

'Free Press' Problems Rise In Wake Of Court Ruling On 'The Miracle'

Washington, (NC)—The Post Office and Justice Departments can look forward to some new headaches. It is confidently expected here that the Supreme Court decision in "The Miracle" motion picture case will bring them a flood of new problems.

THE SUPREME COURT held unconstitutional a New York State law which permitted authorities to ban a motion picture on the ground that it is sacrilegious. And it went further, it knocked down the idea that a motion picture is purely a medium of entertainment and said it is entitled to the Constitutional guarantees of free speech and free press. It also declared a State cannot "use a censor's unlimited restraining control over motion pictures" as it said New York State sought to do.

This comes at a time when there is a noticeable rise in public interest in the matter of curbing the circulation of obscene literature. There are no fewer than four measures with this primary purpose now before Congress, and some leaders are striving to get at least one of these passed before the State Congress adjourns. Success was not at all certain even before the Supreme Court's decision, because the Legislatures are anxious to get away from Washington as soon as possible in this election year.

And, also before the Supreme Court decision, the Post Office Department had told Congress that, unless it was given the power to impose mail in cases where it is being used to defraud or to transmit obscene matter, the Department looked for a marked increase in troubles of this sort.

ONE WEAKNESS in the fight against mail of these types has been that the offender can carry to within proceedings are being taken against him.

And in the case of the dissemination of obscene matter, even after the proceedings have been taken against him, he has been able to change the name of his publication and continue carrying the same obscene material. The Post Office Department has been led to start all over with a new law against the newly-named publication, only to have the same offender do it all the while.

The Department of Justice has told Congress that the official use of the administrative arm of the Post Office Department to suppress the postal channels against fraudulent and obscene material "would serve as a useful auxiliary in the enforcement of the appropriate Federal criminal statutes."

What effect the Supreme Court decision will have on Congress should follow on the proposed legislation pending in the House. At the same time, one can get some idea of the effect of the decision by looking at the advertisements of the "free press" which will be played for all its worth.

Bishop Confirms Air Force Men



SAMPSON AIR FORCE BASE—Following celebration of outdoor Mass at Sampson Air Force Base on Memorial Day, His Excellency Bishop Kearney administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a group of 76 including men and women members of the Air Force personnel. In photo above, Lt. Colonel F. T. Butler, executive officer, (standing left) acts as sponsor for kneeling candidates in the Confirmation rite. Monsignor John S. Randall (right) assists the bishop.

College Head Raps Conant School View

Kreier, N. H.—(NC)—The president of a college which awarded President James E. Conant of Harvard University an honorary degree two years ago has taken issue with Dr. Conant's stand against independent high schools.

Dr. John W. Mason, president of Swarthmore College, voiced criticism of Dr. Conant in an Alumni Day address here at Phillips Exeter Academy. Dr. Mason is a 1922 graduate of the academy.

PHILIPPS EXETER presumably "fell under" Dr. Conant's sweeping denunciation of independent high schools as a "threat to our democratic unity." Dr. Conant said that a dual system of independent and public high schools "serves and helps to maintain group cleavages."

Dr. Mason, in his reply to this attack, said that in modern education, as in other forms of endeavor in a democracy, there must be diversification. Such a need diversification is brought to this country's educational scene by private schools, he contended.

DR. MASON said the Harvard president apparently "believed that private colleges are all right but private schools are not. It seems strange," he added, that Dr. Conant had not realized, or at least did not realize, that a direct pattern could be found between the high school and college relationship and that of the private college and the public university.

The speaker challenged Dr. Conant to show why one should be acceptable and the other not. Harvard, like Swarthmore, is a privately endowed institution. In 1908 Swarthmore awarded Dr. Conant an honorary doctorate of laws.

Native Sons of the North Atlantic (NC)—Native and half-caste boys are helping a Palestinian lay brother build a new church at a Jerusalem town.

Mother Of Jailed Cardinal Permitted To Visit Son

Vienne, (NC)—His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty and his Mother were permitted to meet for a short visit in the prison at Vac on April 17, according to an exceptionally reliable source.

town to the central prison was followed by a light breakfast and another ride in a car with curtains drawn to Vac.

AT VAC THE met her son who had been taken there from the small house where he has been detained since last February. This house is said to be located near Matrafured, on the slopes of the Kékes Mountains in northern Hungary. The whole visit lasted about half an hour. Mrs. Mindszenty left the meeting first being taken back to Budapest in the same car and arriving late at night in her own home again.

Pontiff Cites Moral Duty To Raise Production Goals

Vatican City, (NC)—Pope Pius XII has termed efforts to increase and improve means of production to satisfy consumer needs "a necessity so fundamental as to constitute in some way a moral obligation."

The Pope spoke during an audience for delegates attending the International Congress of Agricultural Industries, which took place in Rome.

IN HIS ADDRESS, the Pope lauded the cooperation in the scientific and technical fields which greatly contributes to the bettering of the lives of men. "We hope much from these relations of mutual help," the Pontiff said, "which multiply the bonds between man and man, nation and nation, for the good of humanity."

The Pontiff reviewed the history of such meetings as the one at Rome and the continuing activities on an international level to increase knowledge regarding the fertility of the soil and its conservation, and increasing productivity.

"When the greater part of humanity does not have enough to eat and vast regions are periodically subjected to scarcity, we cannot preserve for ourselves advantages which would deprive an entire people of a help to which they have a very good right," the Pope said.

DECLARING THAT this was the reason for his great interest in the work of the congress, which aims at improving living conditions and applying in a practical way the findings of science, the Pope concluded: plan of Divine Providence."

Girl Quints Too Busy For Boy Friends, Says Papa Dionne At Graduation Rites

Callander, Ont. (NC)—The Dionne quintuplets, now old enough to marry without their parents' consent, have been too busy with their studies up to the present time to be concerned with boys, according to their father.

Olivia Dionne gave his views in connection with the celebrated quintuplets' graduation from their own private convent school here on their 18th birthday. The school, Villa Notre Dame, was set up in their former nursery home in 1947 and now will close.

MR. DIONNE said the quintuplets will attend a girls' college of their own choice next fall, but did not divulge the college's name. The five girls have not given any indication of what vocation they will choose, he reported.

"Mrs. Dionne and I are leaving it entirely to them," the father said. "They will have every opportunity to choose their own life, without any interference from us. Our only concern is for them to be happy."

The Quints will come into a substantial fortune—variously estimated at a million dollars or more—when they reach the age of 21.

MR. DIONNE SAID, however, that if any of them should decide to get married, the boys' financial status will not make any difference. The only thing that will matter is that the boy be the right type, he declared. Mr. Dionne said he has always believed one does not need money to find happiness, and always will believe so.

Graduation exercises served as a family reunion for the Dionnes and their 13 children. Some of them came from hundreds of miles away.

Sharing in the exercises were the nine classmates who started with the quintuplets when the school opened in 1947. All received Ontario Junior matriculation certificates, the equivalent of U. S. high school diplomas. "Sister Marie being a Sister Superior of the school, reported that the quintuplets' high school record compared very favorably with that of the average 18-year-old girl.

The quint's names are Annette, Cecile, Marie, Emilie and Yvonne.

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Youth Shuns Baccalaureate Rite But Gets Diploma

Monongahela, Pa. (NC)—Monongahela's School Board has voted unanimously to award a diploma to a Catholic graduate who refused to attend the public high school baccalaureate services.

Paul R. Parish, 18, said he did not attend the baccalaureate because it was a Protestant religious service. A Protestant minister read from the Scriptures and preached, and Protestant hymns were sung at the baccalaureate, held in City High School auditorium.

THE REV. Edward A. Richards, pastor of St. Francis' Church in nearby Finleyville, which young Parish attends, said he advised the youth not to go to the baccalaureate.

According to Father Richards, attendance at the baccalaureate has been made compulsory by the school board if the student is to get a diploma. He said this was illegal and that unless the requirements were changed next year, Catholics planned to take court action.

There is no logical reason why baccalaureate services for Catholic students can't be held in one of the area's three Catholic churches, with Protestant children attending services in their churches, he declared.

YOUNG PARISH was told he would not get his diploma if he didn't attend the auditorium service, the priest reported.

At the commencement, Parish and two other students received pieces of blank paper instead of diplomas. One of the other two was late in getting to the baccalaureate and said he "didn't want to make a commotion" by walking in, and the second was a girl who had an engagement to play in an orchestra.

The school board also voted to award the other two students their diplomas.

SHINING LIKE THE STARS

For the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima, which we are building for the Sisters of the Desolata and their poor at Always, Indis, we need six candlesticks for the High Altar. Each will cost \$25. Perhaps you will want to give these memorials to your loved ones, living and dead.

Then there is the Sanctuary Lamp, which will burn always before Our Lord's Sacramental Presence. It will cost \$75—a very special gift to this lovely Shrine of Our Lady. Whatever you give will shine like the stars for all eternity.

NOT TOO LATE. Next week is Father's Day. It is not too late to send him our beautiful GIFT CARD, telling him a grateful missionary will offer Mass for him. Won't you write in at once?

THOMAS YOURS? We have had so many appeals that we could not take them all. Thomas, a student for the priesthood at Always, Indis. Can you adopt him, giving \$500 in any installment, for his five years' more?

WHERE THE JUNE DOLLAR GOES—Your dollar monthly for one of our OLDS does wonders. This month all the dollars for MARY'S BARK go to the Sisters of Charity at Hobo, Eritrea. We are sending ORPHAN'S BREAD to Father Omer at Baghdad, Iraq. Your dollar goes for the BASILIANS, our School Club, go to the Pious Mothers at Mal Sgata, Eritrea. These Sisters were forced out by heathen, who stole everything, but God has brought them back. Our DAMIAN LEFER FUND goes to the dear Sisters of St. Joseph at Shetaling, Indis. We are giving the dollars of the MONICA GUILD for sacred articles in the humble little chapel we have built at Ramallah, Palestine. HOW PRECIOUS ARE YOUR DOLLARS!

YOUR HANDS? Yes, your own hands can be her hands—for this East African girl, born blind and with no hands. A \$10 gift from you can feed her for a month. She is one of 120 orphans under the care of the Combonian Sisters at Amara, Eritrea. Do give her your hands.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE GREGORIAN MASSES, OFFERED ON THIRTY DAYS, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, FOR A LOVED ONE DECEASED? WRITE FOR OUR LEAFLET AND WHEN YOU DO, ASK ABOUT OUR SUSPENSE CARD FOR YOURSELF.

GOD'S WANT ADS—After we had finished the little Chapel at Ramallah, Palestine, the roof fell in, but now it is repaired and we need sacred articles. A chalice, ciborium and Mass book, costing \$100 altogether, are much needed. During June we have many appeals for pictures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be placed in chapels in 13 of our mission countries. One sister, Sister Archibishop Ibrahim, convert of Trinidad, Indis, writes a glowing description of a shrine at Karatimam—bamboo, mud walls, thatched with coconut leaves. The monsoon winds knocked it to the ground. But he has made 500 converts there and he begs for \$2,000 for a chapel. This is a great sum, but perhaps you can help the dear Archibishop a little.

YOUR STRINGLESS GIFT BRINGS GRATEFUL PRAYERS

Near East Missions

Francis Cardinal Spellman, President
Mgr. Thomas J. McElhannon, Mr. J. Kelly
Mgr. Peter J. Tully

Very Rev. Andrew Bonagh
Rev. Wm. Koller, S.M.
Send all communications to:
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
410 Lexington Ave., 4th Fl.
New York 17, N. Y.

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YOUR HANDS?

Yes, your own hands can be her hands—for this East African girl, born blind and with no hands. A \$10 gift from you can feed her for a month. She is one of 120 orphans under the care of the Combonian Sisters at Amara, Eritrea. Do give her your hands.

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