

Red China, Russia Deny Rice To India

Madras, India. — (NC) — While the people of the United States, through their government and private agencies came to starve India's rescue by sending gratis several million tons of food, communist China refused to part with a single ton of rice and the Soviet Union had to be paid through the nose for a supply of 50,000 tons.

THIS WAS revealed in the Madras legislative assembly by Food Minister J. L. P. Roche-Victoria, who is a Catholic, in reply to a communist member who had charged the government with not accepting offers of grain from communist countries.

The Soviet Union made its offer of rice, apparently as fuel for communist propaganda in India, without specifying the price. The Indian government tried to cancel the order when the price charged was found to be almost double the normal rate. But it was too late because the consignment had already arrived.

WHILE THIS constituted the Soviet Union's "help" to famished India, which Indian communists boast of, the United States came forward with generous supplies. The contribution of private agencies in the U. S. was hardly less spectacular than the government's own allocation of 2,000,000 tons of wheat.

Among these agencies were several Catholic groups, including War Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference, the National Council of Catholic Women and the Catholic Institute of the Food Industry in New York as well as individual Catholic leaders. War Relief Services — N.C.W.C. topped the list with a shipment of 1,600,000 pounds of food in addition to a consignment of vitamin tablets.

The Madras Minister thanked the American Catholic agency in a letter to its executive director, Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom. Madame Vijayalakshmi Pandit, too, expressed thanks to the U.S. government.

Archbishop Gushing Reaffirms

'Our Catholic Schools Are American'

Concord, Mass. — (RNS) — In a strong defense of private schools, Archbishop Richard J. Gushing of Boston said here that such schools are "the dividing line between freedom and dictatorship, between democracy and totalitarianism."

The Archbishop's address, made at the laying of the cornerstone at Rose Hawthorne Central parochial school here, marked the second time in a week that he upheld the private school as being strictly in the American tradition.

The first time — in a sermon in Boston — he issued a sharp rebuke to Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, for contending that the growth of private schools was developing a dual system of education harmful to American democracy. Dr. Conant recently made this charge during an address to a regional convention of the American Association of School Administrators in Boston.

IN HIS ADDRESS here, Archbishop Gushing said:

"The American school system represents the diverse cultures that have made America a great and powerful nation. By constitutional law of the land, our Catholic schools are American. The Protestant schools are American. The Jewish synagogue schools are American. Private schools that dot the land from coast to coast are American. So, too, are our private colleges and universities. It is this freedom of education among other things that distinguishes true democracy from the totalitarian states."

"Asserting that monopolies in any field of human endeavor are a threat to freedom, Archbishop Gushing stressed that education is no exception.

"Indeed," he said, "the closing or the precarious condition of private schools in other nations is a reason in itself for reinforcing the position of private education in the United States. In fact, the character of a modern government may usually be judged from its attitude towards the private schools."

"Under totalitarian regimes they are suppressed or restricted. In free nations they prosper. It

Top Essay Winners Meet President



Three Catholic high school students won top prizes in a national essay contest sponsored by the President's Committee for the Physically Handicapped. In entries from 35 states, President Truman is introduced to the winners at the White House by Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntyre, U.S.N. Ret., chairman of the meeting. Miss Isabel Browster, of St. Monica's High School, Santa Monica, Calif., (right) won the top award of \$1,000. Miss Susan King, Cathedral High School, Lincoln, Neb., (left of president) tied for second place. Miss Judith O'Leary, of St. Joseph's High School, Bay City, Mich., third prize winner, was unable to come to Washington for the presentation. (N.C. Photos)

can be said with much historical truth that the dividing line between freedom and dictatorship, between democracy and totalitarianism, is the private school."

ARCHBISHOP GUSHING said that parochial schools "serve the public good; they are acceptable for attendance under compulsory education laws; they are entitled to tax exemption and are re-

quired to meet educational standards."

"They are managed, however, and operated by Church organizations rather than by public authority," he continued. "The status of these schools defines their position in American education. The government regards them as long standing instruments of American education — as essential to the national welfare as are the public schools which they preceded."

STRESSING THAT public, parochial and private schools are partners, not competitors in American education, Archbishop Gushing said:

"Catholics are not opposed to public schools. We will always have a great interest in them. More than half of our children are being educated in public schools and we pay taxes for their support. We recognize and appreciate the work and the sacrifices of thousands of public school teachers who labor at times under difficult and adverse conditions.

"At the same time we believe that religious and moral training is essential in the formation of character. Since this cannot be given in the public schools because of the diversity of religious beliefs we build our own schools at tremendous sacrifices while joining whenever possible with our non-Catholic friends and neighbors in a released-time program of religious instruction outside the school buildings.

"THE FACT that more than 2,000,000 children were enrolled in the released-time program across the country is the best proof of the interest of parents of all creeds in religious education."

In spite of this interest, Archbishop Gushing went on, "there is a small minority of secularists, powerful in influence because of their positions" who look upon parochial schools as a menace to democracy. Such schools "will be a menace to no one," he said. "The Catholic Church," he said, "has not power except the power of the spirit of God. Stalin himself expressed that concep-

best. When he was warned of the power of the Catholic Church in its resistance to Soviet encroachments on divine and human rights," he asked, "And how many divisions has the Pope?"

"A system of education which encourages children to love God and pattern their lives after His is hardly apt to impel democracy, especially since history has repeatedly demonstrated that a democracy which rules out the teaching of Christ is soon perverted into a tyranny of despotism, in which arrogant and stupid men recognize no law or restraint, save the broad limitations of their own materialistic desires and ambitions."

Pope Jokes About Work

Vatican City — (NC) — Holy Week and Easter may mean a good time, a little vacation, and an uplifting religious experience for pilgrims to Rome, but it's a hard time for His Holiness Pope Pius XII. During the hectic days of Holy Week, with many audiences being given for pilgrims from everywhere, the Holy Father was overheard jokingly remarking to some of his subordinates: "The thousands of pilgrims have a fine time, a good vacation. They see many things and have a really holy week. But while they're at it, they give me a week of labor-true Passion Week."

Science Textbook By Nun Published

New York — (NC) — A new book, "An Introduction to the Philosophy of Natural and Mathematical Sciences," by Sister Helen Sullivan, professor of mathematics at Mount St. Scholastica College, Atchison, Kans., is being published this month by the Vantage Press here.

'Selective Service' Hits Reservists, Poor

Kansas City, Mo. — (NC) — A call to Catholics to "think through" the manpower problem facing the Nation because of the menace of world communism, and to come up with some constructive solution that will spare the "poor, forgotten reservist" and "the children of the poor" from continuing to have to bear the brunt of armed forces mobilization, was voiced at the National Catholic Educational Association convention here.

THE REV. William E. McManus, assistant director of the Department of Education, National Catholic Welfare Conference, said that one of the limitations of present Selective Service rules is that those with "money, brains, Cupid and potency" can escape military service. "The children of the poor" who can-

not afford to go to college and the 800,000 called up reservists—mainly World War II veterans—are taking their places in Korea and other world trouble spots, he declared.

The danger is that we may have "an elite class of young men who are able to skillfully avoid military service" under present legislation, Father McManus told a crowded meeting of the NCEA college and university department. These, he said, consisted of youths with enough funds to go to college and obtain thereby a deferment, and with enough scholastic ability to retain it; young married men and fathers who obtain deferments; and those able to obtain occupational deferments.

Father McManus cited as a fact "almost entirely overlooked" by Catholics that in the U.M.T. plan the number of chaplains would have been doubled, providing close supervision of youths during their six-month active duty training.

term legislation to assure an adequate manpower pool would be intolerable. If another crisis like Korea breaks out before such legislation is provided, he said, it will be the "same old story" of the reservist veteran who served in either World War I or the Korea, was or both being called on "to hotfoot" overseas, again.

He cited Defense Department figures showing world communism's armed strength as four million troops under arms, 15 million organized reservists, 14 million forces of a million, and four million Chinese troops. Consequently, he said, the U.S. will probably have to keep a force in being of at least two million men for years to come, and must maintain a large reserve pool.

"WE OUGHT TO spread the responsibility as far as possible," he said. He noted that under the U.M.T. proposal which Congress rejected youths would receive six months' training and then go into the reserves for a 7½ year period, providing "young blood" to replace the present war veteran reservists.

Father McManus cited as a fact "almost entirely overlooked" by Catholics that in the U.M.T. plan the number of chaplains would have been doubled, providing close supervision of youths during their six-month active duty training.

DISCLAIMING ANY intention of endorsing Universal Military Training, Father McManus said further delay in providing long-



Father McManus

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