

# Report From Bogota

## Protestant Charge Of 'Persecution' In Colombia Gives Americans False Picture

By JOSE LOPEZ

(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Bogota — (NC) — When a group of boys stoned a Protestant church here in Colombia last December, an organization of evangelists in the United States seized upon this

regrettable occurrence to revive in the press of their country an already old campaign of accusations against the Catholic Church. They charged that the Catholic "bigotry" against Protestants was in progress in Colombia. It is not denied that some unfortunate incidents have taken place in this country and that Protestants have been the victims in some cases. Such outbreaks are to be deplored. Both civil and church authorities here have publicly condemned them.

BUT THE REASON should be kept straight. There is reason to believe that the people in the United States have not been told the full or true story. What they have been told, apparently, is out of context and out of proportion. Catholics here deeply regret that instances of irresponsible violence have been "played up" in the United States — even to the extent of taking large newspaper advertisements to do so — while nothing is said about the background facts which modify the whole picture and at least contribute to the incidents which are depicted by all.

While there have been attacks upon Protestants, there have been attacks upon Catholics too. In some cases the Catholics have come from the same roots, good will and common sense that have caused considerable terror in remote sections of the country.

SOME OF THE attacks upon Protestants have been made by individuals who are not Catholics at all, but with the public authorities. The authorities have charged them with the use of revolutionary and guerrilla tactics. Furthermore, it is not a good picture of the situation in Colombia to say that the Catholics are the only ones who are violent.

A PROTESTANT who was stoned in the town of Medellin, for example, was a member of a group of boys who were known to be violent. The group was known to be violent because they had been seen attacking a Catholic church.

wasting their time, stirring up ill will and doing a disservice to inter-American relations by trying to "evangelize" the already Catholic countries of Latin America.

At the Congress of Edinburgh in 1910, German and English Protestants debated with delegates from the United States whether or not Latin America should be considered a missionary land. The congress adopted a resolution that it was not a land to "evangelize," but this advice was ignored. Since then, observer after observer from the North has written advice against Protestant proselytizing in Latin America.

ONE OF THESE, John W. White, writing against the background of 25 years in Latin America, said in "Our Good Neighbor Hurdle" (1943): "This is not missionary work; this is the worst kind of proselytism. These ministers are doing more harm than good, because they are depriving the new converts of their centuries-old Catholic worship without giving them much in exchange."

While the acts of violence against Protestants can only be condemned from the Catholic viewpoint, no matter from what source they come, it should be understood that the Protestant record in Colombia is not without its dark passages, and this fact only helps to make the picture more complex.

WITHOUT ANY difficulty at all, I can cite a score of incidents extending back over two decades wherein Protestants have attacked Colombian Catholics with varying degrees of violence.

As early in 1934, at Puerto Tejada, Province of El Valle, a group of Protestants seized a statue of the Blessed Virgin, plucked out its eyes, hanged it to a tree, and set it afire. It is interesting to note how many occasions they have vented their wrath on statues of the Blessed Mother, or on Marian processions.

I have records of more than a dozen before me, at Peralonso, in the Province of Santander; at La Tebaida, in the Province of Caldas; at Dulmar, in the Province of Cundinamarca; at Vito, also in Cundinamarca; at Medellin, at Cali, in El Valle, and other places.

Also at Peralonso, the Rev. Samuel Botero, a Franciscan, was set upon and killed as he was on his way to visit a sick parish-

# National Aide

## Archbishop of Washington Urges Share In Welfare Agencies' Work For Representatives Of Labor Unions

Washington — (NC) — An Archbishop who held two of the highest Catholic welfare posts in the United States has called on public and private charitable agencies to welcome participation by union representatives in their activities.

ARCHBISHOP Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington, former director of Catholic Charities in the New York Archdiocese and former executive director of War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, issued this call at a dinner in his residence to which he invited labor union officials and others active in the labor field.

In his Catholic Charities and WRS-N.C.W.C. work, Archbishop O'Boyle said, he "had the privilege of cooperating from time to time with official representatives of the American labor movement."

"I CHERISH THIS experience for it brought me into personal contact with a very important phase of organized labor's program and one which has not been sufficiently publicized and has not received the degree of public recognition it so richly deserves," he declared. "I refer to labor's wholehearted participation in the community affairs and its very generous support of charitable causes designed to promote the welfare of all, of our fellow citizens regardless of race, creed

or color. "I am confident that the American people will gradually come to recognize the importance of labor's contribution to community welfare and that charitable agencies, both public and private, will increasingly welcome the official participation of union representatives in the preparation and administration of their various community-wide activities."

THE informal dinner served as a "kick-off" for a special labor

committee's fund-raising campaign for construction of a new Providence Hospital here, to be operated by the Sisters of Charity.

Archbishop O'Boyle explained that the dinner also was designed "to provide me with an opportunity to become better acquainted with the men and women who are privileged to serve as the elected representatives of the labor movement in the Nation's Capital."

During his address the Archbishop pledged that "cooperation and support" of the labor movement "shall not be wanting in the Archdiocese of Washington."

Among the 100 guests at the dinner were Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin; William Green, president of the AFL; James Carey, secretary-treasurer of the CIO; Allan Haywood, CIO executive vice president; Richard Gray, president of the AFL Building Trades Council; William C. Dolansky, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers; and Luther Steward, president of the National Federation of Government Employees.

The Rev. George Higgins, assistant director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, and Catholic press columnist, was toastmaster.

Recently Archbishop Moses E. Kelley of Milwaukee gave a partial dispensation from fasting during Lent on the day a blood donation is made. He took this action after being advised that a snack and liquid refreshments are recommended after a blood contribution.

Cardinal Dispenses Donors Of Blood

New York — (NC) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, has granted a dispensation from fast and abstinence to blood donors the day the donation is made. However, it does not apply to abstinence on Fridays nor to fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the Vigil of the Assumption and Christmas.

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# The Inquiring Photographer

Do you welcome the return of the two-piece suit?

THE PLACE: Park Ave. and E. 51st St., N.Y.

THE ANSWER: Gary Wagner, photographer: "I certainly do. In my profession, I am obliged to do a lot of kneeling and bending. One pair of pants to a good suit of clothes puts me at all sea-sick. Even the best is so good to me. Two pairs of trousers will make a suit last twice as long."

Henry Davenport, president, Bakery Corp.: "You just bet your life I welcome the return of the two-piece suit. Years ago, I never bought a suit without two pairs of pants. I'm older than, he-he-he, while looking older, I've been through out of so many pieces on my dandy that some of my trousers have acquired quite a skin."

Frank Lay, public relations: "I welcome the two-piece suit gladly. So does my wife. Any number of times I have been asked to do a suit which has plenty of wear left in it. That's the reason I'm so interested in doing it. But I appreciate her point. She claims that the rest of my pants is like a mirror that's been scrubbed clean."

Paul J. Kell, merchant: "Not particularly. By the time a single pair of trousers is worn out, it's time to buy another pair. I can't expect others to buy from me if I don't buy from them. It's a two-way proposition. I seldom keep a pair of trousers longer than a year. Trousers that are worn out are a waste of money. I don't mind saying that I'm a two-piece suit man."

Carl Beck, elevator operator: "I certainly do. It's silly to throw away a pair of good trousers just because a pair of pants has worn out. After all, when I'm riding an elevator, I have to wear pants that are not only in the back. Two pairs of trousers will make a suit last twice as long."

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Read Jimmy Jemall's famous

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