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American Newsmen Debate God, Freedom With Communist Correspondents in Korea

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

...In certain circumstances, two and two may make five," ...

...religious freedom."

...I cited the fact that the North Koreans had imprisoned or killed every foreign missionary, regard-

...of age, sex or nationality, whom they found in South Ko-

...He said he couldn't believe that the missionaries were so treated just because they were priests or sisters.

..."CAN YOU believe that every foreign missionary without exception, including a priest over 80, a sister of 78 years and five colored nuns, was guilty of crimes against the people?"

..."It is possible," he insisted. "But if they are prisoners, I assure you that they are in good health." Apparently he hadn't heard of them until I told him. He had assured me earlier that His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary is in good health in prison.

...Mr. Winnington came down the road, flanked by three U. S. newsmen. They halted casually and a chance reference to religion touched off a hot argument. Mr. Winnington said that he had been brought up in the Church of England, but had become an atheist at the age of 15. Ten years later he became a communist.

...Cecil Brownlow, International News Service correspondent, challenged him. If he didn't believe in God, how did he explain his own existence and that of the world around him?

...Mr. Winnington said that he did not know the explanation, but he believed that science would furnish one later; meanwhile, he rejected belief in God as unscientific.

...I asked him how it could be called unscientific, when great scientists like Pasteur, Compton and Millikan believed in God.

..."Pasteur made some mistakes," he replied in a magisterial tone without specifying in what regard he might correct Pasteur and ignoring the other names. "If God made everything, then who made God?" he asked.

..."GOD WAS NOT made. He is eternal."

..."What is eternity? Don't you believe in time?"

..."The fact of time does not contradict the fact of eternity."

..."What is truth?" Mr. Winnington asked once, echoing, and did not wait for an answer. He said that some scientists' findings might be true for their day, but not necessarily for ours.

..."If they were true at all, I

FLYING CHAPLAIN DECORATED



Rev. (Lt. Comdr.) Joseph C. Fitzgerald of Chicago, chaplain of the First Marine Division in Korea (right), receives the Air Medal from Lt. Col. Edward Finn. Father Fitzgerald is the first Navy chaplain to win the Air Medal. In order to celebrate Mass throughout the wide area of First Division operations, he had to make many flights over enemy territory. (NO Photos)

U. S. SENATE COMMITTEE HEARING

Protestant Ministers Admit Religion Used Against Catholic In Taft Senate Election

Washington — (NC) — Two Protestant ministers admitted before a Senate subcommittee here that the religious issue was injected against Catholic candidates in the Ohio state election in 1950.

The Rev. F. R. Stoneburner of Dayton, O., a member of the American Lutheran Church, identified a letter which he sent to 35 fellow ministers about a month before the balloting, calling attention to the fact that certain candidates, whom he named, were Catholics. Another Lutheran clergyman asked permission to reproduce this letter, he said, and it was granted. Still others reproduced the epistle, and eventually more than 20,000 copies were made.

THE REV. B. F. LAMB, president of the Ohio Council of Churches, identified a statement sent out by the Public Affairs Department of the council, listing the name and religious affiliation of each candidate of the Democratic and Republican tickets. This was sent to 4,500 Protestant pastors in Ohio, and subsequently 23,555 copies were sold at a penny apiece for distribution, Dr. Lamb said.

A third clergyman, Dr. D. E. Sharp of Cleveland, executive secretary of the Cleveland Baptist Association and an official of the Church Civic League, told the committee that the religious issue was one of the five major factors that got Mr. Taft his large vote in Ohio. Mr. Sharp said his church civic league opposed the injection of the religious issue into the campaign.

Mr. Stoneburner's letter to his fellow minister said "it should be known that Mr. Joseph Ferguson, who is running against Senator Robert A. Taft, is a Roman Catholic."

"Knowing the efforts of the Roman Church to get an official representative to the Vatican and its efforts to get public aid for parochial schools," it added, "I thought it equitable to pass this information on to you for what it is worth."

"OF COURSE you know that our Congressman, Edward Green, is Roman Catholic and that he favors public aid for parochial schools."

"It is a mistaken public idea that Governor Frank Lausche is Roman Catholic. He was raised in an Orthodox Church. His family goes to a Methodist Church.



SEN. ROBERT TAFT

He has never been a Roman Catholic."

Subsequent questioning brought out that Mr. Stoneburner was mistaken regarding Governor Lausche's religious background.

In addition to the statement of the religious affiliations of the various candidates, Dr. Lamb identified a telegram sent out to Protestant pastors urging them to get out the Protestant vote. The telegram said a survey had shown that 88 per cent of the eligible Jewish and Catholic voters went

to the polls, but only 69 per cent of the Protestants.

THIS TELEGRAM was financed, Dr. Lamb said, by a corporation known as the Spiritual Mobilization, of which the Rev. James J. Field Jr., of Los Angeles is the head. Dr. Lamb said Mr. Field sent a check for some \$2,700 to pay for 3,448 telegrams that were sent out. He described Spiritual Mobilization as composed of about 17,000 Protestant ministers and he didn't know how many laymen "to mobilize the spiritual forces of the church, and presumably the Protestant church, for purposes of stemming the encroachment of communism, fascism and collectivism."

Dr. Stoneburner told the Senators that the "background motivation" for his letter to his fellow ministers was the preoccupation Protestants feel over proposals to send a U. S. diplomatic representative to the Vatican and to extend to parochial schools certain things now enjoyed only by the public schools. "You would have to attend one of our conferences, and realize the deep apprehension that exists genuinely and throughout the Protestant churches of America with these issues," he told Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa, when the subcommittee chairman asked him why he felt it was incumbent on you to tell 35 of your fellow ministers that Candidate Ferguson was a Roman Catholic?"

This Yank Soldier Goes To Church

Headquarters, 8th Army in Korea—(NC)—Pvt. Salvatore Ruggieri of Stamford, Conn., must be attending Mass. That explains why he felt bound to halt the Rev. Patrick O'Connor, Columbian missionary who is N.C.W.C. News Service correspondent, at the entrance to Gen. James A. Van Fleet's 8th Army headquarters here.

Vice President Alben W. Barkley was about to hold a press conference, accompanied by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, top U.N. commander and General Van Fleet. Only accredited correspondents were to attend. Father O'Connor was on his way in with another correspondent, when Private Ruggieri, looking perplexed, stopped him.

"But you're a priest, aren't you?" he said.

"Yes, and also a correspondent," explained Father O'Connor, who lends a hand to Army chaplains and often says Sunday Mass for servicemen here. He showed his correspondent's shoulder-patch and the cross on his collar.

"Okay, Father," said Private Ruggieri, looking relieved. "See you in church tomorrow."

Mission Crusade Convention Set

Cincinnati — (NC) — The 15th General manager of convention affairs will be the Rev. Henry J. Klocner, S.T.D., assistant national secretary of the Crusade.

Capitol POAU Ministers Warn Truman on Envoy

Washington — (NC) — At a Washington chapter meeting of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, nine Washington ministers called on President Truman to withdraw the nomination of Gen. Mark W. Clark as Ambassador to the Vatican.

The ministers' statement questioned Mr. Truman's stand that the nomination of an Ambassador would help in the world struggle against communism. They said it was "for no good end."

"We cannot perceive in the countries which have been and are dominantly Roman Catholic a successful resistance to the penetration of militant communism."

Dr. Leland Stark, rector of the Episcopal Church of the

Epiphany, said that while the Vatican was "technically" a sovereign state, in "actuality" it lacks most of the attributes of an independent country. He said these included housing, hospitals and stores to buy the ordinary needs of life.

The minister also denied that the issue was being raised "in the name of bigotry and intolerance."

"Here is an honest difference of opinion and we do not think any laymen or Bishop should call us bigots because we stand up for a principle," he said.

Dr. Edward L. R. Eless, minister of the National Presbyterian Church here, urged citizens to write or visit Senators as one of several ways to fight ratification of the ambassadorial nomination.

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