have been devoted to the question of the Catholic Church's growth. The Catholic press has been busy in the past few weeks in publishing articles, editorials, and columns, all of which have been devoted to the question of the Catholic Church's growth.

To look at the problem of the Catholic Church's growth is to look at it from the outside is quite a different thing. All who have been active in the work of the Catholic Church in the past few years have seen that the Catholic Church is growing in the United States. The Catholic Church is growing in the United States. The Catholic Church is growing in the United States.

With a view to putting some light on the growth of the Catholic Church, we have conducted a poll of 14 Catholic workers. We have selected 14 Catholic workers who are active in the work of the Catholic Church in the United States. We have selected 14 Catholic workers who are active in the work of the Catholic Church in the United States.

Looking over the contemporary scene in the United States, Canada and Great Britain, we selected 14 Catholic workers who are active in the work of the Catholic Church in the United States. We have selected 14 Catholic workers who are active in the work of the Catholic Church in the United States.

NEXT WEEK: Catholic Service. Where I Found Christ, by John A. Grannon. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1949.

## Holy Hours Seek Conversion Of Jews

Chesham, (NC)—A priest here has sponsored a series of Holy Hours in his parish church for the conversion of the Jews to the Catholic Faith. He is Fr. Peter Mervin Lavery of St. Peter's Church, a native of Paris and a member of the Holy Missionary Fraternity of Notre Dame de France, the United States.

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