

Bishop Kearney Asks Good Film Pledge

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State Educators' Conference



HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP KEARNEY welcomed delegates of the New York State Conference of Catholic Colleges and Universities to the conference's annual meeting held this week at Nazareth College. Shows with Bishop Kearney (center) are (right) the Most Rev. William A. Scully, Coadjutor Bishop of Al-

bany and chairman of the New York State Welfare Committee, and (left) the Very Rev. William J. Schlerer, S.J., president of LeMaynoe College, Syracuse, and conference president. Pictures below show educational heads of State Catholic colleges for men and women in attendance at Conference sessions held Wednesday. (Courier Staff Photo)

Nazareth Host To Catholic College Heads

Nazareth College, in the role of host, welcomed the New York State Conference of Catholic Colleges and Universities to Rochester, on Wednesday, for a day-long discussion of educational problems.

The annual Conference meeting adopted a special resolution approving the State Board of Regents' proposal that public schools begin the day with a prayer.

Another resolution recommended the pamphlet, "The Gift of Life," issued by Dr. Herman E. Hilboe, New York State Health Commissioner.

A RECOMMENDATION that the number of state scholarships be increased rather than the amount granted in each scholarship was voiced in a resolution.

The Very Rev. William J. Schlerer, S.J., president of LeMaynoe College, Syracuse, was reelected Conference president. Also reelected were the Very Rev. Msgr. Francis X. Fitzgibbon, Dean, St. Joseph's College for Women, Brooklyn, and Sister Rose Angela, S.S.J., dean, Nazareth College Rochester, secretary and treasurer.

Elected to the Executive Committee were the Very Rev. John A. F. O'Malley, C.M., president, St. John's University, Brooklyn, and Brother Arthur A. Loftus, F.S.C., president of Iona College, New Rochelle.

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Chinese Prisoners Quit Communism

Koje Island, Korea—(NC)—Many Chinese prisoners in the vast prisoner-of-war camp here have renounced communism, according to some camp authorities, and have pleaded not to be sent back to Red China or North Korea.

Some officials of this camp believe that a majority of the captives do not want to return to any area under communist control. The great camp holds 102,000 North Korean soldiers and 21,000 Chinese, as well as 40,000 civilian internees. Other officials, however, are skeptical over many of the declarations of reconversion.

A corps of civilian teachers from Korea and China have been giving classes in citizenship to sow the seeds of independent thinking. It is felt that these would make ambassadors of freedom if sent back to communist regions.

Gifts for Men—The Holders, Shavers, Billboards, Cur Links, Pen & Pencil Sets, etc. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 318 Main St. E. HA. 5031.—Adv.

Red General Still Silent On Imprisoned Missionaries

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Panmunjom, Korea—(NC)—Gen. Nam Il, senior member of the North Korean delegation at the armistice talks here, has failed to give any information regarding missionaries taken prisoner by communist forces in the summer of 1950 and held incommunicado ever since.

Replying on August 2 to a query sent by this correspondent, General Nam Il wrote "If I have time I will refer it to the proper authorities."

ON November 9 or 14 weeks later, this correspondent personally handed to a Korean communist officer another letter addressed to General Nam Il. It said:

"As 14 weeks have now elapsed, I presume that you have had time to take this step and that your influence in the matter has been effective. I shall be grateful if you will kindly send me the information now through any liaison officer. Your letter will be delivered to me at this press camp."

There has been no acknowledgment of this letter nor any

Tito Frees Abp. Stepinac 'Conditionally'

Washington—The Tito government's official announcement that Archbishop Stepinac was "conditionally released" from prison is viewed here as leaving basic issues unsettled.

The announcement, terming Archbishop Stepinac the "former Archbishop of the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia," stated he would reside in his native town of Krack near Zagreb and that the private "has decided to take residence in a local parishhouse" there.

It is recalled here that since Archbishop Stepinac's trial five years ago Catholic leaders consistently affirmed his innocence. Only four days ago Archbishop Stepinac's trial was declared that "only one act can redeem the injustice done him:

'Not Satisfactory,' Says Vatican

Vatican City—(NC)—The conditional release of Archbishop Stepinac "cannot be regarded as a satisfactory solution," said immediate Vatican comment on the Stepinac announcement.

"It merely signifies a change from actual imprisonment to restricted freedom with surveillance. In particular, the Stepinac statement regarding Archbishop Stepinac's 'former Archbishop' is unjustifiable," the Vatican stated.

his unconditional release from prison as a token to the world that he is an innocent man."

Students of the situation point out that a second basic issue, concerning the end of persecution and the restoration of genuine religious freedom in Yugoslavia is also left untouched by Archbishop Stepinac's "conditional" release. They recall that the Holy See pointed out several months ago that the problem of the Church in Yugoslavia goes far beyond the Stepinac case and that persecution has created a deplorable state of affairs which must be corrected as a precondition for any bearable state-church relationship.

7 Korean Women Receive Nun Habits

Seoul—(NC)—Seven Korean young women received the habit of the Sisters of the Holy Family, an all Korean community, here on the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin. Bishop Paul M. Ro, Vicar Apostolic of Seoul, officiated at the ceremony.

Film Decency Code Boon To Industry Says Movie Czar

Washington—(NC)—Self-imposed decency standards in films have been a boon rather than a curb to Hollywood financially, Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, says.

At the same time, he adds, the "production code" adopted by the film industry in the interest of decency and good taste has been a money-saver in that it has practically ended the threat of Federal and State censorship. Furthermore, it has paid off artistically.

Mr. Johnston, who has just retired as administrator of the Economic Stabilization Agency to resume his post as head of the film industry, made this statement to Edward T. Pollard, Washington Post reporter, in an interview for the Catholic Standard, archdiocesan weekly.

MR. JOHNSTON recalled the situation in the industry prior to 1930. Censorship boards were appearing all over the nation. There was agitation for Federal over-all censorship.

"You can readily understand what it would have meant if films had to be censored by 48 States and innumerable counties, plus the Federal Government," Mr. Johnston told the Post reporter.

"Rarely do censorship boards agree on what is censorable. One board will pass something that another will insist on deleting. A third will delete something entirely different."

"SO YOU WOULD have a hodgepodge, and the tremendous expense of doing over films to meet local requirements."

PLEDGE OF THE LEGION OF DECENCY

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen

I condemn indecent and immoral motion pictures, and those which glorify crime or violence.

I promise to do all that I can to instruct public opinion against the production of indecent and immoral films, and to make with all those who protest against them.

I acknowledge my obligation to form a right conscience about pictures that are dangerous to my moral life. As a member of the Legion of Decency, I pledge myself to provide away from them. I promise, further, to stay away altogether from places of amusement which show them as a matter of policy.

(This pledge will be renewed in the churches of the Diocese of Rochester Sunday, December 9)

It was under the threat of such a hodgepodge that the industry adopted the production code of 1930, administered then by the "Hays Office," which has become the "Eric Johnston Office." The general principles laid down were as follows:

1. No picture shall be produced which will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience shall never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil or sin.

2. Correct standards of life shall be shown to the requirements of drama and entertainment, shall be presented.

3. Law, natural or human, shall not be ridiculed, nor shall sympathy be created for its violation.

MR. JOHNSTON'S CRISIS came when the code was adopted by the

Refutes Criticism Against Legion Of Decency Program

His Excellency Bishop Kearney will read the Pledge of the Legion of Decency in the churches of the Diocese this Sunday (Dec. 9) to renew their pledge as members of the Legion of Decency.

Present in 1941 by the National Legion of Decency, the program of morally sound motion pictures has been adopted by the Legion of Decency in the Diocese of Rochester. The Legion of Decency is a national organization which has been active in the Diocese of Rochester since its formation.

IN A LETTER to the National Legion of Decency, Bishop Kearney stated that the Legion of Decency in the Diocese of Rochester is a very active organization. He stated that the Legion of Decency in the Diocese of Rochester is a very active organization. He stated that the Legion of Decency in the Diocese of Rochester is a very active organization.

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Vatican Envoy Not Religious Question, Says Episcopalian

Washington—(NC)—Urging U. S. diplomatic representation at the Vatican "in the most worthy and effective manner possible," an Episcopalian churchman here declared that such representation "is not

a religious question in any direct sense." The Rev. Charles W. Lowry, rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in suburban Chevy Chase, Md., said "It is an issue of expediency, a pragmatic question, a problem of American interest and welfare."

Mr. Lowry's views were explained in a booklet reproducing his Reformation Sunday sermon entitled "Should America Be Represented at the Vatican? An Episcopalian Viewpoint."

HE POINTED out that 39 nations are now represented at the Vatican, some with established Protestant Churches, including nations with "democratic cultures, much like our own," and countries of non-Christian faith.

"All these nations maintain fully accredited representatives at the Vatican for one reason, and one reason only," Mr. Lowry declared. "They think it is in their interest and in that of the world generally to do so." He said this should be the criterion of American policy too.

"The Vatican is probably the best listening post there is anywhere in the world today," Mr. Lowry continued, adding: "I believe that we should be represented there and in the most worthy and effective manner possible."

STATING THAT the U. S. is

Surprise Mother Of Year



When Singapore's Mrs. Lim Ah Kow entered her two youngest in the Catholic Young Men's Association Baby Contest, she got a surprise. Her babies won no major prizes, but she did—Singapore's Mother of the Year award. She is pictured above with the two babies she entered in the contest, 15-month-old Lim Yek

Ching, left, and Lim Gook Chuan, her adopted daughter whom she reared from a train a year ago. Mrs. Lim had little competition for her title after it was learned that she already had a family of nine at the time she adopted little Lim Gook Chuan. (NC Photo)

engaged in indecent war on a glitzy scale," the Episcopalian minister declared.

"America is the only power capable of grappling economically and militarily with the new resurrected giant of northern Eurasia. We do, however, have one ally in this struggle—one confederate who is strong in determination not to yield, and not to make peace with the tyranny of unqualified totalitarianism. That ally is the Church of Rome."

"Spiritually she is at war in many countries with the adversary of religion and of man. Her children are at this moment writing some of the most glorious chapters of modern history."

Many other faithful priests and lay people are living heroically, he said, day by day of courage and heroism as possible in order not to die but to live and to keep alive the torch of Christ and of hope in the darkness of the present hour.

"Can we afford to reject or disdain an ally so earnest and so valiant in the fierce combat which we must wage for man? Ought we to be indifferent to the fate of this great international Church in its life and death struggle with communism, even if we could disregard and hold inviolate our own national interests?"

"To ask such questions is to answer them. I am convinced that President Truman, who, whatever anyone may think of him or other leaders, has taken the measure of the communist conspiracy and tactics, was largely influenced by these considerations in deciding to appoint an Ambassador to the Vatican."

THE Legion of Decency makes its own moral evaluation of motion pictures and publishes its ratings in the Catholic press. Referring to these, Bishop Kearney observed: "The rating of a picture by the Legion of Decency is not the arbitrary ruling of one person. It is the balanced judgment of a group of experienced men and women who take their responsibility to the public."

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