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School Aid Issue Hits French Politics

By F. MASSIANI

Paris — (NC) — The problem of state aid to Christian schools has become one of the hottest political issues in France. On its solution depends the possibility of forming a government.

Already two would-be premiers have stumbled and fallen over the issue. Maurice Petache gave up trying to form a government when he failed to get any accord between the Catholic-oriented popular Republican Party (MRP) and the Socialists on the Christian school issue.

RENE MATYRE, Radical Socialist leader, failed to get a parliamentary majority when the MRP abstained from voting in the National Assembly because they felt dissatisfied with his statements on the issue.

The question is asked: Why has this issue suddenly become so pressing? The answer is found in the realignment in the new National Assembly and in the promises made by many of its deputies to the electors.

The June 17 elections gave a clear majority to those deputies who professed to defend what they called "freedom of teaching" against a system of state schools only. This was a reversal from the 1946 voting when the Communists and Socialists, intrinsigent champions of state schools only, constituted half of the National Assembly.

NOW 226 OF the newly-elected deputies belong to the Association for the Defense of Freedom of Teaching. About 30 others are known to be disposed to vote with them. This represents more than half of the assembly.

The political groups who have pledged themselves to defend the free or denominational schools are: MRP, Independents, Farmers and General Charles de Gaulle's Rally of the French People (RPF). In addition, about 15 members of the Radical party have joined them.

The parties of the Third Force, which have ruled France since 1947, intended to get back into the government after the June 17 elections by shutting out the

communists on the left and the de Gaulists on the right. The Socialists, the Radical Socialists and the Popular Republicans were the pillars of this combination. They were reinforced by the Independents and the Farmers who came back in greater number in the June 17 Assembly.

WHILE STATE schools will have at their disposal the resources of the national education budget, the MRP states, the Christian schools, to which thousands of new students will go because of the increased birth rate, will be caught in the grip of aggravated financial troubles.

Catholic parents, who are often impoverished workers, are not able to bear by themselves an expense which is estimated at 15 to 20 billion francs (43 to 54 million dollars).

While the Socialists and Communist deputies cry, "Not a franc, not a centime for private schools!" those belonging to the Association for Defense of Freedom in Teaching have adopted this four-point program:

- 1 To make private school pupils eligible for scholarships now reserved to public school pupils.
- 2 To provide for private school teachers the minimum salary guaranteed by law.
- 3 To allow local governments to subsidize private schools.
- 4 To exempt private schools from taxes from which public schools are exempt.

Chaplains Recollection Day At Seoul



Twelve Army chaplains serving with units of I Corps in Korea met at St. Columban's Mission House, Seoul, recently, for a day of recollection, organized by Father (Lt. Col.) Stephen W. Kane of Dec Moines, Ia., and conducted by Father Brian Geraghty, superior of the Columban Fathers in Korea. Rear row (left to right): Rev. Brian Geraghty, St. Columban's; Rev. (Capt.) Jon. M. Kilmerick, New York; Rev. (Lt. Col.) Stephen W. Kane, Dec Moines, Rev. John Ryan, from Waterford, Ireland, and Brentwood, Tenn.; Rev. (Capt.) James F. Spencer, S.S. Baltimore; Rev. (Capt.) William A. Ziegler, O.F.M., Harrisburg, Pa.; Rev. Robert Wood, Glasgow, Chaplain, 28th British Commonwealth Brigade. (NC Photos)

gade; Father (Lt. Col.) Harold O. Frudell, Milwaukee; Rev. (Capt.) Marshall E. Warner, O.F.M., Memphis, Tenn. Front row (left to right): Rev. (Capt.) Patrick J. Martin, O.S.F.S. Philadelphia; Rev. (Capt.) Thomas F. McGuire, New York; Rev. (Capt.) Robert E. Lynch, New York; Rev. (Capt.) Vincent J. Meaney, O.S.A. Boston; Rev. (Capt.) James F. Spencer, S.S. Baltimore; Rev. (Capt.) William A. Ziegler, O.F.M., Harrisburg, Pa.; Rev. Robert Wood, Glasgow, Chaplain, 28th British Commonwealth Brigade. (NC Photos)

Ban Political Demonstrations At Marshal Petain Masses

PARIS — (NC) — France's four Cardinals, paying tribute to the controversial Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain, hero of Verdun in World War I who was condemned as a traitor in 1945 after serving as chief of state of the Vichy regime, warned that at Masses said for the deceased soldier there must be no political demonstrations.

"Before the tomb of a man who knew such glory and such humiliation, it is fitting to speak only words of peace," the Cardinal's statement said. It was signed by Their Eminences Achille Cardinal Lienart, Archbishop of Lille, Pierre Cardinal Gerlier, Archbishop of Lyon, Jules Cardinal Saligne, Archbishop of Toulouse, and Emile Cardinal Rogues, Archbishop of Rennes.

MARSHALL PETAIN died July 23 at the age of 85 on the bleak Ile d'Yeu off the French coast where he had served five years of a life term on a treason conviction before his sentence was commuted last month. The Marshall's poor health had prevented his return to the mainland, even though he was a free man. He died in a villa on the prison isle, and among those at his bedside, was a nun.

At the burial rites his body was dressed in the Marshall's uniform which had been withdrawn from him by sentence of the High Court at the end of World War II. Pinned to the uniform was a single decoration, the Military Medal, seldom accorded to living officers of high rank. This had been bestowed on the Marshall after the historic battle of Verdun, where he made

Cardinal's Rebuff To Nazis Told

Rome — (NC) — An incident that demonstrates the fearlessness of the late Adam Cardinal Sapienza in the face of tyranny, from which he suffered so much in the last 13 years, became known during the Cardinal's visit to Rome during the Holy Year.

When his See city of Cracow was occupied by the Nazis during World War II, it was limited to the then Archbishop Sapienza that it would be advisable for him to pay a visit to the Nazi galleter for the area. The prelate replied:

"From time immemorial, it has been the custom for transients in Cracow to call on the Archbishop, and not the reverse."

"His actions have been heatedly discussed ever since," they went on. "He himself, however, always has proclaimed the rightness of his intentions and has declared that he relied on the impartial judgment of history. It is, in fact, history that will judge him after God."

"The emotion that has been stirred in recent days by the expectation of his death leads us to believe that Masses will be asked for the repose of his soul. We can only praise this action, which is in the best Christian and French tradition. But we do not wish these Masses to give an occasion for political demonstrations."

"The dignity which is befitting religious ceremonies and the recollection required for prayer for the dead must be maintained throughout."

German Teen-Agers
Washington (NC) Fifty German teen-agers sang traditional German hymns in St. Matthews Cathedral during a visit to the Nation's capital before departing to Catholic homes in nine States where they will live while pursuing a year of study at Catholic high schools.

Control Making Australia Catholic, Psychiatrist Warns

More than 400,000 Catholics live in Australia, but the country is still largely Protestant. The most interesting are those who practice birth control. St. Thomas Aquinas said: 'Man, forgive, God forgive, submit never forgive'—and that is the experience of psychiatrists today.

U. S. Sex Comics Menace Teen-Agers In Australia

Sydney — (NC) — The question of immoral and unwholesome comics particularly sex comics for teen-agers, has developed into a major problem here.

Director of the Catholic Youth Organization, the Rev. John Leonard, published some biting comments in The Catholic Weekly here this subject. His views created a considerable stir and shortly the matter became the subject of discussion in the nation's Senate at Canberra.

MANY OF THE undesirable comics are reprints of American publications. The Department of Trade and Customs has forbidden their importation into Australia either in bulk or in single copies for reproduction. But the law is being circumvented. It is strange, because copies are posted to private addresses in Australia, rendering detection difficult. They are then prepared by artists and printers for local reproduction.

In his article Father Leonard said that, having expiated crime, honor and inter-planetary adventure to the saturation point, publishers are now turning to sex as the subject best calculated to take in profits.

"Money is being flooded with the most corrupt sex literature

Towns Vote For Parochial Schools

St. Cloud, Minn. — (NYS) Three communities in St. Cloud County have voted in support of Roman Catholic parochial schools for their present public school units while a fourth has decided to keep its public school.

Towns voting in favor of parochial schools were Richwood, Luxemburg and Greenwood.

Citizens in St. Augusta voted against retaining their public school with a parochial school. Residents of all four towns

is predominantly Roman Catholic. C. A. Ohmann, St. Cloud County superintendent of public schools, said five more St. Cloud County towns are expected to make a choice between public or parochial units within the next few weeks.

Voting started after the meeting of St. Joseph, Minn., informed men who had been teaching in the public schools of the towns that they would be recalled.

St. Augustin citizens decided in favor of a public school after the Rev. Vincent Weigand, parish priest, pointed out that the cost of a parochial school would be prohibitive.

At both Greenwood and Richwood, the school buildings are owned publicly. Meetings will have to be held, according to Mr. Ohmann, to authorize sale of public school buildings to the parishes.

Encourage Others To Pray For Peace

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