

RECAP OF COLUMBUS

Raps 'Hullabaloo' Over Bingo; 'Puritanical View Ridiculous'

COLUMBUS, O. (RNS)—Bingo games operated in Franklin County exclusively for religious purposes are legal, County Prosecutor Ralph J. Bartlett said in an opinion requested by Sheriff Ralph J. Paul after bingo was banned in Columbus proper under a ruling of the city's attorney.

The county prosecutor's ruling means that bingo operators who meet certain qualifications can operate in the county, but not in the city. He said that the city's puritanical view of bingo is ridiculous and that the operators of bingo games could be prosecuted as common gamblers.

You cannot prosecute the operators of bingo games, he said, where such games are being operated solely and exclusively for educational, religious, philanthropic or other purposes, as the persons operating the same are not doing so for their own profit.

You may prosecute anyone operating such a bingo game within the county if they are operating for their own profit, regardless of what margin of their income may be contributed to a cause.

THE BISHOP'S release of the report on the "hullabaloo" over bingo in Columbus, Ohio, is a good thing because it is not a "hullabaloo."

The bishop said that to put social bingo on the same level as commercial gambling is not "good" but "evil" because it is not a "hullabaloo."

Wheeling Bishop Defends 'Entertainment' Gambling

Wheeling, W. Va. (RNS)—Organized gambling for profit is sinful, but social gambling for recreation is morally harmless, the Most Rev. John J. Swain, bishop of the Wheeling Catholic diocese declared here.

He said the Catholic Church "makes a distinction which condemns" commercial gambling, but not entertainment gambling. When large sums are involved, and especially if it is a question of raking money which a person has no right to risk, then the gambling is sinful and morally wrong.

Mass For War Dead Set In Arlington

Washington (NC)—The 13th annual Solemn Memorial Mass for the nation's war dead will be offered in the amphitheater of Arlington National Cemetery on May 27. It has been announced by the Washington General Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, which with the National Committee of Catholic Societies, sponsors the annual event.

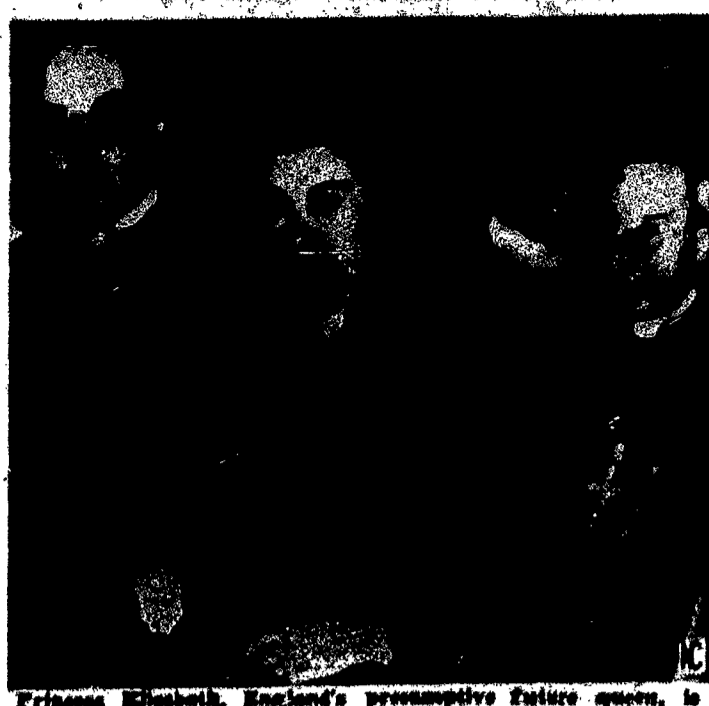
The Mass will be offered by Bishop Patrick J. McCormick, Auxiliary of Washington, and Rector of the Catholic University of America. Bishop John J. Russell of Charleston, will preach the sermon.

Pontiff Honors African Queen

Rome (RNS)—Tribal Queen Maria Katwanda of Uganda, British East Africa, was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal by Pope Pius XII in recognition of her zealous work on behalf of the Roman Catholic religion.

Catholics in Uganda number about 400,000, out of a total population of 3,500,000.

PRINCESS VISITS POPE



Princess Elizabeth, England's presumptive future queen, is escorted through the Vatican's Clementine Hall, en route to a private audience with His Holiness Pope Pius XII. She and her husband, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, conversed with the Pontiff for half an hour. At right is Monsignor Diego Venzani, secret waiter to the Pope, and at left is Monsignor Federico Calleri di Vignale, Papal Chamberlain. (NO Photos)

Jailed Missioners Convert Prisoners

Monk Kong (NC)—Even while in jail, two Maryknoll priests continued their mission activities by converting some of the other prisoners.

The Revs. Joseph E. Van den Bogard of Brooklyn and Allan J. Dennis of Staten Island, N.Y., were arrested by communists in early December. After three months of imprisonment they were released and expelled from the country.

In one jail, however, Fathers Bogard and Dennis were able to discuss religious questions with their fellow prisoners, many of whom were educated men. They also led the group in simple prayer services daily.

New Brazil Stamp To Honor Saint

Ho De Janeiro, Brazil (NC)—The Philatelic Committee of Brazil will issue a stamp honoring St. John Baptist de La Salle, founder of the Christian Schools.

Priest Given Silver Star For Heroism

Oakland, Calif. (NC)—A priest chaplain who lies in the Naval hospital here recovering from wounds suffered when communists in Korea machine-gunned an ambulance has been awarded the Silver Star "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action" while serving earlier with the 1st Marine Division.

The Rev. (Lt. Jg.) Cornelius J. Griffin "continually exposed himself to heavy enemy fire" as he moved among the Marines during the height of a night attack by the enemy last November, the citation said. Later the Marines underwent heavy small arms fire, and Father Griffin "repeatedly exposed himself without regard for his personal safety to render what aid he could to the wounded men in the attack."

"Chaplain Griffin served as a veritable pillar of strength for the men of the organization and served as an unforgettable inspiration of all who observed him," the citation signed by Maj. Gen. Oliver P. Smith, commanding general, 1st Marines, declared.

IT WAS IN December that communists near the Chosin Reservoir machine-gunned an ambulance in which Father Griffin was giving the Last Rites to dying Marines. Four slugs crashed into his jaw and right shoulder, nearly requiring amputation of an arm. Two transfusions of whole blood were needed to bring him through.

Here at Oakland the priest will undergo nearly a year of plastic surgery treatments.

NEW MEXICO STATE: Asks Dismissal Of Dixon Case Appeal

Santa Fe, N.M. (RNS)—A brief filed in New Mexico supreme court here by the state attorney general asks the tribunal to dismiss, in its entirety, the Protestant plaintiffs' appeal in the Dixon school case.

The brief was submitted by Assistant Attorney General Phil Dunleavy, representing the state education board, state comptroller and school budget auditor.

THE PLAINTIFFS wants the court to ban all Roman Catholic priests, nuns and brothers from teaching in public schools or, at least, to prohibit the wearing of religious garb by teachers.

Mr. Dunleavy said that garbed teachers remain in only seven schools, and that their jobs are temporary. The state education board recently declared its intention to remove Catholic religious from teaching posts "as expeditiously as circumstances permit."

In view of this situation, Mr. Dunleavy contended that the plaintiffs' appeal is moot, since the main object they seek is an accomplished fact. He also questioned the court's jurisdiction.

AT THE SAME time, he objected to the stand of the Roman Catholic Church that it has a right to rent church property for public school purposes. Since no such property is now being so used, he said, this question is "moot and academic."

The use of church-owned property for public school purposes had been defended as constitutional in a brief filed by the Catholic Church asking the supreme court to reverse the original Dixon case decision of District Judge E. Turner Henley.

Unionists Urge Canada Envoy To Holy See

Ottawa (RNS)—A demand that the Canadian government appoint an envoy to the Vatican so that Canada can obtain the information she needs when the needs of the Holy See are met, was made here by the Canadian Catholic Federation of Labor.

A 30-man delegation presented the request to the cabinet which gave no indication of what it planned to do about the issue.

The federation said that "the Vatican is a diplomatic center of international importance," and that since Canada has become an international power it should not depend for information on Great Britain's permanent mission to the Vatican.

Ancient Assumption Statue Discovered

Campina Grande, Paraíba, Brazil (NC)—During excavations in the district of Jolly workers unearthed in a cavern what was called a beautiful statue, said to bear the inscription, "Rome, 1551," was taken to the church by the local pastor in solemn pilgrimage.

PHILIPPINE WEEKLY:

Bishops' Action On Lipa Tribute To Philippine Faith

Manda (NC)—The statement of the Philippine Bishops ruling out anything supernatural in the reported Lipa manifestations is a tribute to the "maturity of faith" of Philippine Catholics, the Sentinel, national Catholic weekly, states editorially.

"We should be grateful for their courage in telling the truth plainly amid admittedly difficult circumstances," the paper says and takes note of "the emotional crisis provoked by the disclaiming of a 'popular miracle.'"

THE HIERARCHY's statement was issued by a special commission formed to study the reported phenomenon of mysterious rain, metals and an apparition of the blessed Virgin alleged to have

taken place in 1948 at Carmelite convent in Lipa. The episcopal commission was headed by Archbishop Gabriel M. Reyes of Manda, ranking Catholic prelate in the Philippines.

Neither the statement of the Bishops nor the Sentinel editorial gives any reasons why the reported phenomenon was judged not to be supernatural. However, the editorial notes that the Bishops' statement pointed out that "repeated, long and careful investigations" had been made. The Bishops also stated that their judgment was "unanimous."

"Reactions to this (episcopal) pronouncement will undoubtedly be mixed," the Sentinel editorial declares.

"Many who have reserved judgment, waiting on the Church's authoritative decision, will have their minds put at rest. But many more, who gave their credence a little too readily and too wholeheartedly may be deeply disappointed. Quite probably there will be much privately expressed regret, a fair share of surmising, possibly some recrimination."

"All this is entirely human and understandable. IT WILL BE sad, though, if we don't get through quickly with the first flurry of emotion and put in some cool thought and earnest prayer on this matter. For thought and prayer will at once spotlight the one final revelation that truly should be ours. It is this: we should be deeply grateful."

We Catholics of the Philippines should be grateful also because this clear verdict, so simply and straightly uttered, shows luminously the confidence our shepherds have in us. In the maturity of our faith. Certainly every Catholic knows that true religion is not based essentially on visions, prophecies and wonders, but on our faithful acceptance of God's revelation and our living lives of knowledge and love of God and our neighbor under the guidance of that revelation. Miracles exist, surely, but as secondary elements, as the outward seal or stamp of God's approval, as the occasional tangible witness of God's power and presence."

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